

Nation's Great Early Naval Hero Chooses Elizabethtown over High Seas

PAST CLAIMS FINAL VICTORY ADMID JOURNEY HERE

By Susan McCrobie, newsletter editor

Much has been written about the brilliant career of Commodore Joshua Barney. He was one of our nation's foremost naval heroes, taking part in seventeen battles during the Revolutionary War and in nine battles during the War of 1812. His naval career, spanning four decades of meritorious leadership, includes service to the American Colonies, France and the United States against British tyranny.

Numerous biographies on Barney give details of his 1775-1784 American Revolution experiences that include three captures where he was exchanged on one occasion and escaped in the other two instances as well as his service in the French Navy and later service for the United States Navy during the War of 1812 where he stood between the British and Washington D.C. and was wounded in the leg at the Battle of Bladensburg.

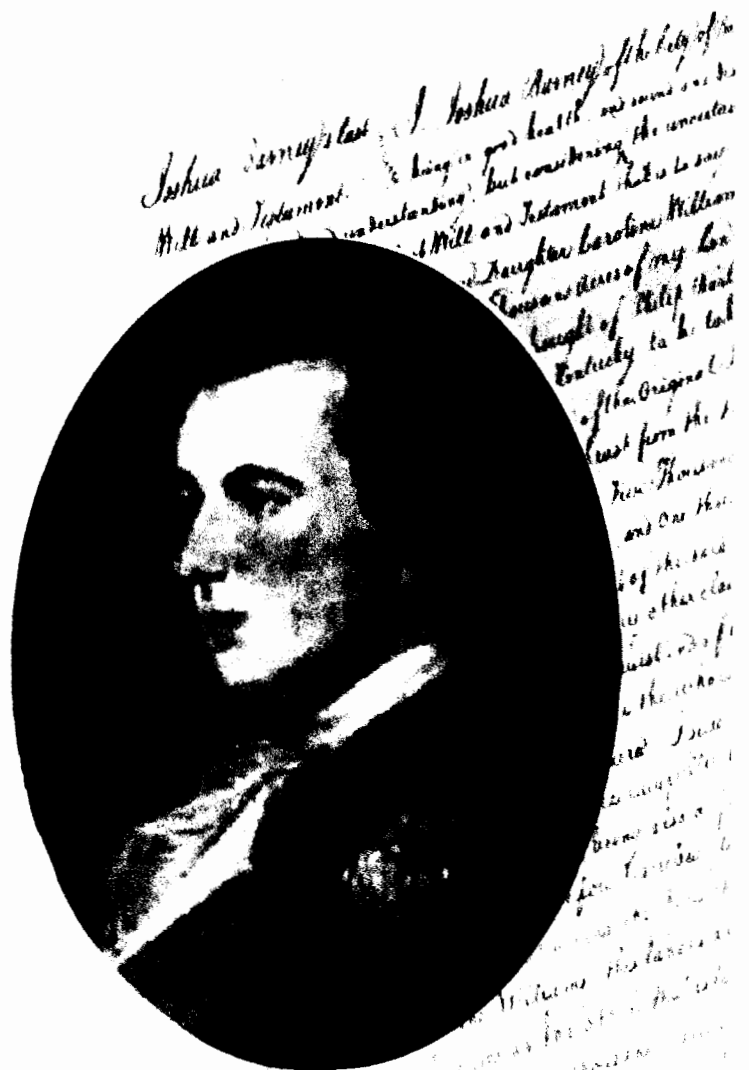
There is also mention that as a young man, Barney was the first individual to unfurl the banner of the Union in Maryland, at Baltimore in October 1775, and the last officer to quit its service in July 1784.

Barney's story includes two wives, children from both unions, and his death on December 1, 1818, in Pennsylvania in route to his Kentucky home, from complications of that old war wound.

BARNEY'S KENTUCKY

At the age of twelve, Barney exhibited both a fearlessness of the unknown and strong nomadic tendency when he began his career as a seaman. Those tendencies manifested themselves on land in 1786 when he recorded a deed, the 7th of August, for 50,000 acres located on Otter Creek in Kentucky. Barney explored the holdings in November 1787.

By January 1812, he had acquired 56,000 additional acres along the Green River and Rowling Creek [Rowling Fork of Salt River.] His exploration of those lands waited until after the close of the War



The Last Will and Testament of Commodore Joshua Barney as well as settlement papers, filed by his widow during probate of his estate, are recorded in the Hardin County Clerk's office.

Courtesy of the Hardin County Clerk, Kenneth L. Tabb

of 1812 when Barney, accompanied by his younger second wife, Harriet, and her sister, Anne Marie Coale, made their way to the area on horseback, in October 1816.

Barney's little group spent December 1816 at Frankfort before moving on to Louisville in January. There he learned first-hand news of the unsettled condition of Kentucky titles faced with squatters and claimants. Barney expressed his feelings to his son, Louis, in a letter from Louisville, "I feel bold as to the recovery of my lands, which will be a large estate to me yet. My titles are the best on record and the boundaries good."

ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY

On January 6, 1817, Barney traveled to Elizabethtown. Upon visiting the land, that he had been granted title to, he found many occupied by family farmers. Barney filed suit in the Hardin Circuit Court, located in Elizabethtown, to recover the lands he had left without an apparent owner for thirty years.

While in Elizabethtown, Barney also entered into a contract dated March 29, 1817, to purchase a brick house on the corner of Main and Poplar streets from Major Ben Helm, clerk of the courts at Elizabethtown. The stately colonial mansion, with its broad brick walls and large magnolias situated on two acres of ground under post and rail fence, embodied the vision of a cherished retirement home. The contract called for Helm 'to have Venetian blinds put to all the windows in the said dwelling house as are in James Crutcher's house,' another large home within walking distance. The Barney's returned to Baltimore to settle their affairs in order to make Elizabethtown, Kentucky their permanent abode.

Commodore Barney returned to Elizabethtown alone in May 1818 to attend to his legal affairs



Courtesy of the Kentucky Historical Society

Commodore Joshua Barney's Elizabethtown, Kentucky home at the corner of Poplar and Main. The home burned in 1882.



Courtesy of the Hardin County Clerk, Kenneth L. Tabb

Harriet Barney filed many documents with Samuel Haycraft, Jr, the County and Circuit Court Clerk of Hardin County, in an attempt to clear up her deceased husband's estate and provide for her children.

regarding the land titles and secured John George to make improvements on his town house with Leonard B. Parker as agent in charge of new construction work.

In the fall of that year, with his Maryland farm at Elk Ridge sold, Barney set out in October with his wife, children, sister-in-law, servants, stock horses, and household items on their move to Kentucky.

Before departing Maryland, his jesting farewell to Major William B. Barney, a son by his first marriage, was to 'upon his death, have the Minnie ball extracted from his thigh,' the one he took for the country at Bladensburg, and delivered to the Major along with the sword presented by the City of Washington.

That request was fulfilled on December 1st, 1818, when Barney unexpectedly succumbed to that British shot at Pittsburg while reroute on the Monongahela River towards Kentucky.

A stunned and bewildered Harriet Barney buried her husband, following the removal of the shot from his leg. Her household party resumed their journey down the river and overland to Elizabethtown, the new family home.

Harriet Barney & made oath as the law directs that she has moved into the State of Kentucky for her permanent residence and that she has brought he[r] slaves for her own use & not to sell or that she will not bring any into the State to sell or trade.
February 24, 1819
Signed S. Martin, J.P.H.C.

Courtesy of the Hardin County Clerk, Kenneth L. Tabb

Harriet Barney declares Kentucky to be her permanent home.

KENTUCKY AFTER BARNEY'S DEATH

In deed book G, page 76, at the office of the Hardin County Clerk is an old quill-written entry that announced the Widow Barney's arrival at Elizabethtown.

"This day came Harriet Barney & made oath as the law directs that she has moved into the State of Kentucky for her permanent residence and that she has brought he[r] slaves for her own use & not to sell or that she will not bring any into the State to sell or trade.

February 24, 1819
Signed S. Martin, J.P.H.C.

The Commodore's Sister-in-Law **ANNE MARIA COALE'S KENTUCKY STORY FALLS SHORT OF A 'HAPPILY EVER AFTER'**

Some mention of Anne Maria Coale is made in regards to the magnificent tale of Commodore Joshua Barney; however, no matter how brief the life, this little sister-in-law's role was beyond measure as a supporting female to the starring role.

Barney rescued the Coale's family home when it went up for public sale to satisfy an Anne Arundel County, Maryland debt of the late Thomas Coale. Coale was the father of Alfred, Marie and Harriet and Barney's father-in-law.

Barney would have retired to this newly acquired country home with his young and beautiful second wife and her sister, Maria, but answered the call of his county with declaration of war in 1812.

After the end of the war, the little sister-in-law made a loan of her inherited monies to Barney and joined him and his family in a relocation to Kentucky.

She had visited Kentucky with her sister and brother-in-law in the autumn of 1816 during an enjoyable horseback ride to Frankfort, Louisville and

In April, Harriet began probate of her husband's last will and testament with an appraisal of his estate recorded in Hardin County Will Book C. Page 270. Barney's will, written before leaving Baltimore, Maryland, is also recorded beginning on page 255 in the same will book.

Widow was not able to enjoy the comforts of her new home in Elizabethtown for long. The purchase price had not been paid on the contract for sale and the bills for labor and materials used in its improvements were outstanding. Commodore Barney had also borrowed nearly three thousand dollars from his sister-in-law, Anne Maria, for the Kentucky venture that had not been repaid. With suits piling up on the debts, the home was sold by decree of the court in 1822. Mrs. Barney and her children moved to Louisville, established a permanent residence and applied to Congress for a soldier's widow pension. Congress awarded her benefits amounting to fifty dollars per month.

