

Harrison Heritage News

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- Editor: William A. Penn

History Notes—Cynthiana Carriage Co.

George D. Slade (gslade@setel.com)

There seems to be confusion about southeast corner of Walnut and Virgil Peddicord, in his 1986 book, "the present three story was built by T. the top front of the building reads, photo of the "old engine house," next building to be a two story brick. between 1903 and 1912, shows that a building. Evidently Frazer added the two pictures plainly shows the word the building.

The January 1912 issue of the and a news item relating to the three-story building. Across the front story, in large, bold letters are painted the words, "CYNTHIANA CARRIAGE CO." Peddicord, in his book states that W. L. Leek operated this establishment. The news item below the picture is as follows:

"CYNTHIANA CARRIAGE CO. In a review of the various interests of Cynthiana, and factors that have contributed so much toward the material development of the city and state mention must necessarily be made of a concern whose brilliant record in the industrial field of Cynthiana for the past twelve years has placed them among the prominent and leading enterprises of this section. We refer to the Cynthiana Carriage Co., builder of high grade road wagons and funeral cars and dealer in remodeled hearses, coaches and casket wagons. This concern has the reputation of building the strongest and easiest riding buggies and road wagons on the market, and their funeral cars cannot be surpassed anywhere for quality and price.

They do all kinds of repair work, retiring, trimming, painting, etc. They also make a specialty of remodeling casket wagons and funeral cars and are the only firm in Kentucky to do this kind of work. Their plant is modern in equipment and consists of three buildings containing over eight thousand three hundred square feet of floor space.

Their trade territory extends over Kentucky and Tennessee and three salesmen are reporting a constantly increasing trade. (Owner and operator. W. L. Leek)" I have found the following news items in local newspapers:

The Log Cabin, August 17, 1906 – For Sale – We have about ten good second hand buggies, surreys and phaetons on hand, Columbus, Troy and other good makes repaired and painted, Cynthiana Carriage Co.

The Log Cabin, September 14, 1906. – The Cynthiana Carriage Co. has sold to John T. Rorer, of Sunrise, a handsome hearse. The Company is doing a large business at this time.

Cynthiana Democrat, October 12, 1916. – The Cynthiana Carriage Co., famed for its handsome work, has recently delivered a beautiful auto ambulance and funeral car combination to a Frankfort firm.

Cynthiana Democrat, June 8, 1922. – It is announced that the Cynthiana Carriage Co. will move their plant to Covington in the next few weeks. Scarcity of labor necessary to keep the plant in operation is given as the reason.

About a year prior to this writing, Ray Watson, Winchester, Kentucky phoned me asking for information about the Cynthiana Carriage Company. At an auction in Ohio he had purchased a horse-drawn vehicle bearing a small bronze plate engraved with the letters, "Cynthiana Carriage Co." Mr. Watson had the vehicle on display at the Cynthiana-Harrison County Gristmill Day, May 24, 2003. A Texas "Antique Buggy Museum," on their web site, shows a vehicle very similar to Mr. Watson's and identifies it as a Casket Wagon. They were used to transport caskets and other funeral accessories. Mr. Watson's wagon has a roller across the rear, probably used for easier loading and off loading of caskets.



Casket wagon with plate "Cynthiana Carriage Co.", early 1900s. Property of Ray Watson. (photo 2003, Martha Barnes).

the structure that occupies the Pleasant Streets in Cynthiana, Ky. titled *Cynthiana Since 1790* states, A. Frazier in 1893." The date stone at "Frazer 1903" (Not Frazier). An 1887 door, shows plainly that the subject Another photo, taken at some time third story has been added to the third story in 1903. The last of these "LEEK" lettered on the south side of

Cynthiana Democrat has a picture building. The picture shows it to be a and on the north side, above the first

Harrison County Historical Society

Jane Adams Whitehead

Judge Mac Swinford Topic of Meeting

The Harrison County Historical Society met July 17, 2003, at the Cynthiana library. The program was presented by Sally Kinney, who discussed her father, Judge Mac Swinford (1899-1975). He was born in Cynthiana, and upon graduating from Cynthiana High School in 1919 attended the University of Virginia. He began law practice with his father, M. C. Swinford, after attaining his law degree in 1925. He was a Kentucky State Representative, was appointed United States Attorney and later US judge and then chief judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky. Judge Swinford lived his entire life on Pike Street, and only joined three organizations: Cynthiana Presbyterian Church, Inquisitor's Club and the Democratic party. He was also a fine public speaker. Members and visitors who attended the presentation were rewarded by an interesting program on one of our county's most noted citizens.

