

Portrait of a Town: Cave City, Kentucky

A collection of photographs taken with a view camera using glass plate negatives by William R. Reynolds, Jr., the town's photographer during the early years of the Twentieth Century.

Presented in grateful appreciation for and with the assistance of the staff of the
Kentucky Library & Museum at WKU, Bowling Green, KY.

By

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and

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ABSTRACT

Some 60 photographs are displayed showing life in a small town located between the main rail and highway routes through South Central Kentucky connecting Louisville to Nashville at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. Specific plates are examined in detail in the back section of this Exhibition Notebook. The book's front sections focus on the founding and growth of Cave City, the life of William R. Reynolds, Jr., his cameras and an overview of photography and other photographers active in the area.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Several people made exceptionally strong contributions to the research behind and the display of this exhibit of photographic plates. The hours of work contributed by the following staff at the Kentucky Library & Museum at WKU – Donna Parker, Jonathan Jeffrey, Sandy Staebell, and Nancy Marshall – are almost uncountable. This quality exhibition truly reflects their skill and dedication. Timothy Mullin, Head of the Kentucky Library & Museum, has been an enthusiastic driving force for the exhibit from day one.

Because the glass negatives bore no labels and because so many years elapsed between the present investigation and the plate's exposure and development, the task of indentifying people and scenes pictured was daunting. Elisha McCabe, a student assistant at the museum, carefully digitized the plates and produced positive prints. These prints were considerably more amenable for study.

Without the focused assistance of other relatives and friends who graciously shared knowledge and family photographs, most images in this collection would be uncaptioned. Two individuals deserve special recognition. Alcenia Reynolds, wife of the photographer, had in later years, written names on the backs of photographic prints of people whom she remembered. Eddie Belle Denison was the "go to" person in Cave City. She made trip after trip to the Mary Wood Weldon Library, the South Central Kentucky Cultural Museum and the Barren County Courthouse in Glasgow in search of supporting information to explain several plates. To these, all those above, each one listed below and others unnamed, sincerest thanks extend. These are the people who made today's exhibition of the photographic work of William R. Reynolds, Jr. a reality.

Gayle Berry

Mary Jones

Ben Rogers

Hack Borden

Michael Kazin

Elizabeth Davis Rogers

Robert Cherny

Suellyn Lathrop

Z. Ray Smith

Maurae Foster

Alice Lee

James Duard Stephens

Sarah Hill

Anna Lee

Kate N. Turner

Diane L. Holland

Mary Lloyd Lunsford

Tom Turner

Linda Jolly Hunt

Nancy R. Marshall

John Campbell Withers

Pam Hunt

Sue Lynn McDaniel

Bill Johnson

Roy Dickey Reynolds



000897

Looking east along Mammoth Cave Road toward the railroad crossing. Cleve Parker talks with Vest Clark and Silas K. Clark.



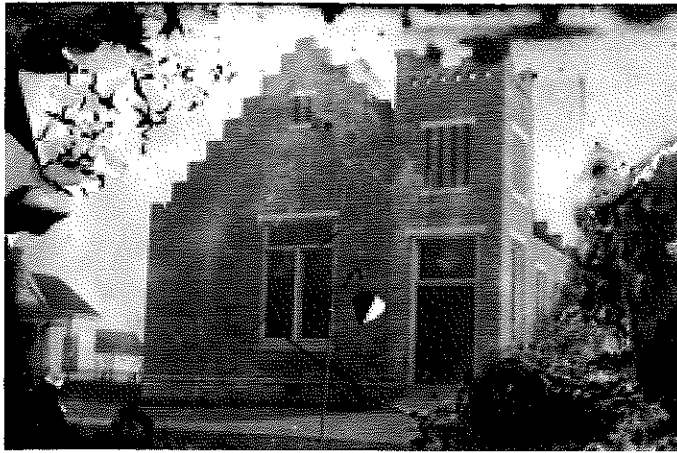
000898

There is not yet a specific identification of the event pictured in this photo. There has been speculation that this was a W.C.T.U. event, perhaps even with William Jennings Bryan as the speaker (1). The local newspapers in the first 10-15 years of the 1900s included a number of references to W.C.T.U. events, but they typically occurred in churches, not under a tent as pictured here. In this picture, a woman near the front is holding a large program with the title "The Wild Wastes," which could be a temperance title, or a lecture about travel to forsaken territories, or some other topic (2). Could Bryan have been the speaker? This title is not one known to Bryan scholars Robert Cherny and Michael Kazin, nor is it present in research about Bryan.

The tent suggests that the picture might show a Chautauqua event, as part of the traveling tent shows that were prominent in summer months in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois, as well as Kentucky and other states. Two popular circuits that sponsored events in Kentucky from around 1904 until the 1930s were Redpath and Alkahest. Chautauquas lasted one to two weeks and featured lectures, musical performances and other types of entertainment. If it were a Chautauqua event, could Bryan have been the speaker? He was a popular Chautauqua lecturer. In the summer, he tirelessly traveled from one site to another, speaking as often as seven times in that many locations in one day. A lecture that he often delivered was entitled "The Prince of Peace." Again, the title "The Wild Wastes" was not one that he was known to have used.

References:

- 1) *The Cave City Progress*, bicentennial edition (22 March 1974).
- 2) Digital enhancement kindly provided by Nancy R. Marshall, Image Librarian, Western Kentucky University.



000901

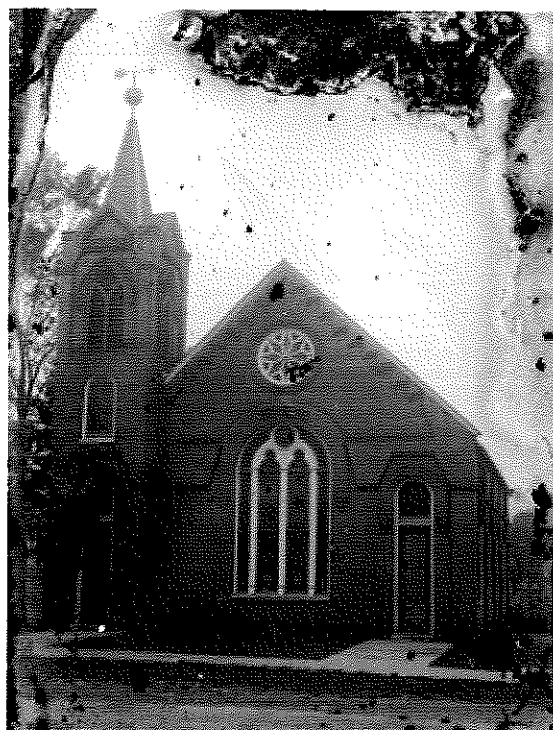
Cave City Methodist Church. The Methodist Church building dates to 1906-8, and was thus relatively new when this picture was taken around 1909-1910. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad donated the land for the building around 1905. Mr. Isaac W. Farris, a local merchant and member of the congregation, informed the *Glasgow Times* of the congregation's intention to build "a brick and stone house of worship of its own to cost \$5000" [*The Glasgow Times*, 27 April 1906, p. 3]. During the summer of 1906, the Woman's Mission Society sponsored a musical entertainment for the benefit of the church, "soon to be erected" [*Glasgow Times*, 24 July 1906, p. 3]. The new building was dedicated in May 1908. The church was redecorated in 1925 [*The Glasgow Times*, 20 Aug 1925], and in 1937, Sunday School rooms, a dining room and a kitchen were added to the structure.

As a bit of history about the congregation, at some point in the 19th century the Methodists, Baptists, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and perhaps the Presbyterians, had worshiped together in a building called the Union Church, a frame building which was built in 1869 on the corner of Third and Kirtley (now Broadway) Streets, a location currently belonging to the Christian Church. The Baptists left this ecumenical congregation in 1870 after constructing their own building, and in the period 1905-1906, the Methodists sold their part and moved to the current location when their new building was completed.



000907 left 000902 right

J. U. Gardner Dry Goods. To the left of the photos that feature the E. W. Curd store (see photos 921 and 926), one can see the edge of the porch for the J. U. Gardner Dry Goods Store. Both the Curd and Gardner stores were on the south side of Kirtley Street (now Broadway), between First and Second Streets. According to the 1910 Census, James U. Gardner, age 38 (born in August 1871), was a merchant in a general store, after having been a farmer [1900 Census]. Gardner bought the store and property from George T. Tucker for \$1250 in September 1903. The deed included the requirement that Tucker be able to rent an upstairs room for 4 years at \$5 a month. In February 1905, Gardner bought the stock of groceries owned by W. E. Burnett of Cave City and had already built up a good trade [*Glasgow Times*, 21 Feb 1905, p. 1]. Gardner's wife Leona (born in May 1882) served as an assistant in the store, and by 1920, both James and Leona were still employed in a general store [1920 Census]. Perhaps the two people on the left in photos 902 and 907 are Mr. and Mrs. Gardner. According to census records in 1910 and 1920, there were no children.



000903

References

- 1) Barren County Deed Book 14, p. 58; Deed Book 52, p. 323; Barren County Court Records: J. T. Martin & C vs. S. H. Tabb & Co. petitions, 15 Jan 1916 and 3 Mar 1916.
- 2) Sanborn maps of Cave City, KY January 1901 and February 1909.
- 3) D. W. Covington, series of three photographs, 5 February 2009.
- 4) "Cave City Good Ole Days, September 9 & 10, 2005" [36 p. brochure, n.p.] p. 21.
- 5) "Liberty Lights," 32, August 1994.

The roots of Cave City Baptist Church lie in New Hope Baptist Church that met in Jennie, KY in the 1820s. After the church moved to Cave City, it met for 11 years in a Presbyterian meeting house. In 1879 the church bought the first of two lots shown as lot 76 on the town plat of Cave City for a new church building. The two lots fronted 74 feet along the south side of Kirtley Street at address 209 (Ref. 1). A frame structure was built on this site. It served the church for ten years before it was struck by lightning and destroyed. In 1893 a new brick building was erected. Although an early view of this church has not yet been uncovered, several pieces of evidence suggest that most of the brick church structure shown in plate no. 903 is indeed the same as the brick church still standing at the same location today.

In the first instance, the plan of the Baptist church shown in early twentieth century, Sanborn maps of Cave City clearly indicates a tower at the east front corner of the building in precisely the same location shown in plate no. 903 (Ref. 2). Secondly, the brick arch details terminating in drooping pendants over the two entrance doorways and the large front window are duplicated in the arches capping the side windows in both plate no. 903 and the surviving building. Finally large, trapezoidal capitals are replicated atop the five brick pilasters along each sidewall of the church to create four panels containing the sidewall fenestration (Ref. 3).

