



Harrison Heritage News

Published monthly by

Harrison County Historical Society, PO Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031

Award of Merit - Publication or Journal, 2007 Kentucky History Awards

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

December 2009

Vol.10 No. 12

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IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER

Before water lines extended into rural areas, every family depended on cisterns to store water. This remnant of the past was at the Cap Furnish farm, on U. S. 36 near Renaker, Ky. Photo, ca. 1984, B. Penn

They Were Community

Barry Mahorney

Like many others who have begun the journey into their family history, my start was merely a search for an accumulation of facts--names, dates and places. The past generations were hardly real people; after all, they had been dead for a long time. But eventually the light came on. These were real people living real lives in real communities. In fact, I have come to realize these folks didn't just live in communities, they *were* community. To borrow an expression from others, those ancestors were hatched, matched and dispatched within their community. The U. S. Population Schedules and land ownership maps show the close, geographical proximity of these folks, but it is the marriage bonds/licenses, death certificates and other related records which reveal true community. Let me explain.

It was in the early 1820s that Henry Mahorney (1798-1882), my 3rd great grandfather, came from Virginia to Harrison County, settling in or near the Oddville Community. In 1824, he married Catherine Corder (1803-1860), daughter of John and Elizabeth Corder, who had also moved to Harrison County from Virginia. In 1828, Henry purchased fifty acres of land from David Ogle on Little Beaver Creek and adjoining the properties belonging to Cotton (probably James L. Cotton) and Richard Douglas. Henry bought and sold several pieces of property during his lifetime, but it appears it was always in the same community.

Henry's children were born in the Oddville Community and most, if not all, married within the community. Daughter, Alcinda (1825-1902), married John Henry Wheeler (1825-1914), well-known tobacco

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Harrison County Historical Society

Billy Fowler, President
 Bob Owen, Vice President
 Marilynn Bell, Secretary
 Dorothy Slade, Treasurer
 Bill Penn, editor: pennwma@aol.com



Angela Travers of Buffalo Trace Distillery spoke at the November 19th Historical Society meeting on Kentucky whiskey and distilleries. Photo, Sharon Fowler.



Scenes from the joint Historical Society/Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum Christmas potluck, Dec, 4, 2009. Photo by Sharon Fowler.

Harrison County History Calendar

- Dec. 19** - Britt Kennerly book signing at the Museum 11-2 pm.
January 21 - Meet at the newly renovated Prizing House located on North Church Street.
February 18 - Historical show-and-tell (always a favorite)
Mar. 18 - Carol Jarboe portrays 18th c. Irish woman Maggie Delaney, who came to the colonies with family as indentured servant.
Apr. 15 - Living History - Northside Elementary history students.
May 20 - History projects - Eastside Ele. 5th grade history class.
Jun. 17 - Jerry Dailey, ex-FBI career with four presidents.

President's Corner

Billy Fowler
 billyfowler@kymail.com

As with every organization like ours, we have to discuss dues. Everyone should have received a reminder in the last newsletter that 2010 dues are due in January. I know some folks had already paid for next year and we really appreciate the early payment. But many people like me had not. I laid one of the green reminders on the kitchen table until we remembered to take Dorothy Slade a check.

I am sure some of you wonder what portion of the dues stays in the treasury for use on worthwhile projects. The answer is none! We have looked at the cost of producing and distributing the newsletter and determined that the dues just barely cover that expense. By the way, the cost of the newsletter is materials only. We all do everything on a volunteer basis and we are glad to do it. This discussion brings me to another thing that many people look at this time of year. Charitable donations are the only source of income other than a small amount of money from book sales each year for the society. We normally do not do much in the way of solicitation. I do, however, believe it is time to take a somewhat different approach.

There is at this point a real possibility that the Harrison County Historical Society will enter into a long term lease agreement with Harrison County and Cynthiana. This lease will allow the historical society to rehabilitate the Handy House but will also place the financial responsibility on the society. I believe this to be the most aggressive preservation project undertaken by this society in the history of its existence. We will be aggressively pursuing grant opportunities to help us with the project but we will also be asking for donations to go along with the grants.

As you can see, we now have to start asking for donations and assuring everyone that their money will be well cared for and well spent for this or some other equally worthy historic project.

Merry Christmas to everyone and please remember to be generous to your Harrison County Historical Society.

Correction: *The author of the front page article in Nov. 2009, Vol. 10 no. 11, "Harrison County's 'Smart Set': Inventors and their Inventions" was left off the heading: it was written by Philip Naff.*

Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes, President www.cynthiana-harrisoncountymuseum.org.

Neville Haley (1925 - 2009)

As we reflect upon this joyous Christmas season, our hearts are somewhat saddened as we accept the passing of Neville Haley. Neville died on November 29, 2009, at the age of 84.

A pillar of his church, Neville was steadfast in his faith. He loved God and the church. He and his wife, Thelma, were faithful members of the Benson United Methodist Church. Thelma told me that Neville kept begging her to take him to church one more time and to take him to the museum one more time.

