

Harrison Heritage News

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December 2004



Vol. 5 No. 12

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Murder of Coleman Maybrier - 1

Annual HHN Index - 4

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A Winter Scene on Beaver Creek - The log Charles McDowell house was built c. 1813 by Alexander Ogle, nine miles east of Cynthiana on the Oddville Pike. It is one of twenty-five early Harrison County homes featured in Katherine Wilson's, *This Old House*, for sale at the museum. This book would make a thoughtful Christmas present. Photo, Wm. A. Penn, 1962.

Harrison Heritage News Completes Fifth Year

William A. Penn

Harrison Heritage News, a monthly newsletter of the Harrison County Historical Society, has now been published for five years starting in 2000. In celebration of this milestone, this issue contains an index of all articles.

The first issue stated the goals of the newsletter: "The contents will include contributions from the historical society, Harrison County Trust museum, a column of historical notes by George Slade, and local, regional, and state news concerning history and preservation relevant to our community."

Another goal is to publish new historical material about Harrison County, indexed annually for easy reference. Our newsletter is archived at the Cynthiana public library and the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort, and is available to Internet researchers courtesy of Gary Wright, on www.cynthianaky.com.

George Slade and Martha Barnes have contributed a history column in almost every one of the 56 issues to date. Janie Whitehead provided meeting excerpts. Tonya Coleman, Harrison Co. Chamber of Commerce, has volunteered printing the newsletter, and Harold and Dorothy Slade have diligently distributed almost every issue.

As editor, I want to thank these and all other contributors and supporters of our newsletter.

The Story of a Murdered Fiddler - Coleman Maybrier

George D. Slade

A tombstone, darkened with age, is located just inside the gate at Salem Church Cemetery in eastern Harrison County, Kentucky. On the stone is inscribed, "Coleman Maybrier, Born March 10, 1848, Murdered July 7, 1877." Older citizens of the community recall the story as it was told to them by their grandparents.

It seems that Coleman, better known as Coley, had a neighbor who, for this story, I will call Doug Williams. No one seemed to know why but there had always been bad blood between Coley and Doug. Both were dyed

in the wool coon hunters with several top notch coon hounds each.

Doug's favorite hound, with glossy gray hair, was named Old Blue. One day, Nancy, Coley's wife, was walking to the general store with a basket of eggs which she intended to trade for coffee and sugar. As she approached the front of Williams' house, Ole Blue sprang from under the front porch and headed for Nancy. Startled, Nancy made the mistake of turning and running. Ole Blue nipped Nancy's leg, causing her to drop the basket of eggs. She ran home. Coley was in the back yard, chopping wood. Nancy told Coley about the incident and showed him the torn dress and the dog's teeth marks in her leg.

(COLEMAN MAYBRIER - Continued on page 3)

Harrison County Historical Society

Larry Moss, President
Janie Whitehead, Secretary
Dorothy Slade, Treasurer

CYNTHIANA-HARRISON COUNTY MUSEUM

112 S. Walnut St., Cynthiana, Ky. 41031 Hrs: 10-5 Fri-Sat
Martha Barnes, President

November 18th - Meeting Report

Business Mtg: President Moss plans to discuss the tree removal grant the City of Cynthiana received with Mayor Wells. The historical society opposes the indiscriminate removal of the oldest trees in the old **Cynthiana Graveyard**.

President Moss appointed a committee to monitor news of planned demolition of buildings and to advise the historical society. The historical society supports preservation of the historic fabric of downtown. Members lamented the demolition of the historic house next to city hall. Does this action conform to Kentucky Renaissance, of which Cynthiana Renaissance is an active member, which advocates a **preservation ethic**? This includes government supported incentive programs to encourage investment in historic properties, protect historic resources in downtowns, and promote educational efforts to increase awareness of historic buildings.

Program: Donald Palmer presented an interesting and educational program about beekeeping. He showed examples of beehives and the intricate construction involved. Mr. Palmer explained the process of processing and marketing honey, and told of the various pests that threaten hives. His hives are located around Harrison County and the honey is sold locally.

