



Harrison Heritage News

Published monthly by
Harrison County Historical Society, PO Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031

Award of Merit - Publication or Journal, 2007 Kentucky History Awards

January 2008

Vol. 9 No. 1



Edgewater Pike Winter Scene looking east about one-half mile west of Lair, Ky. on Ky 982. The Francis Furnish farm is on the right and the Dewey Kuster III farm is on the far left. Photo, Bill Penn, image edited with Microsoft Photo Editor.

Katherine Wilson, Author of *This Old House*, Celebrates 100th Birthday January 10, 2008

Katherine Wilson, author of *This Old House*, not to mention world traveler, WWII veteran Red Cross volunteer, and a 59-year cancer survivor, turned 100 on January 10, according to an article published in the Cynthiana Democrat.

Her book, *This Old House*, was originally published in the 1950s, based on the twenty-seven weekly columns about the historic homes of Cynthiana and Harrison County that she wrote for The Log Cabin and the Cynthiana Democrat in 1956 and 1957. The book was published shortly thereafter and has been reprinted three times since; it is still available for purchase from the Harrison County Historical Society or at the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum.

Ms. Wilson is a Cynthiana High School graduate and earned degrees from the University of Kentucky and a master's in library science from Columbia University. She volunteered with the Red Cross during World War II and was one of the first women to land on Omaha Beach, just thirteen days after the initial D-Day landings, and also served with the 44th Evacuation Hospital during the Battle of the Bulge. The Cynthiana Democrat notes that she has been "a teacher, librarian, journalist, business woman, collector, entertainer, traveler, and a member of numerous civil and social organizations." That's a lot to squeeze into a hundred years! All of the members of the Harrison County Historical Society, the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, and grateful readers of *This Old House* wish the best of birthdays to Katherine! [Philip Naff]

Harrison County Historical Society

Bob Owen, President
Billy Fowler, Vice President
Janie Whitehead, Secretary
Dorothy Slade, Treasurer
Bill Penn, editor: pennwma@aol.com

Scenes from the December 8, 2007, Xmas potluck, First Methodist Church, which was well-attended.



Harrison County History Calendar

January 17 - Historical Show and Tell - bring an interesting object with a story to share with everyone.

Feb. 21 - Heather Ladick, owner of Zeppelin Threads

March 20 - Steve Flairty, author of *Kentucky's Everyday Heroes*.

April 11-13 - Battle of Cynthiana Reenactment

April 17 - Historical society mtg; program to be announced.

April 19 - Raggedy Ann Festival

May 24 - Grist Mill Days

December 5 - Potluck 6 p.m. First Methodist Church -

President's Corner

Bob Owen
robert_owen@bellsouth.net

During a recent media event, the speaker questioned the economic value of buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. His position seemed to be that if a building had no economic importance, then it had no value. I think this position confuses people as it mixes qualifications.

A building or real property is placed on the National Register because it has historical significance. [Harrison County has 25 sites on the National Register]. Being placed on this list does not to signify that it has some mystical value to draw hoards of people to view or visit it. It only certifies that it has some historical value based on a criteria established by those who manage the list.

Just because John Hunt Morgan slept in a house does not necessarily give it historical significance. If he was born there and lived in the house for some extended period, it changes its historical significance. The old jail for instance has value due to its age, its architecture, and the role it played in the history of the town, not in its ability to draw crowds. Should it be torn down to accommodate a fast food restaurant? I think not. Should it be promoted better, absolutely. Should an old log cabin in good repair be moved to allow a road to be built? Perhaps so. During the building of the TVA dams with their lakes, whole villages/towns were relocated. There was really no choice.

The key word is choice. We have a choice as to whether we want to preserve a building or remove it to accommodate some other goal. We can preserve a significant piece of land in its natural state or we can allow someone to develop it. These choices can be made by our duly elected government or by a vote of the people. Sometimes an accommodation or compromise can be made. But one fact holds true, once you tear down a building or develop a plot of land, it is gone forever.

There have been occasions where governments or groups have tried to restore land to its former state by removing the developments and allowing the land to revert to its natural state, but it is never the same.

I caution people not to judge the historical value of a property by its capability to draw a crowd. Judge it by the criteria established by trained historians. If it has been deemed to have historical significance and has been judged to not be significant enough to warrant preserving in light of some other deed, then so be it.

