



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

www.harrisoncountyky.us/historical-society

March 2011

Vol.12 No. 3



The former North Main Street viaduct, completed in 1937, has been demolished and its replacement put into service.

Photo, Sharon Fowler.



Harrison County Historical Society

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

President's Corner

Billy Fowler
 billyfowler@kymail.com

Program Notes

Harrison County Historical Society March program - Randall Boyers (see photo below) presented an interesting program on his many travels. At the business meeting President Fowler discussed proposed work to be done on the Handy House and the need to raise more funds. He also told about the plans for the upcoming Raggedy Ann Festival and future programs, including the Northside Fifth Grade class in April. The Kentucky Humanities Council will sponsor the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit at the Chamber of Commerce Building (old National Bank/Fifth Third Building on Main Street) July 16-August 27. (See Martha Barnes' column for details).



Harrison County History Calendar

April 16 - Raggedy Ann Festival
 April 21 - Program - Northside Fifth Grade Class
 May 19 - Program - Eastside Fifth Grade History Club
 June 16 - Program - Show & Tell
 June 18-19 - Civil War Reenactment Elks Club
 June 25 - Ruddle's & Martin's Station Historical Assoc.
 "Gathering 2011"
 July 16-Aug. 27 - Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit at Chamber.

March is a time when people start to think about upcoming activities that are going to be so much more pleasant than the winter months that are being left behind. I am no different; I have been spending time thinking about outdoor activities. We have already mowed our yard and are now looking for a dry day to do it again. Oh well, it can not all be fun!

Speaking of fun, did you attend the Historical Society meeting last April? If not, you missed a good one. A group of fifth graders from Northside Elementary School entertained us with wonderful individual performances. Each student stepped up to the podium and made a one minute speech about a figure from history. The students talked as if they were the historical person. In order to do this they first had to select someone from a pre-determined historical period. They then had to research the selected individual in order to gain information to prepare their speech. There was undoubtedly practice in front of mirrors, parents, pets or who or whatever they could find. Then they presented their speeches at school. Oh yes, don't forget then they performed for us. Did I mention that they were also in costume? I say that is not bad for a bunch of fifth graders.

If you missed that meeting you have a chance to catch this year's group at the April 21st meeting and if you attended last year I feel sure you will be back this year. Can you think of a better way to support our future historians and society members? I can not. We are always looking for ways to get younger folks involved in history. We have some very creative teachers doing their parts, now we can do our parts and come out in force to show our support for these hard working and brave students.

Kentucky Historical Society Hours:

Wednesdays: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST

Thursdays: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes, President

www.cynthiana-harrisoncountymuseum.org

Raggedy Ann Dolls Celebration

At last, spring is springing. We look forward to springtime - more activity at the museum and more visitors.

April 16, 2011 marks the Ninth Annual Raggedy Ann Festival in downtown Cynthiana. The museum has maintained its Raggedy Corner since the very first festival. Actually, now there are several areas in the museum which feature the special dolls and their local heritage. Truly, we must be the only museum in the country or perhaps in the world with these permanent features.

Some may ask what's so special about those raggedy dolls. Since the early 1900's, these toys and books have brought happiness to many - whether boy or girl, young or "young at heart." What endearing creations and to think that Cynthiana is the cradle of Raggedy!

Several years ago as a part of the Festival activities, we held a Where's Raggedy? and Trivia Contest at the museum. Some of the trivia involved Joni Gruelle Wannamaker (granddaughter of Johnny Gruelle) and her reason for visiting Cynthiana in 2002. R. B. Gruelle was born in 1851 in Cynthiana. What is his Raggedy connection? A magic lantern is a part of the museum collection. A magic lantern has a Raggedy connection as does well-known Indiana poet James Whitcomb Riley. Don't forget the candy hearts! Come to the museum to do your personal Raggedy trivial pursuit.

We anticipate a distinctive exhibit in Cynthiana, July 16 - August 27. When given the opportunity to apply for a grant to host the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit, "Journey Stories" through the Kentucky Humanities Council

we were not very certain that we would be selected. Our main goal of hosting the exhibit was to bring more attention to the museum and of course, more visitors. We were chosen! and for the best possible dates, July 16 - August 27 (summer, good weather, tourists, schools closed and then schools open, our museum 17th anniversary weekend - July 22-23, Art Walk - July 29-30)

The Kentucky Humanities Council folks after visiting and loving the museum were adamant that we did not have room - so after much consultation, it has been determined that the Traveling Exhibit will be at the Chamber of Commerce Building (old National Bank/Fifth Third Building on Main Street). I am now convinced that the Exhibit indeed will bring more attention and more visitors to our museum and to our town.

