



Harrison Heritage News

Published monthly by the

Harrison County (Ky.) Historical Society

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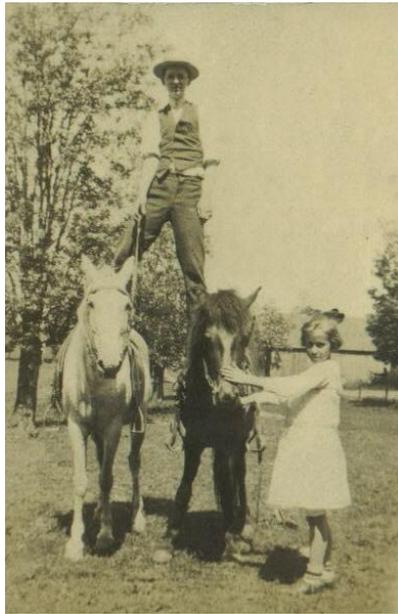
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2007 Award of Merit—Publication or Journal, Kentucky History Awards

April 2014

Vol. 15, No. 3

Snapshots of Berry, Kentucky in the 1910s



Fun times in Berry

Top left: Joe H. Berry and Louise Berry with horses.

Top center: Catherine Elmore and Mayme Arnold in male attire.

Top right: Belle Stone wearing Private Elmore's WWI uniform (but her own dress and high heels!)

Left: Sudie Kendall and Thacker Knox dueling with cigars.

Right: Martha E. (Mattie) Elmore, family photographer, up a tree.



Harrison County Historical Society

Don Wagoner, President - hchsky1@gmail.com
Brian Harney, Vice President - hchsky1@gmail.com
Marilynn Bell, Secretary - emptybell@bellsouth.net
Dorothy Slade, Treasurer

Meeting March 15 - President Don Wagoner presided. In a special election in response to Dorothy Slade's wish to retire, Mary Lou LeCore was elected treasurer. Don read his letter to the mayor and county judge asking to terminate the Handy House lease. The membership approved adding "Museum Moment" – a short paragraph about the museum and information of interest to our members - to our newsletter. Don is working on two outings for September and October, one being a Silver Eagles Flyover (see Don's column). The other outing proposed is a day trip to the Kentucky History Center, lunch, and a visit to the Kentucky Military Museum.

Program: Philip Foley (see photos below), a recognized expert on early Native Americans, described the labor-intensive tools and attention to detail to create those tools used by different tribes from as far back as 13,000 years ago until as recently as 1675. He said that exposure to European disease decimated the native population. Thus Kentucky wasn't occupied when white settlers arrived. Phil identified areas where he had hunted artifacts locally and where there are still traces of large mounds. He invited members and guests to inspect some of his collection of pipes, arrowheads, spearheads and other American Indian artifacts that he displayed.



(above, left) Newsletter editor Bill Penn represented the historical society/museum at the March 22 Northern Ky. Regional History Day at NKU. About 200 attended an opening presentation and ten workshops. 30 tables from area historical societies displayed publications.

(above, right) Philip Foley brought this large Indian plowing tool to the March 15 historical society meeting.

President's Corner

Don Wagoner

WOW!! The March 2014 monthly meeting featured Philip Foley's presentation on early Native American residents in what is today's Harrison County, Kentucky. It was great and went as far back in time as 13,000 years. Kudos and accolades, Philip. Also, we had almost a full house of attendees which was encouraging to see.

The April and May 2014 monthly meeting programs will be presented by students from the Northside and Eastside elementary schools. The teachers and children spend extra time preparing these programs and the children put their hearts and energy into what they believe about history. I would like to see standing room only by our membership and guests in support of the children's programs. We, as adults, should at least match our youth's interest in constructive efforts that develop our future leaders and solid citizens. I hope to see you there.

Handy House Lease: The city commissioners have voted to terminate the Handy House lease with the Harrison County Historical Society as we requested. County officials have not yet decided.

Harrison History Calendar

Remember that beginning in April the historical society meetings will return to the 3rd Thursday, 7 pm.

April 17 - Northside Elementary School history class. American Revolutionary War characterization sketches. 7 pm.

May 15 - Eastside Elementary School history class. Students portray house of wax historical persons who come to life and describe their impact on our history. 7 pm.

