



Harrison Heritage News

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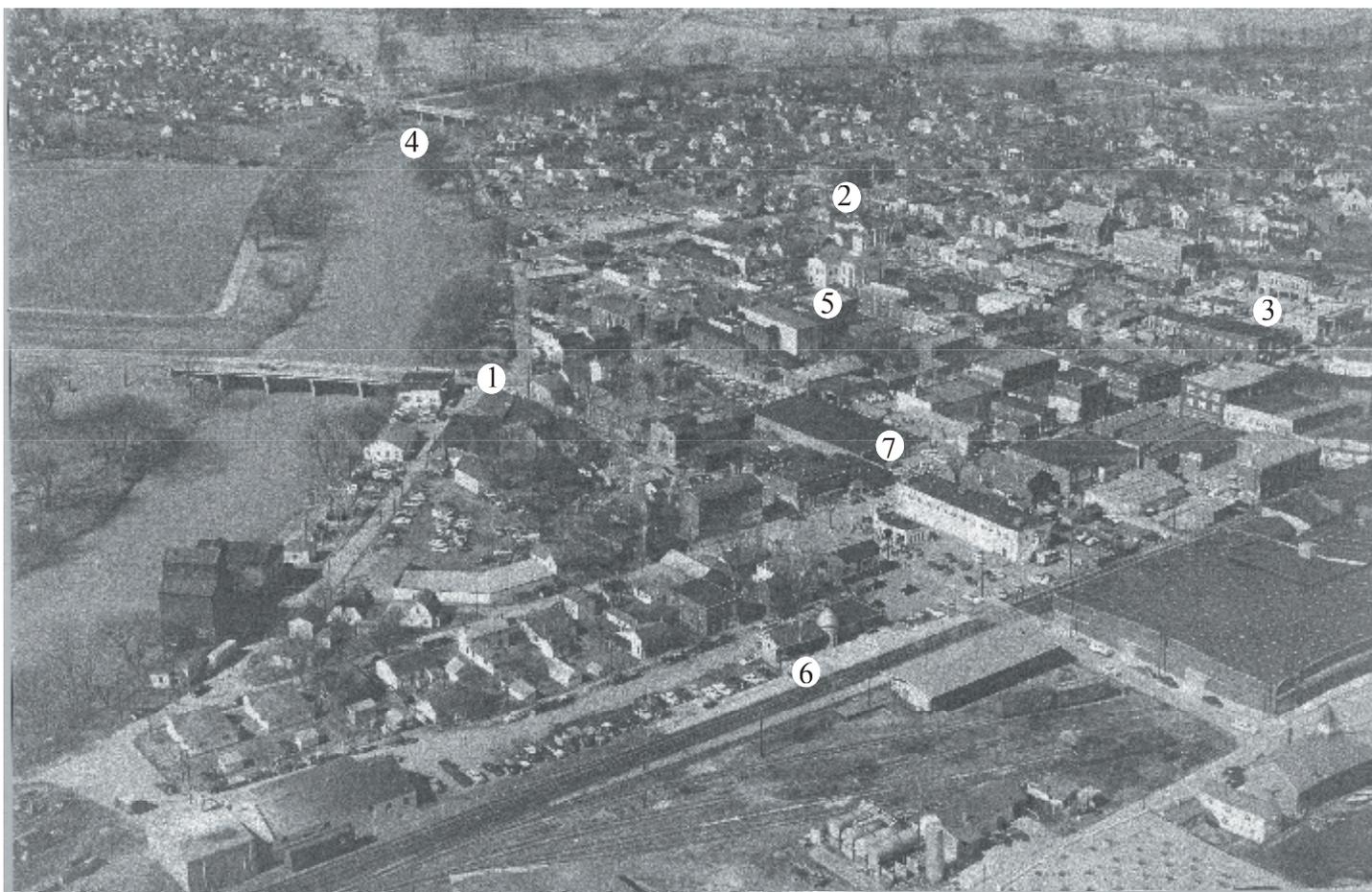
Harrison County Historical Society, PO Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031

Award of Merit - Publication or Journal, 2007 Kentucky History Awards Program
<http://harrisoncountky.us/historical-society>

August 2015

Vol. 16 No. 7

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF CYNTHIANA IN 1955



Key to photo (view looking northwest):

1. U. S. 27 bridge at intersection of Main St. and Bridge St.
2. Marshall Elementary School - demolished late 1960's - Pleasant Street.
3. Cynthiana City Hall - Pleasant Street
4. Pleasant Street bridge.
5. Courthouse - corner of Main St. and Pike St.
6. L & N Passenger depot - demolished 1961. Across from the depot is the L & N freight building, demolished in 1976.
7. Cynthiana Motor Company (see article, p. 3).

INSIDE:
Historic photos/map
of Berry rail scenes.