Our Mary Grable, Project Director is most enthusiastic about the Exhibit. She has been diligently working to set things in motion - advertisement plans, writing and being successful in earning a mini-grant, working with community groups, arranging all sorts of wonderful programs and speakers, securing sponsors, lining up volunteers, etc. etc. Please plan to participate, perhaps volunteer.

The theme of the Smithsonian Exhibit, "Journey Stories" focuses on why Americans located where they did - by choice, by chance, by force. Part of our local effort will be to encourage people to delve into their own local roots. Why are they here in River City?! Wonder why the Gruelle family came here? We all have Journey Stories.

Rattling Spurs

Bill Penn, Editor

150 Years Ago - March 1861 - Lincoln was inaugurated sixteenth President of the United States on March 4. The crisis of whether to reinforce or abandon Fort Sumter was first on his new cabinet's agenda. As the CSA government approved a constitution, Lincoln refused to meet with Confederate commissioners for he did not want to admit they were out of the Union.

In Harrison County, Jo Desha apparently made no attempt to conceal his CSA recruiting activities, for a Lexington newspaper had reported that a military company was being formed in Cynthiana and had already attracted fifty men.

The county was generally divided between allegiance to the North or South along a line from Berry to Claysville, with the majority north of it joining the Union army and those south, the Confederate. This line separates the county between hilly land in the northern portions and the gently sloping, deep-soiled

southern section nearer Cynthiana. Perhaps the wealthier landowners with better farm land, requiring more use of slaves, sided more with the South. An Oddville writer remembered that "There were but few slaves in North Harrison." This was historian Ellis Coulter's contention, writing, "It is generally true that the hilly country and the thinner soil was the stronghold of Unionism, while the level land and the more fertile soil bred southern sympathies."

William H. Stewart mentioned the feverish recruiting in a 1861 letter: "Both parties have been drilling here all summer. We do not want to see that families here are divided. Churches and neighborhoods, let us pray for peace, live for it, talk for it. Let me live or die. I want peace and [am] opposed to this war."

Sources: Cynthiana Democrat, August 7, 1919 (E. B. L., "Delightful;" Coulter, *The Civil War and Readjustment In Kentucky*, 121-124; William H. Stewart to John T. Webb, September 6, 1861.

R.L. Polk & Co.'s

Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory

for 1876-7

Compiled by Philip A. Naff (philnaff@comcast.net)

A gazetteer is defined as a “list and description of places such as villages, towns, and cities and may also mention neighborhoods, cemeteries, populations, rivers and mountains, and other geographical features.”

Many of the statewide gazetteers for Kentucky of the latter half of the nineteenth century weren't just for providing a list of place names with brief descriptions. They included business directories and served as the phonebooks of their era, with lists of businesses and the men and women who ran them in each city, town and community, along with plenty of advertisements, which helped to pay for their publication. They provided information about access to shipping points, railroad availability, stagecoach fares, and the distances between communities.

Most of the information about the smaller communities was provided to the publisher by the local postmasters, and while there are only two post offices in Harrison County today, there were a dozen or more at any given time during the latter half of the 19th century. The failure of a few postmasters to respond to the queries of the publisher may account for the lack of a listing for some communities, while the self-promotion of others may have made their communities look larger or more important than their size alone would have indicated.

George W. Hayes' Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1859 and 1860 was the first and *Hodgman & Co.'s Kentucky State Gazetteer, Shipper's Guide and Business Directory for 1865 and 1866* was the second of at least eight such volumes published in Kentucky from 1859 to 1896 which can be accessed by the public in libraries across Northern Kentucky (See the September 2009 and May 2010 issues of the *Harrison Heritage News* for the excerpts regarding Harrison County communities that could be found in these first two volumes).

And so, once again, it is time to take a short walk back down the streets of simpler times in Harrison County, do a little window shopping, imagine what your own ancestors might have been looking for, and enjoy a glimpse into the past as much as these texts will allow. The first stop in your journey is...

~

ANTIOCH MILLS.

A small settlement of about 35 inhabitants, in the northern part of Harrison county, 14 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat, 6 miles from Robinson, the nearest railroad station, 50 miles from Cincinnati, Ohio, and about 100 miles from Louisville. Semi-weekly mail; Alvin Sellers, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Beckett, J.H., undertaker.
Curran & Co., flouring mill.
Kanady, F.M., wagon maker.
Kanady, Z.M., blacksmith.
Linn, J.A., physician.
Truax, G.L., physician.
Sellers, A., general store.