The church was extensively remodeled in 1925 and again in 1939. As part of the remodeling in 1925, the floor of the church was elevated, the rose window was eliminated, architectural lines and details in the front elevation were greatly simplified and the two front entrances of the church were changed to a single entranceway. Extra room for Sunday School classes derived from the new modifications to the front and the new basement that was dug under the front half of the former building. A bequest from the late Miss Mollie Mills enabled these renovations. A gift from Arch B. Davis in memory of his parents Hardin Young Davis and Fannie L. Curd Davis [For additional information about the Davis family, see the caption and plate no. 924.] provided the funds for new pews, wall-to-wall carpeting and refinishing and other repairs in 1939 (4).

In 1975 Cave City Baptist Church brought the property at the corner of U. S. 31-W and Highway 70 where the town's brick schoolhouse had once stood (Plate no. 935). Ground was broken on this property for a new place of education and worship on March 31, 1985. The church's former buildings and lands in town lot 76 were sold, and another church now occupies these buildings (Ref. 5).



000904

In the early 1900s, there were several houses in Cave City with similar floor plans and front elevations (1). Five of these are listed in the table below.

House Location	Observations Applicable in 1909
Mammoth Cave Road	Wm. H. Lancaster residence behind Webb & Harlin Stable
Railroad Street	Located between Livery Stable and the Cave City Hotel
312 Owen Street	James L. Farris residence
320 Owen Street	W. R. Handy residence
Third Street	Ernest Farris residence built in 1909

Newlyweds, Ernest and Bertha Farris, selected this plan for their house in a new subdivision developed at the end of Third Street by Henry E. Reynolds. Reynolds had recently purchased approximately five acres of farmland from P. L. Terry on January 7, 1909 (2). Corners of the Farris lot were frequently referenced in the deed descriptions as other lots quickly sold in the development (3). Construction soon started on the Farris house and was well along by June 1909. As one of the first homeowners in the subdivision, the Farris family felt they were living in the cornfields (4). The Farris house on Third Street was extensively modified in 1941 including replastering starting at the lathes and removal of a front hall. The "Then and Now" section of the Exhibition Notebook shows the front elevation of the Farris house in February 2009.

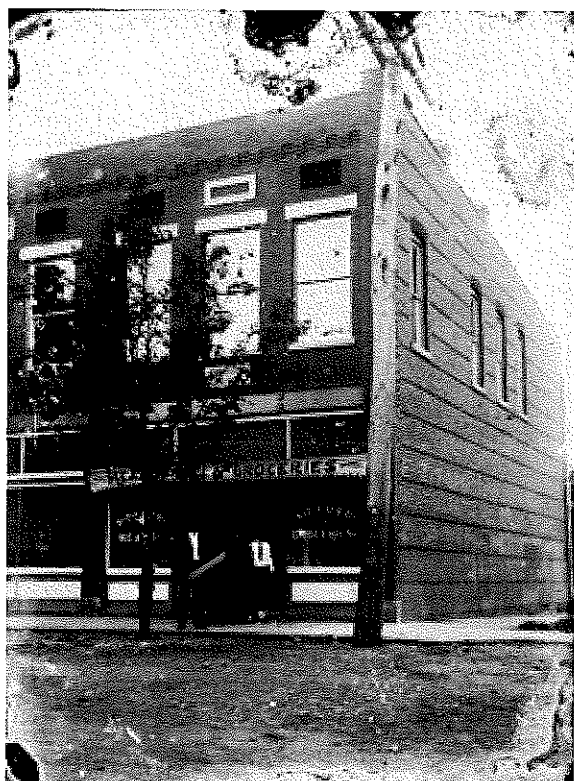
The decorative trim of the house pictured in these plates makes it clear that it is not the W. R. Handy house. (See the map of Cave City in the Exhibition Notebook.) A

cousin who grew up in the Ernest Farris house during the 1940s and 50s could not recall gingerbread trim in their house (5) such as the trim so clearly detailed in plate no. 904. There is no satisfactory correlation between the estimated ages of the individuals pictured and James L. Farris, who occupied a similar house on Owen Street (6). Therefore, other options must be explored in understanding plate nos. 904, 920 and 922.

It is tentatively proposed that these three plates show the William H. Lancaster residence from different vantage points and different periods in time. The paling fence in plate no. 920 duplicates the design of the fence in the foreground of plate no. 897. It is this latter plate showing the bend in the road, the railroad crossing in the distance and the easily recognizable front of Walton and Dick's General Store beyond the tracks that links the views of 904, 920 and 922. Moreover, note the acute angle between the front walk and the front edge of the front porch beneath the windows evident in plate no. 904. This angle is preserved between the walk and front of the house still standing at the first western bend of Mammoth Cave Street beyond the railroad crossing today. (See the "Then and Now" section of the Exhibition Notebook for photographic confirmation of this conclusion.) Although the Sanborn map of Cave City for 1909 does not extend far enough west to capture this bend in the road and the house plan, deed records make clear that a house stood on property on the north side Mammoth Cave Road and behind the Livery Stable as early as 1902 (7). Given the similarity of leafing shrubs and trees and the front screen door swung wide open in plate nos. 904 and 922, it is easy to imagine that both plates present William H. Lancaster and his wife Louisa perhaps on the same day.

References

- 1) Sanborn maps for Cave City, KY (January 1901 and February 1909).
- 2) "Glasgow Times," 44 (1 January 1909); Barren County Deed Books, 66 (16 March 1909) 542 and 56 (7 January 1909) 426; "Glasgow Times," 44 (23 March 1909) and (27 April 1909).
- 3) Barren County Deeds 57 (21 April 1909) 274; 56 (1 April 1909) 542 and 57 (29 March 1909) 99.
- 4) "Glasgow Times," 44 (15 June 1909), Sarah and Lloyd Greene, conversation with the author (22 April 1984).
- 5) Mary Lloyd Lunsford, communication with the author (28 February 2009).
- 6) U. S. Census, 1910.
- 7) Barren County Deeds, Book 217 (18 February 1987) p. 260; Book 54 (27 October 1902) p. 64.



000905

E. T. Ford Meats and Groceries. The building where the E. T. Ford Meats and Groceries store was located is still standing at the corner of Kirtley (now Broadway) and Second Streets in Cave City. One wonders if the children in photo 908 are thinking of candies that they might buy in the store. E. T. or Edwin T. Ford was the son of a farmer (Eugene Ford), and his wife Mary Lizzie was the daughter of prominent Cave City merchant Ben Curd. Ford bought the lot for his store from banker H. Y. Davis for \$1100 in 1905. In the 1910 census, about the time the photo was taken, Edwin was 26 and had married his wife Mary in 1904.



000906

This photo shows two children standing in front of the arbor bench in the park on the east side of the railroad track in downtown Cave City. The bench is also shown in photos 946 and 967.



000908

See plate no. 905.



000909

Samuel Davis Caldwell, head of house

1868-1962

Nellie Smith Caldwell, wife

1876-1936

Charles Marion Caldwell, became a banker

5-22-1896 - 2-2-1962

Gertrude Caldwell Fisher, daughter; married T. P. Fisher

5-8-1900 - 1-22-1980

Douglas W. Caldwell, became a banker

3-8-1902 - June 1966 in Miami

Samuel D. Caldwell, Jr., son

5-12-1908 - 1-7-1964

H. Luther Caldwell, banker in Hart County

2-5-1887-

George C. Caldwell, brother

2-18-1890 - 12-23-1928

Helen H. Caldwell Scott daughter; married H. B. Scott

2-17-1916-

Mary S. Caldwell, daughter

1921-

Sam Caldwell House. This large house was the home of Sam D. Caldwell, President of the People's Bank and onetime mayor of Cave City. The dwelling faced the railroad and was located on Railroad Street, on the west side of the railroad tracks, north of current Grinstead Road; unfortunately, it is no longer standing. Caldwell bought two tracts of land, totaling 8 acres, in 1903. A newspaper item in 1905 indicated that he was "having a handsome dwelling erected, which will add greatly to the beauty of our town" [*Glasgow Times*, 8 Sept 1905, p. 1]. Completion of the house likely occurred in late 1905 or in 1906. Sam Caldwell started his banking career as a cashier in the H.Y. Davis Bank, but then founded the People's Bank in January 1897. Elkanah Dickey became its first president, and Sam Caldwell succeeded Dickey as president, a position he held until his death in 1962. The bank's directors in 1909 included L. L. Wells, George M. Smith, and P.S. Branstetter [ad for the People's Bank, *Glasgow Times*, 5 Jan 1909].

Living in the house at the time of the picture (around 1909-1910) were Sam (age 41 in 1910), his wife Nellie (33), son Charles (14), daughter Gertrude (10), son Douglas (8), son Samuel Jr. (2), and Sam Sr.'s brothers Luther (28) and George (20). In 1910, Luther was a clerk in a dry goods store and George was a book keeper in a bank. Two children who came to this household later were daughters Helen and Mary.

References:

"Glasgow Times," 45 (5 July 1910); Eddie Belle Denison, communication with the author (1 March 2009).



000910

The Martin and Gardner store, with its scalloped awning, handled general merchandise. In the photo, there seems to be a mix of employees and shoppers in front of the store's windows. Joseph T. Martin (born 1873) and William Gardner (born in 1880) were the namesakes of this store. The store was already in operation when Gardner and Beatrice McCreary married in January 1906 [*Glasgow Times*, 23 January 1906, p. 1]. Business must have been good, because the 1909 *Glasgow Times* [27 April 1909] indicated that "Mr. W. M. Gardner of Martin and Gardner will build this spring between his father's residence and Mr. M. L. Jolly's."

By 1920, Gardner, his wife Beatrice, and their 3 children (Laurena, Gladys and George) had moved to Louisville where William was working as a cabinet carpenter in a piano factory. In 1916, Martin indicated in a Cave City Baptist Church deposition that he was employed at E. T. Ford's store, so the Martin and Gardner store was likely not in business by that time. Mary Martin was a widow by 1920, and she and her 5 children (Lucille, Virginia, Joe E., Mary, and Laura) were living with her parents in Barren County; Mary's occupation was listed as farmer. Joseph Martin had died in May 1918 after suffering for several months with tuberculosis [*Glasgow Times*, 21 May 1918, "Mr. J. T. Martin Dead," p. 2]. His survivors were his wife and children, his mother, a brother, and a sister, Mrs. E. T. Ford, whose husband operated a grocery store in Cave City (see photos 905 and 908).



000911

This view of railroad workers and five wheelbarrows was taken on the east side of the L. & N. Railroad tracks looking west. The camera is some 250 feet north of the Train Depot and about in line with part of the front yard of the Sam. D. Caldwell house, hidden by tree foliage (1). At the left of the image is the rear of the northeast elevation of the Cave City Hotel shown in plate no. 964.