In 1839, the General Court of Kentucky awarded Mrs. Barney title to fifteen thousand acres of the original 106,000 acres of land granted to the Commodore. She died in Louisville on October 14, 1849 without enjoying any financial benefits from the land holdings.

Elizabethtown. She later packed for a new life here and the uncertain future away from her beloved childhood Maryland home.

After Barney's death in December 1818, Maria Coale must have found some measure of stability and happiness in Elizabethtown as she married Daniel R. Southard, a town merchant, on May 21, 1821.

Hardin County Clerk records reveal that on October 9, 1821 Daniel R. Southard began probate of Maria's estate following her death. No further mention of Barney's little sister-in-law is found.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Southard's business partner was D. Starr. The firm, with holdings in several towns across the state, suffered financial difficulties during the Panic of 1819. Henry Clay, acting as a private attorney in the Federal Circuit Court for the District of Kentucky and John J. Crittenden can be found in the records as having legal proceedings in regards to debt settlements, mortgage filing and lawsuits related to these well-known merchants that once operated a business in Elizabethtown's early history.*



Courtesy of Hardin County History Museum Archives

Watkins & Company was the leading Grocery House of Hardin County for years prior to its razing for the construction of the Taylor Hotel.

FOOD AND FUN HAILED FROM DIXIE AVENUE ESTABLISHMENT

By Susan McCrobie, newsletter editor

On May 23, 1929, an important deal in Elizabethtown business property was consummated when the Taylor Brothers bought the Watkins grocery building from Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Leeper.

The purchasers announced that the Watkins Grocery/Bryan Hall structure would be leveled so that a modern three-story hotel, operated by the Taylor Brothers, could be erected. The old brick building had been a center of town life for 50+ years.

The deal, made by real estate agent R.E. Day for \$16,500, gave grocery John F. Williams who

occupied the place a month to close up his shop.

The 200 foot deep lot with 53 1/2 foot frontage along the Dixie was slated to hold a mezzanine and 25 bedrooms on the second and third floors as well as a grand lobby, coffee shop, privated dining room and kitchen on the ground level at a cost of \$50,000 per the plans of its Louisville architect. T. J. Nolan.

Henry and Jesse Taylor, owners, formerly conducted the Dixie Restaurant in Elizabethtown and plan to open their new venture about January 15, 1930.

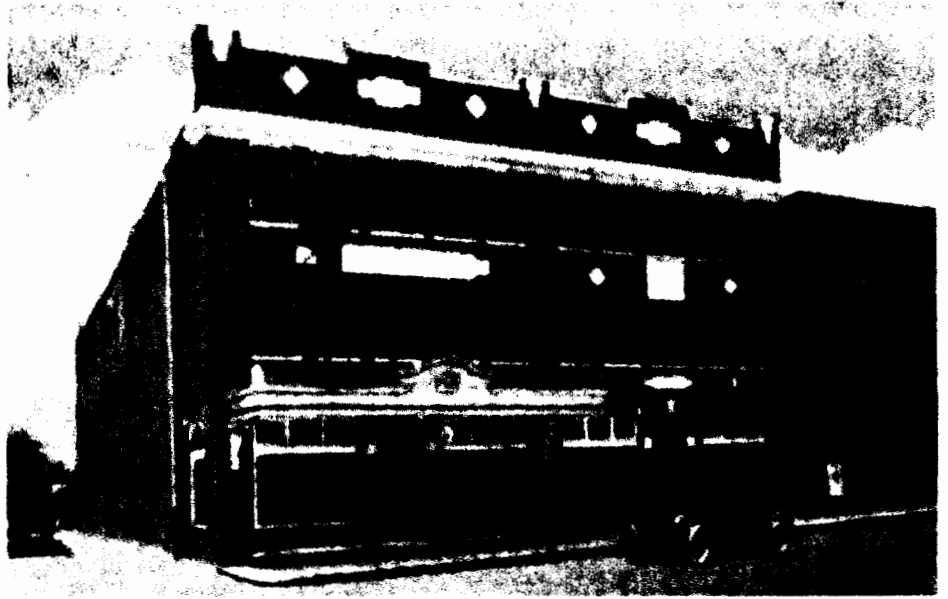
TEARING DOWN OLD LANDMARK

New Taylor Hotel Will Replace Oldest Grocery House in Elizabethtown.

Work commenced Wednesday by the Jenkins-Eames Company of tearing down the two-story brick building on Dixie Avenue in Elizabethtown, upon which site is to be erected a three-story hotel by Taylor Brothers. The building which is to be torn down was built by Mr. Hilary Bryan early in 1877, after the destructive fire of 1869. It was probably finished about four years before work began on the construction of our present courthouse. Mr. Bryan built more houses in Elizabethtown than any person in his day or in any period of time since then. The lower floor of the building was occupied by Bryan, Warren & Company. The three members of the firm were Hilary Bryan, Charles T. Warren and James Rihn. This company did a very extensive business for a great many years and the firm existed practically up to Mr. Bryan's death.)

