



Harrison Heritage News

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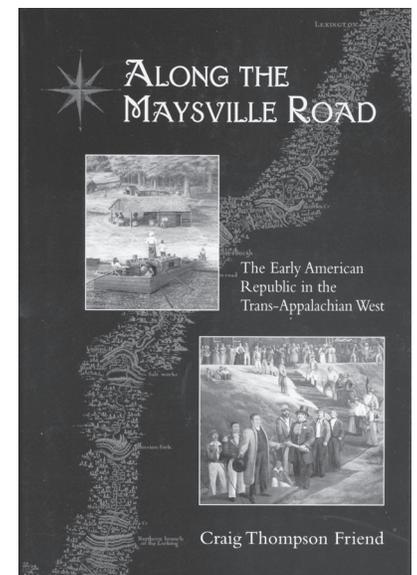
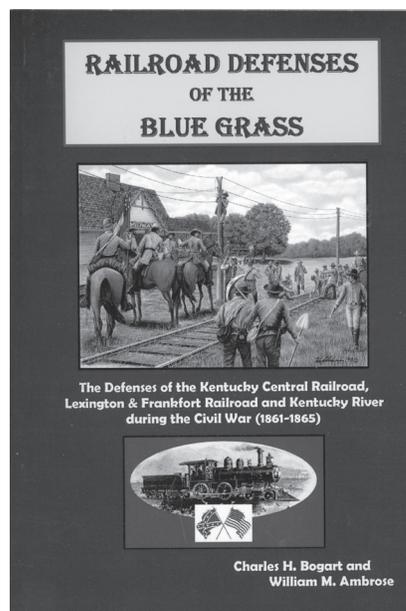
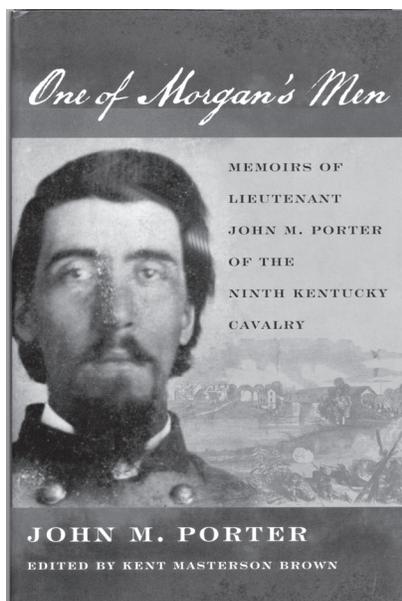
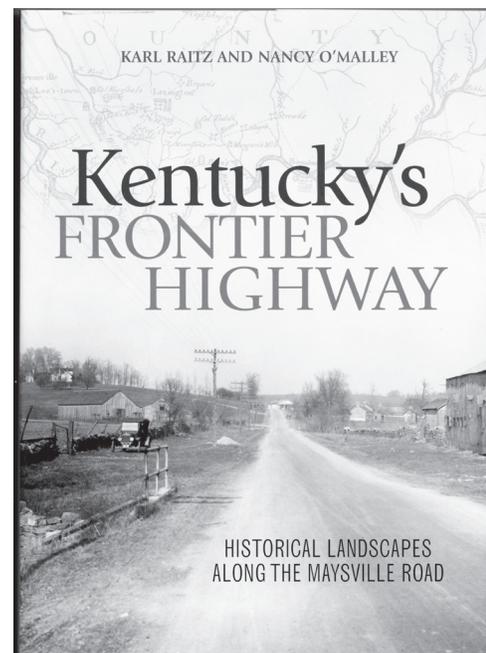
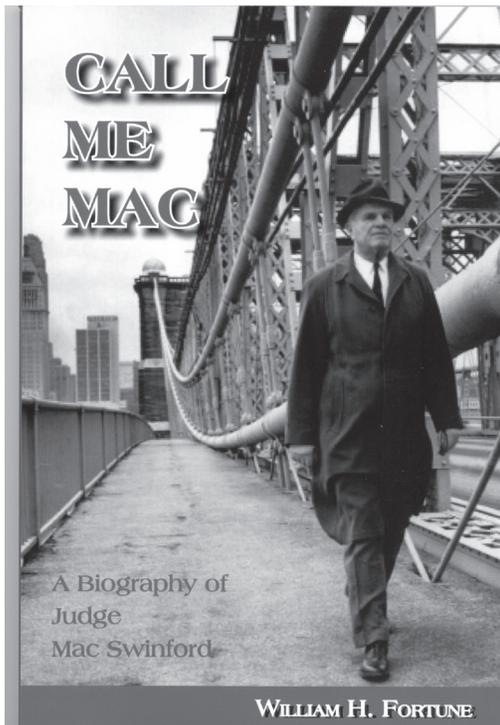
Award of Merit - Publication or Journal, 2007 Kentucky History Awards

