



Harrison Heritage News

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Chestnut Hall: The Home of Sultan, the Property of W. T. Handy, Esq.

(Reprinted from The Courier, Cynthiana, Ky., December 22, 1888)

Edited and condensed by Bill Penn



Handy remodeled and renamed Chestnut Hall in the 1880s, enlarging the second story with a cupola and adding wings. Photo, 1905, Cynthiana Log Cabin, November 11, 1905.

The barn closest to the house is believed to be the breeding stable for trotters built in the 1880s by Handy. Many of the stalls and doors remain unchanged from this

W. T. Handy and his family lived on the property now called Flat Run Veterans Park for thirty-five years, beginning in 1888, and named the farm Chestnut Hall. Handy was one of several trotter breeding establishments in the county, which included J. L. Patterson, W. H. Wilson and J. W. Cromwell. Following is an 1888 article from a Cynthiana newspaper about Handy's fledgling breeding operation (see also The Handy Farm: 1818-2005, Harrison Heritage News January 2006:

A combination of wealth and intelligence is calculated to do most anything in this world, when directed with skill and energy. A stock breeding establishment, begun on such a basis, is certain of success. This introductory comment is suggested by a visit to a new candidate for public favor as a nursery of the trotter, "Chestnut Hall," near Cynthiana, the property of Mr. W. T. Handy, a gentleman who has only lately entered the field....

One bright day last week the writer visited this farm for the purpose of looking it over, examining the stock, and especially taking a look at the famous stallion Sultan quartered at this place. Mr. Handy purchased this justly

celebrated horse in conjunction with Mr. W. H. Wilson of Abdallah Park, Mr. Handy owning the controlling interest in him, and undertaking his management.

Chestnut Hall is the name given to [the] farm.... A good deal of its rich bottom land lying along the Licking river, which skirts the place for some distance. As a whole, however, it is rolling, with rich soil and an abundance of blue grass and water. Good fences divide the farm into lots for the accommodation of the stock, according as their separation may be desired.

The stables are well built and commodious, constructed on a plan which affords the greatest convenience, comfort and safety to the stock, while providing them with plenty of air and light. The main barn is an entirely new and rather expensive structure. The stalls are spacious, and are so arranged as to be easily kept warm and snug in winter and well ventilated in summer. A second barn is of older date and design, but such changes have been effected in it as to make it conform to the requirements of a modern first class breeding establishment.

Harrison County Historical Society

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

Program Notes

Meeting June 18, 2009

In the absence of Bob Owen, Vice President Billy Fowler opened the June meeting with several members and guests present. Billy reminded every one to support the re-enactment of the Battle of Cynthiana on the weekend and the Cynthiana High School alumni activities.

Business turned to the election of officers. The proposed slate included: President- Billy Fowler, Vice President- Bob Owen, Secretary- Marilyn Bell, Treasurer- Dorothy Slade. The slate was accepted unanimously. The July meeting will feature a Show and Tell program.

Civil War Program: The speaker, Kevin Stonerock, was then introduced and ‘Billy Yank’ who made the war, its hazards and heartbreaks , very real to us. Besides explaining his uniform components and rifle musket, he sang several Civil War-era songs.

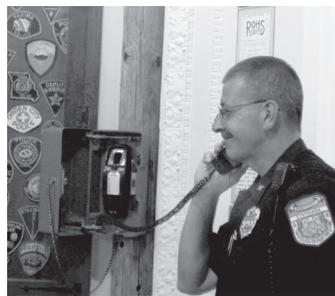


(above) Civil War reenactor Kevin Stonerock. Photo, Sharon Fowler



2009 Harrison County Historical Society officers: Back row (left to right): Vice President- Bob Owen; President- Billy Fowler. Front row (left to right) Secretary- Marilyn Bell, Treasurer- Dorothy Slade.

Photos this page, Sharon Fowler.



(above) In the Museum, Police Chief Ray Johnson is the first to use the display call box phone, one of a few remaining from the days when they were placed on utility poles around Cynthiana for emergency use of officers. Billy Fowler renovated it to working order. Photo, Sharon Fowler.

President's Corner

Billy Fowler
 billyfowler@kymail.com

Here I sit at my keyboard wondering what I have gotten my self into this time. President of the historical society? Me, who as a boy hated history! (To be honest I felt the same way about most of my classes.) Who would have guessed that I would have willingly volunteered for this? Well here I am and if you have not figured it out by now I am stalling while my computer counts the words to make what may be considered an acceptable first column from your new president.

It has been suggested that I may want to discuss goals and objectives, but that would make it seem as if I had never retired from my real job. I would prefer to spend a little time talking about one of my passions, the Cynthiana/Harrison County Museum more commonly known to us as the Museum.

The Museum is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary this month with a celebration planned for July 24 & 25. The local folks here in Cynthiana have scheduled a new event for the same weekend. An art walk in downtown Cynthiana. I am sure they will not admit it, but I think they just want to help us celebrate our anniversary. I have been volunteering for about three of those fifteen years and am finally starting to feel like something other than a newcomer.