During the business meeting the committee nominating Claysville for the underground railroad Freedom Trail made a report.

Next Meeting August 21, 2003

The next meeting of the Harrison County Historical Society will be Thursday, August 21, 2003, at the Cynthiana-Harrison Co. Library, 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

The program will be a presentation on the Declaration of Independence. Be sure and attend this meeting and learn more about a patriotic topic of interest to everyone.

Harrison County on the Internet:

Harrison Heritage News back issues are archived on the Harrison Co. Historical Society link found at cynthianaky.com.

Battle of Cynthiana -
www.battleofcynthiana.org

Cynthiana -Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes

Museum Celebrates Ninth Anniversary

This summer, the members of the Cynthiana-Harrison County Trust, Inc. (the administrative body of the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum) celebrated the ninth anniversary of the museum. "Coffee Break" - the popular talk show of local radio station, WCYN- aired live from the museum on August 1, 2003 with host Rick Chasteen. A large group of museum supporters enjoyed donuts, juice, and coffee and fellowship. Visitors to the museum were given the opportunity to win copies of *Cromwell's Comments* (edited by Bill Penn and George Slade) and *The Writings of Colonel William M. Moore* (compiled by Andy Peak).

As the museum staff continues their work and their efforts to preserve and share the history of this community, Mr. Robert Poindexter confirmed our plans to house the museum in the old Rohs Theatre building on Walnut Street (present location of the museum annex). Current museum directors are Neville Haley, Bob Grable, George Slade, Mary Grable, Ed Herrington, Dorothy Slade, Harold Slade, Donald Hill, and Martha Barnes.

Congratulations to our own Esther Ammerman. Mrs. Ammerman ferried bombs and towed targets for aerial gunnery practice as a WASP pilot during World War II. She recently participated in "Historic Aviation Weekend" at the Aviation Museum of Kentucky at Blue Grass Airport in Lexington. In November, Esther will be inducted into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame. We are extremely proud of Esther and of all our veterans.

Museum volunteers are involved with the Harrison County Historical Society and their efforts to collect the stories of World War II veterans. Plans also are to record the stories of Harrison County veterans of other wars. How important this project is!

Our neighbors, the Georgetown and Scott County Museum and the Georgetown College Art Department, are sponsoring an exhibit of the works of Edward Troye, the leading 19th century painter of livestock, particularly race horses. Among the 44 oil paintings on display is one with Harrison County connections: Abdallah - a bay horse foaled in 1852, bred by Lewis J. Sutton, Goshen, New York.

Abdallah was bought by Joseph Love and James Miller of Cynthiana, Harrison County, Kentucky in 1859. Mr. Miller drove him from New York to Kentucky. Abdallah was purchased in 1862 by R. A. Alexander and moved to Woodburn Farm, near Midway. He was taken from Woodburn by Confederate guerrillas, February 2, 1865 and was literally ridden to his death, which occurred February 6, 1865. Abdallah was a great progenitor of trotting horses although he had only five years at stud. [For a history of Woodburn farm with much on Abdallah (and his picture) read *A Kingdom for the Horse* by Wm. Preston Mangum].

The Troye exhibit continues through August 31, 2003, at the Anne Wright Wilson Fine Arts Building on Georgetown College's Campus. Our museum should have a picture of Abdallah.

Harrison County Genealogy: Lafferty Family

Courtesy of James G. Dempsey; also Lafferty Papers, UK Special Collections; Geneva Taylor.

[Condensed by William A. Penn for Harrison Heritage News based on James G. Dempsey genealogy notes.]

James Lafferty, married to ——Aker. They were separated before she came to Ky. Children:

James Aker Lafferty (see detail below*); Thornton Lafferty (born about 1794. Captured by Union Army and executed at Frankfort, June 1864); and Zepheriah Lafferty.