Harrison County Historical Society

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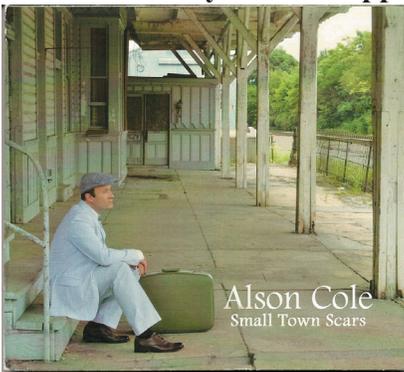
NEW MEMBERS

Charlotte Allison, Carlise	Christy Johnson, Cynthiana
Gary Darnell, Stamping Ground	Dollie Lenox, Berry
Michelle Darnell, Georgetown	Julie Muth, Berry
Charles E. Davis, Lexington	Gale Sexton, Lexington
Peggy R. Davis, Cynthiana	Frank Shirley, Columbus, Oh.
Amanda Dove, Front Royal, Va.	Sheriff Shain Stephens, Cynthiana
Angie Glass, Lexington	Billy Tinchler, Paris
Steve Glass, Lexington	Jamie Vanzant, Lexington
Emily Huffman, Berry	

Minutes of Meeting July 23, 2015

Program: Bobby Ammerman spoke about his mother, Esther Mueller Ammerman, who was a member of Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASPS), formed in order to free up men for combat roles. Esther was one of 2500 women who applied. Only 1800 qualified for training and 1074 graduated and received their wings. The women had to be between the ages of 18-35, be a high school graduate, have a certified pilot's license, have 35 hours of flying time, and pass an oral test. One of Esther's duties was to fly a bomber with a target trailing behind for pilots being trained for combat. Some of them missed and hit Esther's plane instead. After the war, Esther married Joe Ammerman, her trainer, and they made their home in Cynthiana, his hometown. Although the WASPS performed a very important role and made an important impact on American history, it was not until 2009 that they were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. In 2003, Esther was inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame. (See article on Harrison Co. women in WWII, HHN Nov. 2014.) *Submitted by Marilyn Bell, secretary*

David Sheely's Ghost Appears in New CD



Alson Cole, a talented musician and songwriter from Harrison County who has written articles for this newsletter, has a CD, "Small Town Scars." Recorded in 2011, the album includes some songs with Cynthiana themes: "Maiden

City Waltz," and, my favorite, "The Ballad of David Sheely." I purchased my copy at Joseph-Beth in Lexington but it may be available in other stores. Check out Alson's Web page, www.alsoncole.com.

B. Penn

President's Corner

- Don Wagoner



Call to Action: When I became Acting President in 2013, our membership totaled 111 members. Since then, I became President for 2014-2015; 2015-2016 and have enjoyed serving you. As of August 14,

2015, our membership total broke the 200 ceiling at a total 203 active members for a gain of 92 members over the 2013 number. It is my desire and hope that by June 30, 2016, when my term as President ends, our total active membership breaks the 300 ceiling. This can be accomplished by each member recruiting new members. You can use the recruitment forms appearing in your monthly newsletter. If each of you recruit one new member in the next ten months, we can have over 300 active members by June 30, 2016. Thank you.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Meeting time and place: *May-Oct., 4th Thursday, 7 pm; November, 3rd Thurs. 7 pm. Hospice of the Blue Grass on Oddville Avenue, 1317 US HWY 62E. Meeting room is 1st floor rear entrance.*

Sept. 19 - Berry Festival - For info, City Hall, 859-234-3185. The festival hours are 8 am to 10 pm. The Historical Society will have a table from 8 am to 6 pm, with volunteers serving 1 or 2 hr shifts. Contact Don Wagoner at 234-5598 to sign up.

Sept. 24 - Pat Barnes, Library Director, Cynthiana-Harrison County Public Library, will present a program about the recent \$1.3-million renovation, and new programs and facilities available to the public.

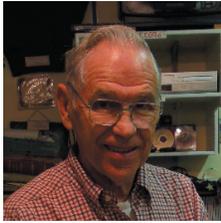
Oct. 17 - Tour of Cynthiana Civil War Battlefields with Bill Penn. Meet at 9:30 am in First United Methodist Church parking lot, corner Pike and Church Streets. Tour will take about two hours.

Oct. 22 - speaker pending

Nov. 19 - Harrison Co. Historical Society Antiques Road Show, with Bobby Lake, Kentucky Realty & Auction Company, who will appraise free one item



ONCE A BOY'S FAVORITE - Russell Barlow pocket knife, ca. 1925, owned by Porter Pickett, from Sadieville (Scott Co.), Ky. The Barlow pattern goes back to 1667, made by an English cutler, Obadiah Barlow. But the Barlow pattern was popularized in America by the John Russell Cutlery Co., who made pocket knives from about 1875 to 1936, with a trademark arrow-pierced "R" on the bolsters. See Bill Penn, "The Barlow Knife - Once a Boy's Favorite," in the Sept. 2006 (vol. 7 no. 9) Harrison Heritage News.