No December Meeting -

Members will hold a joint potluck dinner with the Cynthiana-Harrison Co. Museum December 4th at 6 p.m. at the Cynthiana Methodist Church.

(Meeting notes by editor)

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS - VISIT THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP - OVER TEN LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS. (See listing in November newsletter). A membership in the Harrison County Historical Society would make a good Christmas present.

Preserving Harrison County History is a Group Effort

As it should be all year, truly this is the season of gratitude, optimism, and cheer. Until our editor Bill Penn reminded me, I had not realized that our Harrison Heritage News was five years old - and to think our Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum is ten years old.

How appreciative we are to Bill for holding on to the idea of a newsletter and bringing it to reality! What a treasure trove of our history in those five volumes! Despite all obstacles, Bill has been there for us - whether it be gathering our history, writing our history, publishing our history, or promoting it. Thanks, Bill!

Special thanks to each of you who are a part of the historical society and/or the museum. Regardless of your individual contribution - whether it be time, talent, or treasure - you keep us going - ever onward! I especially want to acknowledge Harold and George Slade - for indeed, they are our true historians. They do it all for us. Where would our efforts to preserve history be without the Slades - that includes you too, Dorothy!

Our museum volunteers are priceless. We could not administer and operate the museum without them. We all need to make an effort to find more volunteers - perhaps just to be on a standby or emergency list. We must encourage our young people to participate. Any ideas? Suggestions?

I hesitate to list our faithful volunteers - lest I omit someone. You know who you are - you know how hard you work. I hope you know how we appreciate you. To all of you in both organizations, to those who keep us going - thank you so very much!

Memberships in both the historical society and the museum (The Cynthiana-Harrison County Trust, Inc.) are vital to our existence. If you have the time, perhaps you would want to extend your level of participation in the new year. May you and yours have blessed, peaceful, happy holidays!

Membership in Harrison County Historical Society

Send name and address and a check for \$5.00 to:
Harrison County Historical Society
PO Box 411
Cynthiana, Kentucky 41031

COLEMAN MAYBRIER continued from page 1

Coley said nothing. His face flushed. Blue veins bulged in his neck. He went straight to the back door and into the kitchen, pulled down his cap-and-ball rifle from the wall and loaded the gun.

With the loaded rifle under his arm, glaring straight ahead, Coley hurried towards the Williams' house. When Ole Blue sensed Coley's approach, he made the grave mistake of repeating his attack, this time on Coley. Before the dog was within twenty feet, Coley had the sights of his rifle centered between the dog's eyes. Coley squeezed the trigger. Ole Blue dropped in his tracks - not a sound or quiver. Coley turned and headed home.

Doug Williams had been watching the proceedings from inside the house. His temper had reached the boiling point, but he knew better than to confront Coley, who probably had a loaded pistol in his pocket. Coley returned home, placed his rifle in the rack on the kitchen wall, and said nothing. Word of the dog killing incident soon spread through the neighborhood but no mention was made of it to either man. Gradually, folks stopped talking about it and everyone supposed that the matter was settled.

A tradition of the church membership was to have a picnic on the first Saturday following the Fourth of July. This year it was July 7th. As always, the picnic was spread in the shade of the large trees which grew on both sides of the road. Buggies, surreys, and spring wagons brought folks from miles around and filled the hitch lot and roadside. Some men brought violins and some a quart or two of whiskey concealed under the buggy seat.

