

1996

## Bicentennial Bits [Part A]

Carol Crowe Carraco

*Western Kentucky University, carol.crowecarraco@wku.edu*

Nancy Disher Baird

*Western Kentucky University, nancy.baird@wku.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/educ\\_ky\\_hist](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/educ_ky_hist)



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Crowe Carraco, Carol and Baird, Nancy Disher, "Bicentennial Bits [Part A]" (1996). *Teacher Resources: Kentucky History*. Paper 10. [http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/educ\\_ky\\_hist/10](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/educ_ky_hist/10)

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Teacher Resources: Kentucky History by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact [topscholar@wku.edu](mailto:topscholar@wku.edu).

# BICENTENNIAL BITS



Carol Crowe Carraco

Nancy Disher Baird

In the summer and early autumn of 1997, the *Daily News* ran this series of articles about the county's history. Those that were written but never appeared in print have also been included.



## Warren Explorers

by: Nancy Disher Baird & Carol Crowe Carraco

Who were the first European-Americans in Warren County? No one knows. However, two months after the founding of Boonesboro – a group of “long hunters” (so called because of the time spent away from home) camped on the north bank of the Barren River, in the vicinity of the old Richardsville Road Bridge. Before leaving the area, they carved their names and the date June 13, 1775 on a beech tree. The tree long ago disappeared but according to an 1839 settler observed, the names were “handsomely cut with some instrument adopted to the purpose” and the marks “appeared to correspond with the date & no doubt they were made at that time. The first name was about nine feet above the ground, the last, about four feet. Of the thirteen, several are familiar to historians of the pioneer period: J. Neville; E. Bulger (Edward Bulger helped plan and lay off Louisville); I Hite (Isaac Hite explored with James Harrod in 1773 and was at Boonesboro in 1777); W. Harmon; J. Jackman; W. Buchanon; A. Bowman; J. Drake; N. Nall; H. Skaggs (a well known hunter-surveyor Skaggs Creek is named for Henry Skaggs); I. Bowman (Bowman served with George R. Clark during his 1778 trek to Kaskaskia and Vincennes); Thos. Slaughter (Slaughter and others from North Carolina had explored along the Ohio River the previous year) and J. Todd. Another tree, about 50 yards up river bore the name H. Linch and date 1796.

In the early 1940s Edward Laning, a New York artist of

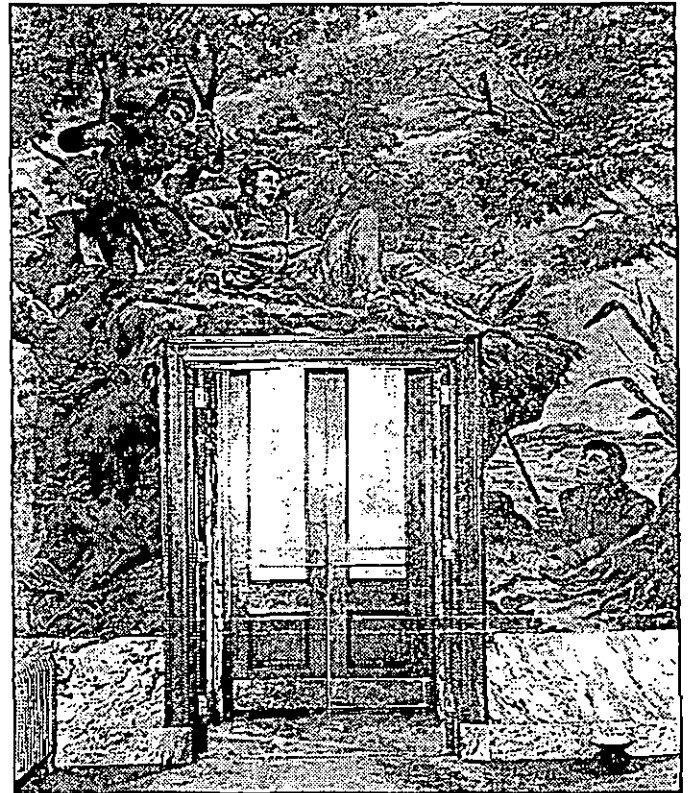


Illustration from the Kentucky Library

note, painted a mural around the Center Street door of the post office (now Federal Building) depicting long hunters in Warren County.

# TM Computer

Providing Computer Service, Sales, Networking, and Training to South Central Kentucky since 1985



## A Royal Visitor

by: Nancy Disher Baird  
Carol Crowe Carraco



Illustration from the Kentucky Library

One of Warren County's earliest tourists was Louis Philippe, a future king of France. In the spring of 1797 he and three companions journeyed from Philadelphia to Nashville and then turned north, traveling through the barrens of Warren and adjoining counties enroute to Louisville. During their three day trip from the Kentucky-Tennessee line to the Green River, the royal prince and his entourage ate and slept in the humble log homes of area settlers and dined on their venison, cornbread and fresh milk.

Throughout this journey Louis Philippe kept a diary. He recorded that the "beguiling and flowery Barrens" were "exceedingly pleasant... a happy change from the forests we were so weary of." His remarks about the area's denizens, however, were less complimentary. "What makes a trip through the area absolutely unbearable is the quality of the settlers," he wrote. "By and large they are the scum of Ireland and America. They are crude, lazy and inhospitable to an extreme." This, after they welcomed him into their homes!

Louis Philippe became King of France in 1830 and for a brief period enjoyed popularity among his subjects. However, as he aged he became dictatorial. During the Revolution of 1848 he was forced to abdicate.

## Good News Travels Fast

"The '97 Corvette is a home run in every way."

Automobile Magazine

"...the latest Corvette also is the greatest Corvette."

Motor Trend Magazine

"Going fast never felt so good."

Corvette Quarterly Magazine

## Bowling Green's Founders

Robert and George Moore came to the Green River country sometime prior to 1797 and claimed several tracts of land in what became Warren County. Robert purchased 600 acres that were "handsomely interspersed with desirable groves of excellent timber" and watered by "prenal springs." His brother George "made an injudicious selection" of 200 acres "interspersed with deep sinks, luxureant [sic] in the production of gravel," (which he sold in 1811) and another 200 acres "south of a knob . . . covered with rock and unfit for cultivation." The original portion of Bowling Green was founded in the center of Robert's tract and subsequent additions also came from his and George's land. Robert farmed, until the town eventually swallowed up his holdings. Following the death of his wife in 1805 he lived with his brother until the marriage of Sally, his younger daughter, to Martin Grider; thereafter he made his home with the Griders until his death in 1819. Robert managed most of the families' monetary affairs. In 1830 a spat over monies gained years earlier in the sale of jointly owned town lots involved their children in a court battle.

George operated a "house of entertainment" near the courthouse. Following his death in 1812, his widow Elizabeth continued to operate the tavern and from its profits raised and educated their children (Anna, Thomas Jefferson, Elizabeth, Mariah and James Madison). In 1816 she began the construction of a new home (Mariah Moore House), where she lived until her death in 1862.

George and Elizabeth are buried in Pioneer Cemetery. The resting places of Robert and his wife are unknown.

## **Creation of Bowling Green**

In January 1798, the trustees of Warren County "established" a town on land owned by Robert and George Moore, who earlier had given land for the county's log courthouse and jail. Two months later the trustees ordered that 30-40 acres be laid off in a town "that shall be called and known by the name of Bolin Green." Unfortunately, the records do not indicate who selected the town's name or why.

The first lot purchased, lot #17, brought \$16. Other sales were slow, for area residents were more interested in farming than in urban living. By 1807, however, most lots around the courthouse had been sold, although few contained structures. Deeds to some of the lots changed hands frequently, used apparently as currency in an area where money was scarce.

The first town residents and structures are unknown. However, the 1810 census lists 23 households totaling 154 people. It also enumerates the names of the heads-of-the-households and indicates the age and sex of other family members. Twelve households contained no women or children, six family heads may have been widowers and none were women. Only five adults were over 45 years of age; thirty residents were less than sixteen.

If slave ownership indicated economic status, John McNeel, George Moore and Havillah Crump, who collectively owned 26 of the town's 56 slaves, ranked as the most affluent citizens. The families of Jacob Ambrose and Charles Donalson, as well as most of the bachelor householders, owned no slaves.

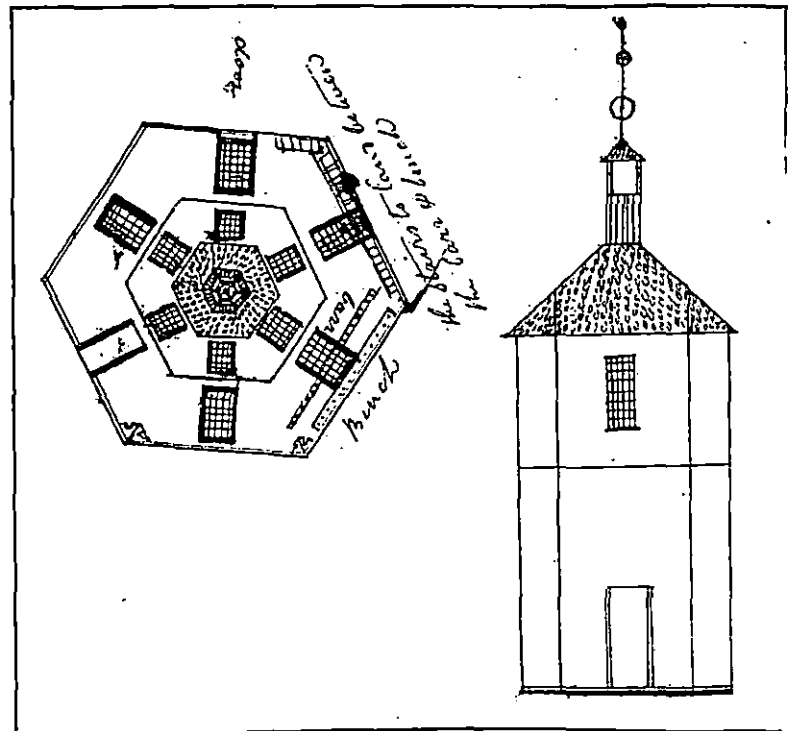


## An unusual courthouse design

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

Warren County's first courthouse, which sat on land donated by Robert Moore (now Fountain Square), opened for use in March 1798. The 20 by 24 foot log structure had a shingle roof and floors of sawed planks. The lower room contained a clerk's table, a bar for the attorneys and a "good and sufficient" bench for the judge. A stairway led to two small rooms in the upper half-story. The windows were outfitted with shutters. At their first meeting in the new courthouse, the trustees ordered the creation of "Bowlin Green" on adjoining acreage.

In 1805, John McNeel asked the court to approve a town on his land and later successfully petitioned the state legislature to deem it the county seat. A dispute resulted. Moore's followers favored the tiny village of Bowling Green for the county seat and McNeel's supporters preferred Jeffersonville, his planned community on the river banks (current site of the water treatment plant). During the squabble the log courthouse was moved to the Jeffersonville area but was used only briefly. Wishing for a more impressive public building, the court called for plans for a new courthouse,



drawing from: the Kentucky Library/Manuscript/Archives

and among those submitted was a hexagon-shaped structure featuring a stone foundation, walls that were three bricks thick, and a cupola supported by six large beams. The building was not erected. Warren County remained without a courthouse until 1812.

## Official Calendar of Bicentennial Events

Here are just some of the events scheduled for June!

June

12-14 Duncan Hines Festival

Thursday evening, the *Miss Duncan Hines Pageant* and *Little Mr./Miss Bicentennial Pageant* take place at the Capitol Arts Center. Friday events include unveiling of the largest cake ever in Warren County Cake Race, Duncan Hines lookalike contest, and Poster Contest at Fountain Square, with WBKO host-





# The County Clerk's Office

by: Nancy Disher Baird  
Carol Crowe Carraco

Shortly after the completion of the 1812 courthouse, the court called for the construction of a clerk's office on the square. This sketch in the court's records provides the only illustration of the structure that provided an office and bedroom for the court's records keeper.

Benjamin Johnson made and lay the 19,000 bricks for the one story structure and plastered its interior. He probably also lay the stone foundation and constructed the chimney and fireplace in the office. For his labor and materials the court paid Johnson \$310. John Maxey provided the lumber and did most of the carpentry work, for which he charged \$303. Like the 1812 courthouse, the clerk's office had plank floors of poplar, walnut doors, painted woodwork and plastered walls. Each window, of twenty four lights, had walnut shutters.

An important figure in county government, the county clerk registered wills and deeds; sold marriage, tavern and entertainment licenses; and kept the minutes for the county and circuit court. Because the clerk received a fee for each service, the position could be lucrative and in many places was bought and sold to the highest bidder. For antebellum Warren County, however, the job's rewards were modest.

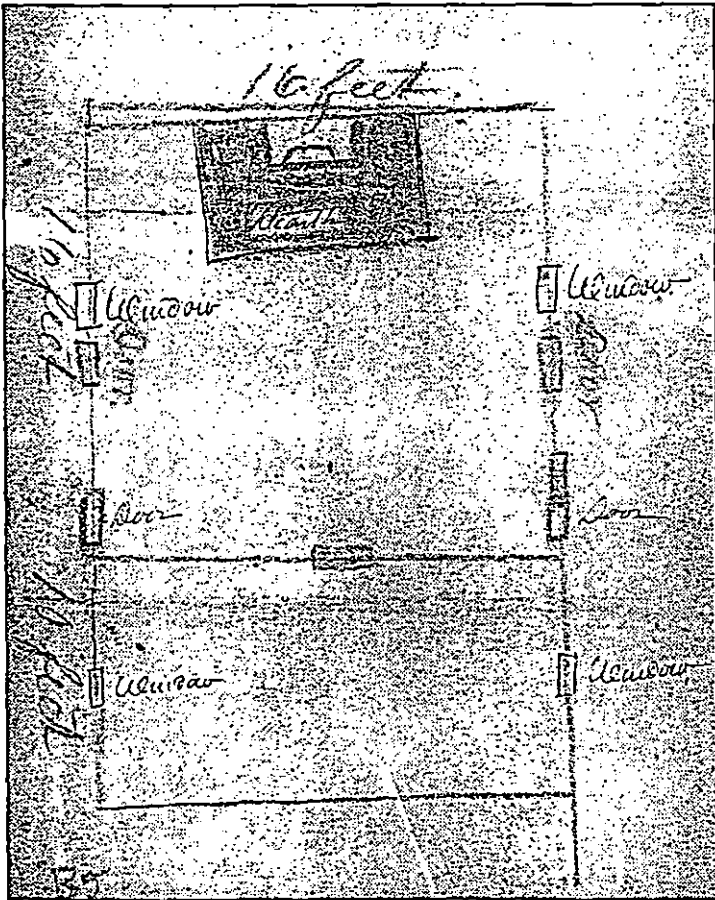


Illustration from the Kentucky Library

# TM Computer



## Warren's Second Courthouse

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

A few months after the state legislature officially proclaimed Bowling Green the county seat of Warren, the county trustees began plans for construction of a second courthouse. Built in 1812 in the center of the public square, the two story brick structure had a stone foundation, and a hip roof with a "suitable cornice" that was covered with ash shingles and topped with a cupola. Assuming it was built according to plans drawn earlier, the structure was forty foot square at its base, the ground floor with 15' ceilings, the top floor with a 10' ceiling. The first floor courtroom had a brick sub floor, oak plank floor, raised benches with rails and banister for the judge and attorneys, oak benches for the jury and a walnut table for the clerk. Above the courtroom were two jury rooms. A "proper number of windows, properly proportioned" each with 24 lights of 8x10' glass provided light and air; the fireplaces of the "angle" chimney heated each floor. The interior was finished with painted woodwork and plastered walls.