www.harrisoncountyky.us/historical-society

October 2012

Vol.13 No. 10

BOOK REVIEW ISSUE: NEW HISTORY BOOKS OF INTEREST TO HARRISON COUNTIANS. See page 4-6.



Harrison County Historical Society

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

Historical Society Meeting Notes - October 18, 2012

Marilynn Bell, Secretary

Member Virgie Wells reported on the Volunteerism Fair held at Harrison County High School. Several organizations were represented, including Hospice, Rotary Club, Community Action, Humane Society and the Food pantry. The youth seemed interested and the event was well attended. Dorothy Slade reported that three insurance payments on the Handy house property had been made and \$1600.00 spent on boarding up the house for winter. These sums were paid out of the Verizon grant money for the purpose of stabilizing the house. It was announced that the City Hall Open House will take place in mid-November on a date not yet determined.

Submitted by Marilyn Bell, Secretary.

Historical Society Program and History Calendar

November 15 - Special showing of a video from the Museum's collection.

December 7- annual Xmas potluck - United Methodist Church at Pike and Church St. - 6:00 pm.



(left) A Harrison County mill in the early industries section of the Kentucky History Center museum at Frankfort. The Penn farm was about one mile south of Renaker. Other items from Harrison County in the Kentucky Historical Society will be featured from time to time in the newsletter.

James Samuel Penn used this **flourmill** made by the Bradford Mill Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, ca. 1880, on his farm in Harrison County, Kentucky.

Donated by William A. Penn and Phil Weisenberger

President's Corner

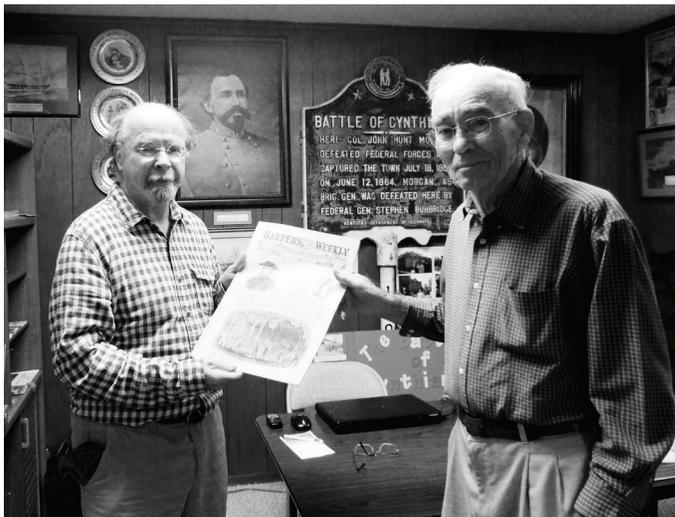
Bob Owen, Acting President

HELP!!! The Harrison County Historical Society needs YOUR immediate assistance. Officially the Harrison County Historical Society has no President. This is a bad sign and we must take action to fill the post. MY term as acting President ended on 30 June. I was hoping someone will be willing to step forward and guide the organization through the coming year. I do not want to see the organization die. We need someone to step up and assume the reins and guide the Society. Please come to the meetings and support the Society. Thanks for your support.

