

Harrison Heritage News

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Rattling Spurs

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Book Review: Kentucky History: An Annotated Bibliography compiled by Ron D. Bryant (Greenwood Press, Westport, Conn., 2000), 553 pp.

This valuable reference updates Coleman's *A Bibliography of Kentucky History* (1949). A review of the index for "Harrison Co." and "Cynthiana" will lead the reader to these titles:

Conrad, William, *Life and Travels of Elder William Conrad* (1876), a Baptist preacher from Harrison Co.

Kinney, Sarah S., *A History of the Cynthiana Presbyterian Church 1829-1969*. (1969)

Swinford, Mac, *A History of the Cynthiana Presbyterian Church* (1929).

Boyd, L., *Chronicles of Cynthiana and Other Chronicles* (1894).

Wilson, Katherine, *This Old House*.

Below are Harrison County sources not in this bibliography due to lack of space:

Cynthiana Democrat, *Pictorial History of Harrison County* (1993).

Cynthiana High School Alumni Assoc., *Cynthiana High School Alumni, 1872-1962* (1993), individual and class photographs, index.

Lafferty, Maude Ward, *Destruction of Ruddle's and Martin's Forts* (1957), KY Hist. Soc.

May, Elizabeth H., *The Coleman-Desha Plantation* (1991 master's degree thesis, George Washington U.) Farm site is one mile E. of Cyn. on Oddville Pk. by Eastside Elementary.

Peddicord, Virgil, *Cynthiana Since 1790* (1986). Residents/businesses by lot/street.

Penn, William A., *Rattling Spurs and Broad-Brimmed Hats: The Civil War in Cynthiana and Harrison County, Kentucky* (1995), 189 pp.

Perrin, William H., *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky* (1882). In book, but not under "Harrison Co."

History Notes

George D. Slade

HARRISON COUNTY KENTUCKY COURT HOUSE

North and South Wings Added

Confused by the various dates given to the construction of the north and south wings of the Harrison County Court House, I have attempted to determine the correct date. The tablet at the front entrance states that the wings were added in 1914. Another source says 1915, and yet another, 1919.

Local newspapers, early on, gave considerable publicity to the project. *The Cynthiana Democrat*, dated June 4, 1914, carried a large architectural drawing of the proposed additions, accompanied by a complete description. October 8, 1914, the *Democrat* carried a story stating that the Harrison County Fiscal Court had let the contract for the building of the wings. The successful bidder being Interstate Construction Co. of Louisville. The bid for the work complete, was \$13,940. It was understood that the work would be completed within ninety working days.

I searched the newspapers through the remainder of 1914, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, hoping to find something on the progress or completion of the wings but found nothing. Next I went to the *Fiscal Court Order Book*. In the minutes of March 27, 1915, I found a report of the Committee in Charge of Improvement of the Court House. The contract of Interstate Construction of Louisville was declared void. It seems here that the county took over the completion of the project. Mr. J. R. Poindexter's suggestions as to the completion were to be followed. (continued, next column)

(continued) At this meeting Judge R. M. Collier suggested that the first floors of both wings be removed and new concrete floors be installed. The second floor of the north wing was unsafe and should be replaced with a new concrete floor. The second floor of the south wing could remain providing it passed inspection when the forms were removed.

I continued to follow the Fiscal Court minutes but found that very seldom was this seemingly important project mentioned. July 16, 1915, it was decided to improve the main part of the court house in connection to adding the wings. July 27, 1915, interior work was discussed, including the decorating of the Circuit Court room. February 16, 1916, other interior decorations were discussed and it was ordered that bids be let for book racks.

At the October 3, 1916, meeting of the court it was ordered that, "The Report of the Court House Improvement Committee" be received and accepted, recorded and published. The cost for construction of the wings, including the work in Contract of Interstate Construction Co. totaled \$13,353.10. This does not include work done on main part of court house.

One would think that there would have been considerable publicity upon completion of the court house wings. I again searched the newspapers around the date of the court's acceptance of the completion report but found nothing. At the November 24, 1917, meeting it was decided that a new heating system would be installed. I feel that the adding of the wings and the problems encountered were not popular else more people would have been seeking publicity in connection with the project.

