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GREENVILLE, KY 42345-1597

The following article appeared in The Courier-Journal, Magazine Section, Sunday, 9 JA 1938. Kept in a scrapbook by Mr. Gayle R. Carver and here he shares it with us.

KENTUCKY'S BLOODIEST BANDITS by Otto Rothert

The story of the Harpes, two bloody outlaws of pioneer times in Kentucky, is more than that of mere highwaymen. They were arch-criminals, apparently loving murder for its own

Any account of the barbarities they committed in Kentucky and Tennessee would be looked upon as wild fiction if the statements therein were not verified by court records and

contemparary newspaper notices, or carefully checked with early writers.

It should be borne in mind that the exploits of outlaws in pioneer times greatly affected settlement of the new country. Dread of highwaymen brought peaceful frontiermen together and thus built up communities and helped to hasten the establishment of law and

The atrocities of the two Harpes - Big Harpe and Little Harpe - at the close of the Eighteenth Century have rarely been equaled in the annals of crime. Their motives were clouded in such mystery, and their outrages were so heartless, that Collins, the Kentucky historian, referred to them as "the most brutal monsters of the human race."

TWO YEARS OF MURDER. Their joint career as murderers covered a period of only two years, but it was terrible while it lasted. At that time, 1789-1799, Kentucky and Tennessee were sparsely settled. The then-called West was well-nigh a wilderness. Among its pioneer population were men who, as fugitives from justice, had deliberately sought safety away from the Eastern States. The Ohio and Mississippi Rivers were infested with pirates; the early rivermen themselves were a rough and violent type. Isolation led the well-meaning to be generous and confiding to those whom they had tested; but to a great degree might was right, and strangers looked askance at each other and prepared for the worst. Yet such a rude and hardy people as this was gripped with horror at the unmeaning and unprovoked atrocities of the Harpes. the Harpes.

It is difficult in these days of well-ordered government to realize the mysterious It is difficult in these days of well-ordered government to realize the mysterious terror and excitement that began near Knoxville in 1798 and swept through the wilderness to the borders of the Mississippi and across the Ohio into Illinois, as some sudden, creeping fire breaks out in the underbrush, and grows steadily in intensity and rage until it sweeps forests before it. The Harpes were believed to be brothers. They were natives of North Carolina. Micajah, known as Big Harpe, was born about 1768, and Wiley, known as Little Harpe, was born about 1770. Their father was said to have been a Tory soldier.

TWO MEN, THREE WIVES. The Tories who, after the Revolution, still sympathized with the King of England and continued to live in the "old settlements" were, in most sections, ostracized by their neighbors. It was to this ostracized class that the parents of the Harpes belonged; and thus it was in an environment of hatred that the two sons grew up.

About 1795 the young Harpes left North Carolina for Tennessee. accompanied by Susan

About 1795 the young Harpes left North Carolina for Tennessee, accompanied by Susan Roberts and Betsy Roberts. Big Harpe claimed both women as his wives. Shortly after their arrival near Knoxville, Little Harpe married Sallie Rice, daughter of a preacher.

From cheating and trickery at horse racing the two men drifted to horse and hog stealing. Their downright criminality soon asserted itself when they set fire to houses and

After having been arrested several times - escaping each time before being placed in jail - they decided to leave East Tennessee. Before going they killed a man named Johnson. They ripped open his body, filled it with stones and threw it into the Holstein River. Despite this caution the stones became loosened. The corpse rose to the surface and was discovered a few days later. This killing of Johnson seems to have been their first murder. It was followed by many others, but the true number will never be known. Travelers vanished and left no trace. but the Harpes moved with great celerity.

and left no trace, but the Harpes moved with great celerity.

BROKE JAIL AT DANVILLE. We next hear of them and their women on the Wilderness Road in Kentucky. Three more victims were on their list by the time they arrived at the tavern of John Farris near Crab Orchard. No one of the tavern suspected who the new arrivals were. There they met Stephen Langford of Virginia who had come alone. Langford decided it would be safer to travel with companions through the wilderness than to go unaccompanied. A few days later - December 14, 1798 - men driving cattle over the road leading to the Farris tavern accidentally discovered the body of a man concealed behind a log. It was identified as that of Langford. Suspicion fell on the Harpes. They were pursued and captured, and placed in the Stanford jail. On January 4, 1799, the two men and their women appeared before the judges of the Lincoln County Court of Quarter Sessions. They were held for murder, and their case was transferred to the Danville District Court. case was transferred to the Danville District Court.

The next day a strong guard took the prisoners to Danville, ten miles away, to await trial in April. On March 16 both Big Harpe and Little Harpe escaped, leaving their three women and three jail-born infants behind.

The jailer evidently had felt there was some likelihood that his charges would escape, for his account shows he bought, on January 20, 1799, "Two horse locks to chain the men's feet to the ground, 12 shillings, and one bolt, 3 shillings"; on February 13, "One lock for front jail door, 18 shillings," and on February 27, "Three pounds of nails for the use of jail, 6 shillings."

How the Harpes escaped is not known; the tailer's expense account shows a charge of 12

How the Harpes escaped is not known; the jailer's expense account shows a charge of 12 shillings for "Mending the wall of the jail where the prisoners escaped."

Such was the state of affairs when, on April 15, the trial of the women began. Five days were devoted to hearing evidence, and the trial ended in the acquittal of the women. They declared that, above all things, they desired to return to Knoxville and there start life anew. It was believed that they had obtained a happy release from their barbarous masters, and therefore a collection of clothes and money was taken among the citizens of

Danville, and an old mare given, to help them on their way to Tennessee.

TWENTY THE FIRST YEAR. The jailer accompanied the three mothers to the edge of town to point out the road that led to Knoxville. It was learned later, however that they had

traveled less than thirty miles when they changed their course, drifted down Green and Ohio Rivers to Diamond Island and Cave-in-Rock, and a few months thereafter rejoined their husbands near Henderson.