JOIN THE HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Dues are \$12/year and includes this monthly newsletter. Send check to HCHS, PO 411, Cynthia, Ky. 41031. Meetings are the third Thursday every month at the Cynthia-Harrison County Public Library Annex (Charles W. Feix Room) at 102 Pleasant Street behind Biancke's Restaurant, starting at 7 pm. The public is invited.

Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum
Martha Barnes, President www.harrisoncountky.us/museum.



Civil War Newspapers Donated

Bill Penn has donated his collection of six original New York Civil War-era newspapers containing articles about the First and Second Battles of Cynthiana. Included is the *Leslie's Illustrated* issue with the sketch of Morgan's attack at the covered bridge on July 17, 1862, which was on the cover of the August 2012 newsletter. These issues will be added to the Museum's growing collection of old newspapers. Photo, Bill Penn, left, with museum curator Harold Slade.

Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Harrison County
150 Years Ago This Month - October 1862
Bill Penn

Lucius Desha was finally released as a political prisoner from Camp Chase, Ohio, in October 1862. Writing his wife on October 28, Desha related the good news that the special commissioner for political prisoners had released him and the other Harrison County prisoners. On November 3, Desha returned to Camp Chase for his discharge papers, left Columbus the next day, and was welcomed home by his family on November 5, 1862, 100 days from the date of his arrest.

The Confederate invasion of Kentucky had, by October 1862, withdrawn to Tennessee. After the Confederate army left the state, Union regiments were ordered to rebuild bridges and communications destroyed by the Confederates, and to again guard the railroad, an indispensable asset for military operations. The 45th Ohio returned to the Harrison County area in October to construct about eleven railroad bridges between Covington and Paris set on fire by the retreating Confederate army.

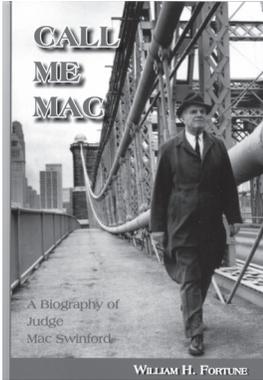
Union citizens who found refuge in Covington during the Confederate occupation of Kentucky returned home after the railroad bridges were repaired. Attorney W. W. Trimble came back to Cynthiana with his family October 15, 1862, ending forty-five days in Covington. His trip was delayed until Keller's bridge was temporarily rebuilt, after which he arranged to have his family on board the first train crossing the structure "built on timbers set up in the river."

Union soldiers away at war were apprehensive as to their families' safety during the Confederate occupation. Captain James M. Givens, with the 4th Kentucky Infantry in Lebanon, wrote to his sister on October 26: "I never was more anxious to hear from home than now. ... I would like to know how the rebels were received by all with whom I am connected in Harrison County. I would like to know how the people of the county in general received them." Unfortunately, her letters, which would have given valuable information on the Harrison County Civil War home front, have not been found.

Source: Unpublished manuscript: *Rattling Spurs and Broad-Brimmed Hats: The Battles of Cynthiana and the Civil War in Harrison County, Ky.* by William A. Penn (Unpublished revised manuscript, 2012).

NEW HISTORY BOOKS OF INTEREST TO HARRISON COUNTY READERS

Bill Penn



Call Me Mac: A Biography of Judge Mac Swinford by William H. Fortune, Clark Legacies, Louisville, Ky. 2012. 174 pages. Paperback. Illustrations. \$30.

