

Remembering A Real American Hero

FIRST HARDIN COUNTIAN NAMED TO HONOR IN 1911

By Susan McCrobie, newsletter editor

A hundred years has passed since a simple act of human kindness took place in a remote area of Hardin County leading to the proclamation of a real American hero.

With the passage of time, the excitement of that July 31st day has become all but obscure. The participants all grew old, died, and their graves are now overgrown with the thick vegetation that has reclaimed an area once active. Only the written record of deeds keeps the memory of one life in the unpretentious hamlet of Solway vibrant.

The Ford schoolhouse at Solway in the summer of 1911 was having work done on a well. Timothy Cundiff, a local forty-three year old laborer, was overcome by damp in the well some thirty-five feet below the earth's surface. The men gathered in the daylight at the mouth of the well all refused to descend into the bowels of the earth for Cundiff. A young man arrived at the scene and agreed to descend

and he was lowered with a rope tied to him. When he was twenty-five feet from the top, he signaled to be draw up as he was getting dizzy.

Enter John Robert Sadler, a thirty-nine year old farmer and father of five. His youngest child, a fifteen-month old son named Bent, happens to have married this writer's great-aunt, Janie Evans, in 1929.

J. R. Sadler arrived just as the first fellow, attempting rescue, was being hoisted. When he learned what had caused the accident where two of his boys, Bryan and Sam, attended school he agreed to descend into the well shaft. He had the men lower him into the well with the rope tied around his waist but when reaching the bottom found the rope too short to permit his stooping. A delay of one or two minutes resulted while the rope was being spliced. A chain was lowered, Saddler tied it around Cundiff, and both men were hoisted. Once above ground, Cundiff was revived.

Afterwards, Sadler was nominated for a Carnegie Medal for Heroism and presented with the honor in 1916.

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission was established April 15, 1904 to recognize persons who perform acts of heroism in civilian life, in the United States and Canada, and to provide financial assistance for those disabled or for the dependents of those killed by their heroic acts.

Sadler was the first Hardin Countian to receive this prestigious award and one of only 151 Kentuckians to be bestowed with such honors,

Since that time, five other Hardin County residents have been named as recipients of this award including:

1975-GARY CRAWFORD-Fort Knox

Gary Crawford died attempting to save Ronald Milliken from drowning, Brandenburg, Kentucky, May 26, 1975. Ronald, 15, fell into the Ohio River, where the current moved him downstream and carried him farther from the bank. Crawford, 18, high-



The Carnegie Hero Fund was established on April 15, 1904. The medal carries the image of its patron, Andrew Carnegie.

school student, dived into the river and swam to where Ronald, having been submerged briefly several times, had gone under in deep water and failed to reappear. After probing the water in vain for Ronald, who drowned, Crawford called for help and then sank. Despite efforts to save him, Crawford also drowned.

1985-WILLIAM R. BURNS-Radcliff

William R. Burns died helping attempt to save Richard A. DeRuiter from suffocation, Radcliff, Kentucky, July 5, 1985. DeRuiter, 28, was rendered unconscious while working in a sewer lift station 25 feet below ground level, and his co-worker was overcome when he attempted a rescue. Burns, 34, police officer, went to the scene in response to a call for help. He immediately entered the station, in which there were gases present, to attempt a rescue, as did another man who arrived shortly. All four men were asphyxiated.

1985-DANNY CUMMINGS-Radcliff

Danny Cummings died attempting to save Richard A. DeRuiter from suffocation, Radcliff, Kentucky, July 5, 1985. DeRuiter, 28, was rendered unconscious while working in a sewer lift station 25 feet below ground level. His co-worker, Cummings, 27, waste water treatment plant supervisor, alerted help from a passing motorist then entered the station for him. Two other men arrived and entered the station in a rescue attempt, but they, as well as Cummings, were overcome by gases present in the station. All four men were asphyxiated.

1985-RAYMOND R. DAWLEY, JR.-Radcliff

Raymond R. Dawley, Jr., died helping attempt to save Richard A. DeRuiter from suffocation, Radcliff, Kentucky, July 5, 1985. DeRuiter, 28, was rendered unconscious while working in a sewer lift station 25 feet below ground level, and two other men were overcome when they attempted a rescue. Dawley, 37, water district assistant manager, went to the scene in response to a call for help. He immediately descended a ladder into the station, in which there were gases present. Dawley grasped one of the

unconscious men and took him toward the ladder before losing his grip on the man. Dawley was overcome. He, DeRuiter, and the other two men were asphyxiated.

1991-WILLIE E. WEST-Sonora

Willie E. West helped to save Charlene J. Beron from burning, Punta Gorda, Florida, May 10, 1991. Mrs. Beron, 60, was rendered unconscious after her automobile was struck from behind by a delivery truck and burst into flame. West, 37, ran to the burning car from a nearby shopping center, as did another man. They struggled to open the doors on its driver's side, then found Mrs. Beron on the back seat, near flames which were entering the car through its broken windows. With flames increasing, West partially entered the car, seized Mrs. Beron, and, aided by the other man, who also had entered, pulled her out. They carried her away from the car moments before it was engulfed in flame. Mrs. Beron was hospitalized for injuries received in the accident, and West sustained blistering to his right arm, from which he recovered.

