

Same Blood, Same Side

FAMILY PATRIOTISM COLORED CONFEDERATE GRAY

By Susan McCrobie, newsletter editor

You might recognize some of the names of prominent families that composed the heart of the Elizabethtown-Hardin County community before and after the War Between the States. Individuals from these families, linked by blood and belief, stood for the South. Their family's heritage and oral histories have been safeguarded by generations. They are shared here as we look back on a war declared by Hardin County native, Abraham Lincoln, during its 150th anniversary.

General Ben HARDIN Helm and Colonel Martin HARDIN Cofer shared a family connection as well as a passion for the defense of their home and heritage with one who was also known as 'Abe.'

Private Charles Abraham 'Abe' Wickliffe Buford 6th KY Volunteer Infantry (Mounted) Co. B Confederate States Army

His mother, Letitia, was the daughter of Mark 'Horse Racer' HARDIN and a niece of Colonel John and Martin HARDIN. All three men were distinguished veterans of the American Revolutionary War. They could do battle with the foe.

Abe Buford was a cousin of great politicians, Kentucky Governor Charles A Wickliffe as well as the Honorable Ben Hardin, attorney and esteemed Kentucky U.S. Representative. These men were willing to forego a comfortable, private life at home in order to protect the investment of their home and create a better life for their family and neighbors. Like the men of his family, Buford was ready to serve.

When Abe Buford applied to the state of Kentucky for a Confederate pension on the 19th day of April, 1912, he swore that he had enlisted in September 1861 in Co. B 6th KY Infantry under the command of G W Maxon, first Capt.; John Sullivan second [Capt.]; and J H Lewis, Col.



Courtesy of the Hardin County History Museum

Abe Buford was twenty-three years old when he enlisted in the Confederate States Army. His regiment organized at Cave City, Kentucky in November 1861.

His service proved to be short-lived, according to his pension application, as he was discharged for physical disability by disease at 'Murphresboro,' Tenn. on Feb. 28, 1862.

Middle Tennessee proved to be a place of famine, anarchy and violence as winter gave away to spring in 1862.

Like a game of dominos, Fort Donelson fell on February 16th, Nashville experienced a great panic as the Union army approached and the Confederate government evacuated the city on February 23rd.

It was in this turmoil that Abe Buford, not knowing that his sixteen-year-old brother John Thomas Buford

was dying in a Union prison at Indianapolis following capture at Fort Donelson, made his way home.

Buford, being a single man, lived with his parents and returned to them when released from his unit.

His pension application indicates that his welcome home included his arrest.

Buford descendant Tony Peake, a member of the Orphan Brigade Kinfolk Association and former Elizabethtown resident, says that his grandmother handed down a family story about her father's return and also one of Uncle John's passing.

According to Peake's grandmother, Emma Jane Buford Peake, when Abe arrived home in Elizabethtown he was wearing his Confederate uniform. The entire family turned out to greet him. As his little nephew, Bobby Turner, ran to meet him the child was shot down by a member of the Home Guard who claimed he was only trying to scare Abe and didn't mean to shoot the little boy. According to Emma, the little boy was holding a child-size tea cup in his little hand that was passed down with the story.

Tony Peake says some kernel of truth must be in the oral history even though he has not been able to find any leads to attest to its veracity. He recalls that Grandmother [Emma] was very emotional in the telling of the story, even though she was not yet born at the time of her father's return home from the war.

Peake says his grandmother had no love for Abe

Did you take the oath of allegiance to the United States Government?

Answer Yes in the Spring of 1862

If so, when and under what circumstances?

Answer In the Spring of 1862 after I came home I was arrested, and I was told that I would be sent to a prison to remain & took the oath to keep out of prison, as I was in bad health,

Courtesy of the Hardin County Clerk

Buford's pension application gives insight on his return home from war, his health, and a less than warm welcome.

Lincoln or Yankees, in general, as a result of what happened to her father and his family.

Peake says that when his mother worked at Joplin and Lanz she bought him a set of Abe Lincoln bookends. At home, Peake's father suggested their return to the store so that Tony's grandmother would continue to visit their home.

In regards to the family oral history, Abe Buford did have a sister by the name of Margaret who married a John Turner. The couple was married when Buford returned home from war. They did have a child by the name of Bobby; however, Bobby Turner was not yet born when the incident was to have happened.

How the story works with the facts is still a mystery.



Courtesy of the Hardin County History Museum

After the fall of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in February 1862, there was need in the North for the detainment of a significant number of captured Confederates.

