

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

---

Research Collections

Special Collections Library

---

1991

## Hoskinson Family

Department of Library Special Collections

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc\\_kl\\_non\\_mat](https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_kl_non_mat)



Part of the **Genealogy Commons**

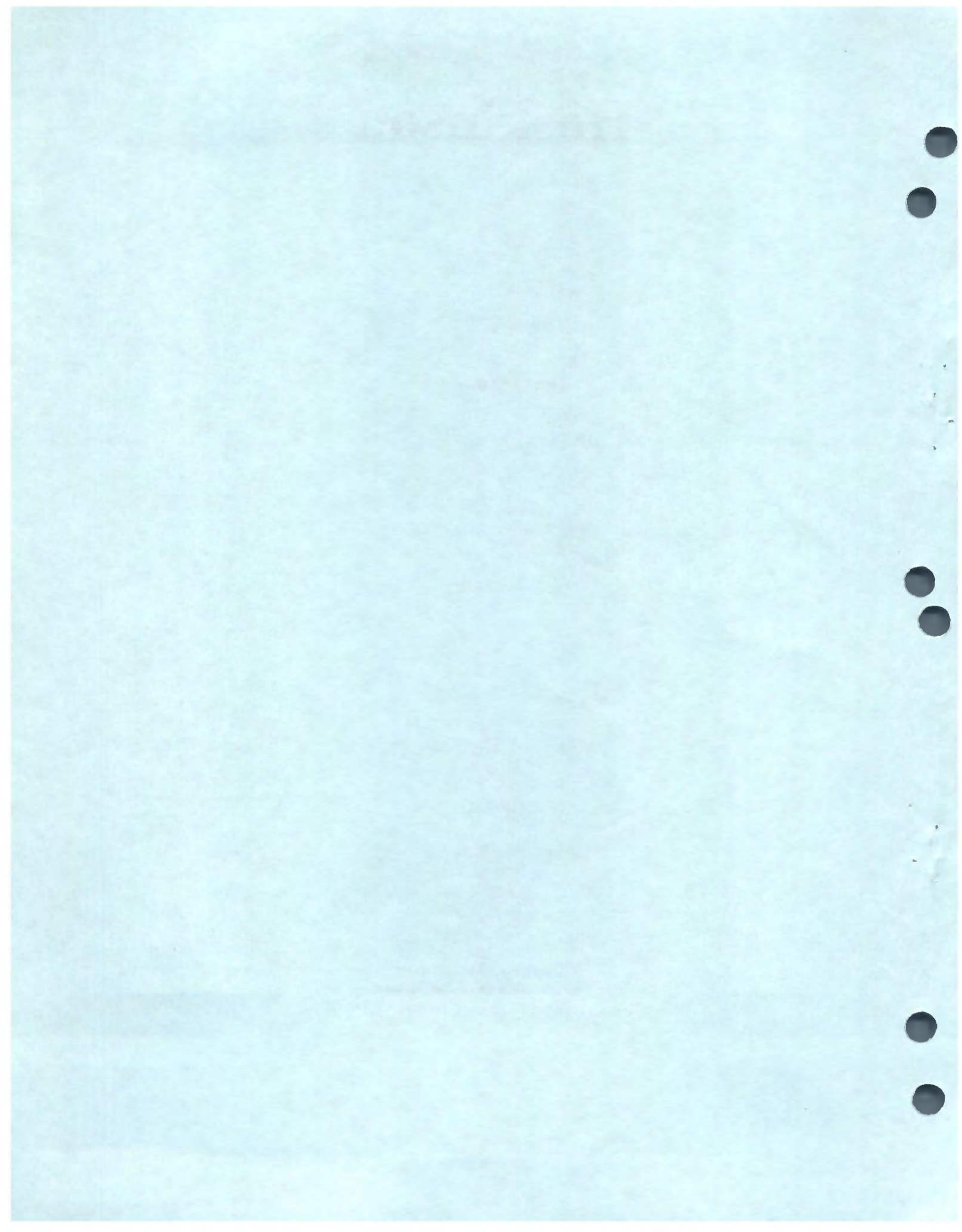
---

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

# Hoskinson

(Revised 1991)

Bobby Anderson  
7965 Ridgewood Road  
Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072



## THE HOSKINSON FAMILY

By Bobby Anderson

(Note: A debt of gratitude is owed to Thomas Leland Beadnell of Penrod, Elizabeth Estes of Owensboro, Clara Silvey of Bisbee, Ariz., Mary Penrod Gilbert of Beech Creek and Gayle Carver of Greenville for their help in researching these facts about the Hoskinson family.

