



# Harrison Heritage News

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## Harrison County Sites Listed on the National Register of Historic Places Bill Penn

“The National Register of Historic Places is the nation’s official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Generally, properties eligible for listing in the National Register are at least 50 years old. Owners have no obligation to open their properties to the public, to restore them, or even to maintain them, if they choose not to do so. Federal agencies whose projects affect a listed property must give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the project and its effects on the property. Owners of listed properties may be able to obtain

Federal historic preservation funding, when funds are available. In addition, Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.”

Copies of the Harrison County nominations are on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council in Frankfort. Below are the twenty-five sites\* in Harrison County, and notes where more information can be found from various sources including (HHN) Harrison Heritage News and *This Old House* by Katherine Wilson. All publications are either for sale at the Museum or available at the Cynthiana-Harrison County Public Library. Back issues of Harrison Heritage News are in a notebook in the library’s Burgin Room and online at [www.harrisoncountky.us](http://www.harrisoncountky.us). See also: <http://www.cynthiana-harrisoncountymuseum.org/history-on-the-hoof.htm>.

**Archeological Site prehistoric**, Adena Culture, burial site, 499-0 BC - Lair, Ky.

**Church of the Advent, Episcopal** (added 1978) 122 [now 118] N. Walnut St.. (*History of Church of the Advent, Episcopal* 2009, book available from the church - see HHN 10-7 July 09 book review)

**Coleman--Desha Plantation** (added 1993); The Oaks; US 62 E, Oddville Pike, 1 mi. NE of Cynthiana. (*This Old House*, p. 21; *Coleman-Desha Plantation* Elizabeth Harris May, 1991, thesis.)

**Confederate Monument in Cynthiana**; (added 1997); 111 Battle Grove Cemetery, Cynthiana . (HHN 9-4 Apr 08; *Historic Battle Grove Cemetery* booklet available at the cemetery office).

**Cynthiana Commercial District** (added 1982) Pike St. from Church to Main Sts., and Main St. from Bridge to Pleasant Sts..

**Fraizer, Joel, House** (added 1983) Off KY 982, Cynthiana.

**Handy Farm** (added 2005) (HHN 7-1 Jan 06)

**Harrison County Courthouse** (added 1974) 100 Main St., Cynthiana. (HHN 9-10 Oct 08)

**Haviland House** (added 1983) Also known as Stone house on Haviland Lane; Off U.S. 62, Cynthiana.

**Hinkson, John, House** (added 1983) Off U.S. 27, Shawhan.

**Kimbrough-Hehr House** (added 1979) U.S. 62, Broadwell. (*This Old House* p. 19)

**Lafferty, William T., House** (added 1980) 548 E. Pike St., Cynthiana.

**Lair, John, House** (added 1983) Old Lair Rd., Shawhan. (*This Old House*, p. 33)

**McKee, John, House** (added 1983) Cook Rd., Shawhan.

**McMillan, Samuel, House** (added 1983) Off U.S. 62, Shawhan [should be Broadwell]. (*This Old House*, p. 2)

**Monticello** [demolished except carriage house] (added 1974) Thomas Jefferson Megibben House Monticello Heights, Cynthiana

**Poplar Hill** (added 1976); Also known as John William Kimbrough House E of Cynthiana on KY 32, Cynthiana.

**Roberts, Wesley, House** (added 1982) 113-115 N. Main St., Cynthiana.

**Second Battle of Cynthiana Battlefield [Keller’s Bridge]** (added 2002) HR 182; 1 mi. N of Cynthiana, E of KY 36, Cynthiana . (*Rattling Spurs and Broad-Brimmed Hats* - Penn, chapter 8)

**Shawhan, Joseph, House** (added 1983) Off U.S. 27, Shawhan. (*This Old House*, p. 51)

**Smith House** (added 1983) Off Lair Rd., Shawhan.

**Spur Gasoline Station** (added 1987) Jay’s Cars Office 201 E. Bridge St., Cynthiana.

**Stone House of Indian Creek** (added 1983) Off U.S. 62, Cynthiana.

**Stony Castle** (added 1978) W of Berry on Lafferty Pike, Berry. (*This Old House*, p. 8)

**Williams, John, House** (added 1983); off KY 32/36, Shawhan [should be “1.5 m. E of Cynthiana”] (*This Old House*, p. 36)

\*Source: <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natregsearchresult.do?briefnav&briefpage=1>

# Harrison County Historical Society

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

## Program Notes - July 16 Meeting

**Business:** President Billy Fowler announced that the negotiations on the Handy House between the city commission, the fiscal court and the Historic Society are expected to begin soon.