The first group of prisoners arrived at Camp Morton near Indianapolis, IN on February 22, 1862. The total number of Confederate prisoners sent to this prison camp during the next few days totaled some 3,700.

A great number of these men, many under eighteen years of age, were of feeble constitution from exposure to elements and disease requiring urgent medical attention. In just a few short weeks, many of the young Confederates died, making it necessary to purchase land for the interment of bodies.

James Thomas Buford died on March 22, 1862 and was one of 1,616 Confederates buried at Camp Morton's Greenlawn Cemetery.

Between 1928 and 1931 many of the soldiers were relocated to the Crown Hill Cemetery. Buford was reinterred in Lot 32.

John Thomas Buford, youngest son of William H. and Letitia HARDIN Buford and Abe's brother, was a soldier in Co. C, 2nd KY Mounted Infantry, C.S.A.

Tony Peake continues to try to unravel the mystery of the shooting as a little teacup has survived several generations along with the story. And if the tale can never be verified, he says that at least it can serve as a cautionary tale regarding the impact of time and memory on family oral histories. Sometimes the facts don't match with the tale as told.

Over the next fifty-two years following his return home to Kentucky in the spring of '62, Abe did a little carpenter work, married Miss Ellen Layman of Grayson County and worked on a large family as he also worked a piece of land.

He owned place in Helm Addition and then a good size farm north of town, lying west of Veteran's Way.

Buford, along with thirty other old soldiers, had the Southern Cross of Honor bestowed upon him at a June 3, 1905 meeting of the Ben Hardin Helm Chapter #126 United Daughters of the Confederacy in Elizabethtown.

A February 25, 1910 newspaper article reported that over 400 Hardin Countians wore 'The Gray' with only about thirty still living.

Abe Buford survived another ten years.

RIGHT: The Friday, May 7, 1920 Elizabethtown News tells of the passing of a member of the Old Gray Line.

BELOW: Buford pictured in front of his home with one of his daughters and some of his grandchildren.

C. A. BUFORD DIED THIS MORNING.

Taps Sounded for Old Confederate Soldier at Age of Eighty-One.

C. A. Buford, aged eighty-one years, died at 6:30 this morning at his home near Elizabethtown from hardening of the arteries. He suffered a stroke of paralysis last fall, from which he never recovered.

Mr. Buford was a Confederate veteran, and was a well known citizen. He was intensely loyal in his friendships, and news of his death will cause regret.

Surviving him are one son, Will Buford, and three daughters, Mrs. Horace Howell, Mrs. George Matthis and Mrs. Emmet Peak. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. Jane DeWeese.

Mr. Buford was a lifelong citizen of Hardin county. He belonged to the Methodist church.



Courtesy of Tony Peake

NALL FAMILY MEN SERVED THE CONFEDERACY IT'S WOMEN PRESERVED THE RICH HISTORY Southern Pride Widespread During and After the War

134

Applicant Must Fill in All Blanks and Sign Name in Ink
TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY

Division
84
Chapter
Albert Sidney Johnston
No. 120

Located at Louisville County of Jefferson
State of Kentucky

I, the undersigned, would respectfully petition to become a member of the UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY, Kentucky DIVISION, and if accepted, do hereby promise a strict compliance with the laws and usages of this organization.

I was born on the 9th day of February 1870
Town Marsden County Hardin State Ky. Country U.S.A.

I am the Daughter of George W. Nall
who belonged to Company Capt. Basham Regiment 25th of Ky. State Ky.
and he was killed, paroled, or discharged on Discharged

Remarks: *I do not when my father George W. Nall enlisted in the Army, or what Co. But he was a private in Captain Basham's Co. Hardin Howsley's Battalion S. O. Chenoweth's Regiment, He was on Tenn. for several months under H. B. Lytles. He was also with General Morgan's Cavalry at one time, and was disabled in one of his raids in Ky. (A broken leg) and he also had smallpox while in service. He afterward came home, and General Morgan's men went on South. My father, George W. Nall, not being safe from arrest or imprisonment, General Burbridge Orders that any one that had been in rebellion & wished to be returned to citizenship, might go to the Gov. of Marshall and take the Oath, and then would be immune from arrest. My father, Albert N. Nall (now 86 years old) and living in Covington, Mo. went to Elizabethtown, Ky. as he complied with Orders. My father was in A. Nall belonged to Co. H. 3rd Regiment Infantry (mounted) He served in above Co. until Feb. 1864, when he was detached to serve with General Morgan's Command. See Adjutant General's Report - Confederate Kentucky Volunteers - (War 1861-1865) Volume 1 - J. Handy Ellis. Adjutant General of Ky. A-973, 7469 H-31*