Kenny Simpson, Curator

www.HarrisonCountyKy.US/Museum

NOVEMBER 23, 1940—CYNTHIANA MOTOR COMPANY GOES UP IN FLAMES
 (Taken from Cynthiaiana Democrat)

The Cynthiaiana Motor Company was located on the west side of South Walnut St. and was owned by J.T. Taylor and Mrs. Wood Taylor. The building was owned by the Clarence Lebus Estate. It was about 12 years old and was constructed at a cost of approximately \$40,000-\$50,000. The Lebus Estate carried insurance on the structure, however Clarence Ewing, representative of the Estate, termed it a "mere pittance" compared to the value of the building itself. The Taylors, also, carried insurance, but not enough to cover the total loss of inventory. Firemen and company officials estimated that approximately 100 cars and trucks were destroyed. Fire Chief Charles Hudgins estimated the cost at \$200,000.00.

The fire started about 5 p.m. and in less than one hour had gutted the one story concrete and brick structure. Luckily no other buildings were damaged seriously. Separated from the garage only by an alley, the Gordon clothing store escaped serious damage, although an apartment above the store, occupied by Mrs. M. Gordon, suffered slight damage from the fire, smoke and water in addition to broken windows. Also included in the buildings threatened was a new concrete-construction theater.

Firemen pointed to the continued rain of the night before and the lack of wind as aids in controlling the fire. A truck from the Paris Fire Department was sent to assist local firemen. The fire was brought safely under control in about two hours after it broke out. It apparently started in a room in which tires were stored. Within an hour, however, practically all the contents of the building had gone up in smoke, including most of the company's records. Several small explosions were heard during the fire but none was of an extent great enough to cause a sizeable hazard to the firemen or spectators.

The garage was a structure about 200 hundred feet long and 60 feet wide. It had a front of white tile and plate glass. It contained new and used cars and trucks owned by the motor company as well as a number of cars and trucks owned by private individuals and firms.

To learn more about the Cynthiaiana Motor Company and the rebuilding process it underwent, stop by the Cynthiaiana/Harrison County Museum. Also, check out our wonderful permanent and special displays of model cars during the month of August.

Note: See cover photo, site # 7 for location of the rebuilt Cynthiaiana Motor Company.

DID YOU KNOW.....

by President Donald Wagoner

.....on the early 1950's election days, the streets were busy with throngs of people, and businesses such as Kroger, A & P, Renaker Drug Store and others did a booming business?

Hot debates took place on the street corners where men boasted about the merits of their chosen political candidates while lamenting the opponents' faults. Often, others present took exception to the comments and the conversations degraded into shouting matches. To add fuel to the situation, half empty, half-pint bottles of bourbon adorned many hip pockets while the absent portion consumed sent tongues wagging.

Speaking of the Devil's brew, I witnessed pickup trucks loaded, in more ways than one, full of men taken to the voting polls. They were rewarded with half-pints and sometimes full pints of bourbon to vote for their favorite candidates which just happened to be the favorite candidates of those handing out the booze. I think that the conscripted voters' favorite candidates were "Old Grand-Dad" and "J. T. S. Brown."

By sunset, Main Street was abuzz with a large crowd of people. All the courthouse rooms were lit up, as well as some folks in the crowd. The votes were hand counted on the second level of the courthouse where a man would periodically raise a window, stick his head out it, and shout out the voting returns by precinct. Some in the crowd responded with whistles, shouts, and applause, countered by a few who shouted curses. The response would send forth a waffling wave of aroma comprised of bourbon, beer, and tobacco

sprinkled with the scent of cloves, Juicy Fruit chewing gum and a hint of gin. This is not to suggest that all present had consumed the grog; most were stone sober.

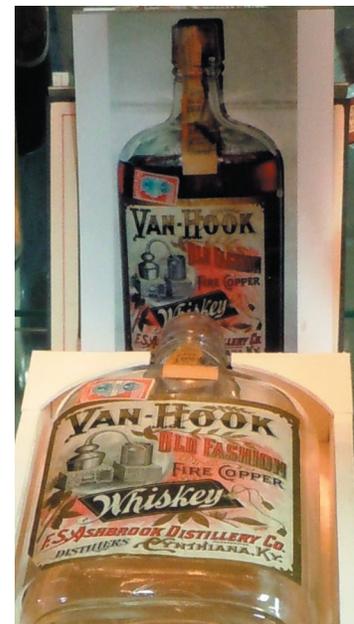
The process went on to 9 or 10 p. m., until the final voting tallies were shouted out the window. The crowd would respond much louder than it had previously and upon receiving the last result, it started to leave the area. Within twenty minutes, courthouse square was nearly deserted, except for several small gatherings of people arguing that their candidates had the elections stolen from them. They opined that "the fix was on" for the knucklehead who won office. Having vented themselves, the disgruntled voters slowly left the square. The courthouse lights continued to burn brightly, as elections city workers wrapped up another election day.

Today, with voting machines and receiving the voting results via the media, it pales in comparison to the frolicsome and spontaneous spirit of the early 1950's election days enjoyed by many on the street corners and the courthouse square. At the time, it made me feel proud to see community involvement and democracy in action.



The Harrison County courthouse attracted crowds on election day in the 1950s.

Photo, 1959, B. Penn.



Payment for voting?