Immediately after their escape the two Harpes resumed their work. On April 22, 1799, the Governor of Kentucky issued a proclamation offering a reward for the capture of either or both. Reports of killings in Kentucky were followed by others from Southern Illinois, then from East Tennessee, then again from Kentucky. Among their victims was one of their own children. Declaring that Little Harpe's crying infant would some day be the means of pursuers detecting their presence, Big Harpe slung the baby by the heels against a tree and literally burst its head into pieces. During the first year of their unrestrained ferocity they had committed at least twenty murders. The whole of Kentucky and Tennessee had become terrorized by the possibility of the appearance of the Harpes at any hour in any locality.

The people of the lower Green River country, like settlers elsewhere, were on the lookout for them. In the early part of August, 1799, two suspicious newcomers were discovered prowling around some of the backwoods settlements in Southern Henderson County. These strangers might be the Harpes. No one knew. The fact that no woman had been seen with them led watchers to conclude that these were not the widely sought murderers.

INQUIRED ABOUT THEMSELVES. One day the Harpes left Henderson County and started toward the hiding place of their women and children - twenty or more miles away. They rode good horses and were well armed and fairly well dressed.

That evening they arrived at the home of James Tompkins, in what is now Webster County. They represented themselves as Methodist preachers. Their equipment aroused no suspicion, for the country was almost an unbroken wilderness, and preachers, as well as most other pioneers, often traveled well armed. Tompkins invited them to supper, and Big Harpe, to ward said a long grace at table. After supper they bade their host farewell, off suspicion,

saying they had an engagement elsewhere.

Late that night, August 20, they reached the house of Moses Stegall - about five miles east of what later became the town of Dixon. Stegall was absent, but his wife and their only child, a boy of 4 months, were at home and, a few before, had admitted Maj. William Love, a surveyor, who had come to see Stegall on business. Mrs. Stegall, expressing an opinion that her husband would return that night, invited him to remain. He had climbed up a ladder outside the house to the loft above and was in bed when the new arrivals entered the cabin. He came down and met the two men. In the conversation that followed the murderers themselves inquired about the Harpes and, among other things, stated that according to rumor the two outlaws were then prowling around in the neighborhood.

KILLED BECAUSE OF SNORES. Mrs. Stegall, having only the one spare bed in the loft, was obliged to assign it to the three men. After Major Love had fallen asleep, one of the Harpes took an ax which he always carried in his belt and, with a single blow, dashed out the brains of the sleeping man. The two villains then went down to Mrs. Stegall's room. She, knowing

or the sleeping man. The two villains then went down to Mrs. Stegall's room. She, knowing nothing to the contrary, presumed Major Love was still asleep. Reprimanding her for assigning them to a bed with a man whose snorning kept them awake, they murdered her and her baby. Leaving the three bodies in the house, they set it afire.

The next morning five men returning from a salt lick found the Stegall house a smoldering ruin. Surroundings indicated that the crime was still unknown in the neighborhood. The men proceeded to the home of Squire Silas McBee to notify him of their discovery. While they were discussing the subject with Squire McBee Moses. Stegall rode up discovery. While they were discussing the subject with Squire McBee, Moses Stegall rode up and for the first time heard what had happened to his family.

Then began the hunt for the Harpes. Mounted and equipped, and provisioned for a few days, Squire McBee's troop of seven men started on their expedition against the murderers. They followed the trail until night. Early the next motning they detected the Harpes standing on a distant hillside. Big Harpe was holding his horse; Little Harpe had no horse. The pursuers at once started for the hill. In the meantime Big Harpe mounted and darted off in one direction, Little Harpe ran in another - and both were out of sight. In their efforts to find traces of the Harpes the pursuers discovered the Harpe camp. They found no one there except Little Harpe's woman.

IN TREE. A few miles farther on, Big Harpe and his two women were seen on a HEAD PLACED ridge a short distance ahead. Realizing his danger he put spurs to his horse and dashed off alone, leaving his women behind. They made no attempt to follow him, but calmly awaited their captors, two of whom took them in charge.

The other men continued the chase. Each fired a shot at the fleeing outlaw, who again and again brandished his tomahawk in savage defiance. The wild ride continued through dense woods and over narrow trails for a few miles until the fugitive, slakening his pace, was overtaken. He had been mortally wounded by one of the shots. As he lay stretched upon the ground, he asked for water. A shoe was pulled off his foot and water was brought. Moses Stegall now stepped forward. While reciting to Big Harpe how brutally he had murdered his wife and child, Stegall drew a knife, declaring he would cut off his enemy's head. Then he pointed a gun at Harpe's face. The dying outlaw, conscious of the threat, jerked his head from side to side, hoping to dodge the threatened bullet. "Very well," said Stegall, "I will not shoot you in the head, for I want to save it as a trophy." Then, aiming at his heart, he shot him in the left side. And Big Harpe died without another struggle or groan.

\$1,000 REWARD, DEAD OR ALIVE. With the knofe he had so coldly exhibited, Stegall cut off the outlaw's head. He placed it in one end of a bag, in the other end of which was a corresponding weight of provisions. The bag was slung across a horse, and the captors and their three captured women started on their return - some thirty-five miles - leaving the headless corpse to the wolves of Muhlenberg County. The head was taken to the crossroads near where the Harpes had committed their last crime. It was there placed in the fork of a tree as a warning to others. The spot ever since has been known as Harpe's Head, and the old The other men continued the chase. Each fired a shot at the fleeing outlaw,

The spot ever since has been known as Harpe's Head, and the old tree as a warning to others.

road, now a modern highway, still bears the name of Harpe's Head Road.

The captors, leaving the outlaw's head conspicuously displayed in the tree, rode on to Henderson, some twenty miles farther, and placed the three women in jail. The prisoners were tried on September 4, 1799, before the Court of Quarter Sessions. They were found guilty of "being parties in the murder" and accordingly were ordered sent to Russellville to appear, in October, before the Logan District Court. That court found them not guilty. After their release Little Harpe's wife returned to Tennessee; Big Harpe's women and two children

continued to live in Logan County for many years.