Applicant sign given name Annie Nall Druen
Address 110 Cherokee Road Louisville Ky

Recommended by Bon G. Hill Nancy Hill (Wife of same B)
Co. 2nd Regt. 2nd Ill. Cav.
Company (I named) Dana Charles Druen
Co. J. A. Nall Regt. Committee Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter
Wm. L. Taylor & Daughter

Courtesy of the United Daughters of the Confederacy
Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter #120 - Louisville, KY

[Martha] Annie Nall Druen, daughter of George Washington Nall, petitioned the Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter #120 in Louisville, KY for membership in the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She was admitted to the organization on February 8, 1926. She later moved to Elizabethtown where both she and her husband, William J. Druen, lived near Claysville at the Swope place, now Helmwood Shopping Center. Annie had a brother, Haynes Coleman Kasey Nall and a sister, Amarinda Bell who married George L. Barr of Owensboro.

George Washington Nall was born October 16, 1843. He was the third son born to his parents, Andrew Jackson Nall and the former Theodocia Ann Berry.

Nall was eighteen years old when he enlisted in the Confederate States Army and rode off in 1861 as a Private. He served in Captain Basham's Co.; Hardin Howsley's Battalion; and Major Chenowith's regiment.

While he saw considerable action in the C.S.A. Calvary, his military service did not extend beyond the boundaries of Kentucky and Tennessee or last as long as that of his brother, James Alberry Nall.

In the summer of 1862, George W. Nall contracted smallpox. Many young soldiers died of the highly contagious disease but Nall survived. When able he saddled up and rode off with General John Hunt Morgan on a raid into Kentucky only to be sent to an army hospital after breaking his leg, in that icy and cold, January 1863.

Nall received a medical discharged once the break mended but required a shoe with a built-up heel for the remainder of his life as the injured leg was considerably shorter than the other.

Upon his return home, George W. Nall took an Oath of Loyalty to the U.S. Government in order to stay out of prison and begin working in John W. Watt's store at Howe Valley, where he remained for four years.

In 1869, he married Mary Levira Ferguson and the couple moved to Franklin Crossroads to take charge of Mr. Isham Mossbarger's store. In 1872 he moved to Vine Grove, where he built a home and operated a store until a fire destroyed both. He rebuilt and continued in business until 1890, when he moved to Louisville and established a wholesale commission business.

George W. Nall died of pneumonia on March 27, 1894. He is buried at Vine Grove.

Private James A. Nall [Noll] served in Company L, 3rd Regiment KY Volunteer Mounted Infantry, C.S.A. and saw action at the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee.

He was one of only a handful of old Confederate Veterans living in the county at his death decades after the war.

JAMES A. NALL DIED LAST NIGHT

Venerable Hardin County Man, Past 95, Succumbs to Illness.

James A. Nall, aged ninety-five years, died at 7:40 o'clock last night at his home near Vine Grove. He had been confined to his bed for two weeks, and death was expected for several days.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 o'clock tomorrow morning at the Vine Grove Baptist church, and burial will take place in the Elizabethtown city cemetery.

Mr. Nall was born and reared in Nall's Valley, Hardin county. He was a man of unusual kindness of heart, and led a life of business and moral rectitude. He grew old gracefully, retaining both his physical and mental powers to an unusual degree in his advanced years. Until a few years ago he was able to read without glasses and walk without a cane.

Mr. Nall was twice married. His first wife was Miss Almarinda Nall, and his last wife Miss Hattie Brammer. She survives him. He also leaves three sons, Garnett and Emmet Nall, of Vine Grove, and Jeff Nall, near Elizabethtown, and one daughter, Mrs. C. E. Bunnell, of Corbin. His other survivors are a brother, C. M. Nall, of Vine Grove, and a sister, Mrs. Rufus Holbert, of Nall's Valley. Mr. Nall was a member of the Baptist church.