**Program:** The Show and Tell program included many interesting items such as a brace of dueling pistols, an old-fashioned twine holder, a store broom display rack, a glass kerosene container, and an old shoe found at the Handy house. Our guest, Jim Dempsey from Cincinnati, shared records from Harrison County schools dating from 1885. The Cynthiana Museum was featured on Channel 36 news and at the conclusion of Show and Tell, the video of the news clip about the museum was shown.



Show & Tell Program: Betty Selin brought two matched antique vases that belonged to Mattie Dee Todd (1853-1909), former Cynthiana postmistress and niece of Mary Todd Lincoln. Photo, Sharon Fowler.

### ***HARRISON COUNTY HISTORY CALENDAR***

**July** On Friday, July 24, the museum's 15th anniversary.

**Aug. 20,** Meet at Wayne Stafford's log cabin on Dutch Chapel Rd.

**September 17,** TBA

**October 15,** Meet at the Prizing House on South Church Street.

### ***MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION***

**Send \$12 per family annual dues to: Harrison County Historical Society, PO Box 411, Cynthiana, Kentucky 41031.**

# President's Corner

Billy Fowler  
 billyfowler@kymail.com

You may have noticed that this newsletter has arrived a little early. What you may not know is that until recently we have been "bumming" the use of equipment to print the newsletters. We want to thank the chamber of commerce and Harrison County government for allowing us the use of their equipment for so many years. This use of "borrowed" equipment has become more of a problem as time went by for the historical society as well as the equipment owners. As a result we decided to have the newsletters printed commercially which provided good quality copies while providing it's own set of problems. One of our members suggested that I investigate purchasing a copier. I was a little skeptical, but thought it worth looking into. I was surprised that a copier recommended to handle our needs was actually affordable.

A motion was passed at our last meeting authorizing me to purchase the copier. Now that we had purchased it we needed to determine if it would actually meet our needs. If not we could return it within fourteen days of purchase for a full refund. (Do you remember that I started out talking about the newsletter being early?) I requested the newsletter staff to bring it together in time to print it on our new copier during the trial period. They all responded with their usual enthusiasm and we all hope you are happy with the outcome and the fact that the society has become a little more self sufficient.

On a different subject, both the city and county voted (with only one opposing vote) at their July 14th meetings to enter into negotiations with the historical society. The purpose of these negotiations is to reach an agreement that will allow for the transfer of property interest of the Handy House. These negotiations will end in an agreement as to how much area and what will be required of the historical society. The agreement will then go before both governing bodies for a final vote. As I type this column, negotiations have not yet begun but are scheduled to start before the week is out. I am confident that when we sit down together we will learn that we can reach an agreement that will benefit preservation as well as progress. I will keep you informed on this and other historical and preservation projects as we go forward.

# Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes, President      [www.cynthiana-harrisoncountymuseum.org](http://www.cynthiana-harrisoncountymuseum.org).

## *A Grand Doll House*

As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the museum July 24th, it continues to amaze everyone that our collection - more than 2,000 items related to this community - continues to grow. We consistently receive all sorts of items - as small as an emery board from a Harrison County politician to as large as a huge fire extinguisher on wheels (that's another story).

A recent acquisition is a "grand doll house" - fully furnished, totally electrified - a model of a house which stood on North Walnut Street in Cynthiana. The house, built by George Dickey about 1902, was purchased by Clarence Martin in 1930. The actual house has been razed for a church parking lot.

A daughter of Clarence Martin, Ruth Martin Smith commissioned Bruce Mitchell in 1979 to build a miniature replica of her Walnut Street home place. According to a 1979 copy of *The Cynthiana Democrat*, it was the first miniature house the talented Mr. Mitchell had built. Since most older homes had poplar weather boarding, the model was made with poplar wood. Complete with the large front porch and gingerbread trim, the house is painted pale yellow, the original color.

Mrs. Smith drew up the plans for the house, did the

decorating, collected the furnishings, and even made some of the miniature furniture. As well, she had some local craftsmen recreate some of the furniture her father had made. One of those craftsmen was Stan Lemons. Ruth lived in Lexington for most of her adult life - and enjoyed having her Cynthiana childhood home with her.

