



Harrison Heritage News

Published monthly by

Harrison County Historical Society, PO Box 411, Cynthiaana, KY 41031

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

November 2008

Vol. 9 No. 11

Poindexter Lumber Company Celebrates 100th Anniversary: A Photo Essay of Poindexter Buildings

Billy and Sharon Fowler

James Robert (“J.R.”) Poindexter and his son Robert Harold (“Harold”) Poindexter started the lumber company in 1908 at its present location on the north side of Pleasant Street. Harold dropped out of college after completing only two years in order to join his father in the business. Robert Harold (“Robert”) Poindexter Jr. joined his father as a partner in the business in 1948. Theodore Selin also became a partner the same year. The business now belongs to William (“Bill”) Selin who became part owner in 1982 and Robert Harold (“Bobby”) Poindexter III who became a partner with Bill in 1998. Following are structures that J. R. Poindexter either engineered or built. Photos, 2008, by Sharon Fowler, except as noted.



J. R. Poindexter,
1920, courtesy
of Bill Selin and
*Cynthiana Demo-
crat.*



1901 - Cynthiana Christian Church built in 1901 202 N. Main Street.



1908 - Poindexter Lumber Co., 208 E. Pleasant St.



1931 - In 1886 T. J. Maffett had a brick, sand, lime and plaster business here, and a public scale. J. R. Poindexter purchased the business in 1916, moved the original building back, and added a new front. Mr. Poindexter used material taken from a distillery he demolished under contract at Lair after Prohibition. When Prohibition was repealed, the Poindexters sold them material to build the new distillery. This part of the business is directly across the street from 208 E. Pleasant Street.

Continued on p. 4

Harrison County Historical Society

Bob Owen, President
 Billy Fowler, Vice President
 Janie Whitehead, Secretary
 Dorothy Slade, Treasurer
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President's Corner

Bob Owen
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Program Notes

The decision has been made to continue with monthly newsletters as long as Bill Penn, editor, and Philip Naff, senior writer, are willing. These two are the backbone of the newsletter, since they do almost all of the work in writing and publishing it. President Bob Owen mentioned a grant possibility that could be used for work in unfunded local cemeteries. He will give the information to Harold Slade at the museum. Denise Marshal presented the program. She discussed how she teaches local history to her fourth grade class.



Denise Marshal presented the November program. Photos, Sharon Fowler.

Harrison County History Calendar

December 5 - Merry Xmas - This will be a joint meeting and pot-luck with the Museum. There is a sign-up sheet at the museum. The pot-luck will be held at the Methodist Church on Friday December 5 at 6:00 pm.

January 17 - Show & Tell. Members seem to thoroughly enjoy these programs. There are always some very interesting items brought in.

Feb. 21 - Melissa Jurgensen will be the speaker in February. She will be discussing her new book, *River Towns of Central Ky.*

March 20 - Donna Elkins will be the speaker in March. She does a program about lady spies in the Civil War.

April - TBA

May - will be Jeff Kinney's Eastside Elementary Fifth Grade History Club.

The Cynthiana Arts Council's presentation of Simon Kenton by Mr. Mel Hankla took place on Sunday, November 2nd at the Endicott Meeting House (currently know as the Indian Creek Baptist Church) as scheduled. There was a large and enthusiastic audience and the program was enjoyed by all. Although the event was free, the audience generously contributed \$81.00 to the Cynthiana Arts Council. Mr. Hankla did an excellent job of portraying Simon Kenton and telling his story.

At our October meeting, Mr. Lester Horwitz, author of the book, "The Longest Raid of the Civil War", presented his story of developing the material for his book. Again we had a large audience and the presentation was well received. Mr. Horwitz brought a large number of maps and charts which explained the route of the raid and included pictures of some of the key participants and places touched by the raid.

In our continuing efforts to present good speakers at our meetings, we will again be hosting Melissa Jurgensen ("Kentucky's Covered Bridges") to speak about her new book, "River Towns of Central Kentucky" due to be released this December. In March, we will again be co-sponsoring a speaker with the Library. This time it will be Ms. Donna Elkins, presenting a talk titled "Secret Women: Three Civil War Spies and Their Stories". Please attend and bring a friend or three.

According to Roger Slade and James Smith, the Ghost Walks were a rousing success again this year. They reported they had a large number of out-of-county participants.