In a February 27, 1941, Cynthiana Democrat article, it stated "this newspaper was informed by...the county judge...that the state is ready to build a new concrete and steel bridge across South Licking River at the foot of Main Street..." The last paragraph in the article stated the county judge "also said the State does not plan to molest the old covered bridge in the building of the proposed bridge here." Boy did that go out the window, as factions argued for the final location of the new bridge, and many have lamented it to this day. I caution people to look at all the facts before trampling on our history.

Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes, President

January - the month of new beginnings and cherished memories”

As it seems that winter's weather is different each year, perhaps it is even more important that we preserve and share aspects of the season - or winter as it used to be. My grandchildren know little or nothing of huge snows, gathering wood, staying home because of inclement weather, etc. Actually, our sons, yet another generation, have never experienced winter as many of us know it. They find it difficult to believe that we went sledding on roads and streets and had bonfires, made do or went without instead of going to the store, broke ice for the livestock, huddled around our one radio to hear the tobacco reports and UK games, watched our father bundle up and walk to the barn in huge snowdrifts. What different days they were!

Thus, it seems imperative that our museum preserve and share those sleds, buggy robes, stoves, foot warmers, quilts, ice cutters and tongs, winter photos, and the stories - oh, yes, those stories!

I wonder if those little Handy girls went sledding on that wonderful hill (the pinnacle of our city-county recreation park). What a vista Nancy, Priscilla, and Hattie Handy and their family had! Wonder if they could see the depot or houses such as the Gavin Morrison home or the covered bridge!

Randall Boyers, one of our faithful museum volunteers, recently revisited and shared an article from The Cynthiana Democrat, July 6, 1944, entitled “Goodbye, Old Bridge, Goodbye” written by Henry W. Bromley. Mr. Bromley writes, “Goodbye, dear old Covered Bridge! You have been an honored landmark.... Those who brought you into being were justly proud of you. This pride continued unabated through generation after generation. Appreciation and reverence of you were passed from father to son and from

decade to decade. Those were the days of sturdy citizens whose appraisal of values were based upon common sense, reason, and the substantials of reality.... Go anywhere and the people of sense and sentiment are proud to point out their prized places of antiquity.... We Cynthianians and Harrisonians are in grave danger of losing that sense of sentiment...Despite your record, your dignity, your services, your associations, - civil servants have decreed your death. We grieve over your going. We shall never forget you. We shall always miss you.... Goodbye, Old Bridge, goodbye!”

In this new year, I wish unity for our community. Let us agree that our park can be a marvelous place for everyone. Why can't we have it all? Why can't we have a pool (Yes, we need a pool, but this is not the late 1940's when outstanding citizens launched a campaign to raise funds for a pool - the only pool in town - How many folks today have their own pools?) AND a place for a welcome center, registration for sports events, meetings, art shows and lessons (imagine painting the view from the top!), Anniversary parties, receptions, etc. etc. It is a fact that a large number of our finest young people have their wedding receptions out of town.

I perceive that those in favor of tearing down the Handy House have not been inside to see just how sturdy and stately the place is - nor have they taken in the relaxing view from the porch - nor have they envisioned a celebratory event taking place there. Neville Haley's model of the house (which at present is on display at the museum) is outstanding. Why can't we have it all? Why can't we be a community which caters to the wishes and needs of everyone? Joanne Field has written, “Perhaps if one really knew when one was happy, one would know the things that were necessary for one's life.”



Harrison County Newspaper History Notes

George Jacobs

Editor's note: Below and on the next page are charts prepared by George Jacobs outlining the ownership and editorship history of the Cynthiana Publishing Company and a time line of Harrison County newspapers. Mr. Jacobs prepared these documents as handouts for a presentation at the April 2006 Harrison County Historical Society meeting. Mr. Jacobs believes the information to be accurate, however, he considers the charts drafts to be used for a more complete history of the newspapers in Harrison County, which he plans to research in the future. The Democrat has helped document Harrison County, not only the ongoing weekly news, but in Museum Musings columns, historic photograph reprints, historical calendars, and through the years, historical columns by Thelma Taylor and others on Morgan's Raiders and county history. The Democrat also published *Cromwell's Comments*, history columns by John M. Cromwell (2002), for the Harrison County Historical Society and the *Pictorial History of Harrison County* (1993), an important collection of photographs. Readers who have copies of old Harrison county newspapers and would be willing to donate them or allow them to be photocopied, should contact the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum. To learn more about the newspapers of the county and their availability at libraries and interlibrary loan, you can visit www.harrisoncountyky.us/publications/newspapers-and-obituaries.htm.