In 2008, William Prentice Smith, Ruth's son, contacted us at the museum and discussed literally bringing the house back home - he offered to loan the house and its furnishings to the museum. Prentice and his wife Lee delivered the yellow house. Harold Slade and other museum volunteers made a table to hold it and arranged the electricity.

On two spring Saturdays, Prentice and Lee came from their home in Louisville to bring boxes and boxes of furnishings and to arrange them in the house. One cannot imagine the completed display without actually seeing it! The house is a source of delight for all - young and old. What a marvelous addition to the museum! What messages it relays to us - the importance of creativity, preservation, home, and family!

We have yet another "grand doll house" - and that truly is another wonderful story. Come see us and all the treasures at the museum. Hrs. Fri-Sat 10am - 5pm. 234-7979.

## **Harrison County, Kentucky, Historical Publications**

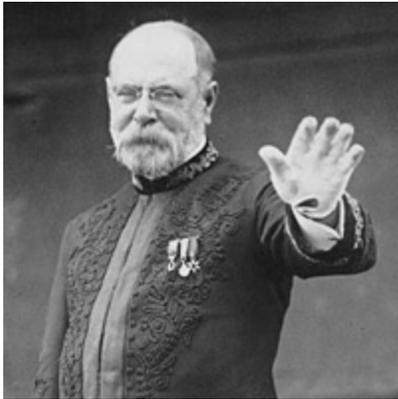
available from Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, 124 South Walnut Street, P.O. Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031 (859-234-7179);

- 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.

# A Royal Visitor in Cynthiana

## The “March King” Comes to Town



Reportedly Sousa's favorite photograph of himself, taken in 1915, just three years before his visit to Cynthiana. (Music Division, Library of Congress)

July 4th is the day marking the anniversary of the beginning of the end of crown rule in the American Colonies and the birth of the United States. While the “Founding Fathers” may have had a tiff with old King George, it doesn't mean Americans dislike royalty, for we really do like kings, only in a different realm, that of music.

Who doesn't know who the “King of Rock 'n' Roll” is? We must all know who the “King of Pop” is by now with the unfortunate death of Michael Jackson. About a century ago it was another king who ruled in the land; his name was John Philip Sousa (1854-1932), and he was known as the “March King.”

July 4 is a day for picnics, family outings, fireworks, hot dogs, apple pie, and, yes, Chevrolet, which just barely made the list this year. It is also a day for a little music. Neil Diamond's “They Come to America,” Lee Greenwood's “Proud to Be an American,” Bruce Springsteen's “Born in the U.S.A.” are annual anthems. (If you aren't already humming the melody to one

of these, can you consider yourself American?)

One tune that has always been popular for July 4th festivities is “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” often heard during the fireworks finale of any celebration. In 1918 it was most likely performed by the famous bandleader and composer John Philip Sousa. Sousa and the Great Lakes Naval Station Band were making a wartime visit to Cynthiana, just two days after the first anniversary of America's entry into World War I, when the *Cynthiana Democrat* of April 11 reported the following details:

“The Great Lakes Naval Station Band, of Chicago, with the famous bandmaster, John Philip Sousa, director, stopped over at Cynthiana Monday night for a short concert at the railroad station. A crowd of at least a thousand people greeted the band. Sousa appeared on the rear platform of the train. The band numbered 280 pieces and was made up of naval recruits in uniform. There were ten coaches to the special train. It reached here at about 8:30 o'clock, and was on the way to Cincinnati from Lexington where it participated in a Liberty Loan demonstration Monday. It had the same business in Cincinnati Tuesday, and is part of the organizations touring the country to awaken the people to a sense of their responsibility and duty.

Louisville, Lexington, Paris[,] and Cynthiana were the only towns in Kentucky where the band stopped.”

The paper didn't mention a performance of “The Stars & Stripes Forever,” but it had been a hit virtually since that day in 1896 when Sousa put the composition to paper. He was returning from a vacation in Europe to take charge of the Sousa Band after his manager's

sudden death. In his autobiography he recalled “pacing on the deck, absorbed in thoughts . . . Suddenly, I began to sense a rhythmic beat of a band playing within my brain. Throughout the whole tense voyage, that imaginary band continued to unfold the same themes, echoing and re-echoing the most distinct melody. I did not transfer a note of that music to paper while I was on the steamer, but when we reached shore, I set down the measures that my brain-band had been playing for me, and not a note of it has ever changed.”