June 13-15 - Battles of Cynthiana Reenactment, Elks Farm, Oddville Pike. Info: Michael Brown, (859-533-8078; brownmw@sjhlex.org).

June 19 - 2nd Battle of Cynthiana 150th Anniversary- Bill Penn lecture and slide show.

June 28 - CHS Alumni Banquet at the Prizing House, 329 South Church Street. Social Hour: 5-6 pm. Buffet Dinner: 6 pm, Reservations Required: \$20.00 per person. Tickets will be available at some downtown stores (notice will be in the Democrat). You can mail checks payable to C.H.S. Alumni to Elaine Blackburn, 50 Eastland Estates Drive, Cynthiana, KY 41031.

July 17 - Sam Flora, Morgan's Men Association (Descendents of men who rode with John Hunt Morgan's Rebel Raiders)

Info at: http://members.tripod.com/~Morgans_Men/

Aug 21 - Brandon Slone, archivist, Military Records and Research Branch, Dept. of Military Affairs, will speak on "Kentucky Military Records." <http://www.dma.ky.gov/hr/>.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Craig Ritchie, Harrison County
- Mary Lou Lacore, Cynthiana
- Patricia Crickmore, Dayton, Ohio

Want to join? See membership form on back page.

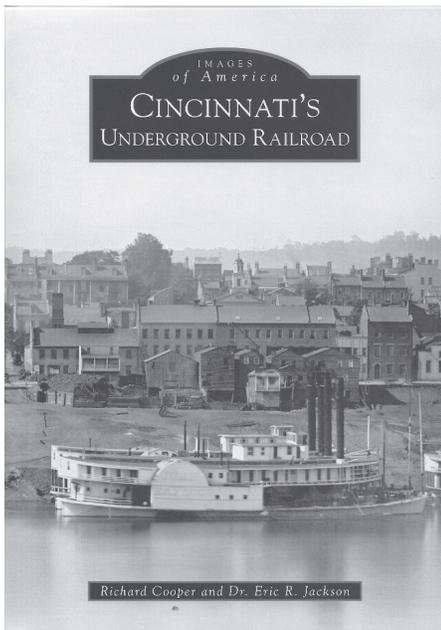


<http://home.comcast.net/~harrisoncountykyus/museum/>

Denny Simpson, Curator



Antique Talk. BORDEN'S DELIVERY MILK WAGON. Tin wagon with side doors. Horse and wheels are wood with lithographs. Borden advertising on top, sides, and back. Made by The Rich Toy Co. around 1940. Value: \$ 1,000-\$1,200. You can see it at the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum.



BOOK REVIEW: *Cincinnati's Underground Railroad* by Richard Cooper and Dr. Eric R. Jackson (Arcadia Publishing, 2014) \$21.99.

“Due to Cincinnati’s location on the banks of the Ohio River, the city’s economy was tied to the slave society in the South. However, a special cadre of individuals became very active in the quest for freedom undertaken by African American fugitives on their journeys to the North.” (quoted from the cover). This informative book contains photos and images with detailed captions of Underground Railroad personalities and related buildings, posters, newspaper clippings, and letters. Taken as a whole, they present a historical narrative of the Underground Railroad along the Ohio River and Cincinnati. Dr. Jackson told me he had found no evidence of Underground Railroad stations in Harrison County. But, the main Licking River was a known fugitive slave route, he said. In 1848, one of the largest slave uprisings in Kentucky led by Patrick Doyle and 48 well-armed Fayette slaves passed near Claysville and were caught by an armed group of citizens led by Lucius Desha. (See Caroline R. Miller, *Grapevine Dispatch: The Voice of Antislavery Messages*, (Little Miami Publishing, 2011). Reviewed by Bill Penn.