\* \* \*

Billy Hoskinson was perhaps the most colorful individual of his era in the southeast sector of Muhlenberg County. He was a farmer and a coal miner; a writer and teacher; a poet and a preacher.

But in just two short generations, the Hoskinson name came and went as statistics in Muhlenberg County. Yet the blood line lives on in the Beadnells, the Mauzy's, the Penrods, the Lathams and others still living in the county.

And the Hoskinson family gave us such noteworthy countians as former sheriff and judge, Peck O'Neill, his brother, Russell, who was a lawyer and county attorney, and Randy the Candyman, Roy Howard Latham.

Billy Hoskinson was the son of H. J. and Elizabeth Howard Hoskinson of Mud River Mine. They were also the parents of Mary Ann Penrod, Roena Mauzy Latham, Elizabeth Beadnell and Martha O'Neill.

H. J. Hoskinson, known as Jack, Jackson and John Hoskinson, came to Muhlenberg County prior to 1850. His trek from his native Ohio to Indiana, and then Kentucky, possibly had a stop in Bowling Green before he came to Muhlenberg County. There is some evidence to back this though no one in the family has knowledge of a stop in Warren County. Jackson Hoskinson, whom some believe had a first name "Hugh" because of two subsequent Hugh Jackson names in the family, never referred to his first name in any documents. He married Elizabeth Howard sometime around 1838 or 1839. His first two daughters, Mary Ann (Penrod) and Martha (O'Neill) both are listed as being born in Indiana, though one census, through a probable typographical error, lists Iowa as their birth state.

When Jackson Hoskinson first came to Muhlenberg County, his home was near South Carrollton. Apparently that is where his daughter Elizabeth met and married a former navy man, Capt. Tom Beadnell. In fact, there is some suggestion the Beadnells and Hoskinsons may have even known each other in Ohio. Later, Hoskinson and his family took up permanent residence at Mud River where he was instrumental in the operation of Mud River Mine for many years.

It was only after five daughters were born that the Hoskinsons had their first and only son, Billy Hoskinson. As said, Mary Ann, the eldest, was born about 1840 in Indiana and Martha in about 1842, also in Indiana. Following at South Carrollton and Mud River were Sarah, who is Sarah Elizabeth, born in 1852; Roena (Rowena) in 1854; Josephine in 1856 and Billy in 1861.

Jack Hoskinson was born sometime around 1816 and his wife about 1817. Elizabeth was noted as missing in the 1870 census,



indicating she died sometime between Billy's birth in 1861 and the census year of 1870. Jack was not in the 1880 census, indicating he may have died prior to 1880 but after 1870. No records reveal their years of death.

Otto Rothert's "History of Muhlenberg County" has several mentions of Jackson Hoskinson and his coal and ore mining efforts at Mud River. Included also are tales told to Mr. Rothert by Jack's son, Billy, detailing mining methods at Mud River during Jack Hoskinson's days as a miner. This is must reading for coal mine history buffs.

The Hoskinson children included:

\* \* \*

MARY ANN, born 1840, married Leander Penrod on March 13, 1864. On her marriage record, her place of birth was stated as Indiana. Before her death, she bore two children, George and Cordelia Penrod. George married Euberta Vick, and lived many years at Beech Creek, listing among their children Arthur, Florence Wood, Clide, Delia Blaine Arnold, Susie Buchanan, Gertrude Engler, Ollie Shemwell, Leander, Mary Ann Gilbert and "Little" George Penrod. Cordelia (Delie) married Euberta's brother, John Vick. Mary Ann died sometime between George's birth in 1865, and 1872, when records show that Leander remarried Fanny Latham. Mary Ann is buried at Mud River.

\* \* \*

MARTHA was born about 1842, and on Aug. 16, 1866, she married Cornelius (Carnie) O'Neill, a coal miner of Irish descent at Mud River. The only records available, an 1870 census show they had three children, John, born 1867, William in 1869 and one unnamed infant, five-months-old, born in 1869 or 1870. They do not appear in subsequent Muhlenberg County censuses, and there is no record of their deaths. However, on one marriage record, that of their son, Will O'Neill, he indicates he was born at Bowling Green, though this cannot be substantiated or denied. This may have been where the O'Neill family was a part of the time when they were missing from the Muhlenberg County census. Will O'Neill was living at Drakesboro when he married Miller Kimmel on May 19, 1896. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Martha A. Kimmel. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. F. G. Jones of Drakesboro, and witnessed by J. W. Morton and J. W. Austin.

