

Bits and Pieces

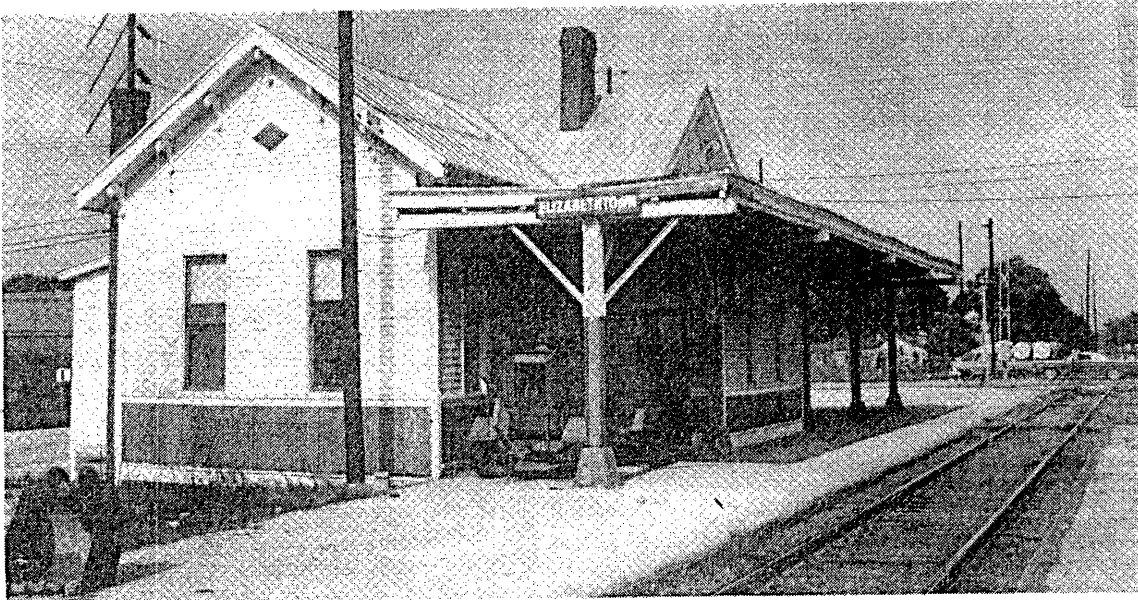
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Elizabethtown's L&N Railroad Depot

ELIZABETHTOWN'S L&N RAILROAD DEPOT

The railroad station pictured here is believed to have been the third such building erected by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in Elizabethtown. The first station was burned by John Hunt Morgan's Confederate raiders in December, 1862, when Elizabethtown was captured. Two years later, in December, 1864, Confederate General Lyons raided the town, captured the garrison of 45 soldiers, who were paroled. The station, stockade and two railroad bridges were burned at that time.

The above picture, taken from the south, shows the passenger waiting room. The water tower was located directly across the tracks from this station, and the freight station was located across the tracks about two hundred yards south of this site. The "baggage room" occupied space in the north end of the building shown. Here the agent "checked" trunks and other large pieces of baggage, which were hauled in the baggage cars attached to the passenger trains. Here also

were handled the Railroad Express packages which moved by way of Express cars, usually a part of the passenger trains. For many years a paved and covered walkway extended south from the station along the tracks for perhaps one hundred yards, in order that passengers boarding the rear cars on the train would be protected from the weather.

It is interesting to note that John L. Helm of Elizabethtown, who was the first president of the L&N Railroad, caused to be written into the charter that all regularly-run passenger trains should stop at Elizabethtown, and that covenant was observed as long as passenger trains passed through the town.

The station is gone, and it, as well as the passenger trains with their baggage and Express cars, are only memories.

M. J. J.

HOME REMEDIES

Local persons have through the years managed to concoct remedies for people's various ailments. Haycraft's *History of Elizabethtown* relates that Dr. Ambrose Geoghegan, who had a large and successful practice in and around Elizabethtown, produced a powerful medicine which he called "Hydropiper." It was composed of prickly ash, smart weed, walnut leaves, brandy and sugar, mixed so as to produce a pleasant-tasting medicine. Geoghegan, in partnership with other local practitioners Dr. B. R. Young and Dr. Harvey Slaughter, manufactured a large quantity. The venture was so successful that the initial supply of Hydropiper was not sufficient to meet the demands, as its fame spread far and wide.

Another local entrepreneur was Charles Horace Wintersmith. Following service in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, Wintersmith, a son of Elizabethtown merchant Horatio G. Wintersmith, returned to Hardin County and made his home on a farm near West Point. In 1868 he formed a partnership with Louisvillians Walter Haldeman and Arthur Peter, a wholesale druggist, and organized the Wintersmith Chemical Company. The firm created and began the manufacture of "Wintersmith's Chill Tonic." This tonic became a well-known home remedy that had wide acceptance, not only in this country but in many foreign lands. Its production and sale continued for many years.