The Genealogy Box

A newsletter for genealogy & family history research
in Harrison County, Kentucky



April 2014

Issue 25

Before It Is Too Late Too Soon

by Philip Naff
whatsin@thegenealogybox.com

“How did it get so late so soon?
It’s night before it’s afternoon.
December is here before it’s June.
My goodness how the time has
flew. How did it get so late so
soon?”—Dr. Seuss

My grandmother’s youngest sister, Martha Elizabeth (Elmore) Byerley (1906-1995) lived near Knoxville, Tennessee for most of her adult life, and my family was always a little too far away to make visits to her home very often. In the 1990s I became interested in the family history of my maternal grandmother, her siblings, and their parents. The Elmores and their Cummins and Langley cousins were from all across the northern part of Harrison County, and my grandmother and her siblings were born at Antioch. Yet most of the stories that got told and repeated had to do with Berry, where my great-grandfather settled in 1900 and lived and farmed until 1918

Whenever we traveled to Tennessee for a family visit, I would take a little handheld cassette tape recorder and place it at my aunt’s shoulder as she sat on the sofa and told of life in Berry. I showed her copies of the 1910 and 1920 censuses, and she went thru them like she was walking up and down the streets of Berry again.

She said she never would trade her memories of her life there for anything in the world. She was only twelve-years-old when the family moved to Boone County in 1918, but she had a lot of stories to tell. And even better, she had pictures, too. It turned out that she was the family photographer and had three little picture albums to prove it, along with several formal class pictures of Berry School students and teachers.

The following stories, the pictures found thruout this issue, and the clippings discovered in researching my family’s past in Harrison County, all form a virtual album of life in Berry a century ago. They were all put together before it got to be too late too soon for me to learn of those times from my aunt, and to share some of what I had found with her to help her visit those times again.

~
Uncle Tommy—My aunt’s uncle on her mother’s side, Tommy Cummins, was a fireman with the railroad that passed through the northeastern corner of the county. His job gave him access to the train’s whistle. She recalled that there was a certain way he’d whistle so that the family would know that he was on any train that passed thru the northeastern part of the county, especially where the train tracks came into view of the Elmore home near Berry. “Of course,” she recalled, “we could hear that . . . from Boyd all the way to Berry. He’d begin whistling down there at Boyd, and by the time they got up

where we could see them right across the river there, why, we’d go out and wave you know, and I remember that so well.” The family’s effort wasn’t apparently enough to satisfy her Uncle Tommy, though. “Mama [later] said, ‘He’s been a-fussin’ about not being able to see the dish cloth. Let’s take the table cloth off,’ and I remember her saying that. We had a red-and-white checkered table cloth. We took that out and Mama told me to hold it up, you know, and we waved it, waved it up and down so that he could see us.” Tommy Cummins died in 1910, when my aunt was barely four years old, so it must have been one of her earliest memories of life near Berry.

~
Scandalous Berry—“There was a lot of scandal around Berry,” my aunt recalled, and she told me of one example. “Some man[s] wife was running around with another man,” and the husband and his friends decided to go out and scare him off, but she remembered hearing that they did more than that. “What they did [was] they took him out and killed him . . . they hung the man!”

~
The House Horse—My grandmother had three first cousins, Mayme, Mildred, and Gladys Arnold. They and their parents lived in Berry in a house which still stands on the last street before entering the site of the old Berry High School. My aunt recalled that “they [the Arnold girls] wanted a pony, Mildred did, so he

[Jim Arnold, their father] got her a pony, and they rode the pony in the house . . . and they never did ride it anyplace, except *in the house* and around in the yard, you know. I didn't know that they didn't ride it outside the yard. Of course the yard was just full [as] Aunt Mary always had flowers, and there wasn't any way to ride the horse and ride it fast, you know, and I wanted to ride it fast. So I opened the gate and down towards the barn I went just flying. They were just screaming at me, 'Ooohhh, it's going to run off with you, it's going to throw you off.' You know, he was just a gentle pony. [There] wasn't anything wrong with it, and I said, 'Well, what are you talking about?' They said, 'We never do ride him down there. We just run him here around the yard.' And I said, 'Well, I wouldn't give two cents to ride it around in the yard.' And [then] they'd take that pony in the house. That shows you how

tame it was, or it wouldn't ever have gone in the house! I'll tell you . . ."

~

The Dog Who Was a Pig's Best Friend—"I wish I could have a movie of it . . .," my aunt recalled, "the dog and the pig. An old mother pig can't necessarily take care of all of the little ones, so Papa and Mama brought this one to stay up at the house. And our dog got to sleepin' with it. And the pig decided it would go to the barn, and the dog didn't want to go to the barn. He just rooted at the dog, to make him get up and go, and finally the dog would get up, probably just to get rid of the pig. Mama heard this noise on the porch and wondered what on in the world it was and peeked out to see and there was that pig trying to get the dog up. They'd see em gettin' up and go through the gate to the barn. Well, they thought that would be the last of it for the night.