Big Harpe was dead, and the women had again been spared through public sympathy. Little Harpe had vanished into the wilderness. No one knew where, how or when he might reappear. All feared his return. It was not until five years later that they learned he had gone South and, under another name, joined Samuel Mason, the outlaw.

Samuel Mason stands out in pioneer history of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys as a

highway robber and river pirate. He had been a useful Revolutionary soldier. The Harpes killed men, women and children to gratify a lust for murder. Mason took to robbery solely for the purpose of getting money. He was one of the shrewdest and most resourceful robbers; nevertheless he was trapped by the younger Harpe.

About two years after Little Harpe made his last flight from Kentucky - after his brother had been killed - he joined Mason's band under the name of John Setton. Mason

evidently did not recognize Setton as Little Harpe.

Mason's robberies had become so frequent and so serious on the Mississippi River and the Natchez Trace that in 1802 the Governor of Mississippi offered a reward of \$1,000 for the leader, dead or alive. In January, 1803, Mason and his band, including Little Harpe, who was still unrecognized under an alias, were captured near New Madrid, MO. After a preliminary trial before the Spanish authorities, the prisoners made their escape.

RECOGNIZED BY HOSTESS. Soldiers and civilians again became man-hunters. One day two man appeared in Greenville, Miss. (near Natchez), bringing with them the head of Samuel Mason, and claimed the reward. The head was identified as that of Mason by a number of persons. The two heroes appeared before the judge to receive an order for the payment of the

They gave their names as John Setton and James May.

reward. They gave their names as John Setton and James May.

As the judg was in the act of making out a certificate, a traveler stepped into the courtroom and requested the arrest of the two men. At the tavern he had repaired to the stable to see his horse attended to, and there had seen the horses of the two men who had arrived just before him. He recognized the horses - principally because each had a peculiar blaze in the face - as belonging to persons who had robbed him and killed one of his companions on the Natchez Trace some two months before. And going into the Court House, he identified the two men.

This declaration indicated that the two men had committed at least one murder and

robbery, and they were therefore held under arrest. No one knew May or the man who called himself Setton. But suspicion was aroused that Setton was actually Harpe. A Notice was put up at the Natchez landing stating that it was believed Little Harpe had been captured, and persons having any knowledge of his identity were requested to come to the Greenville and view the prisoner. One Kentucky boatman who seen him in the Danville jail recognized him at once. Another asserted, "If he is Little Harpe he has a mole on his neck and two toes grown together on one foot." A Tennessean declared, "If he is Little Harpe he has a scar under his lift nipple where I cut him in a difficulty we had in Knoxville." An examination showed every one of these identifying marks.

Escape was now the only hope for Harpe and May. They did break jail, but were recaptured. On January 13, 1804, they were tried, found guilty of robbery and sentenced to death; and on February 8 were hanged in what has been known ever since as Gallows Field.

HEADS ON POLES, SKELETONS DUG UP. No attempt had been made to lynch the two condemned outlaws, but the lynch spirit evidently raged, for after their legal execution on Gallows Field their heads were placed on poles, one a short distance to the north and the other a short distance to the west of Old Greenville on the Natchez Trace.

The two headless bodies were buried together in one grave near the Old Trace. As time rolled in the narrow Trace widened, as roads frequently do, and wore deeper into the slight eleveation over which it led. Finally this widened and deeping process reached the fleshless bones in the solitary grave, and the two skeletons, protruding piece by piece from the road bank, were dragged out by dogs and beasts. Thus the last vestige of Little Harpe disappeared

on the very highway upon which he had committed many crimes.

The terrorizing infulences of the names of the Harpes gradually vanished from the South and the West, but the deeds of these outlaws and the horror they aroused have passed into the history of pioneer life.

Details of the carrers of the Harpes and Masons are given by Otto Rothert in his book, Outlaw of Cave-in-Rock." This synopsis was read to The Filson Club of which he is secretary.

Continued from Vol. 15 No. 3 Page 28

Muhlenberg County KY, Marriages

1878 10 May	Thomas M. Groves, of Muhl. 18 1st H.A. Groves, of Muhl. 29 1st	Farmer Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky.
1878 20 May	Oren Vincent, of Muhl. 23 1st Sallie Vincent, of Muhl. 19 1st	Farmer Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky.
1878 3 June	N.M. Mann, Of Muhl. 24 1st J.P. Stobaugh, of Muhl. 28 1st	Farmer Ky. Va. Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky.
1878 19 June	J.B. Ryon, of Muhl. 39 1st J.D. Bowling, of Muhl. 33 1st	Farmer Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky.
1878 23 June	Jacob Wilcox, of Muhl. 26 lst L.N. Gish, of Muhl. 17 lst	Farmer Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky.
1878 4 Jul y	Jacob Bruce, of Muhl. 20 1st Mollie Hopkins, of Muhl. 19 1st	Farmer Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky.
1878 4 Jul y	Henry Coleman, of Muhl. 24 1st J.E. Randolph, of Muhl. 17 1st	Farmer, Ky.Ger. Ky. Ky. Tn. Ky.
1878 15 Jul y	J.D. Brown, of Muhl. 19 1st N.B. Harris, of Muhl. 19 1st	Farmer Ky. Va. Ky. Ky. Tn. Ky.
1878 18 Jul y	T.M. Robertson, of Muhl. 30 2nd Mollie Stinson, of Muhl. 17 1st	Farmer Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky. Ky. Tn.
1878 1 8 Jul y	Isaac Rust, of Muhl. 32 1st Fanny Tyson, of Muhl. 16 1st	Farmer Ky. Ky. Mo. Ky. Ky. Ky.

