

# Harrison Heritage News

Published monthly by Harrison County Historical Society, PO Box 411, Cynthiana, KY, 41031

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 William A. Penn, Editor  
 423 Mill Rd Pl  
 Midway, KY 40347

January 2004



Vol. 5 No. 1

## L.L.L. Highway Again

Harold Slade

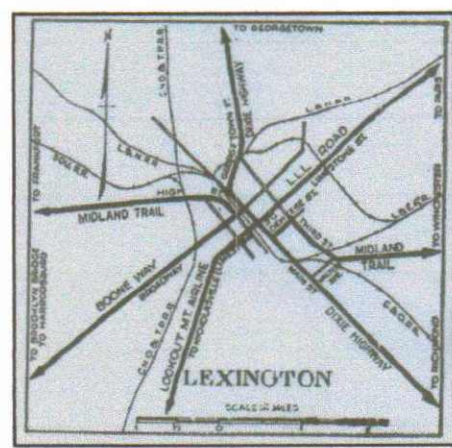
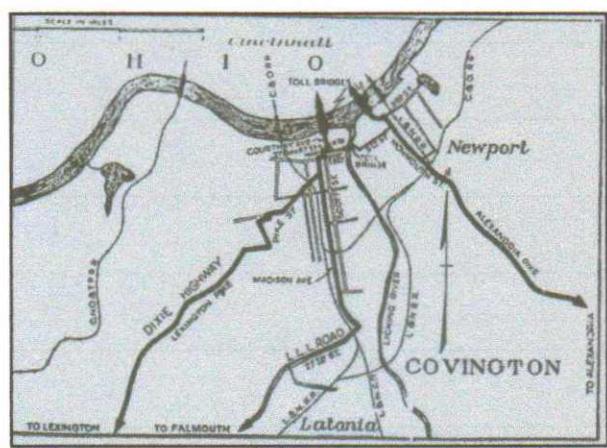
I have asked George Slade to allow me to pinch hit for him this month to give my report on a subject that has been of interest to both of us for many years. George and I have often talked about the L.L.L. Highway. I didn't know the L.L.L. Road would be his topic for December 2003 and George didn't know I had already started several weeks earlier my long-delayed research on this project.

George and I have often wondered how this road got its name and where did it go. I think we have had that information before us for maybe a year now, but it has been just a bit hard for our minds to grasp it. We have both dreamed of the day we would see it printed on a map.

We had heard two versions of how the road got its name. One was the weighman's initials that weighed each load of rock for the road was "L.L.L." The other version was the road to three racetracks - Latonia, Lexington and Louisville. The two clippings from our local Cynthiana paper, one in 1921 and the other in 1925 told that story. I now feel sure the story told in those two articles to be the true story even though I was a bit slow to catch on. But this wasn't an official Kentucky highway route. This was a private project by the Kentucky Motor Club at their own expense. This was their effort to aid the central Kentucky race fans to travel to these tracks on the poor and unmarked roads of that day. Although these roads were given the name L.L.L. Highway by the Kentucky Motor Club, the Kentucky Highway Department did use the name on part of this route on their official map a short time later. We now know this because the research we started in November led us to some of these maps and we now have them in our hands.

George and I had heard the Filson Club in Louisville might be a source of the information we sought. A trip to Louisville to visit the Filson Library was my first effort. A young lady there was so nice checking their files. The only map she found for us was a Kentucky Geological Survey map dated September 15, 1928, of Harrison County. But I was very pleased to see L.L.L. Highway shown both north and south of Cynthiana. I was hoping she could find one of Fayette County, but it wasn't in their collection.

My son, Terry, works for the state, and has lived in Frankfort many years. My next step was to ask Terry to check the Highway Department for me. He met a gentleman that was so very helpful. He found and made copies for me a number of state maps of the time period we are interested in. *[Continued on page 3]*



Kentucky Highway Map dated January 1, 1926, showing "L.L.L. Road" at Covington (lower center of map), and at Lexington (by Limestone Street on map). Map courtesy of Harold Slade.

