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Landmark Report (Vol. 24, no. 2)

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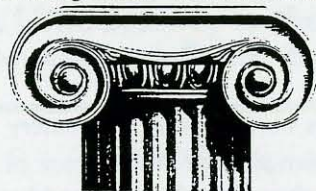


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"A future with a past"

LANDMARK REPORT

VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 2

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION OF BG/WC

DECEMBER 2004

The Landmark Association and Meyer Mortgage present

Christmas in the Grove

Smiths Grove, Kentucky

Saturday, December 4, 2004 • 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10

Can be purchased at the door of any site on tour date

Tami Meredith 774 Plum Springs Rd. (on the way)

Winner of the 2004 Jean Thomason Historic Home Award

Mary Jane Cassady 10683 Louisville Rd. (on the way)

Victorian House Bed & Breakfast 130 Main St.

Baptist Church (5th & Main)

Methodist Church (4th & Main)

Presbyterian Church (2nd & College)

Christian Church 427 College St. (5th & College)

Landmark Store at the Victorian House

(Early Bowling Green Landmarks available for only \$24)

Antique Shops will be open for business

Seasonal entertainment at several tour sites

Silent auction items include:

Set of Little Colonel books, Large framed photograph of the Helm Hotel (frame from barn wood),

The People's House: Governor's Mansions of Kentucky with dust jacket,

Irene Moss Sumpter's *Early Warren County Landmarks* (out of print), Small, brass desk lamp

See details about our Christmas Tea on page 11.

The Landmark Association
of Bowling Green-Warren
County

A non-profit organization established in 1976 as a community advocate for preservation, protection and maintenance of architectural, cultural and archaeological resources in Bowling Green and Warren County.

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Architectural Details

- On Saturday, October 9th, approximately 20 volunteers went through a cemetery documentation workshop with Robin Zeigler, preservation planner and administrator for the Historic Preservation Board. Workshop attendees learned how to read lichen covered and worn monuments without causing further damage, how to identify the most common stone materials and their critical differences, how to identify the major types of monument types found in most cemeteries, and how to complete accurate transcriptions and documentary forms. Each volunteer was loaned some basic tools and was asked to document at least one Warren County cemetery. Additional workshops for groups of six or more can be arranged with Ms. Zeigler. Contact her at 842-1953 or robin.zeigler@bgky.org. The group may select the site, and the workshop can be conducted at that location. Other volunteers can help find contact information for cemeteries, map the cemeteries using GPS, or transcribe information already available at the Kentucky Library. Those wishing to do transcription work at the Kentucky Library must have a laptop computer and a basic understanding of Microsoft Excel.
- Landmark's annual dinner meeting has been scheduled for Friday, May 20, at the Presbyterian Church. Besides a historical tour of the oldest church in Bowling Green (built in the early 1830s), attendees will hear a brief organ recital by church organist and Landmark member, Thomas N. Moody. Stayed tuned for details about this exciting event, when the Association recognizes its annual award winners.
- The BG/WC Historic Preservation Board is seeking sponsors for next year's Warren County Preserves, an HPB and Insight production about local history and preservation issues. If you would like more information, contact Robin Zeigler at 842-1953 or robin.zeigler@bgky.org
- Kudos to all those who attended the informational session for the old/new City Commissioners on the Section 106 review process. The case involving the potential LifeSkills building is currently under arbitration with the National Historic Preservation Advisory Board in Washington, DC. The Association will e-mail the results of this arbitration as soon as possible after the verdict. If you are not on our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to our secretary Melanie Smith at himelaniesmith@yahoo.com
- Approximately 45 people attended our lecture "He Didn't Do Bungalows: The Bowling Green Architecture of James Maurice Ingram." Special thanks to our speaker Jill Breit, Eileen Starr for the refreshments, Alicia Carmichael for the story in the Daily News, WKYU for airing a public service announcement, and to Mrs. Ruby Stephens Ingram who donated the Ingram architectural drawings to WKU. We'll plan an ironing party for this February in order to preserve some more of these beauties.
- We were saddened to hear of the death of long-time members, Dixie Davidson and Noble Burford.

Eliza Calvert Hall Seen at Close Range

Well Known Kentucky Author Talks of Her Work and Family Life A Many-Sided Person A Little Journey to the Home of the Creator of "Aunt Jane of Kentucky."