~

BERRY'S STATION.

A postoffice in Harrison county.

~

BOYD'S STATION.

A station on the Kentucky Central R.R., located in the northern part of Harrison county, 16 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat. Population 100.

~

BROADWELL.

A postoffice in Harrison county.

~

CLAYSVILLE.

A village on Main Licking river, in the northern part of Harrison county, 12 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat and nearest railroad station. It was first settled in 1806, and incorporated in 1870. Its population is 75. Stage to Brooksville. Daily mail. W.T. Asbury, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Asbury, E.T., plasterer.
Asbury, W.T., general store.
Boston, John, wagonmaker.
Catherwood, M., carpenter.
Curran, J.J., tobacco dealer.
Curran, W.H., physician.
Duncan, A., blacksmith.
Hamilton, J.B., hotel.

~
COLEMANSVILLE.

A village on Licking river, in the northern part of Harrison county, 13 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat, and 150 from Louisville. Berry's Station, on the Kentucky Central R.R., 1½ miles distant, is the nearest shipping place. It was settled in 1830, and incorporated in 1840. Population 100. Tri-weekly mail. James H. Cloe, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Crouch, J.B., general store.
Day, B.C., grocer.
Hedges, T.W., physician.
Leuber, C.E., physician.
Smith, J.N., physician.
Stone, J.N., physician.

~
CONNERSVILLE.

A settlement of about 100 inhabitants, on Mill creek, in the southwestern part of Harrison county, 7 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat and nearest station, on the Kentucky Central R.R. It is 127 miles, by rail, from Louisville. Its principal shipments are hogs, cattle, sheep and country produce. Semi-weekly mail. B.M. Tucker, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Bennett, Albert, carpenter.
Boyd, J.W., General Store.
Boye[r]s, A.P., farmer.
Case, Henry, undertaker.
Conner, A., physician.
Conrad, A.L., hotel.
Conrad, Joseph, farmer.
Devoore, J.E., wagonmaker.
Feghtmaster [sic], J.E., blacksmith.
Hendricks, John H., carpenter.

Levi, H.M., general store.
Lowry, R.A., physician.
Rogers, J.R., saw mill.
Tucker, B.M., General Store.

~
CURRY'S RUN.

A small village, situated on a stream of the same name, in the northern part of Harrison county, 8 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat, 4 from Robinson Station, on the Kentucky Central R.R., and 169 from Louisville. It was first settled in 1800, and receives mail semi-weekly. William R. Epperson, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Johns, Rev. F.T., (Methodist.)
Slade, Samuel, general store.

~
CYNTHIANA.

The county seat of Harrison county is a city of 2300 inhabitants, situated on South Licking river, in the southern part of the county, 37 miles from Frankfort, and 115 from Louisville. It was named after Cynthia and Anna, two daughters of the original proprietor, Robert Harris[on], who settled here in 1793. Cynthiana was incorporated as a town in 1802, and as a city in 1860. It contains a good brick court-house, seven churches, two academies, two public schools and a select school, two flouring mills, three distilleries, a woolen factory and two printing offices. The principal shipments from here are stock and whisky. Telegraph, Western Union; express, Adams. Daily mail. Magee H. McCalla, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Ahearn, Richard, saloon.
Ashbrook & Burns, grocers.
Ashbrook & Woolford, liquor dealers.
Banks, E.R., stoves and tinware.
Bauer, William, blacksmith.
Beale, A.J., physician.
Beamer & Collom, Dentists.
Berentzen, L., saloon.
Box, Frank, sheet-iron worker.
Brewington, James, tailor.
Broh, Adolph, clothing.
Cleary, J.M., blacksmith.

Collins, John, blacksmith.
Cook, C.B. & Co., millers and distillers.
Cosby & Gray, general store.
Cromwell, H.F., wagon and plow manuf.
Cummins, R.J., undertaker.
Curry, J.R., lawyer.

Cynthiana Democrat, Adie O. Robertson,
Editor and Proprietor.

Day & Anderson, millinery.
Deschler, Jacob, barber.
Desha, Lucius, jr., lawyer.
Donnally, George T. & William, dentists.
Faerber, Miss Mary, hotel.
Fennell & Bro., boots and shoes.
Fennell, J. & A., harnessmakers.
Ford, Howard, sale stable.
Frisbie, Harry D., station agent.
George, J.D., general store.
Gesinger, D. & Son, tailors.
Givens, D.A., general store.
Grater, Christ, baker.
Greer, T.J., saloon.
Grinnan, Lafayette, photographer.
Ham, L.J., blacksmith.