It may be the greatest, and probably oldest, hit ever written by “royalty!” Move over, Elvis!



No celebration of the Fourth of July is complete without a performance of “The Stars and Stripes Forever!” Below, Cynthiana's L. & N. Depot. It was here that “a crowd of at least a thousand people greeted the band.”



# The Genealogy Box



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

By Philip Naff  
([philmnaff@comcast.net](mailto:philmnaff@comcast.net))

## G-Pop of Company I

Every year out at the Elk's Farm out on Oddville Road in Harrison County the fields are a-rumble with the sounds of hoofbeats and mock cannon fire of the Civil War reenactors who come to town to take part in the recreation of Morgan's Raids on Cynthiana in 1862 and 1864. The reenactors come and go, spending just about as much time as Morgan ever did in town, but their mark, unlike Morgan's, leaves much less of a destructive track than his, and their presence helps to enliven the imagination of those who attend, helping them to visualize what life was like in those hardened times of war and slavery.

In beginning my own genealogical quest, I had no clue as to which side had been taken by my own Kentucky kin during the Civil War; whether they were Johnny Rebs, Billy Yanks, sympathizers, slaveholders, emancipationists or abolitionists, I did not know. My first clues as to their sympathies came with the uncovering of the

short military career of my 2nd-great-grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Norman (1841~1913). All that was known of his family was that they lived near Union, in Boone County, Kentucky. I knew nothing more when I began my research. While he was not from Harrison County, he did have one thing in common with Cynthiana . . . he did get to know General John Hunt Morgan for a little while, but perhaps the terms were a little more friendly for him than for Cynthiana! As an example of how to uncover your own Rebel ancestor's past, I thought I would briefly tell of the trail I followed in recreating my own ancestor's military record.

**The Rebel from Union:** In trying to "dig up" some information about B.F. Norman a visit was made to the local cemetery in his old hometown of Union, a name which was not true to its citizens' sympathies. His grave marker with the dates "1841-1913" etched on his tombstone was found among other Norman family members. Using this information his date of death was found (May 28) in the Kentucky Death Index (available in book form then, later on microfiche and now online, as are many of the resources mentioned hereafter). His obituary was located and it reported that "Mr. Norman was a gallant soldier in the Confederate army in the civil war [*sic*], and the cause for which he fought so gallantly was so dear to him that he preserved his uniform and requested that he be buried in it, which request was followed." So, he was a veteran, a Confederate, and fifty years after the war he was still sentimental about his experiences in the Civil War!

The next step was to try and use official federal and state records to see if the information contained in the obituary could be confirmed. In B.F. Norman's lifetime, three records filled the bill: The 1890 U.S. Census of Civil War Veterans & Widows, the Consolidated

Records of the Confederacy, and Kentucky Confederate pension applications.

**Pension Records:** Beginning in 1912 Kentucky offered pensions to its Confederate veterans and their widows. It was a possibility that B.F. Norman had applied for a pension and written down some of his experiences during the war. Using an index of these records the date and number of his pension request was located and a request was made of the Kentucky archives in Frankfort for a photocopy (Original copies were also filed with the local county courthouse, and so it may be possible to view the pension record there)

The pension application recorded that B.F. Norman had been a soldier with the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry (Basil Duke Regiment) under the command of Confederate Cavalry General John Hunt Morgan. He enlisted in July, 1862 as a private in Company E, was transferred shortly thereafter to Company I, and rode with Morgan's Men until May, 1863, when he was captured at the Cumberland River near Augusta, Kentucky, at the very beginnings of Morgan's ill-fated raid through Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. B.F. Norman was then taken to the military prison in Louisville, transferred to Ft. McHenry in Baltimore, and became part of a prisoner exchange at City Point, Virginia, all within two weeks. His pension request makes no reference to later actions he may have seen, even though he claims to have been paroled at Mt. Sterling, Kentucky at the end of the war in 1865.

