

Harrison Heritage News

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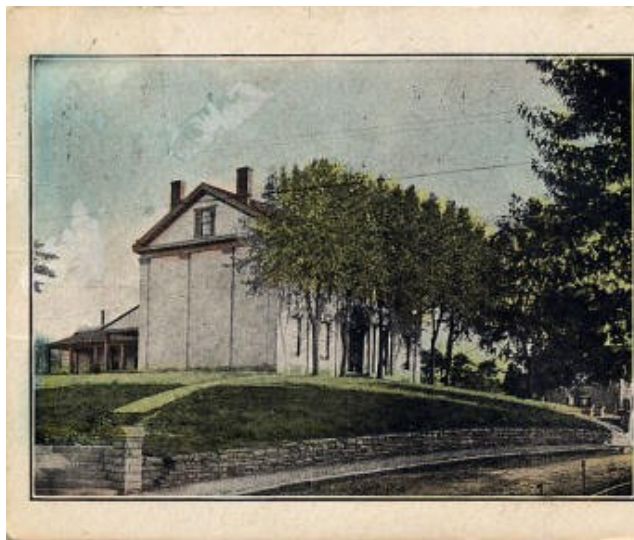
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Last Cumulative Index: See Dec-2005. See Web site for archived newsletters

Harrison County's Lost Buildings

Bill Penn



Asbury Broadwell, built this residence ca. 1830 on Clifton Avenue facing town. Harrison Female Academy here 1878-1898, then Elks Lodge 1905-1918. It was demolished 1920. The slave quarters remain. The 1877 Beers map of Harrison shows the location. Postcard, ca. 1910, courtesy www.harrisoncountyky.us

The Barlow Knife - Once A Boy's Favorite

Bill Penn

I purchased my first Barlow knife, a Boker Tree Brand as I recall, about the age of thirteen (1956) from VanHook Hardware in Cynthiana, and have carried one ever since. The same pocket knife display case is still in that store. My favorite Barlow is an antique Russell Barlow given to me by my late uncle Bill Pickett that belonged to his brother, Porter, who was killed by lightning in 1925 at Porter, Scott County, Ky.

Although not as popular today, the Barlow jackknife, with



Two-bladed Russell Barlow knife ca. 1925 that belonged to Porter Pickett, Porter, Ky. Collection of Bill Penn.

its distinctive long bolster, has been a favorite pocket knife since it was first created. George Washington, Tom Sawyer, and Huckleberry Finn carried a Barlow knife, the latter two in Mark Twain's novels, a reflection of its popularity in the south and Midwest.

(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner

Bob Owen

I want to thank all of you who turned out for last month's meeting held at the Handy House. I hope that you enjoyed the tour and will carry good words about preserving the house to others of the committee. I especially want to thank Karen and Billy Fowler for acting as hosts and tour guides. Great job!!!

At the August meeting, the members voted to approve the changes to Articles of Incorporation and the by-laws to keep us in good standing with Frankfort and Uncle Sam. Should anyone want copies of them, please contact me.

This past month I was involved with the production of the Wizard of Oz at the Rohs Opera House Theater. This was in conjunction with my membership on the community Arts Council. The CAFÉ-Arts Council is working to promote and provide artistic opportunities to the community. This group is headed by Bruce Florence and has a membership of many interested community members. If you would like to promote artistic endeavors such as Children's Theater, music shows, dance, art shows, creative writing, etc., attend our meeting at 6:15 PM on October 4th at the Licking Valley Community College. Another goal is to restore the Rohs Opera House Theater as a community landmark and entertainment center.

Don't forget that the next meeting will be on September 21st with Marsha Hicks, representing the Colonial Dames XVII Century. Also plan to attend the November meeting when Philip Naff will lead a Harrison Co. Genealogy workshop.

Harrison County Historical Society

Bob Owen, President
Billy Fowler, Vice President
Janie Whitehead, Secretary
Dorothy Slade, Treasurer

Handy House Tour—August 17, 2006

Historical Society vice president Billy Fowler led members and guests on a tour of the Handy House (see photo) which is in danger of being demolished. Mr. Fowler discussed the builder, Col. Brown, and later occupants, as detailed in the January 2006 Harrison Heritage News special issue on the farm. This tour emphasized both the potential for adapting the building for community use and the apparent soundness of the construction. The Handy House Committee is advocating that local government set aside the Handy House and associated barns, and to preserve, restore, and interpret their story.