The court commenced using the structure as

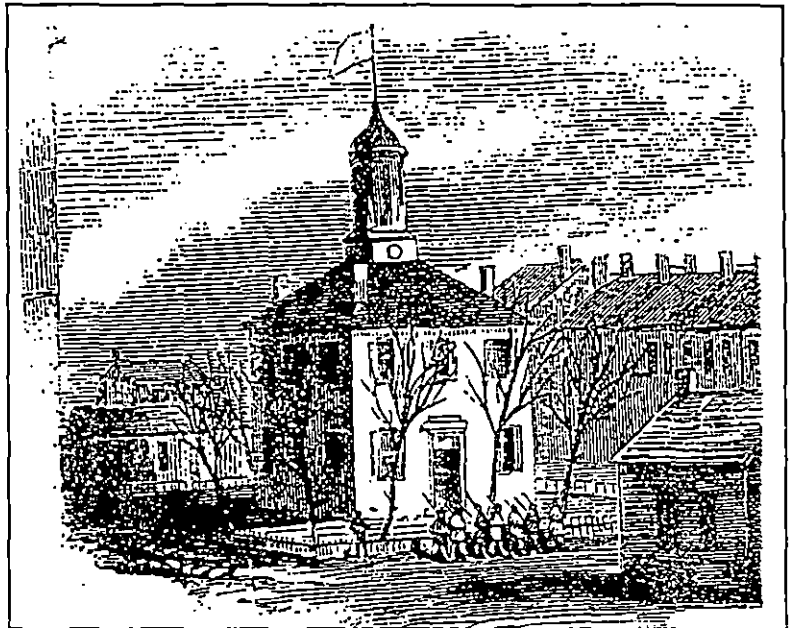


Illustration from the Kentucky Library

soon as it was under roof, completing the interior in the next few years as time and money allowed. By mid century the court needed larger quarters and area residents talked of replacing the often-repaired and by then dilapidated 1812 structure. Volatile national politics and a shortage of funds delayed the project until 1867, when work began on the current courthouse, which opened in late 1868.

## "A Local Family That Cares"

**JC Kirby & Son - Now With 2 Locations**

820 Lovers Lane  
Bowling Green, KY 42104

832 Broadway  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

## **African Americans in Warren County**

Little is known about Warren County's African Americans during the antebellum period. The 1810 census indicates that of Warren's 11,937 residents, 1498 were slaves and 17 were "free persons of color." The names of slaves and free blacks employed by others were not listed on the census. Abraham Vaugh is the only African American enumerated, and county records provide considerable information about him and his family.

LaVaugh (sometimes spelled Levo, LeVaughn, Levin, Levan), his wife Elizabeth and children Abraham, Jr., Ezekiel, Isaac, John, William, Maria and Polly are listed among Warren's 1797 taxpayers. In 1798 LaVaugh filed a claim for 200 acres of land "in a grove" on the north side of the Big Barren River. He received a bounty of eight shillings for a wolf scalp in November 1801 and in 1815 apparently borrowed \$150 from the bank to purchase another 75 acres. In 1813 Abraham Jr., married Jane Merrit and five years later William wed Polly Cadle. Both young men signed their marriage bonds with an X, indicating that they, like many white settlers of the era, could neither read nor write.

Following Abraham's death in 1837, his widow and children sold his land and left Kentucky. The 1840 Ohio census lists Ezekiel, James, William and Isaac Levin residing in Cincinnati.



## Vance's Tavern

by: Carol Crowe Garraco  
Nancy Disher Baird

Although a number of residents provided overnight accommodations for travelers, Vance's Tavern probably was the Warren County's first hotel. Built in 1815 by Samuel McDowell, the brick structure stood on the corner of Bowling Green's Main Street at College, the more recent site of Pushin's Department Store and Kelley Business Systems. In October of 1815 McDowell sold his "Bowling Green Hotel" to Benjamin Vance. For the hotel, a brick stable, and the lot (which included nearly half of the north side of the square), Vance paid \$6500.

Through the years Vance's Tavern also served as a stagecoach stop where travelers dined and slept and their horses received care in the stable. The tavern also catered to local folks as a restaurant and meeting place and the county court frequently ordered that important notices be posted at the tavern. One of the town's few public places, dances and church services were

**INDEPENDENCE BALL**

*The pleasure of your Company is respectfully solicited to a Ball at Mr. B. Vance's Hotel, on the 4th of July next at 4 P. M.*

J. T. DONALDSON, ZACH. SMITH, GEO. M. HOWORTH, WM. COOKE,	}	<i>Managers</i>	HENRY SHANKS, JNO. M. BRIGGS, C. T. DENAVAN, JNO. S. LUCAS.
--	---	-----------------	--

*Bowling-Green, June 15, 1832.*

also held at the tavern.

The local court set tavern rates--breakfast 37 1/2 cents, 50 cents for dinner, 12 1/2 cents for a half-pint of whiskey, applejack 15 cents, and French brandy or wine, 62 1/2 cents. Lodging for man was 12 1/2 cents, to feed and stable for a horse, 509 cents. The county required that all taverns purchase annual licenses.

Vance and his wife Catherine operated the hotel and tavern until about 1836.

### Official Calendar of Bicentennial Events

Here are just some of the events scheduled for June!

June  
12-14 Duncan Hines Festival  
Thursday evening, the Miss Duncan Hines Pageant and Little Mr./Miss Bicentennial Pageant take place at the Capitol Arts Center. Friday events include unveiling of the largest cake ever in Warren County, Cake Race, Duncan Hines lookalike contest, and Poster Contest at Fountain Square, with WBKO hosting a live remote. Saturday morning, children's activities and food vendors will be at the Moose



## Washington Hall

by: Nancy Disher Baird & Carol Crowe Carraco

Washington Hall, a two story brick hotel, graded the north west corner of Main and State Streets from 1822-1862, providing overnight accommodations for travelers and serving as a boarding house, restaurant, tavern, and occasional ballroom for local residents. No known photos exist of the facility but an inventory prepared in 1839 by the heirs of former owner Matthew Henry provides a verbal picture.

The first floor consisted of a public room, dining area and large hallway. Two settees, a secretary, and "pianner" sat in the parlor. The dining room housed six tables, three dozen silver spoons, four dozen plates, and a dozen dishes. The kitchen, which may have been a separate structure, had pots, kettles, skillets and other items worth \$50.

The upper rooms and hallway contained eight beds, eight bureau and six washstands. Linens--26 blankets, 16 counterpanes, 8 comforts, 8 quilts, 8 bedspreads and 16 pairs of sheets--were stored in eight trunks and a

wardrobe. The inventory also listed two bookcases, three gilt mirrors, three lamps, five carpets, a hearth rug, two brass fenders, irons and brasses and four pairs of tongs and shovels.

Following an 1862 fire that destroyed the hotel, owner George Lehman salvaged its bricks, intending to rebuild. Unfortunately, they were "commandeered" by Union soldiers to build chimneys and fireplaces for their tents.

### DR. W. B. HENDRICK, CONTINUES THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE SURGERY, &



**I**N BOWLING GREEN and the adjacent country. He boards at the Washington Hall; his shop a few doors below Maj. J.. W. Powell's store: at one of which places, he may be constantly found, except, when absent on Professional business.

N: B. - All persons who are indebted to him for their last year's accounts, are requested to call and settle them by note or payment.

January 18, 1827

9-tf

# Subscribe to the Daily News Today, and you'll see...

# HISTORY IN THE MAKING



# Mariah Moore House

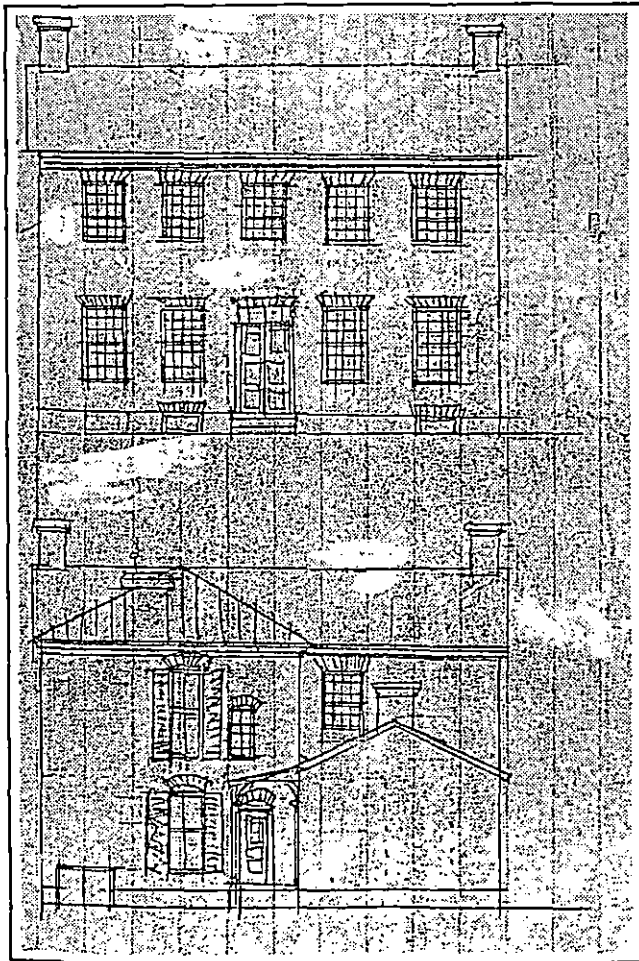
by: Carol Crowe Carraco  
Nancy Disher Baird

In 1816 Elizabeth Moore, the widow of town founder George Moore, began construction of a house, smokehouse, kitchen and garden house. Described by a contemporary as expensive, the two story, four room brick structure cost between \$3000-\$4000. For the stone foundation, finished in 1816, she paid \$3 per perch and the brick walls were completed 1819-1820, with brick at \$8 per thousand. Carpenter John Maxey submitted a \$1289.62 1/2 bill for his materials and work. A reeded Adams style mantle graced each room. Elizabeth furnished her home in a "handsome state", and she and her five children lived there until their marriages and her death in 1862. Mariah, the unmarried daughter, resided in the house until she died in 1888. Because of her long occupancy, the structure bares Mariah's name rather than that of its builder.

Frequently remodeled, the Mariah Moore House of today is much changed from that of 1820. The addition of a kitchen probably occurred shortly after the Civil War when the structure also received new windows with curved headers and sills to the floor. Sometime before the turn of the century the front doorway was inset. The 20th century has seen the structure painted and used as a home, a plumbing business, carpet shop and restaurant.

An architectural historian once labeled the building's workmanship as "somewhat inferior" to that of structures in the Bluegrass area. However, Elizabeth Moore's home was well constructed, for it has survived fire and nearly 180 years of constant use.

The Mariah Moore House was placed on the National Register in 1985.



## Super Savings on Dress

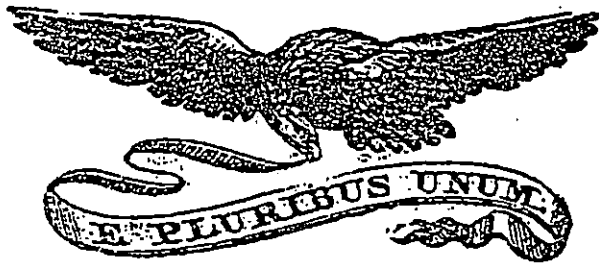


## Early Antebellum Newspapers

by: Carol Crowe Carraco  
Nancy Disher Baird

Publishing a small town newspaper during the antebellum era presented a myriad of problems. Towns were small--Bowling Green has 119 households in 1820--paper was expensive, and news traveled slowly. Crossing the Atlantic Ocean required as much as two months and getting news from the eastern seaboard to south central Kentucky took two weeks or more. Nevertheless, residents in the Bowling Green area enjoyed a weekly paper as early as 1818.

The *Backwoodsman* (1818-1823?), a four page sheet edited by J. Lewis Dillard, cost \$3 a year. The *Green River Correspondent*, (1824) was edited by Terrence Cooney, who also practiced law. Unfortunately only a couple of issues of these two papers have been preserved. However, the Kentucky Library owns a complete set of the *Spirit of the Times* (1826-1827). Established for "political purposes" by William Kilgore (who previously published papers in Danville and Richmond), the weekly carried news stories gleaned from other papers as well as local court notices and advertisements for goods and services offered by residents. Unfortunately, Kilgore had few subscribers. In his final issue he asked why people visited the newspaper office and asked to borrow a paper to read. They certainly would never ask the baker if they could borrow a loaf of bread to eat!



### **SPIRIT OF THE TIMES** **BOWLING GREEN, KY.**

**SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 7, 1827.**

We learn from good authority, that letters have been written from this congressional district to some of the head men of the Jackson party in Frankfort or *about there*, the object of which is to have an order issued from headquarters to Mr. Yancey, directing him to decline as a candidate for Congress, in favor of a gentle-

# TM Computer

## **The *Midnight Spy***

The *Midnight Spy* was a four-page newspaper secretly published at least twice in the spring of 1850 and left on the doorsteps of local inhabitants during the night. The Kentucky Library owns the second issue of the paper. Dated May 25, 1850 it includes all sorts of innuendoes that are both titillating and unidentifiable.

One blurb asked why a certain doctor "whose cranium presents a flaming exterior" visited "the "back apartments" of another resident late at night and questioned why a group of young men serenaded a few of the town's ladies but neglected others. Still another article suggested that local men had forgotten the rules of chivalry and considered it a virtue to "sneer" at women. "Shame on them," it scolded, "they are destined to live unblessed by the smiles of partial beauty won."