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26 Oct. Oplulia Coffman, of Muhl. 19 lst Ky. Ky.	
1878 Feter Nofsinger, of Muhl, 35 2nd Farmer Ky. Ky.	
23 Jan. M. K. Edwards, of Muhl. 23 1st Ky. Ky.	Ку. Ку.
1878 William McNeal, of Muhl. 26 lst Miner Sc. Sc. 23 Sep. Rachel Snodgrass, of Muhl. 21 lst Ky. Ky.	
1878 Finley Fentress, of Muhl. 29 lst Farmer Ky. Ky. 2 Mar. Maggie Lamb, of Muhl. 20 lst Ky. NC.	
1878 John Richey, of Muhl. 25 1st Farmer Ky. Ky. 16 July Kate Gish, of Muhl. 16 1st Ky. Ky.	
1878 B.L. Eades, of Muhl. 24 1st Farmer Ky. Ky. 14 Nov. Viola Nofsinger, of Muhl. 19 1st Ky. Ky.	

1878	Samuel Gossett, of Muhl. 26 1st	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку.
4 Sep.	Mollie Bradley, of Muhl. 16 1st		Ку. Ку. Ку.
1878	Rufus Batsel, of Muhl. 25 1st	RR Agt.	Ку. Ку. Ку.
Ц Sep.	Jennie Moorman, of Muhl. 19 1st		Ку. Ку. Ку.
1878	John Hopkins, of Muhl. 20 lst	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку.
Oct.	Malinda Altic, of Muhl. 17 lst		Oh. Ку. Ку.
1878	John Scott, of Muhl. 29 1st	Farmer	Ky. Ky. Ky.
7 Feb.	Vidory Johnson, of Muhl. 26 1st		Oh. Ky. Ky.
1878	Richard Eades, of Muhl. 35 1st	Farmer	Ky. Va. Ky.
3 Apr.	Lenora Hendricks, of Muhl. 26 1st (maybe	Ohio Co.)Oh. Ky. Va.
1878	T.B. Merrell, of Muhl. 21 lst	Farmer	Ky. Ky. Ky.
15 Dec.	M.E. Vincent, of Muhl. 20 lst (maybe Oh	io Co.)	Oh. Ky. Va.
18 78	W.H. Whitaker, of Muhl. 63 3rd	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку.
3 Oct.	Isebel King, of Muhl. 48 2nd		Ку. Va. Va.
1878	James Wherry, of Muhl. 21 1st	Farmer	Tn. Tn. Tn.
Dec.	Sarah A. Weeks, of Muhl. 21 2nd		Ky. Tn. Tn.
1878	John Garrett, of Muhl. 28 2nd	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку.
Dec.	Manda Latham, of Muhl. 28 1st		Ку. Ку. Ку.
1878	John W. Casebier, of Muhl. 32 1st	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку.
31 Dec.	Nancy E. Holeman, of Muhl. 20 1st		Ку. Ку. Ку.
1878	M. († Casebier, of Muhl. 30 lst	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку.
31 Dec.	Alice E. Roberson, of Muhl. 19 lst		Ку. Ку. Тп.
1878	William Y. Clardy, of Muhl. 19 1st	Farmer	Tn. Ky. Va.
Aug.	Emma Dukes, of Muhl. 17 1st		Ky. Ky. Ky.
1878	John P. Coursey, of Muhl. 21 1st	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку.
13 Jan.	Lizzie Dockins, of Muhl. 19 1st		Ку. Ку. Тп.
1878	B.T. Mansfield, of Muhl. 25 lst	Farmer	Ку. Ку. ПС.
31 Jan.	Martha J. Stewart, of Muhl. 23 lst		Ку. Тп. Ку.
1878	William B. Cessna, of Muhl. 18 lst	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку.
17 Oct.	Sarah McCubbin, of Muhl. 19 lst		Ку. Тп. Ку.
1878	Zack F. Carver, of Muhl. 28 1st	Farmer	Tn. Tn. Tn.
24 Dec.	Bettie E, of Muhl. 20 1st		Tn. Ky. KY.
1878	William England, of Muhl. 20 1st	Farmer	Ky. Va. Va.
10 Aug.	Elizabeth Dill, of Muhl. 20 1st		SC. Tn. Tn.
1878	William N. Draner, of Muhl. 65 2nd	Farmer	Fa. Tn. Ky.
July	Harriett Key, of Muhl. 45 2nd		SC. Tn. Tn.
1878	John W. Ricketts, of Muhl. 38 1st	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку.
13 Feb.	M.R. Caselberry, 21 1st		Тп. Ку. Ку.
1878 13 Apr.	Wing Barnard (colored), of Muhl. 23 1st G.R. Hroads, of Muhl. 23 1st	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку. Ку. Ку. Ку.
1878	James Steel, of Muhl. 18 lst	Farmer	Ky. Ky. Tn.
31 Sep.	Mary T. Martin, of Muhl. 17 lst		Tn. Ky. Ky.
1878	Luther F. McPherson, of Muhl. 20 lst	Farmer	Ky. Ky. Va.
10 Oct.	Nancy J. Harper, of Muhl. 24 2nd		Ky. Ky. Ky.
1878	David Penrod, of Muhl. 25 lst	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку.
19 Dec.	Sarah A. Hunt, of Muhl. 24 lst		Ку. Ку. Ку.
1878	M.S. Weeks, of Muhl. 25 1st	Farmer	NC. NC. NC.
18 Apr.	Julia A. Robenson, Of Muhl. 16 1st		Ky. Tn. Tn.
1878 2 Sep.	A.A. Crittenden, of Muhl. 25 1st Florence B. Cornett, of Muhl. 19 1st (m.	Farmer in Tn.)	Ky. Ky. Ky.
1878 19 Oct.	Sylvester Latham, of Muhl. 20 1st Margaret E. Martin, of Todd Co. 18 1st	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку.
1878 15 Jan.	W.T. Shutt, of Muhl. 20 Mary Shelton, of Todd Co. 19 1st	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку. Ку. Ку. Ку.
1878 17 Feb.	John Wells, of Muhl. 27 Mary Drake, of Muhl. 20 1st	Farmer	Ку. Ку. Ку. Ку. Ку. Ку.
1878	W.S. Parham, of Muhl. 23	Farmer	Ky. Tn. Tn.
26 Dec.	Laura C. Suttles, of Muhl. 26 1st		Ky. Ky. Va.
1878 10 Oct.	Richard Craig, of Muhl. 19 Barbara A. Harris, of Muhl. 20 lst	Farmer	Ky. Ky. Ky.

