



Harrison Heritage News

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HARRISON COUNTY ELECTION RESULTS - 1860

Paul L. Whalen

There were at least three elections held in Harrison County, Kentucky in 1860.

According to the records at the Kentucky Archives in Frankfort an election was held at the courthouse in Cynthiana for mayor and eight councilmen on Saturday April 7, 1860. The sheriff's record does not record the names of the candidates for the eight council seats. It is assumed that there were no more than eight candidates for the eight council positions. However, there were two candidates for Cynthiana Mayor, Samuel J. January and J. T. Martin. January won the election with 91 votes to 71 votes received by Martin. The results were certified by Miles Wigglesworth, Justice of the Peace and Thomas Ware, Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the Cynthiana.

On Monday August 6, 1860, there was the statewide election for Clerk of the Kentucky Court of Appeals. In Harrison County there was also a referendum for a three cent School Tax. The School Tax was approved with 1,045 votes for and 689 against. There were four candidates for Clerk of the Court of Appeals. Clinton McClarty, Leslie Combs, R. R. Bolling and Brent Hopkins. Clinton McClarty carried Harrison County with 1,168 votes, incumbent Court of Appeals Clerk Leslie Combs received 979 votes, R.R. Bolling received 30 votes and Brent Hopkins received zero votes in Harrison County. Combs was the statewide winner of that election. The results were certified by James R. Curry, P. J., John Shawhan, Sheriff and Perry Wherritt, Clerk.

In 1860, Kentucky was a major player in presidential politics with 12 electoral votes, twice as many as it has in 2008. On the tally sheets rather than have the political party and the name of the candidates, the name of all 12 electors for each candidate for President and Vice President was listed. The winning electors then went to Frankfort to cast ballots on behalf of Kentucky for president and vice president. On the ballot and in this order were 12 (Southern Democratic) Electors for (John) Breckenridge and (Joseph) Lane; 12 (Democratic)

Electors for (Stephen) Douglas and (Herschel) Johnson; 12 (Constitutional Union) Electors for (John) Bell and (Edward) Everett and 12 (Republican) Electors for (Abraham) Lincoln and (Hannibal) Hamlin.

Of the 48 individuals seeking election as an Elector for their respective candidate for president and vice president, the individual who would be the most famous would be John M. Harlan who would later become Kentucky Attorney General and later serve as an Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court.

On Tuesday, November 6, 1860, 2,330 male citizens of Harrison County went to the polls to cast their vote for President of the United States. Had women been able to vote, the number voting probably would have numbered close to 5,000. The results were as follows:

Breckenridge and Lane Electors—1,272 votes

Douglas and Johnson Electors—98 votes

Bell and Everett Electors—960 votes

Lincoln and Hamlin Electors—0 votes

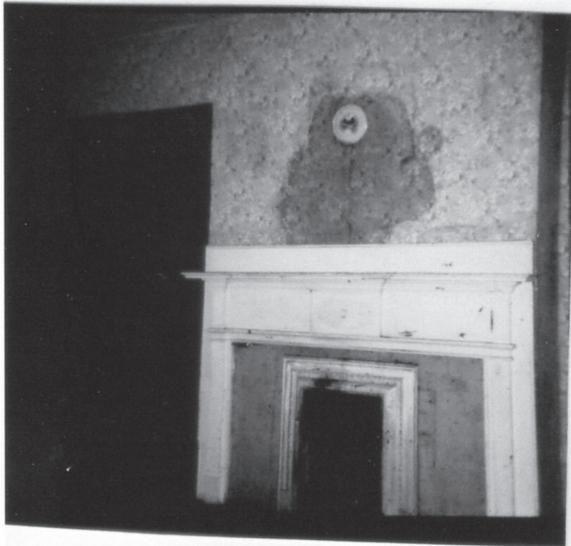
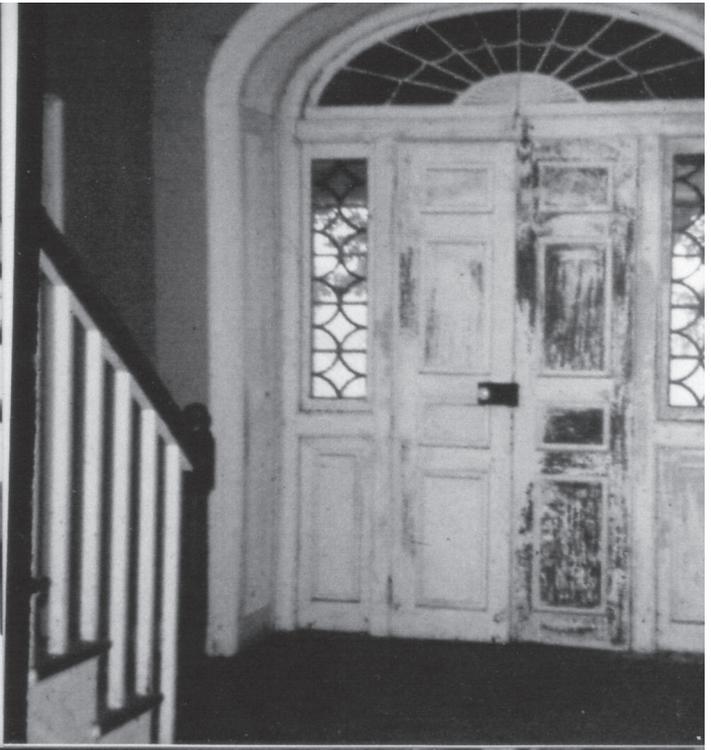
Statewide, John Bell and Edward Everett carried Kentucky for President and Vice President.