In a half-column article about women's fashions, the paper warned that low cut, short sleeve dresses not only showed off full busts but also dirty arms. Bonnets set back on the head, it suggested, offered "no obstruction to the delicate operation of kissing."

Of the scandal sheet, a town resident wrote that it "produced nothing but laughter or contempt" but warned that it might grow to something serious, as the second issue contained "some rather vulgar allusions & indirectly introduces some of the ladies of the place."





## Bowling Green 1826-27

by: Carol Crowe Carraco  
Nancy Disher Baird

### BOOT & SHOE MANUFACTORY.



**JAMES K. BETTISWORTH**

**B**EGS leave to inform the public in general, that he still continues the above businesses at his present stand one door below Lucas & Atkinson's Tailor shop, where he may always be found ready to accommodate all who may please to call on him.. He has just received from Philadelphia a good supply of LEATHER, and an excellent set of LASTS, and is now prepared to furnish Boots and Shoes of the best quality at the following prices for cash in hand, to wit: - Boots, ten dollars in Commonwealth's paper; - Men's Shoe-tees, \$5; do. Shoes, \$3.50; do. Pumps, \$3.25; Ladies' Bootees, \$4; do. Shoes, \$3.00, and coarse shoes at \$2.50. He pledges himself to spare no pains to render general satisfaction, by making his work handsome and durable; and in return expects prompt pay, it being necessary to enable him to carry on business in a proper manner. Employment will be given to 2 or 3 journeymen, and good wages paid them. Also, one or two apprentices would be taken to learn the above business.

#### WANTED TO PURCHASE

*A quantity of Dressed Deer Skins,  
of the best quality. Enquire as above.*

May 12, 1827.

25-tf

By the late 1820s Bowling Green was a flourishing town of about 600 people. In addition to a brick courthouse, the town boasted a newspaper office, two brick hotels and a branch of the Bank of the Commonwealth. H & J Shanks carded wool and spun cotton and W.H. Rochester exchanged raw cotton for thread. William and Isaac Brown operated a blacksmith's shop on Main Cross (State) Street. Dr. W.B. Hendrick, who boarded at Washington Hall (Hillard and Lyons) kept an office "a few doors below J.M. Powell's store," and William Martin, who shared Dr. Hendrick's office, repaired watches and clocks. James Betterworth's shoe shop was one door below Lucas' and Atkinson's Tailor Shop. The establishment of cabinetmakers Burnam and Tindle stood on the north side of the square.

Residing in Washington Hall, Mrs. Frazer made hats and taught drawing and painting on velvet. John Marshall's store offered shoes, flannel and cassimere by the yard, blankets and ready made cloaks. When summer approached, Marshall reduced the price of woollens and announced that "fancy goods" from England and Philadelphia had arrived. S. & V. Crosthwait operated a tanning business that employed young apprentices. J.R. Parker sold "for cash or Tobacco" dry goods, groceries and distilling equipment and offered 170 barrels of salt "cheap for cash". Parker also operated a copper and tinning business "at the sign of the coffee pot".

# BUY 1 - GET 1 FREE

All Blooming Plants and Hanging Baskets



## Town Budget

by: Nancy Disher Baird  
Carol Crowe Carraco

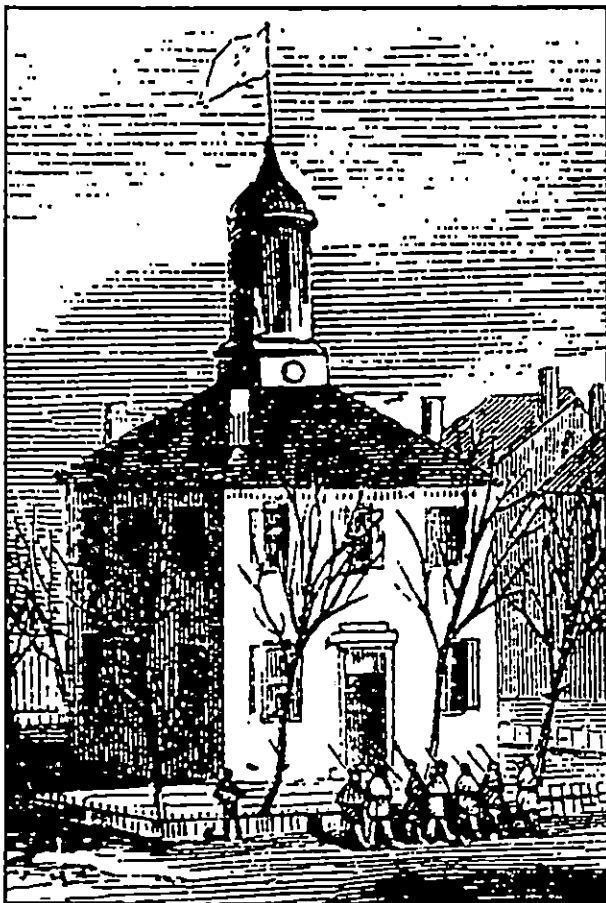


Illustration from the Kentucky Library

How do Bowling Green's expenditures today compare with those of yesteryear? Life was simple and relatively inexpensive during the town's first half century. Schools were private, streets were unpaved, water came from public wells and volunteers provided fire and police protection. Consequently, expenses were few and the town budget was small. Major municipal expenses in 1828, for example, included paying John Lucas \$30 for "filling up and improving the streets" and \$96 for "filling up and Bridging holes on Bridge (College) Street;" \$15 to Isaac Newton for cleaning the public well; \$60 to John Maxey for constructing a platform at the public well, \$6 to James Parker for work done on East Street, etc. The total amount paid for municipal services was \$292.22 1/2.

How did the town acquire its revenues? Entertainment licenses, fines for breaking various ordinances and the sale of town lots (which sold for \$15 to \$30) provided a small portion of the revenue, but most funds came from property taxes and a poll tax. On December 31, 1827 the city treasurer announced that Bowling Green had 158 taxpayers who owned property valued at \$91,815. The trustees then mandated that in 1828 he collect 50 cents for every \$100 in property value (as compared to today's \$11.12 per \$1,000). In addition, each white male over 21 paid a 50 cent poll tax and slave owners paid 50 cents on each slave over 16.

During the 1820s the town trustees met sometimes in the courthouse and at other times in their business offices.

**Subscribe to the Daily News  
Today, and you'll see...**

**HISTORY IN THE MAKING**

## **Banking in Bowling Green**

On the rapidly developing frontier, the need for money remained a number one priority. Consequently, area residents urged the establishment of banks that could make loans and print bank notes (only the federal government could coin money but the prerogative of banks included printing bank notes). Bowling Green's first bank, the Southern Bank of Kentucky was chartered by the state in 1819, with a capital of \$300,000 and shortly thereafter the Bank of the Commonwealth of Kentucky established a branch bank in Bowling Green. Little is known about these banks but they, like others across the state, undoubtedly suffered during the "panic" that came shortly after the end of the War of 1812 but extant records do not reveal their fate.

BY 1835 the Bowling Green branch of the Bank of Kentucky appeared to be on sound footing. Officers of the Bowling Green branch of the Bank of Kentucky, 1837, included Pres. James Rumsey Skiles and directors Jacob Van Meter, John Marshall, James Hines, Thomas QUigley, James T. Donaldson, John M. Briggs, William R. Payne amnd John Burnam.. The amount of notes issued for then BG branch was \$60,000. Thos. Quigley, James Donaldson, John M. Briggs and William Payne and John Burnam also directors.

In 1837 Bowling Green's Bank of Kentucky employed two people--a cashier and clerk, whose combined annual salaries were less than \$1800. The bank's capitol stock was \$125,000, circulated about \$70,000 per month and enjoyed deposits of about \$20,000.



# James Rumsey Skiles (1800-1886)

PCDN  
7/8/97

by: Nancy Disher Baird  
Carol Crowe Carraco

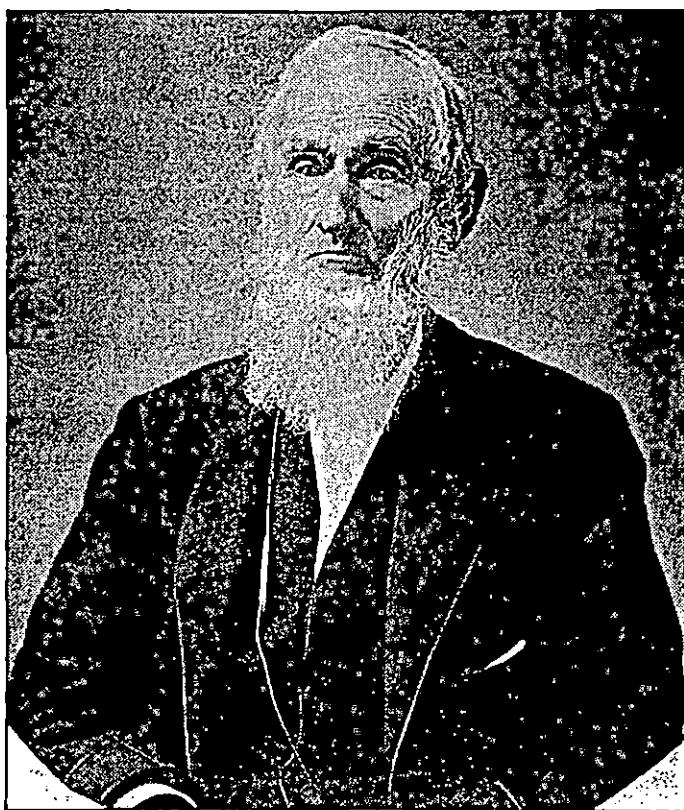


Illustration from the Kentucky Library

According to Green River historian Helen B. Crocker, entrepreneur James Rumsey Skiles (1800-1886) deserves to be remembered as the Warren County businessman who first recognized the potential of the Green River and its tributary the Barren as transportation arteries and led the initial drive to improve them. The grandson of James Rumsey, who demonstrated his steamboat on the Potomac River some twenty years before Robert Fulton launched the Clermont, Skiles had little interest in his fathers' Three Springs Community mercantile business. Instead he and several associates formed the Green and Barren River Navigation Company, and he lobbied the state legislature for funds to erect locks and dams, which were completed in the early 1840. To develop Bowling Green's potential as a commercial center, he also urged area resident to macadamize the town's streets, improve country roads, and develop a public transportation system that would carry passengers and goods from the center of town to the wharf on the river. The resulting "portage railroad" of horse-drawn carriages that traveled along wooden rails, built around 1832, may have been the state's first railroad. Skiles' heavy investments in these and other projects, including a mill, warehouse and hotel, overextended his financial resources and taxed his health. He moved to Texas in the early 1850s and died near San Antonio in 1886.



People are giving this book rave reviews  
**Get Yours Today!**

• Actual Size 8½" x 11" • 152 Pages



# Flatboating and whiskey

by: Carol Crowe Carraco  
Nancy Disher Baird

**To the Farmers**  
Of Warren and Adjacent Counties.

*The Subscribers have formed a  
Partnership for the purpose of*  
**FREIGHTING**



**AND OTHER PRODUCE,**

**F**ROM Big Barren River to the port of New Orleans. Their Boats will be well built and of first rate materials, and will be delivered on or before the first day of February, 1827. Their terms for freight will be as reasonable as any others. One of the firm has had long experience in the

**Freighting Business,**

from this place to New Orleans. They will both accompany the boats to N. Orleans.

— J. R. PARKER,  
DANL. HARE.

N. B. Should farmers wish to have a small advance on each load they ship, they can be accommodated; and further, all those that may ship their Tobacco with us, shall not be charged any storage at the Double Spring Ware House.

December 16, 1826. 4-tf

During the antebellum years, rivers served as highways for getting area goods to market. From the Double Springs warehouses residents of Warren and adjoining counties loaded hams, tobacco, whiskey and other products on flatboats that journeyed to New Orleans, where ocean going vessels carried the products to distant markets.

Local freighters advertised their services. In 1827, J & T Akin guaranteed the "highest price" for tobacco and whiskey and Thomas Quigley announced his wish to purchase and export 30,000 pounds of pork. John Boon assured farmers that his boats, constructed of the best materials, were manned by crews with "steady habits" and well acquainted with the "difficulties of the rivers." Daniel Hare and J. R. Parker claimed that their terms were "as reasonable as any others" and promised they would pay a small advance, if desired.

Henry Fox served as a steerman on one of Quigley's three-man flatboats. Locally built and "deep enough for a man to stand in," the boats were loaded so heavily that their gunnels were barely above the water. The downriver trip took three to four weeks, and for it Fox received \$100. Although some of his colleagues walked back to Kentucky, Fox usually returned by steamboat, sleeping on deck in a hammock.

Illustration from the Kentucky Library



**Bowling Green-Warren County Bicentennial Commission**

429 East Tenth Avenue • Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101  
843-4146 • Fax 781-2777

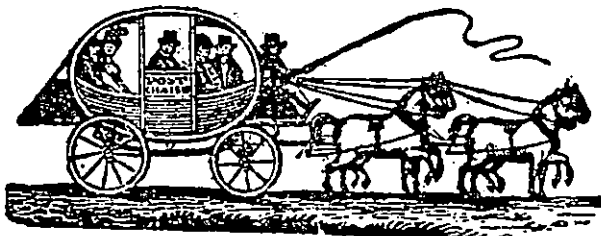
*Official Calender Of Bicentennial Events*



## Before Railroads and Cars

by: Carol Crowe Garraco  
Nancy Disher Baird

### LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE Line of Mail Coaches.



### THROUGH IN 3 DAYS.

**T**O connect with this Line there is a Line established from Bowlinggreen through Russellville and Hopkinsville, to the Mouth of Cumberland; thus forming a *complete chain* of internal communication throughout the west.

Prior to the advent of the railroad and automobile, few persons traveled great distances, for the means of getting from place to place was slow and tedious. Those who traveled overland by public conveyance did so by stagecoach.

In the fall of 1826 the Louisville and Nashville stagecoach line began carrying passengers from the Ohio River town to the Tennessee capital, a three day trip that cost \$12. At Bowling Green's Washington Hall (current site of Hilliard Lyons) travelers could board another stage to Russellville, Hopkinsville and Henderson. Using "comfortable mail coaches such as have never before been seen in Kentucky" the line carried baggage "perfectly safe from danger and the weather and for a less sum that is usual for such a convenience."

The company's ads boasted that the stage coach made possible travel from Bowling Green to many distant points -- to Nashville and on through Tennessee and Alabama or to Louisville where steamboat connections were possible to New Orleans or Cincinnati. From Cincinnati, it pointed out, one could ride a stage to Philadelphia, thus journeying from Bowling Green to the City of Brotherly Love in only nine days.