For more than a quarter of a century it was known as Watkins & Company, grocers and dealers in fertilizer and seeds, and was one of the most popular grocery establishments in this city. The present occupant, who succeeded the Watkins Grocery Company, is John C. Williams, who is moving out preparatory to the tearing down of the house to give place to the hotel.

The second story of this old building was more than forty years the theatre or opera house of Elizabethtown known as Bryan's Hall and was conducted by Mr. Charles T. Warren. In those days there were a great many very excellent theatrical companies making small towns like Elizabethtown and during every winter season there were many attractions brought to Bryan's Hall by Mr. Warren, to the very great delight of the theatre going people. Al O. Fields minstrel show came every year for many seasons to give a performance in Bryan's Hall. This hall was also where the public dances were held and where many of the now gray-haired men and women danced the lancers and the quadrille and later the waltz. School commencement exercises were always held here and many of our business men graduated from a stage in Bryan's Hall. The building that is to be razed will give place to a handsome and attractive structure indicating the mark of progress that is under way in Elizabethtown.



TAYLOR HOTEL on the DIXIE

To Sell the Most Groceries.
To Have the Most Customers.
To Increase the Volume of Trade Every Year.
To Add the Number of Our Customers Each Year.

IS THE RECORD OF THE BUSINESS LIFE OF THE FIRM OF

Watkins & Co.

The public realizes the truth of these statements and we are taking this space to tell you

WHY

We carry the largest and most complete stock in Hardin county and therefore always have what our customers want.

Our sales are so large and so continuous that we are able to give them at all times absolutely fresh goods. From the volume of our business and buying in such large quantities we are able in every instance to save our customers money. We treat the trade right by giving it at all times just what it buys, full measure, full weight and courteous treatment. These things explain our success and makes it proverbial. Once a customer always a customer. If you have never traded with us give us a trial and you will wonder why you have not been a patron long ago.

WE SELL GOODS BY WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

Watkins & Co.

The Leading Grocery House of Hardin County.
All orders from a distance promptly filled.

Above: The Friday, August 15, 1907 issue of The Elizabethtown News touts the Watkins & Co. business. The grocery also served as a Feed, Seed, Fertilizer and Buggy, Saddle, Harness distributor.
Left: The Friday, August 23, 1929 issue of The Elizabethtown News announced the highly anticipated construction of a new city hotel.

LOCAL CONFEDERATE SOLDIER LEAVES TRAIL OF INTRIGUE

By Susan McCrobie, newsletter editor

Like detectives, we amateur historians piece together the story of the Civil War's role in shaping our families and homeland from a great collection of parts. Those parts are essential clues gathered from family oral histories, hospital records, pension applications, oaths to the government, war department records, letters from agencies, and those wonderful census, marriage, death and cemetery records that give shape to the life of men like Thomas Payne Saunders, and others.

Our historical scavenger hunt to piece together the life of Saunders begins with a 1911 photo shared by his great-grandson, Gordon Snyder, of Louisville, Ky. This photo of Saunders, seated and holding a hat upon his knee, was taken just nine years before his death. That hat, not just any ordinary hat, it is the hat of a Kentucky Calvary man, the famed 'Centaur astride Pegasus,' of the C.S.A. First Kentucky Brigade.

Saunders was born in Hardin County, KY on December 23, 1837 to Daniel J. Saunders and his wife, the former Minerva Jane Patton. He came from a family of hearty Hardin County pioneers. His great-grandfather was the legendary Indian fighter, scout, and legislator, Christopher Miller.

Like those in the family before him, Saunders was a farmer until war threatened home. And where his forefather was faced with invasion of Indians and the British on his homeland, Saunders left his western Hardin County home and enlisted at Big Springs Kentucky on August 14, 1862 to help ward off the invasion of the Federal Government on the seceding Southern States.

In his May 6, 1912 application for a Soldier's Pension to the state of Kentucky, the Rineyville resident solemnly swore that he was a member of Co. F, First Kentucky Calvary Regiment under the command of Capt. D.B. Taylor and Colonel Jacob Griffith.

On that same official record, Saunders also told of his capture and prison time at Johnson's Island, near Sandusky, Ohio, a parole after surrender in 1865, and his dead wife. Memory reliability in his seventy-fifth year raises a few questions as his story unfolds but one thing is for certain, Saunders saw some action as a Private in the Confederate States Army.

R.C. Lewis, of Hartford, KY, appeared before



Courtesy of Gordon A. Snyder, Louisville, KY

Thomas P. Saunders, of Rineyville, KY served in the C.S. Army. He had a log home along KY 920 in his later years and spent summers in Hardin County and wintered in Oldham County at the Kentucky Confederate Home.