Harrison County's vote total for the November 6, 1860, election was certified on Thursday November 8, 1860, by J. R. Curry, Presiding Judge, John Shawhan, Sheriff and Perry Wherritt Clerk of the County Court.

As my father's (Elza "Boz", Jr.) family was living in Harrison County in 1860, odds are that if a great-great grandfather voted in the presidential election of 1860 he did not vote for Abraham Lincoln.

(The statistics were taken from Harrison County Election Records at the Kentucky Archives in Frankfort, KY; Paul L. Whalen is an attorney who lives in Ft Thomas, KY).

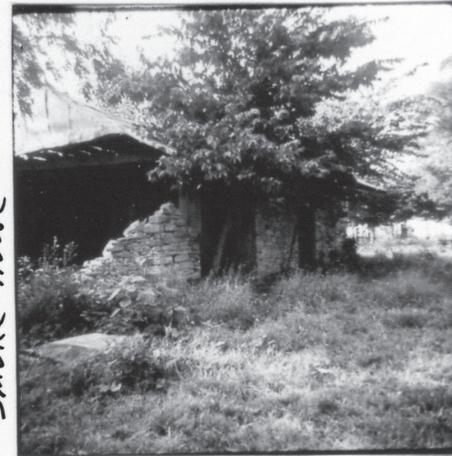
[Ed. note: Lincoln's unpopularity in Kentucky was over his Republican Party's "radical" abolitionist stand on slavery.]



(below) Smokehouse ceiling joists



John Williams House is located three miles east of Cynthiana on the present Cox farm (Millersburg Pike). The house has greatly deteriorated since these photos were taken and all woodwork and doors have been stripped from the building. *This property is closed to the public.* The historic stone house built by John Williams in the 1820s is featured in Katherine Wilson's *This Old House*. Bottom left photo shows ceiling joists in a stone smokehouse. Photos on these two pages were taken ca. 1980 by Byrd Penn and William A. Penn.



SMOKE HOUSE



John Williams House - ca. 1820s - Millersburg Pike

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President's Corner

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December 2008 Pot Luck Dinner Photos - Sharon Fowler



From left: Mary Lois Brunker, Anna Mae Currans, Helen Jean Wigglesworth, and Ruby Penn



Robert Poindexter and family were recognized for their contributions to the Historical Society and Museum. From left: Betty Ann Selin, Bobby Poindexter, Robert and Jane Poindexter.



From left: Neville Haley, Harold Slade, Billy Kelly, J. T. Penn, Billy Fowler, Kenney Simpson. The potluck was in the First Methodist Church.

Harrison County History Calendar

Jan. 15 - Show & Tell. Members seem to thoroughly enjoy these programs. There are always some very interesting items brought in.

Feb. 19 - Melissa Jurgensen will be the speaker in February. She will be discussing her new book, *River Towns of Central Ky.*

Mar. 19 - 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 Class.