Neville was dedicated to Thelma and to his family. Thelma and Neville celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary just this past March 9, 2009. Always with a smile, Neville would say, "I sleep with a strange woman every night." Unbeknownst to newcomers, Thelma's maiden name was Strange.

A number of years ago, a committee from the Harrison County Historical Society compiled stories and photographs from Harrison County veterans. Neville's poignant narrative tells of his entering the service as a teenager. He was an honorably discharged army World War II veteran. Some of his stories and songs were inspired by those days overseas far away from Harrison County.

In the eulogy, the Benson Church minister described Neville as "a Renaissance man." How appropriate that seemed to me. Neville truly was a classic man of the arts. How he loved music and how talented he was! He wrote songs and poems. He played several musical instruments. He sang with groups, in a quartet, in duets with Thelma, and solo as well. He was a true artist as he carved and created models. He was a "Renaissance man."

Neville's spirit radiates throughout the museum. He and Thelma were early supporters and contributors. Neville served as a museum director. His log cabin and Handy House replicas greet visitors at the museum's front door. He and Harold Slade created the ever popular model of Cynthiana. Neville loaned the museum his model of Harrison County High School, a covered wagon, a lighthouse, covered bridges, a swing, Nevilleville, a log cabin home-stead, a one-room schoolhouse, and other creations. Now his Christmas sleds brighten up the museum.

Neville and Thelma also have added much to the museum collection by loaning items from the store at Kelat and auctioneering days as well as some of his prized car collection. Several times, Neville crafted miniature covered bridges, shelves, and Christmas fireplaces to be sold as fund raisers for the museum. Even in those last days, Neville convinced Hospice caretakers to make their first time visit to the museum.

While at the museum, Neville frequently would share a joke or saying and always a grin or chuckle. I collect quotes - and so I perused my files to find some of those sayings. He usually gave the source of the quotes, but in my files I simply wrote 'via Neville.'

Among many are these thoughts 'via Neville' - "How old would you be if you didn't know how old you were?" and "I feel more like I do now than I did awhile ago" and "Not everything needs to be said."

We extend our love and sincere sympathy to Thelma and all the family. How blessed we are to have known Neville, our "Renaissance man."



Neville Haley with a model of the Handy House he constructed for the Museum. Photo, Sharon Fowler.

salesman in Oddville. Margaret (abt 1835-?) married John Fletcher Rose (1829-1887) from the same community. John Thomas Mahorney (1825-abt 1861) married Happy Clough (1822-1914), again from an Oddville Community family. William Henry Mahorney (1838-1911) married Matilda Jane Kearns (abt 1839-1898) whose family lived between Oddville and Curry. Matilda, or Jane as she was known, was the daughter of Thomas Benjamin (1802-1886) and Jane Gardner Kearns (?-1839). And the list goes on. William lived, married and attended church in Oddville as well as his son, Thomas (1859-1922). I have a copy of a deed showing that Thomas' son, Charlie (1897-1981), sold land in Oddville to his brother, Cecil (1889-1952), my grandfather.

In 1880, Henry's grandson, Henry B. (1859-1948), son of Smith Mahorney (1832-1885) was living with and working for the John Douglas family whose land was nearby. Also living with the Douglases was a young lady by the name of Euzoradah Robinson (1859-1935), daughter of James P. Robinson. No real surprise, Henry and Euzoradah were married May 25, 1884.

Even minimal searches show that witnesses to weddings and wills were also neighbors and family members. They often attended the same churches. Most of the Mahorneys were either members of the Oddville Methodist Episcopal Church or the Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church. They were buried in these cemeteries, some in unmarked graves. The easy conclusion would be that limited transportation made all this a necessity, and of course this was a factor, but ask your older, living relatives and they will tell you, they were community. It wasn't just by necessity, it was also by choice.

Many of the earliest death records were signed by Dr. John Batson (1856-1925), resident of, you guessed it, Oddville. Take the time to explore the people listed on these records. They were significant people in the community.

In our hurried and harried race through life, I am

afraid we have, to a large extent, lost the sense of community. We wave to our neighbors in passing, but seldom take time to have a meaningful conversation. To be sure, life is different than it was during the last two centuries, but just maybe we can learn a lesson from our ancestors—they didn't just live in a community, they *were* a community.

The next time you look at a population schedule, a property deed, marriage certificate or some other family record, lay aside the facts for a moment and consider the people behind those facts. Maybe that is what family history is *really* all about.

Barry Mahorney grew up in Harrison County and spent nearly all his elementary school years at Buena Vista Elementary School. He thought, at least during basketball season, that Oddville was the enemy, having absolutely no clue his roots were deep there. Barry is the son of the late Malcolm "Mac" and Claudia Wilson Mahorney and currently lives in Morganton, North Carolina with his wife Sharryn Hughes Mahorney. They are both addicted to family history. May there never be a cure!