## Harrison County Historical Society

Jane Adams Whitehead

## Cynthiana -Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 15TH:

### Tour of the Historic Coleman-Desha house "The Oaks" planned for January Meeting.

Mr. Wesley Newkirk has invited the Historical Society to hold its January meeting at his restored 1812 house on the Oddville Pike. The house, perhaps more familiarly known as the Duffy House, is located east of Cynthiana, on the right (south) side of the road between Eastside Elementary and the Elks Club. The house is at the end of a short lane. After a brief 7 p.m. business meeting, Mr. Newkirk will conduct a tour of the restored house.

There are two references for this house in the Cynthiana library: *This Old House*, by Katherine Wilson; and "The Desha-Coleman Plantation", a dissertation on the history of the farm by Elizabeth Harris May. The estate retains several important outbuildings and barns. The house was built by James Coleman about 1812, and was purchased by former Gov. Joseph Desha in 1827. In 1839 the farm was transferred to his son, General Lucius Desha; a daughter Frances married H. C. Duffy, father of Misses Eliza, Cornelia, Eleanor, Margaret and Lucia Duffy, who lived here the remainder of their lives. The estate was sold out of the Desha-Duffy family in 1987 and the farm divided. The Desha cemetery is on the Elks Farm.

**Note: No meeting was held in December 2003 by the Harrison County Historical Society.**

### Harrison County, Ky., History on the Internet:

*Harrison Heritage News* back issues are archived on the Historical Society link found at [cynthianaky.com](http://cynthianaky.com). (Internet search engine [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) searches these back issues.)

Battle of Cynthiana - [www.battleofcynthiana.org](http://www.battleofcynthiana.org)

Hinkson and Ruddle Station Historical Society:  
[www.ramsha1780.org](http://www.ramsha1780.org)

### Distilleries in Harrison County, Ky.

In William Perrin's 1882 *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties*, one reads that "one of the very first industries of Harrison County was the distillation of whisky, and whisky seems to have been a pioneer beverage as well as pioneer industry. John Miller had a distillery in what is now Leesburg Precinct, more than seventy-five years ago.... In what is now Rutland, there was a distillery started as early as 1791-92 by John Kemper...Speaking of the importance of whisky, from a commercial standpoint alone, it certainly is the most valuable business interest of the county."

Collins in his *History of Kentucky* says, "In Harrison County there are thirty distilleries which manufacture annually about 50,000 barrels of whisky, much of it of quality unsurpassed in the world. The manufacture of and trade in this whisky constitute the greatest business and wealth of Harrison County."

The display related to distilleries and whisky at the Cynthiana-Harrison County museum is rather impressive. However, when one considers the number of distilleries which existed in the county and the importance of such business, it would seem that perhaps our collection should be greater.

Thanks to a number of contributors and the work of Harold Slade items from several distilleries are on display. An Old Jim Gore bottle (dated spring 1913) and a John Poindexter Old Bourbon bottle are from the Wiglesworth Brothers Distillery. Also displayed are an A. Keller Whisky bottle and several A. Keller Ale bottles.

A barrel top, several publications, a crop book, and a whiskey bottle are representative of the Old Lewis Hunter Distillery at Lair.

Although the museum collection included an empty Old VanHook bottle from F. S. Ashbrook Distillery, the latest acquisition is of more value. Recently an unopened bottle of VanHook whiskey came back home to Cynthiana and the museum after 20 plus years and a trip from California. Thanks to George Slade and his successful e-mail communication. [See story and photo next month on this bottle. ed.]

The Paul S. Lail family loaned a wonderful display of Mr. Lail's cooper tools. In addition, other cooper tools have been given to the museum. Can you identify an auger, a reamer, a spigot, a chamfer knife, etc. etc.?

Other distillery related items on exhibit are a charter and booklets related to the Distillery, Rectifying, and Wine Workers International Union of America as well as a number of photographs. At the museum, we welcome other distillery and whisky (when do you use whisky and when do you use whiskey?) items, volunteers, model builders, and especially visitors.

*[L.L.L. Highway Again - continued from page 1]*

The first of these was not an official Kentucky Highway map, but one published by C. S. Mendenhall in 1917. Some of the major roads had been given numbers, this was before the state had adopted that system. Our next map is a Kentucky Highway map dated January 1, 1926 [see illustration p. 1]. This is the first map in our hands to show the "L.L.L. Road" leaving Covington and passing near the Latonia race track. This route continued south through Cynthiana and enters Lexington on North Limestone. On this official Kentucky Highway map the L.L.L. Road ends in Lexington. It does not leave Lexington in any direction.