(Sources: Samuel Haycraft, *History of Elizabethtown*; D.E. McClure, *Two Centuries in Elizabethtown and Hardin County*.)

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JOHN JAMES AUDUBON



Elizabethtown has counted among its citizens many famous persons, one of whom was John James Audubon, who once was a merchant here. This might be termed mere tradition except for the statement of Samuel Haycraft, Jr., in his *History of Elizabethtown*, who wrote as follows:

Audubon & Rozier were also merchants in town at an early date. Their clerk was James Hackley, who afterwards became an officer in the regular army, one of the most starchy and fine dressing men that ever lived in our town.

This is the same Mr. Audubon who has since been world renowned as the greatest ornithologist in the world, and has traveled through the United States, Central and South America, torrid, frigid and temperate zones, and has furnished the world the most complete specimens and descriptions of the feathered tribes, from the humming-bird and the sparrow up to the Condor, Ostrich, and Cassowary, with all the grave and splendid plumages that adorn or beautify the birds of creation.

It is not definitely known where the Audubon and Rozier store was located or the dates it was in Elizabethtown. However, as Audubon was in Louisville during the period from 1807 to 1810, it is likely that it was during that time. Some have speculated that the two young business men might have arrived in Elizabethtown with a Conestoga wagon filled with merchandise which they sold for a brief period, either from their store on wheels or from a building which they rented for a short time; and when their stock of goods was sold, moved on to a new field of exploitation.

Audubon in his writings tells of another visit to Hardin County. He wrote that in the autumn of 1813 he left his house in Henderson en route to Louisville. When he had passed Hardinsburg, he saw passenger pigeons flying in greater numbers than he had ever seen. He wrote, "I dismounted, seated myself on an eminence, and began to mark with my pencil, making a dot for every flock that passed. In a short time finding the task which I had undertaken impracticable, as the birds poured in in countless multitudes, I rose, and counting the dots then put down, found that 163 had been made in twenty-one minutes. I traveled on, and still met more the farther I proceeded. . . ."



Later when he stopped to eat at Young's Inn at the confluence of the Salt River with the Ohio (present-day West Point), and as he waited for dinner, he saw immense legions of pigeons still going by, with a front reaching far beyond the Ohio on the west and the beechwood forests directly on the east. Not a single bird alighted, he wrote, for not a nut or acorn was that year to be seen in the neighborhood. Before sunset he reached Louisville and saw the pigeons still passing in undiminished numbers, and they continued to do so, according to Audubon, for three days in succession.



Old magazine illustration of hunters shooting Passenger Pigeons. Note the density of the flight.

The passenger pigeon was once the most abundant bird in the United States, its numbers being estimated in the billions. Their squabs were considered a delicacy by diners in the cities of the United States. Market hunters prospered, and devised a variety of techniques for slaughtering the pigeons and collecting their succulent squabs. Adults were baited with alcohol-soaked grain, which made them drunk and easy to catch. Squabs were then knocked from nests with long poles, or collected in some other manner. They were slaughtered and packed in ice in barrels. The New York market would take one hundred barrels a day for weeks without a break in price. Chicago, Boston and all the great and little cities of the North and East joined in the demand. Need we wonder why the pigeons have vanished?

The passenger pigeon such as Audubon observed is now extinct, the last known bird having died at the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914.

M. J. J.

(Sources: Samuel Haycraft, Jr., *History of Elizabethtown*; R. Gerald McMurtry, *A Series of Monographs Concerning the Lincolns and Hardin County, Kentucky*; the internet.)

BOONE FAMILY IN HARDIN COUNTY

The Boone brothers are well known figures in early-day Kentucky, and the stories of their exploits have been recited countless times during the years.

Daniel is perhaps better known of the two, for his cutting the trail known as the Wilderness Road and for the establishment of Fort Boonesboro. While the brothers spent much of their adult years in assisting in the settling of Kentucky, both became disenchanted with conditions and left the state in their latter years and died elsewhere, Daniel Missouri and Squire in Indiana.

Daniel Boone spent only a limited amount of time in future Hardin County. Squire Boone spent considerable time in the area which was to become Hardin County in 1793 and later divided into other counties, particularly Meade County.

In addition to being a surveyor and locating land and making claim for such for some of the early settlers, in particular the LaRues, Squire Boone was an early-day preacher and is said to have brought the message to the Mill Creek Baptist Church on numerous occasions. He is said to have performed the first marriage ceremony in Kentucky, uniting young Samuel Henderson and Betsy Calloway on August 7, 1776 at Fort Boonesboro.