PROGRAM FOR

Elizabethtown News, Friday August 2, 1935 image
Courtesy of The Hardin County History Museum

Miss Imogene Allen Nall's application for membership
Courtesy of the United Daughters of the Confederacy
Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter #120 - Louisville, KY

Application Form for the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The form is filled out with handwritten information for Miss Imogene Allen Nall. Key details include: Division Albert Sidney Johnston, Chapter #120, Louisville, KY; County Jefferson, State Kentucky; born April in Meade, Kentucky, U.S.A.; she is the granddaughter of J.A. Nall, who served in the 3rd Regt. Ky. Volunteer Mounted Infantry and was killed at the Battle of Shiloh; she served in the Confederate General's Report, Vol. 61-65; her address is Pewee Valley, Kentucky. The form is signed by Stella O. Hobbit and Imogene A. Nall.

Hints of Scandal Made at the Old Kentucky Veteran's Home

J.A. Nall's granddaughter, Imogene was hired as the bookkeeper/secretary at the Old Confederate Home in Pewee Valley. Following the fire at the Home and the rumored scandalous behavior of its Commandant Charles L. Daughtry with his employee, Miss Nall, a private hearing was held by John Leathers on April 9, 1920 regarding the charged impropriety. A second hearing was held by state inspector and examiner Henry E. James to delve into the allegations of

Daughtery's mistreatment of inmates and improper relationship with "a defenseless orphan girl." Nall's good name remained untarnished and clean but she was as battle worn as her grandfather after the long war waged upon her character. There is no record of any reaction of J.A. Nall to his granddaughter's ordeal. Imogene's father, Emmett, is listed a surviving son of J.A. Nall. Miss Nall was not orphaned as alledged.

A HOUSE DIVIDED

John A. McClung D.D. worked for the Colonization Movement and the Underground Railroad -- his brother-in-law's pursuits divided this Kentucky family.

One of William McClung's sons, John Alexander McClung, became famous in his days mostly as a preacher. William McClung had freed most of his slaves in his lifetime, except for a few household servants. Rev. McClung complied with his father's wish to free all of the slaves at his death. The Reverend became not only a well-known preacher but also a state representative as well as a successful attorney and novelist at various times in his career. He worked for the colonization movement to return freed slaves to Africa. Eventually, Rev. McClung operated as part of the Underground Railroad. It is believed that he personally was responsible for the freedom of three hundred slaves.

An irony present in Rev. McClung's life was the fact that he was married to the sister of Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston, Eliza. The Rev. McClung himself was spared the horrors of the Civil War when he suffered an untimely death while on a trip to New York on August 6, 1859. Apparently, he had gone for a long walk and decided to go swimming in the Niagara River, perhaps for relief from the heat. His clothes were found on the bank, and his body was found days later having gone over the famous falls and coming to rest on the American side of the river. His body was returned to Mason County where he was buried.

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Haycraft, A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and its Surroundings (1869) (Hardin County Historical Society, 1960).

Records of the Quarterly Sessions Courts of Hardin County (1793-1803), compiled by Mary Jo Jones.

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Shaping the Role HARDIN COUNTY'S FIRST

By Kelly Easton, HCHS member

William McClung's father was an Irish emigrant to Virginia. He had not lived in the colonies long when McClung was born on July 12, 1758, near Fairfield, in what is now Rockbridge County, Virginia. The family home was not far from the famous Natural Bridge, which is the source of the county's name. McClung Mountain is still one of the most well-known peaks in the Virginia Appalachian Mountains. One September 14, 1785, McClung graduated from Liberty Hall Academy, located in the Rockbridge County seat of Lexington. The college would later be renamed Washington College and ultimately Washington and Lee University.

After receiving his college degree, McClung decided to study law, which in those days was done by study with a previously licensed attorney. McClung "read law" with none other than Thomas Jefferson. With his law training completed and at the probable urging of Jefferson, McClung headed west to Kentucky, then a part of Virginia. He traveled with his cousin, Joe McDowell, the brother of Dr. Ephraim McDowell. In 1787, McClung was a member of a Kentucky constitutional convention in Danville. McClung also served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, as one of the representatives from the District of Kentucky when Virginia became a state under the U.S. Constitution.

McClung had established his law practice in Bardstown by the time Kentucky achieved statehood in 1792. Bardstown was the county seat of Nelson County, which had been created by Virginia in 1784. Kentucky decided to create Hardin County out of Nelson County as one of its first acts. The county was to be organized in 1793.