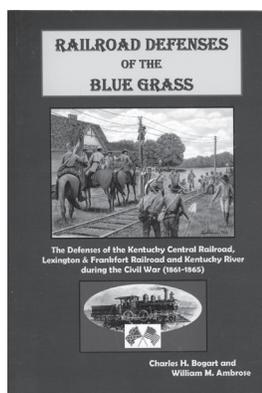
Judge Mac Swinford's life (1899-1975) was summarized in this newsletter's report on Sally Kinney's July 2003 presentation to the Harrison County Historical Society about her father: "Mac Swinford was born in Cynthiana, and upon graduating from Cynthiana High School in 1919 attended the University of Virginia. He began law practice with his father, M. C. Swinford, after attaining his law degree in 1925. Swinford was a Kentucky State Representative, was appointed United States Attorney and later U. S. judge and then chief judge for the eastern District of Kentucky. Judge Swinford lived his entire life on Pike Street, and only joined three organizations: Cynthiana Presbyterian Church, Inquisitor's Club, and the Democratic party."

At that time, the only book about Judge Swinford was his autobiography, *Kentucky Lawyer*, which is still in print by the University Press of Kentucky. Now there is a biography by William H. Fortune, which was written with the cooperation and contributions of Judge Swinford's family, especially Sally Kinney. Mr. Fortune is a professor at the UK College of Law. As the author of *On the Bench* (Jesse Stuart Foundation Press, 2008), a history of the federal courts in Eastern Kentucky, Mr. Fortune researched Judge Swinford's life and court cases. Mac Swinford left a wealth of material documenting his life, which he donated to UK's library, including a daily journal and correspondence. The author supplemented this material with newspaper and magazine articles, court cases, and interviews with family, friends, and professional acquaintances. (This newsletter was even cited a few times.)

Mr. Fortune wrote in the foreword that "While this book describes some of his notable cases, it is more about Mac off the bench than about Mac on the bench. This is a personal history." In other words, the author apparently felt Swinford's autobiography and his own book, *On the Bench*, adequately covered the judge's court cases.

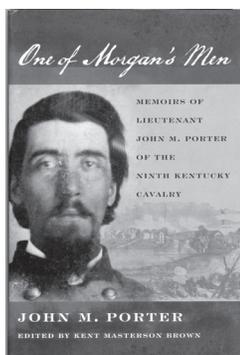
The book consists of a foreword and nine chapters. Beginning with "Forebearers," Mr. Fortune provides background on the Swinford family in Harrison County, especially his father, M. C. Swinford, a lawyer who grew up in Berry. The next chapter describes Mac Swinford as a young man, his graduation from both Cynthiana High School (in 1919) and the University of Virginia, and his marriage to Bentic Peterson in 1927. After Mac Swinford was elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives for one term, he developed a friendship with Senator Alben Barkley. In 1933, with Barkley's backing, President Roosevelt appointed Mr. Swinford United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky. The book next covers "Early Years on the Bench," before delving into Mac Swinford's personal history concerning "Fox-hunting, Home Life and the Inquisitor's Club." The next few chapters cover Judge Swinford's life on the road traveling the eastern court district, writing his autobiography, and deciding important civil rights and Vietnam War cases. The book discusses Judge Swinford's participation in the Cynthiana Presbyterian Church as a deacon, elder, and teacher of the Men's Discussion Class. The author also writes about the hurtful schism in the church when a new minister attempted to withdraw the congregation from the Transylvania Presbytery into a new conservative denomination.

After Judge Swinford's death in 1975, a newspaper wrote: "Mac was a man of many facets - judge, family man, church man, storyteller, farmer, fox-hunter - and he was comfortable in all of them." Readers of this book will have a new appreciation for this important son of Harrison County and his contributions to his family, friends, and the rule of law.



Railroad Defenses of the Blue Grass: The Defenses of the Kentucky Central Railroad, Lexington & Frankfort Railroad and Kentucky River During the Civil War (1861-1865) by Charles H. Bogart and William M. Ambrose. Yellow Sparks Press, Frankfort, Ky., and Limestone Press, Lexington, Ky., 2012. Paperback. 187 pp. Illustrations and maps. Appendixes. Index. \$25.