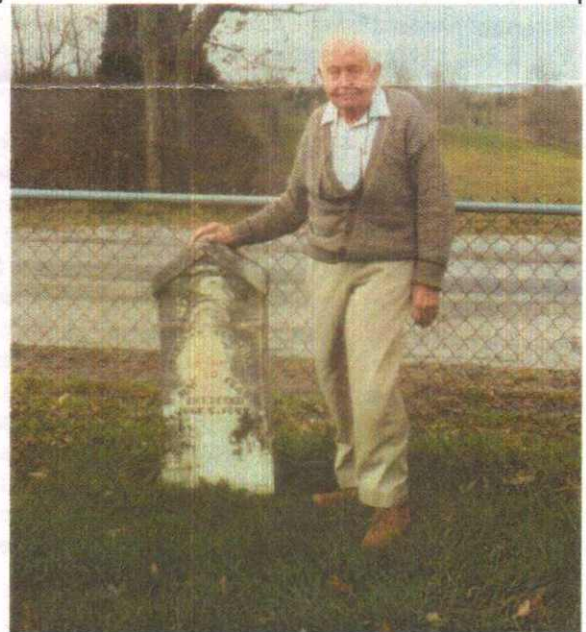
Everyone was having a great time. Some of the men, including Coley and Doug, visited their buggies frequently to partake of a nip from the bottle. Scattered groups were formed, discussing weather, crops, politics, and other subjects. Soon the bell was sounded, proclaiming lunch time.

After all had satisfied their appetites, folks spread out and strolled about the grounds. Coley and Doug strolled to their respective buggies and took a long swig from the bottle. Soon the discussion groups reformed. Coley and Doug chanced to join the same group. Soon the talk came around to coon hunting and coon hounds. Doug mentioned that some scoundrel had shot and killed his Ole Blue, the best coon dog in the country. Coley countered that anyone who harbored a dog which attacked a woman without cause did not deserve to own coon hounds. The argument soon became more heated with Coley taunting Doug. Once Coley realized that Doug was losing control, Coley left the group, walked to his buggy, and brought forth his violin. Finding a tree stump with a smooth surface, Coley used it for a seat and carefully tuned his fiddle. He played slowly at first, then much faster. Soon he was playing the tune to an old ballad to which he added words relating to a gray-haired coon hound that no longer gave chase over the hills and down the hollers.

Doug could take no more. With long strides, he hurried to his buggy and grabbed a loaded pistol, which he shoved into his pocket. Walking to the front of Coley, Doug drew the pistol, placed the barrel between Coley's eyes, and said, "This is the way you killed Ole Blue," and pulled the trigger. Coley's body slumped forward, fiddle and bow still in hand.

Evidently, Coleman Maybrier's bones lie beneath the earth in front of that tombstone at Salem Cemetery, but his spirit does not seem to rest there. Many years ago, I recall folks speaking of Coley's ghost. My grandfather, George H. Wilson (1865-1942) lived in that part of the county. He and my grandmother Wilson are buried on the opposite side of the church from Coleman, not many feet away. My mother and aunt were members of the church. My grandfather, who was twelve years of age when Coley was murdered, often told the story of Coleman.

I have heard many stories about the "Spirit of Coley Maybrier," but I will relate only one. It seems that when the full moon happens during the first full week of July, the mournful sounds of a fiddle, playing an ancient air, can be heard in the ravine down the hill in front of the church. Faintly audible in the distance is the howl of a hound as he follows the scent of a coon. [Story by George D. Slade based on an actual event].



George Slade standing by the grave of murdered fiddler Coleman Maybrier in the Salem Church Cemetery, Harrison Co., Ky. Photo, 2004, William A. Penn.

HARRISON HERITAGE NEWS - ARTICLE INDEX - Vol. 1 (2000) through Vol 5 (2005)

VOLUME 1 - 2000 [Note: "History Notes" (Slade), "Rattling Spurs" (Penn) and "Museum" (Barnes) are monthly columns.]

Vol. 1, No. 1 (Mar) - History Notes: Covered Bridge Authorized; Early Doctor Advertisement; **Book Reviews:** *Bluegrass Confederate; Stockading Up; History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, KY* (reprint).