Cynthiana-Harrison Co. Museum Collection.

BERRY, KY. RAIL SCENES

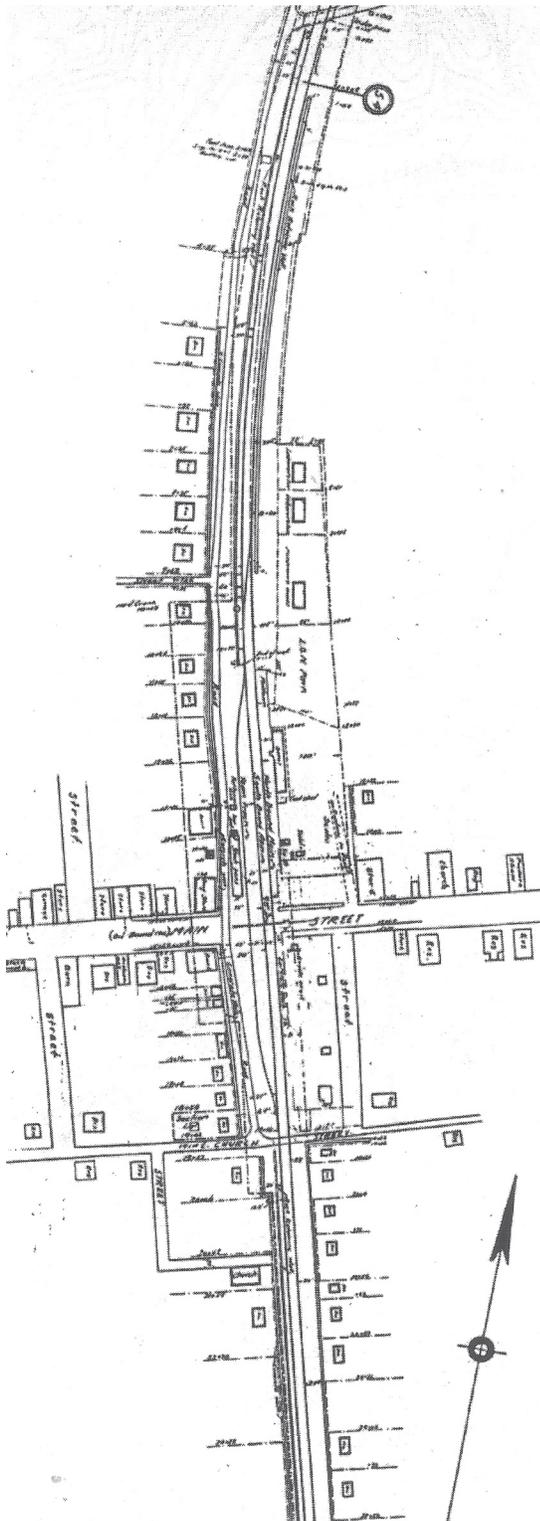
From *Railroads in Harrison County, Ky.*, by George D. Slade

The original railroad through Berry was the Covington-Lexington Rail Road. In 1851 contracts were let for preparing the road for infrastructure to Paris and Lexington. By March 1852, construction had begun at the Covington end of the line, and the laying of the rails moved slowly but steadily southward. A portion of the rails had been shipped by boat on the Licking River to Falmouth.