Squire Helm Bush, a notary and the Hardin County Clerk, on May 6, 1912 and substantiated Saunders' claim of being captured in September 1862 and sent to Johnson's Island. Lewis was in the same capture and transfer.

Snyder, Saunders' great-grandson, tells us that Saunders' fought at Chickamauga in September 1863.

United States of America.

Thomas P. Saunders
of the County of Meade State of Kentucky

in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of the States thereunder, and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified or held void by Congress, or by decision of the Supreme Court, and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court. By help of God, I also pledge my parole of honor to remain north of the Ohio River during the rebellion.

Subscribed and sworn to before me at *Louisville, Ky* this *14th* day of *October* A. D. 1864

The above-named has *dark* complexion, *dark* hair, and *gray* eyes; is *five* feet *6 1/2* inches high

The above is the original of the present rebellion

Courtesy of the National Archives

Saunders, like many other soldiers during the War Between the States, signed oaths and then rejoined their units in action across the southern theater of war.

A Confederate register of patients in Ocmulgee Hospital at Macon, GA lists Thomas P. Saunders as a patient there July 8-12, 1864.

And then there is that little matter of signing the Oath of Loyalty to the Constitution of the United States and the Union of States at Louisville, KY on October 14, 1864. That oath had a handwritten addition, Saunders had to promise to stay north of the Ohio River during the rebellion.

It would appear that the old Confederate soldier recalled those days of war and his role. It was with his wife, Mary Payne Saunders, that he misplaced a very important detail. Saunders, for some unknown reason, believed the mother of his children was dead. He reported that he was a widow to a census taker and on his pension application that he swore to in person in front of the Hardin County Court Judge D.W. Rider.

All is well that ends well. Saunders got his pension and spent some of his days at the Kentucky Confederate Home in PeWee Valley among other old Rebs.

According to the April 1, 1908 *Confederate Home Messenger*, 'a monthly newsletter in the Interest of the Confederate Home at PeWee Valley,' Thomas P. Saunders was one of many men who received the Confederate Cross of Honor from the Confederate Home Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy.

The *Elizabethtown News* also reported that the Ben Hardin Helm Chapter, United Daughters of the

Confederacy had also bestowed the Cross of Honor on Saunders while living here in the county.

A man who could forget a wife might have a bit of trouble remembering if he had previously been awarded the highly coveted Confederate service medal from the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

It is not known what happened with the two Confederate Cross of Honor medals, after Saunders died at the Confederate Home on March 12, 1920.

His wife was able to receive a Confederate pension, as his widow, until her death on August 7, 1930.

While the story of this Hardin County Confederate soldier appears to have fit together nicely, one might show some surprise at an unsolved mystery regarding the more recent aspect of Saunders' story.

Residents of the Kentucky Confederate Home were interred at the large cemetery nearby if families did not claim them for burial at home. The 313 old Veterans buried there in the PeWee Valley Confederate Cemetery received a nice monument proclaiming their name and service.

Saunders' state issued death certificate lists his interment at PeWee Valley. His daughter, Mrs. L.O. Alverson, is the informant on the document. Why Saunders has no stone in the Confederate Cemetery and a slip of paper found at the Filson Club lists his burial in Ekron, KY poses some questions.

It looks like our old Confederate soldier is still a bit of a mystery.



Courtesy of Hardin County History Museum

This photo of the Cecilia Methodist Church was used on the cover of its weekly printed worship program.

CECILIA METHODIST CHURCH CLOSES DOOR TO LONG HISTORY

By Susan McCrobie, newsletter editor

June 16, 2013 marked the final worship service of the Cecilia United Methodist Church established in 1849. Joyce Wooden, a member of that congregation, gathered together the history of that body of worship and the lengthy history has been preserved, along with two bibles, in the archives of the Hardin County History Museum.

Records indicate that the church was chartered May 22, 1881 with B.A. Cundiff, PC (Preacher in Charge) and Bro. Harrison, PE (Presiding Elder.)

Quarterly Conferences were held and followed a pattern of dinner, worship and then the meeting were all men who were present were listed and a secretary chosen. Four questions were asked: 1.) Are there any appeals? 2.) Are there any complaints? 3.) Are there any Sunday School reports? 4.) Are there written reports of the state of the work of the charge?

Churches listed at the time were Stone Church, White Mills, Howes Valley, Pleasant Grove, Smith Chapel, Cross Roads and Burkhead Schoolhouse. The first time the Cecilian Church is listed was at the

Quarterly Conference held at Cross Roads on December 17, 1881. This was the Long Grove Circuit, Elizabethtown District that consisted of 6 to 9 churches. The Cecilian Church pledged \$17.90 for the quarter. Bro. I.H. Mossbarger and C. B. Creager were Stewards.

A deed to the Cecilian E.M. Church from Mossbarger, and others, was recorded with the Hardin County Clerk in 1892, book 37 page 329.