Vol. 1, No. 2 (Apr) - History Notes: Col. W. M. Moore (1849 memories of old jail and Sheely hanging); What Happened To...; **Rattling Spurs:** Harrison Co. Attorney [W.W. Cleary] Was Wanted in Connection with Lincoln's Murder; **Book Notes:** *The Slave Trade; Southern Slavery and the Law; A History of Blacks in Kentucky; Slavery Times in KY.*

Vol. 1, No. 3 (May) - History Notes: The Hodson Family Vault; Tales of Six Jails; **Rattling Spurs:** Harrison Co. Exhibits at the Kentucky History Center; **Book Notes:** Cynthiana native Death Valley Scotty.

Vol. 1, No. 4 (Jun) - History Notes: Berry Burns; 1890 Lynching; **Rattling Spurs:** Hinkson Farm; **Book Notes:** The Kentucky Bicentennial Bookshelf; **Museum:** School Days Memorabilia.

Vol. 1, No. 5 (Jul) History Notes: Hinkston's Addition; Cyclone City; Boiler Explosion; Bianckes Move; Dam at Covered Bridge; **Rattling Spurs:** Harrison Co. Buffalo Trace; **Book Notes:** Collecting the Register of the KHS and Filson Quarterly; **Museum:** Mrs. Sue Dailey's kitchen items, ice cream and swimming items on display.

Vol. 1, No. 6 (Aug-Sep) History Notes: Burials; Star Pitcher; Abdallah Park Fire; **Rattling Spurs:** 2000 Battle of Cynthiana Reenactment; **Museum:** Cynthiana-Harrison Co. Trust organization, officers.

Vol. 1, No. 7 (Oct) - History Notes: The New Court House; Town Clock; **Museum:** Church-related displays; old jail items; courthouse weights.; **Article:** Spencer G. Frary's Journal of the Battle of Keller's Bridge, June 11, 1864 (W. Penn, editor).

Vol. 1, No. 8 (Nov) - History Notes: Harrison Co. Court House Wings Added; **Rattling Spurs:** Bibliography of Harrison County history books; **Museum:** "Ultimate Harvest" anonymous veteran's poem quoted; **Article:** Harrison County Historians: Part I, Lucinda Joan Boyd (George Slade); Notes on *Chronicles of Cynthiana.*

Vol. 1, No. 9 (Dec) - History Notes: Benjamin Harrison; **Rattling Spurs:** Wall School and Smith-Rees Site; **Museum:** Old toys in museum; **Article:** Harrison County Historians: Part II, John Morgan Cromwell (George Slade).

Note: Vol. 1 included only issues 1 - 9.

VOLUME 2 - 2001

Vol. 2, No. 1 (Jan) - History Notes: January; **Rattling Spurs:** Chamber Civil War Grant; J. B. Faulconer's Harrison Co. Connection; **Museum:** Ice Age in Cynthiana; **Article:** Booze in Harrison Co., KY (George Slade); **Subject Index, Vol. 1.**

Vol. 2, No. 2 (Feb) - History Notes: Do you Know About? Jack Cason, William Tell Coleman, Cynthiana-Paris Railway Co., Oil in Harrison County, Norman Brow; **Article:** Family Files Index - KY Room - Cynthiana-Harrison Co. Library (B. Penn, editor); **Museum:** Valentines, buggy robes, wedding photographs and dresses on display.

Vol. 2, No. 3 (Mar) - History Notes: Do You Know About? Date of Nancy Maynor Sheely's Murder, Man Buried Alive, Winter 1917-1918; **Museum:** Agriculture displays; **Article:** Historic Harrison County Dates, 1793-1900 [Part I] (George Slade).

Vol. 2, No. 4 (Apr) - History Notes: Manufacturing in Harrison Co. Prior to 1925; **Rattling Spurs:** Green Lights and Red Faces; **Museum:** Covered Bridge history and displays; **Article:** Harrison Co. Post Offices Listing - 1801-2001.