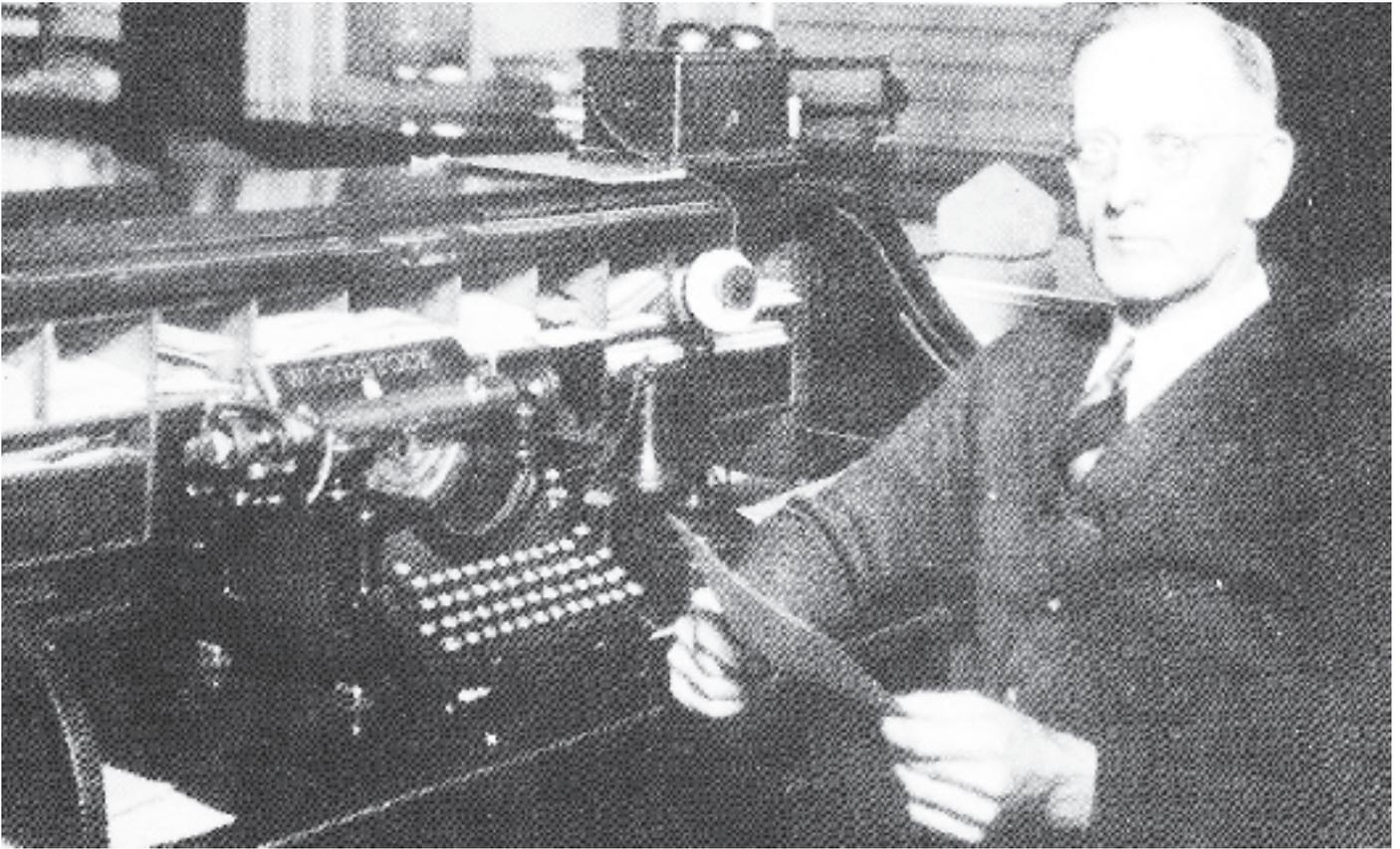
By mid-October 1853 the road was completed to Falmouth, which created excitement in Cynthiana and Harrison County. By March 1854, cars were running to Boyd Station, and by April 13, had passed through Berry and reached Robinson Station. On May 4, newspapers advertised the cars reached Garnett Station, and tension increased as the track-layers neared Cynthiana.

A line of stagecoaches connected Cynthiana passengers to each new station until, finally, A. Keller Bridge was built and the first rails were laid within the town of Cynthiana on May 16, 1854. The first passenger trains commenced running between Covington and Cynthiana on May 22, 1854.

Source: George D. Slade, *Railroads in Harrison County, Kentucky* (pp. 9-15). Digital copies may be viewed at www.harrisoncountky.us, or paperback copies purchased from Historic Midway Museum Store, Midway, Ky.



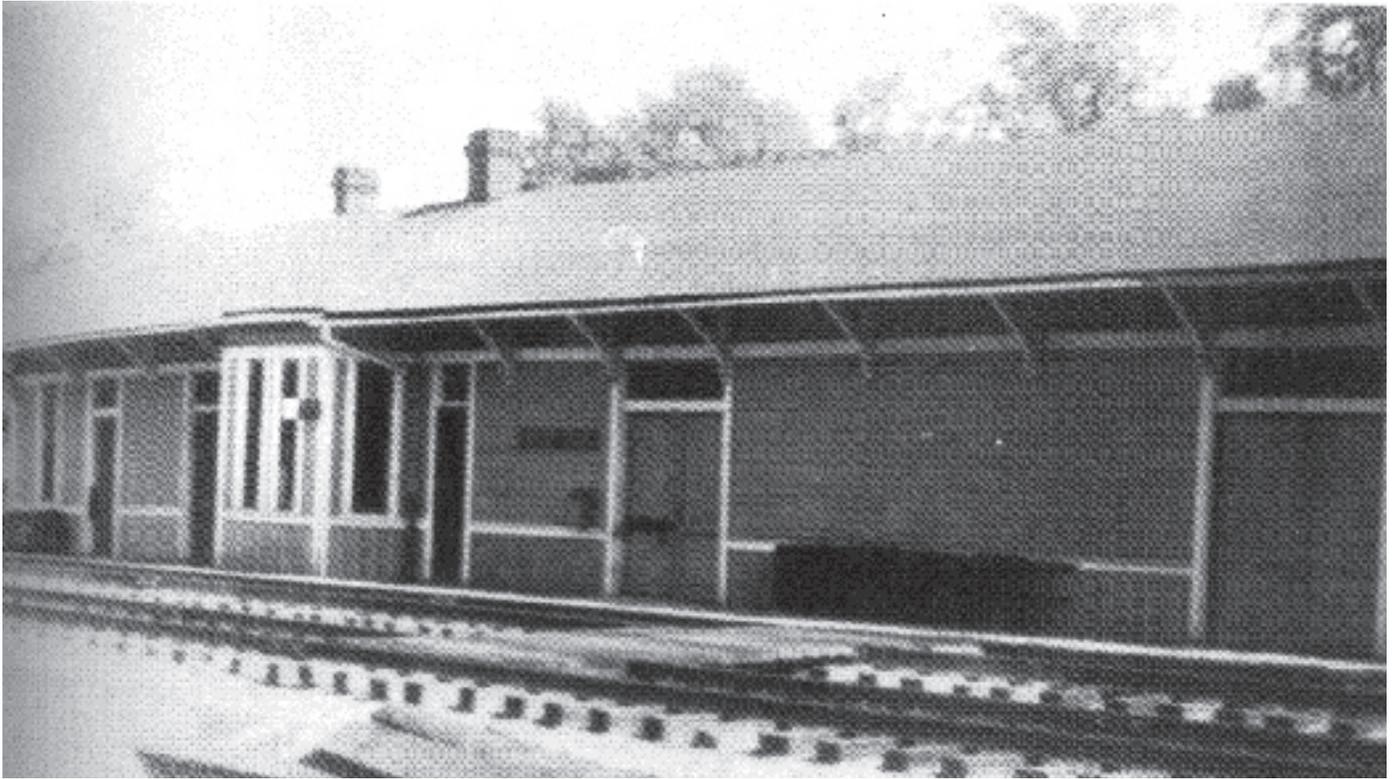
Left: Berry, Ky., L & N Railroad system map of buildings, right-of-way, and fences, showing improvements from 1919-1934. Courtesy of L & N Historical Society.