Henderson Daily Gleaner, August 30, 1908 by Ewing Galloway [with annotations by Lynn Niedermeier]

In summer 1908, journalist and photographer Ewing Galloway visited Bowling Green to interview Lida Calvert Obenchain (pen name "Eliza Calvert Hall") about her popular book of stories, "Aunt Jane of Kentucky. At age 52, Lida was not only an author of fiction and poetry but a wife, the mother of four children and a long-time advocate of suffrage and women's equality. This article appeared in Galloway's hometown newspaper, the Henderson Daily Gleaner, and in the Bowling Green News-Democrat. Annotations are in italics.

On shady Chestnut Street in Bowling Green lives one of Kentucky's noblest women—one who has endeared herself not only to native-born Kentuckians in every State in the Union, but to thousands of other good Americans into whose hands her book and her short stories have fallen.

Aunt Jane of Kentucky was one of 1907's most successful books by a new author. Six months after it was published, Lida and her family moved into a Dutch Colonial Revival-style cottage (which still stands) at 1353 Chestnut Street. A few days after giving this interview, Lida used royalties from her book, then in its 11th edition, to make the final payment on what she called the "house that Aunt Jane of Kentucky bought."

Eliza Calvert Hall, creator of Aunt Jane of Kentucky, is a woman of whom the people of the Park City

are rightly proud, for she not only stands among the foremost novelists of Kentucky, but belongs to the highest type of Southern womanhood. Every one who has read *Aunt Jane of Kentucky* will agree that the author of that splendid book is endowed with a great soul in tune with God and Nature and possesses the true art of expression. A broad outlook upon nature and humanity, a sensitiveness to the rights of her own sex, and ideals attained only by work, patience and painstaking, are undoubtedly the qualities that have won for her the esteem in which she is held in the literary world and the devotion of her friends and acquaintances. The secret of her literary success, to be sure, lies in her power to bring before our vision the divinity of commonplace things.

Although reviewers often erroneously described the setting for Aunt Jane of Kentucky as the "Bluegrass," they were charmed by the book's elderly narrator, Aunt Jane, and by the humor, sentiment and wisdom in her stories of the plain folk of the Pennyroyal region. Lida employed her poetic talent as well as her knowledge of Warren County lore and of domestic arts like quilting and gardening to evoke the people, sights, sounds and smells of rural 19th-century Kentucky.

Though known to her readers as Eliza Calvert Hall, she is Mrs. Lida Calvert Obenchain, wife of Major



An early photograph of Lida Calvert Obenchain ("Eliza Calvert Hall"). Lida was 52 and the mother of four when she was interviewed by Ewing Galloway.

W. A. Obenchain, a professor in Ogden College, who is as enthusiastic over her literary work as is the author herself. Major Obenchain is an ex-Confederate veteran and Southern gentleman of the old school.

William Alexander Obenchain—the Major, as he was known to all—had married Lida in 1885. Fifteen years her senior, he was stilted, old-fashioned and dignified. His favorite hobby, joked his students at Ogden College, was "discipline." He was nevertheless capable of remarkably liberal views on women's equality.

When I called at the Obenchain home a few days ago for the purpose of obtaining an interview I found the author of *Aunt Jane of*

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Eliza Calvert Hall Seen at Close Range (cont'd)

Kentucky to be a many-sided woman. She is the mother of four children whom she idolizes, and is mistress of a household that bespoke family devotion and true Southern hospitality.

When Aunt Jane of Kentucky was published in March 1907, Lida modestly hoped that her "March book" would be as successful as her "March baby"—her youngest daughter Cecilia (Cecil), born twelve years earlier. Though she pronounced all of her children "remarkable," Lida constantly worried about her family and spent much of her married life bored and exhausted by her domestic duties. A wife, she once complained, was "cook, scullion, nurse, laundress, charwoman, dining room servant, and chambermaid all in one short

Lida's daughter Cecilia (Cecil) Obenchain performed for Galloway during his visit.



twelve hours."

For several years Mrs. Obenchain has been an advocate of woman's rights, believing that women should be equal to man before the laws of suffrage and of property. As a member of the publicity committee of the Woman's Suffrage League, she has been engaged in the work of sending to the daily newspapers literature for the advancement of the equal suffrage movement. On meeting and conversing with her in her quiet little home one would not take Mrs. Obenchain for a suffragette of the British type, and she is not, for she believes in persuasion as a method of convincing the public that she is right rather than shrieking in public places and being arrested in order to excite public sympathy, as do some of her sisters in the cause. She believes in the ultimate success of the suffragists.