Well, directly, the dog would come back . . . I guess he got the pig to sleep. And he'd come back. Wasn't anytime before Papa heard this pig squeal, just carrying on, coming toward the house, just a flyin', going after the dog again. That went on all night long. It'd make that dog go back to the barn with him. I guess the dog didn't like the smell, you know, and he'd come back to the house. Isn't that funny, he knew when the pig was asleep, didn't he? We left the barn door open just a little so they could get in and out. But the pig got tired of sleeping alone, I reckon.

"Whenever they'd [Mama and Papa] go anyplace, they'd come back and there they'd [the pig and the dog] be sitting, you know a pig sits just like a dog, and there they'd be a-sittin' side by side, waiting for them to come back . . . It was before I was ever born, but they told me about it."

A Conga Line on the Old Berry Bridge



I don't know if they were dancing exactly, but these people were identified by my aunt as [Unknown] Blackburn, Bill Elmore, Virg Stone, Harold Berry, Belle Stone, Dr. Todd and his first wife, "Uncle" Ed Stone, Anna Mae Renaker, and the "ol' tightwad," who lived across the river at Berry, and who had plenty of money, but who was always borrowing her father's tools.

Berry School, Berry, Harrison County, Kentucky



Miss Iva Kate Dowd's Class, ca. 1915

(3rd or 4th grade photo of Mattie Elmore ca. 1915 (when Mattie Elmore was about 9 years old))

Top or First (1st) Row: (1) Viola _____, (2) Iva Kate Dowd (Teacher), (3) Edna Layle, (4) Margaret Mulcahy, (5) [Unknown]

Second (2nd) Row: (1) Joe H. Berry, (2) Kathleen Cochran, (3) [Unknown], (4) [Unknown], (5) [Unknown].

Third (3rd) Row: (1) Asbury Lawson, (2) Joe Thompson, (3) Mary Huffman, (4) Kathleen Bell, (5) [Unknown].

Fourth (4th) Row: (1) [Unknown], (2) Wesley King, (3) Willard Redd, (4) Ruth Dowd, (5) Cathrine King, (6) Mattie Elmore, (7) Ivalene Earl, (8) Rachel Brown, (9) [Unknown], (10) Willie Barlow.

Bottom or Fifth (5th) Row: (1) Noble Earl, (2) Stanley Huffman, (3) Lester Barlow, (4) _____ Sargent, (5) [Unknown], (6) [Unknown], (7) Dalbert Townsend, (8) Stanley Hutton, (9) Roger Hutton, (10) [Unknown]

* The girl in the light dress on the left between the fourth and fifth rows and the boy whose face appears at the waist level of Willie Barlow of the fourth row were not identified and were not numbered in this schematic.

A Berry Nice Place

Over the years brief profiles of Berry have been published in the newspapers of Harrison County and Northern Kentucky. Two which provided snapshots of who-was-who and where they worked and lived were published in the *Log Cabin* newspaper of Cynthiana, Kentucky, the first in 1902 and another later in 1915. The texts of those two articles are reproduced here verbatim, and they present a picture of life in Berry in the first quarter of the 19th century.

~
1902—The following is for the benefit of people who do not come to Berry and yet would like to know something of our progressive little city: We boast of three of the most up-to-date general merchandise stores in the country. The Blue Grass Grocery of which Harry W. Berry is manager, is an offspring of the Blue Grass Grocery, which Langdon-Creasy Co. started here a few years ago. The Blue Grass has an able staff of clerks in Will Chole, Andrew McNees and G. C. Matthers. Business has grown so that they have been compelled to rent the old brick store formerly occupied but Renaker and Son and in that they keep their hardware, etc. B. Gross & Co. is the oldest firm in Berry. They bought out the stock of goods of J. B. Crouch several years ago, added to the stock, and now have one of the prettiest stores in the country. Recently on account of lack of space, they were compelled to move from the old store into the Terry building, which was made larger for them. In this store Will Barnes, J. Thomas Conyers and Miss Rebecca Gross push things over the counter for you. Z. F. Fisher moved here from Dayton, Ky., in the autumn of '95. He occupied the little store room on the corner of Bridge and Cottage Row. This soon proved to