Four of the county's recipients of this honor died while coming to the aid of another.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In August 2011, John Lay went in search of the final resting place of John Robert Sadler at the Reed's Cemetery to discover if one of the Carnegie Medals appears on the grave stone to mark this significant lifetime achievement. The cemetery is located 2500 feet off of Hwy. 920 in the woods just about a mile west of the Pole Bridge Baptist Church in the Solway area.

The vegetation has engulfed the area and a four-wheeler ride down the right-of-way of high tension power lines instead of the old road bed delivered photos of the almost inaccessible family cemetery for publication.

No trace of a Carnegie honor was found on site.



Top: The Reed Cemetery in a remote section of southwestern Hardin County is ravaged by time and nature.

Left: A modest stone marks the grave of J.R. Sadler. Sadler's wife, the former Mollie Reed is also buried in the cemetery.

More Facts Come to Light after 100 Years *and a couple of photos revealed....*

Brother John R. Clark, Jr. tells the readers of the Bits and Pieces that he remembers once seeing the Carnegie Medal awarded to John Robert Sadler.

"It was in a nice little 4 inch square box and the top popped open," shared Clark regarding the little honor presented to his wife's grandfather after the 1911 rescue.

Clark says that after Sadler's death the medal passed from oldest living child to the next in line at their death. They were proud of their father and his actions.

The last Clark new of the whereabouts of the medal was in Louisville with Harley Sadler.

Clark says that his wife's grandfather was not the type of person who wanted much attention and that very fact may be why there was never any interview or local news story about the Ford schoolhouse well mishap and only a brief mention of it after the award some years later.

Interestingly enough the medal is not all that John Robert Sadler received from the Carnegie Foundation. He also was given a \$500 cash award.

According to Clark, Sadler was never handed cash

but was reimbursed for \$500 worth of building materials, lumber, that was used to build a barn just across the road from the family home.

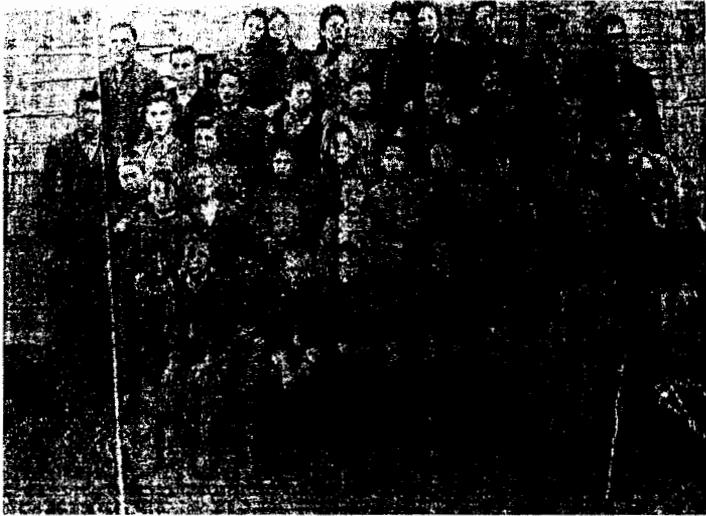
*Photos courtesy of
John R. Clark, Jr.*

Mrs. John Robert Sadler, the former Mollie Reed, proudly holds the Sadler family bible while seated next to her home. The bible is now in the possession of the Clark family. Notice the large barn in the photo background.



John Robert Sadler is seated and surrounded by his family in this 1940 photo taken at a reunion. A little Gladys Daughtery [Mrs. John R. Clark] is standing in front of her grandfather and her mother, Gracie Sadler Daughtery, is standing immediately behind the old gentleman. Gracie's husband, Willie, is standing at her left.

A Look at Solway's Old Schoolhouses



Left: This photo of the first Ford schoolhouse was made in 1884 just a few short years before the log building was replaced by a clabber board building that formed a campus like school of considerable size at Solway. Right: A photo taken in 1908 shows the size of the school and its student body.



One-room schoolhouses were commonplace throughout the rural portions of Hardin County for many years. It is not a surprise to find reference to them in many old deeds housed at the county clerk's office.

From time-to-time, the local newspaper has printed images from the past, including old school year photos, with an old schoolhouse as a backdrop of a sea of smiling faces and their stern-faced teacher.

These records form a brief history of the old Ford schoolhouse, erected on the property of D.W. Ford, Sudie M. Ford, his wife, and Mattie Ellen McGrew, and once active at Solway with the chatter of students at work, happy shouts at recess, and footsteps coming and going a shell immortalized only on paper and in the heart of the dwindling number of those whose names appeared on its roll.

In 1884, the log Ford's school was located in a depression on the Ford farm at the rear of the old Popin frame house that served as the Solway Post Office for a time.