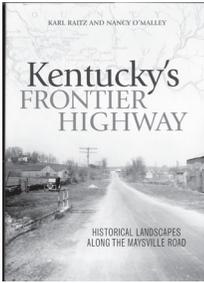
Early in the Civil War Union commanders recognized the importance of defending the railroad system in Kentucky from sabotage and destruction. The railroad was important for transporting troops and supplies and providing communications. This book provides a narrative of the Union defenses on the Kentucky Central Railroad, Lexington & Frankfort Railroad, and Kentucky River. Supplementing the text are copies of many Civil War civilian and military maps of the rail routes, along with plans of the bridges and fortifications. Of special interest to Harrison Heritage News readers is a listing by mile post of all bridges, tunnels, and stations. The authors copied from government official records military correspondence and telegrams concerning defense of the Kentucky Central. The text includes information on John Hunt Morgan's two Cynthiana raids in 1862 and 1864 as well as guerrilla activity. An appendix lists all the company officers of the Kentucky Central Bridge Police Guard units, the initial Union defenses of the railroad. Another appendix lists the dollar value of railroad freight, passenger, mail, and government for the war years. Having researched the Kentucky Central Railroad, I found only a couple of small errors in captions. An illustration of Morgan entering Paris (33) should be dated July 1862, not September. A *Harper's Weekly* illustration with the caption of "Federal Troops Arriving at Camp Frazer" (17) was actually Camp Bruce. This misunderstanding can be partially blamed on my book, *Rattling Spurs and Broad-Brimmed Hats* (1995) where I concluded the original caption provided by the newspaper of "Camp Bruce" must have been in error for, at the time, I could find no references to that camp. I have, however, since found several references to "Camp Bruce," which supports the newspaper's original caption.



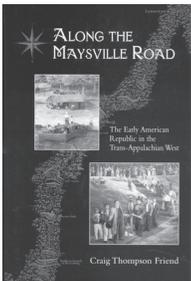
One of Morgan's Men: Memoirs of Lieutenant John M. Porter of the Ninth Kentucky Cavalry by John M. Porter, edited by Kent Masterson Brown. University Press of Kentucky, 2011. 300 pp. Hardback. Maps, Illustrations. Index. \$32.50.

John M. Porter joined the Confederate army at Bowling Green in the fall of 1861. He was captured at Fort Donelson, released, and rejoined his regiment in Mississippi. Porter then joined Colonel John Hunt Morgan's Second Kentucky Cavalry, serving under Major Richard M. Gano. Two days later, he participated in the First Battle of Cynthiana. Editor Kent Brown has set aside a chapter (67-75) on this battle with the title, "A Perfect Tornado of Shots Was Fired At Us," a quote from the memoirs. Porter's account of the battle is more detailed than most memoirs and helps researchers better understand what took place. (I had reviewed Porter's memoirs a number of years ago at the Tennessee State Library and Archives while researching for a revised edition of *Rattling Spurs and Broad-Brimmed Hats*, now being edited for publication). Illustrating the chapter on Cynthiana is a photo of the covered bridge from the J. Winston Coleman, Jr., Photographic Collection, Transylvania University Library, and an illustration from *Leslie's Illustrated* newspaper of Morgan's attack at the covered bridge, both pictures familiar to readers of Harrison Heritage News. Another illustration is of Morgan's Raiders at the Paris courthouse square the day after the battle.

Porter served with Morgan during cavalry maneuvers in Tennessee and in the Confederate invasion of Kentucky in the fall of 1862. He described joining a scouting party on a risky mission to destroy Federal transport vessels on the rivers between Bowling Green and the Ohio River. During the Kentucky-Indiana Raid, Porter was captured near Brandenburg, but escaped, and joined Morgan in the raid into Indiana and Ohio. He was again captured and imprisoned at Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay, Ohio, where he remained nineteen months. In February 1865 Porter was exchanged and eventually found his way to his Kentucky home. Readers will find his memoirs well written and interesting. Kent Brown's informative chapter introductions and notes further enhance the memoirs.