The ancestral line of the Boones and their close association with the LaRue family is of interest. The first in the line was a George Boone, a Quaker immigrant from Exeter, England, who settled in 1717 near Bristol, Penna. Squire Boone, Sr., son of George, with his family moved from Bucks County, Penna., to Berks County and later (about 1748) to the Yadkin Valley of North Carolina. It was from this latter area that Daniel

and Squire came into Kentucky on their exploration and hunting trips.

In the Bucks County area, the Boones and the LaRues had been neighbors; another neighbor was the Lincoln family, ancestors of the President.

There were eleven children in the Squire Boone, Sr., family, among them Daniel, born 1735, died 1820, Squire, Jr., born 1744, died 1815, and Hannah, who married John Stewart, said to have been the first white man killed by Indians in Kentucky.

Daniel and Squire Boone are said to have spent some time at a camp in the Big Spring area. Possibly at that time Squire discovered the head of Doe Run Creek in present Meade County. He gave the name to that stream, due to the great number of deer found there. It is likely that while working from the Big Spring camp, Boone did much of the surveying of land for members of the LaRue family, their old neighbors from the Pennsylvania days.

The "Boone Book" in the Hardin County Clerk's office contains copies of many of Squire Boone's depositions as to his locating lands in the Hardin County area in the years 1778, 1779, and 1780. He located 8,000 acres for James LaRue located "on a small branch of Nolin." He located 1,000 acres for John LaRue "at a large spring running into Nolin. He entered 3,335 acres for Isaac LaRue, Sr., in "Bulger's Grove," supposed to be about ten miles from the Blue Ball and near the road leading to Hardin's settlement (Hardinsburg). He located and entered for John LaRue 6,000 acres "on the Ohio below the mouth of Doe Run Creek.

Enoch M. Boone married Lucy Goldman, who is buried with her husband in the Boone Cemetery on the Fort Knox military reservation.

(Source: Adapted from article in *The News Enterprise*, April 30, 1979.)

JENNY LIND IN KENTUCKY



One of the greatest artists to visit Kentucky was Jenny Lind. In April 1851 she traveled by stagecoach over the L&N Turnpike from Nashville to Louisville, where she was advertised to appear in two concerts.

On April 4, 1851, Miss Lind, after giving a concert in Nashville, traveled by stagecoach over the L&N Turnpike to Mammoth Cave. While en route to Mammoth Cave the stage stopped, probably to change horses, at Franklin, Kentucky. While there, tradition says, she stepped out of the coach and for the edification of the townspeople gathered about, rendered a couple of songs that held her audience spellbound.

Having left Nashville early in the morning, she and her party arrived at Bell's Tavern (now Park City) about nine o'clock that night, having traveled a distance of ninety miles that day. She spent the night there and most likely sang for other guests.

Early the next morning, April 5, the party left the turnpike and took the side road leading to Mammoth Cave. A large group accompanied her through the cave; and while in one of the avenues of the cave, she sat upon a large formation resembling a chair and sang several songs for the party.

Leaving Mammoth Cave in the early afternoon for Elizabethtown, the coach stopped at

Munfordville at Kerr's Inn. It is tradition that she sang for the guests in the parlor of Kerr's Inn. The party continued north and arrived in Elizabethtown in the late afternoon., She registered for the night at the Eagle House.

Very soon a large crowd gathered at the hotel begging her to sing. As the Eagle House did not have room to accommodate the crowd, Miss Lind went to Aunt Beck Hill's Inn (now the Brown-Pusey House) and stood upon the steps in front, where she sang several popular songs of the day in her marvelous voice. It is not known whether she sang Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

Jenny Lind seemed to appeal to everyone, as she had a very likeable personality and was very charitable. It is likely that all Elizabethtown turned out to hear this artist and to see P. T. Barnum, her noted manager. She was probably the greatest artist who has ever appeared in Elizabethtown.

The Lind party left Elizabethtown on the northbound stagecoach, owned and operated by Samuel Beal Thomas, who was referred to about that time as the "wealthy nabob" of Elizabethtown. It is reported that Miss Lind sat upon the driver's seat with Mr. Thomas, who drove the stage that day, in order that she might see more perfectly the beautiful springtime scenery around Muldraugh Hill.

The first concert in Louisville was held the night of April 7, in Mozart Hall. Not a seat was vacant, and the crowd that stood around the walls numbered hundreds. In response to popular demand, two other concerts were given that week. Total receipts for the three concerts amounted to \$19,419.50, averaging \$6,476.50 for each performance. These amounts were not unusual for her concerts; however, it was quite a showing for Louisville, as the 1850 census showed only 43,194 inhabitants.

On the following Saturday morning, the Lind party left Louisville on the Cincinnati boat, the *Ben Franklin*, one of the finest boats in western America. Her next concert was scheduled for Madison, Indiana, on April 12.

(Adapted from *A Series of Monographs Concerning the Lincolns and Hardin County, Kentucky*, by R. Gerald McMurtry, The Enterprise Press, Elizabethtown, Kentucky, 1938. Image of Miss Lind <http://www.wmol.com/whalive/lind.jpg>.)