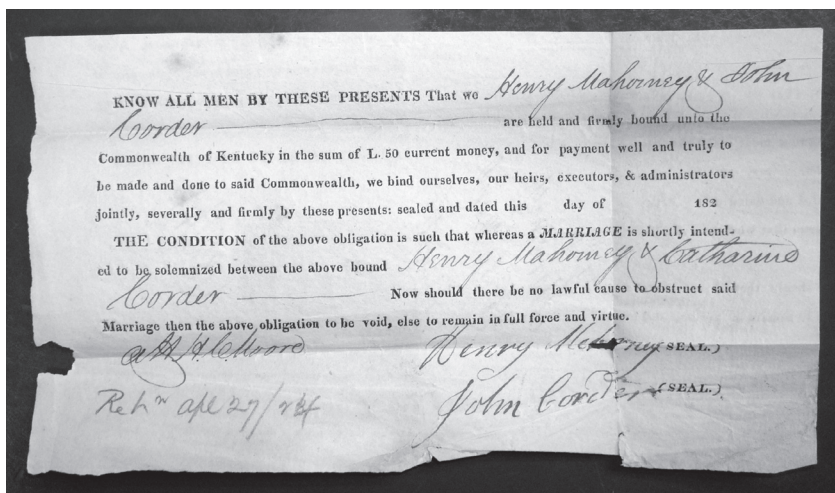
For comments or if you have additional information, Barry can be contacted at: ElderBarry7@yahoo.com



Baby photo of Cecil Mahorney (1889-1952) courtesy of Barry Mahorney.

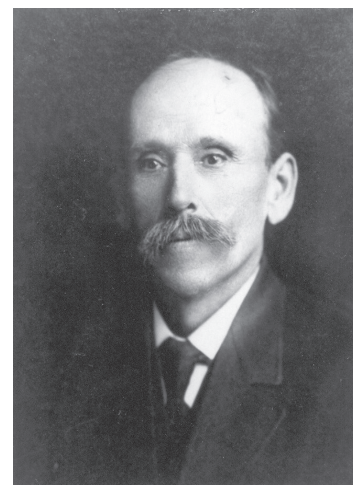


Tombstone of Smith Mahorney (1832-1885) in Oddville Methodist Church cemetery. Photo courtesy of Barry Mahorney.



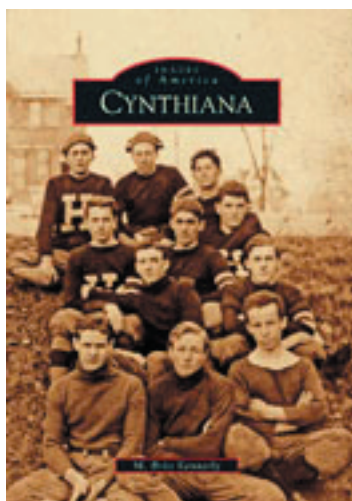
(right) Thomas Mahorney (1859-1922).

(left) Harrison County, Kentucky, marriage bond for Henry Mahorney and Catherine Corder dated January 17, 1824. Courtesy of Barry Mahorney.



Cynthiana Native Britt Kennerly is Author of New Cynthiana "Images of America" book.

Bill Penn



Book cover - see other Arcadia Publishing Kentucky titles at www.arcadiapublishing.com



Author Britt Kennerly with "Stewart Wigglesworth," her cat.

Britt Kennerly has put together a well-researched collection of previously unpublished historic photographs of Cynthiana along with some photos from books now out of print and hard to find. Her search for historic images led her to the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum and the collections of various old Harrison County families.

The book, part of the popular Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing (128 pages, paperback, \$21.99), may be found at area bookstores or ordered online. Its ISBN reference number is 978-073856652-8. Having examined the manuscript, I can say this book meets the goals of the publisher: "The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country, using archival photographs. Each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today."

(The following is from the publisher's Web page:) M. (Marsha) Britt Kennerly is a native of Cynthiana, Ky., and the daughter of Harrison Countians Robert W. and Helen Barnes Harney. Having grown up hearing her father spin "back when" tales of Cynthiana's people and places, she is pleased to have had the help and support of the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum's dedicated volunteers and dozens of locals, friends and relatives as she compiled this photographic history.

"Writing this book and compiling wonderful photos

from the city's past gave me a chance to connect with folks I hadn't talked to in years," she says. "Most of all, this venture offered an opportunity to pay tribute to a city I am proud to call my hometown - a place where family and friends and incredible teachers have supported my writing aspirations since I was in elementary school!"

Kennerly, a Cincinnati resident who is an alumna of Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Cincinnati, is a freelance journalist and writing coach who will return to work as a newspaper reporter in 2010. She has worked at newspapers in Arizona, Florida and Indiana, in roles ranging from editor to humor writer and opinion page columnist. Kennerly has written more than 5,000 newspaper articles since 1989, including interviews with a former U.S. president (Jimmy Carter) and hundreds of actors, politicians, musicians, authors and sports stars. She enjoys blogging about what she sees, hears, loves, hates, can't believe or can't forget at doublenaught7digest.blogspot.com.

When she is not on the road looking for stories, Kennerly is either studying pop culture, scouring thrift shops and estate sales or camping with her husband, Doug. She is the proud matriarch of an "anifamily" that includes a yellow Lab and three cats - two of whom are Cynthiana natives, too!

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 P.O. Box 411, Cynthiana, KY 41031 (859-234-7179);

- 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. **OUT OF PRINT**

- *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

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- *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.

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