Kentucky's Frontier Highway: Historical Landscapes Along the Maysville Road by Karl Raitz and Nancy O'Malley. University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., 2012. Hardback. 411 pp. Maps. Illustrations. Index. \$40.



Along the Maysville Road: The Early American Republic in the Trans-Appalachian West by Craig Thompson Friend. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. 2005. Hardback. 378 pp. Index. \$42.

The Maysville-Lexington Road, U. S. 68, is a familiar road to most of us, for it passes near Harrison County at Millersburg and Paris. The portion between Paris and Lexington, as U. S. 27/68, is frequently traveled from Cynthiana as an alternative to the Russell Cave Road. Although most of us notice historical sites and early Kentucky architecture on this highway, few have actually studied the road's history for, until recently, no books had been written on the subject. Now there are two studies of the Maysville Road have been published, each taking different, yet overlapping, approaches.

Along the Maysville Road by Craig Thompson Friend has been in print for seven years, and discusses the road as a biography and "as a microhistory of social and cultural change in the Early American Republic." This book dwells too long on the history of Lexington, in my opinion, which can be readily found in other books. The authors have included a copy of the original 1827 plat authorized by the Kentucky legislature for the Maysville and Lexington Turnpike Road Company. The survey shows both the original buffalo trace from Maysville to Lexington and the proposed, more direct, road. Readers interested in the social history of settlement along the road and of Lexington will find this book very rewarding.

A recent book, *Kentucky's Frontier Highway*, by Karl Raitz and Nancy O'Malley, also includes the social/cultural history of the Maysville Road; but while *Along the Maysville Road* reads like a thesis, this book also goes into much more mile-by-mile detail of the historic original Limestone Trace landscape, describing the route and location of historic sites, buildings, bridges, and other features. The authors have examined early journals of travelers who describe the challenge of the road from the bluffs at Limestone, the village that is now Maysville, to Lexington, across muddy and rocky roads, with often a lack of suitable overnight lodging. The story of the road is placed in regional context of the building of other turnpikes and state and federal highways. In many ways this book combines the focus of a pair of similar studies, *The National Road* (edited by Karl Raitz) and *A Guide to the National Road* (John Hopkins, 1996), about the first federally planned road through Pennsylvania to Illinois - one volume a cultural overview and the other a companion for travelers describing historic sites along the road in more detail.

Kentucky's Frontier Highway contains illustrations of many early maps alongside modern maps of sections of the Maysville Road. Numerous photographs of buildings and historic landscapes enhance this well-published book. The settlement of various towns, villages, and waterways along the road receive special attention, such as Lexington, North Elkhorn Creek, Paris, Millersburg, Blue Licks, Mayslick, Washington, Limestone, and Maysville. Cynthiana is mentioned only in passing - usually briefly while describing adjoining roads to U. S. 68 in Millersburg and Paris linking to Harrison County. An example is: "In 1848 the Kentucky General Assembly granted charters for turnpikes to be established from Paris to several surrounding towns - Cynthiana, Clintonville, and Winchester. By the 1850s seemingly all roads led to Paris, and local farmers capitalized on the improved transport network to send their livestock and crops to Paris markets and mills." (188).

Karl Raitz is professor of geography at UK and Nancy O'Malley is the assistant director of the William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology at UK. O'Malley also wrote a study of frontier stations entitled *Stockading Up* (UK Dept. of Anthropology, 1994) now out of print, and led an archaeological survey of Ruddell's Station near Lair that documented the exact site.

The First Battle of Cynthiana - July 17th or July 18th, 1862?

by William A. Penn

The date of John Hunt Morgan's first raid on Cynthiana, Kentucky, has been placed on Thursday, July 17, 1862, in my book, *Rattling Spurs and Broad-Brimmed Hats* (1995, Battle Grove Press). However some other books state that the actual date was July 18, 1862, as follows:

History of Morgan's Cavalry by Basil Duke (1867), "He left Georgetown [for Cynthiana] on July 18th...." (p. 199).