Illustration from the Kentucky Library



**Bowling Green-Warren County Bicentennial Commission**

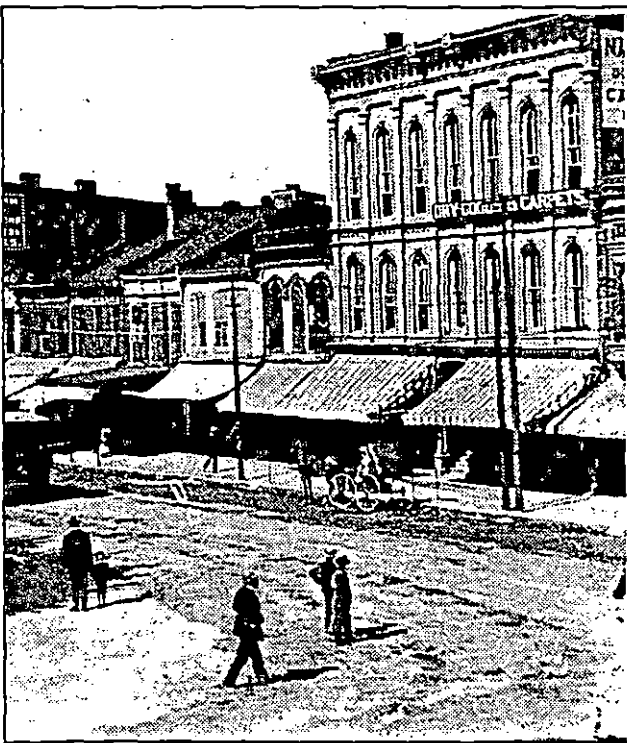
429 East Tenth Avenue • Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101  
843-4146 • Fax 781-2777

*Official Calender Of Bicentennial Events*



## Early Roadways

by: Carol Crowe Carraco  
Nancy Disher Baird



Creating roadways was one of the first priorities of Warren County's earliest settlers, for they had to get their produce to market, be able to contact neighbors in emergency, and have access to the courthouse and the

amenities that surrounded it. Consequently, early court records are filled with orders for determining the shortest distance with the least inconvenience to property owners and with clearing the greatest impediments to travel. Many decades would pass, however, before Warren County roads were treated with a layer of crushed rock and none would receive an asphalt surface until the 20th century.

Keeping the town's streets in good order fell to the jurisdiction of the city trustees and as the community grew, its unpaved byways became impassable quagmires. City minutes contain many comments about filling and bridging mudholes that hampered traffic. In the 1830s the town began macadamizing city streets (covering them with layers of crushed rock) and required that residents build sidewalks fronting their property with "good suitable bricks" and curbing of stone. In the latter half of the 19th century stone cross walks were laid for the convenience of pedestrians. However, streets remained unpaved until the 1920s, when the city resolved to surface them with asphalt; by 1937 Bowling Green could boast that "almost 100 percent" of its streets were paved.

Taken at the corner of Main and State, the photograph shows trolley tracks and wagon ruts in an unpaved street.

Go To  
**JCPenney®**

**Amazing  
Sale**



## Portage Rail Way

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

Riverboats once served as the area's main conveyor of passengers and goods. Because boats landed several miles from the heart of town, a group of entrepreneurs believed that a tramway like those used by mining companies could provide an inexpensive link between local merchants and the river. In February, 1836 the state legislature incorporated the Bowling Green Portage Rail Way Company, with James Pitts, James Rumsey Skiles and Jacob Van Meter as principal stock holders, and the city granted permission to Pitts to lay tracks from the "edge of town (then on lower Main Street) to such point within the town as he may think expedient." The trustees stipulated that the tracks must not impede traffic. Construction was not without troubles, however, for complaints were filed that the grading was "not in conformity" with the trustees' dictates. The work was redone and the little tramway began hauling goods and passengers. The mule-pulled wagons traveled on iron rails from the boat landing up what is now Gordon Ave. to Main, across Adams to Tenth and to a small depot on the grounds now occupied by the courthouse. Shortly after its completion in the autumn of 1859, the L & N absorbed the tramway and substituted a wood-burning engine for the mules.

In 1921, as workmen prepared to pave Tenth Street

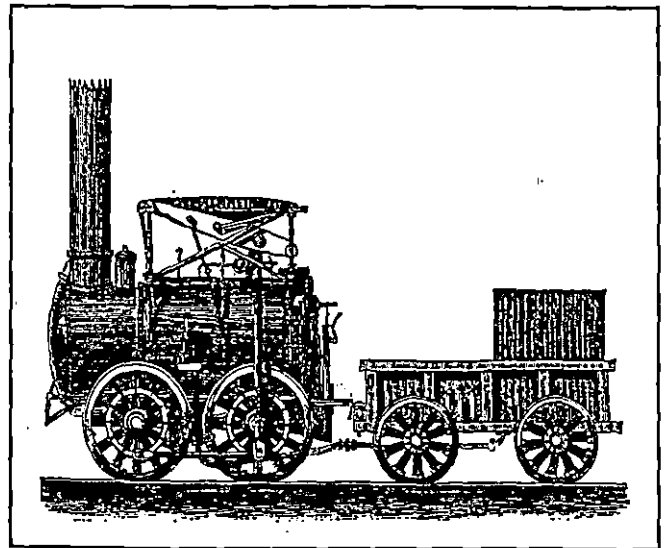


Illustration from the Kentucky Library

with asphalt, they uncovered a number of the Portage Rail Way's well-preserved cedar ties, which were split and divided among local souvenir hunters. No known photographs exist of the Portage Rail Way, but its fire engine probably looked like this early locomotive.

**Subscribe to the Daily News  
Today, and you'll see...**

**HISTORY IN THE MAKING**



## Early Medicine Men

Who was Warren County's first doctor? We don't know. Nineteenth century physicians were not required to be licensed or even to attend medical school. Anyone could claim medical knowledge and call himself a physician. Some learned their craft by serving an apprenticeship to a preceptor (a practitioner who permitted a young man to read his medical books and help mix his medical concoctions, etc.), or attended classes at a medical school (many of which were of questionable merit). More than a few had no training or education. Because the practice of medicine was not lucrative, most doctors also farmed, taught school, preached, or were involved in other endeavors to earn a living.

Peter Beauchamp, son-in-law to town founder Robert Moore, may have been the area's first doctor. Nothing is known of his educational background. County records between 1816 and the late 1830s indicate he provided a number of public services--surveyed, oversaw the maintenance of roads, served as guardian for an orphaned infant, and determined the value of a couple of estates. However, they make no mention of any healing skills. Nevertheless, William Briggs, claimed Beauchamp served as his preceptor.

A native of Nelson County, Briggs "read medicine" with Beauchamp and then attended Transylvania's medical school. Graduating in 1821, he came to Bowling Green, where he practiced for nearly a half-century. Briggs maintained that he achieved great success in the treatment of cholera (for which there is no modern cure!) and in surgery and obstetrics. The 1878 *Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky* credits him with performing the first successful hysterectomy, a claim not substantiated elsewhere.

By the beginning of the 20th century more than two dozen doctors practiced in Bowling Green. The physicians included Lillian South, a graduate of the Medical College of Pennsylvania and two African Americans, Otho D. Porter and J. W. Willis, both graduates of Meharry Medical College in Nashville.

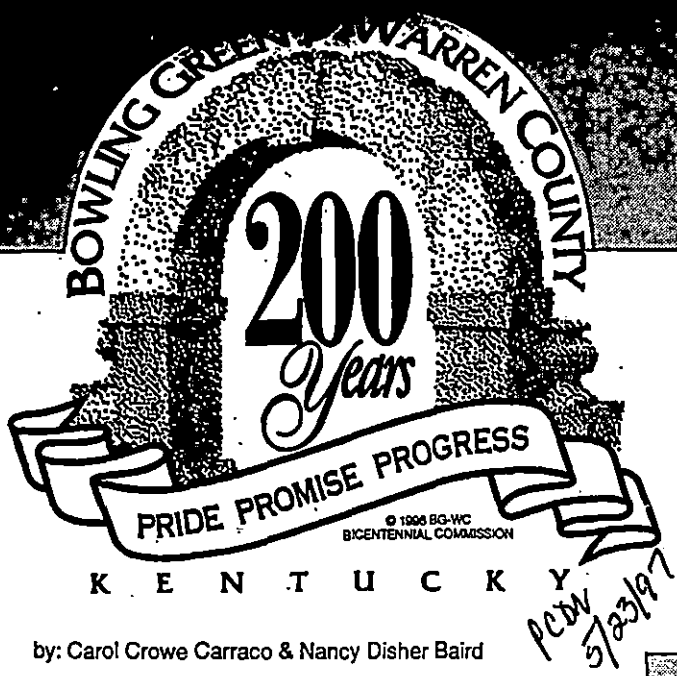
## CHOLERA!

No malady struck more terror in the hearts of ante bellum Americans than did Asiatic Cholera, an enteric disease spread by fecal contamination of water. In days when most people obtained their drinking water from easily polluted wells, whole families, indeed entire towns, could be felled by the usually fatal disease within a brief period. The cause was unknown and even today, no cure exists.

Cholera made its first visit to Kentucky in the early 1830s. Bowling Green's trustees attempted to prevent its outbreak and curtail its devastation by inspecting all property for "nuisances of an unhealthy nature," arranging for a "temporary hospital," and asking that the town's "medical gentlemen" prepare for the local newspaper a description of cholera's symptoms, and recommend medications for those stricken by the disease. Despite all efforts, the death toll was high when cholera struck the Bowling Green area in the summer of 1834.

Cholera also visited south central Kentucky each summer between 1849 and 1854. Someone later recalled that in the summer of 1849 the county militia had gathered in Bowling Green for its annual drill at about the same time as the first cases appeared. When the militiamen heard rumors of cholera deaths, they "mounted their horses and with whip and spur, left town, panic stricken, turning everyone back who [sic] they met, not returning until all traces of the disease disappeared." Many of the town's 1500 residents also fled. Those who remained nursed the sick and buried the two dozen or so who died.

When cholera made its final visit to Kentucky in the 1870s, Bowling Green reported no cholera deaths. The town undoubtedly owed its deliverance to the city's new water works company that pumped river water to area homes and to concrete-lined cisterns.



# Morehead Stagecoach Stop

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

Charles Morehead purchased the newly constructed John McGoodwin home, on the corner of Main and State Streets, about 1850 and there operated a small hotel and stagecoach stop for more than a decade. At that time the town boasted of at least three other such establishments--Washington Hall, the Green River Hotel, and Vance's Tavern-- and competition was keen. Although he supposedly served tea to the Swedish Nightingale Jenny Lind, Morehead apparently knew little about conducting business. A local matron suggested that his place was the "laughing stock of the town and traveling community." In 1862 Julia Fox Hess, the daughter of pioneer settler Henry Fox, purchased the hotel, and soon the two-story, 210x105 feet establishment came to be recognized for its superior accommodations and services. At her death in 1876 she left the hotel to her three daughters--Camilla Herdman, Sarah Armitage, and Julia Dewey--who followed in their mother's

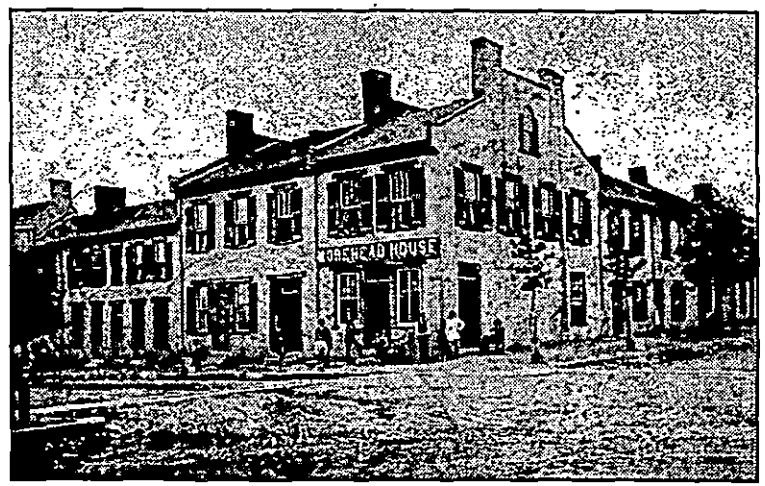


Illustration from the Kentucky Library, WKU

footsteps and continued the tradition that she had established. The Hess Sisters added a third story to the hotel, widened the foyer, or lobby, to 12x80 feet, and covered the entry floor with mosaic tile. The Morehead House remained a family business for more than three decades. Then it was sold to Dr. T. O. Helm, a local physician, in 1915. Helm remodeled the structure and then razed it in 1923 to replace it with the Helm Hotel, which was torn down in 1970 to make way for Citizens National Bank, now Transfinancial.



**'97 Blowout Sale - 1% Over Factory Invoice**  
**ALL NEW BUICKS & GMC TRUCKS**  
**Memorial Day** WEEKEND BONANZA  
 Friday, May 23rd thru Memorial Day May 26th

- 1997 Buick
- 1997 Buick
- 1997 GMC
- 1997 GMC Sierra
- 1997 Buick
- 1997 Buick



# Southern College of Kentucky

by: Carol Crowe Carraco  
Nancy Disher Baird

## EDUCATION.

**T**HE subscriber having taught one session in this place under the direction of the trustees of the College, informs the public that the winter and spring Session will commence on the first day of January.

*The Latin and Greek languages,  
Geometry, Algebra, Natural  
Philosophy and Astronomy* will be  
taught per session for.....  
\$15

*English Grammar and Geography* ..... \$10  
*The lower Branches of an English  
Education* ..... \$7.50

A small but valuable Library, a pair of Globes and Surveying instruments are attached to the institution.

He will accommodate a few boarders on reasonable terms.

THOMAS CHEEK.

Bowlinggreen, Dec. 21, 1826 5-3t

In 1812, the state legislature incorporated the Warren Seminary and gave its trustees permission to sell land and conduct a lottery to raise the \$3000 they deemed necessary to erect and outfit a school. The trustees were further empowered to purchase from Robert Moore one acre of land on the knob east of Bowling Green on which to build the school. Seven years later, the legislature created the Trustees of the Southern College (which included many of the same men named as Warren Seminar trustees) and granted similar permission to them to raise funds and create Southern College.