Harrison House, H.C. Nebel, Prop'r.
Haviland & Douglas, general store.
Hedges, Jams T., general store.
Hoessli, Jost, tinware.
Hogg, J.T., express agent.
Jameson, S.T., blacksmith.
Jefferson & Wells, livery stable.
Johnson, Henry, barber.
Jones, Robert, general store.
Juett, D.W., agricultural implements.
Kennard, William G., real estate.
King, Paul, ice and insurance.
Kruch, Louis, grocer.

Lacy & Kennard, Insurance.
Lewis, Mary, millinery.
Lowry, Robert A., physician.
Martin, R.M. & Co., hardware.
Megibben, T.J. & Co., dry goods.
Miller, F.W., lumber.
Miller, Isaac N., manuf. Catawba wine.
Morey, A.J., publisher Cynthiana News.
Morgan, John F., lawyer.
Nebel, H.C., Prop'r., Harrison House.
Norris, M.M., millinery.
Northcutt, W.L., dry goods.
O'Hearn, John L., saloon.
O'Neal, George, saloon.

Otwell, Thomas F., druggist.
Pate, V.H. & Co., carriage manufacturers.
Peck, J.W. & Co., groceries and hardware.
Pennell, Andrew, shoemaker.
Perrin, Achilles, lawyer.
Pollmeyer, G.D., saloon.

Prather & Forman, Lawyers.

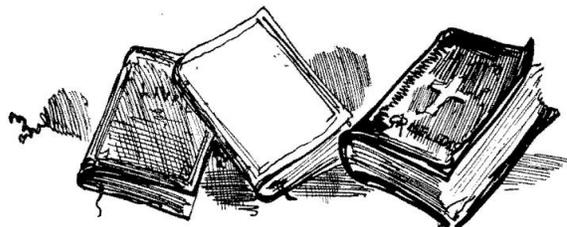
Ratcliffe, W.H., lawyer.
Remington, J.A., grocer.
Renaker, Seldon, grocer.
Renaker, J.W. & Bro., druggists.
Richards, John, meat market and saloon.
Rieckel, Charles, Agent, Jeweler.
Robertson, Adie O., editor and proprietor,
Cynthiana Democrat.
Robitzer, Fred, confectioner.
Rohs, Herman, wagonmaker.
Rouse, Thomas M., saloon.
Shawhan, J. & Co., general store.
Slade, Isaac N., tailor.
Smiser, J.H., physician.
Smith, W.W., proprietor, Smith House.
Spohn, John, meat market.
Smyth, William, boot and shoe maker.
Stewart, W.A., grocer.

The National Bank of Cynthiana, H.E. Shawhan,
pres't., J.S. Withers, cashier.

Toadvine, James H., confectioner.
Tudor, Chas. W., general store.
Vanhook & Potts, flouring mill.
Wall & Williams, house furnishing.
Ward, A.H., lawyer.
Ward, J.Q., lawyer.

Webster, Chas. A., Hardware.

West & Lake, lawyers.
Wherritt, R.C., dry goods.
Whitman & Crane, confectionery.
Williams, Emanuel, shoemaker.
Williams & Smiser, undertakers.
Wilson, Chas. T., insurance and real estate.
Wittman & Miller, grocers.
Woolwender [sic], Joseph, wagonmaker.
Woods, Mrs. Elizabeth, millinery.



~
HAVILANDSVILLE.

A settlement of about 30 souls, formed in 1835 and located on Richland creek, in the northern part of Harrison county, near the Pendleton county line, 15 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat, 110 from Louisville and 10 from Falmouth, on the Kentucky Central R.R., its nearest shipping point. It contains a grist and wool carding mill. Ships tobacco, hogs and wheat and has a semi-weekly mail. E.J. Morgan, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Arnold, W.B., miller and wool carder.
Hickman & Bro., general store.
Morgan, E.J., Blacksmith.

~
LAIR'S STATION.

A station on the Kentucky Central R.R., located in the southeastern part of Harrison county, 4 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat, and 125 from Louisville. It contains a flouring mill and two distilleries. Daily mail. Population about 150.

Business Directory.

Reynolds, S.T., flouring mill.
Reynolds & Lair, distillers.
Sharp, G.R., distiller.

~
LEESBURGH.