Morgan and His Raiders by Holland (1942): "Morgan marched on Cynthiana on July 18th..."

Rebel Raider by James A. Ramage; although the text doesn't mention a date, in a caption to an illustration of the battle at the covered bridge, "July 18, 1862", is given.

Kentucky Encyclopedia, under "Cynthiana" mentions "July 18, 1862."

(I believe Duke's error was copied in these other books. I have written Dr. Ramage and the editor of the *Kentucky Encyclopedia* to correct the date in future editions.)

The following is a partial list of sources I used to support the July 17th date in my book, which I believe is the correct date, and July 18th is wrong:

Union official reports:

Surgeon Lair, "...last Thursday..." in report dated July 22. (*Rebellion Record* (RR), v. 5, p. 295)

Soldier's report, "At four PM, Thursday, July seventeenth..."(RR, v.5 p. 296)

Capt. Wright, "On Thursday, the seventeenth..."(RR, v.5 p. 293)

Lt. Col. Landram, "On Thursday, the seventeenth instant, about three o'clock PM, I was attacked at this place by the forces under command of Col. John H. Morgan..." (RR, v.5 p. 290)

Major W. O. Smith, "At about two o'clock PM, on the seventeenth..." (RR, v. 5 p. 294)

CSA official reports:

Col. John Hunt Morgan gave no date of the Cynthiana fight in his report of the whole raid. Major R. M. Gano, "On the 17th instant...commencing the fight..." Official Records (OR), p. 773.

Col. F. M. Nix, "I have the honor to submit the following report.. [of] the battle of Cynthiana on Thursday, 17th instant."p. 781, OR.

Newspapers:

Paris, Ky., *Western Citizen* issue July 22, 1862, "There was a very hard fought battle at Cynthiana on Thursday of last week".

Paris, Ky. *Western Citizen* issue August 8, 1862, "Lt. Col. Landrum's [Landram] official report of killed and wounded at Cynthiana July 17, 1862:..."

Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper (New York): August 16, 1862: "...Morgan arrived on the south side of the Licking on Thursday, the 17th of July..."

New York Tribune, July 29, 1862, "On Thursday...[no date given]...in the afternoon...[Morgan] appeared before the town."

State of Kentucky records: *Journal of the House of Representatives:*

In depositions from an inquiry resulting in a committee report dated Feb. 24, 1863, accusing Lucius Desha of giving "aid and assistance to the rebel, John Morgan...in their engagement with the Union forces under Lieut. Col. Landrum [Landram], at Cynthiana, on the 17th of July last..." p. 1484, Feb. 24, 1863.

W. W. Bradley "The battle was fought on the 17th of July." p. 1492

Mrs. Sarah E. Fightmaster, "...on the 17th day of last July...I heard the firing when the battle commenced in Cynthiana..." p. 1495.

Ann Desha, "I was at home on the 17th day of July last, the day of the fight at Cynthiana, and distinctly heard the firing during the fight." p. 1496

J. W. Fightmaster, "On the 17th day of last July, the day of the fight..." p. 1496.

James W. Cromwell, "On the 17th day of last July, the day of the fight at Cynthiana..."p. 1499

Jno. H. Dills, "That he was at Gen. Desha's on the 18th of July last, the day *after* the Morgan fight at Cynthiana." p. 1503.

Books:

Senour, *Morgan and His Captors*, "17th of July", p. 61

Beach, *Civil War Battles, Skirmishes and Events in Ky.*, "July 17, 1862", p. 62.

Collins, *History of Kentucky*, "July 17 - Battle at Cynthiana..."

Perrin, *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties*, quotes Collins above.

Phister, *Statistical Record* [of Civil War battle dates], "July 17, 1862", p. 106.

Prepared April 13, 1998, by William A. Penn