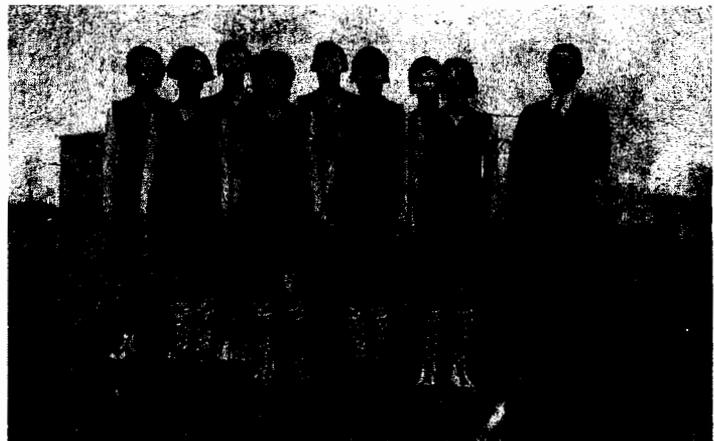
A portion of that same farm, about an acre, was later owned by Claud S. Givan, Audrey Givan, his wife, Claud's sister, Leona, and her husband, Lewis M. Dupin in August 1930 before it was conveyed to the Hardin County Board of Education by deed for one dollar and other valuable considerations. That parcel of land was used to build a six-room house to be used as home for teachers of a newer clabber board Ford school, built after May 1899 on a half acre lot purchased from James Miller by the Trustees of School District #39 for the sum of eight dollars.

It may be of interest to the readers of this publication that Claud Givan taught at the Ford

school during the 1909-11 school terms and while there met a neighboring school teacher and married her. In 1923, Givan began running the bank at East View and eventually sold insurance in Elizabethtown from a location on North Main that now houses the Hardin County Clerk's older deeds.

Mr. and Mrs. Givan were the parents of Martha Owsley [Mrs. Bobby Gene.]

*To learn more about the Ford school and other early schools in Hardin County check out Carolyn Wimp's book, **Early Schools in Hardin County, Kentucky.***



1928 Girls Basketball team from Ford High School. The school was the 10th county school to have a high school. In 1924 it added two years beyond the 8th grade level of instruction. By 1928, children could expect to receive a 12 year education at Ford and 1929 saw two graduates from the school. The school was eventually closed after Western was built across the highway.

Hands-On Leader Rolls Up Sleeves Here

Double Medal of Honor Recipient Found Locally

Article Previous War Record of Capt. Cukela

Captain Louis Cukela, a Fort Knox officer now residing at the Joplin Hotel, this city, was "The Most Outstanding Marine Hero" of the World War, according to an article in the April, 1932, issue of "Battle Stories" magazine.

The article, written by Frank H. Benfrow, and entitled "Lone Wolf of the Devil Dogs," tells how Capt. Cukela, then Sgt. Cukela of the U. S. Marines, cleaned out single-handed a nest of German machine gunners. For this feat of bravery Sgt. Cukela was awarded both the army and navy Congressional Medals of Honor. Only five men of the World War have been awarded both medals.

The Marine Sergeant's distinguished service during the war also won for him the Medaille Militaire, Legion of Honor and three awards and the French Croix de Guerre, the Italian Croce de Guerra, three citations for bravery from the Italian Government and a number of other medals and decorations.

Captain Cukela, a native of Siberia, is a naturalized American citizen. He has also been active service in the Philippines, Haiti, San Domingo and China.

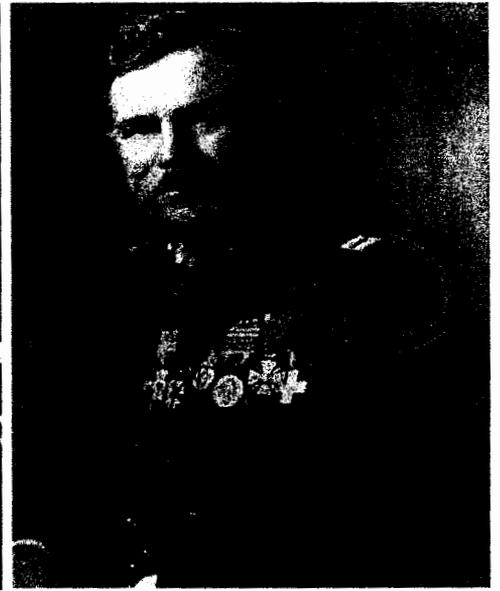
In 1933 there was much activity on the local scene with the construction of a new Civilian Conservation Corps. Camp at Elizabethtown.

The Government's new C.C.C. Camp here, located on Hays Burnett's North Dixie property, was one of thirteen new camps erected in the state that year, making a total of 28 camps in the state that trained young men for private employment in a vocational school campus-like setting.

The Company Commander with the Civilian Conservation Corps. At Fort Knox during this remarkable period of growth was Captain Louis Cukela. Cukela resided at the Joplin Hotel in Elizabethtown while construction of five barracks, mess hall, recreation building, administration building and storehouse as well as roads and utility lines were under way. He was renowned for leadership and being found in the center of all the action.

Born at Sabenes, Austria, on May 1, 1888, Cukela, before arriving in Kentucky, was a double recipient of the Medal of Honor, one by the Army and one by the Navy for the same action in World War I—rushing enemy machine gun emplacement, killing or driving off the crew with his bayonet and bombing the remaining portion of the strong point with German handgrenades while capturing 4 men and damaging 2 machine guns. He was serving at the time as Sergeant, 66th Company, 5th Marine Regiment at Villers-Cotterets, France.

