

A Quarterly Publication
Of the Hardin County
Historical Society,
a Non-Profit Organization.
Originated in 1931

Bits and Pieces

OF HARDIN COUNTY HISTORY

www.hardinkyhistoricalsociety.org

Michael L. Bell, compiler

VOL. MMXVI NO. 4

ISSN 1536-1867

Fall 2016

Portions of the following information have been submitted by Teri Wise Eggleston (tweggleton@att.net) about her great-grandfather, **Solomon H. Godman**, a businessman, inventor, and entrepreneur. He born in 1846 in Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, Indiana, one of ten children born to Richard Gartrell Godman, who died when Solomon was 14. His mother, Mary (Hayes), was Richard's second wife.

For much of his professional life, Solomon was a principal officer in a bridge contracting company and traveled extensively throughout Indiana. Solomon and his wife, **Eliza A (Fox)** moved from Morgantown, Indiana, to Tunnel Hill in 1907. Eliza was born in November 1844 in Lafayette, Indiana, to Jonathan (Fox) and Margaret (Hawk). They were married on February 16, 1868, in White County, Indiana. They had three children. Jay Godman was born to the family in 1871. A second son was James Vinton Godman (born December of 1873) died in Warsaw, Indiana, in an heroic act of trying to save his boss's life. In 1886, while residing in Crawfordsville, Indiana, they adopted a daughter, Hattie Katherine. On December 22, 1915, Reverend L. O. Spencer united Hattie (30) to Walter Wise (33) in marriage at her mother's Elizabethtown residence. A first marriage for both.

While living at Tunnel Hill, Solomon Godman had wrote a book entitled **FORESTRY: SELECTING, CUTTING AND SELLING TIMBER**. He copyrighted this book in 1910 and had it published in Elizabethtown. Solomon incorporated his business on January 14, 1911, with the name of **S. H. Godman and Company**. The company bought and sold timber, timber lands, manufactured lumber, as well as other property, including real estate. The members of this company were S. H. Godman, Eugene Stuart, and R. Munford. On May 23, 1920, Eliza A. Godman purchased 26 acres of land in Tunnel Hill from William A. Gardner.



LOADING OVER 500 LOGS ON CARS, TUNNEL HILL, KY., NOV. 10, 1908.

The Godman family sold the Tunnel Hill property to Joseph Hicks on January 1, 1913. They then moved to Main Cross Street (US 31W—Dixie Hwy).

Mr. Godman died in October 1915 at his residence on Main Cross Street in Elizabethtown. The funeral was held at the residence with reported burial in the city cemetery. **HELP LOCATE THE GRAVE OF SOLOMON GODMAN - (270) 401-8848.**



Hattie Godman

Godman--Wise Wedding.

Miss Hattie Godman, an estimable young lady of Elizabethtown, will be married tomorrow to Walter Wise, of Morgantown, Indiana. The wedding will take place at half past ten o'clock at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. S. H. Godman, the Rev. L. O. Spencer officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Wise will leave at noon tomorrow for Morgantown to reside on the Mr. Wise's farm.

SUDDEN DEATH OF S. H. GODMAN.

Aged Citizen of Elizabeth- town Expires Saturday From Heart Attack.

Solomon H. Godman, aged seventy-one, expired very suddenly at his home in this city Saturday afternoon shortly after three o'clock, following a heart attack which lasted about two hours. Mr. Godman had been enjoying usual health, and was stricken ill while walking down town from his residence on Main Cross street. He returned to his home, and laid down on a couch, where he died in a short time.

The deceased was a native of Indiana, and was formerly a wealthy and prominent citizen of Lafayette. He was the proprietor of a bridge factory, and was engaged extensively as a breeder of fine stock. Coming to Har-
dix county in 1907, he lived three years at Tunnell Hill, and spent the remainder of his life in Elizabethtown. Mr. Godman was an honest, industrious man who bore his reverses with a stoicism and forbearance that won him the regard of many friends. He is survived by his wife, one son, Jay Godman, and one daughter, Miss Hattie Godman.

Funeral services were held yesterday morning at his late residence by Rev. L. O. Spencer, and burial followed in the city cemetery.

Suggestions on Forestry,

Selecting, Cutting and Selling Timber.

Rules

For Estimating and Measuring Timber.

Standard Log and Lumber Tables.

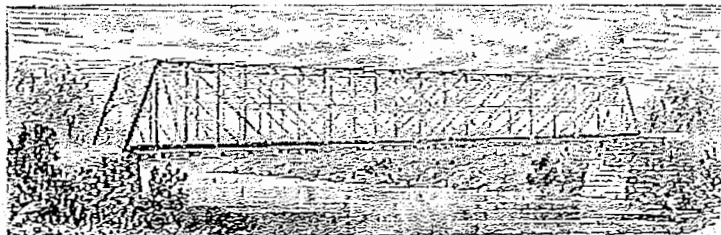
BY
S. H. GODMAN.