Since so many of the plates in the William R. Reynolds, Jr. collection were taken around 1910, it is reasonable to anticipate that some of the following railroad section workers living in Cave City or the adjoining Magisterial District No. 6* are included in this image (2):

Name	Personal Data
William M. Prater	age 40
Henry L. Harper	age 18
Eugene Causley	age 22
Joseph H. Jackson	age 46
Robert R. Lancaster*	age 28
Isaac Maulden	age 32
Henry Prater	age 17
Elijah Sanderson	age 22



000912

This two-story dwelling between the rear of a warehouse extending to Kirtley Street and First Street north of the People's Bank and a drug store may possibly be the home of Charles W. Boston and his family. Boston was a retail store merchant in 1910. To the far right is William F. Boston, the father of Charles. The family's names and ages according to the U. S. Census in 1910 are:

Charles W. Boston	37
Annie M. Boston	29
Mary B. Boston	11
Chas. B. Boston	8
Mabel J. Boston	1 and 2/12
William F. Boston	75

The smallest lad and the baby in arms would not have been part of the Boston family in 1910. If the assignment is correct, this plate becomes one of the latest views in the collection because Wilson M. Boston was born on 14 January 1913.

Mary E. Boston, wife of William F. Boston, died of paralysis on December 18, 1907 at Bearwallow, KY. She was the daughter of the late Solomon Martin. At the time of Mary Boston's death, 10 of her 13 children, two girls and eight boys, were still living.

Reference: *The Glasgow Times*, 43, no. 17 (14 January 1908) p. 2



000913

Notice the sign over the right-hand door. Ads for Dr. Porters Antiseptic Healing Oil are found in multiple issues of the *Adair County News*. The oil sold for 15 cents, 30 cents and 55 cents.



000916

Winter scene at the William R. Reynolds, Sr., place at the base of Prewitts Knob.



000917

Winter scene at the William R. Reynolds, Sr., place at the base of Prewitts Knob.



000918

In horse and buggy days, a family member or other chaperone to accompanied dating couples on outings (1). One of the young ladies in this plate might be just such a chaperone.

The view camera here has been set up north of the front porch of the Cave City Hotel on Railroad Street. The porch of the hotel is shown in plate no. 964. Directly south of the horse and surrey in the foreground, one sees the north roof peak and chimney of the Train Depot over the heads of the woman and man sitting in the left side of the surrey. Further across the tracks beyond the woman holding the reins and to her right appears the rear, two-story section of the grocery store at 207 First Street (2).

References:

- 1) *The Cave City Progress* (22 March 1974).
- 2) Joel Wilson [compiler] **Reflections of Glasgow and Barren County** (D-Books Publishing, Inc.: Marceline, MO, 2000) p. 55; Sanborn Map of Cave City, Kentucky (February 1909).



000919

The Webb and Harlin Livery, Feed and Sale Stable stood immediately west of the old L. & N. Railroad track at the intersection of Mammoth Cave Road and Railroad Street. John A. Webb and John B. Harlin bought the stable on June 8, 1909 from J. S. Vaughn (1). Shortly before that time, a hitch shed was added along the length of the north side of the stable (2). As a photograph indicates in the "Then and Now" section of the Exhibition Notebook, both the stable and hitch shed are extant Cave City landmarks. The stable was one of the first structures seen by train passengers stepping onto the platform of the Train Depot. Two of the men pictured in the plate are Ernest Farris (right) and Henry E. Reynolds (to the immediate left of Farris). Farris was the husband of the photographer's sister Bertha, and Henry was the oldest brother of the photographer. The two men on the left could be the stable's horse trainer, William Crabtree, and/or one of the stable managers, Webb or Harlin.

References

- 1) *The Glasgow Times*, (June 15, 1909); Barren County Deed Records, 56 (June 8, 1909) 592; Deed records conflict with the spelling of Harlin shown in the plate and the U. S. census record for 1910.
- 2) Sanborn maps of Cave City, KY (January 1901 and February 1909).



000920

See plate nos. 922 and 904.



See plate nos. 920 and 904.



000924

Hardin Young Davis, Sr., head of family,
6-6-1847 - 2-1-1924

Fannie L. Curd Davis, wife of H. Y. Sr.
3-26-1853 - 6-28-1938

Ernest Curd Davis, banker
1873-1935

Lizzie Ford Davis, wife of Ernest
1877-1952

Samuel B. Davis, banker
1876-1935

Lera Dickey Davis, wife of Samuel
1879-1964

Hardin Young Davis, Jr., banker in Upton
1878-1938

Elizabeth Curd Davis, wife of H.Y. Jr.
1885-1972

Fannie Davis, later married Chester Shaw
1881 - 6-29-1965

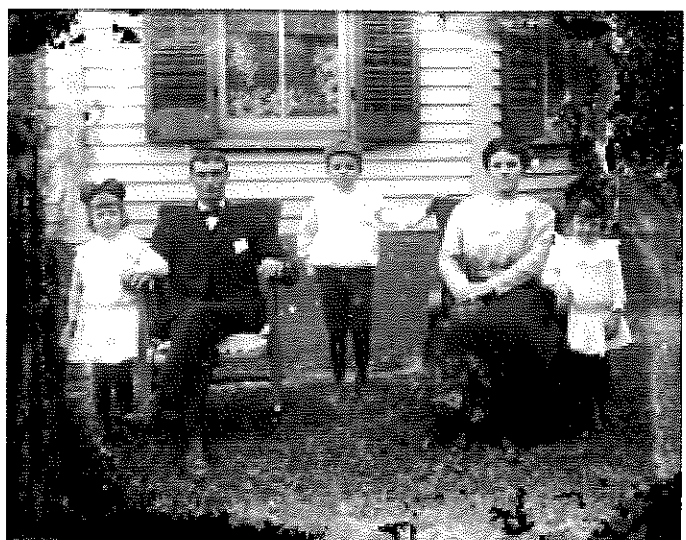
Arch B. Davis, banker in Louisville
1883 - 7-1-1958

Appreciation is expressed to Ben Rogers and Elizabeth Rogers of Glasgow for the identity of the people in this picture.

The prominent banking family of H. Y. Davis is pictured on the front porch of the large two-story house that until recently stood on the corner of Second and Duke Streets in Cave City. The people in the picture are as follows: back row: son Samuel and his wife Lera Davis; H.Y. Davis, Sr., and his wife Fannie; son Arch B. Davis; son Ernest Curd Davis and his wife Lizzie.

Front row: Elizabeth Davis (wife of H.Y. Jr.); daughter Fannie Davis; son H. Y. Davis, Jr.

H. Y. Davis, Sr., opened his bank on May 12, 1888, in a 2-story building close to the railroad tracks. *The Herald*, a short-lived Cave City newspaper in 1888, predicted success for the bank, and indeed, it did thrive. The first day's depositors included Henry Fishback, O. F. Curd, William Wells, C. L. Caldwell (father of Sam Caldwell), and J. B. Curd [*The Cave City Progress*, 22 March 1974, Section 2, p. 4]. In 1909, the H. Y. Davis bank moved into a new building with a "large, steel-lined, fire and burglar proof vault" [*Glasgow Times*, 26 Jan 1909, p. 3]; the new location was on the north side of Kirtley (now Broadway) Street. The bank's directors in 1909 included W. H. Sink, B. L. Wilson, C. C. Redford, H. Y. Davis, Sr., N. T. Carden, E. P. Barlow, Henry Eubank, and E. C. Davis [ad for the H. Y. Davis Bank, *The Glasgow Times*, 8 Jan 1909, p. 2]. All four sons of H. Y. Davis, Sr., entered the banking business. As H. Y. Davis, Sr., retired, his son Samuel became the president and son Ernest was the cashier of the Cave City bank. H. Y. Davis, Jr., served as a bank president in Upton, Kentucky. Arch Davis began his career in the Cave City bank of his father and moved by way of a Glendale bank to Louisville where he served as secretary of the State Bankers Association beginning in 1909. He retired as a vice-president of the bank that became Citizens Fidelity Bank and Trust Company [*Courier-Journal*, 2 July 1958, Section 2, p. 1].



000925

Given the strong resemblance between the man pictured in this plate and Ernest Farris (plate no. 948), it is tempting to connect this family with a brother of Ernest. Limited work with the census records to date has not confirmed this connection. At least what can be seen of the house suggests that it may have a plan similar to the house built by Ernest Farris and other like houses in Cave City during the early 1900s. See the related discussion for image no. 904.

References U. S. Census records, 1910, 1900, 1880 and 1850.

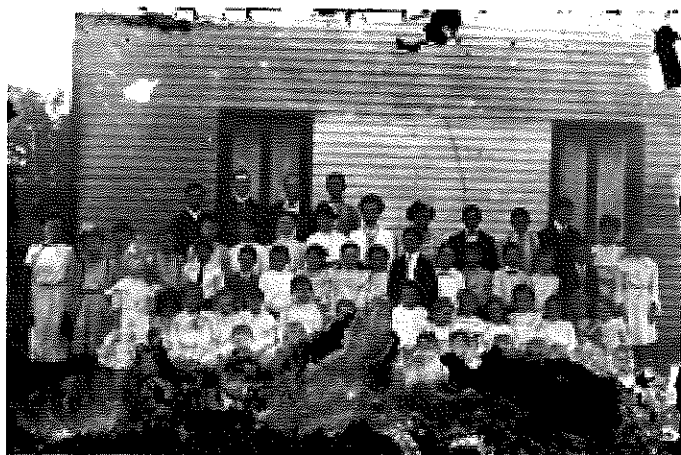


000926

E. W. Curd Dry Goods. In the latter part of the 19th century, the Curd family members were prominent merchants in the Cave City area and opened the first mercantile store there; it was located at First and Kirtley (now Broadway), a location that later became the Peoples' Bank, and is now, once again, a general store, specifically a tienda. Ben D. Curd (1826-1898) was an early dry goods merchant who established his store in 1860, and his sons Daniel (1862-1918) and Edward W. (1864-1923) continued the tradition. Edward's son Daniel S. Curd (1890-1937) became a junior member of the dry goods and general merchandise firm of E. W. Curd.

The E. W. Curd Store advertised prominently in *The Glasgow Times*. A 1906 ad featured a 3-pound can of kraut for 8 cents. The January 8, 1909, ad featured a "Clearance Sale" with calico cloth priced at 4.5 cents a yard and Brogan shoes on sale for \$1.20. Granite-ware was inexpensive, with a 4-quart granite stew kettle available for 10 cents in the March 30, 1909, newspaper. Some ads occupied the entire front page, such as the "Closing Out Sale" in the May 21, 1909, edition. The store window in photo 926 shows some full-page ads taped to the glass. The June 1909 *Glasgow Times* indicated that E. W. Curd sold his two business houses in Cave City to Mr. C. Y. White for \$2500, and an ad in October 1909 advertized the "fall opening of E. W. Curd and Sons dry goods and groceries. The fall 1909 merchandise included items in a November ad, with shirts and drawers for 75 cents, and in the grocery line, a 100-pound sack of cabbage for the low price of \$1.00. The heavy amount of newspaper advertizing, while more typical of stores in the county seat of Glasgow, distinguished the E. W. Curd Store from other Cave City merchants.