Our next map is dated January 1, 1928. During these years there were two highways leading south from Cincinnati to Lexington. The more western route, and it passed through Georgetown, was well known as the Dixie Highway. The other route went through Cynthiana on its way to Lexington. In those early times both of these routes were being improved. We know at this date a section of the old "Dixie Highway" had not yet been completed. Our "L.L.L. Road" that passed through Cynthiana had been completed three years before. So we might expect the traffic to be quite heavy through Cynthiana to avoid the construction sites on the old Dixie Highway.

By this 1928 date some highways were being assigned numbers. The old "Dixie Highway" was now officially the U.S. 25 E. highway. Of course, it was still popularly known as the "Dixie Highway" and it was shown with a dual marking as such on the map. When I saw this map, I thought it a bit strange that our L.L.L. Road was now officially the U.S. 25 E. highway. Of course, like the Dixie, it also had a dual marking and was still shown as the L.L.L. Road. This was a courtesy to travelers and to still show these two familiar names, "Dixie and L.L.L.", on the maps until travelers became used to the new system had to be helpful. Again, the L.L.L. seemed to end in Lexington.

Our next map is dated November 15, 1930. The U. S. 25 E route through Cynthiana is now the U. S. 27 Highway. The northern leg of this route south of Cincinnati had been moved eastward to pass through Alexandria, Ky., and then continued on south to Falmouth. The "old" beginning of the road in Covington was now State Highway 17, but it still retained its dual marking of L.L.L. Road.

At Lexington the U. S. 25 route continues on south and retains its dual "Dixie Highway" marking. The U. S. 27 enters Lexington on Limestone with its dual marking of L.L.L. Road. The U. S. 27 also continues on south but without its dual label. So we know the L.L.L. did not go south beyond Lexington. We are sure it didn't officially follow any route to Louisville either although we know the Kentucky Motor Club did mark poles all the way to Louisville with the L.L.L.

A May 1, 1931, map shows all routes the same as reported earlier. Even after six more years on June 15, 1937, an official Kentucky Highway map still shows the highways marked as before. But, on June 15, 1938, on the Kentucky Highway map the L.L.L. Road has been omitted from both the Covington end and the Lexington end.

To summarize our search for information on the old L.L.L. Highway, we have to believe the story as reported by George Slade in the December issue of this newsletter. The old road did go to Louisville from Lexington on the Midland Trail. It also went north to Covington, passing through Cynthiana on its way. We are sure as told in the newspaper articles that guides and maps were published throughout the country. Maybe one of these will turn up one day. But all of this was an endeavor of a private club, the Kentucky Motor Club, to aid the central Kentucky race fans to find their way to three race tracks over the poor and unmarked roads of those days.

On the official Kentucky Highway maps we have located, we find the state has used the L.L.L. Road name for the primary name only one time. That was the map issued January 1, 1926. The road started in Covington and passed through Cynthiana on its way to Lexington. Later, it was also on other maps, but those times it was used as a dual marking for the road after a new system had been adopted.

I think George will be pleased when I show him the maps I have found. If one day an old map or guide of the old Kentucky Motor Club turns up, that will be another real pleasure for both of us.

*ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES TO HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SHOULD BE SENT  
IN THIS MONTH*

See the membership form in this issue and send a check right away, or bring it to the next meeting.

*Correction:* In the article from the Dec-03 issue, "Old Fashioned Christmas Trees," the incorrect years were given when Evelyn Byrd Penn lived on the Hanna Farm near Rutland; she moved there when ten years old (in 1925) not two years old, and met Wm. Otis Penn when he was about ten, not five or six.

### Harrison County, Kentucky, Historical Publications

available from Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, 112 South Walnut Street, P.O. Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031 (859-234-7179); open Friday and Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM:

- Boyd, Lucinda, *Chronicles of Cynthiana*. This is a reprint of the rare 1894 edition, which includes family histories, the famous account of David Sheely and his ghost, and other historical sketches and scattered accounts of persons and events connected with Cynthiana and Harrison County. 262 pp. Hardbound. \$20.00.