Since 1900, Lida had been press superintendent of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association and a valuable co-worker of its president, Laura Clay. Each week, hoping to gain editorial support and publicity for women's rights, she mailed both original and syndicated articles to newspapers across the state. Lida also served as president of the Warren County Suffrage League. While she understood the pressure on suffragists, particularly in the South, to appear respectable and ladylike rather than "shriek in public," Galloway understated her devotion to the cause. In national suffrage publications like the *Woman's Journal* and the *Woman's Tribune*, Lida wrote with intellectual

breadth, passion and stinging sarcasm of the legal and social injustices heaped upon women.

Mrs. Obenchain may have her hobbies—and if she has, I am sure they are family, literature and woman suffrage—but she is far from being narrow. There are few women better informed on all subjects of general interest. She admires President Roosevelt, for his praise of *Aunt Jane of Kentucky* did as much as anything else toward placing it before the reading public. John Brisben Walker, former editor and publisher of the *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, was first to accept and publish any of her more successful writings, and it was through Mr. Walker's publication that "Sallie Ann's Experience" became known.

The *Cosmopolitan Magazine* was nothing like its namesake of today. In addition to news, travel accounts and essays on culture and politics, it published fiction by H. G. Wells, Mark Twain, Arthur Conan Doyle and a host of lesser-known writers. The July, 1898 issue carried what would become *Aunt Jane of Kentucky's* first and most famous chapter, "Sally Ann's Experience." Inspired by stories Lida heard while circulating petitions for suffrage and the reform of married women's property laws, it was a plain-spoken indictment of husbands' insensitive and parsimonious treatment of their wives under the cover of law and scripture. "You're one o' the men that makes me think that it's better to be a Kentucky horse than a Kentucky woman," Sally Ann tells

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Eliza Calvert Hall Seen at Close Range (cont'd)

one of them. Three other stories in *Aunt Jane of Kentucky* also first appeared in the *Cosmopolitan*.

In May 1907, before an audience of 25,000 in Lansing, Michigan, Theodore Roosevelt created widespread interest in *Aunt Jane of Kentucky* when he called "Sally Ann's Experience" required reading for men who tended to "selfish or thoughtless or overbearing disregard of the rights of their womenkind." The *New York Times* took notice of his recommendation, publishing an excerpt from the story under the headline "Husbands, Love Your Wives."

"I am going to quit writing *Aunt Jane* stories next spring," she told me, as we sat on her vine-clad veranda. "I am tired of writing dialect, and I find it difficult to keep from permitting it to corrupt my English. My second book of *Aunt Jane* stories will be published next spring, and after that I will try to write something else. Little, Brown & Company, my publishers, write me that the sales of my first book, *Aunt Jane of Kentucky*, are increasing."

In portraying their characters' distinct regional identities, Lida and other practitioners of the literary genre known as "local color" fiction reproduced clipped New England accents, Creole patois, "negro dialect" and Southern drawls; thus did *Aunt Jane*, a "plain old woman" of Kentucky, speak of the "daffydils" in her "gyarden" and wives who "b'iled their clothes" in a "kittle" on wash day. *Aunt Jane of Kentucky* was in its 14th edition when Lida's second book of stories, *The Land*

of Long Ago, appeared in September, 1909. She published a short novel, *To Love and To Cherish*, in 1911 and a unique, non-fiction exploration of the weaver's art, *A Book of Hand-Woven Coverlets*, in 1912. Lida's last "Aunt Jane" story appeared in *Clover and Blue Grass*, published in 1916.

"Of your later stories, which do you like best?" I asked her.

"Next to 'Sallie Ann's Experience' comes 'The House That Was a Wedding Fee.' Of course the former is the best story I have ever written. I wrote 'A Ride to Town,' which, as have all my latest stories, appeared in the *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, when I was ill. I was feeling miserably at the time, but somehow I wanted to complete it while it was on my mind, and, too, the publishers wanted to get it as soon as possible."

Between September 1907 and October 1909, Lida published nine "Aunt Jane" stories in the *Cosmopolitan*. "The House That Was a Wedding Fee" was loosely based on a local legend about Reverend Joseph Lapsley, founding pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, and James Rumsey Skiles, who was said to have given Lapsley a house and farm as payment for performing his wedding ceremony. Local readers would also have recognized some of Bowling Green's history and landmarks in "A Ride to Town."

Then she changed the subject rather suddenly, shifting to something she seemed to like better than anything else in the world.

"You must see my four children,"

she said, "They are just the finest in all the world, and you may rest assured that I am prouder of them than of anything I have ever written, or expect to write."

Her pride in the three of them I had the pleasure of meeting a little later was wholly justifiable. The eldest, a handsome young man of pleasing address who stands six feet three, is preparing himself for the profession of civil engineer.