First, let me wish all our readers a very Happy New Year. As we proceed into 2009, it is important for us to chart a course for the year. What do we as the Harrison County Historical Society want to be remembered for at year's end? What should we be doing to preserve the rich heritage of the county? Please think about it and be prepared to discuss it at our February meeting. I welcome email inputs as well (robert_owen@bellsouth.net) [NOTE: There is an underscore between "robert" and "owen."] I thank all of you who have made prior contributions for speakers.

As many of you may know, I was traveling in France and Italy over the holidays. It really clarifies one's prospective when you see buildings dating back 1000 years or more and then contrasting that to the age of our structures. In Europe they are restoring buildings much older and in worse shape than ours. It can be done. Of course the trick is to not let our buildings become so derelict in the first place. We were fortunate to visit some wonderful restorations. One dated back to the time of the Popes of Avignon. Some of it was destroyed during the French Revolution, but a significant portion was restored and wonderful to see. Granted, many of the restorations required a significant amount of money, but the important point is the will and desire was there to push it through.

We have some good guest presenters coming in February and March and I strongly encourage all members to plan on attending and to bring guests. The more people we can get interested in joining, the stronger we become. Billy and I are looking for ideas for other future presentations. Please contact one of us with your suggestions.

Lastly, it is that time again to keep our organization alive and vibrant. The annual membership dues are important. We have managed to keep the cost of the dues low so anyone could afford to join. The dues are still only \$12.00 per year. Please send your checks made out to the Society to the address on the front of the newsletter. Give a membership as a gift. Please pay now. Thanks.

Happy 101st birthday to Katie Wilson, author of This Old House, available through the Museum gift shop.

Cynthiana - Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes, President

When one considers that many museums are closed throughout the winter, a recent January Saturday at the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum may seem atypical. However, those of us at the museum think it rather normal to have a bevy of activity on a day with outside temperatures hovering at the freezing point.

As usual, the Slades opened the doors and turned on the "open" sign. Soon other volunteers arrived - some to work their normal hours - others to stay all day. Frazer Lebus stopped by to deliver the latest copies of "The City Buzz." His publication which includes "positive community news and advertisements" truly helps to brighten a winter day. We appreciate Frazer's continued support of the museum and the community.

Two children who had visited the museum with a school group brought their grandparents who were visiting from out of town. As they perused the military section, the young girl (middle school age) related to me that she had just learned that a grandfather had been killed during World War II. She was interested in the Veterans Books - stories of those who had served.

Having read Kate Darnell's recent Cynthiana Democrat article about Miss Katie Wilson's 101st birthday, two visitors stopped in to buy copies of *This Old House*. We extend special wishes to the special birthday girl! Miss Katie's dollhouse is a popular museum attraction.

We surely appreciate her and her family's dedication to the museum. As well, we must express gratitude to the Democrat for their consistent support - George, Becky, Robin, Donald, now Kate, and all the staff.

Jeff Kinney, a local teacher who is a regular museum visitor, volunteer, and history buff, did some research using museum files and books. A young couple came in with another couple who had never been to the museum. They brought in an object for identification - a device for tying and securing a fodder shock. There are two in the museum agricultural collection. Now, how many of you have seen an actual fodder shock?

Some of the Kelly family stopped by to let us know that Grist Mill plans were well under way. How we appreciate the Kellys' support of the museum! This year marks the 12th Museum Grist Mill Day.

During the day as visitors stopped by, volunteers (ranging in age from 30-something to 90-something) chatted, ate (the Fowlers brought in another box of candy), crocheted, put away the remaining Christmas decorations, did some research (do you know why Kentucky and three others are commonwealths), filed, made plans for the display of antique valentines, read, discussed our next meeting, cheered the Wildcats to victory, etc. etc.

Whether typical or atypical, it was good January day at the museum. "Have a good week - see you next time!"

Harrison County's Lost Buildings

Trimnell-Northcutt Building



"Northcutt Corner." Thomas Trimnell's mercantile store was here (201 S. Main St.) before 1851. W. L. Northcutt operated the store at this site from 1851 to 1900, except for a few years during the Civil War. The Northcutt family and McDonald Company were here to about 1928. Next, the Wright brother's grocery; then Sparks to 1968. In 1969 the adjoining National Bank demolished the old brick building and built an addition. Today, the Cynthiana-Harrison County Chamber of Commerce is on this corner in the former Fifth-Third Bank. The Cynthiana News was published on the second floor. From *Cynthiana Since 1790* and *Cromwell's Comments* (Penn/Slade ed.)