be too small for a man of Mr. Fisher's ability, so the partition was removed. Business improved with these good old Republican times, and last winter Mr. Fisher purchased the room under the K. of P. Castle, and made an addition reaching to that. Now he has an elegant store. Mr. & Mrs. Fisher and Robert Fogle look after the interests of the "Cannonball." On further down the street we come to the saloon, owned and run by Dille Craig. But as we do not drink, we go across the road and find a livery stable of McClure and Cummins. They have now owned this business long, but already it shows signs of marked improvement. In undertakers and embalmers Berry has two that are hard to beat. Roger Perrin Blair has his office and casket room on Cottage Row, opposite the K. of P. Castle. His apparatus is of the most modern style, as likewise that of John W. Marshall on Bridge street, over the offices of Drs. Gillespie, McVey and Earle. Mr. Marshall is a cobbler and harness maker of no mean ability and is one of the councilmen of this city. Next come the millinery parlors of Miss Bel Stone. Here the ladies can find anything beautiful in the way of head wear. The boys must see something worth looking at, too, judging from way one young man hangs around. Turning our eyes towards the south-east, we see a sign that reads: "J. W. Haley, Lumber Yard, Contractor and Builder." Upon arriving at this place of business we see piles of dressed and undressed lumber. But being not in the least modest, we stay and talk to this genial man, who is liked by everybody. He tells us of the trials of a lumberman, the slow freights, high charges, slow workmen unloading lumber, shingles and brick, [and of the] high prices (10¢ an hour) they demand. He says that he is not making any money, but walk down the railroad

and you will find a home – the prettiest of the pretty. This shows what good management and 'tend to your own business' will do. In going down the railroad we pass by the depot, where O. S. Lauderman pulls the reins for L. and N. It is not very widely known that more freight is handled at Berry than at any other station on this division. The freight receipts average about \$60 per day. The two mammoth tobacco warehouses are run by J. E. Yelton, who is assisted by Business Chowning, Joe Ewalt, Dudley Moss and Oscar Marshall. Here many thousands of pounds of tobacco are shipped annually. Among the business houses here, none are more conspicuous than the new implement firm of Renaker Brothers. They probably sell more vehicles and farming implements than any firm in Harrison County.

~
1915—It is said that John Throckmorton once asked a drunken man, where he wanted to get off his train and he mumbled "Hell." John put him off here, but for once we know John was wrong. A more picturesque spot could hardly have been selected by our forefathers for a home than the beautiful site occupied by "Berry."

Its name was given in honor of one of the foremost families of our county, descendants of whom are still residents in number.

Going back some thirty years ago, we find it a village containing about twenty-four houses, a blacksmith shop, a general store, a tin shop, a drug store, a one-room school house and about seventy inhabitants.

Today it is a thriving town with about one hundred and twenty buildings and nearing the five-hundred inhabitants mark.

The town council is composed of such representative men as Dr. B.G. Gillespie, Dr. Ross, W.H. Forsythe, John C. Brown and last but not least, G.C. Matthews, with

J.E. Renaker as Police Judge; and woe to the offender who comes before him. Alvin Lail is our Marshall and a better one could not be found. The Author of “All Sorts and Conditions of Men” must have visited our town for they can be found here, but taken all in all we have an excellent citizenship.

As to our business enterprises:

There is Thompson & Billiter, the livery men, just at the foot of Main Street.

Next, just across the street, a first class general store under the management of Mrs. Maggie Fisher, ably assisted by her two sons.

Passing up Main Street we note the office of Dr. H.M. Earle and next door our Tonsorial artist friend, Sam'l Earle, regales his customer with fairy tales while he clips his whiskers, unless it happens to be an Everett True when Sam is meek as a mouse.

David Dowd keeps open house just above, where “Square Meals” are served and then genial B.B. Whitaker, assisted by Miss Maud Bedford and G.C. Matthews, serves the public from his general supply store with that smile that won't wear off.

On the corner of Main and 2nd we find the up-to-date Drug Store of A.H. Cochran with Mr. Berry as chief clerk.

On 1st Street we have another store owned by Hardy Bros. and a Sewing Machine Agency handled by Mr. John M. Wilson.