Station agent at Berry - photo had no name. (Contact the editor if you know the name).

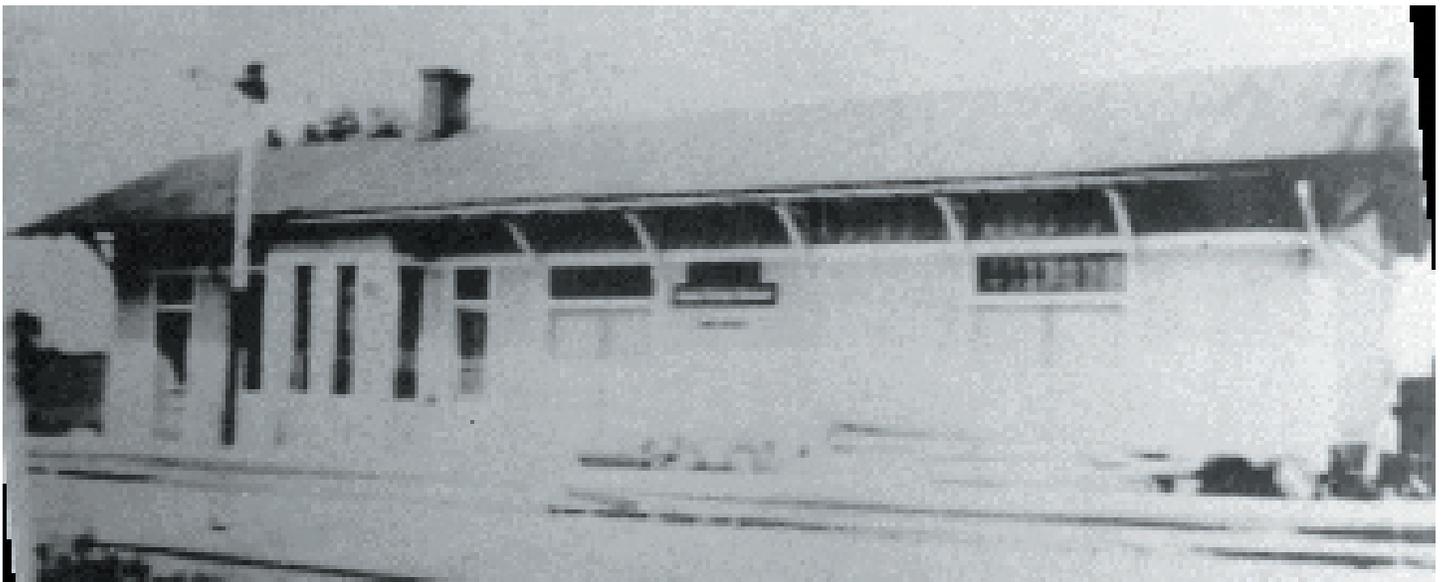


View of Berry, Ky., looking north, showing track siding on the left. The depot was located beyond the crossing on the left side of the tracks. Farmers National Bank is on the left. Photo, 2004, Bill Penn.