Many of those involved in the earliest days of Hardin County government came from Nelson County, and McClung was among them. When the actions of that first grand jury are reviewed, it is perhaps easy to understand why McClung might have decided to return to his Bardstown practice rather than remain in Hardin County permanently. The Quarterly Sessions Court did not have a grand jury session until September of 1793. McClung was admitted to the bar of the court at that time and accepted appointment as commonwealth's Attorney, thus becoming the first occupant of that office in Hardin County.

of the Courts on the Kentucky Frontier

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY APPLACHIAN-ARISTOCRACY

There were few buildings in Elizabethtown in 1793. The first court sessions were conducted in a one-room log cabin, which happened to be the home of the first sheriff, Isaac Hynes. One of the first items of business was to select a building to use temporarily as the first jail. The court decided to select Hynes' nearby still-house for that purpose. Sheriff Hynes did not care much for this idea, pointing out that the only way to keep a prisoner in that still-house would be to keep him drunk so that he could not find the door. When his objections were overruled, Hynes may have said a little too much as the following events suggest.

There was little written law in those days, the grand jury arguably could indict someone for whatever they thought was wrong behavior on the part of the person, leaving it to the judge to make sure that the offense, if it really was an offense, was punished properly, according to its seriousness. The grand jury could not meet secretly in a one-room building, so they went out into the nearby woods for their deliberations. The only indictment returned on the first day was against Sheriff Hynes for "profane swearing." The next day the grand jury returned other indictments for swearing, drunkenness, and even charges against two women for having children without a husband.

Another early charge involved the selling of liquor. It was not illegal to convert corn to liquor with a still. This was a common way to reserve the value of the crop. The liquor could be sold in bulk, but a license was required for "retailing spirituous liquors by the smalls." Sheriff Hynes told the grand jury that his neighbor, Jacob VanMeter, had been doing this without a license. The grand jury discovered that Hynes had been doing the same thing, and so both Hynes and VanMeter were indicted. The court dismissed the competing liquor indictments, but Hynes had to pay five shillings for his swearing, an amount equal to about \$35 today.

McClung returned to Bardstown, where he resumed his law practice while still occasionally working in Hardin County. McClung was elected as a state representative and later to the Kentucky Senate for Nelson County, where he served from 1796-1800. McClung then moved to Mason County, Kentucky at the urging of a friend, John Paxton. He practiced law in the northern part of Kentucky. Documents

discovered from this time show that McClung signed his name as "Will McClung."

Court records from Bracken County illustrate the kind of work done by McClung. Many of his cases were for collection of debts or property disputes. One case merits particular attention. In May of 1800, McClung represented Dudley Reed, who had been sued by Rebecca Moody for an alleged domestic assault. She asked for 100 British pounds as damages, an amount equal to about \$6,000 today. Perhaps due to McClung's powers of persuasion (or perhaps because the jury was composed only of men.) the woman was awarded one penny. The penny was only 1/240th of a pound, an amount equal to only a quarter in today's value.

McClung's judicial career started in 1801. As his term was ending, President John Adams tried to pack the federal courts with good federalists, the most successful example being Chief Justice John Marshall, whose family had a large farm in northern Kentucky. The expansion of the courts included the creation of federal circuit courts. McClung thus became the first Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. National politics got the best of McClung when his mentor, now President Jefferson, eliminated the circuit courts in 1802. McClung served for less than eighteen months. These circuit courts were not revived until the latter part of the 19th century.

On May 25, 1803, McClung married the younger sister of Chief Justice John Marshall, Susan Tarleton Marshall, sixteen years McClung's junior. They proceeded to have a large family of seven children; sadly most died before becoming adults.

In April of 1808, Governor Greenup appointed McClung to be the circuit judge for the circuit including Mason County. The circuit also included the counties of Bourbon, Bracken, Fleming, Greenup, Lewis and Nicholas.

In July of 1811, McClung was holding court at Augusta, the county seat of Bracken County, and became suddenly ill with a "malignant fever." He was carried home on a skiff but did not survive. He was not quite 53 years old.

McClung was buried about three hundred feet from the mansion on the family farm, three miles south of Maysville. His widow survived for another forty-eight years.