Ben D. Curd	dry good merchant	1826-1898
Daniel Curd	son of Ben D.	1862-1918
Edward W. Curd	son of Ben D.	1864-1923
Daniel S. Curd	son of Edward W.	1890-1937



000927



000928

The Orphan Brigade was the popular name for the First Kentucky Brigade of the Confederate Army. Of the original 4000 or so men, only about 500 survived the war. The men of the brigade fought in such battles as Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Stone's River, Missionary Ridge, and Atlanta. On August 6, 1909, about one hundred of the remaining veterans from the brigade held a reunion in Cave City, where about 6000 people gathered to celebrate and commemorate the work of the brigade. The veterans and other visitors arrived at the event in carriages and by trains from Louisville and Glasgow. Photo 928 shows the train depot; the photographer was facing south, and the brightness of the background suggests that people were awaiting the morning arrival of the veterans. Most of the veterans who attended the event were from Kentucky, but a few were from other states, including Missouri and Tennessee.

The parade was the featured part of the day and included two bands. Captain John H. Weller, of Louisville, headed the procession in a carriage. E. W. Curd, a Cave City merchant (see photos 921 and 926), carried the Confederate flag, with the veterans marching behind him. The bands played "Dixie," "My Old Kentucky Home," and "Bonnie Blue Flag," tunes that were heard when the soldiers first left for the war in 1861. The parade was preceded by a brief business session where Professor Lucien N. Richards, a teacher in Cave City, welcomed the veterans and other guests, and Judge George M. Bohannon of Barren County gave an address. Men who gave additional speeches included Col. E. Polk Johnson, Henry George of the Confederate Home in Pewee Valley, and the Rev. William Stanley of Louisville.

The Presbyterian Church, located on the south side of Quigley Street, provided a shady yard for the big feast that was given at lunchtime. The meal included roast beef, roast mutton, boiled country ham, and fried chicken. The report was that "cakes and pies were in profusion." There



000928

was so much food that all the guests were able to eat and there was plenty left over.

Col. E. Polk Johnson offered an appreciative resolution to "the citizens of Cave City and Barren County for the generous hospitality so graciously extended to us, which has made each of us feel as though we were indeed at home and among none who were not our friends." He also expressed thanks to the Louisville and Nashville and Illinois Central railroads for "a reduction of rates to those attending the reunion."

At the end of the celebratory day, a band of young women dressed in white, and riding on a wagon (see photo 945), escorted the veterans to the train depot. The women sang war-time melodies and popular songs of the day. In the photo of the wagon, the stars and stripes decorations are evident.

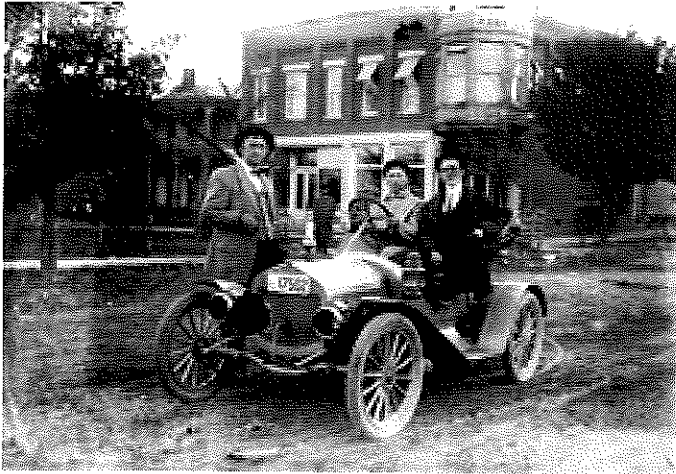
H.Y. Davis, Sr., was the chairman of the arrangements committee. Those assisting him included the following: Sam D. Caldwell (see photo 909), J. F. Vancleve, E. W. Curd (see photos 921 and 926), Charles Y. White, Henry E. Reynolds, Charles P. Allen, Joseph T. Martin (see photo 910), Isaac W. Farris (see photo 901), and George T. Gardner. Most of these men were merchants in Cave City at the time, while Davis and Caldwell were presidents of the two local banks.

One can read more about the reunion in *The Glasgow Times*, 6 Aug 1909, p. 4, and the article by Roah Griffin, "March over Old Ground, *Courier-Journal*, 7 Aug 1909, p. 2. Other photos of the reunion appear in the *Cave City Progress*, 22 March 1974, bicentennial edition.

See also plate no. 967.



000929



000931

From the vicinity where Kirtley Street in Cave City crosses the railroad tracks, this view shows First Street and the People's Bank behind the car. Silas K. Clark is talking with the car's driver and George Caldwell, brother of banker Sam Caldwell. Note the Michigan license tag.



000933

See also plate no. 971, images a21 through a25

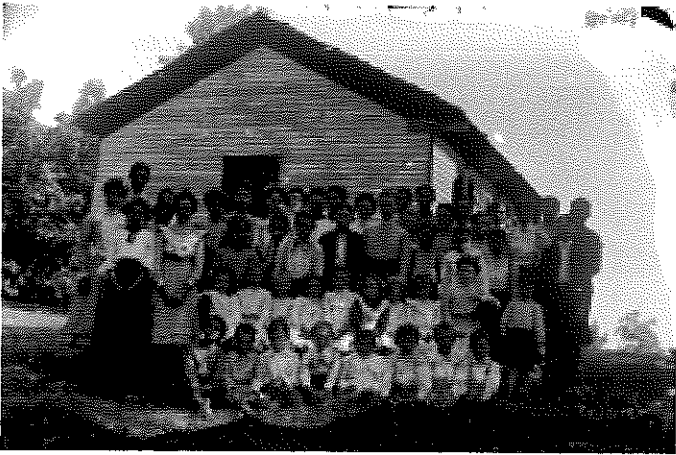


000934



000935

Cave City School. The camera is looking east near the intersection of US 31-W and KY 70. The principal at this time was Lucian N. Richards. According to *The Glasgow Times* for June 28, 1910, the teachers for 1910-11 were Mrs. J. R. Branson, Nellie Richards and Beulah Ferguson.



000941



000943



000944

This photo suggests a recreational outing, perhaps a picnic, and some uncharacteristic "tree-climbing" behavior of young ladies. The woman in the middle was Laura White, who at some point was courted by the photographer. The woman on the bottom is Mary Reynolds, oldest sister of the photographer.

Mary Elizabeth Reynolds,
12-26-1875 - 3-10-1940

Laura White, who later married Robert Barbour,
11-??-1883 - 6-4-1972



000945

See plate no. 928.



000936

Evelyn Clark Reynolds.



000938



000939

Bertha Reynolds Farris, the photographer's sister, shows her flair for dress in this photo. It is likely that she was a relative newly-wed in this photo, since she and Ernest were married on December 23, 1908, at the Tulane Hotel in Nashville [*The Glasgow Times*, 1 Jan 1909, p. 1]. Ernest was a Cave City businessman and an elder in the Christian Church. He suffered from cancer and died following surgery in 1924 when his two daughters, Sarah Frances and Mary Kathryn, were 10 and 9 respectively. Bertha then opened and operated a millinery business to support her family and was active in the local Methodist church. A 1925 newspaper item indicated that she had "moved her millinery establishment to rooms over the Cash Grocery Company" and was "nicely equipped for the millinery business" [*Glasgow Times*, 20 November 1925, p. 3].

Ernest Farris, 12-15-1876—7-19-1924

Bertha Reynolds Farris, 8-6-1883—3-6-1937

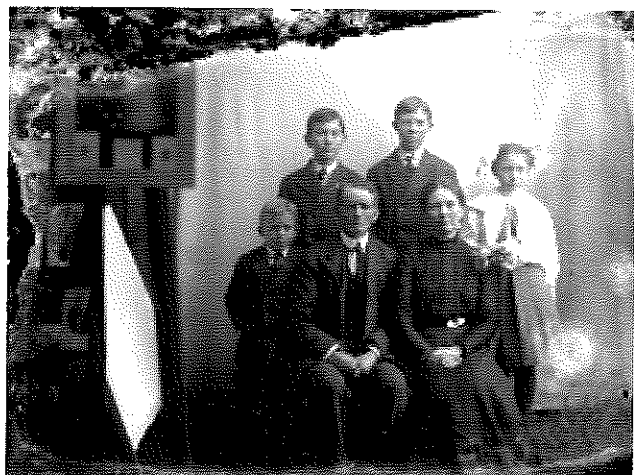


000940



000946

Note the same arbor appears in 969 and 906.



000947

Although this plate appears to be taken inside a studio with the mirror stand off to the side and framed photographic prints mounted on the wall, "grass" has been imported as part of the background for this family portrait.



000948

William Russell Reynolds, Sr., father

3-3-1844 - 2-14-1919

Sarah Frances Ellis Reynolds, wife of W R., Sr.

7-3-1848 - 3-4-1914

Mary Elizabeth Reynolds, daughter

12-26-1875 - 3-10-1940

Henry Ellis Reynolds, son

1877 - 1934

Mayme Brady Reynolds, wife of Henry

1881 - 1961

William Russell Reynolds, Jr., son

1-3-1878 - 1-26-1955

Alcenia Clark Reynolds, wife of W.R., Jr.

9-21-1884 - 2-26-1975

Louis Allen Reynolds, son

9-13-1880 - 11-26-1915

Bertha Frances Reynolds Farris, daughter

8-6-1883 - 3-6-1937

Ernest Farris, husband of Bertha

12-15-1876 - 7-19-1924

Annie Reynolds Brown, daughter

12-1-1886 - 3-10-1943

Luther Reynolds, son

5-25-1890 - 8-20-1945

Marvin Lerond Reynolds, son

8-27-1893 - 4-29-1927

Reynolds family. The photographer's family members are shown in this photo outside the family home at the southern base of Prewitts Knob in Barren County. The house was built around 1846 by Jacob Walters and was located on old New Orleans Trace Road. On the left of the front door is the parlor, with its lacy curtains, and the parents' bedroom is to the right of the door.

The photographer is at the left in the back row, and his parents, who married in February 1873, are seated in the front row, in the center. William R. Reynolds, Sr., was a farmer in the Cave City area, but only one child, Louis Allen, followed him into farming as a career. Henry (front, right) and Will, Jr. (back, left) became merchants and together ran a general merchandise store (called Reynolds Brothers) in Cave City; one site was on the north side of Kirtley Street (now Broadway). The oldest daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was likely named for her mother's two sisters, Mary Jane and Elizabeth or Lizzie. Daughter Bertha married Ernest Farris, who ran a hardware store in Cave City before his untimely death. After his death, Bertha operated a millinery shop. Daughter Annie, in a white dress, was single in this photo, but later married Dr. Ralph Brown, a minister in Bristol, TN. She studied music and worked in Louisville for the L and N Railroad before her marriage. Luther served in the army and also worked with the U.S. census in 1920; he died in Texas. The youngest child, Marvin, was an insurance agent before his death in an automobile accident.