The pension requests are especially interesting in that corroborating witnesses to the subject's service were also required, and so you may learn more about your subject's service than he would have provided in his own account. B.F. Norman's service was confirmed by four other Confederate veterans from the

county, and each of them filed requests for pensions, in which B.F. Norman gave evidence of their service, and which ended up providing even more details of their days with Morgan.

**Consolidated Records:** Armed with his name and the identification of his regiment wrote to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and requested their file on B.F. Norman. The record actually consists of a set of index cards which cite the occurrence of the subject's name as it appears in records generated during the Civil War, which may still exist and may be located among other microfilmed records. One such card indicated that B.F. Norman was almost paid as much for the use of his horse as he was for his service! These documents corroborated the information supplied by the pension request, but were not nearly so pleasing as the account of my 2nd-great-grandfather's record written in his own hand.

Searches of newspapers published after the Civil War, which had been microfilmed by the University of Kentucky (available via interlibrary loan), helped to further document his record. It turned out that he attended several reunions of Confederate veterans in Nashville and Louisville after the war. He even wrote a letter-to-the-editor detailing one of his trips.

Having survived the war and lived as long as he did, B.F. Norman made it easier for the researcher of today to confirm his past military service; had he died during the war there would only have been the consolidated military record to prove his service, with no confirmations to be had by the 1890 U.S. Census, his pension application, or the numerous articles which appeared in newspaper in the decades after the Civil War.

**Rank Has Its Privileges:** It also has its perks for the researcher of today. B.F. Norman was just a

private and didn't rate a single mention in any narrative about General Morgan. However, B.F. Norman's younger brother, Lewis Caleb Norman did become an officer in command of Company B, Jesse's Battalion, Kentucky Mounted Rifles when he joined with Johnny Reb. On their way south, in actions described by *Kentucky Cavaliers in Dixie* by George Dallas Mosgrove, his unit was captured at Mt. Sterling, Ky., before being sent off to Federal prison camps at Camp Morton (Indianapolis) and Johnson's Island in Lake Erie.

Microfilmed Indianapolis newspapers reported on the activities in the prison camp, and a search of the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* revealed that a one-on-one prisoner exchange was arranged for Lt. Norman. A civilian, "A.H. Townly, a citizen of Campbell County, Ky." was swapped for the freedom the young lieutenant.

Armed with the name of L.C. Norman's unit, a query was posted online to a Civil War bulletin board, inquiring about the history of the unit. A reply was not really expected, when an e-mail was received the next day from a Jeffrey Weaver, a prolific author of Civil War unit histories. Mr. Weaver had written several hundred pages on the history of Jesse's Battalion, and he knew of L.C. Norman's service with the unit, although he did have to admit that Lt. Norman was not his favorite, for he had tried to take command of Jesse's Battalion from Col. Jesse at one time! Within a day of placing the query, he generously sent me a copy of an unpublished manuscript of Jesse's Battalion.

A search of the indexes of magazines such as *Confederate Veteran* and *Southern Bivouac* revealed a story about General Morgan's death in Tennessee, that Lt. Norman was at the scene of Morgan's shooting in Greenville, and that he led a charge

down the hill into the town in an attempt to rescue General Morgan, but failed.

Oddly enough, despite a successful career in Kentucky politics after the war as a state senator, insurance commissioner, Kentucky state auditor, and head of the Democratic Party in the 1890s, besides being a successful businessman out of politics, he never seems to have written any narratives of his own about his Civil War service (Don't all politicians like to brag, even just a little?).

**Local Resources, Unique to the Community:** Most of the records used to prove the service of a Civil War veteran can be found at the Federal or state level, but a variety of resources does exist at the county level.

With Harrison County the first resource that comes to mind are the E.E. Barton Papers, a collection of family records based on interviews with local residents which was compiled the Pendleton County lawyer E.E. Barton before World War II. While he may not have interviewed many if any veterans themselves, the sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, and cousins provided information about what they knew of their family members' service in the Civil War. These notes might present the indications of a Civil War veteran's presence in the family.

And the best of local resources may be authors and researchers like William A. Penn, of Midway, Ky., and Charles W. Feix, of Cynthiana, who have spent many a year researching Morgan's raids and the men from the county who joined with Uncle Sam or Johnny Reb.

While I may have discovered I have quite a few Confederates in my family tree, I know a little of what it must have been like to be a Union soldier, for it sure has been a lot of fun chasing after my Rebel ancestors who rode with General John Hunt Morgan!