Lida's oldest son William Alexander Obenchain, Jr. (Alex) became a highway engineer in Kentucky and Texas, but his life would be scarred by a melancholy and restless nature and a weakness for alcohol. Later in life, he expressed pride in his mother's writing even as he blamed his family for his unhappiness. Opinions differed on whether Alex's mysterious death at age fifty was due to murder or suicide.

The second was a pretty girl of sixteen or seventeen, with many of her mother's characteristics.

Margery Obenchain was actually nearing her twenty-first birthday. She married two years later and moved to Dallas, Texas. When her daughter was diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1919, Lida, now widowed, took charge of Margery's household and two young children with a sense of both maternal duty and dismay. "I seem to have started life all over again, raising children and keeping house, when I thought I was through with such work forever," she wrote. Margery's death in 1923 left Lida deeply sad

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Eliza Calvert Hall Seen at Close Range (cont'd)



The Obenchain home at 1353 Chestnut Street, purchased with the aid of royalties from "Aunt Jane of Kentucky."

and pessimistic.

The third was a miss of thirteen summers, who has displayed remarkable musical talent. In the course of the interview Mrs. Obenchain inquired of the youngest girl's whereabouts and urged the older one to go in search of her, so that I might hear her perform on the violin, but just before I left she came in from the street and played beautifully, her mother furnishing an accompaniment on the piano.

Cecil Obenchain pursued both music and writing as an adult, but her older brother Tom claimed that she caused Lida the most trouble of any of the children. Their relationship, indeed, was complex; Cecil adored her mother even as she felt controlled by her "sick anxiety" and fondness for "ruling." After Lida's death in 1935, Cecil's mental

state deteriorated. he died in 1937, after falling from the sixth floor of a Dallas office building.

"Several years ago," the author continued, "I had a strong desire to go into journalism. I believed I could succeed, but now I do not care for it. Some years ago John Brisben Walker offered me a good salary to write for a newspaper syndicate of which he was the head, but at that time my youngest girl was a baby. I would have been compelled to give most of my attention to one or the other, and, of course, I could not give up my baby for anything.

In 1897, when Cecil was not yet three years old, Lida wrote a series of articles for the New York Times on such progressive topics as women in college, older woman-younger man marriages and the

right of the "literary woman" to exemption from household chores. One of these articles came to Walker's attention, prompting the syndicate offer and, soon afterward, his publication of "Sally Ann's Experience."

"Are you still interested in the woman's suffrage movement?" I asked her, knowing well that I was bringing up one of her favorite subjects, for she has been engaged for several years in spreading suffragist propaganda.

"I am glad you mentioned that subject," she replied. "I am really more deeply interested in woman suffrage than in literature. For some time I have been compelled to drop my work in that connection, but I will take it up again. I believe we will win in our fight for suffrage. It has been my duty to send suffragist literature to one hundred newspapers, but I am going to weed out all except those papers which give space to some of the matter I send.

On her mailing list of Kentucky newspapers, Lida tried to keep track of those which were sympathetic to suffrage and those which were not. The state's most influential paper, Henry Watterson's Courier-Journal, was in the latter category; in fact, Lida complained, there was "not a paper in Louisville friendly to Equal Rights." Despite her devotion to the cause, exhaustion and illness forced her to give up her press work in 1909. Another contributing factor was Lida's grim determination that, in light of her husband's modest teaching salary, she had to concentrate on her fiction writing in

Eliza Calvert Hall Seen at Close Range (cont'd)

order to "support the family."

"I am a believer in the public ownership of public service corporations."

This brief interjection hinted at Lida's opinion of trusts and corporate concentrations of wealth. She had other highly reform-minded political views. Writing on the "industrial problem" in the 1890s, she expressed sympathy for labor unions even though they were often associated with communism and anarchism. As a self-described woman of "very, very moderate means," Lida objected to her culture's unwillingness to assign monetary value to wives' domestic work and supported the idea of "public kitchens" to provide families with pre-cooked food and other services. Like many modern feminists, she deplored consumerism, especially as practiced during the Christmas season. In later life, however, she was skeptical of socialism's attempt

to "turn society bottom side upwards." She was, she wrote, "a firm believer in classes."

In the course of the interview Major Obenchain told of a striking little incident in his wife's struggle to "get into print."