1878	a M. Crittenden, of Muhl. 20	Farmer	Ky. Ky. Va.
Oct.	A.M. Crittenden, of Muhl. 20 F.B. Cornett, of Muhl. 19 1st		Ky. Va. Tn.
1878 9 Oct.	John T. Craig, of Muhl. 407(blotted) J.F. Gant, of Muhl. 18 1st		Ку. <u>Тп</u> . Ку.
1878 20 Nov.	Thomas Reynolds, of Muhl. 24 Martha Bradley, of Muhl. 17 1st (m. in Gton ?)	Farmer	Ky. Ky. Ky.
1877 17 Oct.	Daniel D. Gates, of Muhl. 34 lst Nancy S. Patton, of Todd, 26 lst	Farmer	Ky. Ky. Tn. Ky √A Ky.

THE MUHLENBERG COUNTY HERITAGE VOL. 15 NO. 4 OC NO DE 1993

*****THE END****

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GISH SCHOOL 1908-1909

Parent or Guardian	Names of Children	Date	of	Birth
Parent or Guardian Frank P. Browning N.A. Moore John A. Philipps J.D. Gish Johnathan Whitmer C.R. Brooks F.M. Miller J. Wes Gish Joseph Harper N.C. Harper	Lillie D. Browning	5	FE	1889
	Ruthie C. "	29	MR	1893
N.A. Moore	Marthie S. Moore	24	NO	189-
	Jessie F. "	1	JA	1893
	Florie A. "	7	JA	1895
	Luthur W. "	5	ΑU	1898
John A. Philipps	Bishop N. Philipps	6	ΑU	1896
	Posie I.	24	JI.	1898
J.D. Gish	Marvin J. Gish	- 5	SE	1901
Johnsthan Whitmer	Ouiller Whitmer	19	DE	1889
oomaaman mizamaz	Viola "	13	ΔD	1892
	Feland O "	19	O.C.	1894
	William T "	25	SE	1896
	Testie W "	26	NO	1898
C B Brooks	Vernie I Brooks	15	MV	1900
E M Miller	Jenora Miller	10	JE	1890
r.m. miller	Ada D "	10	711	1004
	Nua D.	٥	MD	1000
I Was Cish	Fun C Ciab	24	N D	1000
J. Wes GISH	Charles Jarvis	24	MD	1004
Tananh Manaan	Charles Jaivis	20	MK	1094
Јозери нагрег	Lenota Harper	21	30	1093
	Etnet	1	AP	1000
	Joga	8	JA	1899
	ECKIS "	. 9	AP	1901
N.C. Harper	Susan Harper	12	MR	1893
	very A. "	12	JE	1895
	Ezra F.	. 5	AU	1897
	Cordie V.	13	oc	1899
	Very A. " Ezra F. " Cordie V. " Noah E. " Benjamin H. Humphrey Mable V. " James D. " Miller C. " Namoa G. " Marvin A. " Augustus Nofsinger Susan M. " Bradford S. " Guy P. Luthur McCandless Otha W. " Jessie R. " Elgan " Eva Gatton Nat " Ella B. Merrell	4	MY	1898
G.B. Humphrey	Benjamin H. Humphrey	9	oc	1888
	Mable V. "	21	MY	1891
	James D. "	15	FΕ	1894
	Miller C. "	15	oc	1896
	Namoa G. "	14	FΕ	1899
	Marvin A. "	19	FE	1902
F.E. Nofsinger	Augustus Nofsinger	13	JL	1889
	Susan M. "	10	oc	1891
	Bradford S. "	16	MY	1893
	Guy P. "	14	SE	1895
A.J. McCandless	Luthur McCandless	20	MR	1889
94	Otha W. "	27	JL	1890
	Jessie R. "	10	FE	1892
	Elgan "	11	JL	1899
Mrs. Suda Gatton	Eva Gatton	24	DE	1891
	Nat "	24	JL	189-
T.B. Merrell	Ella B. Merrell	25	SE	188-
	Thomas "	22	ΑP	1892
	Samuel "	25	AΡ	1896
	Mary L. "	20	MR	1899
H.F. Wiggins	Bulah Wiggins	23	oc	1894
	Ethel "	22	JL	1896
R.G. Garrett	John D. Scott	16	MY	1892
H.M. Gossett	James F. Gossett	18	JL	1889
	Hubert M. "	21	JA	1892
	Joseph G. "	13	NO	1893
	Henry O. "	15	DE	1895
	Samuel C. "	23	JA	1898
	Willie M. "	31	ОC	1899
W.J. Gish	Virgil G. Gish	1	oc	1898
	Ellis •	17	ΑU	1900
Mrs. Suda Gatton T.B. Merrell H.F. Wiggins R.G. Garrett H.M. Gossett W.J. Gish Mrs. Lue C. Grundy	Alma Grundy	14	ΑU	1894
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We are looking forward to the year 1994. Hope to make your "Heritage" both interesting and informative. Renew your membership so that you may join us for next year...,\$10.00.