Upcoming Harrison County Historical Society Programs

September 21 - Marsha Hicks of The Colonial Dames XVII Century.

October 19 - A representative from Friends of Griffith Woods will discuss the planned activities of this support group, and present an update on the preservation plans for Griffith Tavern.

November 16—Workshop on Harrison County Genealogy—Phillip Naff with others to be announced.

Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

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

State of the Museum Report

Although I usually use this column to make museum connections with the featured article of HHN and/or to share the museum collection (which continues to grow), I write this month about the museum and its ongoing business and activities - perhaps a "state of the museum" report.

At our last meeting, which was an enjoyable dinner gathering, we held our annual election. Our nine directors are Mary Grable, Kenny Simpson, Dorothy Slade, Harold Slade, Donald Hill, Martha Barnes, Neville Haley, Bob Grable, and Larry Moss with Martha, Kenny, Bob, and Mary serving as officers.

Although we receive funding from the city, county, some civic organizations, and other donors as well as book sales (Do you need a gift for a special someone? See p. 5), we rarely have much balance as we pay for gas, electricity, insurance, supplies, and rent (however, our rent is most reasonable thanks to Mr. Poindexter).

Our plans to move into the theater building on Walnut Street are ongoing (It is exciting to consider that both the Rohs Theaters are alive-congratulations to those working with the community theater on Pike Street) - and some of our volunteers are working "above and beyond" to accomplish this goal. Although our number of volunteers is small, the dedication is solid. Our volunteers continue to be there when needed. Recently, we have hosted several groups for special tours. Do you have some time when perhaps you could help out at the museum? Perhaps you and a friend on some Friday or Saturday morning or afternoon? Or do you know of someone who might be interested in being a museum volunteer?

This past Saturday was the Taste of Harrison County - it truly was a wonderful event with fantastic weather and huge crowds. Thanks go to the Cynthiana Merchants Association who organized the festival ten years ago. This year, those faithful folks turned the "Taste" over to the Lions Club. With the races, crafts, entertainment, campaigning, games, food, there indeed was something for everyone. Our volunteers, of course, welcomed many visitors to the museum as well as manning a booth on the courthouse lawn (we appreciated our location right by the gun in memoriam to our Harrison Countians lost at Pearl Harbor). It was rewarding to those of us at the courthouse to sell a number of Chronicles and Cromwell's Comments, talk with folks interested in history, and direct them down the alley to visit the museum.

We encourage you readers to support and join us. Financial assistance is always needed. Volunteers are our most urgent need. Please contact us to discover how you might help us preserve and share our Cynthiana-Harrison County history.

(BARLOW KNIVES Continued from page 1)

The History of the John Russell Cutlery Company (1976), a source quoted in this article, and www.barlowgenealogy.com, both say that the Barlow knife was invented in 1667 by Obadiah Barlow, a cutler in England who started the Stannington Barlow Company. By 1789 this company had closed and John Barlow, grandson of the founder, “introduced the knife to America and then (apparently) passed the patents on to heirs or successors from whom...cutlers purchased rights of manufacture, the use of the Barlow name, and the Barlow trademark.” An example is a Barlow knife carried by George Washington documented by the City of Sheffield Museum as being made by Luke Furnace in Stannington, England, between 1774 and 1787, for export to America.*

The John Russell Cutlery Company was the vision of John Russell, who began in the cutlery business in 1833 at Greenfield, Massachusetts. In 1836, with additional capital from a new partner, the cutler expanded as the “American Cutlery manufactured by J. Russell & Co. Green River Works.” Here the famous Green River Knife was manufactured, a hunting knife with a 8 3/4” blade and plain wooden handle, carried by pioneers in the western migration. They even turned up in the hands of Indians, who often used it as a weapon.

Although the company had “earlier sporadic production of pocket knives,” in 1875 they decided to manufacture pocket jackknives [including Barlows], and by 1877 “some 50,000 dozen jackknives had been sold and they became the fastest selling item in the Company’s stock.”