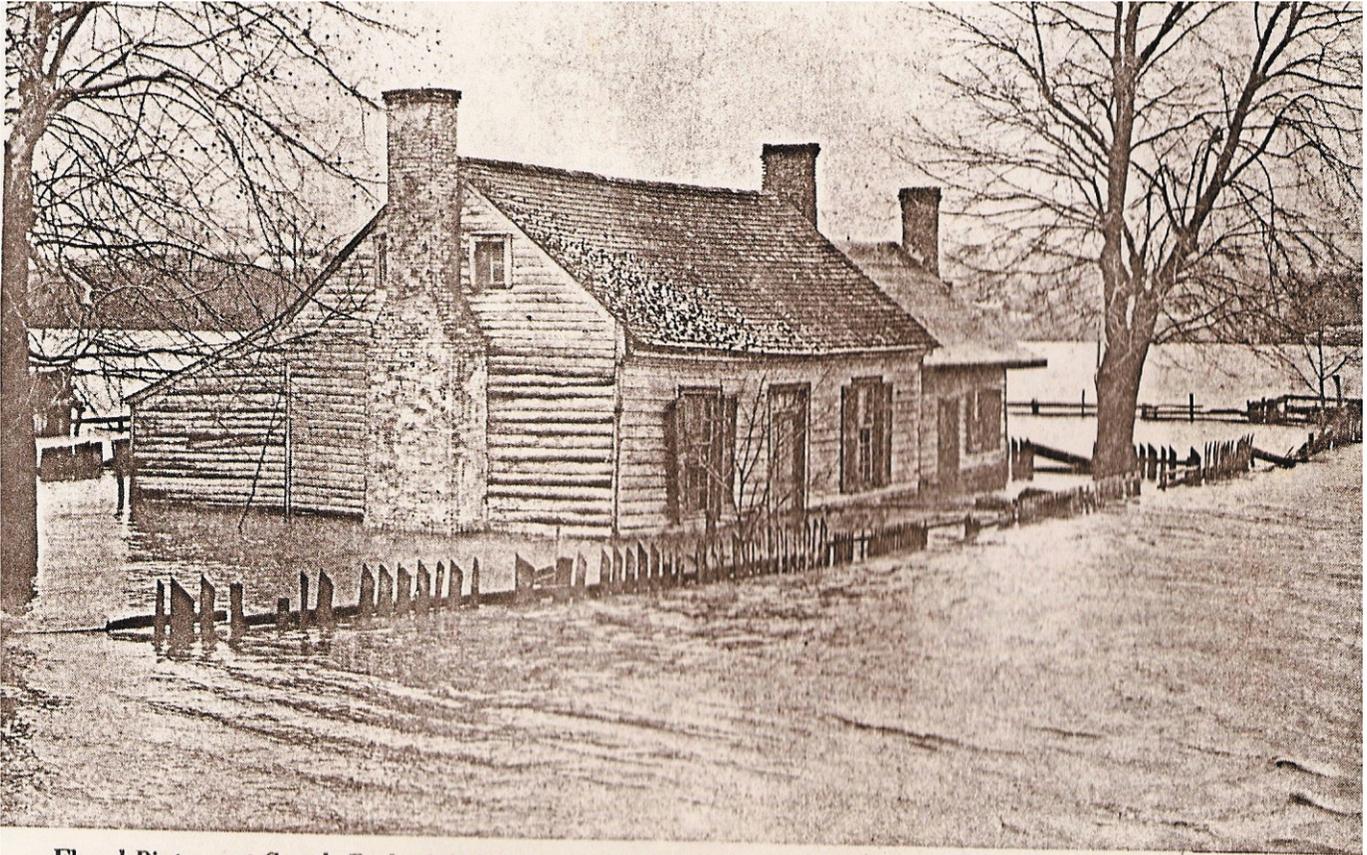
Above: Berry, Ky., L & N Passenger Depot, probably constructed around the 1920s. L & N retired the depot by the 1960s. Undated photo, courtesy of the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum.

Below: Berry Passenger depot, undated photo, courtesy of Junior Adams.



Harrison County's Lost Buildings

P. Fitch Patrick House, ca. first half 19th century.



Flood Picture at South End of Old Covered Bridge Near Daniels Bottom In The Early 1900's.