One of our latest acquisitions is a police call box that my wife Sharon helped me remove from the pole at the northeast corner of Pike and Main. After a thorough cleaning and restoration it is proudly displayed on an actual telephone pole in the Museum. You should have been there to see the smile on Cynthiana Police Chief Ray Johnson's face when he made the ‘first call’ on the restored call box. He called, who else, dispatch. I believe his first words were ‘can you hear me’. Almost like a well known TV commercial!

You are not used to someone rambling around like this but at least you can start to get a feel for how my mind works.

Before I forget, THANKS to everyone who has placed their faith in me and I will do my best for you.

Harrison County History Calendar

July 16 - A return of the popular Show and Tell. **July 24-25** - Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum 15th Anniversary. There will be an open house Fri-Sat.

Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes, President

Summer Reunions and Celebrations

Summertime is reunion time - and a number recently have been held in Cynthiana and Harrison County. The Cynthiana High School alumni always are faithful to visit the museum - sharing memories, bringing items, renewing friendships.

A copy of the Hilltop News, Cynthiana High School, Senior Edition, June 6, 1934 is a new addition to the museum collection. This issue provides information about the senior class ring which was designed by Mr. Lawson - "It seems that the symbolism of the carvings on the ring is not generally known to the high school students. The two women on the face of the ring represent Cynthia and Anna, well-known characters in Harrison County history. In the background is a lamp of learning. Carved on the face is the name of the school. On one side is embossed the figure of a bulldog, the name of the athletic team. On both sides of the ring are tobacco leaves which represent the agricultural interests of the community. It is the intention that these rings belong only to C.H.S. graduates. No class ring may

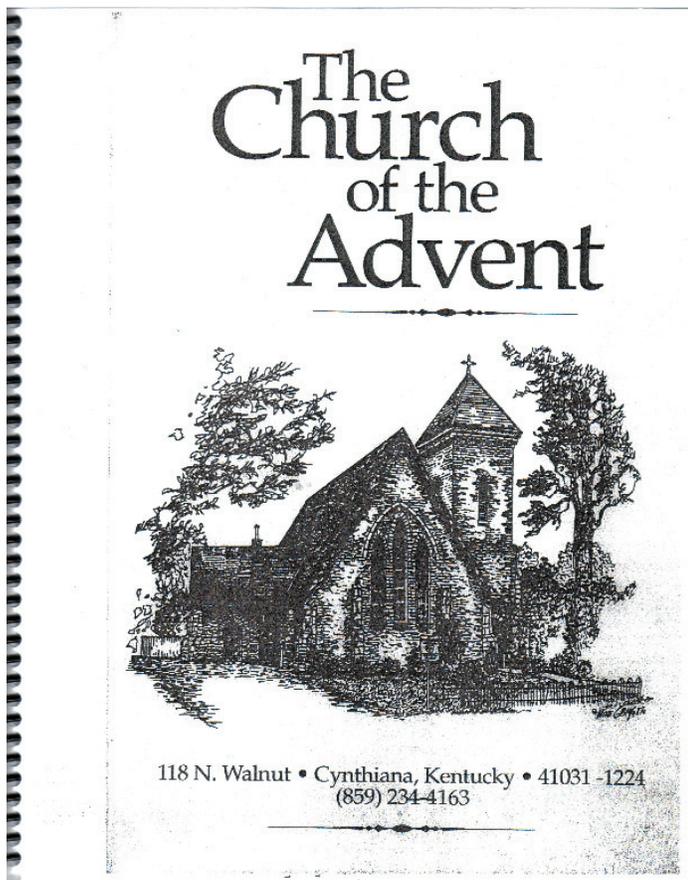
be ordered until the end of the first quarter of the second semester, and only those seniors who, in the opinion of the administration of the high school, are reasonably certain of graduating may place their orders."

Although the regular hours of the museum are Friday and Saturday, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M., the staff welcomes visitors by appointment. A trip to the museum is wonderful for reunion groups.

This July marks the 15th anniversary of the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum. We shall celebrate our anniversary on July 24-25 in conjunction with the downtown Cynthiana ArtWalk. We also plan to feature the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth with special exhibits and the Kentucky Historical Society's Historymobile. Renowned Lincoln impersonator Jim Sayre will visit the museum on Saturday, July 25 to help us celebrate the museum and Abraham Lincoln.

We look for great numbers of visitors that weekend and any other weekend. Things are happening - bring your family and friends!

Book Review: *The Church of the Advent Episcopal, Cynthiana, Kentucky: Its History and Its People* [The Church of the Advent Episcopal (Cynthiana, Ky., 2009) 117 pp., spiral bound, paperback, \$30.00, shipping \$5. Available from Kay Withers, 113 Pine Street, Cynthiana, Kentucky 41031. Reviewed by Bill Penn, editor.



Cover

The Church of the Advent has recently published a book that should be useful to church members, genealogists, and to those researching Cynthiana history. Included are accounts of the church's history from both published sources and unpublished manuscripts in the church archives. There is an extensive profile of Dr. George H. Perrin, one of the church organizers. All proceeds from the sale of the book go toward preservation of the historic church.