CYNTHIANA PUBLISHING COMPANY OWNERSHIP/EDITORSHIP HISTORY Draft 4/11/06

The Cynthiana Democrat

Landmark Community Newspapers

1974-2006

—
Newspapers, Inc.

1968-1974

—
Thomas L. Preston
1959-1968

—
James G. Wilson
1953-1959

—
Mrs. Joe Costello
(Robert Pope)
1938-1953

—
Joe Costello
1932-1938

—
James M. Allen
1892-1932

James A. Brown 1890-92
J.B. Cannon 1887-90
W.J. Kehoe 1885-86
W.V.Prather 1883-85
Archilles Perrin 1882-83
H.P. Diltz 1881-82
A.O.Robertson 1877-81
Green R. Kellar 1875-77
Adolphus Musser 1874-75
Caleb Musser 1873-74
R.W. Musser 1872-73
C.F. West 1869-1872

Cynthiana Publishing Co.
The Log Cabin
(Discontinued in 1960)

—
Thomas L. Preston
1959-60

—
Democrat/Log Cabin Combined

—
James G. Wilson
1952-1959

—
James T. Wilson
????-1952

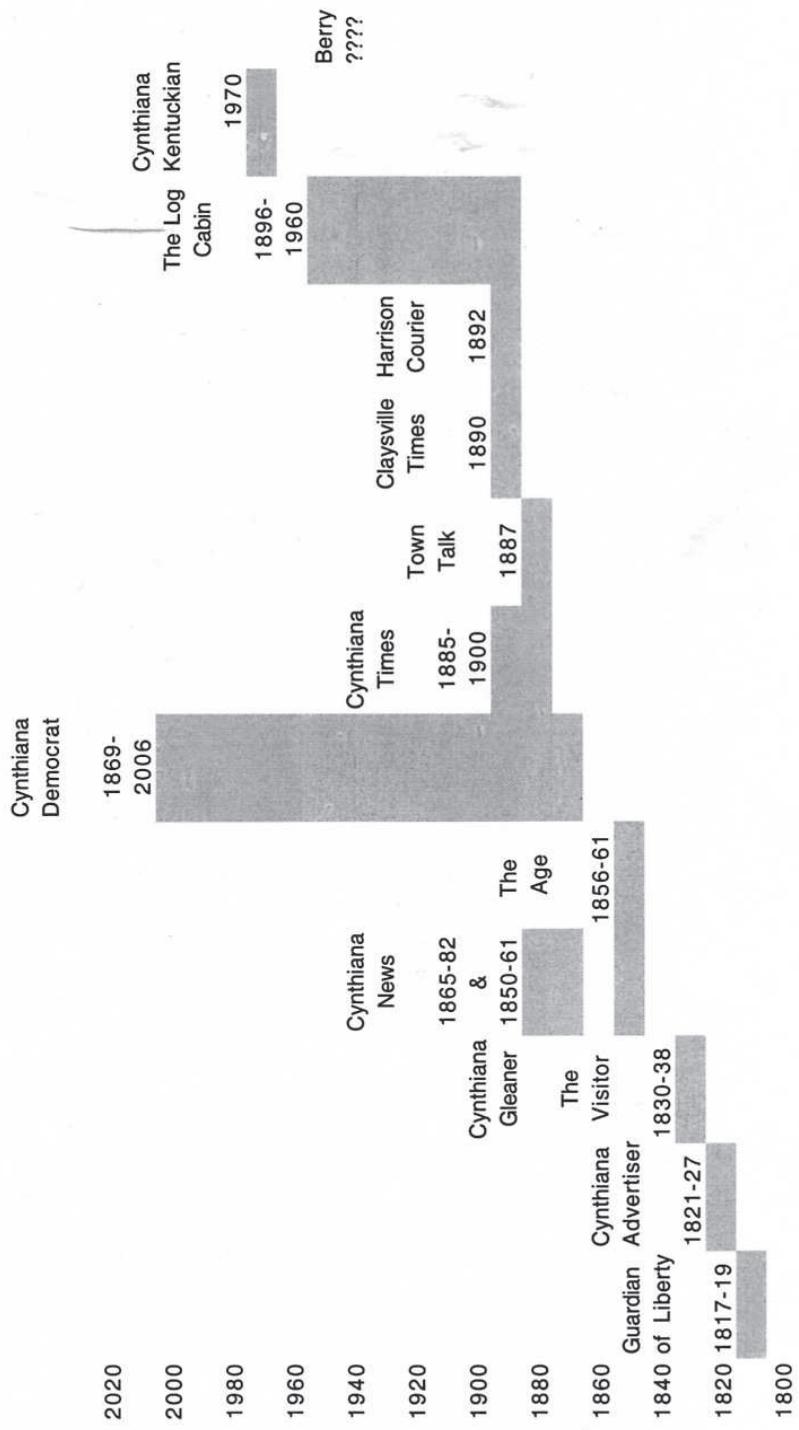
—
The Cynthiana Times
Carl Musser
1899-1900
—
Frank W. Norris
1883-1899