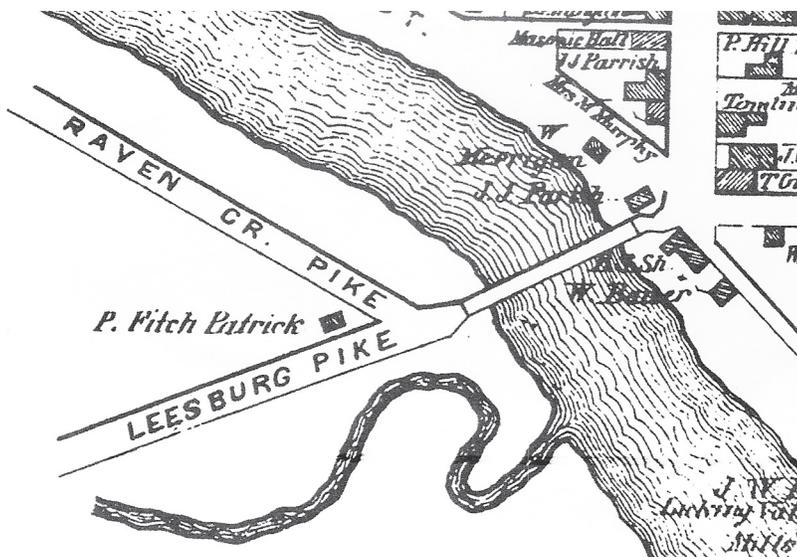
Photo, courtesy of Cynthiana Democrat

This long forgotten house stood near the south entrance of the covered bridge, in the forks of the roads where the old Leesburg Pike and River Road joined. “Daniels Bottom” mentioned in the photo caption (Cynthiana Democrat, Nov. 12, 1970), is the present site of River Road Park. This house, which faced Leesburg Pike, was mentioned in a *Louisville Daily Journal*, July 23, 1862, article on the First Battle of Cynthiana: Morgan brought forward artillery pieces and “placed one of his (he had two) mountain howitzers directly...between the bridge and an old house on the north side of the road which led westward out of town.”

The photo was probably taken during the 1909 flood, for this house can be seen in a more distant view of the covered bridge during that flood. (Jurgensen, *Through Their Eyes: Covered Bridges of Harrison Co., Ky.*, p. 53).

On the 1877 Beers Harrison County map (detail, left) the owner is “P. Fitch Patrick,” or Fitchpatrick.

The house was no longer standing in a 1950 aerial photo of Cynthiana, and so may have been demolished during the Gray’s Run realignment and construction of the new U. S. 27 bridge approach and bridge.



Antiques Dealer Has Flag of Jo Desha Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Cynthiana, Ky.



A national ladies' association, The United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), was founded in 1894. The Kentucky Division of the UDC formed the Jo Desha Chapter in Harrison County November 1899 and was active to at least 1934, when there were forty-eight active members. The chapter flag (above) copied the Confederate First National flag with "Jo Desha Chapter" printed on it. The UDC chapter flag was purchased from the Duffy estate about 1987 by Jerome Redfearn, Georgetown Antique Mall (now closed), who sold it to the late Ed Hilbarger, Cincinnati, Oh. It is now in possession of Everitt Bowles, Woodstock, Ga., a dealer in Civil War badges, and is in his online catalog, <http://civilwarbadges.com/>, listed for \$5,500.

The goals of the UDC Jo Desha Chapter, according to the chapter's membership booklet, were "to preserve monuments and relics and to mark the grounds pertaining to the history of the Confederacy in and around Cynthiana; to correct false history pertaining to the war between the C. S. A. and the U. S. A.; also to record any history of events or of individuals pertaining to Harrison county, and connected with the Confederacy." "Between 1898 and 1920, over 5,300 Kentucky women joined [the UDC] in seventy towns," according to Anne E. Marshall, *Creating a Confederate Kentucky: The Lost Cause and Civil War Memory in a Border State* (2010). "The UDC undertook public projects that had...far-reaching effects in disseminating the conservative themes and values of the dead Confederacy and the Lost Cause [and]... helped shape the way future Kentuckians viewed the state's Civil War history." These groups won the public relations war after the Civil War and dominated the role of erecting monuments honoring Confederates. It is only recently that public opinion has somewhat shifted against Confederate memory. (Bill Penn)

Join Today or Renew Your Membership in the

Harrison County Historical Society

Visit us on the web at www.harrisoncountky.us/historical-society/

An annual membership (Jan. thru Dec.) includes delivery of an informative newsletter via USPS or the internet. Nearly 100 pages of original articles are published annually, which focus on the people, places, and historic events of Harrison County's past, along with reports of the monthly meetings of the historical society, as well as news of exhibits and events at the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum. And, of course, membership includes an open invitation to attend all of the society's regular monthly meetings and other events in Cynthiana.

Dues are only . . .

\$12 annually for newsletters delivered via USPS
(or only \$10 for an internet subscription (PDF))

If you should have any questions you can write to:

The Harrison County Historical Society
P.O. Box 411
Cynthiana, KY 41031

or e-mail:

Don Wagoner

President (2013-2014; 2015-2016)

William A. Penn (pennwma@aol.com)

Editor, Harrison Heritage News

Why have others joined the society?

Some members have just recently become residents of the county, while others have family ties that go back to the county's establishment. Many others join from afar, having discovered that Harrison County was once home to their ancestors, aunts, uncles, or cousins. All would like to learn more about family and local history, and of efforts to preserve and document that history. Libraries and other historical societies are members, too, helping to preserve and to pass on the word of the "goings-on" of the Harrison County Historical Society.

Please Join By Submitting This Form Today!

Read selected past issues of our award-winning newsletter, the *Harrison Heritage News*, at www.harrisoncountky.us/harrison-heritage-news/

Please make me a member of the Harrison County (Ky.) Historical Society in 20__!

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Please send newsletters via USPS (\$12.00) _____ / via the internet (PDF format) (\$10.00) _____

Genealogy (Surname) or Local History Interests: _____

Comments or Suggestions? Story Ideas for Upcoming Editions? (Please continue on the back, if necessary): _____

If you are new member, please check here _____. If you are renewing, please check here _____.

Personal checks & money orders accepted. Please return this form to the Harrison County (Ky.) Historical Society, P.O. Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031