The most valuable portion of this book is the previously unpublished photocopy of the old church ledger recording baptisms, marriages, families, burials, and communicants [church members] between 1846 and 1910.

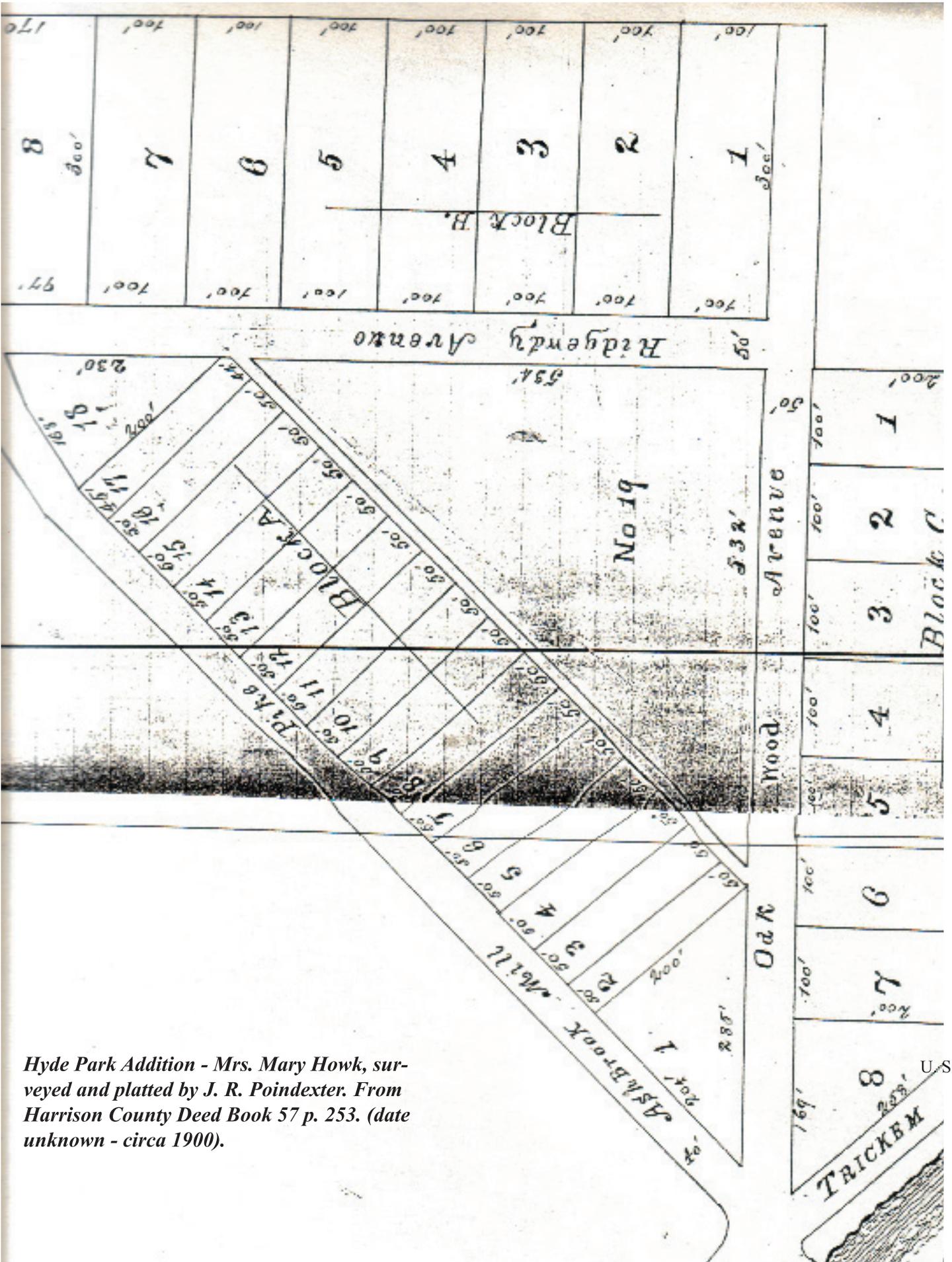
Family names include: Perrin, Trimble, Page, Peck, Moore, Delling, Wherritt, Dills, Alexander, Cook, McNeese, Adair, Ashbrook, Anderson, Jouett, Zell, Megibben, Rieckel, Handy, Oxley, Musser, Garnett, and many others.

The Church of the Advent dates to 1837 when regular services were begun in Cynthiana. The church met in various town churches but in 1852 purchased a lot at 188 N. Walnut Street. Here a Gothic Revival stone house of worship was completed in 1854, modeled on an old church in England, "Stokes Poges." The square tower was finished in 1860. This is the only church structure in Cynthiana remaining that witnessed the Civil War, and was thought to have been used as a field hospital. The historic church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Following pages are plats of additions to the City of Cynthiana in Belmont from the collection of the late George Slade:

Below: Belmont, 1890. Deed Book 51 page 594. Pleasant Street, or White Oak Pike, is on the right side.





Hyde Park Addition - Mrs. Mary Howk, surveyed and platted by J. R. Poindexter. From Harrison County Deed Book 57 p. 253. (date unknown - circa 1900).