Only five men of the World War have been awarded both medals. Cukela was the last double recipient of the Medal of Honor to die when he passed away at the Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland, on March 19, 1956. He was buried in Section 1 of Arlington National Cemetery.



-Hardin County Enterprise
December 21, 1933

On left, Sgt. Louis Cukela wearing the U.S. Navy Tiffany Cross Medal of Honor at his neck and on the right, the U.S. Army Medal of Honor at the neck and the Tiffany Cross on the breast to the right.

YOUNG GIRL SHOT DOWN FROM AMBUSH; WOMAN IN JAIL CHARGED WITH CRIME EVA GREGORY'S MURDER AT SOLWAY TUESDAY WAS DESPICABLE DEED.

Jealousy of Ella Monroe is Alleged to Be Motive For Crime.

TWO HAD THE SAME LOVER.

W. R. Dupin Arrested as Accomplice—Both Accused Maintain Innocence.

VICTIM OF THE TRAGEDY AND THE GIRL WHO IS ACCUSED OF THE CRIME



MISS EVA GREGORY



MISS ELLA MONROE

Miss Eva Gregory, the nineteen year old daughter of Steve Gregory, was shot and instantly killed on a road near her home, three miles from Solway, Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock. The bullet was fired from ambush while the girl was passing through a wood.

Miss Ella Monroe, age twenty-one, and Will Roy Dupin are under arrest charged with the crime. The Monroe girl is charged with being the principal, and Dupin with acting as an accomplice. Both maintain their innocence.

They were arrested near Solway yesterday by Sheriff W. C. Elliott and lodged in the Hardin county jail yesterday afternoon. They will be arraigned today before Judge Rider and their examining trial set. Gus Brown, of Hardinsburg, is here to defend Ella Monroe.

The killing occurred close enough to the Gregory home for the parents of the girl to hear the shot. She was dead when they reached her side, and her clothing was on fire from powder burns. She was riding a horse when killed.

Circumstantial Evidence

The evidence against the

Monroe girl is purely circumstantial. Briefly stated, the circumstances which tend to connect her with the crime, are as follows.

1. The Gregory girl and the Monroe girl were corresponding with the same sweetheart, and had not spoken for several months on account of jealousy.

2. The Monroe girl saw the Gregory girl at Solway on the afternoon of the shooting, and left there in time to go to her home, get a gun and reach the scene of the tragedy by the hour the murder is said to have occurred.

3. The wad from a shell of the 28 gauge gun was found in the Gregory girl's clothing. The only

28 gauge gun in the community so far as known, has been recently

borrowed by W.R. Dupin, who lives at Monroe's home.

4. Dupin stated under oath that he borrowed two shells to fire in the gun, and used one of them, placing the other on the mantle at the Monroe home Monday at noon. The shell

could not be found after the killing.

5. Tracks led from the scene of the killing in the direction of the

The Gregory Murder in a Nutshell

THE VICTIM - Eva Gregory

THE ACCUSED - Ella
Monroe and Will Roy
Dupin

THE TIME - Tuesday
afternoon, four o'clock

THE MOTIVE - Ella
Monroe, jealousy; Dupin,
none known

THE EVIDENCE - Purely
circumstantial.

Monroe girl's house. The measurement of the tracks fit identically with Ella Monroe's shoes.

6. Ernest Cundiff swore that the Monroe girl told him three weeks ago that the Gregory girl "would be sorry for some of the things she is doing."

7. Letters found on the person of the Gregory girl, and in the possession of Ella Monroe evidence the intense jealousy between them.

Details of Killing

Miss Gregory, in company with Mrs. Will Walker, rode horseback to Solway Tuesday afternoon reaching Montgomery's store and the post office about two o'clock. The Gregory girl had a letter which she had written to her lover, Clarence Quiggins of Abingdon, Ill., but which, for some reason, she did not mail. Quiggins is the son of Ed Quiggins and formerly lived near Solway.

Met Ella Monroe

While at Montgomery's they met Ella Monroe, a daughter of John D. Monroe, who had spent the night with Bill Skeeters and family, who live near the Gregory farm. The Monroe girl received from the postmaster a letter from Quiggins. The girls did not speak, as they had not been on good terms for several months.

Monroe Girl Left First

Ella Monroe left the store between two and three o'clock, and in a short time Mrs. Walker and Miss Gregory started together on horseback for their homes. The Monroe girls lives a mile east of Solway, while the killing occurred about two miles north-west. It was necessary for Ella Monroe to cover a distance of at least three miles across the country to have gone from Montgomery's store to her home, procured a gun, and returned to the scent of tragedy.

Killing in Wood

Mrs. Walker, who lived between Solway and the place where the killing occurred, stopped at her home, leaving the Gregory girl to go the remainder of the way alone. When the latter reached a wood,

out of sight of any house, she was shot. The shell entered her right breast, and death was instantaneous. Her clothes were on fire from powder burns, when her parent, attracted by the shot, reached her side.

Circumstance in Accused Girl's Favor

The strongest circumstance in favor of the accused girl is that of time. According to evidence adduced Wednesday at a court of inquiry, Ella Monroe, on foot, left Solway only a short time before the Gregory girl departed. The latter was riding horseback, and went directly toward her home. If the Monroe girl's gun was at her house a mile in the other direction, she would hardly have had time to procure it, and retrace her steps two miles across the field and intercept Eva Gregory.