GRAHAM SCHOOL 1908-1909

Parent or Guardian	Names of Children	Date	on	Birth
N.B. & Annie Tarrant	Jas, Tarrant	10	JL	1889
	Egbert " Vera "			1891 1895
The C Delile Heartes	Myrtle "	14	FE	1900
Jno. & Delila Harelson Wm. & Lula Tarrant	Lizzie Harelson Ruthie Tarrant	6 5	SE	18
	Willie " Audobon "	11	MY	1896
Will & Ollie Woodruff	McKey Woodruff			1900 1895
J.T. Pentacost	Thos. " Bessie Pentacost			1901 1893
	Jessie Mae "	4	FE	1895
Thos. & Minnie McLevain Henry & Lida Downy	Clara M. McLevain Nora Downey			1900 1900
Leslie Todd	Orville " Delmer Todd	3	MY	1902 1900
Ed. & Ella Maddox	Nicholas Maddox			1900
E.M. & Kate Hunt	Eva Hunt Will "			1889 1891
	Albert "	24	oc	1893
	John " Perry "			1895 1897
Jas. & Manda Hill Albert & Mattie McCracklin	Bessie Hill Murl McCracklin	30	JL	1891
	Marvin "	16	NO	1891 1893
Jas. & Fannie Dixon	Ruby Dixon Roy "			1896 1898
	Artie "	8	ΑU	1900
Dave Swan Sterling Arnold	Lee Swan Eva Arnold			1890 1892
L.L. Prichit	Della Prichit	18	MY	1889
W.L. Stokes	Jno. Stokes Minnie "			1889 1894
Jno. & Ella Bethel	Lonzo "	8	JE	1900
Sho. & cita bether	Melvin Bethel Arthur "			1894 1896
	Georgia " Ottie "			1898 1900
Thos. Stewart	Clara Stewart	24	FE	1892
	Eddie " Dewey "			1895 1898
J.C. Hite	Sam Hite	30	oc	1889
G.Y. & Matilda Johnston	Lee Howell Mary Johnston	14	NO	1899 1892
	Wm. H. " Hiram L. "			1895 1897
hubban 11331	Susan "	3	FE	1900
Arthur Huddleston Robt. & Mollie Vincent	Minnie Meadows Lonzo Vincent			1889 1901
Elisha & Julia Browning Chas. Whitson	Shelby Browning Rosella Whitson			1901 1898
A.J. & Lucy Martin	Lucy Martin	16	oc	1889
M.L. Cornelius Dave & Mildred Vinson	Barnum Cornelius Walter Vinson			1892 1892
	Ora "	20	ΑU	1895
	Mamie " Elmer "			1899 1900
Jesse Boggess A.J. Woodruff	Carrie Boggess Falls Woodruff			1890 1890
	Lucas "	19	SE	1892
A.J. Browning	Richard " Walter Browning			1895 1890
J.W. Maxwell Will Lock	B.L. Maxwell Delia Lock	18	AU	1892
	Brinton "	17	JA	18 1
Chas. & Clara Fox Bob & Martha Hogan	Cecil Fox Willie Hogan			19 1900
Paul Lacy	Beula Lacy	22	SE	1889
J.P. & Ida Whobrey	Earl Whobrey Arthur "			1891 1893
Lee Smith	Jno. " Susie Smith			1897 1890
Willie & Josie Creek	Rosa Creek			1900
Geo. Edgar	Bertha Edgar Clifford "			1893 1895
M.D. e Malda washa Si sa	Rosa "	2	AP	1902
W.D. & Nelia Westerfield V.P. & Media Cornelius	Walter Westerfield Pearl Cornelius			1902 1897
, 0	Gracie "	25	JΕ	1900 1891
J.D. & Vianna Spinks	Herman Hopkins Mary Spinks	4	MY	1891
·	Corbit " Blanchie "			1893 1895
	Arthur "			1899

Continued GRAHAM SCHOOL

Parent or Guardian	Names of Children	Date of Birth
Wash Downey	Earl Sisk	14 SE 1893
Henry & Ellen Gatlin	Georgia Gatlin Jewell "	3 SE 1896 10 MY 1898
	Thos. Mabrey	15 SE 1889
Nannie Fox	Albert Duncan Clara Fox	22 SE 1889 15 AP 1901
	Raymond Lovell Jessie Miller	7 NO 1900
L.T. & Ida Miller	Jessie Miller Price "	5 MY 1899 17 NO 1900
Will & Lula Ragon	Naoma Ragon	10 FE 1902
Bob & Stella Vincent C.M. Kaphart	Evertt Vincent Eddie Kaphart	17 AP 1902 3 JL 1890
Joe Lock, Sr.	Sidney Keath	10 JE 1894
J.C. & Minnie Wakeland	Mary Ann Lock Essie Wakeland	29 DE 1897 2 MR 1894
bie. Winnie Wakezand	Granville "	26 AP 1896
Joe Shaw	Beatrice " Lena Shaw	16 JL 1890 10 AP 1902
H. Saddler	Walter Saddler	15 OC 1897
	Ada Saddler	6 AU 1899
Nick & Maud Rose	Murtie " Oda Rose	15 JE 1902 15 AP 1900
Arch & Maggie Pollock	Annie B. Pollock	8 SE 1893
	Harry " Arch " Jr.	19 AP 1896 14 NO 1898
	Edward "	15 NO 1901
Jno. P. & Lela Mosely	Annie B. Mosly G.R. Mosely	13 SE 1895 6 AP 1897
	G.W. "	10 MY 1899
Maggio Dood	Mabel "	6 MY 1902
Maggie Reed Jno. & M.E. Hogan	Effie Reed Henry Hogan	15 NO 189- 30 SE 18
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Jas. "	18 NO 189-
	Frank " Anthony "	4 SE 1896 18 SE 1898
	Clarence "	19 SE 1900
G.J. & L.E. Campbell R.W. & Annie Hooper	Maggie B. Campbell Lizzie Hooper	4 JE 1890 27 JE 1889
K.W. & Annie hooper	Polly "	7 JE 1891
T. D. C. Timple Haves	Wallace "	9 AP 1896
J.P. & Lizzie Hawes	Lena Hawes Rosco "	27 AU 1891 1 DE 1899
	Roy "	25 OC 1901
A. & Charlotte Forester	Armstrong Forester, Jr. Charlotte "	14 JE 1896 5 DE 1894
	Ralph "	22 JA 1900
Nicholas Swan	Rachel Swan Annie "	3 NO 1889 16 DE 1891
	Willie "	31 AU 1892
E.P. & Josie Richardson	Harry " Jennie Richardson	28 JA 1896 21 JA 1894
	Annie "	26 DE 1896
West & Cmlie Bethel	Ellen " Ora Bethel	20 MR 1902 12 OC 1896
	Oma "	5 AP 1899
Chas. & Ethel Wilkeson	Willie " Chas. Wilkeson	21 FE 1901 20 MR 1889
	Ethel "	10 JL 1890
G.E. & A.R. Todd	Garnette Todd	15 DE 1891 18 JA 1896
	Ashley " Willie "	4 MY 1891
F.E. & M.A. Vinson	Farry " R.D. Vinson	11 OC 1900 27 AU 1891
	Cecil "	27 AU 1891
Jno. & N.Y. Vinson	Thomas * Fay Vinson	24 SE 1893 22 JA 1896
	Hazel "	23 AP 1898
Will & Lula Ragon	Jno. E. " Jr. Goldene Ragon	28 SE 1901 20 JL 1899
•	Willie Ragon	16 AP 1900
Chas. & Fanny Jennings E.M. & Ella Duncan	Corbit Jennings Olga J. Duncan	30 JL 189- 18 MR 1899
G.W. & Sallie Vaughen	Glennie Vaughen	30 MR 1889
	Lawrence " Lillie May "	31 JL 1898 13 MR 1899
Jno. & M. Woodruff	Gabe Woodruff	20 SE 1889
	Corbet "	1 MR 1900
U.S. & Ella Brown	Barney Keeling Rufus Brown	16 AU 1892 16 JA 1892
	Bettie "	11 AP 1895
	Lucian " Alvis "	22 MR 1899 6 JA 1900
Thos. & Laura Majors	Willie Majors	28 NO 1892
	Lizzie " Arthur "	21 AU 1894 29 AU 1896
	Elmer "	15 JL 1899