- June 1896 *Cynthiana Democrat* reprint. This was a special edition with biographical sketches and photographs of prominent men and women; many photographs of buildings; city/county government, church and school information is included. 24 pp. Paperback, 12"x18". \$5.00

- *Cynthiana Since 1790*. Virgil Peddicord (1986). Mr. Peddicord attempted to list the owners/businesses located on each lot from the founding of the city through the mid-1980s, including subdivisions added through 1923. 171 pp. (See separate index below). Paperback. \$20.00

- *Index - Cynthiana Since 1790* (William A. Penn). Mr. Peddicord did not prepare a comprehensive index for his book. This supplemental index contains about 3,500 names and a reference city street map. 30 pp. Paperback. \$3.00

- *Writings of Colonel William M. Moore, (1837-1927)* compiled by Andrew B. "Andy" Peak (2002). Includes 1921-1922 articles he wrote for the *Cynthiana Democrat* about his life. He was born in Harrison Co., but his family soon moved to Lewis Co., Mo.; in 1849 he moved back to Harrison Co., and he wrote much about life in Cynthiana in the early 1850s; he joined the CSA army in 1861 and fought in battles at Lexington, Mo.; Pea Ridge, Arkansas; and Shiloh, Tenn. The book includes several family obituaries and two letters that contain Moore genealogy. 10 family photographs; index; paperback, 71 pp. \$10.00/ \$3.00 shipping. Limited supply.

- *This Old House* by Katherine Wilson. Now back in print, this book tells the stories of twenty-six early Harrison Co. houses and the families who have occupied them. Much material on Harrison Co. history. Exterior and interior b & w photos of each house. Originally printed 1956-1957. 70 pp., new index, paperback. \$15.00 (An index is available for earlier editions, which had no index).

- *Cromwell's Comments*, by John M. Cromwell (1862-1951) is a reprint of Cromwell's 1928-1941 *Cynthiana Democrat* columns on the history of Cynthiana (Harrison Co., KY). A fine writer and historian, Mr. Cromwell covered many topics, including fairs, horses, fires, churches, businesses, cemeteries, government, Civil War, social events, and the Licking River. Sometimes he quoted old county histories, updated the information, and then added his personal reminiscences of interesting personalities from his career as banker and mayor. William A. Penn and George D. Slade, editors. Paperback; preface; 2 maps; 21 photos; 4 illus.; annotated; index; 200 pp. (*Cynthiana Democrat*, 2002), \$10 plus \$3 shipping.

Shipping/handling for above books: Please include a handling and shipping fee of \$4.00 for first book (unless otherwise noted above), \$2.50 for each additional book; you will be notified if special shipping fees apply. No shipping fee on *Index - Cynthiana Since 1790*, if ordered with the book. Make checks/money orders payable to "Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum." No credit cards. Prices/fees subject to change.

### Membership Form - Harrison County Historical Society

Send to: Harrison County Historical Society, P. O. Box 411, Cynthiana, Kentucky 41031

Membership fee \$5.00 (includes Harrison Heritage News) due annually January 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

## Harrison Heritage News -Article Index - Vol. 4 - 2003

(For Vol. 1 and 2 article and subject index, see Vol. 3 No. 1 Jan-02; Vol. 3 index see vol. 4 - 2)

Vol.4 No. 1 (Jan) - Strike Three, (George Slade); Winter Fun, (Martha Barnes); Methodist Church in Harrison County, Pt. II, (George Slade).

Vol. 4 No. 2 (Feb) - Atkinson's Automatic Timer (George Slade); Mole People Invade Cynthiana (William A. Penn); Cynthiana, A Model City (Martha Barnes); Smith House (George Slade); Index by article for Vol. 3 (2003) and cumulative index, Vol 1-3;

Vol. 4 No. 3 (Mar) - Chickens (George Slade); Locomotive "Cynthiana" (William A. Penn); Tempus Fugit (Martha Barnes); Harrison County Arrests for Disloyalty During the Civil War (William A. Penn).

Vol. 4 No. 4(Apr) - The Standpipe (George Slade); Cynthiana Raggedy Ann Festival (Martha Barnes).

Vol. 4 No. 5 (May) - Buggies, Surreys and Model Ts (George Slade); Grist Mill Day VI (Martha Barnes); Lucy Logan Desha (William A. Penn).