"She sent" "Sallie Ann's Experience" to several publishers before it was accepted by Mr. Walker, all of whom returned it. Among these was a Philadelphia editor who returned the story with a polite letter in which he explained that he liked it for its literary value, but that he thought the church scene, in which Sallie Ann spoke her mind to a little congregation of her country neighbors, telling them how she viewed the treatment some of the wives received at the hands of their husbands, was irreverent. He feared the story would not be received in the right spirit. Later the story was published in the Cosmopolitan Magazine and when it became popular this same editor

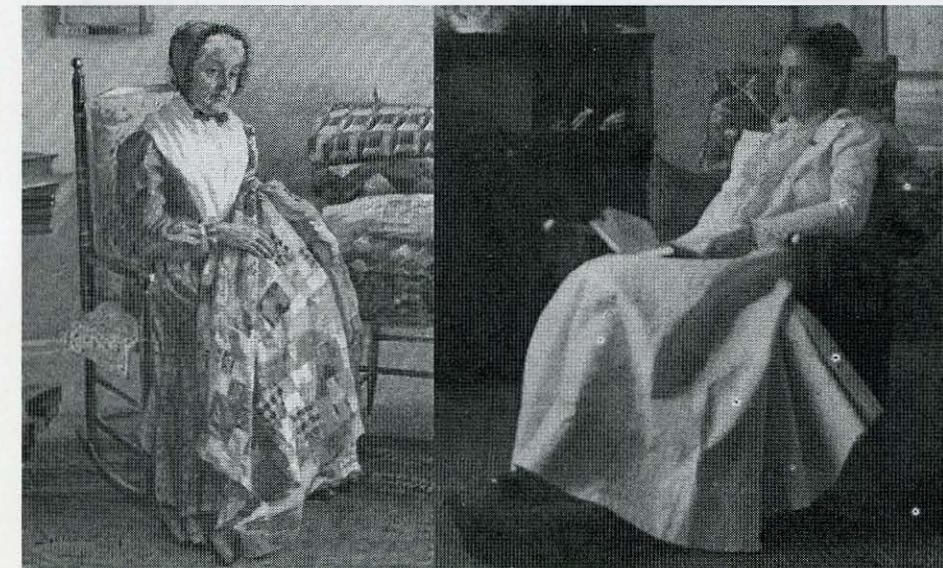
offered my wife a very large sum of money for permission to reprint it in his magazine."

The Philadelphia editor who rejected "Sally Ann's Experience" was Edward Bok of the Ladies' Home Journal. To Lida's great satisfaction, in 1907 he paid \$200 for reprint rights, equivalent to about \$3,900 today.

Mrs. Obenchain remarked that she would be pleased to recover possession of some of her short stories that were accepted and paid for by John Brisben Walker but never published, the failure to publish being caused probably by his retirement from the editorship of the Cosmopolitan Magazine.

Walker had sold the Cosmopolitan to William Randolph Hearst in 1905. In contrast to her fiction, Lida was less concerned about retaining copies of her suffrage writing, considering it to have no lasting literary value. She acknowledged, however, that if she had not worked for the Kentucky Equal Rights Association "I would never have been the author of Aunt Jane of Kentucky, so my share of literary fame and fortune rest on my belief in woman suffrage." This "many-sided" woman later began other projects—a book of poetry, one of essays and another on basketry—that, unfortunately, never saw publication, but even in 1935, struggling with arthritis in the last year of her life, Lida was ambitious. "There is so much work that I am capable of doing and want to do," she wrote. ▲

Through the "recollections" of Aunt Jane (left), Lida (right) told her stories of the plain folk of south central Kentucky.