Monroe Girl Not Seen

No one offers any testimony that they saw the Monroe girl between the time she left Montgomery's store until she reached her home at 4:30. She says that she first learned of the shooting at five o'clock when her mother received a phone message from Mrs. James Calvert announcing it.

Went to Barnes Home

According to Ella Monroe's statement, shortly after she reached her home in the afternoon she went to the house of Mrs. Curt Barnes, to pay a neighborly visit. Mrs. Barnes, under oath, said the Monroe girl stayed five minutes, while the latter testified that the time was from an hour to an hour and a half.

Restless in Night

Mrs. Barnes testified that Ella Monroe sent for her at ten o'clock Tuesday night, asking her to remain the rest of the night, because she (Ella Monroe) was scared and nervous. Mrs. Barnes said the Monroe girl did not sleep at all during the night. Ella Monroe said that the Barnes woman came to her house voluntarily, and denied that she was nervous or sleepless.

Dupin's Testimony

Will Roy Dupin, age twenty-four, who lives at Monroe's, testified that ten days ago he borrowed a 28 gauge gun from a son of Humphrey Helms to go fox hunting. He swore that he also borrowed two shells, and had used one of them. The other, he said, he placed on the mantle at Monroe's house, Monday at noon. The shell could not be found Wednesday when the investigation was made.

Wad From Shot Found in Body

When the blood-stained clothes of Miss Gregory were removed from her body the wad from a twenty-eight shell was found. According to the statement of neighbors there is only one twenty-eight gun in the community, and that is the one in possession of the Dupin boy. Members of the Monroe family protested that the gun was in their house all day Tuesday, Dupin was working Tuesday at the farm of Luther Quiggins, near Solway.

Tracks Led to House

After the killing neighbors found tracks leading from the scene of the tragedy to the home of Monroe, but they were not traced closer than a half mile to the house. The tracks were measured and corresponded exactly to the size of the girl's shoes.

Willing Witness

Ella Monroe is a small, sharp-featured brunette, and apparently has more than average intelligence. She answered questions glibly, and was at times vehement in protesting her innocence. "I hate it awfully," she said in speaking of the tragedy. "Eva Gregory and I were schoolmates and playmates together all our lives, and I was shocked to hear of her death."

On Bad Terms

The Monroe girl admitted however that they had not spoken for several months, but averred that it was the Gregory girl's fault. "I don't know what she got mad about," she said. Mrs. Barnes, however, declared that Ella Monroe had, at different times, spoken in a resentful manner of

the love affair between Eva Gregory and Quiggins.

Letter is Incriminating

The letter, received Tuesday by Ella Monroe from Quiggins, indicates the bad feeling between the two girls. The Monroe girl had evidently protested against Quiggins' attentions to Miss Gregory, as in the letter he replies by start that he went to Steve Gregory's house to trade horses, and not to see Eva Gregory.

Another Letter Shows Jealousy

Another letter-written by Eva Gregory to Quiggins-but not mailed, and found on the dead girl's person, gives further evidence of the jealousy existing between them. In it the Gregory girl says in substance that she asked Quiggins not to write to Ella Monroe, but that she had found out that he had not complied with her request. "That's all right, because it has to be all right," the Gregory girl wrote.

Maintains Innocence

When seen at the county jail late yesterday afternoon, Dupin stoutly maintained his innocence, and declared that he contributed a quarter toward the fund to pay for securing blood hounds to trail the guilty parties. He said that he was working in a field of Luther Quiggins when the shot occurred, and had several witnesses by whom he could prove an alibi. Dupin is twenty-four years old and a son of John Dupin, deceased.

Cundiff's Statement

Ernest Cundiff stated that Ella Monroe told him three weeks ago that "Eva Gregory would be sorry for some of the things that she is doing." So far as learned this was the only threat that the Monroe girl ever made against the victim of the tragedy.

Magistrate's Inquest

The inquest into the killing was held Tuesday night by Esq. G. L. Hodges. The verdict was that "Eva Gregory came to her death from gunshot wound from the hands of an unknown person." Bloodhounds were gotten to the scene Tuesday night, but failed to give the officers material assistance to getting a clue.

Much Interest Taken

A crowd of at least 500 citizens were gathered at Solway Wednesday when the investigation was made. The number was divided between Montgomery's store and the Gregory and Monroe homes. There was much interest manifested, but no evidences of unusual feeling or violence.

Officers Present

County Attorney Buckles and Deputy Sheriff Fife made the investigation. There was a tense situation when Mr. Buckles took Ella Monroe to Gregory's home in the hope that she would confess. The parents of the victim spoke to the Monroe girl, but had nothing to say to her.

Raised in Breckinridge

The Monroe family lived in the Hudsonville precinct of Breckinridge county until seven years ago, when they removed to Hardin. The accused girl's father is John D. Monroe. She also has one brother. Her mother, too, is living.