Apparently, neither group acquired sufficient funds. Consequently, in 1819 they united their resources, erected a schoolhouse on upper Main Street, and hired "suitable and experienced instructors." The 1821 legislature recommended that one-third of the local bank's profits be used to purchase "a library and philosophical apparatus." In the early months of 1822 Southern College opened, a primary and secondary school where the sons of local residents might obtain an education "as liberal as that at any institution." Tuition for the ten-month-year was a hefty \$40; for those who lived away from town, the school offered board at \$2 or less per week.

Southern College burned sometime in late 1827, and although the legislature approved the rebuilding, there is no evidence that the trustees did so.

Newspaper ad from the Kentucky Library

# TM Computer



## Schools for Young Ladies

by: Carol Crowe Carraco  
Nancy Disher Baird

### DANCING ACADEMY.

*E. H. BULL.*

EGS leave to inform the citizens of Bowlinggreen and its vicinity, that he intends opening a SCHOOL, at the house of *Mrs. E. Jones*, on Friday, the 21st instant, at 10 o'clock, A.M. for the purpose of givin glessons to young Ladies; and at 6 o'clock, P.M. for Gentlemen. Those who become scholars are requested to attend at the commencement of the session, as it is necessary that they should all receive the first lessons at the same time.

For terms, inquire at the Bar of Mr. M. W. Henry. --Sept. 14, 1827. 43-m

### BOWLINGGREEN, SEPT. 1827.

N the 17th of this month, Miss ELIZABETH GRIDER will commence teaching

### A FEMALE SCHOOL,

IN THIS PLACE.

TERMS.--For Reading, Writing and common Arithmetic.....\$7  
For common Arithmetic, with Grammar and Geography.....\$10  
For Geography and Grammar, in connection with Composition, Painting and Needle Work, &c. &c.....\$15

PER SESSION OF SIX MONTHS,

To be paid during or at the end of the session.

Little is known about Bowling Green's earliest schools; but the town's first newspapers, the *Backwoodsman* and the *Spirit of the Times*, reveal that educational opportunities were available for the area by the 1820s. The Warren Female Seminary opened in early 1822, with Mr. Bernard Guerin as the teacher. In addition to the three Rs, the curriculum included Latin, English, drawing and painting. How long Guerin operated the school is unknown.

In September of 1827 Miss Elizabeth Grider opened "A Female School" that offered a six month term with several curriculum choices.

Reading, Writing and common Arithmetic \$7  
Common Arithmetic with Grammar & Geography \$10  
Geography, Grammar in connecting with Composition,

Painting and Needle Work, etc., etc. \$15

The same issue also announced that on September 21 E. H. Bull intended to open a Dancing Academy at the home of Mrs. E. Jones. Lessons for young ladies would be conducted at 10 o'clock a.m. and at 6 p.m. for gentlemen. Those who wished more information about the school were encouraged to inquire "At the Bar of Mr. M. W. Henry," which was located in Washington Hall, Henry's small hotel on Main Street (current site of Hilliard Lyons).

Newspaper ad from the Kentucky Library

# TM Computer



## Mary Kendall Jones

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

Warren County had no public schools prior to the 1880s and most private ones provided education of varying worth and generally enjoyed erratic existences. No wonder Franklin and Mary Kendall Jones saw this area as a fertile field and came to Bowling Green in the 1830s to do what they described as educational missionary work. They opened a school for girls in the basement of the Presbyterian Church and for thirty years their school provided quality education for young girls whose parents could afford and were willing to spend money on an education for their daughters. Little is known about Franklin, who died about ten years after their arrival, but Mary remained and continued to operate the school. A number of her students left descriptions of their beloved teacher and her school.

Mary Jones began each school day by tapping a bell on her desk and calling for recitations of scripture. A prayer followed another tap of the bell, and subsequent taps indicated times for reading, writing, spelling, math, geography and other academic subjects. At the end of the day, the final tap of the bell signaled for the girls to march to the door bow to their teacher and proceed homeward "in a dignified manner."

Because they lived in the county and too far away for daily commutes, about one third of her students boarded

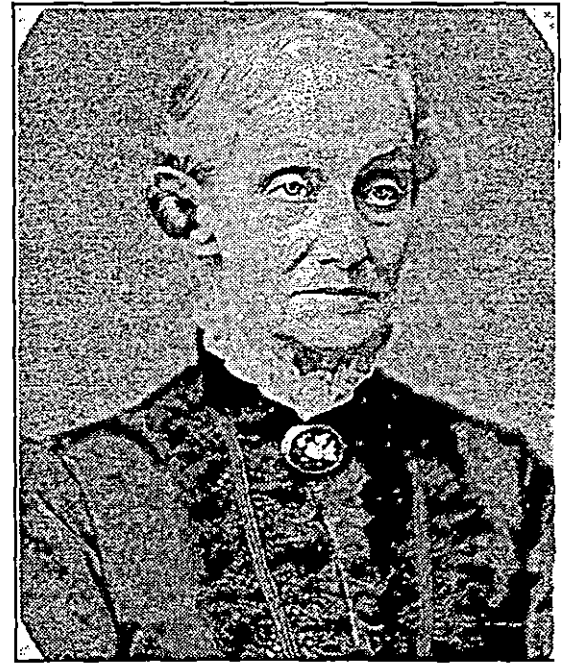


Illustration from the Kentucky Library

throughout the week with Mary Jones. Consequently, after the school door closed, she fed, did laundry for, and supervised the homework of several dozen of her students!

# Grand Re-Opening

at Denney Greenwood Mall



## Fourth of July Celebrations

by: Carol Crowe Carraco  
Nancy Disher Baird

Throughout the 1820s, Warren countians celebrated Independence Day with gusto. The 1827 festivities involved a number of prominent local people. Powell was the son-in-law of town founder George Moore; merchants Donaldson and Parker exported agricultural goods from the area to New Orleans by flatboat; Van Meter, also a merchant and one of the area's most active entrepreneurs, used much of his fortune to initiate public improvements on the river and in the town and county; Briggs, a graduate of the Medical Department of Transylvania College in Lexington, practiced medicine in Bowling Green; carpenter John Maxey did much of the work on the 1812 courthouse and clerk's office and in the late 1820s was elected to the town's Board of Trustees. In 1829 Philip C. Moorehead, accepted an appointed as the attorney for Bowling Green's Board of Trustees. Esther Jones lived on Main Street Cross (State Street) but extant records reveal nothing else about her.

Moorehead also delivered the oration at the 1829 celebration, that included a "military parade and barbacue" [sic] prepared by Matthew Henry and held in the "beautiful green" below Washington Hall, the hotel he owned on the square (current site of Hillard Lyons). All veterans of the revolution were solicited to attend and the "Gentlemen of the Artillery" were requested to "be punctual in their attendance upon the parade...commencing at 4 a.m. [sic]"

### BARBECUE.



ACCORDING to arrangement, MRS. ESTHER JONES will furnish a BARBECUE on the lot where she resides, on the

## 4th July

next; where all those desirous of participating, are respectfully solicited.

☛ Mr. P.C. MOREHEAD will deliver an Oration suitable to the occasion.

*P. Donaldson,  
J.R. Parker,  
John W. Powell*

*John M. Briggs,  
J. Vanmeter,  
John Maxcy,*

June 16, 1827. [30-3t]. Managers.

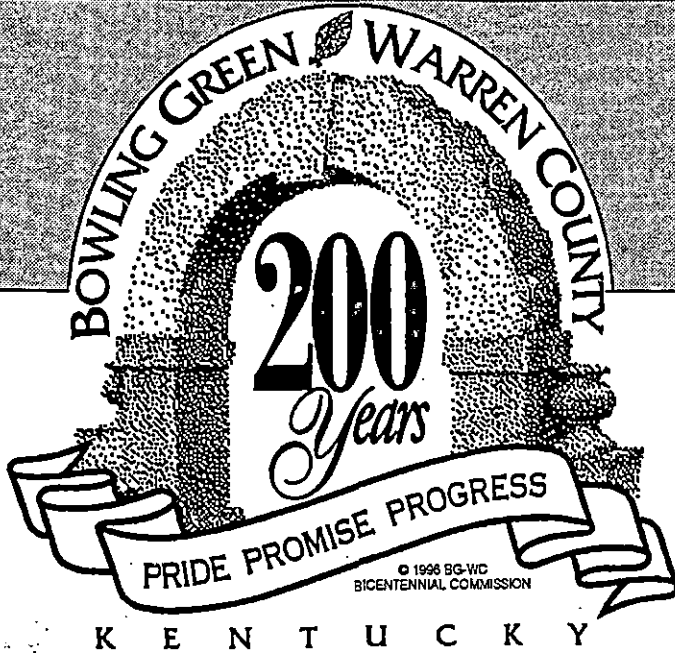
## Father's Day Sale

**20% Off**  
Nike Golf Apparel  
& Greg Norman

Spalding  
1-3-5 Woods, 3-PW Irons,  
Bag, Putter, Headcovers

NYX Golf Vision Glasses  
*with interchangeable lenses*

*Golf Gifts For Dad*



## A Fire Engine for Bowling Green

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

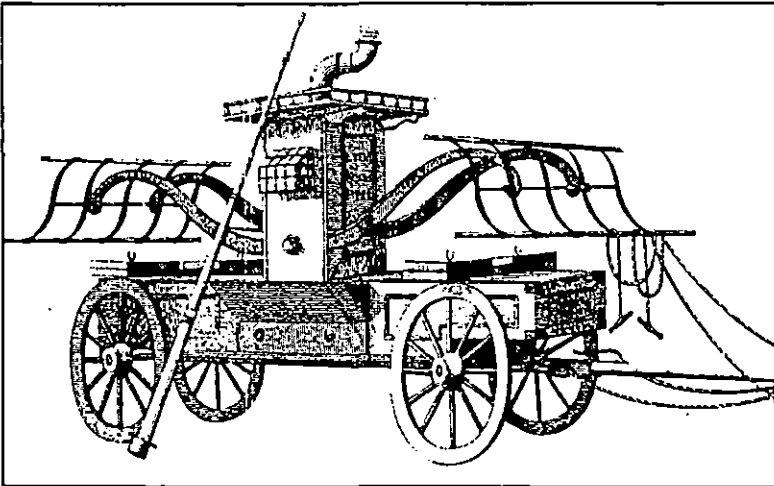


Illustration from the Kentucky Library

In the summer of 1831 Bowling Green's trustees purchased the town's first fire engine from the American Hydraulic Company and appointed Henry Shanks to raise a company for using and managing it. Three years later the trustees allocated money for fire hooks, two good ladders and chains and paid Charles Morehead ten dollars for painting the structure that housed the engine. By the mid thirties the town had formed a voluntary fire company. When the bell in the courthouse cupola acted

as a fire siren and when it rang, volunteers ran to the courthouse, pushed the engine to the site of trouble, and manually pumped water from the holding tank on to the fire.

By 1837 the little engine needed repairs, but the trustees preferred instead to purchase a "first rate engine with not less than 300 feet of hose" for about \$1000. Isaac Newton advanced the town \$212 to seal the deal and in February 1839 the new engine was ready for delivery from Graham and Howarth of Philadelphia. Jonathan Hobson paid the \$109 freight bill to Louisville and the town treasurer gave another \$30 to transport the engine to Bowling Green. Unfortunately, the city minutes end before the engine's arrival and records for the following decade are missing. One can only hope that the new fire engine succeeded in preventing fires from spreading and causing major conflagrations.

No photographs of Bowling Green's early engines exist but they probably looked like this "Philadelphia style" pumper.

### Our Ties to Friendly Hometown Customer Service, Began on Town Square and Downtown Districts

...we've never outgrown these roots to the community. Even as we move toward the 21st century with new expansions and acquisitions to build momentum for the future, we haven't lost our hometown touch. Our customers and community come first.





## Unusual Laws

by: Nancy Disher Baird  
Carol Crowe Carraco

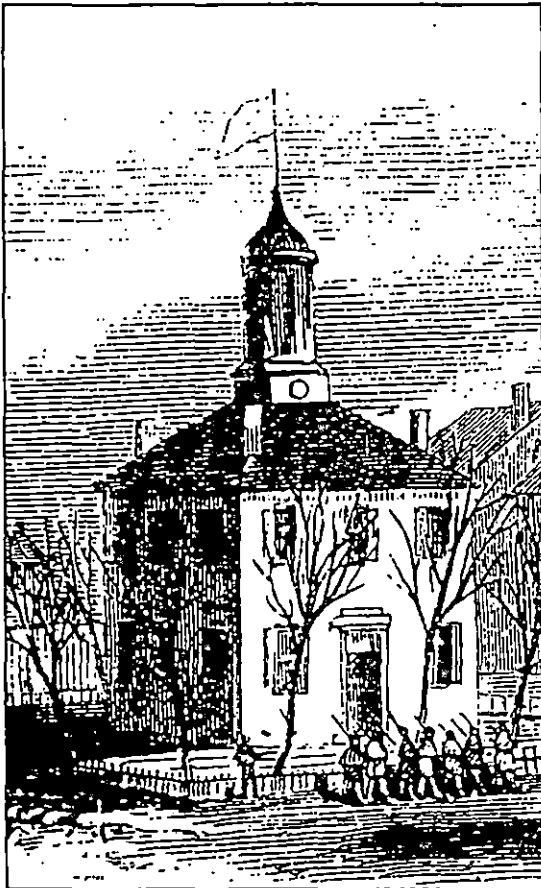


Illustration from the Kentucky Library

Laws and resolutions passed by the trustees of ante-bellum Bowling Green reflected town activities and problems. The following ordinances illustrate simplistic solutions to modern problems.

1824—Anyone over 21 infected with a contagious disease (small pox, cholera) who stayed in town longer than 15 minutes was fined \$10.

1828—Anyone who washed clothing or watered a horse or other beast in the city well (on the public square) could be fined \$1.

1829—Any resident who allowed his/her dog to run at large could be fined 15 shillings per dog.

1830—Any wood or lumber (excluding building timbers) lying in the street for more than two hours could be confiscated and used for the benefit of the town.

1832—Anyone throwing manure, filth, or obstructions of any kind in "Spring Valley" was fined \$3 per offense.

1832—Anyone depositing in the streets or sidewalk around the public square, rubbish or sweepings from their shop or house could be fined 50 cents for every 24 hours.

1832—Anyone allowing a woodpile to remain on any street longer than 12 hours could be fined \$1 per load or cord. However, if the wood arrived after noon on Saturday, the owner had until Monday noon to comply.

Prior to the construction of the board-and-batten market house in the late 1830s, town trustees met at the courthouse or in their places of business on or near the square.



People are giving this book rave reviews

**Get Yours Today!**

• Actual Size 8½" x 11" • 152 Pages

## REVIVALS

Revivals have always been important in the lives of Warren countians. The letters of a woman living on the northern edge of town provide interesting comments about the effects of mid 19th century revivals on the community.