Finally, I remind everyone of the Society's potluck Christmas dinner at the Cynthiana Methodist Church on to Friday, December 5th at 6:00 pm. See you there. Looking for an economical Christmas gift, give a year's membership to the Harrison County Historical Society. Please mail your \$12 dues for 2009 to the Society at PO Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031 as soon as possible. Happy holidays and a Merry Christmas to everyone.

Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes, President

Honoring Robert Poindexter's Museum Contributions - 100th Anniversary of Poindexter Lumber.

In 1993, when a group of interested persons began meeting with the hopes of establishing a Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, one of those fine citizens who always met with us was Robert Poindexter. After we organized, incorporated, and made final plans, Robert was elected one of the museum's first directors. After serving faithfully for several years, Robert gave up the director's position because he wanted to give some others the opportunity to become active and hold that position.

As well, he was our first landlord - and over the years has been our only museum landlord, always being fair with his charge. He first rented one side of his building to us. When the other side became available (and my, our collection had grown and we needed the space), he rented that to us as well. We talked him in to letting us cut a hole in the wall.

We needed more room - and when the front portion of the Walnut Street Theatre Building was empty, he permitted us to use the space to house the museum annex. Now, the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum is housed in approximately 4000 square feet of Robert's Rohs on Walnut. How wonderful our new space is! And yes, our collection continues to grow - but that's another story.

In addition to providing our shelter, Robert has been an enthusiastic donor to the museum. He has loaned many significant items. Thanks to Robert and his heritage the display related to the old stone jail is impressive. Photographs, a painting, the stone tongs, and a pulley block tell the story of this structure built in the 1880's. Robert has loaned toys, bottles, an Atkinson Timer stock certificate, Poindexter Lumber Company memorabilia, Endicott Meeting House and Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church items, a bottle from the Poindexter Distillery, a stadium seat from Crosley Field, military items (including his own W W II story in the Veterans' Book), many photographs, etc. etc.

The museum collection includes several important items related to Abraham Lincoln. We shall focus on those items loaned by Robert in a future edition of HHN when we focus on Lincoln. Among Robert's donations are several paintings - a few by other artists, some which he personally created. Quite the historian, Robert is also quite the artist.

Around 1815, the Poindexter family came to Harrison County. Robert's grandfather, James Robert or J.R. was born in 1860. It was he who founded the Poindexter Company in 1908 - one hundred years ago. We feel that this year is a most appropriate time to recognize the Poindexter family and especially Robert who has been and continues to be such a prominent player in the museum's existence and future. Thanks!!!

Books Make Great Christmas Presents

Available from Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, 124 South Walnut Street, P.O. Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031 (859-234-7179);

- Boyd, Lucinda, *Chronicles of Cynthiana*. This is a reprint of the rare 1894 edition, which includes family histories, the famous account of David Sheely and his ghost, and other historical sketches and scattered accounts of persons and events connected with Cynthiana and Harrison County. 262 pp. Hardbound. \$20.00.
- *June 1896 Cynthiana Democrat* reprint. This was a special edition with biographical sketches and photographs of prominent men and women; many photographs of buildings; city/county government, church and school information is included. 24 pp. Paperback, 12"x18". \$5.00
- *Cynthiana Since 1790*. Virgil Peddicord (1986). Mr. Peddicord attempted to list the owners/businesses located on each lot from the founding of the city through the mid-1980s, including subdivisions added through 1923. 171 pp. (See separate index below). Paperback. \$20.00
- Index - *Cynthiana Since 1790* (William A. Penn). Mr. Peddicord did not prepare a comprehensive index for his book. This supplemental index contains about 3,500 names and a reference city street map. 30 pp. Paperback. \$3.00
- *Writings of Colonel William M. Moore*, (1837-1927) compiled by Andrew B. "Andy" Peak (2002). Includes 1921-1922 articles he wrote for the *Cynthiana Democrat* about his life. 10 family photographs; index; paperback, 71 pp. \$10.00/ \$3.00 shipping. Limited supply.
- *This Old House* by Katherine Wilson. Now back in print, this book tells the stories of twenty-six early Harrison Co. houses and the families who have occupied them. 70 pp., new index, paperback. \$15.00 (An index is available for earlier editions, which had no index).
- *Cromwell's Comments*, by John M. Cromwell (1862-1951) is a reprint of Cromwell's 1928-1941 *Cynthiana Democrat* columns on the history of Cynthiana (Harrison Co., KY). William A. Penn and George D. Slade, editors. Paperback; preface; 2 maps; 21 photos; 4 illus.; annotated; index; 200 pp. (*Cynthiana Democrat*, 2002), \$10 plus \$3 shipping.

