

Bits and Pieces

of Hardin County History

A PUBLICATION OF HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL XXI NO. 1

MARY JO JONES, EDITOR

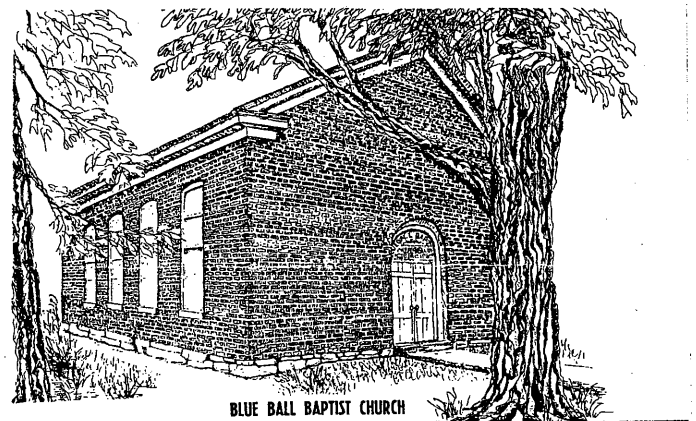
SPRING 2002

BLUE BALL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Blue Ball Baptist Church building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is the only pre-Civil War brick church building in Hardin County except those in Elizabethtown. In 1849 Daniel Holman sold 2-1/4 acres of land to the church trustees for the sum of one dollar. John Holbert was employed to erect the building. Bricks used in the project were fired on the location. It is located in the northwestern part of Hardin County, between highways 220 and 1357.

The building not being completed, the church was organized on June 20, 1849, at the home of Daniel Holman. Charter members were Daniel Holman, Francis Hill, Henry Willyard, Robert Nall, Elizabeth Nall, Mary E. Nall, Daniel W. Nall, Harrison Holman, Isaac Richardson, Mary Wortham, James Holman, Lucy Holman, Lucy Hobbs, Martin S. Hill, Mildred Hill, Nancy Hicks, Jacob Woodring, Thomas Morrison, Lucinda Morrison, William Hicks, Leticia Richardson, Ellen Holman, Thomas H. Thomas, and William Tarpley. Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum were adopted.

Blue Ball Baptist Church became a thriving institution, as evidenced by



BLUE BALL BAPTIST CHURCH
Blue Ball Baptist Church

published reports, and continued to be a force in the community until the early 1920's.

The church became inactive during the period from 1926 through 1949; however, the building remained in use for weddings and funerals. On December 4, 1949, the church was reorganized and has remained a viable institution since that time. A frame addition has been made to the back of the brick building.

A large cemetery adjoins the church.

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John James Audubon in Elizabethtown and Hardin County

No authentic evidence has ever been discovered concerning the residence of John James Audubon in Elizabethtown. Such a lack of documentary material concerning the great ornithologist would naturally lead one to believe that he had no connection with this city, except for the fact that Samuel Haycraft, Jr., author of *The History of Elizabethtown*, makes this statement in a discussion of early merchants: "Audubon & Rozier were also merchants in town at an early date. Their clerk was James Hackley...." (page 108).

Haycraft does not state the year of the establishment of Audubon and Rozier's Elizabethtown store. The lack of documentary records indicates that it must have been of short duration. Theories have also been advanced that the firm, Audubon and Rozier, in Elizabethtown might have been an itinerant business enterprise. It is not at all unlikely that the two young impractical business men might have arrived in Elizabethtown with a Conestoga wagon filled with merchandise which they sold for a short period, either from their store on wheels or from a building which they likely rented for a short time and when their stock of goods was sold, moved on to a new field of exploitation.

Constance Rourke in her biography entitled *Audubon* (1936) states:

They (Audubon and Rozier) purchased goods and by the autumn of 1807 had made the journey to the falls of the Ohio. Audubon liked the little town (Louisville) there with its back against the wilderness and they sold their goods with some success, making trips along neighboring trails as peddlers and scouring the country as far south as the village of Nashville to consider a location for a future store.

The most convincing statement made by Haycraft regarding the firm is that James Hackley was the clerk. This would not, however, rule out the supposition that they placed merchandise in a rented building in the town and hired Hackley as clerk while they continued as itinerant peddlers, restocking on their infrequent trips through the place.