"You remember me writing you about the Baptist meeting that has been going on here for nearly four weeks, under the special preaching of a Mr. Graves of Nashville. If he had left a week or ten days ago it would have been better for the community and the cause of religion. He has set the whole place in an uproar, by attacking Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, etc. etc. asserting that the Baptist church is the only road to heaven. . . .Twenty-six persons, five of them ladies, have been immersed in the Big Barren--an emblematic Jordan."

"The Methodist meeting is still in progress. It has been going on for two week and about 80 conversions have taken place, many of them the gay pleasure seekers of the Town, both Ladies and Gentlemen. The old Green River Hotel has been painted throughout and fitted up with new furniture. . . . The proprietor Captn. Warriner, had tickets prepared for the purpose of opening with a ball, but the religious temperament now prevailing through the community put a stop to his proceedings. All the dancers have become professors and church members."

The undated photograph documents baptisms in the Barren River



## Political Campaigns

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

The shenanigans associated with the 1840 presidential campaign were among Warren County's most colorful political activities of the ante-bellum era. The campaign pitted General William Henry Harrison, a Whig, against Martin Van Buren, a Democrat. Early in the fight a "dull witted democrat" from New England sneered at Harrison, the great hero of the Battle of Tippecanoe, as an impoverished farmer who would be content with a pension, a log cabin and a barrel of hard cider. The Whigs took advantage of the comment and in the autumn of 1840 area supporters of Harrison staged a lavish demonstration in Bowling Green's public square. To add to the merriment, the people of Barren County loaned their "Harrison log cabin" that had been built on wheels, adorned with coon skins, and filled with barrels of cider. Four white horses pulled the cabin to Bowling Green. As it traveled around the square, revelers sang songs and enjoyed horn tumblers of hard cider served from the cabin by area women.



Illustration from the Kentucky Library, WKU

Following a parade and considerable merrymaking, the celebrants attended a picnic on Joseph Underwood's property near the "turnpike bridge" (current site of the College Street bridge) where they feasted on roasted beef, pork, mutton, bread, pies, ginger cakes and more cider.

Congressman Underwood compared the campaign to the "buffoonery of the circus," and feared that future campaigns would be equally as undignified. What would he think of recent political battles?

### Our Ties to Friendly Hometown Customer Service, Began on Town Square and Downtown Districts

...we've never outgrown these roots to the community. Even as we move toward the 21st century with new expansions and acquisitions to build momentum for the future, we haven't lost our hometown touch. Our customers and community come first.



# Warren County Philanthropist Robert Craddock

by: Nancy Disher Baird & Carol Crowe Carraco

PCDN  
8/1/97



Illustration from the Kentucky Library

Revolutionary War veteran and surveyor, Robert Craddock (1757-1837) came to Warren County in 1798 and acquired 1400 acres in the Salt Lick Valley (in what became Morgantown Road near Hadley). On clearing the land for farming, he built a double log house for himself and his friend Peter Tardiveau, quarters for fourteen slaves, and a mill and a still. He also erected a log school house, and Tardiveau taught the slaves and neighbor children to read and write. Craddock rarely left his own acreage and people who wanted to trade or buy land or borrow money came to him.

In his will, Craddock freed his slaves and provided that each should be given land equal to "the value of themselves." The rest of his estate--property, cash, cash notes, and bank stock--was administered by a board of executors with the proceeds being used "for purposes of education" in Warren County. In the 1830s the county had no free schools, and the Craddock Fund paid the tuition of needy students. With the coming of the public school system, the funds bought textbooks for orphans and other poor children. By 1950 more than \$100,000 had been expended. The fund still exists and annually provides an approximate total of \$500 to the libraries of the Warren County School System. Robert Craddock's monument in Fairview Cemetery was erected in 1922 by the people of Warren County.

**Subscribe to the Daily News  
Today, and you'll see...**

***HISTORY IN THE MAKING***



# Railroad overcomes obstacles

by: Nancy Disher Baird  
Carol Crowe Carraco

**LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE RAILROAD**  
**OPENED FOR THROUGH TRAVEL NOS. 1, '59.**  
 Extending from Louisville to Nashville 185 Miles. Branch to Lebanon 37 Miles. Branch to Memphis 46 Miles.

**Two Through Trains ARE RUN DAILY EACH WAY.**  
 ON AND AFTER SUNDAY, MAY 1st, 1854. Trains will leave the Depot, corner of Ninth and Broadway.

3 A. M. Through Freight Train for Nashville Daily.  
 7 A. M. Mail and Passenger Train for Nashville, Bowling Green and Clarksville Daily.  
 12th A. M. Express Passenger Train for Lebanon, Paducah, Paducah, Hazard, Perry, Campbellsville and Columbia daily, except Sunday.  
 3 P. M. Passenger Train for Nashville Daily.  
 4 P. M. Accommodation Train for Bowling Green daily, except Sunday.  
 7 P. M. Through Freight Train for Nashville Daily.

**CONNECTIONS.**  
 AT LOUISVILLE, with Jeffersonville and New Albany Railroads, and U. S. Mail Line Steamers, for all points North, East and West.  
 AT NASHVILLE, with Tennessee and Alabama Railroads and Chattanooga, and Elizabethton and Kings City Railroads, for New Orleans, Jackson, Memphis, Clarksville, Knoxville, Lynchburg, Atlanta, Augusta, Savannah, Charleston, Macon, Montgomery and all Southern ports.

**Objects of Interest.**  
 IRON BRIDGE OVER GREEN RIVER, 75 miles south of Louisville. This is the largest Iron Bridge in the United States. Its total length is 1,375 feet. Spanning of Green runs of 263 feet, and two of 147 feet each. It is 124 feet above low water, and cost \$1,000,000.

**MAMMOTH CAVE,**  
 This celebrated and renowned work of nature is situated 24 miles from the Iron Bridge, and within a mile of the Canal. A visit will amply repay the time spent in tracing the many miles of subterranean passages unparalleled in the world. It may be seen in form a correct idea of its wonderful and grandeur. Twenty acres at all times upon the arrival of the Passenger Train.

Tickets to be had at all the principal Railroad Offices in the Union.  
 Ask for Tickets via LOUISVILLE and NASHVILLE.  
 D. MARSHALL, Superintendent, LOUISVILLE.  
 Principal Office cor. Main and Ballett Sts., 2d Floor.

In the early 1850s the Louisville and Nashville Company proposed building a railroad to link the two cities. The company's original plan by-passed three expensive engineering obstacles--Muldrough's Hill near Elizabethtown, the Green River, and the sharp precipice of the Tennessee Ridge near the Kentucky-Tennessee border, and routed the line through Bardstown, Glasgow and Scottsville. Painfully aware of the importance the railroad held for the town's future, area residents petitioned for a charter to build a railroad from Bowling Green to Nashville and approved a subscription to raise \$1,000,000 to finance it. Fearing the competition and hoping that Warren residents would use their resources to finance the line between Louisville and Nashville, the L&N changed its proposed route and arranged to run rails through Bowling Green.

Work began in the summer of 1853, and the last rails were laid just north of Bowling Green in mid October 1859. On October 27, a special train filled with company dignitaries and 200 notable Louisvillians made the initial trip to Nashville. Crowds lined the tracks to see the marvelous new mode of transportation. The train made brief stops at the Oakland, Rich Pond and Woodburn stations. At the Bowling Green station, passengers detained to marvel at the wonderful iron bridge that spanned the Barren River.

Illustration from the Kentucky Library

# "A Local Family That Cares"

JC Kirby & Son - Now With 2 Locations

820 Lovers Lane  
Bowling Green, KY 42104

832 Broadway  
Bowling Green, KY 42101



by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

What were the entertainment options for Warren residents during the ante-bellum era? Traveling groups enroute to Louisville or Nashville often stopped in Bowling Green and they had to pay a \$10 license fee, county records reveal that local residents enjoyed a number of educational and entertaining opportunities. They attended the performance of pianist "Blind Tom", were awed by "Dr. Rose the Juggler", and "Elmo the Fire Eater", enjoyed Chinese acrobats, and saw on exhibit the nation's only Siamese twins. Bear fights were also popular, but the arrival of the circus undoubtedly generated the greatest excitement. At least one circus performed in Bowling Green during most summers of the 1840s and 1850s; in 1853 P.T. Barun's "Museum, Menagerie and side show" came to town.

Concerts and theatrical offerings, however, were the entertainment staples, and traveling and local groups performed with regularity. Using whatever space was

# Ante bellum Entertainment

**VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT!!**  
**AT THE NEW BAPTIST CHURCH,**  
**ON WEDNESDAY EVENING,**  
**September 30th, 1857,**  
**BY THE LADIES OF BOWLING-GREEN.**

---

Admission 50 Cents, Children and Servants Half Price.

---

DOORS OPEN AT 7 O'CLOCK; CONCERT TO COME INCE AT 7:15

---

Tickets to be had at HOBSON & ALLEN'S, and at McLURE

Illustration from the Kentucky Library

available--the courthouse, vacant buildings, hotel ballrooms, and church sanctuaries--they offered works by the masters as well as those by less known, even local talent. An evening's theatrical offering usually included a drama and a farce. Bowling Green had at least one active amateur group during the 1830s and for several years this all male cast regular performances, rendering male and female roles more or less convincingly. In March 1833 they performed a two act melodrama called "Luke the Labourer or The Lost Son", followed by a "laughable opera...Lawyer in the Sack."

Harmony Boys Gospel Quartet



**TRANS FINANCIAL**

presents

**COME TO THE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD**  
**WARREN COUNTY'S HISTORIC RURAL CHURCHES**

opening activities

Group Singing led by Paul Hodges



by: Nancy Disher Baird & Carol Crowe Carraco

During the ante-bellum era, many Kentuckians advocated colonizing newly freed slaves in Africa to eliminate problems of job competition and racial discrimination. One of the strongest voices in the colonization movement was U.S. Congressman Joseph Underwood of Bowling Green, who had inherited several slaves and purchased a couple of others to keep families together. In the early months of 1850 he arranged for four of his people to embark for Liberia.

To aid Davy, his wife Sally and their children Andrew and Irene in establishing a new home, Underwood gave them a plow, spade, hand-saw, auger, hoe, briar scythe, ax, and frow; barrels of flour, coffee and sugar; garden seed "of every kind;" cooking utensils; pots of preserves, pickles and smoked sausage; feather bed mattresses and "plenty of bed clothes as well as a quantity of clothing," including shoes. Members of the community donated money, a hat and hair trunk. Sally purchased a family Bible and recorded in it the births and

## Liberia-Bound

### ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE COLONIZATION SOCIETY  
OF BOWLING GREEN;

On the 4th July, 1832.

BY THE HON. JOSEPH R. UNDERWOOD.

We have assembled for the purpose of investigating the propriety of removing the free people of color from the United States, with their consent. The object of our society is, to restore them to the land of their forefathers, by planting colonies on the shores of Africa. There is a moral grandeur in the subject, suited to the splendid associations of this day. The 4th of July, to use the language of John Adams, who in '76 foretold its annual and endless celebrations, and who fifty years afterwards, consecrated it with his last breath, "is a great and glorious day."

deaths of members of her black-- and white-- family. After packing their belongings in trunks, Davy filled the crevices with shelled corn.

Davy's family and 17 other newly freed slaves from Kentucky sailed from New Orleans to Liberia in March of 1850. Unfortunately, they found the African nation less than they "promised land."



People are giving this book rave reviews

## Get Yours Today!

• Actual Size 8½" x 11"

• 152 Pages

• Cold Foil Imprint

## **Bowling Green's First Photo**

Have you wondered why many illustrations accompanying these bicentennial sketches have been engravings or printed items rather than photographs? Warren County's first half-century pre dates the camera. The first practical camera, developed in 1839 by Louis Daguerre of France, produced images on a piece of copper. In the two decades thereafter, a variety of processes were invented-- ambrotypes (on glass), tintypes (on thin sheets of iron) and cartes de visite (on paper secured to card stock measuring about 2 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches). Extant records do not indicate who was this area's first photographer. However, in the late 1850s Clement Edwards, a artist of some note, opened an "ambrotype room" on Frozen Row and for more than a decade provided photos of area residents. The back side of his card stock bears his name; those taken between the autumn of 1864 and 1866 also contain tax stamps issued by the federal government as a revenue-raising measure.

Although most of his photo work was portraiture, Edwards made at least one ambrotype of Bowling Green. Taken about 1858 from the old courthouse roof, his photo of the south side of the square includes a portion of the Green River Hotel (a three story structure built in the 1840s), the homes and shops of James Eubank Browning and William Webb, Edwards' photo studio, James Herdman's store, and the home of attorney Solomon Sharp. The ground floor of the hotel housed a bank and the offices of physician Wm. Atcheson and attorney Clinton Cooksey.

Edwards' ambrotype is the oldest known photograph of Bowling Green.





## Joseph Rogers Underwood

by: Nancy Disher Baird  
Carol Crowe Carraco

Warren County's best known 19th century resident was Joseph Rogers Underwood (1791-1876), a Whig who served many terms in the state legislature, eight years on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate, 1847-1854. He is the only Warren countian elected to the senate during the 19th century. A native of Virginia, he came to Kentucky as a child to live with his uncle in Barren County. He attended Transylvania University, read law with Robert Wickliffe and saw action in the War of 1812. Returning to Barren, he practiced law in Glasgow and moved his family to Bowling Green in 1823. Elected several times to the Bowling Green Board of Trustees, he also served as the administrator of Warren County's Craddock School Fund that provided tuition for indigent children.

An outspoken emancipationist, Underwood sent his own able bodied slaves (whom he had inherited or purchased to keep families together) to colonize in Liberia and urged other owners in Warren County to do likewise. On the eve of the Civil War, he left retirement to campaign throughout the region against secession and to serve in the Kentucky legislature, where he fought vigorously to stifle the secession movement. Two of his sons served the Confederacy.

On the opening of the courthouse in 1869, Underwood, then the county's senior attorney, was given the opportunity to plead the first case before the bar. Underwood's home, built after he returned from the Senate, is on the National Register and is one of the county's finest homes. His son John became mayor of Bowling Green (1870-71) and Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky (1875-79); his grandson Oscar was a long time congressman from Alabama.



Illustration from the Kentucky Library

### Our Ties To Friendly Hometown Customer Service, Began on Town Square and Downtown Districts

...we've never outgrown these roots to the community. Even as we move toward the 21st century with new expansions and acquisitions to build momentum for the future, we haven't lost our hometown touch. Our customers and community come first.