Among the cutleries in the US that sold a version of the Barlow knife, the Russell Barlow became the most popular brand. “Unlike its competitors, the Russell Company adhered closely to the original pattern of the Barlow, and developed its own trademark, an arrow-pierced ‘R’ on the” bolster. (Some mistakenly think a person named “Russell Barlow” made the knives of the Russell Company).

The cutlery trade defined a Barlow as a 3-3/4” jackknife, measured closed, with a 2-1/2” blade. Originally all were single-bladed but later two-bladed and a larger-sized single-blade “granddaddy” version was produced.

The company merged with the Harrington Cutlery Company in 1933, becoming the Russell-Harrington Cutlery Company. In 1936, after the old Russell Cutlery facilities were flooded, the new company moved to another town, thus ending a legacy started in 1833.

Some still claim the Lexington inventor Thomas H. Barlow (1791-1865), born in Nicholas County, first made the Barlow knife. Perhaps he made pocket knives, but as noted, researchers have traced the design to an earlier Barlow, perhaps a relative.

Today, several cutlery companies produce the Barlow pattern, but the Russell Barlows like Porter Pickett carried, made generally between 1875 and 1936, are among the knives most prized by collectors. *<http://www.nextek.net/gcarlson/webdoc2.htm>



Some Russell Barlow knives with various handle materials from the 1884 John Russell Cutlery Company catalog. Note the distinctive trademark on the bolsters. From *The History of John Russell Cutlery Company*.

Family Record of Vincent Cromwell

Following From Cromwell Papers, University of Kentucky,
Margaret I. King Library Archives

Bill Penn

On the piece of paper with the following handwritten "Family Record of Grand father" was this note: "My Dear Brother, You will see that this record of deaths is not complete. I do not know why they was not written down at the time that they occurred, you will note also that our Grand Father's list of deaths is not all given. You, myself, and "Sister" Mary is all that is left."

Family Record of Grand Father

Vincent Cromwell He was born Feb 21, 1752
His Wife Rachel Cromwell born Sept. 21, 1758
Sarah Cromwell, born Sept. 7th, 1778
John Cromwell born July 12th, 1780
Benjamin Cromwell born April 27, 1782
Joseph Cromwell born April 10, 1784
Rebeca Cromwell Cromwell, b. Mch 11th, 1787
Hannah Cromwell born July 12th, 1789
Joshua Cromwell born Dec. 3rd, 1791
Rachel Cromwell jr. born Sept. 26, 1794
Vincent Cromwell jr., born February 9, 1797
Oliver Cromwell, born Nov. 4, 1799
Mary Cromwell, born Feb 17, 1803

Deaths [of above]

Vincent Cromwell, died Nov. 9th, 1819
Rachel Cromwell, died Dec 15, 1828
Rebeca [Cromwell] Patterson, died Jan 11, 1831
Vincent Cromwell jr died Feb. 22, 1855

This is all that I have on our Father's Family Record

Joseph Cromwell was born April 10th, 1784; died March 31st, 1866
Christriana Cromwell Was born Aug 1st, 1790; died April 27, 1864
Henry F. Cromwell born Jan. 10, 1811 [Middle initial was hard to read]
Rachel Cromwell Born May 28, 1813; died March 4, 1883
Nancy Cromwell born June 1, 1815
Vincent Cromwell Born March 26, 1817
Wm. V. Cromwell born Feb. 14, 1820
Mariam Cromwell born Dec. 17, 1822
Rebeca Cromwell born Feb. 22, 1825
Harriet A. Cromwell born May 14, 1828; died March 23, 1884.

Harrison County, Kentucky, Historical Publications

Books Make Great Presents

available from Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, 112 South Walnut Street, P.O. Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031 (859-234-7179);

(Note: Some publications may be periodically out of print—call for availability.)

- 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, exact copy of original cover and layout. \$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 useful 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. 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. 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). 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.

Harrison County History On the Internet

Visit the Harrison County Web page: www.harrisoncountyky.us

Philip Naff, Web manager

- History of Harrison County
- Reference material and bibliography
- Postcards
- Historic photos
- Historic maps
- Genealogy information

"One of Kentucky's finest County History Web Sites"
Bill Penn, editor, *Harrison Heritage News*

Visit also the Harrison County Historical Society Web page:

www.harrisoncountyky.us/harrison-county

- Society contacts
- Society program calendar and news
- Back issues Harrison Heritage News