On a visit through Hardin County Audubon recorded in his own handwriting various notes concerning the life and habits of passenger pigeons which he observed in the year 1813 while he was in West Point, Kentucky:

Whilst waiting for dinner at Young's Inn at the confluence of Salt River with the Ohio, I saw at my leisure, immense legions [of passenger pigeons] still going by, with a front reaching far beyond the Ohio on the west, and the beech wood forests directly on the east.

(Source: The above account was taken from "John James Audubon in Hardin County and Elizabethtown," by R. Gerald McMurtry, *Hardin County Enterprise*, Jan. 14, 1937.)

Simon Bolivar Buckner in Elizabethtown

The Buckner family arrived in Kentucky from Virginia in 1803. Immigrating to what is now Hart County was Philip, whose son Aylett was the father of Simon Bolivar Buckner. Philip and his family settled near what is now Bonnierville, and Aylett, after his marriage, acquired land nine miles east of Munfordville, later known as Glen Lily. His interest in the iron ore of Hart County and his desire to become an ironmaster had much to do with his selection of this farm site.

Aylett Buckner apparently was a frequent visitor to Elizabethtown, as among other relatives, two of his nieces resided there--Eliza Slaughter, wife of Dr. Harvey Slaughter, and Jane Leedom, wife of Samuel V. Leedom--who were daughters of his sister Ann (Mrs. Jesse Wood). However, the only record of Aylett's having visited Elizabethtown was in 1819, when it is said that because he was noted for his fine appearance, personal charm, and magnetism, he was called to Elizabethtown as the best man to help entertain David Crockett when the latter visited there. This source states also that in this same place, he publicly whipped a personal enemy on horseback through the streets of the little town.

Following his purchase of the Hart County farm, Aylett Buckner operated the Aetna Furnace near the Green River. Later, along with Samuel Leedom and Cadwallader Churchill of Elizabethtown, he established the Muhlenberg Iron Works and moved his family to Muhlenberg County. This venture was fairly successful until the death of Jacob Holderman, one of the managers.

Simon Bolivar Buckner, called "Bolivar" by his family and friends, was a familiar figure in Elizabethtown in the years before the Civil War, and for a few years thereafter.

Following the demise of the Muhlenberg Iron Works venture, Aylett Buckner moved his family, with the exception of Bolivar, to Arkansas, where he had, before his entry into the ironworks business, purchased a large cotton plantation, which

he operated successfully until his untimely death in 1851 at the age of fifty-eight.

Meanwhile, Bolivar, having availed himself of the meager schooling available in Munfordville, entered a seminary in Hopkinsville. In 1839 he learned of a vacancy at the United States Military Academy, and upon application to his Congressman, received an appointment and entered upon his studies there on July 1, 1840, at the age of seventeen. He ranked eleventh in his class of twenty-five when he graduated on July 1, 1844. He served in Mexico during the Mexican War. Following his service there, he was transferred to the U.S. Military Academy as an instructor. Meanwhile, he was given a leave of absence of one month, which he spent in Hart County and Elizabethtown, among friends and relatives of his childhood days. He also visited his parents in Arkansas. He continued his Army service. In 1850 he was married to Mary Jane Kingsbury, daughter of Major Julius B. Kingsbury, with whom Buckner had previously served, and Mrs. Kingsbury. The Buckners' daughter Lily was born in 1858 in Louisville.

In March, 1855, Buckner resigned from the Army to devote his time to help direct his father-in-law's business and to engage in other pursuits of civil life. His father had died at his Arkansas plantation in 1851, leaving his mother and his widowed sister alone there.

The widow Buckner returned to Kentucky in 1858 and came to Elizabethtown. She acquired property at the corner of Race Street and Main Cross Street (Central Avenue and E. Dixie Avenue), extending from Main Cross to Plum Alley, 193 feet along Main Cross. A handsome brick residence was located on the property. She also owned a lot across Race Street containing a stable. Mrs. Buckner and her widowed daughter Mary Tooke, together with Mary's two sons, occupied this property for some years. Bolivar visited them in this home on many occasions. During the Civil War Mrs. Buckner, because of what she termed the

despotism in Washington, was forced to leave her home, and she again sought refuge among her friends in Arkansas. She died January 6, 1862, in Arkansas, where she was buried. Later her remains were moved to the Buckner plot in the Frankfort Cemetery.