Will and Miller became the parents of three very influential children. Peck of course was born as Herscial O'Neill on June 30, 1903; Hazel in October, 1899 and Russell June 30, 1903.

Russell obtained a law degree and practiced in Muhlenberg County for many years. He was also elected as the county attorney and state representative. Russell O'Neill died in a tragic automobile accident near Nonnel on Dec. 9, 1954. He is buried at Rose Hill, beside his mother, who died in 1950.

Hazel served as postmaster at Drakesboro in the 1930s, and later was a longtime employee of a Central City bank.

Peck O'Neill was probably the most popular sheriff to ever serve in Muhlenberg County. A coal miner, he was elected sheriff in 1929, when he was 32 years old. He served four years, the limit at the time, ran for county judge in 1933 and was overwhelmingly elected. After serving four years as judge, he again ran for sheriff and was elected to another four year term in 1937. During his first term, he married Louise DePoyster of

Dunmor, daughter of J. S. and Vina Moody DePoyster. Though the marriage license was taken in Muhlenberg County, the young couple drove to Pembroke for the wedding, which was performed by Felix Sanders. Peck did not live through his second term in office, dieing in 1941, months short of completing his term. His wife, Louise, was appointed to fill out the remainder of the term. Peck, too, is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, beneath a monument erected jointly by the United Mine Workers of America, an organization he was so proud of, and the UMWA District 23 officers.

\* \* \*

ELIZABETH was the third child of Jack and Elizabeth Hoskinson, though her name was sometime listed as Sarah E. in the census. It was substantuated by Clara Silvey that the full name was Sarah Elizabeth Hoksinson. She was born in 1852 and married Capt. Tom Beadnell, a navy man turned coal miner on Dec. 28, 1868 in Muhlenberg County. According to his granddaughter, Elizabeth Estes, this would have been Tom's fourth marriage. Though the names of the other wives are not available, one was thought to have been a Tipton. The Beadnell name has always been prominent around Mud River, and over the county. Among their children: Mary Elizabeth, (Mollie) 1871-1906, married Martin Blaine; Hugh Jackson Beadnell, 1874-1895, who was shot to death at Mud River by a person identified as McIntyre; William Lee (Bill), 1878-1925, married Jemima Era Hughes (The parents of Elizabeth Estes and Thomas Leland Beadnell); Thomas Estill (Tom) 1880-1959, married LeOttie McPherson; Margaret (Maggie) 1882-1902, married Ed Hughes; George, 1884-1975, married Mary Lovell; Josephine, 1886-1985, married Walter Green Brumley and Grover Cleveland, 1890-1975, married Mary Jane Smith. Tom and Elizabeth Beadnell and all eight of their children are buried at Mt. Moriah.

\* \* \*

ROENA, sometime spelled Rowena, the fourth child, was born in 1854. She married Henry Clay Mauzy Feb. 24, 1870. Among their children were James and Delecia. No date is found on Henry's death, though it was before 1888. Roena married Rufus M. Latham, himself a widower, on April 5, 1888. A son, William Howard Latham was born in August, 1892, and he married Gertrude McKinney on July 10, 1914. Among their children are Roy Howard Latham, known as Randy the Candyman, and Jimmy Latham of California. Gertrude, after Will's death, married Claude Grayson, a widower, of Drakesboro, who by a previous marriage was the father of G. W., Wendell and Bernard Grayson. Roena is buried at Mt. Moriah.

\* \* \*

JOSEPHINE Hoskinson was born in 1856, and was still living during the 1870 census when she was listed as 15 years of age. According to both Clara Silvey and Elizabeth, "a child died young", though neither knew the name of the child. Since there is no further record of Josephine, it might be assumed this was the child which died young. and it could have been that Tom and Elizabeth Beadnell named their Josephine (Brumley) after Elizabeth's young sister.

\* \* \*

WILLIAM H. (Billy) Hoskinson, the only son of Jackson and Elizabeth Hoskinson was born at Mud River in 1861. Billy educated himself to the point he was both a teacher and a preacher. His work also shows him very proficient as a wordcrafter. In 1910 he wrote a poem about the Browder mine explosion, "The Browder

Disaster", which appeared in the Masonic Home Journal. In addition to his many contributions to Rothert's Muhlenberg County history on mining at Mud River, Hoskinson was cited by Rothert as one who contributed to the various local papers in Muhlenberg County.