On the other side of Main Street we find the offices of Drs. Gillespie and Ross and one dentist, Dr. Weiler.

J.W. Landrum handles first class harness etc., just a few doors above, and just below the “Kendall Hotel” which has been newly painted.

Passing out 2nd Street we find one of the most complete blacksmith and general repair shops ever, controlled by Phillips & Son.

Crossing we see an extensive Lumber Yard which we find is

managed by a thorough business gentleman, Mr. Steve Tutt.

Being hungry we drop into J.W. Marshall's restaurant and partake of one of his “Home made Pure Food lunches” and then go into the “Ice Cream Parlor” of John C. Lyter to cool our innards. John also does a nice business in drugs.

On the corner stands the Farmers Deposit Bank with Milt Caldwell in charge and after making your deposit you can pass out and into the Barber Shop conducted by Edward Mitts where you can get a first class shave, shine and shampoo.

If you need any home-killed beef steak you will find it by going to the butcher shop of Joe L. Godman. Quite a number of people on the Rural Routes don't know what good steaks Joe handles.

And then the Blue Grass Company with its corps of clerks and Veach Redd as manager. Here you can buy anything from a pin to a threshing machine. Andrew McNeas can always be found at his post and Jim Lyter, stand pat republican [sic], is ever ready to serve his friends.

The Misses Belle and Edith Stone come next with their lovely millinery establishment. Ah! It would make your mouth water to see it. Hats, black hats, white hats, green hats, yellow hats, hats plain and hats with feathers in them. No woman could resist. (Came very near buying one myself.)

Then Uncle Sam, represented by Hubert Hutton with a well arranged P.O., from which three rural carriers go forth.

Another bank, Alvah Stone Cashier, known as the Berry Deposit Bank will take good care of your funds. On 4th Street a four-room school house accommodates our school children. Prof. L.E. Sharon Principal, Chas. Howes, Miss Allie Talbott and Miss Iva K. Dowd assistants.

J.W. Huffman handles a full line of groceries near the R.R. crossing and was one of the first to subscribe to the “Log cabin”, and next to him Billeter & Boyers carry a full line of bugiges [sic] and farmer[']s supplies and operate a garage. The offices of Drs. McVey & Todd are on Main just below 3rd St., making five doctors in all.

R.P. Blair is our Atty., and is ever ready to serve his clients faithfully.

Three churches grace our town, Methodist, Baptist and Christian, the pastors of which are Rev. Williams, Rev. R.H. Tolle and Rev. Tinney. Truly Berry is a thing of beauty and should be a joy forever.

~

Even More about Berry—The previous articles were found in the October 4, 1902 and April 30, 1915 issues of the *Log Cabin*. Other profiles of Berry have been published before and since:

- Collins, Lewis, *History of Kentucky*, Covington, Ky.: Collins & Co., 1874, pp. 321-322.
- Perrin, William Henry, Ed., *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky*, Chicago: O. L. Baskin & Co., Chicago, 1882, pp. 317-319.
- “Berry, Present and Future,” *The (Cynthiana, Ky.) Log Cabin*, July 16, 1915.
- “Early Settlement of Berry Precinct--Some Pioneer Residents,” *The (Cynthiana, Ky.) Log Cabin*, Nov. 12, 1926.
- “Fires failed to destroy Berry's spirit--Harrison County town to mark 125th birthday,” *The Kentucky Post (The Kentucky Edition of the Cincinnati Post)*, Feb. 10, 1992 (A “Pieces of the Past” article by Jim Reis)

No doubt, more articles exist. If you can think of any items to add to these, please let me know.

HARRISON COUNTY, KY - HISTORY & FAMILIES BOOK

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE, CONTACT OUR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Marilynn Bell • (859) 234-2749 • emptybell@bellsouth.net
 Bob Owen • (859) 234-3554
 Don Wagoner • (859) 234-5598



Covered bridge, spanning the south fork of Licking River, Cynthiana, ca. 1930s. This bridge was built in 1807-08 by John Wallace, and played an important part in General Morgan's raid on Cynthiana during the Civil War.

HAVE ANY HISTORIC PHOTOS? SEND THEM IN!
ALL MATERIALS WILL BE RETURNED.

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