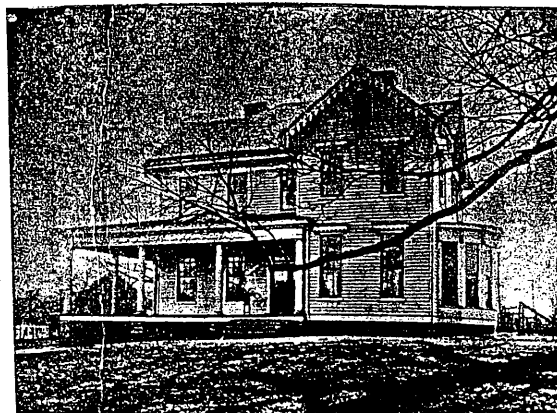
Bolivar Buckner's exploits in the Civil War are well known and will not be outlined at this time. He was, of course, thoroughly familiar with the Elizabethtown area, and made visits there as often as possible. His wife and daughter visited relatives in Elizabethtown frequently during the war.

In 1869 Buckner and his sister Mary Tooke disposed of their mother's real estate in Elizabethtown, selling the house and lot to James H. Bryant and Ernest Wedekind and later the stable lot to Jack and Ben Vertrees, persons of color.

Following the war, Buckner was engaged in various business pursuits in Louisville, Chicago, New Orleans, and elsewhere. (See "How General Buckner Recovered his Fortune," *Bits and Pieces*, Vol. XIX, No. 4, Fall 2000.) The family maintained a home in Louisville. However, a number of Buckner's relatives and friends lived in Elizabethtown. Mrs. Buckner had visited there often, and both of them liked the people in that city very much. Also it had good rail service and was about half way between his business interests in Louisville and his farm in Hart County. During 1872 and 1873 he and his family lived much of the time in Elizabethtown in a high-class boarding house located at the corner of South Miles Street and East Dixie Avenue.

For some time Mrs. Buckner's health had been of concern to the family. She had been suffering from tuberculosis for years. She had tried a change of climate and had had the best possible medical attention in her last years, but all to no avail. She died slowly but peacefully in Elizabethtown on January 5, 1874.

The funeral for Mrs. Buckner was held at Elizabethtown and burial took place in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery. Many years



Elizabethtown Residence
of Mr. & Mrs. S. B. Buckner, 1872 - 1873

afterwards, on October 19, 1892, her daughter, then Mrs. Morris Belknap of Louisville, had her mother's remains removed to her own lot in Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville.

Mary Tooke, disposing of her property in Arkansas, came to Kentucky. In 1870 she was living with Jane Leedom in Elizabethtown. By 1877 she was living with her brother at Glen Lily. She was mistress of the home, and she and her niece Lily Buckner made their home known far and wide as a delightful rural retreat. Lily Buckner married and went to Louisville to live in June, 1883. Just a few months later, on October 10, Mary Tooke died at Glen Lily, and interment took place at Elizabethtown.

In 1885 Bolivar Buckner was married to young and beautiful Delia Claiborne in Richmond. They made their home at Glen Lily. Bolivar Buckner died in the home he loved on January 10, 1914, after a distinguished career as a military leader, businessman, governor, and candidate for vice president of the United States

M. J. J.

(Sources: Stickles, Arndt M., *Simon Bolivar Buckner, Borderland Knight*, Chapel Hill, 1940; public records of Hardin County; author's files.)

Early Flat-boating on the Rolling Fork

(The Elizabethtown News, January 5, 1932)

People who have noticed the ordinary sluggish and small stream called the Rolling Fork river, east of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, will be surprised to learn that in early days of the 1800's steam boats were known to come up this river as far as the mouth of Beech Fork, and during this period of time John H. Hart was accustomed to shipping cattle and hogs by steam boat from Hart's Ferry Farm [located in the Youngers Creek Valley in Hardin County]. Rolling Fork was then a real river, and before steam-boating time on this stream it was the custom of the farmers in the rich valley of the Rolling Fork to ship products by ferry boat every year to New Orleans, stopping on the way at Memphis, Natchez and Vicksburg, to dispose of part of their products.