—
James M. Wilson
1896-????

—
The Harrison Courier
Fred H. Smith
1896-1900
—
Mrs. M.M. Givens
1892-1896

George Jacobs, 2006

HARRISON COUNTY NEWSPAPERS
TIMELINE



George Jacobs, 2006

The Genealogy Box



A supplemental newsletter for genealogy and family history research in Harrison County, Kentucky.

By Philip Naff
philnaff@comcast.net

The "Last-Known-To-Be-Living" Date

After filling in the blank with the name of your research subject on a family group sheet one, the next two items are the most important, yet elusive, of all, the individual's birth and death dates. These two pieces of information are never as forthcoming as one usually thinks they should be.

Soon after beginning my own research, I began to realize that another date became just as important as birth and death dates in research, and that is what I call the "last-known-to-be-living date." This is the date of the most recent document that you can attribute to your research subject, before you can accurately determine when they died. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries it is usually the date of the U.S. Census enumerations, but it can be the date when somebody was listed as

the beneficiary of a will or perhaps when they were mentioned as a survivor in a relative's obituary. Just about every type of document of interest to a genealogist can be used as a source for this date, but U.S. Census records make for one of the best.

When filling out any family group sheet, whether using a paper form, a word processor, a genealogy program (which may have to be tweaked a little to follow my suggestion) is to insert a row of blanks and numbers after the blank for their birth date that looks like this:

(__/50; __/60; __/70; __/80;
 __/1900; __/10; __/20; __/30)

As each research subject is found in the census you can fill in each blank with the age that was recorded for each census year. If you find the person was 18 in 1880, fill in the blank to look like this: "18/80." This way you know they were last alive on June 1, 1880, the Census Day of that enumeration (See the chart in the next column). It also serves as a checklist to use in finding and building a complete U.S. census record for each individual you are researching. In addition, as you fill in the blanks you have a figure with which to compare the accuracy of any future discoveries regarding a definite date of birth.

If I have no date of death to use to fill in the blank, I simply write, in parentheses, the "last-known-to-be-living" date after the blank, and having that date readily at hand helps in tracking down that final answer. Having a "last-known-to-be-living date" helps to eliminate many possible false matches in looking for an individual's date of death, especially in communities

where there were several with the same name and age and who may have died around the same time as your research subject.

Census Day Thru the Years:

Technically the date you use for the "last-known-to-be-living" date should be the date of Census Day for that given year, if the census is your record source for this date, even though it may have taken many months for the census taker to come around and knock at your research subject's door.

The information taken by the census taker was supposed to be accurate for Census Day alone, and not for the day he actually made the visit or the record. Having said this however, I always use the date of the census taker's visit for my "last-known-to-be-living" dates, keeping in mind the fact that the earlier date is supposed to be the more accurate one. Besides, Census Days through the decades are much easier to remember!