## **WARNER LEWIS UNDERWOOD**

Did you know that a Warren County attorney served as a Civil War spy? A native of Virginia, Warner Underwood (1808-1872) studied law at the University of Virginia and with his brother Joseph in Bowling Green, briefly practiced law in Warren County and then moved to Texas, where he served as attorney general for the republic's eastern district. Returning to Warren County in 1840, he was elected to the Kentucky legislature 1848-53 and the U.S. Congress, 1855-59. Underwood's home, Mt. Air, sat on the hilltop at Mt. Air Circle.

An outspoken anti-Lincoln, pro-Union advocate, Underwood worked vigorously to keep Kentucky in the Union. Secession meant "deterioration. . .and evil to the whole country and absolute ruin to the South," he told audiences across the state. During the six<sup>5</sup> month occupation of this area by a Confederate army, several regiments camped on his farm and eventually commandeered his home. Underwood and family fled to Allen County. Returning after the Confederates evacuated, they found Mt. Air in ashes. In the summer of 1862 Underwood accepted an appointment as U.S. Consul to Glasgow, Scotland where his major task involved keeping President Lincoln apprised of Confederate activities in the CLyde River shipyards. Feeling that the appointment was insufficient payment for his services to the Union and detesting his role as "spy," he resigned the appointment in 1864 and after a brief hiatus in San Francisco, spent the remainder of his life practicing law in Bowling Green.

A portrait of Warner Underwood hangs in the Kentucky Museum.



# War Comes To Warren County

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

In 1861 the nation divided over the states rights and slavery issues. Most Warren countains opposed secession and throughout the summer of 1861 Kentucky's refusal to choose sides gave temporary respite. But as the state's neutrality melted away in the late summer, both belligerents increasingly coveted the Bowling Green area, for the town guarded major avenues--river, road and rails--to and from the Kentucky-Tennessee border. On September 18 the first group of Confederates arrived at Bowling Green's new railroad station. Looking through his spy glass to see what caused the commotion at the depot, the owner of Mt. Air farm saw the stars and stripes come down and "a new and strange one run up the pole... (as) shout after shout rent the air."

Eventually about 20,000 southern troops camped along the waterways of Warren and adjoining counties. The Confederates soon discovered that the majority of Warren's 17,000 residents were pro Union



Illustration from the Kentucky Library

and thus they attracted fewer recruits and encountered more hostility than they had expected. Hearing rumors of a large army pushing into central Kentucky, they fortified the town's high spots and prepared for battle someone dubbed Bowling Green the "Gibraltar of the Confederacy." But the forts proved to be of little use. Illness, not an army, felled the Confederates. During their five month stay in Warren County, more than one-tenth died from measles, typhoid, dysentery and other enteric and respiratory maladies.

**Over One-HUNDRED PUTTERS To Choose From!**
**GET INTO THE SWING OF THINGS**
**Over One-HUNDRED Golf Bags To Choose From!**

**50% off**
**Gift Certificates**

**CLUBHOUSE**
**Pro Line Woods**



## The Philistines Arrive

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

"The Philistines are upon us," wrote the daughter of a staunch Unionist on the arrival of Confederate troops in Bowling Green in September, 1861. Eventually more than 20,000 members of the Army of the West camped in south central Kentucky. Vacated homes and hotels quickly filled with officers, and enlisted men camped on farmland near waterways. To ensure their safety, the soldiers cleared all trees that obstructed their view of the roads, river and rails and fortified the hills surrounding the town. Throughout the five month occupation, no mail, newspapers, manufactured goods or food stuffs arrived from Louisville and only a few items trickled in from Nashville. The shelves of local merchants soon emptied and area residents did without coffee, tea, sugar, spices and other imported staples.

Because the newly formed Confederate government furnished few supplies needed by the troops, local sources were tapped -- and drained. They cut trees for lumber, burned fences for firewood, foraged for food and fodder and requisitioned horses, stock and foodstuffs. A Tennessee lad noticed that because most soldiers slept on pallets, straw became so scarce "there was seven straws to nine men and those were pilfered from a half starved horse." Some items were purchased with worthless IOUs or Confederate money, but local residents generally used the words "confiscate" or "steal" when referring to the army's requisition methods.



Illustration from the Kentucky Library, WKU



**Willamette Industries** is a geographically diverse forest products company with 82 plants in 18 states. Willamette has five locations in Kentucky alone: a paper mill in Hawesville, a copy paper plant in Owensboro, a preprint plant in Richwood and two corrugated container plants—one in Louisville and one in Bowling Green.



# Civil War Casualties

by: Nancy Disher Baird  
Carol Crowe Carraco

On his arrival in the Bowling Green area in September 1861, the Confederate army's chief medical officer searched for a place to create a hospital, but the need quickly exceeded available space. By mid autumn more than one-half of the command north of Smiths Grove had measles and scurvy and three-fourths of the forces at Oakland suffered with measles and pneumonia. Measles, dysentery, typhoid and influenza plagued other encampments. The medical corps commandeered churches and vacant homes (which they topped with yellow flags to denote their hospital use) and tried to acquire hotel space. The proprietor of the Green River Hotel agreed to lease the facility for \$50 per month if the Confederates purchased all its furnishings for \$2,500, which they refused to do. A tent hospital, dubbed "Camp Recovery" was erected on land now occupied by Fairview Cemetery and many sick soldiers received care in private homes. Nevertheless, there were never enough beds or enough supplies or enough medical and nursing care. The diary of a young Union sympathizer provides a pathetic account of the soldiers' plight:



Illustration from the Kentucky Library

December 3, 1861—  
 It is cold and sleety and a sad sight we saw as we came from town this evening. Bob Strange's Cooper Shop has been taken for a hospital and as we passed there we had to wait to let soldiers bring out ... the body of a young fellow who had just died with measles which ran into pneumonia a soldier told us and whilst we waited was pitiful to hear the poor fellows in the hospital cough and to see the pale and forlorn looking men who were regarded able to be up and think how little of needed care they could have such conditions.

During their five month stay in Warren County, more than one tenth of the Confederates died.

Over One-HUNDRED PUTTERS To Choose From!

**GET INTO THE SWING OF THINGS**

50% off Pro Line Woods

Gift Certificates Available!

Over One-HUNDRED Golf Bags To Choose From!

CLUBHOUSE

## CAMP LIFE IN WARREN COUNTY

The journal of a Tennessee private tells of life in the "little ugly six by nine stick and mud shanty" in which he lived during the autumn of 1861.

. . .It was an excellent substitute for a house and upon the top of it was an excellent substitute for a roof. . . It consisted of several yards of canvas stretched over four poles which rested upon the gables of our palace, in one end a huge fire place with a pot of boiling beef and several lazy fellows lounging upon a . . . bed if you could call a rough board platform such. We had occasionally a straw to lay on if we could succeed in crowding a neighbor off. . . If my recollection serves me right I think there was seven straws to nine men and those were pilfered from a half starved horse. . . Straw is a scarce article in Bowling Green, at least was so at the time of my writing. . . Night was the time of revelry for our mess, although privates were less privileged and at the tap of the drum out pops the lights & silence reigns. . . We were not doomed, however, to endure either the pleasantry or the hardship of Bowling Green long, for one night after a frolic of the old school sort, came *marching orders*. . . 8 o'clock in the morning found us at the appointed place, and soon after we were on the tramp in a Southern direction, but to what place was an uncertainty and the cause of many vague rumors and wild conjectures. . . .

There are no illustrations of the Confederate experience at Bowling Green; the engraving shows Union tents along the Louisville Road. It appeared in a March 1862 newspaper published in New York.



by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

In November, 1861 a provisional convention meeting at Russellville proclaimed Bowling Green the "Confederate capital of Kentucky." Confederate governor George W. Johnson and his council came to Bowling Green and for a few weeks Kentucky's "Confederate Legislature" functioned. In a letter to his wife Johnson wrote of boarding at the vacated home of Col. John H. Grider (near Park and 13th) and the death and burial of her nephew in Grider's garden. He also related that, because his council feared that Glasgow would fall into Union hands, he had removed the "assets, books and money" of the Barren County bank and deposited them in Bowling Green for safe keeping.

Whatever their claims to legitimacy, neither Johnson nor the Confederate legislature had any authority beyond the CSA's military lines. The distinction of "capital" was a fleeting honor and following the South's defeat at Mill Springs and the impending loss of forts Henry and Donelson and advancement of Federal troops from Louisville towards the Green River, the Confederates pulled back to

# Confederate Capital of Kentucky

## MARTIAL LAW PROCLAIMED!

This town is declared under Martial Law. All citizens and soldiers except the guard, will retire to their quarters at 8 o'clock, P.M. A strong force will be stationed in the town. All persons found in the streets will be arrested. - Any one attempting to fire any building will be shot without trial.

W. J. HARDEE,  
Maj. Gen.

Bowling-Green, Feb. 13th, 1862

Illustration from the Kentucky Library

Nashville. The retreat began on February 11 and the last troops left Bowling Green on Valentines Day. As they withdrew amid freezing rain and snow, Federal troops arrived on the north side of the Barren River. Unable to cross because the bridges had been burned, they lobbed shells across the river, thus adding to the chaos of retreat. ing troops, fleeing southern supporters, burning railroad stock and depot and inclement weather. Accounts differ on how long the shelling lasted, but at least one resident found some comfort in it. The cook of a family living near the railroad depot was heard to proclaim, "Bless the Lord -A Union shell in my biscuit dough."



7

9



# CELEBRATE 200!

The Reserves Network salutes the citizens and businesses

## A CONFEDERATE EVALUATES BOWLING GREEN

A Tennessean stationed in Bowling Green during the autumn of 1861 described the Confederate fortifications on the hill now occupied by the red, white and blue water tower. Because the Methodists had begun to build a school on the summit, area residents referred to the hill as Collège Hill.

February 5, 1862

". . . . Bowling Green is a beautiful place . . . although its beauteous days were well nigh spent before it was my misfortune to visit it. Tents in every direction, and mud . . . had rent it of its former loveliness. . . I visited College Hill at the extreme east of the town. . . The fort . . . seems to have been the most complete of any. . . It occupied an area of perhaps 20 acres immediately upon the summit of the Hill enclosed by ditches, eight to ten feet in depth, the earth thrown as a breast work, and nicely sodded with blue grass; it possesses a commanding view of the country in every direction. . . In its rear is built a log protection for musketry, about three feet in thickness at the base, and two at the top filled with small rock with diminutive port holes through which to protrude those messengers of death generally better known as Minnie muskets and Enfield rifles. This was an excellent protection against small arms but would have proven a dangerous place of safety against cannon shot. . . ."

The Union army would later strengthen the College Hill fort. Much of the breast works, etc. were destroyed when the city's reservoir was built in the late 1860s and in the construction of city hospital in the 1920s. The engraving shows College Hill from Fairview Avenue.





## Union Occupation of Warren County

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

The Confederate occupation of Warren and adjoining counties ended in mid February, 1862 when a large Union army entered Bowling Green. By early April most of these troops had moved south. Large armies enroute to and from Tennessee passed through the area from time to time and although the town remained under martial law until after the war's end, only a few hundred troops garrisoned the area. Composed of more Yankee than Kentucky Unionists, the army patrolled the countryside, maintained a hospital in town and apparently viewed area residents as "damned rebs."

The lengthy federal occupation stirred up deep rooted animosities. A Union officer from Christian County stationed in Bowling Green during the final months of the war probably expressed the sentiments of many residents when he wrote:

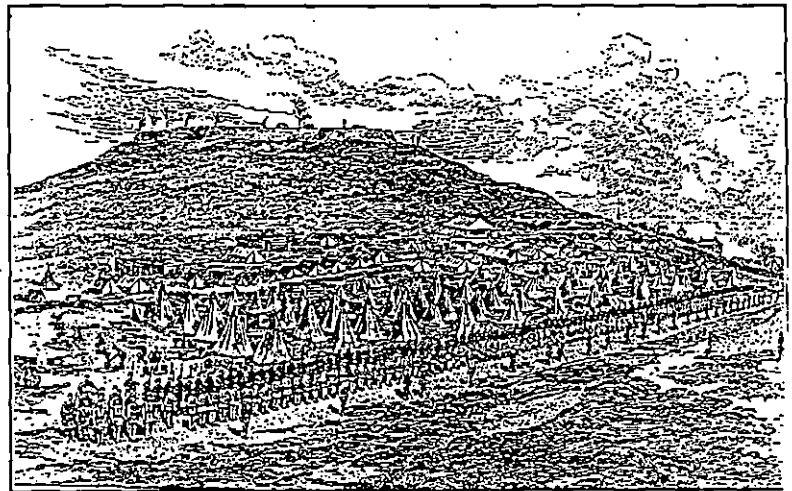


Illustration from the Kentucky Library, WKU

*"I detest the cursed yankees who compose our army. They appear to believe that there are no loyal men in our state that we are all rebels and should be so treated. They steal...everything eatable as they pass on the march. Their officers are politicians and are afraid to restrain them... I wish the rebels were whipped. I wish the cursed Yankees were out of the country. No good feeling has grown out of their occupation of our state, but a dissimilarity of thought most striking is manifested in the way they feel and think... I must say I greatly prefer our own way."*

# REMODEL SALE

## SAVE 30% to 50%

## A HALF-MILLION LOST:

A letter in the *Cincinnati Gazette* tells of Bowling Green after the Confederate evacuation:

Bowling Green, February 15 [1862]

. . .[Bowling Green] presented a scene of desolation seldom witnessed. Almost all the inhabitants had gone away. . . .Those who remained, whether rebel or loyal did the best, for neither class were molested. . . . but it was impossible to protect the hundreds of deserted tenements and as many of them had been left in hot haste and all the furniture and household goods remained in them, they were doubtless frequently visited and partially plundered. One house contained a large lot of sutler's stores and of these the boys made free use. . . .Tobacco, segars, candy, etc. will for a few days be found in abundance in some of the boys' quarters.

There is not as much of the town burnt as we supposed . . . . Seven locomotives were burned in the depot, besides an immense quantity of all sorts of army materials. . . .There were Mississippi rifle, Enfield rifles, rifled muskets, smooth bore muskets, breach loading muskets, double and single barrel shotguns. . . . Bayonets, swords, hangers, bowie knives, butcher knives. . . mingled with army stores, camp-kettles, tin-pans. . . About five thousand dollars' worth of commissary stores fell into our hands. The quantity destroyed by the panic-stricken rebels can scarcely be estimated; but I saw a single pile of corn burning, which judging from its size. . . must have contained at least ten thousand bushels. . . .all the buildings which contained these stores were also burned, together with a mill or two and a few private residence. . ."