***James Aker Lafferty**, son of James Lafferty, b. Jan. 7, 1790 , in Bedford Co., Pa., came to Bourbon Co. Ky. in 1797 with his three Aker uncles . Was in war of 1812 under Gen. Shelby, Battle of Thames; came to Harrison Co. about 1825 and built a house on the Lafferty Pike. Owned 400 acres in 1831; Died July 14, 1866 (*Cynthiana News* July 19, 1866); married to Susan Smith, daughter of Zadock Smith (b. Bourbon Co. April 7, 1765) and Nancy Waugh. Susan born Bourbon Co. April 8, 1801, died Sept 5, 1838. Nancy Waugh daughter of Tyle and Mary Waugh; came to Harrison Co. about 1825. (Harr. Co. census 1850);

children of James Aker L.: a daughter, name unknown; **John Aker Lafferty**** (see detail below); a son name unknown; Elizabeth "Lizzie" Lafferty, who married —— King.; children: John King (John King children Lee, Frances , Ray and May); James D. Lafferty: born 1838/9 who married Terrisie —, born 1843; James D. Lafferty's children : John S. (b. 1861); Ida J. (b. 1867) and Susanna (b. March 1870)..

****John Aker Lafferty**, son of James Aker Lafferty, born Feb 12, 1832, Harrison Co. Ky. and in 1860 census. Farmer, land next to father; he and two brothers Civil War CSA veterans. Enlisted in Capt. Jonathan Shawhan's company, CSA, in 1861 at Prestonsburg, Ky.; returned home in 1865; sheriff of Harrison Co. 1870; 1874; 1876; lived near Breckenridge; married May 23, 1855, Frances "Fannie" Elizabeth Henry, daughter of John Henry and Elizabeth Tippett; Frances b. April 14, 1839; John died Aug 9, 1905; buried in Battle Grove Cem.; she died Aug. 9, 1918.

Children of John Aker Lafferty:

William Thornton Lafferty; B. 3/1/1856, died 11/9/1922; Married **Maude Ward**, b. 1870, dau. of Harry Ward; she died Fayette Co. 1/11/1962; see *Cynthiana Democrat* July 1, 1993 article on his life; first daughter of W. T. and Maude: Helen Lafferty married Mr. Nesbitt, died 1975; daughter Helen Louise Nesbitt, who md. Warren Roberts; live in New Orleans. David Newton "Newt" Lafferty; 2nd daughter of W. T. and Maude Ward: Kathleen Lafferty, who died August 26, 1900, age 9; (Cyn. Log Cabin 9.1.1900).

David Newton "Newt" Lafferty, b. 8/24/1857; d. 7/22/1922; md. 12/22/1886 to Mary "Mollie" Taylor, b. 1855. See bio. in *The History of Kentucky and Kentuckians*, Vol. III, pp.1559-1560). Had one son Wayne Taylor Lafferty died 1/9/1970; David N. married 2nd Valentine, who died in 1897; 3rd married Mary Violette Hayes on 10/3/1901; she died 5.10.43; their children: Charles E.; b. 1903 d. 6.17.62; and Erlene Lafferty; md. E. Miller Clark; Miller b. 1901 d. 5.18.70

Oterah Lafferty; b. 12/16/ 1859 d. 12/27/1892. md. 12/6/1882 to Abram Keller Taylor, b. 2/4/1853, d.11/26/1892.

Susan Ella "Suella" Lafferty;

Lydda Lafferty;

James Frasure Lafferty; b. 1866

John A. Lafferty; b. Danville, Ill. 1912 d. 1956

Francis E. "Bettie"; b/ 5/24/1867; d. 11/25/1884

Minnie Lafferty; b. Feb. 1870; d. 1/18/1939; md. Frank McMurtry who d. 1/1/1930.

Mary E.Lafferty; b. June 1872; ,d. 9/26/1900; md to James M. Terry 1890; b. Nov. 1864; d. 12/26/1914.

Pearl Lafferty; b. 11/19/1874; md Joe H. Ewalt 2/21/1900; she was member of UDC Jo Desha Chapter; she d. 3/4/1942; children: Betty Henry Ewalt, b. 1942; Melva Ewalt; David Ewalt and Carl Ewalt.

Mettie/Meddie Lafferty; b. 3/15/1877 Harrison Co.; d. 12/5/1955; md. 10/22/1895 to John Poyntz

Chamberlain, M. D., b. 7/17/1869 Harrison co., d. 1/10/1957.

Lafferty Papers at UK Special Collections: Dr. Louise Roberts donated in 1978-9 the Lafferty Papers which include: Ward family papers; Lair family ; Lafferty family letters; Lafferty photos (Judge W. T. Lafferty, Helen L., Kathleen L.; Lafferty house; Maude Ward Lafferty; A. H. Ward); also Ward genealogy; early Ward letters; Smyser ancestry & papers.

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, 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

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