Shipping/handling for above books: Please include a handling and shipping fee of \$4.00 for first book (unless otherwise noted above), \$2.50 for each additional book; you will be notified if special shipping fees apply. No shipping fee on Index - *Cynthiana Since 1790*, if ordered with the book. Make checks/money orders payable to "Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum." No credit cards. Prices/fees subject to change.



1915 - 1916 - This building is next to the railroad on E. Pike Street. It was originally built to be a grocery store, and was home through the years to J. T. Rees Grocery, Brooks Grocery, and Fowler's Grocery. Barry Dean's Bar is now located here. This building received much publicity around 1959-60 when an out-of-control tank from the National Guard center across the tracks went through the wall, crossed the tracks, and made a hole in the side of the grocery store.



1910 - J. R. Poindexter added a large addition to his home on the north side of Pleasant Street, next to the lumber company. The house was built in the 1800s. It was sold to the Cynthiana Baptist Church in 1951, and was used as a Sunday school until demolished about 1961 and a church annex built here. Photo before 1962, *Pictorial History of Harrison County*.



1929 - Poindexter added a large addition to the house at 112 South Walnut Street. The Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum was located here for many years before moving to the old Rohs Theater Building. The original building was built about 1895, and was identical to the building on the south side of it, next to the alley.



1909-1912 - The Poindexter Block, east of the railroad on the south side of Pike Street. Brick from the old city school building on Church Street was reused for part of these buildings. The Poindexter Block was demolished in recent years for a church parking lot. The Cynthiana Democrat was published here from 1909 to 1932. Photo, ca. 1980s, George Slade.



Harrison County courthouse wings added 1915-1916 - When the original contractor hired to build the wings was fired, J. R. Poindexter offered engineering and construction suggestions which were implemented.



1886-1888 - J. R. Poindexter along with Thomas Lowry built the Old Stone Jail. This was prior to the beginning of the Poindexter Lumber Company.

Join Today or Renew Your Membership in the

Harrison County Historical Society

Visit us on the web at www.harrisoncountky.us/historical-society/

Membership includes an informative monthly newsletter with original articles focusing on the people, places, and historic events of Harrison County's past, along with reports of the monthly meetings of the historical society, as well as news of exhibits and events at the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum. And, of course, membership includes an open invitation to attend all of the society's meetings and events in Cynthiana.

Dues are only . . .

\$12 per household per year (Jan. thru Dec.)

If you have any questions you can write to:

The Harrison County Historical Society
P.O. Box 411
Cynthiana, KY 41031

or e-mail:

Bob Owen (robert_owen@bellsouth.net)
President, Harrison County Historical Society

William A. Penn (pennwma@aol.com)
Editor, Harrison Heritage News

Why have others joined the society?

Some members have just recently become residents of the county, while others have family ties that go back to the county's establishment. Many others join from afar (three of every seven members reside outside of the county) having discovered that Harrison County was once home to their ancestors, aunts, uncles, or cousins. All would like to learn more about family and local history, and of efforts to preserve and document that history. Libraries and other historical societies are members, too, helping to preserve and to pass on the word of the "goings-on" of the Harrison County Historical Society.

Please Join By Submitting This Form Today!

Read past issues of our award-winning newsletter, the *Harrison Heritage News*, at www.harrisoncountky.us/harrison-heritage-news/

Please make me a member of the Harrison County (Ky.) Historical Society in 2009!

Your Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Street Address / PO Box: _____ Apt. No.: _____

City, State, & ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Genealogy (Surname) or Local History Interests: _____

Comments or Suggestions? Story Ideas for Upcoming Editions? (Continue on back, if necessary): _____

If you are new member, please check here _____. If you are renewing, please check here _____.

If offered, would you prefer to receive the monthly newsletter via e-mail (pdf)? Yes / No (Circle one).

Personal checks & money orders accepted. Please return this form to the
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