Estimating the property lost at a half million dollars, the writer suggested that the "injury to their cause could scarcely be greater if they had had a thousand men slain in battle."



# Federal Troops Take Bowling Green

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird



Illustration from the Kentucky Library

The following letter written by an anonymous soldier with General Mitchell's division and dated February 16, 1862, tells of the arrival of Union troops in Bowling Green.

... Gen. Turchin fired the first shell into the town and immediately three (Confederate) regiments were seen scampering off... we were powerless to interfere, for there was Barren River, wide and unfordable, between us and both bridges destroyed... (When) the repairs of an old wherry were completed... we crossed the river protected by artillery. There was a slight snow falling and very uncomformably cold it was. We had a tedious time crossing... The boys, getting almost frozen, declared that they had rather be shot than frozen, and we then pushed on.... and we were soon surrounding the fires, some of which had been burning for several days... several

warehouses filled with pork, beef, coffee, etc. are destroyed. A pile of grain, thirty by twenty, was burning when we arrived. Four engines and several cars were also burnt. This was their depot and the cars stil had been carrying away provisions for a week. Still, immense quantities were destroyed--boxes of guns, large numbers of Bowie-knives, roughly fashioned of iron and every coneivable kind of shooting appartus and al sorts of hardware for cooking and other uses...

The citizens seem to be out of heart and do nothing... Bowling Green had a population of about two thousand five hundred. There are now about one thousand inhabitants."

The engraving reveals the ruins of buildings on Main and State streets burned during the evacuation of Confederate troops.

CALLAWAY - COBRA - LYNX - HOGAN - PING

## Clubhouse Golf End of Summer Specials

Greg Norman  
Attack Apparal

Total Set  
of CAT Woods & Irons

NIKE  
Shorts & Shirts

DR MADE



## Four Long Years of War

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird



Illustration from the Kentucky Library, WKU

Whether occupied by Union or Confederate troops, the presence of soldiers for nearly six years -- the last troops left the area in 1867--drained the county of its resources and taxed the patience of its residents. Troops of both sides bivouaced in orchards, drilled in clover fields, cut down trees, burned fences, took livestock and horses, and requisitioned food and forage. They also plundered gardens and orchards, looted chicken coops, smoke houses and vegetable cellars, wore out or destroyed roads and bridges, created frightening sanitation and health problems, violeted civil rights and infringed on the dignity and

serenity of civilians. Most members of the Union army of occupation shared the attitude of a soldier from Connecticut who looked down his nose at area residents and wrote that "I cannot get a man here to admit that New England is in any respect superior" to Kentucky.

At the war's onset the majority of the area's denizens had been pro Union. Nevertheless, nearly every family in the county had at least one member in each army. The strain of divided sentiments, the loss of loved ones, the destruction of property and the indignities of real and imagined ill treatment created bitterness that remained long after the shooting stopped. On the arrival of Confederate troops in September of 1861, a county resident had written in her diary that the "Philistines are upon us." By the war's end, Warren residents viewed troops of both sides as Philistines.



People are giving this book rave reviews

### Get Yours Today!

• Actual Size 8½" x 11"

• 152 Pages

• 100+ photographs

• Call For Details

## **CIVIL WAR INDICTMENTS**

In late summer of 1862 the local grand jury brought indictments and the circuit court judge issued bench warrants against more than 100 Confederate soldiers and area sympathizers. The military men had left the state but the civilians were arrested and forced to post large bonds. Indictments of treason against the commonwealth were issued against Generals Simon B. Buckner and Wm. J. Hardee, Capt. Thomas H. Hines, Surgeon David Yandell, and many others, including two dozen local men. The treason charge set bail at \$2500.

Lesser charges against area residents included indictments for "usurping" the office of sheriff and county clerk, stealing a cannon and other firearms, demanding that "loyal and good citizens" supply the army with wagons and horses, allowing troops "of the so called Confederate states" to camp on the fair grounds, and "uniting . . . with a band of lawless men commonly called John H. Morgan's guerilla [sic] band" and "making war upon peaceful and loyal citizens."

Most of the indictments were ignored and never withdrawn. Buckner served as governor, Yandell taught surgery at the UofL and became President of the American Medical Association, Hines practiced law in Bowling Green and was Chief Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals--they and the others lived the rest of their lives under the cloud of treason and other malfeasance.

In 1958 the Warren County Circuit Court dismissed the charges and cleared the names of more than a hundred, long-dead Confederates.

## COURTHOUSE

Warren County's magnificent courthouse is 130 years old. Designed by architect D. J. Williams (who also designed Riverview and the courthouse at Murfreesboro, TN), the handsome structure cost \$125,000 and opened in 1868. Plans for the county's third courthouse began in the late 1850s but the Civil War delayed construction. Shortly after the war's end, city and county officials swapped the public square (on which earlier courthouses had stood) for a \$5,000 lot on Tenth Street; construction began in the early months of 1867.

Hailed as one of the state's loveliest, the exterior of the Warren County structure boasts interesting architectural features. The bricks were locally made, the hand-carved stone trim came from Warren County's quarries, and the cupola houses a bell tower and a four-faced clock. Charles Ott's stone yard filled the contract for the four corinthian columns; William Backus carved one of them (and also the original fountain for the square), Sam Johnson carved two, and the fourth column was the handiwork of Pierce Malone. The block for one of the columns, quarried on "Vinegar Hill" (WKU), was so heavy that laborers hauled it down the backside rather than the shorter north face of the hill. One can only imagine the problems of placing the large columns on their pedestals without modern hoists and other powerful equipment.

On your next visit to town, look closely at the exterior of this fine building. Note the brickwork and stone window trim, run your hand over a stone pedestal, check the time and estimate how many feet have walked over the limestone steps.

*badly worn*



PCDW  
7/16/97

## Fountain Square Park

by: Carol Crowe Carraco & Nancy Disher Baird

After the Warren County Courthouse opened on 10th Street in the late 1860s, the two-acre tract in the center of the town formerly occupied by the county's public buildings was deeded to the city for a park. The old structures were razed and the area landscaped. A two-tiered fountain of native stone (replaced in 1881 with a cast iron fountain) became the park's focal point. Courier-Journal Editor Henry Watterson dedicated the new park in May, 1872, calling it an "enchancing green gem." This serene view of the south side of Fountain Park belies the intense activity which always surrounded the square. Local novelist Emanie Nahm Sachs declared in her 1924 novel Talk: "Even the stone nymph which presided over the

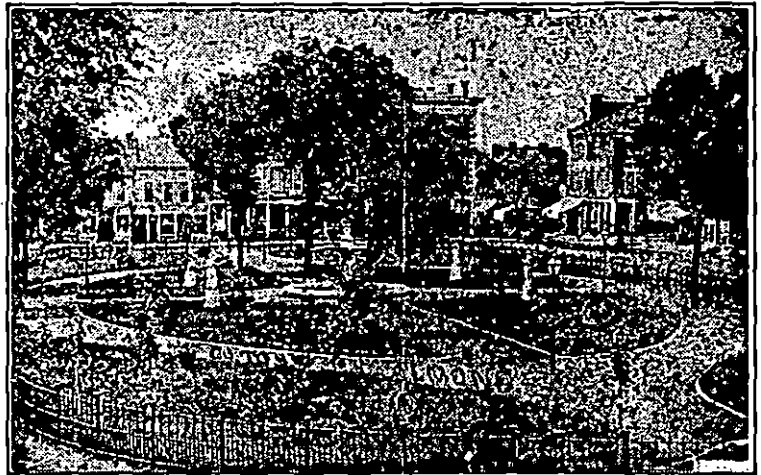
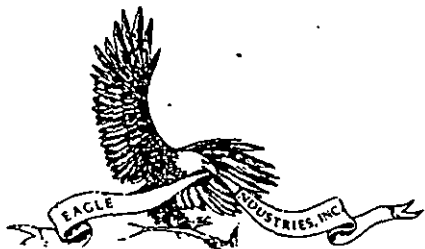


Illustration from the Kentucky Library

little green park in the center was never still. It gurgled a clear, chameleon stream into the fountain, a lovely stream which took color from the atmosphere." The wrought-iron fence enclosing the square served a practical as well as ornamental purpose. Prior to the passage of the stock law of 1911, animals roamed at will through the streets of Bowling Green. Thus, Fountain Square Park's fence kept out the cows.



### EAGLE INDUSTRIES, INC.

610 HOPE STREET

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

"Incorporated in Bowling Green since 1992"

## **WATER WORKS**

Bowling Green's early residents obtained their water from public and private wells, which were expensive to sink and difficult to maintain. The town trustees spent considerable money to keep the walls and covering of the public wells in good repair and periodically passed laws forbidding anyone to water a horse or wash laundry in the public wells. Nevertheless, typhoid and other enteric diseases associated with polluted water plagued area residents.

The idea of piping river water to homes gained popularity at mid century and in the late 1860s a group of local citizens formed a water company, purchased the necessary land and constructed a pumping station (pictured here) and reservoir. Costing about \$90,000 the system pumped water from the Barren River into the million-gallon reservoir built on "the most elevated position" of town (approximate site of the red-white-blue water tower). From the hill-top holding basin, ten miles of cyprus pipes carried water to those homes equipped with plumbing facilities; hydrants were built at every 450 feet and the pressure was ample to "drive any and all kinds of machinery" and during a fire to throw a streams "over the top of the highest building." An 1876 business directory claimed that the water works provided "an abundance of pure water, which doubtless contributes greatly to the health of the inhabitants." An 1885 pamphlet extolling the city's many advantages revealed that the water rates for family use were "as low as will be found in any other place" and that "manufacturers" paid fifteen cents per one thousand gallons."



carry out how they're going to be lis- set a pace for generations to come. said. It's a legend, you know. unical language.

One of a series of stories sponsored by area businesses and organizations in support and celebration of our long heritage.



# Younglove Drugstore

by: Nancy Disher Baird  
Carol Crowe Carraco

In 1903, Bowling Green novelist Eliza Calvert Hall described the drugstore on the corner of State and Main Streets as a "community institution," a somber and archaic business place, with floors worn thin by the steady tread of several generations.

Joseph Younglove purchased the seven year old structure on the corner of Main and State in the 1840s and for the remainder of the century he and his brother John operated a drugstore on the ground floor. Dimly lit and cluttered, the store's glass cases and wall shelves housed bottles of pills, powders and potions as well as liquors and tobacco products and a variety of knickknacks brought to Bowling Green by river and rail. The pharmacy also served as a post office, stagecoach depot and meeting place for many of the town's gentry who gathered around the pot-bellied stove to discuss weather, politics, and local news.

Younglove retired in 1905 and rented the facility to druggists Harold Sublett and Phil Valenti, who added a soda fountain that attracted many of the town's young folk. Oscar and William Fletcher, Adolf Bartel, Ernest Williams, and James Holland continued the tradition. The ground floor of the Quigley-Younglove Building served as a "community institution," a drugstore for nearly 140 years.

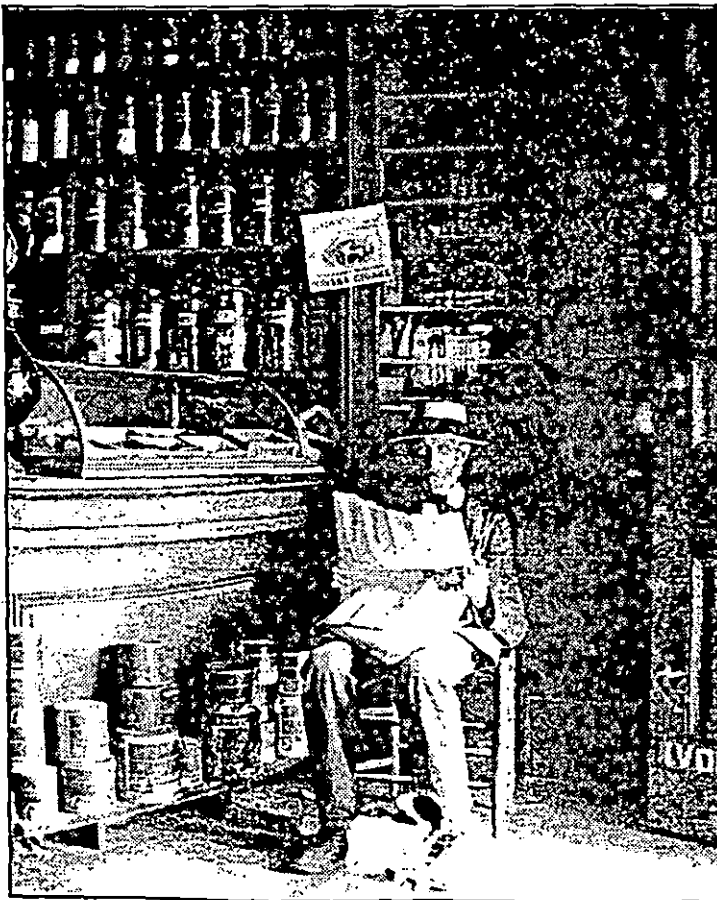


Illustration from the Kentucky Library

## Quality Furnishings Since 1948. . .

Simpson Furniture has been bringing the Bowling Green area quality furniture at irresistible prices.



## **WARREN COUNTY LIMESTONE**

Between about 1865 and 1930 hundreds of Warren Countians earned their livelihood working in the stone industry. Quarries dotted the county and stone fabrication shops prepared building stone for homes, churches and public buildings from New England to the <sup>Deep</sup> South.

The oolitic limestone that lies under much of the county owes its unusual white color to its high oil content and because it weathers well and is relatively easy to carve, Warren County limestone is a superior building stone. Early residents appreciated the beauty of this stone and used it for local homes and public buildings as well as for fences, roadways and tombstones. The improvement of area river transportation in the 1840s and the completion of the L&N Railroad in 1859 stimulated the industry and by late century architects throughout the nation called for the use of Warren County limestone. From White Stone Quarry on Blue Level Road, Caden Quarry at Hadley, Cohron Quarry on the Barren River, McLellan Quarry at Rockfield, Oman Quarry at Petros and others, large blocks of stone were cut and taken to Bowling Green's fabrication shops that prepared and shipped orders to all parts of the nation. Warren County limestone was a primary building material for Kentucky Governor's Mansion in Frankfort; the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary; the library at Catholic University in Washington, D.C; and St. Thomas Church in NYC, etc. Local examples include the Denhardt Armory at 10th and Chestnut, L&N Depot on Adams Street, and WKU's Colonnade and Florence Schneider (Whitestone) Hall.

By the mid 1920s more economical materials--brick, concrete, steel, glass--had gained popularity. As stone orders dwindled, quarries closed. Today, native stone is used to construct roadways but little else.