By 1910, it appears that a parsonage existed for the Circuit with the churches all contributing to the expenses. It is not clear who occupied the parsonage.

A Missionary Society was in existence at the Cecilian Church in 1930. Mrs. Fred Lyons was named president and Miss Lee Goodman the treasurer. A bible was donated to the church on October 27, 1937 by Mr. Hollie Milburn. This bible had been previously donated to the Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church in Louisville by Mrs. Bishop Morris and Mrs. Lucy Bailey on January 30, 1887.

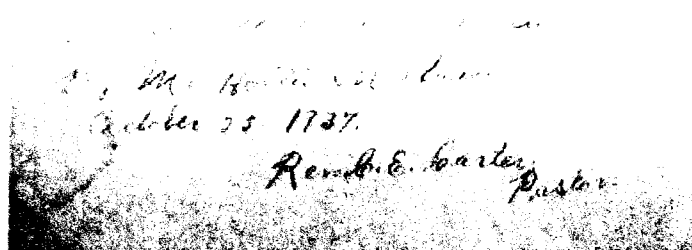
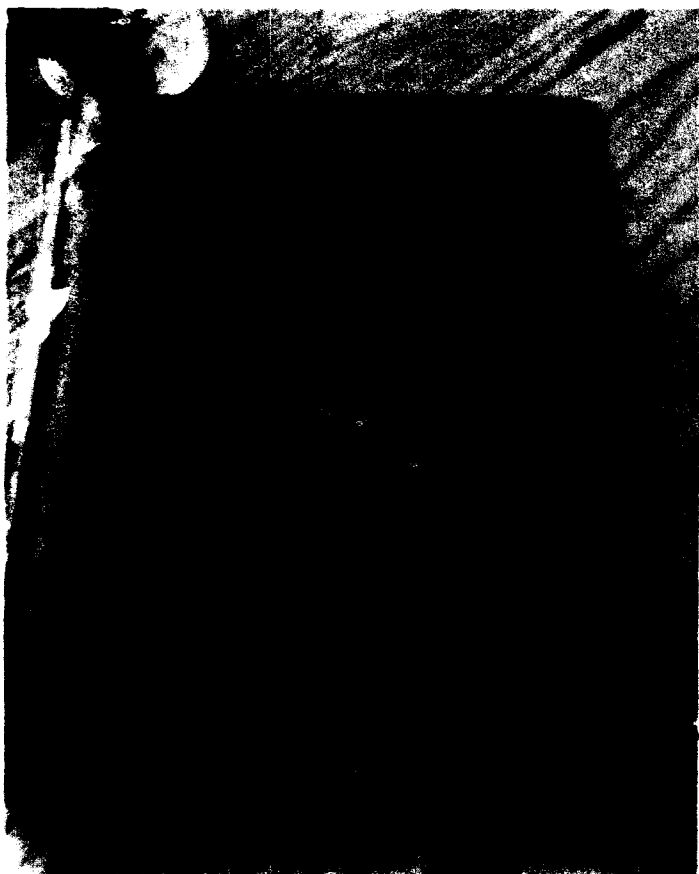
First Mortgage Bonds were issued in 1965 for the

purchase of a parsonage for the Cecilian Church. The bonds were set at 6% in denominations of \$50, \$100, \$250 and \$500 with maturity dates extending from Jun 1, 1965 to December 1, 1976. The total amount of the bonds issued was \$6000.

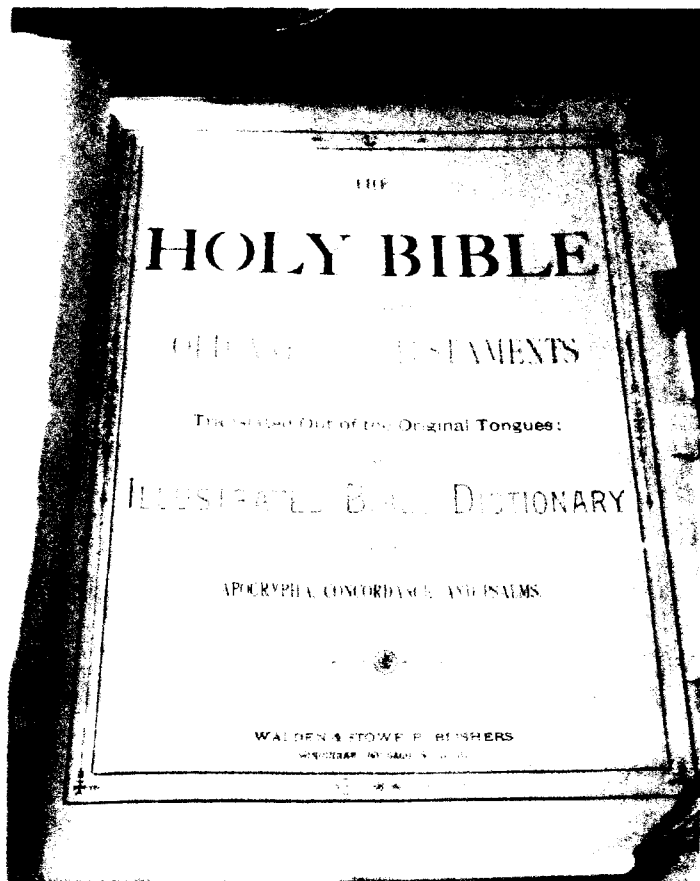
The last parsonage for the church was built in 1976. At that time the three churches on the Circuit were Cecilia, Ridge Spring and Summit. The parsonage belonged to the Cecilian Church. It served the church until its 2013 closure.