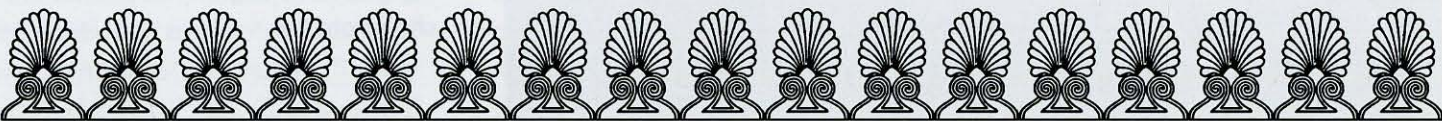
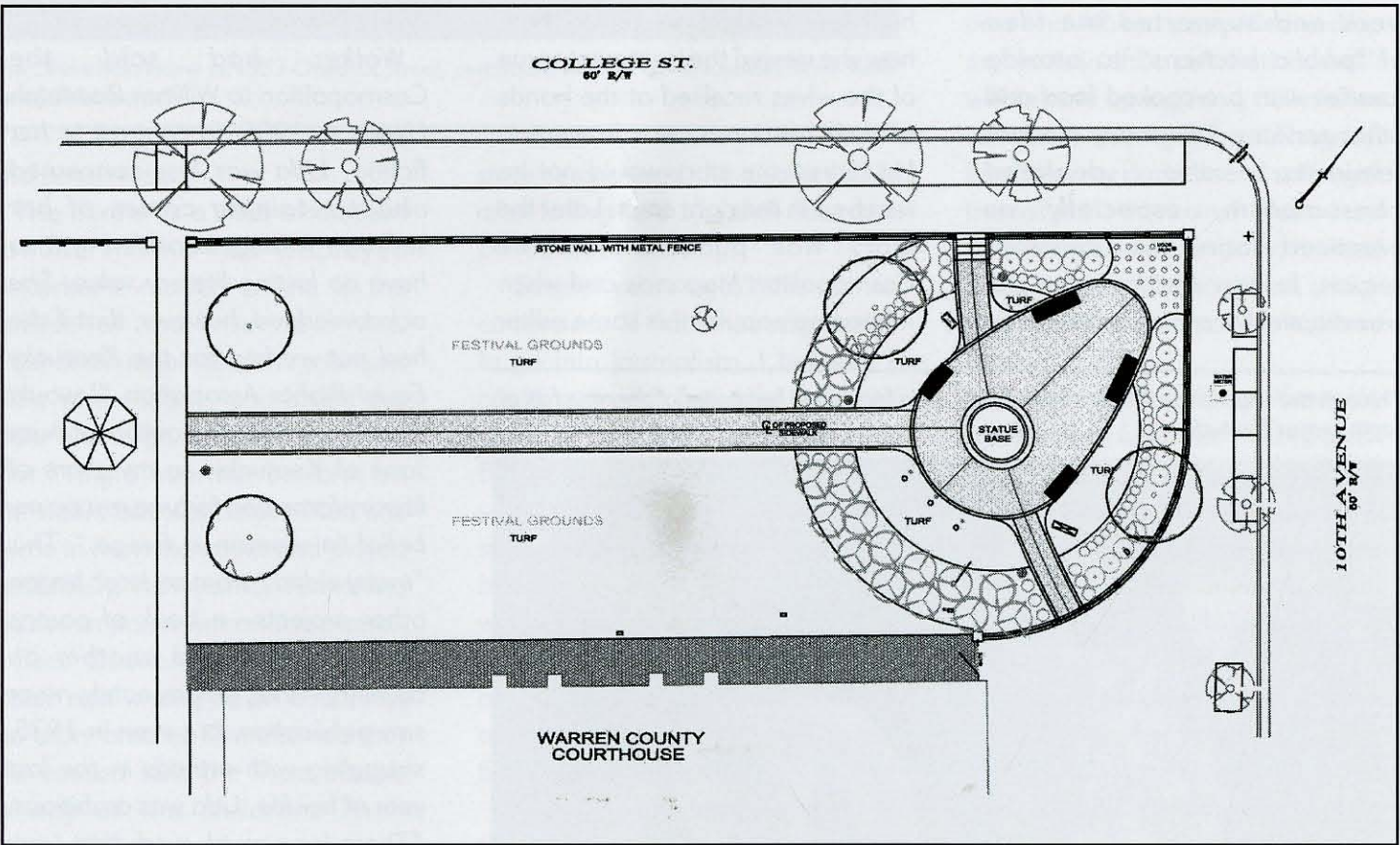
Changes at Warren County Courthouse

by Robin Zeigler

The addition of the new war memorial by Donnie Firkins in the Courthouse's northeast courtyard has prompted interest in "dressing" up that area to make it more accessible and usable. Landscape Architect, Brian Shirley has designed a series of new brick pathways and entrances that allow visitors to contemplate the memorial and that create visual and physical connections with City Hall across College Street.

There is a new entrance on College Street created by removing one section of wrought-iron railing. The railing will be used to replace another section that is severely damaged. The damaged section of fence and the limestone foundation of the fence, now exposed at the new entrance, will both be retained. The original brick walkway that ran along the side of the Courthouse was in such poor shape that it was dangerous. The bricks have been temporarily removed and will be replaced. In addition, a strip of concrete, about 12" wide will be laid between the courthouse wall and the brick pathway to help direct water away from the foundation of the building. The entrance to this walkway to the right of the main door of the courthouse had a limestone sill that was damaged beyond repair. The sill will be replaced with a concrete version, making the entrance accessible and safe for wheelchairs as well as pedestrians.