Burial Yesterday

The funeral of Eva Gregory was held yesterday morning at eleven o'clock at the Pleasant Grove church, and was conducted by the Rev. Green Cundiff. A great throng of people were present. The deceased is survived by her parents and one brother, Claude Gregory.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A two day examining trial calling 31 witnesses was held. The newspaper reported 400 to 800 people in attendance and at its close Monroe was held under a \$5,000 bond to stand trial for murder; charges against Dupin were dismissed.

Monroe was unable to make bond or a lowered bond of \$2,000.

A total of 54 witnesses were summoned for commonwealth, 50 for the defense, and about 29 witnesses for the defendant failed to answer delaying the trial.

Before the trial, Monroe's father attempted suicide from worry over his daughter.

The jury required only one ballot for an unanimous verdict of not guilty on March 16, 1917.

PROFFERS OF HELP FOR ELLA MONROE.

Letters From All Parts of Country Received By Girl Accused of Murder.

As another indication of the widespread attention which her case is attracting throughout the country, Miss Ella Monroe, who is confined in the Hardin county jail awaiting trial on charge of the murder of Miss Eva Gregory, is receiving letters from all parts of the country by persons who have become interested in her fate.

Miss Monroe's correspondents are from Olerfeld, Ga., Gettysburg, Pa., and New York City.

From Olerfeld W. D. Wall writes that he has seen an account of the crime in the Chicago Blade, and declares that doesn't believe Miss Monroe to be guilty. "I truly hope you will come clear. You surely have my best wishes. If you will I would like to hear from you," says Wall in his missive.

Edwin L. Lovelley, of Gettysburg, Pa., writes that he is a friend of Clarence Quiggins, and therefore, feels an interest in the case. He says he has read of the Gregory murder in the Philadelphia papers, but "trusts it is not as serious as printed."

Some advice is given in a letter from William Harrison Bender, of New York City, who urges Miss Monroe to "be kind; be honest; be tolerant; be considerate, be forgiving." Bender concludes by stating "but he hopes to hear of Miss Monroe's liberty ere long."

Miss Monroe has very comfortable quarters at the jail, and is apparently in the best of spirits.

-Elizabethtown News.
Friday, April 14, 1916

MANY HARDIN COUNTIANS ARE DUPED.

Smooth Fraud Perpetrated on Heirs of Famous Drake Estate.

How many Hardin countians were duped, and defrauded out of sums of \$25 to \$50 each, came to light Saturday in Lexington, as the result of sensational disclosure, and a warrant for the arrest of Dr. Lewis South, on charge of using the United States mails to defraud.

Dr. South represented himself as in a position to collect for citizens of the United States a vast amount said to be due them in the disposition of Sir Francis Drake estate, and succeeded in raising a very large sum, of which \$13,000 has already been accounted for by Government officials.

Dr. South left Frankfort January 14, of this year, and has not been heard from.

Through Dr. South's instrumentality the Kentucky Branch of the United Association of Drake Heirs was formed, and the members contributed toward Dr. South's fee.

The Hardin county members of the Association are:

- Mrs. Cyrus Veira, Valley Station.
- Dr. J. R. Hopkins, Vine Grove.
- Mrs. D. M. Brown, city.
- Mrs. C. E. Proman, Glendale, Ariz., formerly near Cedar Creek.
- Mrs. Horace Shearer, West Point.
- Mrs. Hagan Blind, Sonora.
- Mrs. C. L. Barnes, Elizabethtown.
- Mrs. Sue Packerill, Glendale.
- Mrs. Ella Bidwell, Elizabethtown.

Front page article found in the Tuesday, August 1, 1916 edition of the Elizabethtown News

Family Fortune or Fraud?

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE ESTATE DILEMMA CROSSES DECADES IN GREAT SWINDLE

Sir Francis Drake, noted pirate and first English Admiral, died in 1595 of dysentery. Since his death, there has been much debate over his lineage. Sir Francis Drake knew very little about his ancestry and because of his wealth and fortune, many have claimed to be a descendent and heir to him. In 1870, the first Sir Francis Drake Association was formed to finally settle the estate of Sir Francis Drake. The two most active members of the Association were later found not to be direct descendants of Drake; this was just the beginning of a great swindle.

The *Elizabethtown News* reported on January 5, 1909 that "Mrs. A. J. Patterson, the wife of the well known farmer residing near Chest Grove, this county, says she will come into possession of \$3,000,000 as her share of the \$80,000,000 estate of the great Sir Francis Drake. Mrs. Patterson who was a Miss Combs before her marriage, is in communication with the Administrators, who are setting the estate and seems to have no doubt but that some day she will get this vast fortune. Her great grandmother was a Miss Drake, who it is claimed was a direct descendant from the great Englishman. Messrs. John and Leslie Coombs, now also of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, but formerly of this county, are heirs to the estate. A copy of the will of Sir Francis Drake has been procured and is at Hodgenville. From all appearances there seems to be some prospect of Mrs. Patterson coming into possession of this fortune and her many friends here and in the county will shower congratulations on her when this fact becomes known."

Legal technicalities preventing settlement came up year after year with monotonous regularity. Prospective heirs invested time and money in the contest; their numbers grew as promoters and their lawyers showed up to represent the many Drakes staking claim and forming local Francis Drake Associations. The important idea of rival heirs was introduced, but the fundamental premise, the proposition that the Drake Estate was for real and could be delivered by somebody, was never questioned.