Back row: Will Reynolds, Jr.; Ernest Farris; Louis Allen Reynolds; Mary Elizabeth Reynolds; Mayme Brady Reynolds; Luther Reynolds.

Front row: Marvin Lerond Reynolds; Alcenia Clark Reynolds; Bertha Reynolds Farris; William R. Reynolds, Sr.; Sarah Frances Reynolds; Henry Reynolds; Annie Reynolds. Children of Henry and Mayme Reynolds: Judelle and Ellis



000949

The photographer's wife and new baby daughter are shown in this photo. The attire of mother and daughter suggests a formal occasion, perhaps a christening; the father and his family were active in the Cave City Methodist Church, while the mother and her family attended the Cave City Baptist Church. *The Glasgow Times* announced the birth: "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Will Reynolds of Cave City, a fine, 9-pound daughter. The father is expected to recover" [26 Aug 1910, p. 3].

Alcenia Clark Reynolds, mother

9-21-1884—2-26-1975

Evelyn Clark Reynolds Covington, baby

8-16-1910—1-19-1992



000950



000951

Flora S. Clark seated on a porch in front of an improvised backdrop.



000952



000953



000954

See plate no. 949.



000955

Duard Reynolds, a first cousin to the photographer, was a prominent businessman in Barren County, particularly in wholesale groceries. He lived in Horse Cave and had warehouses in Horse Cave and Glasgow. He was married to Pearl Isenberg Reynolds, and had two daughters, Opal and Emerald.

Duard Reynolds, 11-25-1880—3-24-1946

Appreciation is expressed to his grandson, James Duard Stephens, Lexington, for assistance with this photograph.



000957

3x4 matrix.



000958

3x4 matrix.



000960

Broken plate depicting a street scene with wagons covered, possibly to protect hands of tobacco in the fall of the year. Note that the bottom piece is glass from the left side of portrait image montage, plate no. 958.



000962



000963

This photograph of a woman and child with a tombstone in the Cave City Cemetery represents a sad story. John Johnston, who grew up in Columbia (Adair County), was a clothing salesman for the Globe Tailoring Company, out of Cincinnati, from about 1902 until his death. In late November 1909, he left Russellville with a livery driver headed for Franklin, KY, but a few blocks from the livery stable, the buggy's axle broke and Johnston was injured in the resulting accident. He was taken to a Russellville hotel and then to a Bowling Green infirmary. Newspaper accounts are mixed as to whether he was able to recognize his wife and young daughter, who rushed to his bedside after the accident. Within a week, he died. Besides his wife and child, survivors included his father, R. L. Johnston, a brother R. D. Johnston, and 4 sisters. The funeral service was held in the Cave City Methodist Church.

John Waller Johnston	husband	1876 - 1909
b. in Adair County		
Frances Lewis Johnston	wife	1881 -
b. in Barren County		
Mary Francis Johnston	daughter	Aug 1908 -

References:

Articles in *The Glasgow Times*, 30 Nov 1909 and 7 December 1909, and *Adair County News*, 8 Dec 1909 and 15 Dec 1909.



000964

Silas King Clark and his wife Flora, parents-in-law of the photographer, moved with their three children from Hiseville to Cave City in 1901. At some point after early 1906, Flora became the proprietor of the Cave City Hotel, shown in this photo. The hotel faced the railroad, from behind the railroad depot, and was located on the west side of the tracks. The hotel, with its generous porch, served travelers to Cave City and the Mammoth Cave area. In late 1910, Silas and Flora moved to Lebanon Junction [*The Glasgow Times*, 9 Dec 1910, p. 3].

Pictured in the photo on the front porch of the hotel, from the left: Flora Clark, daughter Litie Clark, husband Silas King Clark, and daughter Alcenia Clark.

Silas King Clark,	2-9-1851—9-19-1922
Florra Slinker Clark,	wife of Silas, 1863—7-7-1945
Alcenia Clark Reynolds,	daughter, 9-21-1884—2-26-1975
Litie Dyer Clark Holman,	daughter, 4-22-1887—5-28-1961



000966

The photographer's mother, Sarah Frances Ellis Reynolds, is shown with her great-niece and great-nephew, Anna Monroe, 10, and George Monroe, 5. Sarah's mother, Amelia H. Ellis, became a single parent to her three girls after their father, John Ellis, died when they were young, sometime before 1860. At the time of the 1860 census, Mary Jane was 13, Sarah was 12, and Elizabeth was 7. According to family members, the 1860s were a difficult time to be a single parent because of the war. Sarah's younger sister Elizabeth never married, and Mary Jane married George W. T. Monroe in 1867. The children in the picture are two of the grandchildren of Mary Jane (who died in 1887) and the daughter and son of James and Buena Monroe of Louisville.

In the photo, Sarah's head covering suggests mourning. In August 1910, the baby brother of Anna and George died in Louisville and was buried in Camp Ground Cemetery in Barren County. This photo was likely taken around the time of the burial. Later in life, Anna had had no children but George, who became a car mechanic, had one child, a son, whom he named after the baby brother who died, James E.

Sarah Francis Ellis Reynolds

7-3-1848 - 3-4-1914

Anna Lois Monroe, great niece of Sarah F.

1900 - 8-16-1963

Anna later married Isaac Newton, Louisville

George Garland Monroe, great nephew

1905 - 12-1-1962

James E. Monroe, great-nephew

8-26-1908 - 8-10-1910



000967

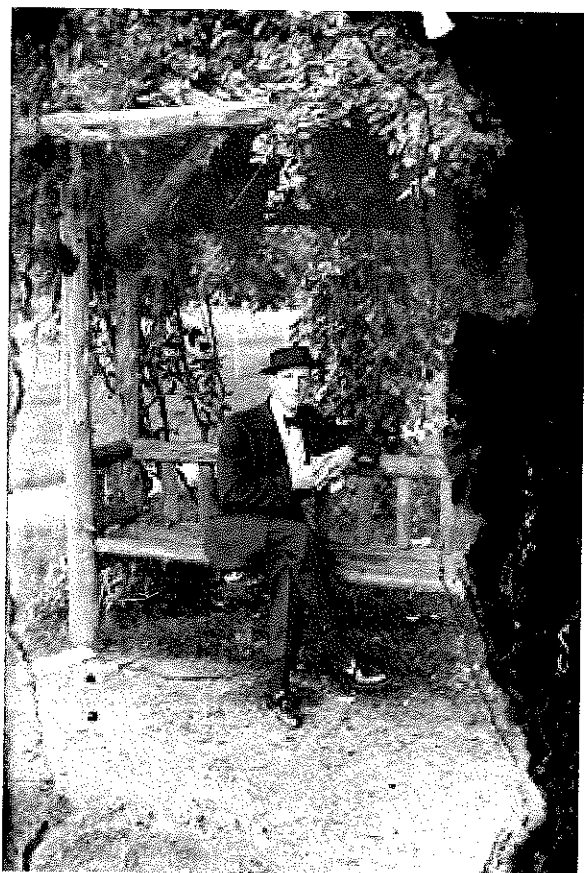
See also plate no. 929.



000968

Silas King Clark, the photographer's father-in-law, is pictured here with his daughter, Litie, peeking over the backdrop. At one point as a young man, Silas played in a small band in Logan County with Allie Fugate, Phillip Hardin, and C. P. Morton. Silas grew up in the Hiseville area of Barren County and married Flora Slinker. They moved to Cave City in 1901; he sold insurance for Planters Insurance Company, out of Bowling Green, and she was the proprietor for the Cave City Hotel (see photo 964). Later in his life, he and Flora moved to Louisville where they lived for a short time.

Silas King Clark
2-9-1851 - 9-19-1922



000969

Bench arbor. See also plate nos. 946 and 906.



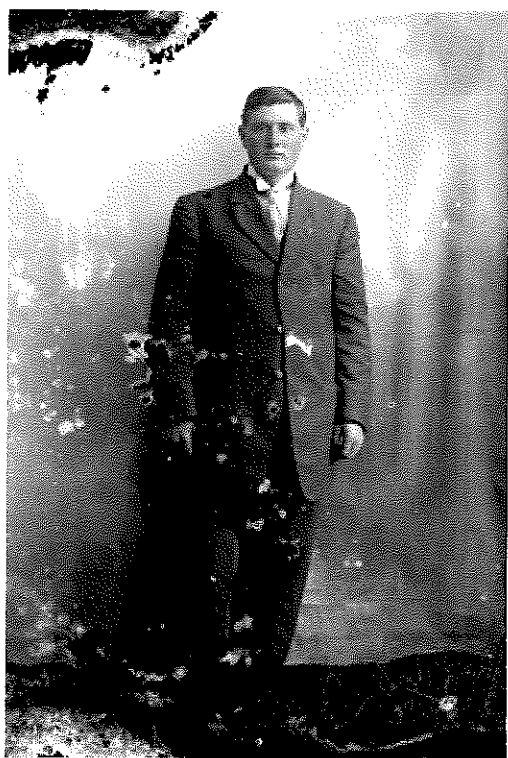
000971

3x5 matrix: portraits a21-a25 were taken on the same day as plate no. 933. Images a32 and a33 are of the same lady on the right in plate no. 938. Also note that portraits of blacks and whites are mixed on the same plate.



000972

3x5 matrix.



000973

CAVE CITY, KY

Out of cornfields came people. Proximity to major transportation routes and Mammoth Cave—a growing tourist destination in the U. S.—drove the founding of Cave City, Kentucky. Franklin Gorin purchased the Cave in 1837 and, following exploration, instituted guided tours (1). A charter was granted in 1832 for the development of a Louisville to Nashville Turnpike. The pike followed a path lying generally along the route of U. S. Highway 31-W today (2). Some 18 years later, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad obtained a charter to build a railroad connection between Louisville and Nashville. It was decided in 1852 that the tracks would go through Bowling Green and the northwest part of Barren County. Construction soon started and the first rail service began on October 31, 1859 (3). Realizing the intense potential created by these three developments, the Knob City Land Company purchased 342.5 acres of land at the record price of \$20/acre from Thomas T. Duke in 1853 to build a town located between the two thoroughfares and only about ten miles from Mammoth Cave (4).