Vol. 2, No. 5 (May) - History Notes: Railroad Construction and the Shanties; **Rattling Spurs:** Covered Bridge Rebuilding considered in Fleming Co.; **Museum:** Grist Mill Day; **Article:** Lucinda and the Ghost, or Half You Know Ain't So (George Slade).

Vol. 2, No. 6 (Jun) - History Notes: The Court House Clock; **Rattling Spurs:** Civil War Driving Tour Published; **Museum:** Tobacco items on display; **Article:** Ruddell and Martin Stations Historical Assoc. (Lee and Pelfrey, edited by Bill Penn).

Vol. 2, No. 7 (Jul) - History Notes: Cynthiana Electric Light Co., 1889-1915; **Rattling Spurs:** new book, Frances Peter diary, *A Union Woman in Civil War KY*; **Museum:** Cynthiana-Harrison Co. Trust and officers; **Article:** The Market Place (Slade).

Vol. 2, No. 8 (Aug) - History Notes: Railroad Dates Significant to Harrison Co.; **Rattling Spurs:** Ghosts of Civil War Days; **Museum:** Kawneer factory memorabilia; **Article:** Landmarks on the So. Licking River in Harrison Co., Ky. (J. M. Cromwell).

Vol. 2, No. 9 (Sep) - History Notes: Indian Creek Covered Bridge; **Rattling Spurs:** 2002 Civil War Reenactment; **Museum:** Civil War items in museum; **Article:** Col. George Berry, Civil War Provost Marshal and Squire of Hill Top Farm (Penn).

Vol. 2, No. 10 (Oct) - History Notes: The Cynthiana Depot; **Rattling Spurs:** Cynthia and Anna Harrison Genealogy; **Museum:** Fire Dept. memorabilia; **Article:** Fires in Cynthiana and Harrison Co., KY (George Slade).

Vol. 2, No. 11 (Nov) - History Notes: The Vault (Battle Grove Cemetery); **Rattling Spurs:** My Days at Harrison Co. RECC; **Museum:** Funeral related items on display; **Article:** Historic Harrison County Dates - 1901-1998 [Part II] (George Slade).

Vol. 2, No. 12 (Dec) - History Notes: A. Keller Dam; **Rattling Spurs:** Book reviews - *History of the 6th Ky* (Reinhart), *Legends of Sue Mundy and One-Armed Berry* (Sickles); **Museum:** Courthouse photos, clock weights; **Article:** Harrison County Courthouse in the Civil War (Wm. A. Penn).

Volume 3 - 2002

- Vol.3 No. 1 (Jan-02) - Penn, Historic Preservation; Slade, Perrin's History; county poor house, trial of Curtis Jett; article: Index to Vol 1 and 2; Barnes, Museum is Tourist Destination
- Vol. 3 No. 2 (Feb-02) - Penn, Racial Violence in Harrison County; Slade, Baneker School history; Barnes: Black Heritage in Museum; Article: African Methodist Episcopal Church in Cynthiana, KY, by John M. Cromwell
- Vol. 3 No. 3 (Mar-02) - Penn, Northern Kentucky History Day; Slade, Cynthiana Officials Celebrate Surrender of Ft. Sumter; Barnes, Building a Museum Collection; Slade, Floods At Cynthiana.
- Vol. 3 No. 4(Apr-02) - Slade, Ropewalk and Hemp; Barnes, Fennell Horse Boots at Museum; Genealogy: Cynthia and Anna Harrison.
- Vol. 3 No. 5 (May-02) - Penn, Some Old Rutland One-Room Schools; Slade: Moy Foo "Two O'Clock"; Genealogy: Falconer Family: From Virginia to Kentucky; Barnes: Museum Annex-Model of Cynthiana on Display.
- Vol 3 No. 6 (June-02) - Slade: Maple Sugar; Barnes: James L. Patterson Saddlebags in Museum; Penn: 35th Ohio and Cmp Frazer (Civil War).
- Vol 3 No. 7 (Jul-02) - Slade: Great Drought of 1930; Barnes: Talking Machines in Museum; Genealogy: Blackburn Family in Harrison County, KY.
- Vol. 3 No. 8 (Aug-02) - Penn: Civil War Marker Dedication; Slade: City Lot Battle Grove Cemetery; Graveyard; Barnes: Tobaccometer in Museum; Penn: Perry Wherritt: 19th Century Harrison County Official.
- Vol. 3 No. 9 (Sep-02) - Penn: Morgan's Men Association Tour; Slade: The Old Log House [on Court St.]; Barnes: Moonshine Still in Museum Window; Genealogy: Hunter Family in Harrison County.
- Vol. 3 No. 10 (Oct-02) - Slade: Mattie Dee Todd Cynthiana Postmaster; Barnes: Sylvandell Post Office in Museum; Penn: Black Soldiers From Harrison County in the Civil War.
- Vol. 3 No. 11 (Nov-02) - Cromwell: "Der Tag" [Thanksgiving Day]; Slade: Cynthiana Overall Factory; Barnes: Burma Shave Jingles; Slade: Methodist Church in Harrison County - Part I.*MEMO: Vol. 3 No. 12 (Dec-02) - No newsletter published this month.*