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On Sunday afternoon the 2nd of August in the Brown-Pusey House more will be taken by a lot of enthusiastic citizens in creating a Hardin County Historical Society. We can conceive of nothing which would be of more value at present to the County and to future generations than the organization of such a society, and we trust that everyone interested in the history of Hardin County in its present bounds and also in the territory which was originally embraced in Hardin County will attend this meeting. Some five or more counties have been carved out of Hardin since it was originally created and those counties are equally interested with the citizens of the present bounds of Hardin County in the early history. There is hardly a county in the State that is more replete with historical associations than Hardin. Of course, it was the home county of Abraham Lincoln and Elizabethtown was the home town of his father, Robert Lincoln, for many years previous to his removal to Illinois. There are many interesting facts in connection with the Lincoln family that might be gathered together by a historical society. It is also the county in which James Buchanan, afterwards President of the United States, practiced law and where the celebrated Ben Hardin first settled as a lawyer. It is the home of John L. Helm who served as a Governor at his home near town on his death. It is the home town of Gen. Hardin Helm, brother-in-law of General Sherman who was killed at the Battle of Chancellorsville. It is said to be the home of Audubon, the great ornithologist, who moved from Elizabethtown to Henderson, Ky. the home county of the Labollettes, the celebrated family of W. W. Woodson and of the Simmonds family who established the Southern Steamship Company in St. Louis. It had many soldiers who served in the Confederate army and there are many instances in its historical life that are well worth recording. It includes the residence of Gen. Oulter who was captured in this city for several years after the Civil War. The place where he had his headquarters is well remembered by some of the older citizens as well as the place where the stacks were of his troops. These are but a few of the astounding and interesting historical facts connected with Hardin County. This, of course, will all be explained by a Historical Society and in addition to these many other important things will be brought to light by such an organization. The News is 100% for the organization of the Hardin County Historical Society.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ORGANIZES SUNDAY

Forty Enrolled As Charter Members. Officers Are Elected

The Hardin County Historical Society was organized Sunday afternoon at the Brown-Pusey House, this city, with an enrollment of forty charter members.

The following officers were elected: Dr. D. E. McClure, president; Judge G. K. Holbert, first vice-president; R. T. Gentry, second vice-president; and Gerald McMurry, secretary-treasurer.

Committee chairmen were appointed by the president as follows: Mrs. J. F. Albert, membership; Mrs. R. W. Cates, ways and means; Ben R. Allen, exhibits; Henry Hart, historic markers; Miss Virginia Beeler, program.

Time for charter membership was closed at 8 o'clock and including the September meeting. All joining the society by that time will be enrolled as charter members. After that membership will be granted only upon invitation.

Annual membership dues are \$2.00 per year, and \$1.00 for each additional member from the same immediate family. All charter members will pay full dues for the remainder of the year 1931, as above stated, and the year will run after that from January to January. All dues are payable by the September meeting.

Regular meetings are to be held the first Tuesday in each month at 7:30 p. m. at the Brown-Pusey House.

Henry Hart, chairman, and G. E. McMurry, of the committee on historic markers, reported on prospective markers to be placed by the Kentucky Progress Commission.

Considerable interest was shown at the meeting Sunday and a number of those present were from other places in the county. It was also reported that a number of former residents are interested in this organization. Their names should be sent to the secretary, Gerald McMurry, by the September meeting in order that they may qualify as charter members.

AUGUST 6, 1931

HCHS Organizational Meeting and Early Programs Revisited

It has been 82 years since a group of County Heritage minded individuals joined together to create this organization.

40 passionate lovers of history banded together and got down to the business at hand... 1) recruiting members to insure their mission to study, preserve, and disseminate information about the history of Hardin County 2) erecting markers to make known the importance of a local historic site and made its story readily available to the public for generations to come, and 3) having exhibits on different aspects of history to showcase stories and artifacts of the county's long existence.

Our founders also published many fine books on the county's history and her residents.

Where are we today and how do we measure up to their vision?

In 1930 the county's

population was 20,913 and by 2010 some 105,543 residents called this place their home. Our membership has not enjoyed the same growth and history and historic preservation is on the back burner. 40 members in the 1930s compared to the current 101 listed on the membership roll in this decade only emphasizes the declining interest in history. Why if we had the roughly 404% increase in membership as in the population we would see close to 500 members interested in work on behalf of the society and able to make a difference in the local environment. Can we say that renovation of an old house or building is conservation and recycling at their best?

Those first society members marked many sites - we find historical roadside markers, plaques on buildings like the Eagle House and the Kerr Office Group Building to name a few. We as a group have had a renewed push in the endeavor to mark historic sites and people are stopping on the public square to read those signs and then turn to look at an old building with a new appreciation of what once was and how things have changed/or not over the years.

And then, as an organization we once endorsed a fine museum to exhibit artifacts and tell the stories behind their Hardin County ties. Some members volunteered their time and talents to that important aspect of the society's objective, like loving aunts and uncles watching a child grow up and away from the family.