The flat-boats were from 40 to 60 feet long. They were constructed with keels drawing about 6 feet of water when loaded. They were generally launched after loading at the first freshet that came. There were two side oars, or sweeps, and a rear sweep with a paddle-end, and each required from two to three men to operate it. The crew consisted of from ten to twelve men, according to the size of the boat. The boats were laden with cured meat, corn and other products of the farms, often including many barrels of cider. The propeller was a matter of current, and the oars and sweeps were merely used to guide it. The noted ferry boatmen were the Crawfords, Harneds, Troutmans and Johnsons.

As soon as a loaded boat started on its way to New Orleans, the keel for another one was laid, and the negroes on the farms, under superintendency of one of the younger men of the family, started to plant another crop.

After they had disposed of their products in the cities along the Mississippi River, they sold their boat in New Orleans for lumber and walked back home, following the old Navajo Indian trail through Mississippi. The journey home required at least two months, and they encountered, generally, many friendly Indians. On the way back home from one trip, one of the Harneds sold to an Indian chief a barrel of cider for a hunting pouch made of buckskin and beautifully braided. It is probable that several carried guns while on the journey to kill game for food, as the country abounded in deer, wild turkeys, pheasants and much smaller game. It was an awful journey to the pioneer to carry that boat down the Ohio, through Mississippi, and on to New Orleans, and then to walk back home, a distance of about 800 miles. These men, however, were rugged and accustomed to all kinds of hardships. The construction of the boat was not a simple thing, but it seems inconsistent to look at the small Rolling Fork now on which it would be difficult to operate an ordinary row boat and think it was wide enough and big enough to carry a flat boat 60 feet long and 150 feet across.

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In the first half of the twentieth century, most Elizabethtown homes were heated with coal. Older homes used a stove in the parlor and perhaps a coal-burning hot-water heater in the kitchen. Bedrooms generally were unheated. Perhaps an electric heater was used in the bathroom. More modern homes had a furnace in the basement.

Firing a furnace required several trips each day to the basement to refuel the fire in the furnace. In the mid-1930's the stoker came into use. It could readily be installed on an existing furnace. Furnace firing was revolutionized. The stoker was a large hopper, with a screw mechanism in the bottom which fed coal into the furnace in response to a thermostat on the main floor. Only in bitter cold weather was it necessary to fill a stoker more than two or three times a week, eliminating countless trips up and down the basement stairs.

SARAH BUSH JOHNSTON

Abraham Lincoln was fortunate in having a double portion of motherly attention, as both his own mother and his stepmother had a share in his early training.

While it is very natural that Nancy Hanks Lincoln should contribute much to her son's welfare, it is rather unusual to find a stepmother as keenly interested in a stepchild as Sarah Bush was in Abraham Lincoln. A brief history of her life up to the year when Lincoln moved out from under her influence in 1830 is especially interesting.

The Bush family was of German descent, and, according to one who knew the pioneer Bush well, he was a "stirring industrious man." On August 6, 1781, he entered two hundred acres of land including a mill site in what later became Hardin County, Kentucky.

Sarah's Girlhood Days

Sarah Bush was born near Elizabethtown, Kentucky, on December 13, 1788. She was the youngest daughter of Christopher Bush, his family comprising six boys and three girls. It is likely that Thomas Lincoln first saw Sarah Bush in 1797 when he went to work in Elizabethtown and remained there a year or more. As Sarah was but nine years old at this time and Thomas had just become of age, it is not likely that he took much notice of her.

When Thomas Lincoln returned to Elizabethtown in 1803 Sarah was fifteen years old, and at the time Thomas became associated with Christopher Bush in 1806 as a patroller in his company, Sarah was approaching the age of eighteen. There is no question but what he was often in her home and it is likely that he may have paid her some attention. There is a tradition to the effect that she spurned Thomas Lincoln's advances and rejected him for another suitor.

Whatever truth there may be about the rejection of Thomas Lincoln by Sarah Bush at the termination of their early courtship, it is very evident that she made a very serious mistake in appraising the worth of the two contestants for her hand.

The Jailer's Wife

Daniel Johnston, whom Sarah married on March 13, 1806, apparently was unable to write, and the Hardin County Commissioner's books do not show that he ever owned any property but one horse. He was placed on the delinquent list for not paying poll tax. He borrowed money from his wife's brothers and they sued him to try and recover it. An endorsement on the bill "without funds" shows the circumstances in which Sarah Johnston was living. In 1814 Johnston was appointed jailer of the county, but he was obliged to secure six men to go on his bond when usually two were sufficient. None of his brothers-in-law appeared as bondsmen.