Fields of corn were laid off in lots with four parallel streets—Owens, Duke, Kirtley and Quigley—separated 300 feet apart. Each street was 80 feet wide, approximately 1300 feet long and perpendicular to the railroad tracks going through town toward Nashville at a bearing S 40 degrees W. First Street was just east and parallel to the tracks. Most of the town developed east of the tracks. Beverly D. Curd erected one of the town's first buildings for a general store and post office ca. 1860 at the corner of First and Kirtley Streets (5). Figure 1 presents a general layout of Cave City some 43 years after its incorporation in 1866 (6). Many businesses in town located along First Street and Kirtley Street. Figure 1 does not attempt to indicate all of the places of interest in Cave City. Rather, the features that are emphasized relate to scenes pictured in the exhibit's photographs, taken around 1908-1910.

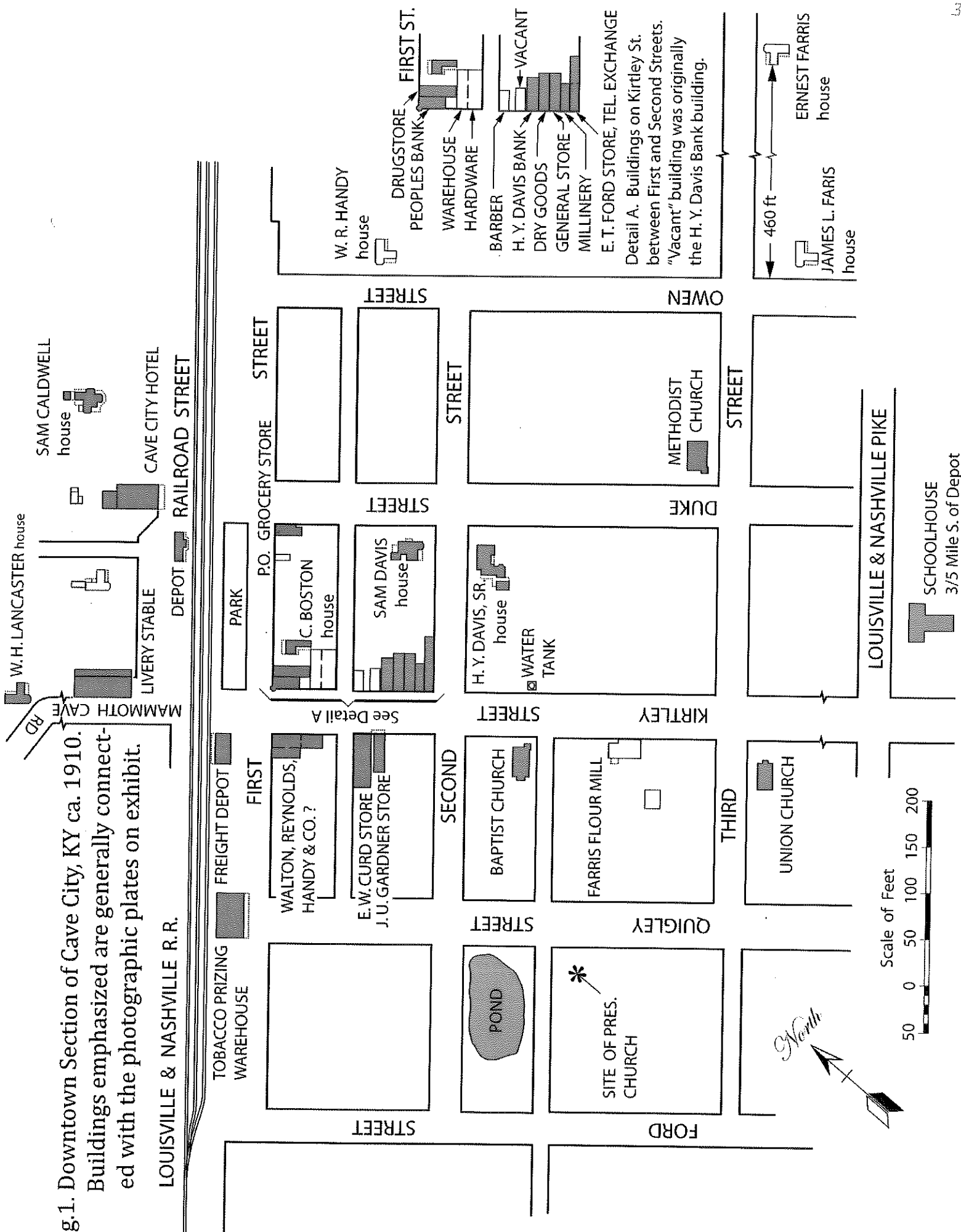
The late 1800s and early 1900s were watershed years in growing Cave City. At the time of the Civil War, the population was 150 (7). Businesses and dwellings sprang up on more and more lots that had been vacant. By 1870, the town's population stood at 350 (8). Whereas the nearest bank was four miles away in Horse Cave in 1887, the town had the H. Y. Davis Bank and the Peoples Bank in 1897 (9). In 1900 the population climbed to 538 (10).

Horse-drawn transportation gave way to the railroads for moving freight and people. Automobiles were becoming increasingly popular. George T. Tucker, Sr., a former railroad telegraph operator, aggressively pursued the expansion of the town's access to telephone and telegraph services (11). Hand-cranked telephones were introduced with a microphone on an adjustable arm extending from a wall-mounted telephone case. A separate earphone, held in one hand, connected via a flexible, cloth-covered cable to the case. Electricity came to homes in Cave City around 1916 (12). Wires ran through ceramic insulators on ceiling joists to drop cords for light fixtures hanging centered in room ceilings.

By 1906 the town, according to the *Glasgow Times* had no vacant residence in Cave City and only one business house that was not occupied (13). "Cave City on a Boom" heralded another *Times* article in the spring of 1908 (14). Concrete walks were to be built all over town and streets macadamized. Moreover the construction of three or four nice residences was forecast soon. The paper's readers would welcome a new brick bank building and four brick store houses before the year closed. These new commercial buildings fronting Kirtley Street were a development of the H. Y. Davis Bank. They stood just east of the bank's former frame building.

g.1. Downtown Section of Cave City, KY ca. 1910.
Buildings emphasized are generally connected with the photographic plates on exhibit.

LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE R.R.



When the census taker, John C. Shipley, made his rounds in Cave City in 1910, 645 people were enumerated (15). Table 1 provides an overview of the jobs that the townspeople held. Notice how specialized things were becoming for the young rural community. Although agriculturally related jobs were clearly in the forefront, there was a rising class of merchants, professional people, doctors, dentists and pharmacists, teachers, postal carriers, telephone company employees, construction workers and service people. Not many women worked outside the home. A number, however, characterized themselves as washerwomen and cooks. Some were also clerks, dressmakers and lodging proprietors. Well-to-do families had cooks in residence.

Table 1. Occupations of Residents of Cave City, KY in 1910.

Artist	1	Merchant: dry goods store	
Barbers, barbershop helpers	4	general store, grocery	
Blacksmith	6	store, retail store	15
Bank: bookkeepers, cashiers,		Milliner	1
Presidents	8	Odd jobs	27
Carpenter	9	Own income	14
Clerks: dry goods store, etc.	6	Painter	1
Clothes Presser	1	Paperhanger, Plasterer	2
Concrete: contractor, layer	2	Planning and saw mill	3
Cooks	21	Peddler	1
Dentist	2	Pharmacist	2
Doctors and physician	4	Proprietor: hotel,	
Dressmakers, seamstress	5	boarding house	2
Driver, dump wagon, teamster	3	Railroad: agent, pump station	
Engineer	1	mgr., laborers R. R. section	7
Excavator [cistern]	1	Repairer: clocks	1
Farm: laborer, farmer,		School: Principal, Teachers	4
farm operator	50	Shoemaker	1
Flour Mill: millwright,		Telephone Co.: president	
foreman, laborer, miller	5	linemen, operator	4
Gardner	1	Tinner	2
Governess	1	Trader: livestock	2
House Boy	1	Tobacco barn: laborer, hogs-	
Insurance agent	1	head maker, packer	4
Livery Stable: managers,		Undertaker	1
horse trainer	3	Wagon maker	1
Mail Carrier	4	Washerwoman	41
		Watchmaker	1

Around 1909 downtown Cave City claimed three churches; namely a Baptist Church and a Christian Church, called Union Church, on Kirtley Street and the United Methodist Church on Duke Street (16). In 1879 there were two Black churches on the Turnpike, one was a Baptist church and the other was a Methodist Church (17). Owens Chapel survives today apparently on or near the site of the old Baptist church.

Cave City is rightly proud of the teachers, doctors, bankers, lawyers, military and professional people, musicians, ball players and many other notable individuals who were educated in the

90

town's schools. The L. & N. Railroad donated land to Cave City for a public school and a Masonic Hall on the northeast corner where the Louisville and Nashville Turnpike intersects Kirtley Street in 1850s (18). A tornado destroyed the Masonic Academy in 1869. A second school erected on the site was consumed by fire in 1888. In 1901 a single story, frame school building stood on the property. The floor plan of the building measured 50 feet by 30 feet (19). An article in *The Glasgow Times* in 1905 noted that citizens of Cave City were preparing to erect a new school building (20). A magnificent two-story, frame addition was apparently built at the northwest end of the school. This gave the school, numbering on the order of 100 students, a T-shaped footprint with a total floor plan of 5100 square feet—3.4 times the square footage of the school just eight years earlier (21). A referendum passed in 1882 stating that the allocation of Kentucky's Common School Fund would be distributed in districts on a per capita basis without regard to race. There was a Black school in Cave City taught by W. I. Robinson in 1903 (22). A frame, private residence—formerly a schoolhouse for Blacks dating back several generations—stands today at the end of Schoolhouse Lane (23).

References:

- 1) *The Barren County Progress* (15 March 1984) p. B10.
- 2) Adrian Gossett, "A History of Cave City," *The Cave City Progress* (19 May 1972) p. 3.
- 3) **Barren County Heritage: A Pictorial History of Barren County, Kentucky**, ed. Cecil E. Goode and Woolford L. Gardner, Jr. (Bowling Green, KY: Homestead Press, 1980) p. 239-40.
- 4) Gossett, *The Cave City Progress*, p. 3; **Barren County Heritage**, p. 40.
- 5) **Barren County Heritage**, p. 41.
- 6) **Barren County Heritage**, p. 43; Sanborn Map of Cave City, KY (February 1909).
- 7) **Barren County Heritage**, p. 41.
- 8) *Ibid.*, p. 43.
- 9) Gazetteer 1887-88; *The Cave City Progress*, Bicentennial Issue (22 March 1974) Section 2, p. 4.
- 10) *The Cave City Progress*, Bicentennial Issue, Section 2, p. 6.
- 11) Gazetteer, *op. cit.*
- 12) Lucille Reynolds, conversation with author, 17 November 1985.
- 13) "Cave City, Feb. 26," *The Glasgow Times* (2 March 1906).
- 14) *The Glasgow Times*, **43** (21 April 1908) p. 4.
- 15) U. S. Census Records, 1910.
- 16) Sanborn Map, 1909.
- 17) Map of Barren County, KY compiled by Beers and Langan, 1879.