HARDIN COUNTY ESTABLISHED

Establishing present-day Hardin County is an interesting story which really began with the landing at Jamestown in 1607. This account continues until the year 1843, when Larue County was formed, leaving the county's area for the most part as it is today. Fort Knox consumed a large segment of the northern part of the county during World War II, but limited jurisdiction for the area still rests with Hardin County.

In the year 1607 Captain John Smith landed at Jamestown, Virginia with a small band of settlers, establishing the first English-speaking colony in the New World. The Virginia settlement would become the first and largest of England's overseas colonies and would be the first it would lose, as a result of the American Revolution.

By 1634 the number of counties in Virginia had increased to a total of nine, all located in the Tidewater region, or mainly in the eastern part of the colony. A century later (1734), the number of counties had grown to thirty-nine, with the western frontier pushed to the Blue Ridge Mountains – what lay beyond was virtually unknown, although claimed by the British crown. The French, who settled in Canada, had explored the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys and laid claim to those areas. Those lands would in turn be lost by the French as a result of the French and Indian War.

In 1734 Orange County was the westernmost in Virginia and contained a tremendous amount of land, about equal to the western half of present-day Virginia. Augusta County, Virginia, was formed in

1738 from Orange County and began functioning in 1745. It then included the land which is now Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and some of present-day southwestern Pennsylvania. The western border was the Mississippi River. At that time future Hardin County was a part of Augusta County. In 1770 Augusta County was broken up and a portion of the area formed into Botetourt County; then later, in 1772, Fincastle County was formed, with jurisdiction over the land which would become the state of Kentucky.

Fincastle County had a short life, only four years, terminating at the end of December, 1776 when Kentucky County was formed. In 1780 it was divided into three counties: Jefferson, Fayette and Lincoln. By 1792, it had been divided into nine counties. Nelson County was formed from Jefferson in 1785.

There were an estimated 30,000 people in Kentucky in 1783, a total which had grown to approximately 75,000 by the year 1792. Thus a great number of citizens of Virginia lived a very long way from the capital city of Richmond. This remoteness resulted in problems and dissatisfaction in the handling of legal affairs and government functions. Communications were slow, which increased other problems. Kentucky residents, following the end of the Revolutionary War, felt "neglected" by their government in Virginia. The British, following the end of the war and the signing of a treaty of peace, had not given up control of Detroit and other points on the northern edges of the old Northwest Territory in spite

of the fact that this area had been conquered by George Rogers Clark and his men in 1778 and 1779. The fact that the British made no effort to control the Indians in that area and that raiding continued, supported by the British, was a matter of great concern to the Kentuckians.

Virginia officials offered no support to the settlers and even criticized Clark and other military leaders for their campaigns against the tribes north of the Ohio River. There was much agitation among the people living in Kentucky for separation from Virginia and the creation of a new state composed of the land known as Kentucky County at that time. The relationship between the two areas was doubtless becoming a bit strained, but a solution was in the offing.

A series of ten conventions were held at Danville leading to the eventual creation of the State of Kentucky and a constitution under which the new state would be governed. The first convention was held December 27, 1784, followed by nine others during the period from 1785 to 1790. Finally, a meeting, termed "The First Constitutional Convention," was held April 2 - 19, 1792.

During some of the years when the Kentucky residents were holding conventions directed toward the formation of a state, the Virginia General Assembly was passing enabling acts to assist in the separation of Kentucky from the mother state. The Kentucky Convention of July

1790 "memorialized" President Washington and Congress, seeking admission into the federal union as a state. President Washington strongly favored the proposal; and on February 4, 1791 an act was passed which admitted Kentucky. On June 1, 1792 Kentucky became the fifteenth state in the United States.

The first meeting of the Kentucky General Assembly took place on June 4, 1792, at Lexington. The second session of the new government convened November 6, 1792. On December 15 of that year an act was passed which created Hardin County from a portion of Nelson County, effective February 20, 1793.

Hardin County as first formed covered an enormous tract of land. It was bounded on the north by the Ohio River, on the east by the Salt and Rolling Fork rivers, and on the south and west by the Green River. It embraced all of the present-day counties of Larue, Hancock, Meade, Daviess and Grayson; great parts of Hart, Edmonson, Butler and McLean; as well as small parts of Henderson and Green. The last part of Hardin County which was used in the formation of another county was taken in 1843 for Larue.

It may be of interest to readers to learn that Andrew Hynes, one of the pioneer settlers of Severns Valley, who laid out the town of Elizabethtown and named it for his wife, was one of the delegates to the August, 1785 convention, and also to the April, 1792 Constitutional Convention.

(Source: Adapted from material in the files of the Hardin County Historical Society.)

