

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

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VOL. MMXVII NO. 3

ISSN 1536-1867

Summer 2017

Resident of North Carolina Contacts Historical Society – Part II

This past Spring, Kenny Tabb shared a story about a resident of North Carolina having contacted the society to order books and learn more about Hardin County. I am the person Kenny referenced and am honored to share my connection with some of the county's history.



LULA DURHAM AND LELA DURHAM.

My initial interest emanated from the stories that my Grandma Lela told me when I was a child. To provide a background.... She and her twin sister, Lula, were born on May 18th, 1902 and were known in their childhood as the *Durham Twins of Elizabethtown*. The twins' father, E. D. Durham, and his brother, R. H. Durham, founded The Durham Bottling Works in 1905. The business was frequently written about and advertised in newspaper publications of the time. The history of the bottling works did not end well, hindered primarily by transportation obstacles, as bottled beverage had to be delivered by horse drawn wagon and the road system was not conducive to accomplish that. For this reason, as well as having too large of receivables on the books, the business sadly folded. Young Lela, Lula, and brother Hal with their parents Mary Amanda Tabb Durham and E. D. Durham moved

away from their beloved E Town in 1917 never to live there again.

It was always apparent to our family that Grandma Lela dearly loved the town of her youth and its people. She often spoke so fondly about it and was quite proud of her ties to its heritage. She told me the history of our ancestor, Captain Jacob Van Meter and the early settlers who arrived on flat boats. She recounted in detail the story of her own great, great grandmother, Elizabeth Rawlings Hart

Gunterman's fortitude and bravery. (Read Elizabeth's story in *Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown*.)

Her stories so affected me that whenever I faced what I considered to be difficulties in my life, I would reflect upon what it must have been like for Elizabeth

and the settlers. That always seemed to put things back into perspective for me.

As I have gotten older, the stories that my grandmother shared with me and the history of Hardin County's settlers has peaked my interest so much so that I decided to plan a visit to E Town. Two of my first cousins, Sheryl Stringer and Kathy Shook, joined me for the trip, arriving from Texas and Mississippi respectively. We coordinated our trip to arrive on May 18th in honor of Lela and Lula's 115th birthday.

We honored their memory by spending it at the Hardin County Museum with none other than Kenny Tabb giving us the tour. We walked into a replica cabin, much like the one that Elizabeth would have awoken in that fateful morning her family was attacked, her husband Mile Hart killed and she and her children taken captive. We especially enjoyed our visit to the Brown Pusey House where we were welcomed by the very hospitable Twylane Van Lahr and Barb Vail who further assisted us in our researching files and documents.



Brenda Ann Harris, Kathy Shook and Sheryl Stringer

More highlights of our trip included finding the house that our Grandmother's family lived in on Poplar Street as well as standing upon the very address where the Durham Bottling Works had operated their business in the early 1900s. We did not leave without visiting the cemeteries and paying our respects.

I would like to thank Kenny Tabb for the hospitality and history lessons that he provided. I also wish to acknowledge the wonderful

residents of E Town who were so gracious and welcoming. I departed with a meaningful reverence for Hardin County's history and an affection toward the people of E Town. Until the next trip.....

Brenda Anne Harris

GUNTERMAN, ELIZABETH RAWLINGS HART - (daughter of Edward and Rebecca Van Meter Rawlings) Elizabeth was born in Berkeley County Virginia and died in 1844, in Hardin County Kentucky. She first married **Miles Hart**, who was killed in 1790, by Indians. She and her children were captured by the Indians and some of the children were killed. She and her son Joseph were separated while captive and Joseph was rescued by his uncles. She was taken by the Detroit Indians and she gave birth to a baby who died about six months after birth. Several years later she persuaded a trader to help her return to her home in Kentucky. Joseph Hart was reimbursed for his expenses in obtaining her return.

