



# Harrison Heritage News

Published monthly by the

**Harrison County (Ky.) Historical Society**

P.O. Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031

[www.harrisoncountky.us/historical-society](http://www.harrisoncountky.us/historical-society)

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

January 2012

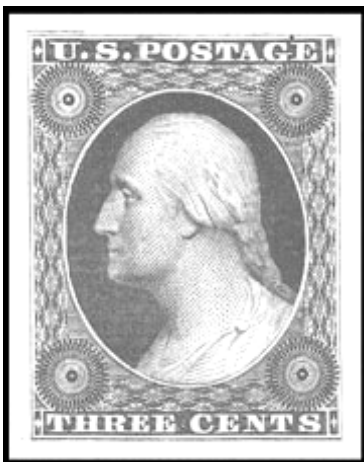
Vol. 13, No. 1

## A Lot of History for the Price of a Stamp

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

According to news accounts, it seems that the U.S. Postal Service, as most of us have always known it, may soon be history. Apparently the price of a stamp isn't enough to cover costs and not many want to pay the billions needed in the midst of a poor economy. To remedy the situation several hundred, if not a thousand or more, post offices may be closed and the number of days in a week that deliveries might be cut from six to five. All of this because e-mails, instant messages, tweets, texts, and social networking have become the way so many of us now choose to communicate with each other.

A few cents used to go a long way. In 1857, for example, a 3-cent stamp (below left) would take



almost any letter 3,000 miles within the United States (It was six cents coast-to-coast). The excerpt (below, right) from D.D.T. Leech's *Post Office Directory* of 1857 lists the eighteen post offices of Harrison County and the names of their postmasters. Today there are only two. The next-to-last column records the "compensation of postmaster." The last column records the "net revenue of office" that went to Washington, an amount which was a far cry from the billions needed today.

Post offices of the 19th century served as communication hubs for the smallest of towns, villages, and crossroads. Their postmasters have been responsible for many of the names given to the communities of

the county. Many postmasters also served as census takers throughout the years, a task which they seemed perfectly suited for, with their knowledge of the communities of Harrison County and the people who lived within and around them. They also provided much of the information which is the content of this month's feature beginning on page four, which is the fourth installment of Kentucky gazetteers and business directories which have been published in this newsletter.

Many complain of lines at the post office, slow delivery, and ever-rising costs. Will we ever be able to send a letter for three cents again? Probably never, but as this history buff sees it, we have all received quite a bit of value for our money.

## Harrison County.

<b>Berry's Station.....</b>	<b>George W. Berry...</b>		
<b>Boyd's Station.....</b>	<b>Thomas Boyd. ....</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>
<b>Broadwell.....</b>	<b>Andrew J. Beale ...</b>	<b>24.87</b>	<b>18.42</b>
<b>Buena Vista.....</b>	<b>Robert Smith.....</b>	<b>14.18</b>	<b>9.73</b>
<b>Claysville.....</b>	<b>Edwin R. Jackson..</b>	<b>32.03</b>	<b>19.36</b>
<b>Colemansville .....</b>	<b>William T. McNees.</b>	<b>36.41</b>	<b>24.99</b>
<b>Connersville .....</b>	<b>James J. Laughlin..</b>	<b>18.70</b>	<b>7.83</b>
<b>Curry's Run.....</b>	<b>James Slade.....</b>	<b>21.08</b>	<b>19.88</b>
<b>(Cynthiana (c. h) )...</b>	<b>Oliver Lucaa.....</b>	<b>367.29</b>	<b>819.51</b>
<b>Garnett's Station....</b>	<b>Tandy Wiglesworth.</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>
<b>Havilandville.....</b>	<b>Henry H. Haviland.</b>	<b>18.82</b>	<b>14.67</b>
<b>Kentontown.....</b>	<b>Orville G. Cameron.</b>	<b>15.88</b>	<b>8.46</b>
<b>Leesburgh .....</b>	<b>Bushrod T. Boswell.</b>	<b>61.51</b>	<b>21.79</b>
<b>Oddville .....</b>	<b>Hezekiah McWhite-</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>15.11</b>
	<b>ker .....</b>		
<b>Raven Creek .....</b>	<b>Charles H. Burgess..</b>	<b>4.45</b>	<b>3.13</b>
<b>Robertson's Station..</b>	<b>Geo. W. Robertson..</b>		
<b>Rutland.....</b>	<b>William F. Laughlin</b>	<b>14.19</b>	<b>9.59</b>
<b>Scott's Station.....</b>	<b>Hamlet L. Webb ...</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>