It is evident that the large part of the jailer's work fell on his wife, who was obliged to get meals for the prisoners, clean the court house, and do other tasks that would be anything but agreeable. The salary which Johnston received as jailer for the year between October 1814 and October 1815 was twenty-three pounds and five shillings, approximately \$100, or about thirty cents a day. Johnston was expected to provide fuel and lights out of his annual consideration.

The jail at Elizabethtown was a stone structure of two stories and the jailer's family lived in a room above the jail. The youngest child of Sarah Bush Johnston, John D., was born here. Two daughters, Elizabeth and Matilda, were also born in Elizabethtown.

The Widow Johnston

Daniel Johnston died as early as July, 1816, but the exact date is not known. The sequel to this first matrimonial venture of Sarah Johnston is found in an order in the county court in which as executor of the estate is appointed, "the widow of Daniel Johnston, deceased, having in open court declared that she refused to take upon herself the burden of said administration."

Sarah Johnston's father made his will in 1812 and it was probated on February 8, 1813. The will indicates that previous to this time Sarah Bush Johnston had received her share of the estate. After

the death of her husband Sarah purchased from Samuel Haycraft, for the sum of twenty-five dollars, "the lot with the cabin in which she now lives," just outside the town limits of Elizabethtown. Here, according to Mr. Haycraft, "she lived an honest, poor widow." With three children dependent upon her and what little she had received from her father's estate already gone, we can feel sure she was in very humble circumstances.

The Second Wedding

Sarah Johnston had been a widow three years when the widower, Thomas Lincoln, arrived in Elizabethtown and began his second courtship. It was in Elizabethtown where Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln had gone to keeping house and where they lived for the first two years of their married life. The widow had every opportunity to know all about this man who had left Kentucky for Indiana but three years before and who had now come back a widower suing for her hand.

The wedding of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Johnston was solemnized at Elizabethtown, Kentucky, on December 2, 1819, by Rev. George L. Rogers, and immediate preparations were made for the removal to Indiana. Previous to the wedding, tradition claims that Thomas Lincoln paid off several small debts which Sarah had incurred during her widowhood.

If one will study the surroundings of Sarah Bush Johnston both during her marriage to Johnston and the years that followed, he will be convinced that it was she rather than Thomas Lincoln who profited most economically through this union. She had every reason to look back on this union as the dawning of a new and better day for her, and it must have been partly out of appreciation to Thomas Lincoln that she became such a sympathetic mother to his children.

The Stepmother

The new cabin home over which Sarah now presided consisted of three orphan groups, and we might say she adapted herself to the task of serving as a matron in this cabin orphanage greatly to her credit. There were the two Lincoln orphans, Sarah

and Abraham; the three Johnston orphans, Elizabeth, Matilda, and John D.; and another orphan boy, Dennis Hanks, whose foster parents had died at the same time Nancy Hanks Lincoln passed away.

The new Mrs. Lincoln was but thirty-one years of age when she took charge of these orphan groups. Her husband was twelve years her senior. Abraham Lincoln had now reached the age of ten and from this time until he was twenty-one he was under his stepmother's direction continually. As Sarah Bush was noted for her "sprightliness and industry," there is every reason to believe that her cabin home was kept clean and tidy and that the Lincoln children profited greatly by her oversight of the home that had been without a woman in it for more than a year.

Apparently the most valuable contribution which the new Mrs. Lincoln made to stepson Abraham was her sympathetic attitude toward his ambition to learn. Having lived all her life in a community where there was a very fine academy and having come in contact continually with educated people, she would be quick to encourage any ambition which Abraham had to make an educated man of himself.

This statement credited to her is undoubtedly true: "I induced my husband to permit Abe to read and study at home as well as at school. At first he was not easily reconciled to it but finally he too seemed willing to encourage him to a certain extent. . . . We took particular care not to disurb him--would let him read on and on until he quit of his own accord."

What contributions Sarah Bush Lincoln made to Abraham Lincoln were made before he left her home at twenty-one years of age, and we have his own testimony that she was a good mother to him.