Transcribed from S.B. No. 2 Page 50

State of Kentucky, Muhlenberg County.
Persuant to a County Court Cartificate No. 522. I have admeasured and laid out to Joshua Elkins, Junr. one hundred and thirty six acres of land on the waters of Pond River, Caney Creek. Beginning on a White Oak and Dogwood running South 100 poles to a stake by land located for william, thence with other line of said land N78 El40 poles to a Beech, thence N36 W180 poles to a White Oak and Beech, thence S1 W136 poles to Joshua Elkins, Sr. corner of his orginial survey, thence with a line of (said) survey S70 W16 poles to the beginning and hath such firm as the above plot represents, Surveyed the 6th (day) of November 1805.

James Willis Joshua Elkins CC John McDonald D.S. Alney McLean S.M.C.

Recorded in Greenville, Muhlenberg County, KY. Surveyors Book 1-2-3 Page 195

195 sitale of Kentucky Thurblewbuy County. Persuart, to a county lown Ecitificate. 110019 Then adencement and Laid. The could of Punt King Denne Could head 136 Vry.e. Beginning were a workite work could my hound de-called for Adillion. Them white There 7/36 No. 1/80 pales to a sury ideal coul Cok

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201

Transcribed from S.B. No. 2 Page 58

State of Kentucky, Muhlenberg County.

Persuant to a County Court Certificate No. 237. I have admeasured and laid out with Joshua Elkins, Sr. one hundred and seventy two acres of land on Caney a branch of Pond River, beginning on a Sugar Tree running S28 W36 poles to a Spanish Oak, then S10 W200 poles to a Sugar Tree and White Oak, then S80 E92 poles to a White Oak and Dogwood, thence N63 E100 poles to a White Oak and Sugar Tree then S15 F10 poles to a White Oak and White Oak and Sugar Tree, then S35 E10 poles to a White Oak and one of the Oak and Sugar Tree, then S35 E10 poles to a White Oak and one of the N78 E60 poles to a stake Joshua Elkins, Jr. corner, then N100 poles to a White Oak and Dogwood, Joshua Elkins, Jr. beginning corner, then with Joshua Elkins former survey S70 W164 poles to an Ash and Sugar Tree corner of said survey, thence N20 W148 poles to the beginning and hath such (firm) as other abin plot represents surveyed 6th November 1805.

William Grable Thomas Price

John McDonald D.S. Alney McLean S.M.C.

Recorded in Greenville, Muhlenberg County, KY. Surveyors Book 1-2-3 Page 200 & 201

Muisandes Personet. To a Carrie, Court Cutific

ide 710. 237. I fun admiced and, 11. no 2 Laid out week udhun Elkus - and hum dired and aleverty devol cicreo. of Lundian Cana, abrow of Buil Hive beginning an a Sugar Ine venering of 28120 36 Males to in it pount Caro Then stool for bales. Cole day us the andwitting then 2806 92 pales to a Mithie Wirk weed along ward ofwer 7/63 E 100 paces to a white war ind may ar Ince There & 3.5 8 10 faces to a letete Ivor Ward Flu 71788. 60 poules to a Justina Elkin for Comer The

> to a white conk and Doyed sol Justice Elking &r. Begin my lerner their with Cuthua Ellis france. survey. I To w. 164 pules to an ask and dage of our wine it daid durvey them 22 2000 148 puleto The begin my, and how he such form and the alkin uplat Represents duranged Got liverely 1805 Milliam Guntecl. Cultury 11 Leon die Thomas dice 100

Transcribed from S.B. No. 2 Page 35

CC

Muhlenberg County Sct.
Surveyed 27th February 1807 for Micogah Wells, 300 acres of land by virtue of a County Court Certificate No. 632. On Long Creek, beginning at Sugar Tree, Hickory Beech, Rice Bullock's Military Line, running thence S45 West260 poles to two Sugar Trees and White Oak, thence S10 E76 poles to Black Walnut and Hickory, John McKinnies line, thence with the same N60 E56 poles to White Oak to said McKinnies corner, thence with the same S30 E200 poles to a Sugar Tree, thence N30 East 78 poles to a White Oak thence N8 E74 poles to Hickory and Sugar Tree, thence N40 E60 poles to three White Oaks on said Bullock's Military Line, thence with the same N21 W220 poles to the beginning.

Micajah Wells Sam Casey J.J. Hughs D.L.M.C. Alney McLean S.M.C.