- 41
- 18) **Barren County Heritage**, p. 204.
 - 19) Sanborn Map of Cave City, KY (January 1901).
 - 20) "Cave City, June 12" *The Glasgow Times* (16 June 1905).
 - 21) Sanborn Map, 1909; see plate no. **935**.
 - 22) **Barren County Heritage**, p. 203, 212.
 - 23) Eddie Belle Denison, conversation with the author, 29 March 2009.

WILLIAM R. REYNOLDS, JR.

William R. Reynolds, Jr. was born on January 30, 1878. He was the third child in a family of five sons and three daughters. The Reynolds' home place in Barren County, Kentucky was south of Prewitts Knob (elevation 1058 feet) near a pond (elevation 725 feet). Figure 2 shows a general view of the homestead.

The two-story frame l-house had an ell-section in the rear (1). As indicated in Figure 3 and plate no. 948, the house was a frame structure weather boarded with tulip poplar. Details of the roof over the ell-section were not remembered very well. Therefore the second Boys' Room over the kitchen may be somewhat narrower than shown in the plan reconstructed in Figure 4 (2). The Kitchen was a log structure measuring approximately 18 feet by 20 feet. It contained worktables, a safe, a flour bin and a meal bin. A long table seating ten ran lengthwise in the Dining Room. W. R. Reynolds, Sr. and his wife Sarah occupied the bedroom to the right of the front entrance. Across the hall was the Parlor.

There are delightful stories describing the Reynolds children's growing-up years – jaunts to look for wild turkey eggs on the Knob. homemade pickles and ice cream socials in the Parlor and one tale that the Knob just lacked a foot in height of being classified a mountain. It's easy to imagine a Reynolds' lad trudging to the top of the Knob with a bucket of dirt just to make that happen, at least in the lad's mind.

Will, Jr. had gifted hands. He wove mats. He was an accomplished wood turner and loved to make toys and spindles for multi-legged, side tables and smoking stands to give to friends. He taught himself to play a fiddle. His sister, Annie, studied music in school. Their brothers Marvin and Luther were singers (3). All these musical skills enhanced gathering times around the piano in the parlor where the family enjoyed sharing together.

Aside from the items on exhibit – the plates and the cameras that were discovered after his death – nothing is known about the training of Will Reynolds, Jr. in photography as a young man. Neither his wife, Alcenia, nor his daughter, Evelyn, reminisced about his photographic background or work. There is no family tradition that he was an artist with drawing or painting skills of note. Nevertheless, the plates underscore a keen eye for scale, proportion and innovative arrangements of mass in the scenes being photographed just as one might do for a painting. The facts about his years as a photographer are quickly summarized:

- The U. S. Census records in 1900 list William Reynolds, age 22 and living at home. His occupation was "picture salesman."
- *The Glasgow Times* noted in 1901 (4):
"Mr. W. R. Reynolds, Jr., the photographer of Cave City, was here on business last Thursday."
- Finally, mounted photographic prints survive bearing the following stamp on the prints' stiff, cardboard backs:

W. R. Reynolds, Jr.,

.. Photographer ..

CAVE CITY, KENTUCKY.

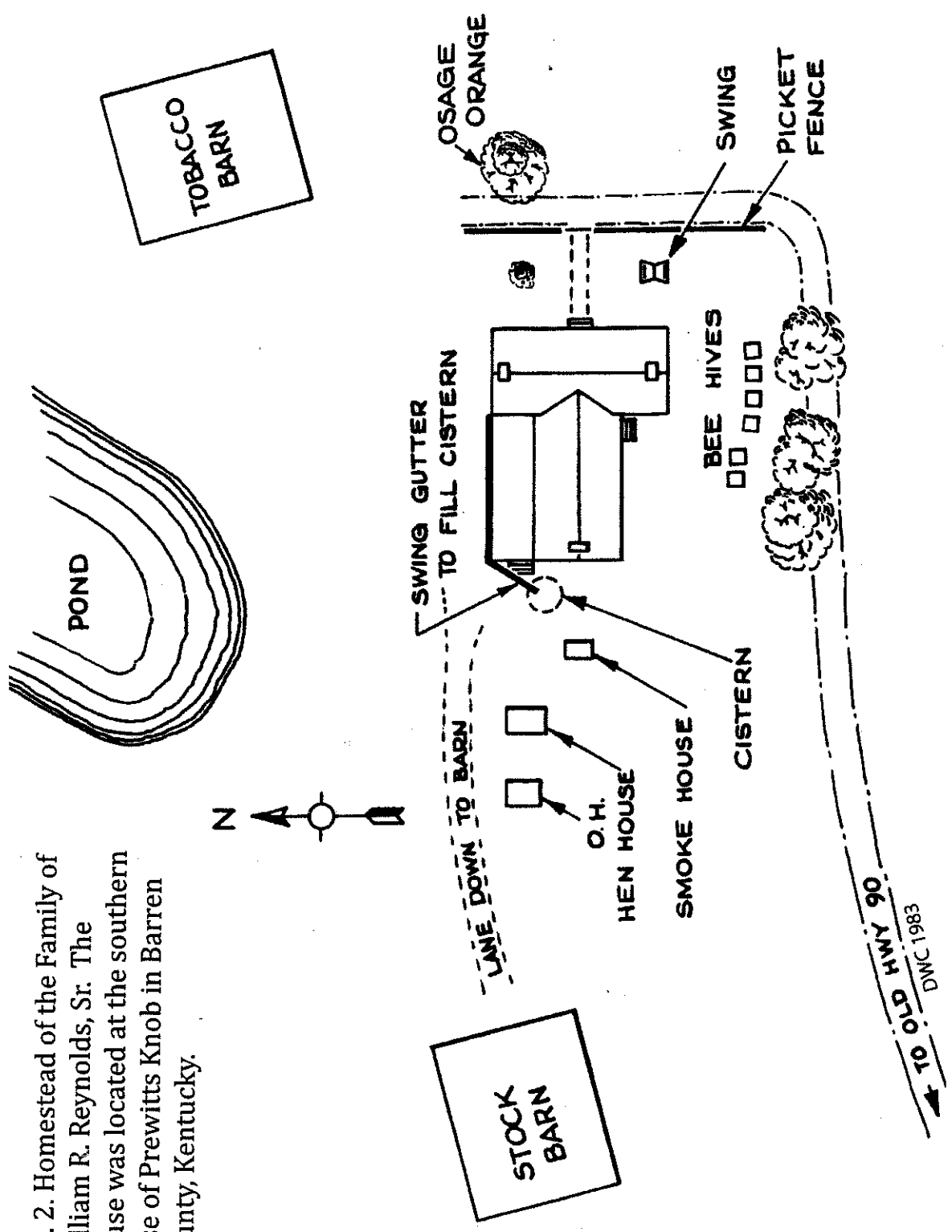
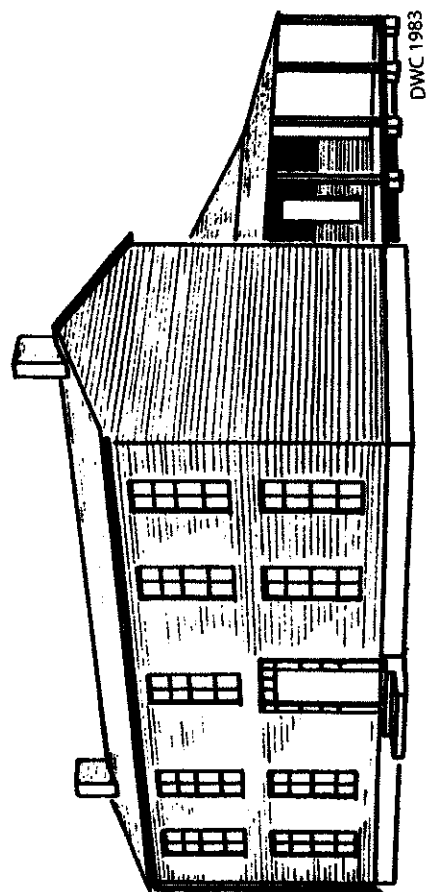


Fig. 2. Homestead of the Family of William R. Reynolds, Sr. The house was located at the southern base of Prewitts Knob in Barren County, Kentucky.



DWC 1983

Fig. 3. The Home of the W. R. Reynolds, Sr. Family.