(From *Lincoln Lore*, Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, Fort Wayne, Ind., No. 213, May 8, 1933)

President Eisenhower's Visit, April 23, 1954

(Hardin County Enterprise, Elizabethtown, April 26, 1954)

Thousands of spectators, men and women who have lived through regimes of a dozen presidents to wide-eyed children who vaguely remember F. D. R., lined roadsides and thoroughfares of Fort Knox and Hardin and Larue counties Friday to catch a glimpse of the country's No. 1 citizen, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The nation's chief executive, attired nattily in a light gray pin striped suit and sporting a Georgia sun tan, alighted from his private 4-motor plane, the *Columbine*, at Godman Field at 10:10 a. m., received a 21-gun salute at the Armored Center and motored to Hodgenville for a brief visit to Abraham Lincoln's birthplace and luncheon before he returned to Godman and enplaned for Lexington and Transylvania College at 2:05 p. m.

President Eisenhower debarked from the plane at Godman amid a battery of newspaper, newsreel and television cameramen and reporters. He stepped crisply down the ramp and cordially greeted Lt. Gen. Floyd L. Parks, commander of the Second Army: "Hello, Floyd! Good to see you; I'd forgotten this was in your area."

The President promptly reviewed an Honor Guard standing rigidly nearby. He addressed M/Sgt. Sherwood Curtis, inquiring with what units the Sergeant had served. Curtis replied that he had seen extensive duty in the European theater.

Hundreds of civilians and servicemen lined the rims of Fort Knox avenues as the President's convoy--moved expertly by a corps of Secret Service men--proceeded to Brooks Field where twenty-one 105-millimeter howitzers were fired in rapid succession at approximately 10:30. President Eisenhower, General Parks, Senator John Sherman Cooper, Maj. Gen. John H. Collier, Commander, The Armored Center; Maj. Gen. G. B. Rogers, Commander, Third Armored Division, and other dignitaries witnessed proceedings from a reviewing stand on Fifth Avenue. Fifty-two M-41, M-47 and M-63 tanks, Bulwark of Armor, passed in review.

At 10:45 the motorcade left Fort Knox. Along 31-W and U. S. 61, on the way to Hodgenville, persons stood in groups, peering to get a glimpse of the President of the United States. The President rode through Elizabethtown in a bright red Lincoln convertible. Dixie Avenue and the Public Square had been cleared of parked cars, and townspeople turned out en masse to enjoy an occasion which may never happen again in a lifetime.

Automobiles in the convoy, incidentally, were furnished by several Ford and Lincoln-Mercury dealers in this area. Taylor Watt Douglas, owner of the Douglas Motor Company, drove one of the cars, and David Scantland, of Knox Motors, was at the wheel of another. Members of the press followed the convoy in three Army buses.

There were conspicuous signs along the way:

"Welcome Eisenhower."

"Hi, Ike."

"We like Ike." (Held high at Hodgenville by two little girls)

At 11:45 the convoy arrived at Lincoln Shrine, where another throng waited to greet the President.

President Eisenhower was presented with the first Lincoln Trail Honorary Medal by Bob Baughman, of Explorer Scout Troop 115, of Louisville and St. Matthews. After this ceremony, the chief executive delivered a short address in which he extolled Abraham Lincoln, describing the late president as "a great leader."

"I would like to remind you," the President continued, "of the methods he used in leadership. You can find no instance when he stood up in public and excoriated another American. You can find no instance where he is reported to have slapped or pounded the table, and struck the pose of a pseudo-dictator, or of an arbitrary individual.

“Rather, the qualities he showed and exhibited were forbearance in the extreme--patience.

“We remember his words because they still mean for us and still explain to us what this great country is: The greatest power on God’s footstool that has been permitted to exist. A power for good, among ourselves and in all the world.

“And he--this great Lincoln--was the one who did so much to give us the opportunity to live at a time when that would be so. When America’s leadership in the world is necessary to the preservation of freedom and of liberty in that world, just as his presence in the sixties was necessary to the preservation of liberty and freedom and union of this nation.”

Shortly after completing the speech, President Eisenhower laid a wreath at the foot of the Lincoln Monument, on the square in Hodgenville.

The President and his party then ate a lunch prepared by members of the Hodgenville Woman’s Club.

The convoy departed from Hodgenville at about one o’clock.