In addition, the Kentucky Historical Society has been contacted about moving one of the historical markers that currently blocks the view of the memorial to the opposite courtyard. ▲



Account Book Makes Interesting Reading

by Jonathan Jeffrey

Dr. Douglas Fugate, of WKU's Marketing Department, recently donated an interesting florist account book to the Kentucky Library & Museum. Dozens of account books—usually for general stores—are housed at the library, but this is the first one for a florist. The 472-page book documents Robinson's Flowers from 1924 to 1929. The shop was operated by Lonnie R. and Novice C. Robinson. An invoice, dated in 1926 and found inside the ledger, indicates that the operation was located at 912 State Street, but the 1927 city directory shows that the operation had moved to 432 East Main Street in the Princess Theatre Building.

Mr. Robinson had been in the retail business for many years. His parents, Emma and Rufus L. Robinson, operated a grocery and meat market at 224 East Main Street from around 1905 until 1920; they then operated a furniture store at 232 East Main. In the 1911 city directory Lonnie is shown as a clerk in his father's store. On February 26th of the following year, he married Novice C. Madison, a native of Warren County. Their union was blessed with one son, Billy G. Robinson. The 1920 census indicates that Lonnie and Novice were boarders at 925 Elm Street, and that he was making a living as a traveling salesman. Soon he was working for his father again, but in 1924 Lonnie and his wife opened Robinson's Flowers. What Lonnie didn't know about flowers his wife did, and what Novice didn't know about retail operations her husband did. It

seemed like a perfect match. During this period the couple was living on Nashville Road.

The account book is valuable for several reasons. It indicates the types of products and services offered by a florist of the time period, as well the prices paid for these items. It also represents a chronological digest of important events in the community, i.e. funerals, weddings, homecomings, showers, illnesses, dances, births of babies, etc. In addition, the ledger indicates the monthly income for the operation, allowing a researcher to gauge the success of the operation and compare it with similar operations.

Of course the chief product offered by the operation was flowers. One need only open the book to any page to find the various types of flowers used in arrangements; a significant percentage of the flowers were carnations, although you will also find entries for potted house plants, ferns, roses, sweet peas, zinnias, narcissus, chrysanthemums, tulips, hydrangea, lilies, and gladiolas. The company advertised that it carried "Old Fashion Garden Flowers." Notes made by the Robinsons indicate the occasion for which clients purchased flowers: "casket spray," "funeral spray," "cemetery vase," "fair hop,"

NEW PHONE 1397

Robinson's Flowers

MRS. L. R. ROBINSON, PROP.

PLANTS, CUT FLOWERS, FLORAL DESIGNS A SPECIALTY

912 STATE STREET

Bowling Green, Ky., 192

Sold to M. Buck.

Accounts Due When Statement is Rendered

May	16	Flowers Va.	2.50
July	25	1/2 doz Gladiolus Va	1.50
Aug	2	1/2 " " Va	1.50
"	8	1/2 doz " "	1.50
Aug	15	1/2 doz " "	1.50
Dec	20	10 Cakes & Wire 800	8.60
Columbus Ohio.			
1926			
		1 doz Tulips	2.00
May	10	To Miss Weddington	3.00
"	"	1 doz Cars to Mothers	5.10
			"OLD FASHION GARDEN FLOWERS"

"baby," "funeral wreath," and "door badge." The most consistent customers were service clubs, church organizations, and a few corporate clients such as the Burgess Funeral Home. The Robinsons's notes also often indicate the form the arrangement took: "pillow," "vase," "corsage," "star," "basket," and "spray." Perhaps one of the most unusual arrangements noted is the "broken wheel" designed for the Baker family in late October 1925; it was certainly one of the most expensive at \$30. This form has been documented across the southern United States. In a broken wheel arrangement flowers are entwined to a form in the shape of a wheel with one broken spoke. The damaged spoke represents the departed loved one. Another unusual specimen listed is a "cross" at \$10 which was made for the "Ladies KKK" in 1925. Because Mrs. Robinson enjoyed an enviable reputation as a flower arranger, clients often brought her cut flowers to arrange. In those instances the Robinsons charged \$1 for "design", and sometimes were able to also sell a vase or basket.

Of course the prices of these arrangements is of peculiar interest to us. A typical casket spray was \$10, a dozen carnations or a half-dozen gladiolas was \$1.50; a funeral spray was \$2.50; a basket of flowers \$1.75; and a dozen roses sold for \$3.00. The Robinsons also carried bedding plants, some small shrubs, bulbs, and seed. Like most florists, Robinson's Flowers retailed gift items such as vases, baskets,

bowls, planters, candy, ribbon, fabrics (tulle, chiffon, and velvet), special wrapping papers, stationery, dried flowers and bittersweet, candles and candlesticks, gift books, and pens. Perhaps the most unusual retail items were birdcages and goldfish. For several periods receipts are tallied, and it should come as no surprise that Mother's Day, Easter, and Christmas were the holidays that garnered the most income for the operation.