Noted by a niece, Clara Beadnell Silvey, Billy Hoskinson was also an avid photographer, a hobby or an avocation quite rare in his day. He also built and used his own dark room for developing and printing pictures. This craft, he also taught to his young nephew, Thomas Estill Beadnell, who lived in the Hoskinson home for a while in his younger days. Clara recalls her father (Thomas Estill) continued this hobby in his later years.

After the death of his father, Billy Hoskinson made his home for a time in the 1880s with his older brother-in-law, Capt. Tom Beadnell, where at 18, he was a farm laborer. On March 9, 1899 he married Agnes H. Jones, a woman nine years his senior. She was the niece of W. G. Jones in 1880, when she was 27 and living in the Jones home. No date is given for her death, but Billy died in 1915 and is buried at Mt Moriah.

When he was married his home was listed in the Courthouse precinct and judging by the names of his neighbors, the area seems to be near to, and just south of Greenville. His nephew, Tom Beadnell, later to be the father of the above mentioned Clara Beadnell Silvey, lived in the Billy Hoskinson home. However, Mary Gilbert, who lives between Beech Creek and Ebenezer, on property occupied for many years by Walter and Josephine Brumley, recalls that for a while, Billy lived in a small house just to the back of the Brumley home.

In 1911, when Billy Hoskinson was living near Gus, he was a legend and subject of many stories. Many did then, and still refer to him as "Uncle" Billy Hoskinson. In 1913, he datelined a letter to Otto Rothert at Gus, Ky. That letter, on Aug. 30, 1913 detailed his full appreciation for the work of Rothert, the "Muhlenberg County History" which had just been published.

Though the name, Hoskinson, disappeared from Muhlenberg County with Billy's death in 1915, William H. Hoskinson is an example of a truism that no man shall die so long as his works continue to be read.

\* \* \*

A seventh child of Jackson and Elizabeth Hoskinson was noted in recent letters both from Elizabeth Estes of Owensboro and from Clara Silvey of Bisbee, Ariz. The child named Annie is said to have been born after Billy, and died in infancy.

# Poem by Billy Hoskinson

## THE BROWDER DISASTER

(The explosion here described happened in the mines at Browder, Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, on the morning of February 1st 1910. Thirty-four lives were lost.)

When we look into the future how  
uncertain is our view;  
How weak our human powers to  
understand  
We reach to grasp the blushing  
rose, but if we only knew,  
It may be but a thorn to pierce  
our hand.

We think we hear a joyful shout  
of merriment and fun,  
Alas! it proved to be the cry of  
pain, The greeting we expected,  
when the toiler's work is done,  
May never come to cheer our eyes  
again.

Those men who died at Browder--  
O, how little did they think  
As from their homes and little  
one's they trod,  
Their hastening steps were  
leading them to death's  
untimely brink--  
That ere the turn of day they'd  
meet their God.

Their thoughts were of the things  
they hoped another day would  
bring,  
They knew not that the spectre  
hovered near.  
And fanned their happy faces  
with His weired and sable  
wing,  
Or stooped to scream His  
message in their ear.

They were toiling there in  
darkness when the awful  
summons fell;  
From the sight, O, Holy Father,  
shield our eyes!  
While the mind beholds its vision  
of the fiery pit of hell.

And the raging tumult drowns  
the wailing cries.

Blessed Father, send them  
mercy--send it by Death's icy  
hand;

No other balm can soothe away  
their pain;

O, don't prolong this anguish  
while their angels shuddering  
stand,

And Pity stretches forth her arms  
in vain.

So tenderly we lay them down to  
their eternal sleep;

We plant the green acacia o'er  
their head;

For there are those behind them  
who upon their graves will  
weep

In memory of their consecrated  
dead.

The mother, who so fondly leaned  
upon her manly son--

The wife, whose earthly prop is  
swept away;

The prattling little infant, who,  
on eager feet, would run

To meet its father at the close of  
day.

There is no "balm in Gilead" that  
can head the fatal sting

There is no earthly price the debt  
to pay;

But even from those embers  
would some flowers of Eden  
spring,

To cheer the stricken mourner on  
her way.

Those scorched and scanty  
flowers--is there one of Adam's  
race

Could snatch them from the  
widow's trembling hand?

Let not his name be mentioned,  
let it perish in disgrace!

But shudder for the honor of our  
land.

--W. H. Hoskinson