At Godman Field, the President was presented a famous World War II painting by James M. Sessions, of the Normandy Invasion. Presentation was made by Mrs. Garnett Bale, of Elizabethtown, and W. T. Owens, chairman of the Louisville Advertising Club’s Board of Directors.

We salute the MP’s, State Patrolmen and local police who directed the procession. They did a masterful job.

Heavy rains peppered this section of the State early Friday morning, but by noon the sun shone bright in My Old Kentucky Home. A beautiful spring day ensued, adding more color to the memorable occasion.

EISENHOWER CHEESE PUDDING

Cheese pudding was on the menu at the luncheon served to the Eisenhower party. It is said that the President asked for a second helping and the recipe. It has since been known as “Eisenhower Cheese Pudding.” The recipe follows:

1 cup soda cracker crumbs
½ pound grated American cheese
4 hard-cooked eggs, grated

2 cups medium white sauce
1 7-oz. can pimiento, finely chopped
Buttered crumbs

Grease a casserole; place a layer of crumbs well moistened with sauce, stir with fork to see that all crumbs are moisten. Add a layer of grated cheese, a layer of grated eggs, and a layer of pimiento. Repeat layers. Be sure all crumbs are moistened. You may have to add a little milk to be sure the crumbs are moistened. Top with buttered crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes.

President's Message:

It was with a great deal of pride that I had the opportunity to attend the 2002 Kentucky History Awards Program at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort on March 2nd.

The Hardin County Historical Society was presented with two awards. We received a Certificate of Commendation for *Bits and Pieces* and *Elizabethtown & Hardin County 1869-1921*, by H. A. Sommers. The Society had nominated Mary Jo Jones for the Lifetime Dedication to Kentucky History Award. I, for one, was very disappointed that Mary Jo was not the recipient of the award. I find it ironic that the two awards we received were a direct result of Mary Jo's time, energy, and talent.

Several members of the Hardin County Historical Society were instrumental in the Society being recognized on the state level. Without all of the letters of support that were required in the nomination process, we would not have been successful. Thanks to all, and a special thanks to Mary Jo for the narratives and all of her hard work.

Momentum is mounting for acquiring a museum for Hardin County History. Tim Asher, Director of the Heritage Council, has had some planning sessions on the feasibility of using the present Hardin County Library Building (next to the State Theatre) as a history museum. Many people seem to be excited about this possibility. As you know, like everything else, it will take a considerable amount of money to pull this off. Stay tuned. Many of you will be called on to support this endeavor.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new members. Plus, a heartfelt thanks goes out to many of you who have been members for many years.

Kenneth L. Tabb, President

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMING EVENTS

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, April 22, 2002, at the Commonwealth Lodge, 708 East Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown. Dinner will be at 6:30 P.M., followed by the program at 7:15 P.M. The meal will be served buffet style; the price is \$6.50, including tax and tip.

The program will be presented by Daniel Boone, as portrayed by Scott New of Berea. New has had a lifelong interest in the Kentucky frontier and early American history. He is the owner/operator of Transylvania Company Mercantile, a re-created 18th-century trading post at Fort Boonesborough State Park. New also appears at numerous living history events in Kentucky and throughout the country.

This program is funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

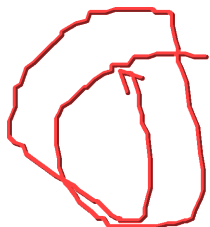
For dinner reservations, call Meranda Caswell (765-2515) or Mary Jo Jones (765-5593) not later than Saturday, April 20.

Membership in the Society is open to all interested persons. Annual dues are \$8.00.

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The City of Elizabethtown has purchased a parrot gun to be placed on cemetery hill to recognize Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's Christmas Raid and the Battle of Elizabethtown. The Heritage Council and the City are planning an unveiling ceremony for April 27, 2002. The event will begin at 10 AM with appropriate remarks from Marc Witt, Director of the American Civil War Center at Campbellsville University; James Brewer, author and historian; and Mayor David Willmoth. A brief memorial service for the Civil War dead buried in the cemetery led by the Rev. B. T. Bishop, pastor of the First Baptist Church will follow the unveiling. Members of the 6th KY Volunteer Infantry (CSA), the 9th Michigan Volunteer Infantry (US) and other re-enactor groups will participate.

Kenny Tabb
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HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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