Dare we wonder what those first

PROGRAM READY FOR DEDICATION

Historical Group To Present Buchanan Tablet To County Monday

Exercises, dedicating the James Buchanan Tablet, will be held in the Circuit Court auditorium of the Hardin County Court House at 3 o'clock next Monday afternoon, April 23.

The tablet, a gift of the Hardin County Historical Society to the County, bears the legend: "James Buchanan, the fifteenth President of the United States resided for several months at Elizabethtown in the year 1812, where he served as local advisor in his father's western land litigation. The Hardin County Historical Society, 1934."

The dedication program will include:

Invocation—Rev. H. H. Hubley.

Presentation—Rev. H. H. Hubley, President of the Historical Society.

Acceptance—James H. B. Buchanan, County Judge of Hardin County.

"Buchanan's Career"—S. A. Hubert, Jr.

"Buchanan's Romance"—Sam M. Hubley.

Members of the program committee are Mrs. R. W. Cates, Mrs. George K. Holbert and John N. Ashcraft.

The tablet has been placed in the main corridor of the Court House.

Special Invitation To Buchanans Extended.

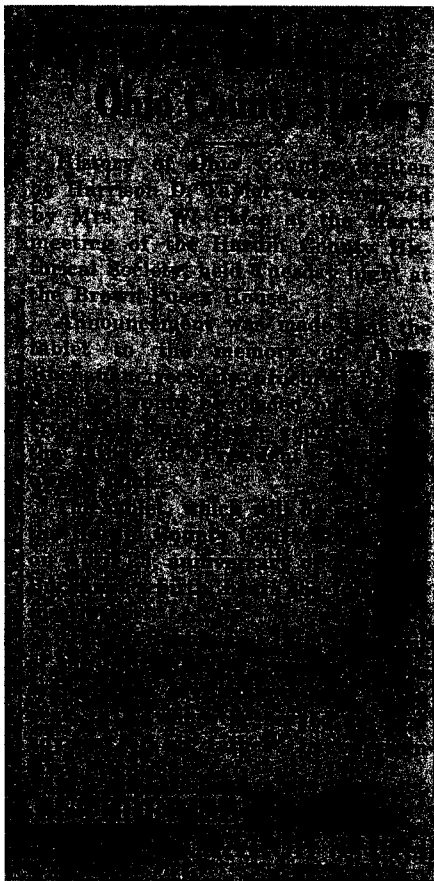
The committee in charge of arrangements announced yesterday that those persons in Hardin and surrounding counties, who trace their lineage back to the same family as James Buchanan are especially invited to attend the meeting and that reserved seats will be provided for them. It is reported that there are a number of Buchanans residing in this part of Kentucky, who are distantly related to the Pennsylvania Buchanan family, and that the fifteenth President of the United States was a member.

ENTERPRISE
APRIL 19, 1934



ART HEADS LOCAL SOCIETY
 President Elected By
 State Historical
 Organization

The elected president
 of the State Historical
 Organization, Mrs. J. M. Hoke,
 of the local society, was
 elected at the annual
 meeting of the organization
 held at the University of
 North Carolina at Chapel
 Hill, N. C., on August 15,
 1931. Mrs. Hoke was
 elected by a vote of 100
 to 90 over Mrs. J. M. Hoke,
 of the local society, who
 was the only woman
 elected to the position.



**DISEASES UNDER
 NEWSPAPERS**
 Historical Society
 President Elected By
 Mrs. J. M. Hoke

The elected president
 of the State Historical
 Organization, Mrs. J. M. Hoke,
 of the local society, was
 elected at the annual
 meeting of the organization
 held at the University of
 North Carolina at Chapel
 Hill, N. C., on August 15,
 1931. Mrs. Hoke was
 elected by a vote of 100
 to 90 over Mrs. J. M. Hoke,
 of the local society, who
 was the only woman
 elected to the position.

Articles from the
 Scrapbook Collection
 of Mrs. L.B. Hoke

Wednesday Night

The ladies of the local
 society met at 7 P. M. on
 Wednesday night, August 15,
 1931. The meeting was
 held at the home of Mrs.
 J. M. Hoke. The program
 consisted of a report on
 the annual meeting of the
 State Historical Organization
 held at Chapel Hill, N. C.,
 on August 15, 1931. Mrs.
 J. M. Hoke reported on
 the election of Mrs. J. M. Hoke
 as president of the
 organization. The report
 was very interesting and
 well received. The ladies
 then sang and read
 poems. The meeting
 closed with a prayer and
 the singing of the
 national anthem.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1931

**Work On
 Historic Debate**

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SEPTEMBER 8, 1932
 ENTERPRISE

**Work On
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Follow-up to our earlier C.A. Buford story....

Oral family histories most certainly deserve a telling. As you study your own family history, you may also want to verify any names, dates, places and events to correct any twists and turns that time and retelling has created. Those in generations to come will thank you for your diligence.