The following table lists Census Days from 1790 thru 1930, and the length of time allowed for officials to complete each census is in parentheses after each date.

| Year | Census Day |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 1790 | Aug. 2 (9 mos.) |
| 1800 | Aug. 4 (9 mos.) |
| 1810 | Aug. 6 (10 mos.) |
| 1820 | Aug. 7 (13 mos.) |
| 1830 | June 1 (12 mos.) |
| 1840 | June 1 (18 mos.) |
| 1850 | June 1 (5 mos.) |
| 1860 | June 1 (5 mos.) |
| 1870 | June 1 (5 mos.) |
| 1880 | June 1 (1 mo.) |
| 1890 | June 1 (1 mo.) |
| 1900 | June 1 (1 mo.) |
| 1910 | April 15 (1 mo.) |
| 1920 | Jan. 1 (1 mo.) |
| 1930 | April 1 (1 mo.) |

"Good Luck" with your research!

Breaking News!

Kentucky Death Certificates are now online! Filling in those dates of birth and death just got a lot easier. While microfilm of Kentucky death certificates is widely available at libraries throughout Northern Kentucky, the same images are now available online at Ancestry.com. A paid subscription is required to access them, but free trial memberships are always available. The database is entitled "Kentucky Death Records, 1852-1953." At the Ancestry.com home page click on "Search" at the top of the page, then "Browse by location" on the next page, choosing "Kentucky" from the list of states. Then you will see a list of record types available. Look for the title of the database under "Kentucky Birth, Marriage, & Death" and click. Hopefully, the answers to your questions should flow from there!

An Early Obituary? Kentucky Ancestors, quarterly genealogy publication of the Kentucky Historical Society, ceased publication this past spring, according to an article in the January 2008 edition of *Kentucky Monthly*. There the quarterly's fourth and most recent editor, Tom Stephens, bid farewell to the genealogy quarterly, one of the primary benefits of membership in the KHS for decades, and which has been published since 1965. However, Alice Rogers, KHS Director of Public Relations & Marketing, says that the magazine article was "incorrect," and that the magazine is still offered as a benefit of membership with the KHS, as of this writing. Yet I still can't find my summer and fall issues. Stay tuned . . .

Keeping Up with the In-Laws

While not necessarily an important part of every family history research project, it can often prove beneficial to keep track of the parents of every person who marries into the family tree you are researching. If your research subject is suspected or known to have been married and the couple subsequently moves away from their home county or out-of-state, one may lose all trace of them using local or home state records and their indexes, with perhaps one exception, the in-laws, who may have remained behind, "at home."

To locate your married research subject, bride or groom, be sure to examine the same set of vital records for the in-laws, as you would for any other member of the family, at least records such as death certificates, funeral home records, and obituaries.

Oftentimes, the death certificates will give the name and address of the informant, usually a relative, and maybe the one you lost track of and are looking for. Funeral home records and obituaries usually list all the survivors of an individual, where they lived, etc., and so, in this way you may be able to follow the movements of the younger generation by locating the death records and obituaries of the older generation.

In keeping up with the in-laws, you may be able to discover just where your research subjects "disappeared to."

Notable Quote

Try to live your life so that you wouldn't be afraid to sell the family parrot to the town gossip.

Will Rogers (1879-1935)

"Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall, Who is that Knocking at the Door?"

My great-great-grandmother, Emma Clarinton Stewart (1847-1914), daughter of Harrison County native Benoni Stewart and Williamstown, Ky. native Sarah Tully, spent her whole life in Grant and Boone Counties, Kentucky, as well as in Cincinnati, across the river in Hamilton County, Ohio. As far as can be discovered, she never went to Florida like Ponce de Leon, in search of a fountain of youth, but she found a way to cheat "Father Time" for many an instance, in fact, just about every time that the census taker came knocking.

In 1850 her parents couldn't lie, but she was just two years old (b. ca. 1848). As she was just about to hit her teen years, she turned 11 in 1860 (b. ca. 1849). Ten years later she was only eight years older (b. ca. 1851). She basically stuck to her story in the 1880s and in 1900, but by 1910 it would appear she was only seven years old when she married in 1866 (Her age was recorded as 51 in 1910).

In the end, the stone carver had the last word, when he cut "1847-1914" into the cold granite of her tombstone.

This only goes to prove that family's set of U.S. Census statistics are only as good as the knowledge of the informant who answered the door on any given day during a census year. However, one has to be especially careful at times, for when the census taker knocked, vanity sometimes answered!