By August 1916, Hardin County Drake Heirs and Association members were looking for legal relief in another form.

- The Francis Drake Association Hoax -

In 1913, those with the last name Drake were sent a letter claiming there was a fortune of over 22 billion left over from the estate of Sir Francis Drake. To claim a part of the estate, the "descendants" would have to pay for legal expenses to trace their lineage to Sir Francis Drake and move the claim through the legal system. In all, approximately 2 million dollars was collected.

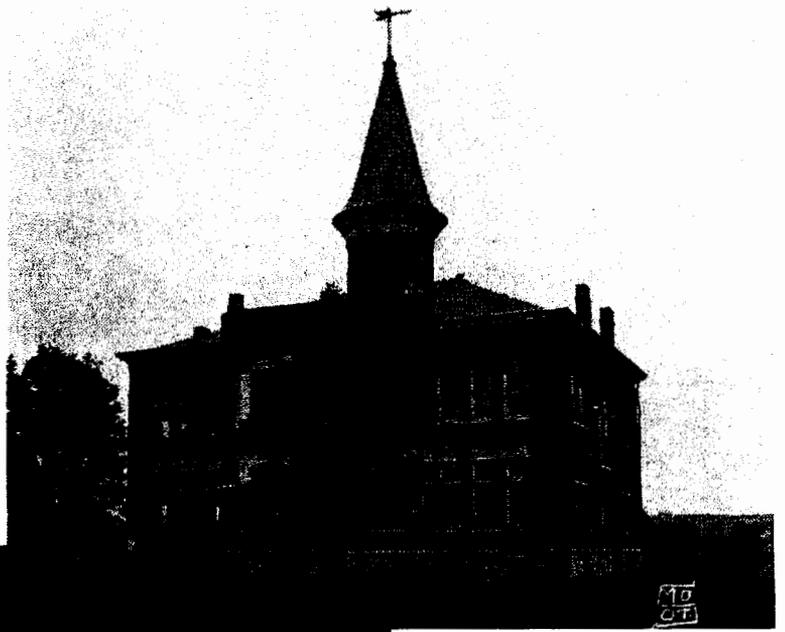
The letter and the organization, the Sir Francis Drake Association, was a hoax. An Iowa Farmer, Oscar Merrill Hartzell, was behind the letters.

By the time Hartzell was caught, he had conned approximately 70,000 out of approximately \$2 million. Many of those who had donated, however, refused to believe they had been conned and donated nearly \$350,000 towards Hartzell's legal fund. Despite being able to afford a good legal defense, Hartzell was convicted of mail fraud and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. He was later transferred to a mental institution where he remained until his death in 1943.

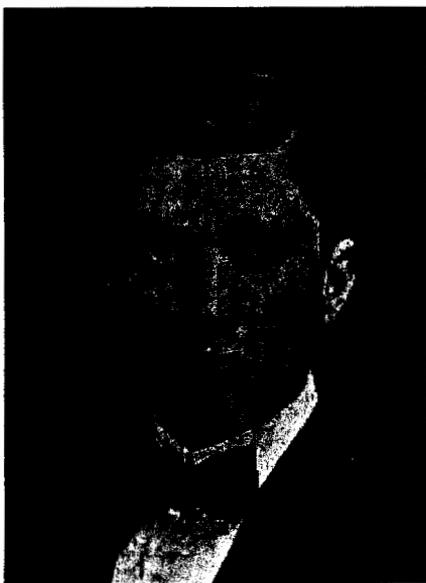
Hardin County High School

The Hardin County High School was organized in 1909, by the union of the County High School and the Elizabethtown High School under the name given above and operated by the joint authority and expense of the two Boards of Education.

The first annual of the school, Class of '11, has recently be found and donated to the Hardin County History Museum. Among the contents of the annual are photos that recall landmarks in the community and faces of those who contributed to her success.



The 1911 Senior Class of Hardin County High School is seen here during a performance of their senior play, *Cupid at Vassar*, on stage at the Stewart Opera House. The cast of characters included Russel Turner as John Willett, Frank Strickler as Amos North, Orville Willett as Shiny, Russell Albert as Hank Gubbin, Minnie Sweets as Mrs. Carroll, Otie Dunavan as Kate Newton, Ruth Bruner as Wanda Carroll, Evelyn Dyer as Miss Page, and Nell Logsdon as Helen Conway.



Frank P. Strickler

In 1911, Frank P. Strickler, Jr. was fondly called "Doc" by his classmates at the Hardin County High School in Elizabethtown.

This young man was swift in achieving his class prophecy as he spent a year residency (1915-16) under the tutelage of the renowned Orthopaedic Dr. Virgil P. Gibney of the Rupture and Cripple Hospital before returning to Louisville to become an outstanding traumatic and industrial surgeon.

Dr. Strickler died July 20, 1974 in Jefferson County, Kentucky.

A Brilliant Young Surgeon.

Dr. Frank Strickler, of New York City, is one of Elizabethtown's young men who promises, when he gets into practice, to take a high rank as a surgeon. He is recognized in New York as a coming young man in his profession. Recently he has been made Executive House Surgeon in the Woman's Hospital, a coveted honor among the students and the young surgeons and one that young Strickler has won entirely upon his merits and his knowledge.