We do not know why Robinson's Flowers closed, but we do know that the Deemer Floral Company on Fairview bought out the successful and established Burdell Floral Company in 1922; it was a much larger operation and could weather hard times. We also know that Mrs. Robinson later worked for Deemer's and eventually retired from that business. The Robinson ledger closes in June 1929, however phone books show that the store moved in the late 1920s to the "Nashville Pike" and stayed open until the end of 1931. It seems rather clear that the shop ended as a result of the financial struggles resulting from the Great Depression. In 1932 the Robinsons purchased the old Adams farmhouse from M.D. and Clyde Hall. The farm was located off the Russellville Road on what is now known as Creason Lane. The street that runs between Russellville Road and Creason (crossing the CSX railroad) is named Robinson Street in the family's honor. Lonnie opened a hardware store briefly and in 1933 opened a liquor store that he operated until his retirement

in 1942. Mr. Robinson died in May 1955; Novice outlived her husband by 29 years. The Adams-Robinson House was razed on March 25, 1996 to make way for The Gables apartment complex.

Mrs. Robinson loved flowers. She maintained flower beds at her home, and was instrumental, along with ten other charter members, in founding the Warren County Garden Club in 1933. Her flower arranging skills were known throughout the state, and she served as a national flower show judge as well as chairman of the Southern Kentucky Fair Flower Show for many years. A signal honor came when one of her flower arrangements was featured in a National Garden Club Calendar. In 1961 the Warren County Garden Club had her name entered in the Book of Appreciation at the National Council of Garden Clubs home in St. Louis. This signal honor was bestowed on Mrs. Robinson for her "many years of service to garden clubs." At the time, she was the first person from this region to receive this honor. She had twice served the local club as president, been the first district director of the Dogwood District of Garden Clubs in Kentucky, held several other regional and state garden club offices, and was a Kentucky Colonel.

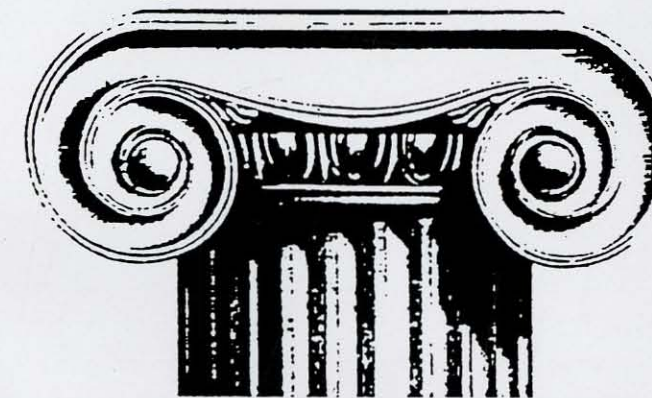
Mrs. Novice Camilla (Madison) Robinson died on March 11, 1984 at the Medical Center after a brief illness and her body was laid to rest beside her husband in Fairview Cemetery. ▲

Settle a family discussion...



In this photo, does the truck parked in front of City Hall contain refuge from a WWII scrap drive or does it contain the remains of an aircraft that crashed in Warren County in the 1940's? Contact Jonathan Jeffrey at 745-5083 if you know. ▲

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION Bowling Green-Warren County



"A future with a past"



*Celebrate the
Holiday Season
with Landmark Association
at a
Victorian Christmas Tea
to be held at
Elm Grove
the home of Steve &
Jeannie Snodgrass
1006 South Park Drive*

*Menu
Smoked Salmon Tarts
Finger Sandwiches
Mushroom Quiche
Cheese Straws
Spiced Pecans
Chocolate Dipped Apricots
Fudge
Coconut Macaroons
Gingerbread
Red Velvet Cake
Cranberry & Orange Scones
w/ Devonshire Cream
& Preserves
Hot Tea, Coffee
or Holiday Punch*

*December 5, 2004
1:00 & 4:00 p.m. seatings*

*\$15 per person
Reserved seating only
For tickets contact
Jonathan Jeffrey
270/781-2873
270/745-5083*

Perhaps you could pass this newsletter along to someone you think would be interested in supporting Landmark's efforts in historic preservation advocacy.

I (we) want to support the Historic Preservation efforts in Bowling Green and Warren County.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

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I have enclosed \$_____ to support the Irene Moss Sumpter Preservation Endowment Fund.

Checks should be payable to:

Landmark Association
P.O. Box 1812
Bowling Green, KY 42102-1812

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