The first church building was a log building located adjacent to the railroad tracts. The sanctuary that closed in 2013 was first used on November 2, 1902 and dedicated on June 21, 1903. The Creagors donated the lots for the church and parsonage. Sunday School rooms and a fellowship hall were added in the 1950s. The furnishings and carpet in the sanctuary were replaced in 1981. A wall between the kitchen and the fellowship hall was removed and a new kitchen installed. The last major renovation occurred in 2002-2003. That renovation was an addition of vinyl siding to the entire exterior, and a window replacement for all with exception of the stained glass windows. A new entrance to the fellowship hall and changes to the entrance to the sanctuary were also made at this time with upgrades in wiring, lighting and installation of ceiling fans.

The church celebrated its Centennial on June 22, 2002.



Courtesy of Hardin County History Museum Archives
Inscription found inside of a bible used at the Cecilia Methodist Church during its early days identifies benefactors of the small, rural house of worship.



IRA BEERMAN SUCCUMBS MONDAY

Local Civil War Veteran Had Met Lincoln and Grant.

Ira Beerman, 85, died at his home in Elizabethtown, Monday evening at 4 o'clock, of influenza, having been confined to his bed for five months.

Mr. Beerman was born in Gananoque, near Lake Ontario, Canada. He became a citizen of the United States in 1862. He then lived in New York State. From this state he enlisted in the Union Army on December 31, 1863.

A few months before the surrender of General Lee, Mr. Beerman was walking along the street of Center Point, Virginia. He saw two men approaching. One of these was a tall man and the other was a short, stout man smoking a black cigar. The soldier was asked his name and responded. The men then shook hands with Mr. Beerman. These strangers were none other than President Lincoln and General Grant. Mr. Beerman said Mr. Lincoln was pleasant but appeared worried. He also said Grant was dressed rather common. The aged veteran loved to recall this very pleasant incident in his soldier days.

Mr. Beerman was for many years an employee of the Mengel Box Company, Louisville, and did work for that company in the mahogany forests of Central America and in the jungles of Africa. He often saw the cannibals while he was in the latter country.

Survivors are his widow and two daughters, Mrs. Jess Wilson, of near Elizabethtown, and Mrs. Masel Sims, who resided here until last fall. A son, Joe Beerman, is deceased.

Funeral services were held at the home Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. Summers Brinson, and burial took place in the city cemetery.

Ruby Horn has filed suit for divorce from C. A. Horn in the Hardin Circuit Court. Cruelty is charged.

Roundtop Road Resident Remembered HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER SHARES STORY OF GRANDFATHER'S CW ARMY EXPERIENCE

Hardin County Historical Society member Josephine Wilson Puckett missed meeting her grandfather, Ira Beerman, by only a couple of years but she grew up knowing about the old German gentleman and liked what she heard.

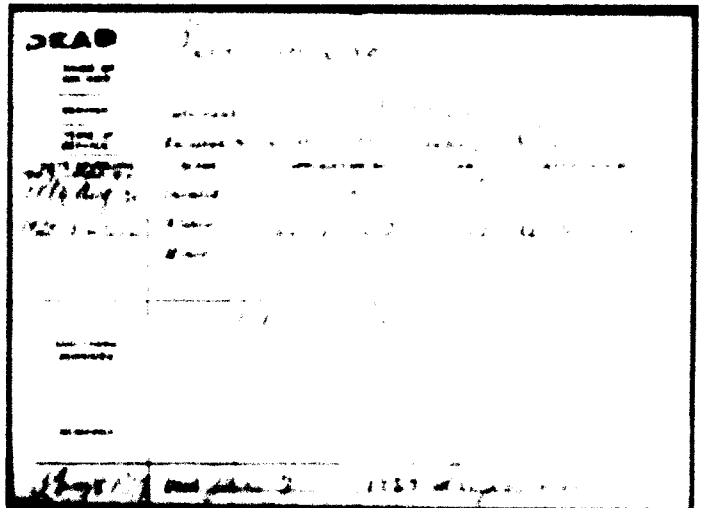
A few months back, Puckett shared a newspaper clipping of Beerman's obituary with Kenny Tabb. From the account of his final fanfare published in the local paper, it can be said that Beerman had an interesting life.