Elizabeth is the mother of the following known children with Miles Hart: 1- Joseph Hart; 2- Edward Hart; 3- Unknown Hart (died 6 mos) and unknown number of children who died as a result of the Indian attack. From her second marriage with **Peter Gunterman** (in Nelson County Kentucky), she is the mother of: 1- Nancy (who married Samuel Price); 2- Sarah (who married Bailey Seaton Tabb); 3- Katherine (who married John Kellams). *Kentucky Genealogy Trails*

WILLIAMS – MUDD CEMETERY

By John Lay



The old Williams – Mudd cemetery and pioneer church site was relocated by John Lay and Steve Bowman on July 16, 2016. Located on part of the Thomas Lincoln's 238 acre Mill Creek farm on eight acres now owned by Kenneth Hester at 866 West Hebron, Shepherdsville, KY. With the help of Mr. Hester's neighbor, Dale Irwin, we were able to locate the site at 481 Lincoln Road.

On September 1, 1803, Dr. John Stator sold 238 acres to Thomas Lincoln for 118 English pounds. On the same day, Dr. Stator sold 50 acres to Walter Mudd for 25 pounds and Thomas Williams bought 200 for 60 pounds from Henry Irwin who had purchased it from Dr. Stator.

On October 27, 1814, Thomas Lincoln sold the farm to Charles Melton. In closing the transaction, he signed the deed of conveyance with his signature but his wife made her mark in the execution of the instrument. Because of a mistake by the court clerk in copying the deed calls Lincoln lost more the one-seventh of his total acreage and eighteen pounds of his original investment.

In the deed transferring the farm to Charles' son, Michael, there is a reference to the grave yard. In 1828, Michael Melton sold the property to John Peck with reference to the grave yard.

In 1841, John Peck sold to John D. Melton (with graveyard mentioned). In the summer of 1922, Dr. Louis Warren of the Lincoln National Life Foundation of Ft. Wayne, Indiana interviewed 87 year old Elizabeth Melton Nall the youngest daughter of John D. Melton. She remembered the old grave yard and church to Dr. Warren.. Mrs. Nall stated that the old church was so far gone that services were held at the Melton Home. She remembered individuals were buried in the cemetery.

Walter Mudd (ca 1764-1849), son of John Mudd and Mary Gibbs.

Violenda "Linnie" Williams (born 9 Sep 1764) married Walter Mudd sometime prior to 1792. Died 1856

Priscilla Gilmore, daughter of Walter Mudd, married Smith Gilmore on 24 Nov 1825

Thomas Williams (born 1799) son of Thomas Williams (b 2 Apr 1740) and Elizabeth Gibbs, daughter of James Gibbs

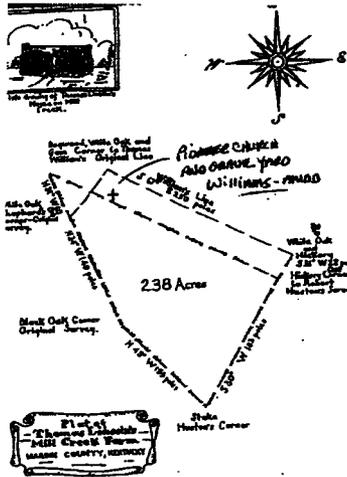
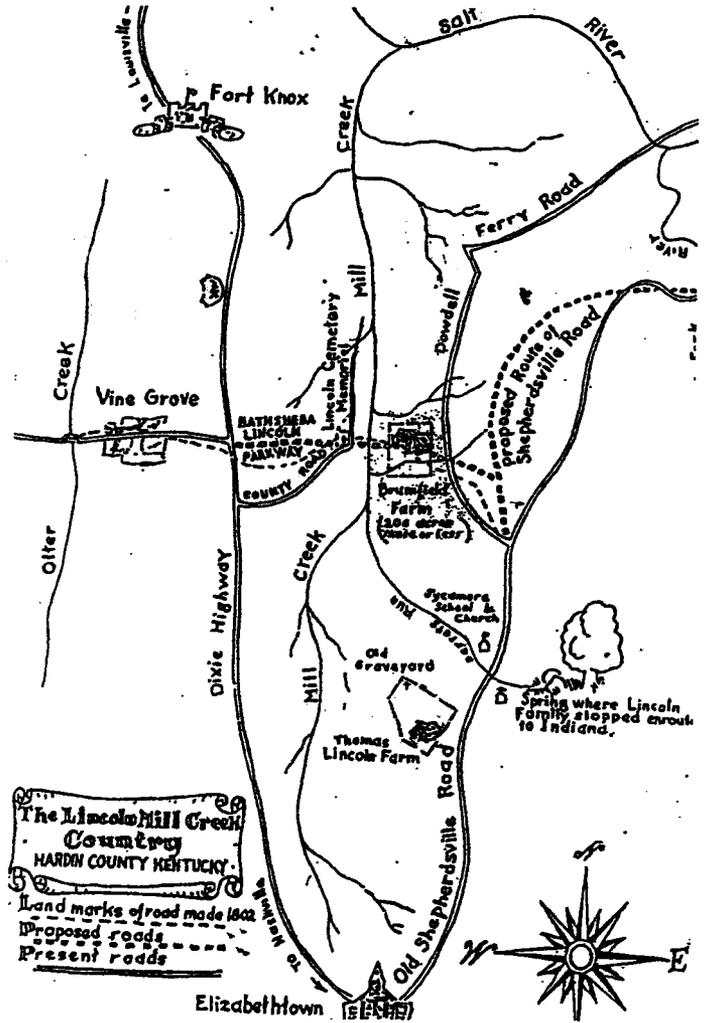
Rebecca Williams wife of Thomas Williams