An incorporated village of 250 inhabitants, settled in 1820, and situated in the southwestern part of Harrison county, 10 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat and nearest shipping point, and 100 miles from Louisville. Grain and live stock form its principal shipments. Semi-weekly mail. Thos. H. Hart, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Anderson Bros., blacksmiths.
Barkley, Joe, physician.
Eg[n]ew, Alvin, wagonmaker.
Hart, Thos. H., Druggist.
Poyntz, J.M., physician.
Smith, H.C., Physician.
Walker, W.A., undertaker and wool carder.
Webster, H.B., General Store.

Woodford, J.M., physician.

~
ODDVILLE.

A village in the northern part of Harrison county, 6 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat and nearest shipping point, and 127 from Louisville. It contains a Methodist Church South, and public school. Country produce is the principal shipment. Semi-weekly mail. Population 100. Edgar Lancaster, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Batson, John D., physician.
Crow, Rev. J.C., (Methodist, South).
Hodson, J.M., general store.
Lancaster, Rev. R., (Methodist, South).
Lancaster, R. & Sons., General Store.
Michael, Thomas, blacksmith.
Michael, Col. T.F., claim agent.
Wheeler, John H., leaf tobacco.
Wheeler, W.F., leaf tobacco.
Whitaker, J.J., Hotel.

~
RICHLAND.

A small settlement on Richland creek, in the northern part of Harrison county, 11 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat, 5 from Berry's Station, on the K.C.R.R., its nearest shipping point, and 126 from Louisville. It contains a Methodist church and common school. Tobacco, cattle, hogs, sheep and grain are shipped from this neighborhood. Semi-weekly mail. L.F. Struve, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Collier, W.J., blacksmith and wagonmaker.
Struve, L.F., General Store.

~
ROBERTSON'S STATION.

Or Robinson's Station, as the village is called, a small place situated on South Licking river, and on the K.C.R.R., in the northern part of Harrison county, 9 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat, and 138 by rail from Louisville. It contains a flouring mill, saw mill, Christian church and high school, and ships tobacco[,] grain, hogs and cattle.

Express, Adams. Daily mail. E.W. Martin, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Bowman, D., brickmaker.
Bowman, –, flouring mill.
Case, Prof., high school.
Hamilton, Miss L.B., book-keeper.
Martin, E.W., General Store, Express and Station Agent.
Martin, Mrs. John, seamstress.
Martin, L.M., Lawyer.
Stewart, J.T., physician.
Taylor, N.P., saw mill.
Woolins, James, salesman.

~
RUTLAND.

A small settlement formed in 1812, on Raven creek, in the northwest corner of Harrison county, 10 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat, 7 from Berry's Station, on the K.C.R.R., its nearest shipping point and 150 by rail from Louisville. It contains a Methodist church and an academy, ships country produce and has a semi-weekly mail. Population 20. Lewis Collins, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Baird, J.A., hotel.
Bowen, A.B., blacksmith.
Manning, R.Y., physician.
Million, T. & Bro., General Store.
Penn, Prof. Thomas J., teacher.

~
SCOTT'S STATION.

[Harrison county. See Shady Nook].

~
SHADY NOOK.

Also called Scott's Station, a small village in the eastern part of Harrison county, 6 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat, and nearest shipping point, and 121 from Louisville. It contains a corn mill, Methodist church and common school. Weekly mail. Population 40. Joseph Scott, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Scott, W.N., physician.

Webb, Charles & Hamlet, general store.

~
SMITSONVILLE.

A postoffice in Harrison county.

Business Directory.

Smitson, J.D., general store.

~
SYLVAN DELL.

A small settlement formed in 1820, on Beaver creek, in the northeastern part of Harrison county, 8 miles from Cynthiana, the county seat and nearest shipping point, and 123 from Louisville. It contains a saw and grist mill, Christian church, and common school. Exports tobacco, hogs and sheep. Weekly mail. Wm. O. Wilson, postmaster.

Business Directory.

Brunker, G.W., general store.
Hodson, James, general store.
Pope, J.J., saw and grist mill.
Wells, Nathan, physician.



Source: *Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1876-7*, Louisville, Ky.: R.L. Polk & Co, 1876, pp. 68, 80, 92, 95, 114-5, 118, 120, 135-6, 197-8, 225, 231-2, 424, 461, 465, 474, 476, 480-1, 491, 503.

The texts for each Harrison County community which could be located in the *Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1876-7* have been transcribed verbatim, with the complete texts as seen in the original volume, and only a few modifications have been made to improve legibility and comprehension).