Recorded in Greenville, Muhlenberg County, KY. Surveyors Book 1-2-3 Page 185

muhlechen County LCK 200 bale per inch morning durkey in 27th its breen 1807 for Tice ogich Willia Bud wares of Land be グルレ 3762 Of a County Court Ocalificate Vilotor Lung lerick acyin Fru Toucher Buch cc 11,5 71264 260 pola a, Trees. con il del hito Work theree de s. to Biver Wulnut, and lucia Kining line there with 08.36 pales to white look to daid, in mice Venice. Therees with the da Nulu lo u duy or dru theur 1,30 "Nuls To a White a'me hickory and water to There noto & 60 bales to three while ands. on Juis Buican's micitary live There the dune 71 1110, 2 20 pale to the milajuh dicci 400

NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1994. We are looking forward to having you as a member next year....\$10.00.

Iron B,710 1

Surreyal for Frederick read 330 acres lord, be sule of westificate anserted His Verday Venerity mackeding driver elad dering our this had to with wh "cent bounded he factions Believe uses Comer, Recioning : (2 x 60, 35 pales low heich wild italier

Herry Ruedo, Gomers Munce with his die AH 5 M. aud, Nach Fred Venuer, 290 sules to 12 While the stor land dur withou in medico's findstin not wit The Sail Since to Periode Sugary an quellance die Muner our the launce ASS. 6 60 pales la Ita Comen a dicher un (DUN stheme) be with the daid wine pro por Lou Althice work land our ax 7, y thence 122 pulces. to Swood Stillerman s There John to to Jury Games. Theme AbE, 3% pales to Latin B Poristo Venuer Just not the more, Muce. The Some Course Verting, with The 140 pales to Noice in ducidis Concerette muchod michotica the pales to a st Humachy do, the puter to the one. The 23 4 1003 ludul (Museu / @ « March and Come

Surveyed for Frederick Unsel, 350 acres of land, by virtue of a Certificate from the County Court of Muhlenberg, lying and being on the east side of Pond Creek and bounded as follows, Beginning at two white oaks John B. Smith's corner, running N20 W35 poles to a beech and poplar Henry Uncel's corner, thence with his line S45 W and past his corner 293 poles to three white oaks and sugar tree on Sever's line, thence N5 E with the said line 33 poles to two white oaks on Jackson's line, thence with the same S85 E60 poles to the corner a hickory and black oak, thence N5 E with the said line 120 poles to a white oak and sugar ----, thence S47 E122 poles to two white oaks, thence S47 E122 poles to two white oaks, thence S6 E32 poles to John B. Smith's corner two white oaks, thence the same course continued with the said line 140 poles to William Smith's corner, thence S25 W with Smith's line 120 poles to a stone, thence N28 W36 poles to the beginning. stone, thence N28 W36 poles to the beginning.

January the 23rd 1803 Henry Unsell James Unsell

Alney McLean, S.M.C.

NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 1994!!!!!!!!! We have enjoyed having each of you as members for the last year. We are looking forward to a good association in 1994.....\$10.00. *********************

> NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

Please address ALL correspondance to: Muhlenberg County Genealogical Society, c/o Harbin Memorial Library, 117 South Main Street, Greenville, KY. 42345-1597. This includes ALL queries, book orders, questions about your ancestors in Muhlenberg County, donations of books in print or monies. ALL correspondance must go through the Society as a whole, no one individual can make decisions without the majority of the officers of the Society in agreement. With this new policy we hope to give better and faster service to those who request our help, for whatever reason.

NEW BOOK

The Circuit Court Order Book 1, of Muhlenberg County KY. has been transcribed and typed from the original. These records are not available on microfilm. This book covers the years from March 1803 to June 1807.

Lawsuits of every kind are recorded: murder, unpaid debts, hog or stock stealing, the use of profane language (swearing) in public, for not appearing on a grand jury, and numerous other reasons. (Seems a lawsuit was the proper and most common way to settle even the smallest of disputes.)

There are 102 pages, with a complete index. The price for softbound is \$14.50 and hardbound for \$19.50, plus \$2.50 shipping and handling, per book. KY residents add 6% sales tax. Order from: Muhlenberg County Genealogical Society, c/o Harbin Memorial Library, 117 South Main Street, Greenville, KY. 42345-1597.

OUERTES

Queries are free to our members. (Please print or type each query on a seperate sheet of paper, as you wish them to appear in our publication.) For non-members a charge of \$5.00 per query, with a limit of 25 words, will be charged.

DEVINE GRACE

SAMUEL DEVINE (DEVINEY) appears in the 1840 census. Does anyone have any information on him? Is he the brother of NANCY, wife of HENRY GRACE AMD JANE, wife of GREENBERRY GRACE? J.D. Trabue, 5720 N. Belt W., Ste. 34-118, Belleville, IL. 62223.

RISTEN/WRISTEN DAVIS SKIDMORE

SISK RISTEN/WRISTEN DAVIS SKIDMORE
Seek death date, burial place of LEONA SISK, b. 1816, Madisonville, Hopkins Co. KY, m. to ELIJAH RISTEN/WRISTEN, 1832 by Rev. TIMOTHY SISK, Flat Creek Baptist Church, Morton's Gap. In 1850 Muhlenberg Co. KY census, LEONA was listed with ELIJAH and 8 children. Eighth child, RUFUS WRISTEN, born May 1850; may have died then. ELIJAH remarried Nov. 1850 to NANCY SISK DAVIS, then MARY SKIDMORE. So LEONA must have died between May and Nov. 1850. Would like to know which SOSK family LEONA was from.
Sophie Fisher, 5423 S. Dyewood Dr., Flint, MI. 48532-3328.

NOTICE OF CHANGES

Beginning with Vol. 16, No. 1, each issue will contain 24 pages in regular size type. Because of increased number of pages and higher printing costs, we will increase the membership fee to \$10.00 beginning January 1, 1994. We regret the necessity of doing this but assure you will be getting the same amount of information, in a much easier to read format. We look forward to having you as a member in 1994!!!

THAT MUHLNBERG SOUND by Bobby Anderson

Destined to become the bible for thumbpickers everywhere! A factual account of how the "Merle Travis Style" evolved in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, to become internationally known as -- "THAT MUHLENBERG SOUND."

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