Beerman was a Private in Co. M of the New York Heavy Artillery, 14th Regiment during his Civil War soldiering days.

After the war he had a wonderful career as a purchaser for the Mengel Box Company that took him on world buying trips. Mengel Box Company was a manufacturer of wooden and paper boxes as well as a select line of toys and furniture. Cigar boxes made by the company are real collectibles.

In addition to his life savings from his days with Mengel, Beerman drew a pension for his war service until his death on January 7, 1929 according to a card on file for him in the National Archives. His retirement days were spent in a home on the Roundtop Road to the east of Elizabethtown.

Ira Beerman was 85 years old when he died. He is buried in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery.



Courtesy of Josephine Puckett

National Archives Pension Card for Ira Beerman lists his date of death in Elizabethtown, KY.

DIAL TELEPHONE EXHIBITED HERE

300 Attend. Council to Decide on Company's Proposed Plan.

Over 300 people are said to have visited the Continental Telephone Company's exhibit and demonstration of the new dial telephone, held Saturday and Monday in the Elizabethtown City Hall council chamber.

A. B. Clark, of Kansas City, general manager of the above company, stated that judging by the conversations of those present at the exhibition, the people of Elizabethtown were unanimously in favor of the automatic system. C. M. Sells, of the sales organization of the Automatic Electric Co., Inc., assisted Mr. Clark in the exhibition of the automatic phone, presented here.

Should a favorable consideration be given on a franchise and the local city council and the officials of the telephone company strike off a satisfactory agreement, Mr. Clark declared that his company proposed to install a new plant, a new exchange, new phones and equipment in this city and that a new company would be formed to take over the present company.

He said that the rates under the new franchise would not be effective until a new automatic exchange was in full operation. The rates to be charged under the proposed franchise would have to be worked out by the local city council and the officials of the telephone company, Mr. Clark stated. This matter will be brought before the council at their regular meeting, Monday night, February 4.

For the present, the telephone company executive explained the county and rural service, should the new franchise be adopted, would remain as it is now and the proposed changes would only affect Elizabethtown. An exchange would still be maintained here for information, complaints, long distance and rural service calls.



Message From The President

Greetings to all members,

Happy Summer to all! Now that you have had all the hot dogs, hamburgers, and fireworks to make it a truly Happy 4th of July, there is the rest of summer to face.

The State should be removing the VanMeter historical marker on US 62 soon and having it restored for us. The interpretative marker for Phillip Arnold is in place on the Square. The possibility of placing an interpretative marker near the site of property owned by Thomas Lincoln just off Battle Training Road is being explored. Most of the cabin has been destroyed by time, but bits of the logs and fireplace remain. I feel certain that there are other historical sites which need marking so please share your thoughts with the Society.

The book sales for "*American El Dorado*" by Ron Elliott are on-going. I will have copies at the July 22nd meeting.

Volunteers are always needed to help with the *Bits and Pieces* and other endeavors of the Society. If you have stories to share, like Ms. Puckett's remembrance of her grandfather, please contact me or other board members. We value your contributions to the study and preservation of our history in Elizabethtown and Hardin County.

The dedication of the plaque honoring Mary Jo Jones for her many years of works and many books to preserve Hardin County history will be in the Museum at 5:30 pm on July 22nd - before the meeting at 6:30. Jim Jones, Mary Jo's husband, will be in attendance so let's show him how much we value their association with the Society, the Museum, and the county. Make your plans and reservations to attend.

-Judith "Judy" Cummins French

Elvin Smith, Jr. made quite a discovery while giving a tour of the museum to middle school children. One student thought the old black rotary dial telephone on the counter in the Showers and Hays Drug Store exhibit was some type of clock. From 1930 to 2013 telephones have really changed in appearance. Grandpaw Bell looks nothing like the cell we all carry in our pockets.

Historical Society announces next meeting

What was the Whistle Stop before becoming a quaint little restaurant?

After it was no longer used as a bank, what kind of deposits were made in this building?

What press metal exterior building had a movie theater operated inside at one time?

The Hardin County Historical Society will meet Monday evening, July 22, 2013, at the STATE THEATER GALLERY, 209 West Dixie Avenue, in downtown Elizabethtown. The buffet dinner, catered by TRINOS RESTAURANT, will be served at 6:30 PM. The price is \$9.00 per person. Call Twylane VanLahr at 270-765-2515 by **Friday, July 19th, for dinner reservations**; later reservations for the meal cannot be guaranteed.

The dinner is followed at 7 P.M. by a special program, *Glendale Yesterday and Today* presented by the Hardin County Historical Society's own past president, Kenny Tabb. This photo presentation will take you back in time to the little railroad community of yesterday and a look at the same building today. You will be pleasantly pleased by what you recall from days gone by in this wonderful journey though the camera's eye.

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