Vol 4 No. 6 (June) - Historic Griffith "Silver Lake" Farm to be Preserved (William A. Penn); Storing Quilts in Summer (Dana Ethridge); Museum Bottle Collection (Martha Barnes); Cows and Milk in Town Them Days (George Slade).

Vol 4 No. 7 (Jul) - Hot Air Balloons (George Slade); Mac Swinford Collection at UK (William A. Penn); Our Star Spangled Museum (Martha Barnes); Old Fashioned Harrison County Cooking: Duffy Recipes (William A. Penn)..

Vol. 4 No. 8 (Aug) - Cynthiana Carriage Company (George Slade); Museum Celebrates Ninth Anniversary (Martha Barnes); Harrison County Genealogy: Lafferty Family (William A. Penn).

Vol. 4 No. 9 (Sep) - Railroad in Harrison County During the Civil War (George Slade); Civil War Memorabilia in Museum (Martha Barnes); W. C. Sleet and the 1st Battle of Cynthiana, Harrison Co., Ky. (W. C. Sleet, 1905); Interpreting the Civil War in Harrison County (Penn).

Vol. 4 No. 10 (Oct) - Rev. LeRoy Cole (George Slade); Fire Fighting Memorabilia at Museum (Martha Barnes); Biancke's Restaurant (Dal Taylor); 1931 Business Listing in Cynthiana Telephone Directory (William A. Penn).

Vol. 4 No. 11 (Nov) - The Little Schoolboy (George Slade); Dr. Thomas D. Clark Lecture (Martha Barnes); Cissy Gregg - Courier Journal Food Columnist (William A. Penn)

Vol. 4 No. 12 (Dec) - Old-Fashioned Christmas Trees (William A. Penn); Christmas Wishes (Martha Barnes); L. L. L. Highway (George Slade).

### Photography

#### John M. Cromwell

From Cromwell's Comments: October 24, 1929

My first experience with a Cynthiana photographer was with the firm of Rohr Bros., site of studio not known to me. In fact I have no recollection of the gentlemen at all, but as evidence that they took a shot at me with a camera along about 1866 or '67, there is a picture of a chubby-faced boy filed away at my home. Imagine it - chubby-faced!

The first photographer that I remember in Cynthiana was Lafayette Grinnan, and there are yet extant in many homes photos bearing the trade mark, L. Grinnan. "Fate" was a first class artist and for a number of years had his studio in the upstairs building now occupied by Dr. Medekle.<sup>1</sup> He removed to Paris in the early eighties, and was succeeded, in the same studio, by Hope Redmon, Jr. Hope was not only a first class photographer, but a natural born mechanic as well; could make anything or repair anything. I still have a German silver "Captains" badge which he made, and engraved, when I was honored by being elected captain of the Harrison County Wheel Club. This was away back in 1886, and I can now recall only six living members of that organization of more than forty years ago, J. K. Northcutt, Geo. Hook [probably should be Howk], Phil Barnhardt, Tom Riley, and Uncle Charlie Rieckel.

Now we come to Mr. B. P. Young, whom we may term the present incumbent, installed as we all know in an up-to-date studio just east of The Democrat office, and sandwiched between Santy Sherwood, the furniture man, and Jim Harter, the big mogul of the K. U. C.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Young was reared in Pulaski county, and we may say grew up in the business, since his father was also a photographer, and for a number of years had a studio in Louisville. Starting out on his own, B. P. for a time engaged in business in Somerset, later removing to Carlisle, where he remained for 14 years, coming to Cynthiana about ten years ago.

I often drop in for a chat with B. P., and while so engaged recently he called my attention to a new machine he has acquired, The Eastman Auto-Focus Enlarger. With this machine photos can be enlarged several dimensions, and by using another attachment, can also be reduced, and verily, the end is not yet.

Closing we quote a placard displayed in the Young Studio - "Your friends can buy anything you can give them except your photograph." A word to the wise is sufficient. [Note: the Cynthiana-Harrison Co. Museum has a collection of photographs by Cynthiana photographers that Mr. Cromwell mentions. Source: *Cromwell's Comments*, John M. Cromwell, (Cynthiana 2003)].

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