Historical Society Minutes

Jane Adams Whitehead

The Harrison County Historical Society meeting was held October 19, 2000, at the library. The minutes were read by Janie Whitehead and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

The meeting, with a question and answer theme, was ably hosted by George Slade. A variety of questions were presented and discussed during the meeting concerning Cynthiana and Harrison County history.

The next meeting of
the Historical Society
will be Thursday,
November 15, 2000,
7 PM at the library.



(Above) Morgan at the Cynthiana Covered Bridge, July 17, 1862.

(Left) Detail from a mural in the auditorium of the Harrison Co. High School on loan from the KY Historical Society. This will be on the cover of the new Harrison Co. Civil War Driving Tour being prepared by the Chamber of Commerce. A Federal multi-barreled carriage-mounted gun not used in this engagement has been edited out of the picture.

If you are not a member we invite you to join. We need your support. Membership is only \$5.00 per calendar year. Make checks to the Harrison County Historical Society and mail to the address on top of page one. Meetings are the third Thursday of each month 7 PM in the library's community room.

Cynthiana - Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes

November is both a time of Thanksgiving and harvest - a time for Veterans day - a time for memories and reflection. Our museum probably would not be in existence if it were not for volunteers who are veterans. A great number of our museum staff served in various branches of our armed services. Esther Ammerman, Harold Slade, George Slade, and many others (who truly belong to the "greatest generation") have loaned their World War II uniforms to the museum. Our museum's military displays are impressive - memorabilia from various wars and conflicts are in the museum both to educate and to enlighten.

A recent discussion with a group of fourth graders made me sadly realize how little these students know about veterans and what they have sacrificed for them. This is one of our goals at the museum - to help citizens to remember and to understand. Special thanks to all our veterans and to all our museum volunteers. Please read and reflect on this verse by an unknown poet.

Ultimate Harvest (Unknown)

The generations planned this place for you.
They struggled with the earth, they fought and died
That you might live, your loved ones by your side,
In the security their dreaming knew.
They made a flag, not by an artist's plan,
But stripe by stripe and star by fought-for star,
To place above you, send its color far
And make you strong and safe as any man.

You are the heir of freedom-loving men
Who, each unknown to each, march down the years
In shoulder-rank, and bound by common fears
And hope and surety that once again
There shall be freedom where brave ones have fought,
The promised harvest that their sowing brought.

Harrison County Historians: Part I

Lucinda Joan Boyd 1840-1913

George D. Slade

Lucinda Boyd, author of the book, *Chronicles of Cynthiana*, was born in Dark County, Ohio, April 12, 1840, the daughter of Rev. Samuel and Elizabeth Irvin Rogers. Samuel Rogers, a veteran of The War of 1812, entered the ministry and became the head of a great family of ministers in the Christian Church. He was a widely known evangelist. Lucinda's parents are buried near Main Street in the Graveyard at the north end of Cynthiana. In an adjoining grave lie the remains of Lucinda's brother, Captain W. S. (Whip) Rogers, Confederate soldier, killed in the Battle of Augusta.

In 1851, after Samuel Rogers moved his family to Cynthiana, Lucinda married Judge J. Strother Boyd. From this union there were born seven children, one dying in infancy. Of the children, Mary became a physician, being the first woman to graduate in medicine at the University of Cincinnati; Frances was a university professor; Montgomery (Gum), a traveling salesman; Hal, a wireless operator, living in Mexico; Joseph, a physician and Samuel a lawyer.

Mrs. Boyd enjoyed a wide reputation as a literary woman. She was the author of a number of works, perhaps the most ambitious being *The Irvin and Their Kin*. In preparing the manuscript of this book she made a special trip to England and Scotland and spent some time in the ancestral homes of the Irvins. Of course, her work of greatest interest locally is the book *Chronicles of Cynthiana*. She also wrote a wealth of sketches, short stories and poems. One book, *The Sorrows of Nancy* (1899), was described in Coleman's *Bibliography of Kentucky History*: "An attempt to prove Abraham Lincoln's illegitimate descent from John Marshall and that he was born in Clark County near Thatcher's Mill. A collection of stories and traditions supported by affidavits, but on the whole the work is unreliable and faulty."