VOLUME 4 - 2003

- 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).

VOLUME 5 - 2004

- Vol. 5 No. 1 (Jan) - L.L.L. Highway Again (George Slade); Photography (John M. Cromwell); Distilleries in Harrison County (Martha Barnes) Harrison Heritage News 2003 article index and cumulative index Vol. 1-4.
- Vol. 5 No. 2 (Feb) - F. S. Ashbrook Distillery Bottle (George D. Slade); Coleman-Desha House Visit (Martha Barnes); African-American Life in Cynthiana: 1870-1940 (John M. Cromwell, ed. Wm. A. Penn); Milt Barlow: Famous Minstrel with Cynthiana Ties (Wm. A. Penn).
- Vol. 5 No. 3 (Mar) - Hemp Again (George D. Slade); Local Officials of Harrison Co. Ky., Commissioned by the Governors, 1792-97 (Kentucky Ancestors); Brown-Frazer House - Chestnut Hall (Martha Barnes);
- Vol. 5 No. 4 (Apr) - Old-Timers Recall (George D. Slade); Raggedy Ann (Martha Barnes); Harrison County Fairgrounds (Wm. A. Penn);
- Vol. 5 No. 5 (May) - The Watering Trough (George D. Slade); Grist Mill Day VII (Martha Barnes); Memorabilia (poem by Kay Allen Wilson).
- Vol. 5 No. 6 (June) - Steam Engines (George D. Slade); Laxy, Hazy Days of Summer (Martha Barnes)
- Vol. 5 No. 7 (July) - Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum: Ten Years of Preserving Harrison County History (George D. Slade, Harold Slade); Celebrating First Ten Years [of museum] (Martha Barnes).
- Vol. 5 No. 8 (Aug) - Hog Days (George D. Slade); Untitled [Reflections on Museum's Progress] (Martha Barnes).
- Vol. 5 No. 9 (Sep) - Lurking Rebels: Civilian Arrests in Harrison County During the Civil War (William A. Penn); Civil War Exhibits in Museum (Martha Barnes).
- Vol. 5 No. 10 (Oct) - The Kitchen Stove (George D. Slade); Skillets, Kettles, and Stoves on Display (Martha Barnes); Federal Judge Mac Swinford's Civil Rights Decisions Praised (Wm. A. Penn).
- Vol. 5 No. 11 (Nov) - Claysville History Notes (George D. Slade); Be Lucky - Go Happy: Political Buttons Donated [to museum] (Martha Barnes).
- Vol. 5 No. 12 (Dec) - The Story of a Murdered Fiddler - Coleman Maybrier (George D. Slade); Preserving Harrison County History is a Group Effort (Martha Barnes) ; Harrison Heritage News Vol. 1-5 2000-2004 Cumulative article and subject index (Wm. A. Penn).

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