Abe Buford had several brothers and sisters. One sister, Mary, married Judge Stephen V. R. Elliott and another sister, Margaret, married Mr. John Turner.

Remember Tony Peake's cautionary tale about how time and memory can cloud the facts? In this instance, the original teller of the sad tale was not even alive at the time of the event making it less than a first person narrative.

Even one of our best research volumes for early county history, McClure's *Two Centuries in Elizabethtown and Hardin County, KY 1776 to 1976* is based on the writer's memory supported by the retelling of other folk's stories.

In the matter of the death of Abe Buford's grandson, Bobby Turner, according to McClure a sad happening occurred while the troops were in Elizabethtown [Custer's troops after the Civil War.] A boy named Turner, a grandson of Stephen Elliot [father-in-law of Mary Buford Elliot], was accidentally shot while playing near the guardhouse, which at that time stood behind the present Taylor Hotel. He was carried to a drug store located about where the present day bakery is [the old White Dove Bakery bldg.] but died soon afterward. William Nugent told the writer [McClure] the soldier who accidentally shot the boy was one of the infantrymen stationed here at the same time as the cavalry.

With the close of the war not yet a decade in the past, difficulties in reconstruction of the local economy reeling from losses of crops, livestock and manpower due to military drains of the area, and the quartering of new Federal troops in town, it is not hard to imagine the sentiments of Abe Buford's family regarding another strike to one of their own - accident or not.

ROBERT BIGGS TURNER

December 11, 1865 - October 6, 1872

Little Bobby's teacup was handed down in the family with the story. Its last keeper, Ricky Bewley died in 2008. His house burned shortly afterwards and the teacup was lost.



Message From The President

Greetings to all members,

It is nearly time for the September meeting of the Society. This is a bittersweet time. January brings a new slate of officers and a new agenda for the organization. Several markers have been placed around the Square and at least one has been sent for refurbishing. Our history lives on.

By the time we meet in September, a rededication of the grave of Ben Hardin Helm will have been held in the Helm Cemetery. This was accomplished by assistance from Gen. Ben Hardin Helm SCV Camp #1703, the Hardin County History Museum, and the Albert Sidney Johnston UDC Chapter #120 from Louisville, KY. The Helm bust artist, Christina Rankin, her sculpting professor David Marquez and Elizabethtown's own son, WKU President Gary Ransdell also made the retelling of history special on this 150th anniversary of Helm's death. Without the leadership efforts of Susan McCrobie and support of others serving on the Hardin County History Museum Board of Directors this event and the bust would not have been more than a dream. They are to be commended for their hands on approach to keeping history alive.

Our Society will be losing a dear treasure when Susan leaves her position as editor, compiler, researcher, and driving force behind *Bits and Pieces*. She will be much missed, but I understand her feeling that it is time to move on and agree that it is time for other members to step forward and take the reins. The Society needs new blood in order to continue the aims of the Society to preserve and educate about the history of the county.

Even though I am not a native of Hardin County, the history and residents - past and present - are very dear to me. I hope this has been apparent by my tenure as Vice-President and President.

Thank you all for your confidence in me.

-Judith "Judy" Cummins French

Historical Society announces next meeting



The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, October 28, 2013, at the STATE THEATER GALLERY, 209 West Dixie Avenue, in downtown Elizabethtown. The buffet dinner, catered by HEARTLAND CATERING, will be served at 6:30 PM. The price is \$9.00 per person. Call Twylane VanLahr at 270-765-2515 by **Friday, October 25th, for dinner reservations**; later reservations for the meal cannot be guaranteed.

The dinner is followed at 7 P.M. by a special Chautauqua program from the Kentucky Humanities Council, *Henry Clay, Kentucky's Great Statesman 1777-1852* by George McGee of Georgetown College.

Clay ran for president and lost three times between 1824 and 1844. He still played a large roll in the history of this county, which he served as a senator, speaker of the house, and secretary of state.

He opposed the extension of slavery into the new western states, argued Congress had no right to interfere with slavery where it already existed and when attacking abolitionists in 1839, he said he would "rather be right than president." That speech cost him the 1840 Whig presidential nomination.

HARDIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
POST OFFICE BOX 381
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