Judge Boyd and Lucinda bought was here that they reared their family. diagonally opposite the Old Jail, was thiana. It was taken down to provide for ings suggest that she may have spent wards the hills beyond.



Gavin Morrison House

the Gavin Morrison home in 1870 and it This house, located on west Pike Street, possibly the most historic house in Cyn- a parking lot. Passages in Lucinda's writ- many hours gazing across the river to-

A contemporary, writing in 1896 observes, "Mrs. Boyd is a woman of striking personnel with traces of her noble ancestors in bearing and general appearance. In stature rather above medium, with a full, well-rounded form and clear-cut classical features, shadowed by masses of glossy, richly waving black hair. She has a deep penetrating black eye which ever and anon twinkles with wicked merriment and a mouth whose every curve indicates a love for fun, while the gleaming, strong set teeth show the courage of the Bruce. Mrs. Boyd is of a responsive, appreciative nature and a universal favorite. She numbers among her close friends, quite as many men as women, quite as many poor as rich, goes wherever duty calls and is a noble type of Christian womanhood."

Lucinda Joan Boyd died at Harrison Hospital (Penn St.), October 4, 1913. About four weeks before she had sustained an operation for the relief of appendicitis, The operation was considered successful but pneumonia developed and in her weakened condition she was unable to withstand the shock. She is buried at Battle Grove Cemetery next to her husband, Judge Boyd.

The final chapter of *Chronicles of Cynthiana*, published in 1894, is titled "To the Historian of 1993: Greeting." She ends, "Answer this letter and tell me all that has been done since my soul shook off the dust that encumbered it here on earth. I shall come for my letter December 10th, 12 0'clock at night, 1993. I shall

(continued) find the post office, move it where you will. And now fare, fare you well." Friday night, December 10, 1993, an audience of more than 300 people eagerly awaited the arrival of Lucinda at the post office on Ladish Road. They were not disappointed. At the stroke of midnight, "Lucinda" rode into the parking lot atop a black steed. She wore a flowing black robe and veil and accepted her letter from historian George Slade.

Notes on *Chronicles of Cynthiana* (Bill Penn): Unfortunately, there have been few recorded notes about the subjects of Mrs. Boyd's various sketches, or the full names of the persons whose photographs are included in the book. The late Lucia Duffy said in a 1984 interview that the subjects of the chapter on "Frances and Faithful," and the accompanying photographs, are of the daughter of Lucinda Boyd and her dog. Miss Duffy, as a child, was an acquaintance of Mrs. Boyd, and remembered she was "peculiar looking and peculiar acting" and was afraid of her because of this. John M. Cromwell mentioned in one of his Cromwell's Comments columns in the *Cynthiana Democrat* (Sept. 27, 1928) that the Margaret Goudy story was "...told to Mrs. Boyd 76 years ago [in 1852] by an old woman known as Granny Casey...."

Sources:

Cynthiana Democrat Oct. 6, 9, 1913; Dec. 16, 1993; *Cynthiana Log Cabin* Oct. 10, 1913; Whaley's Funeral Home Records; *Cynthiana Democrat* June 1896; *This Old House*, Katherine Wilson; Battle Grove Cemetery records; *Chronicles of Cynthiana*, Lucinda Boyd; *Bibliography of Kentucky History*, J. Winston Coleman (p. 246); Lucia Duffy interview at The Oaks by Bill Penn, June 13, 1984.

Publications available from Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, 13 South Walnut Street, 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. Mr. Peddicord did not prepare a comprehensive index for his book. This supplemental index prepared for the Museum contains about 3,500 names and a city street map. 30 pp. Paperback. \$3.00

Please include a handling and shipping fee of \$4.00 for first book, \$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 payable to "Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum." No credit cards. Prices/fees subject to change.