Excerpt from Friday, March 9, 1917
Elizabethtown News



Message From The President

“Life is not so much about beginnings and endings as it is about going on and on and on. It is about muddling through the middle.”

-Anna Quindlen

Greetings!

With the cool weather upon us, we meet again to warm our minds with the examination of one of our native sons. Mr. Jeffrey Caufield will be regaling us with tales from the life of Confederate soldier and later Judge J.D. “Jesse” Shacklette (1822-1905). Born in Hill Grove (then a part of Hardin County), Judge Shacklette lived a career encompassing blacksmith and wood workman; soldier with Co. A, 1st KY Cavalry under Ben Hardin Helm; town marshal of Brandenburg; police judge of Big Spring; and finally tax collector and 2-term police judge of Elizabethtown. A charter member in 1891 of the Hardin County Confederate Veterans Camp, we look forward to hearing the wonderful story of this man from our presenter.

In addition, we will also be presented with a new slate of officers for the upcoming 2012-2013 term. It is with that in mind that I would like to offer my personal thanks for the kindness and appreciation I have been shown as President of the society for the last four years. I have enjoyed my time directing this most august body, and while I had neither the face/name recognition abilities of a Kenny Tabb nor the command of Robert’s Rules of a Jean Davis or certainly even the knowledge of the history of our area of my dear departed friend Mary Jo Jones, I have gained a newfound respect for our local history, something I do not expect to ever lose. I envision nothing but the best for the officers to continue to lead us in what for some is a hobby, others a passion, but for all many relaxing evenings with good friends with common purpose.

-Jeff Lanz

MORE FROM THE 1911 THE HARDIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK....

FOR the first time in the history of the High School a athletic team was organized this year. It was in the form of a progressive and swift base ball team. It was very successful in its season’s work, only losing one game, which was to the strong University School of Louisville, and had there been a little more team work the University team would have met defeat.

The team was on a good average but the twirling of Jenkins, the batting of Strickler and Bowen, the fielding of Pate and the catching of Hagan deserves to be mentioned.



Base Ball Schedule.

March 21.	H. C. H. S. vs. Alumnia	7-3
March 21.	H. C. H. S. vs. Elizabethtown . .	11-4
April 8.	H. C. H. S. vs. Vine Grove H. S. .	27-11
April 15.	H. C. H. S. vs. Vine Grove H. S. .	8-4
April 17.	H. C. H. S. vs. Elizabethtown . .	5-3
April 25.	H. C. H. S. vs. Alumnia	24-4
May 13.	H. C. H. S. vs. University School	6-11

Total hits made by team, 65
Total hits made off of team, 34

May 16. Banquet given to the Base Ball team by Supt. Hoskinson.

THE LINE UP OF TEAM.

Hagan	Catch	Jones	Short and Pitch
Lane	Catch	Jenkins	Pitch
Bowen	1st Base	Strickler	3rd Base
Barnes	1st Base	French	Left Field and Pitch
Goodin	2nd Base	Neighbors	Center Field
Pate	Short Stop	Day	Right Field and 3rd Base

Substitutes: Morrison, Willett and Taber.

Historical Society announces next meeting



J. D. Shacklette

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, October 24, 2011, at the STATE THEATER GALLERY, 209 West Dixie Avenue, in downtown Elizabethtown. The buffet dinner, catered by BACK HOME, will be served at 6:30 PM. The price is \$8.50 per person. Call Judy French at 735-9698 by **Friday, Oct. 21st, for dinner reservations;** later reservations for the meal cannot be guaranteed.

The dinner is followed at 7 P.M. by a special program, "*J. D. Shacklette - Recalling Service to Hardin County and Dixie's Land,*" presented by Jeffrey L. Caufield, a Shacklette descendent and owner of Caufield & Associates Investment and Insurance and Castle Hill Antiques located in Louisville, Kentucky.

Please join us as Caufield shares the journey and times of Jessie Doc Shacklette and his wife, Belle, as they made history during the years surrounding the Civil War. You won't want to miss a chance in a lifetime to glimpse articles surviving their unique story taken out of storage for a journey back to Hardin County and one-time home.

My father, John Shacklett, was a Baptist preacher. His wife was Rachel Wimp, daughter of John and Margaret Fickel Wimp. They were Irish. John Wimp was born in London, England. His father was named John and his mother was Rosina Killpatrick. I have never heard of any Wimps in America except his descendants.

John Wimp was a Revolutionary soldier. He was in the Battle of Braddock's Defeat. After the war he married Margaret Fickel, daughter of Joseph and Rachel Fickel. They had seven boys and three girls.

John Wimp and his wife are buried at Hill Grove, Meade County, Ky. He had on when he died a Masonic medal which would neither rust nor canker. These letters were on the medal: HTW-SS-TKS.

I was born and raised near Hill Grove in Meade County, Ky., in the year 1822. There is an acre and half of ground I deeded for the purpose of a church building. It belongs to me or my heirs whenever it ceases to be a church. You can find it on record.

- Taken from the genealogy of the Shacklette family and written by Jesse Doc Shacklette in his 79th year of life in 1901.

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 381
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42702