William Scott (b. 14 Apr 1770 d between Apr and Aug 1842) son of John Scott, Sr. He married Priscilla Bunch on 31 Jan 1792 in Bedford County, VA.

Priscilla Bunch Scott (b 1764 Louisa Co., VA – d 15 Oct 1855) wife of William Scott and daughter of James and Mary Bunch

Sidney Williams and Wife

William Maples and Wife



In 1884, John D. Melton sold the property to Ben Irwin. Irwin then sold to John S. Irwin in 1889.

John Irwin sold to J. D. Nall in 1908; who sold to Marvin Nall in 1955. All transactions mention the inclusion of the cemetery.

July 31st Meeting at Nolin RECC

Heartland Catering preparing our meal of:



Cost of Meal
\$10.00

Chicken Breast with stuffing
Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Rolls,
Surprise dessert
Tea, Coffee, and water

Message from the President.



I hope you celebrated the fourth of July with family and friends and took a moment to remember our founding fathers who sacrificed so much to give us the freedom we enjoy every day of the year. We've come a long way and we have much to be thankful for.

Just think of it, in our lifetime smart phones, iPhones, iPads, self-driving cars, internet genealogy research and many other technology miracles have been developed. That's just in the last 50 years. What will the next 50 years bring? Will our great grandchildren remember our "simple" way of life? There's a lot more to recording history than numbers and dates. Part of that responsibility falls on us as members of the Hardin County Historical Society to preserve historic landmarks and artifacts that also tell our cultural story. Our family traditions must be kept alive and passed down from generation to generation. Traditions are important because they are part of who we are.

Life is a great tapestry woven from the threads that connect us to our parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Their occupations, travels and experiences are imbedded in our history. I encourage you to pass on your family stories however happy or sad they might be and keep that flame of folklore burning far into the future.

I can't tell you how often researchers say to me, "if I'd only asked Grandma when she was still around, or "I wish I knew more about my ancestor's day-to-day life." Recording stories of the old ways is important because they are part of our heritage and we should be passionate about protecting it.

If I sound like I'm preaching, well, I guess I am because I feel strongly about my heritage. Thanks for listening, I appreciate your support and let's continue working together to grow our membership and increase our impact on Hardin County's history.

Please invite your family and friends to our quarterly dinner/meeting on July 31st. Let's make this our biggest meeting ever!

Twylane Van Lahr

July 31st Meeting at Nolin RECC
October 30th Meeting at Sonora at the Thurman Barn
January 29, 2018 Meeting at Nolin RECC



McCann's House - 1913 Alex D. McCann operated it as a boarding house until 1919 when it was sold to J.M. Smith, who operated it as an annex to his hotel on the square. Drs. William A. & Brown Pusey purchased the building in 1922 and gave it to the community as a community house and library, which it remains since that time.

The History of Hardin County, Kentucky Facebook page

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