Price: Paper Cover 50 cts.
Imitation Russian Leather \$1.00.

The Mansfield Printery, Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Solomon's H. Godman's business name changed over the years. In the 1881 Indianapolis City Directory, it was Godman & Winslow Wrought Iron Bridge Co. In 1883 and 1884, it was called the Indianapolis Bridge Company. In 1887, it was called the Indiana Bridge Co. At that time, Solomon and his family were living in Muncie, Indiana.

WROUGHT-IRON BRIDGE CO.



310 SPAN BRIDGE, AURORA, INDIANA.

BUILDERS OF IRON, WOOD AND COMBINATION RAILROAD, HIGHWAY AND CITY BRIDGES AND GENERAL IRON CONSTRUCTION. OVER 5,000 NOW IN USE.

As a guarantee of the superior quality of our work, we refer to bridges erected by us in Indianapolis and throughout the State of Indiana.

GODMAN & WINSLOW, General Agents, 37 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, Ind.

OCTOBER 24TH MEETING

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TONY YORK'S ON MAIN

Dinner \$10.00 at 6:30

Program at 7:15

Samantha and Vincent Thompson will tell us of their plans with a look at Bethlehem Academy

RSVP—BROWN PUSEY HOUSE (270) 765-2515



This quarter, we would like to challenge you to help Toni Eggleston locate the grave of her great-great-grandfather, Solomon H. Godman. According to his Elizabethtown News Obituary, it is located in the city cemetery. If you have information on the grave of Solomon H. Godman, contact Mike Bell (270)401-8848 or mike@glendalecc.org

In the last issue, I challenged you to locate the grave of Michael Paul (died 1790). Michael Paul was the father of John Paul, first Hardin County Clerk and founder of my home town, Madison, Indiana. No new information was received. The challenge continues.

Did You KNOW



Bethlehem Academy was founded in **1830**. Records in the Hardin County Court Clerk's office show that John L. and Lucinda B Helm sold 580 acres of land for \$2550.00 to the Sisters of Loretto for the purpose of establishing a Catholic boarding school for girls.

1854 Ex Governor John L. Helm of Elizabethtown became the first president of the Louisville and Nashville railroad. He served for six years.

1869 Catholic Church school system begins in Elizabethtown.

1891 Joe Richardson of Star Mills, while plowing, dug up an old kettle full of gold pieces. Tiddle-De-Winks, the Elizabethtown News reporter for Star Mills wrote that finding the gold caused more excitement than the assassination of President Garfield in 1881. He also wrote, "Mr. Felix Stillwood claims the money was placed there by his grandfather in 1795 but failed to prove the fact. Joe says it is better to be born lucky than rich. I believe him."

1966 First classes taught at Vocational School in Elizabethtown to 235 senior and junior high school boys.

The above dates and information are from CHRONICLES OF HARDIN COUNTY KENTUCKY 1766-1974 by Mrs. Thomas Durham (Guy) Winstead. Copies will be available at our meeting for \$10.00. This is one of my favorite society offerings.

A Note from the President.....

Leaves are falling and another productive year is coming to an end. 2016 has been a successful year for the Historical Society. We have recruited several new members and increased our presence in the community. Interpretive signs can be seen around the square and on the streets telling colorful stories from our past.

New restaurants, businesses, and condos are popping up around the square and the downtown area is alive with renewed energy. These new establishments bring shoppers, diners and tourists who will read these signs and be educated, and entertained.

As I was thinking about my note to you.....I came across this reflection by Samuel Haycraft, Jr. a prominent Elizabethtown citizen in 1869. The quote is from his book, "History of Elizabethtown, KY", and I wanted to share this excerpt with you.

"For who can tell what Elizabethtown will be with her delightful and healthy location, with her enterprising and energetic population, her railroad facilities, her fine water, and her surroundings of intelligent and gentlemanly farmers, the best fruit country in the world, and her future manufactories that must spring up, and when it becomes a large city it will be well to look back upon her starting point."

Looking back and reflecting upon the past gives us a sense of orientation, where we've been and where we're going. History is important, it is the compass by which we chart the future. Haycraft foresaw a great future for Elizabethtown. How do we measure up in 2016?

Haycraft's quote can also be found in the "Chronicles of Hardin County, 1766-1974." Both books will be for sale at the October 24, quarterly meeting. The Chronicles book is filled with facts about our history, and it's a real bargain at \$10.

We have a great meal and program planned, so I hope you will join us for the evening at Tony York's in Glendale.

Tony York

Hardin County Historical Society

P. O. Box 381

Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701