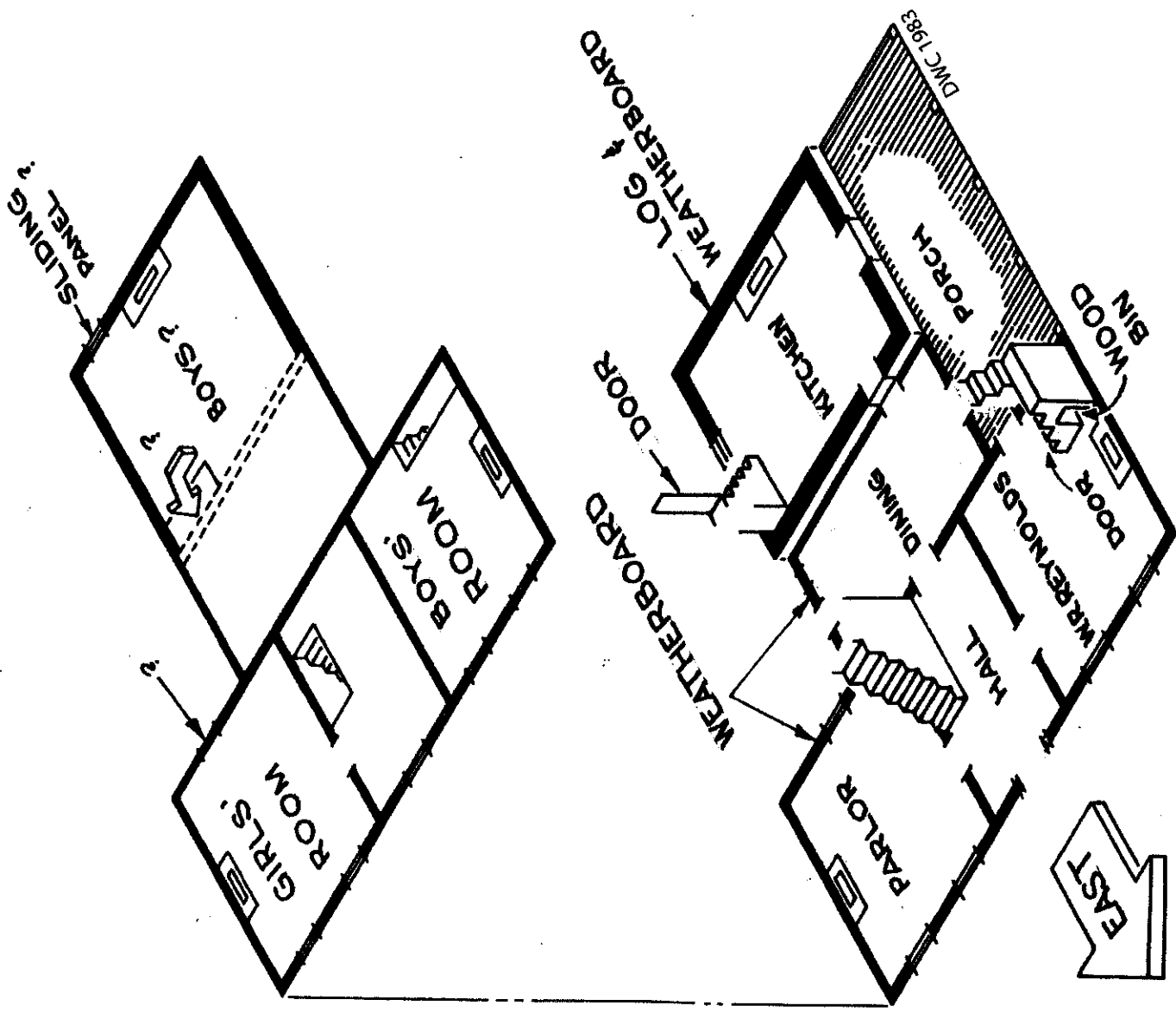


Fig. 4. Floor Plans of the Family Home of William R. Reynolds, Sr.

In 1908 Will Reynolds, Jr. became a member of the Cave City firm, Walton, Reynolds, Handy and Company (5). This was also the year that he and Alcenia Clark married in Nashville, (6). By 1910 they were living in a house on Owen Street, around the block from the Methodist Church (7) where he later served as a Trustee of the church (8). According to the census, his occupation was *merchant, retail store* just as his brother Henry E. Reynolds. Some years later, Will, Jr. and Henry formed Reynolds Bros. At one time this was a dry goods store. At other times it was more of a general store offering dry goods, hardware and groceries (9).

Fire, the dread of all downtown merchants, was discovered early in the morning of New Year's Day, 1926, in the row of brick buildings on Kirtley Street housing the H. Y. Davis National Bank, the town's telephone and telegraph exchange and three stores including Reynolds Bros. general store. The stores and telephone exchange were burned out (10). Little of the store's merchandise could be salvaged. it was the third time that the firm had been destroyed by fire. Reynolds Bros. restarted temporarily in an old building across the street next to the Baptist church. Altogether Reynolds Bro. lasted a quarter of a century. Reynolds Bros. was sold to Edwin Ford in the mid-1930s (11). Following an interlude in farming and residential construction, Will Reynolds, Jr. briefly returned to retail merchandising for a little over two years before selling that business to George T. Tucker, Jr. (12).

Retirement years would find Will, Jr. sitting in the swing on the front porch after supper on summer evenings. Folks even strangers walking to town, would stop and sit a spell. Those porch walls echoed again and again with outbursts of laughter amidst the fast repartee of stories and yarns being swapped about the old days and exclamations of "Oh, Mr. Will."

William R. Reynolds, Jr. died on 26 January 1955, four days shy of his 77th birthday. He was buried in the Cave City Cemetery. An abiding sense of buoyant optimism comes to mind in remembering his full life and varied business careers in and around Cave City (13).

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3. Mrs. E. D. Covington, conversation with the author, 3 December 1985.
4. *The Glasgow Times* (12 November 1901) p. 4.
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7. Sanborn Map of Cave City, KY (February 1909); U.S. Census Records, 1910.

8. Linda Jolly Hunt, "The History of Cave City," typed manuscript revised May 2003, South Central Kentucky Cultural Center, Glasgow, KY.
9. Photos of store front advertising.
10. *The Glasgow Times*, **62**, three issues: no. 4 (7 January 1926); no. 8 (4 February 1926) p. 3; no. 10 (18 February 1926) p. 3.
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CAMERAS

During the first decade of the 1900s, many photographers used a large-format, view camera mounted on a tripod. Both camera and tripod were constructed of wood. Glass plate negatives coated with photosensitive emulsions were inserted in a plate holder at the back of the view camera. The photographs displayed in this exhibition are printed from glass negatives believed to employ the dry-plate technology. This technology was a development that reached its peak in popularity ca. 1905-07 (1). Later, W. R. Reynolds, Jr. had a No. 2 A Brownie loaded with roll film negatives. Operating features of both cameras are described in detail in the following discussion.

View Camera: Mahogany was the wood of choice for readily transportable, view cameras in the late 1800s. The photographer's view camera is stamped with the manufacturer's name, "SCOVILL MFG. CO. NY." This particular camera has features similar to the Waterbury models made by the company from 1885 to 1898 (2). When folded for travel, the camera measures 9 ¼ inches high, 9 1/8 inches wide and 5 1/8 inches deep.

As Fig. 5 indicates, the view camera consists of a lens attached to a front standard that is permanently affixed to a wood base. Cloth bellows connect the front standard to the back standard moving on a wooden track that unfolds and swings down into the plane of the base. A frame with a ground glass, focusing screen is hinged to the back standard. The back standard also accepts a detachable plate holder divided into separate compartments for securing two large glass negatives nearly the size of the focusing screen. A metal plate in the view camera's base is threaded to match a screw mounted on the tripod's bronze spider. Interestingly, screws of exactly the same diameter and thread pitch secure cameras to tripods today.

Front Standard: In the front standard there is a sliding wood plate with a single element, glass lens approximately 1 9/16 inches in diameter. The position of the plate can be adjusted vertically over a total travel distance of 1 ½ inches with respect to the back standard. This adjustment allows a degree of control over the convergence of parallel vertical lines, for example, when photographing tall buildings. The sliding lens adjustment sensitively depends upon the lens delivering a full image to the negative without vignetting (3). A slot in the metal lens holder receives a paper diaphragm with a single hole. The diameter of this hole sets the camera's f-stop. Once a cardboard slide hiding the active plate in the plate holder is removed, camera shutter action obtains by physically removing and replacing a cardboard lens cap at the front of the metal tube holding the lens.

Back Standard: The back standard travels on a wooden track that locks with a sliding brass rod to extend the camera base. Notice that the back standard and hence the viewing screen and negative can be tilted toward or away from the plane of the front standard and the lens by perhaps 8 degrees and 15 degrees, respectively. This adjustment changes the plane of focus and works to improve the apparent sharpness of the image (4). Since the camera lens has a convex shape, the image appearing in the glass focusing screen is reversed and upside down. The frame holding the focusing screen is hinged to the back standard. The sharp, right angle corners of the focusing screen are typically removed to promote the passage of air when the bellows move. The scene is composed and the camera is focused by adjusting the physical separation between the two standards. At this point, the focusing screen frame is swung out of

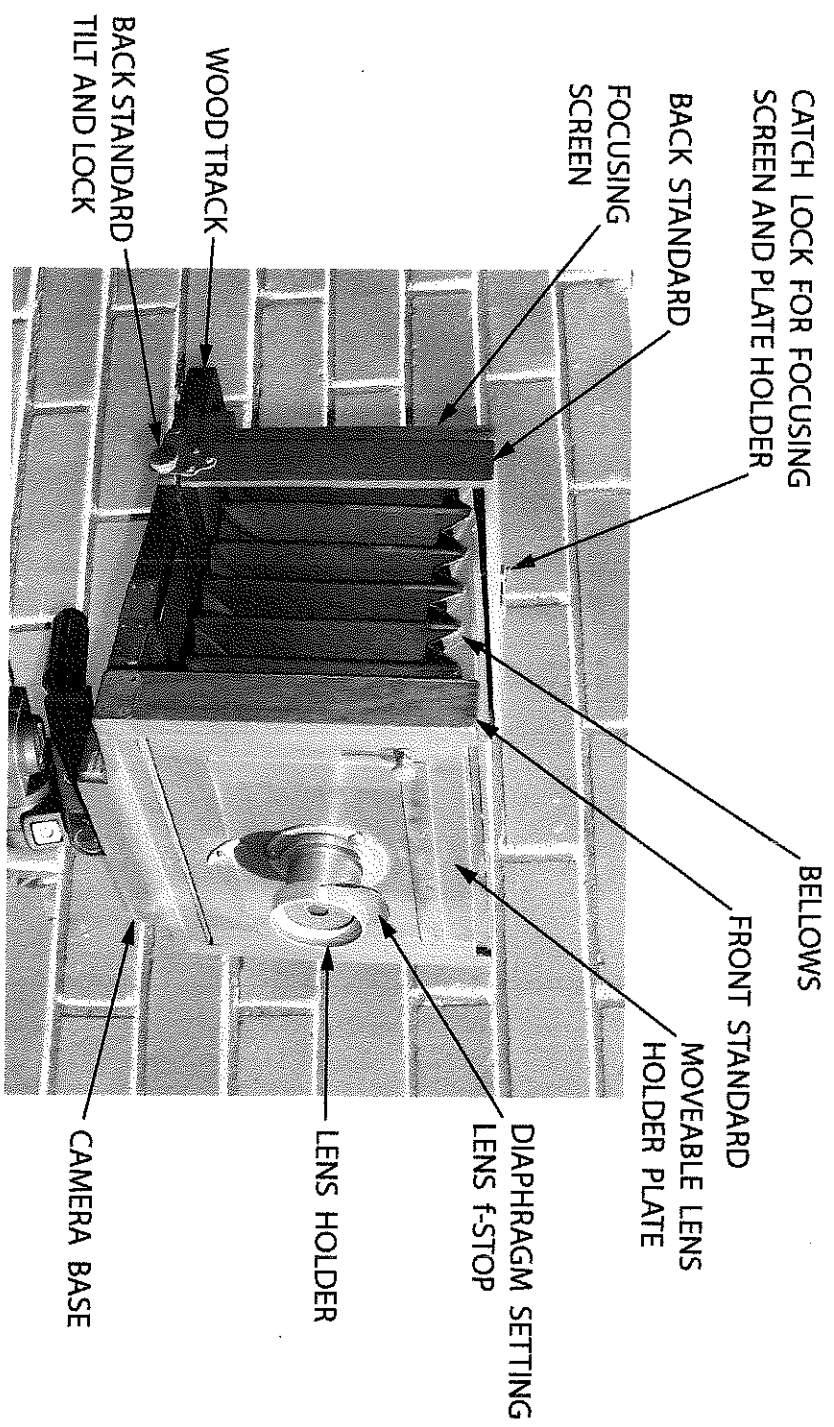


Fig. 5 View Camera Details.

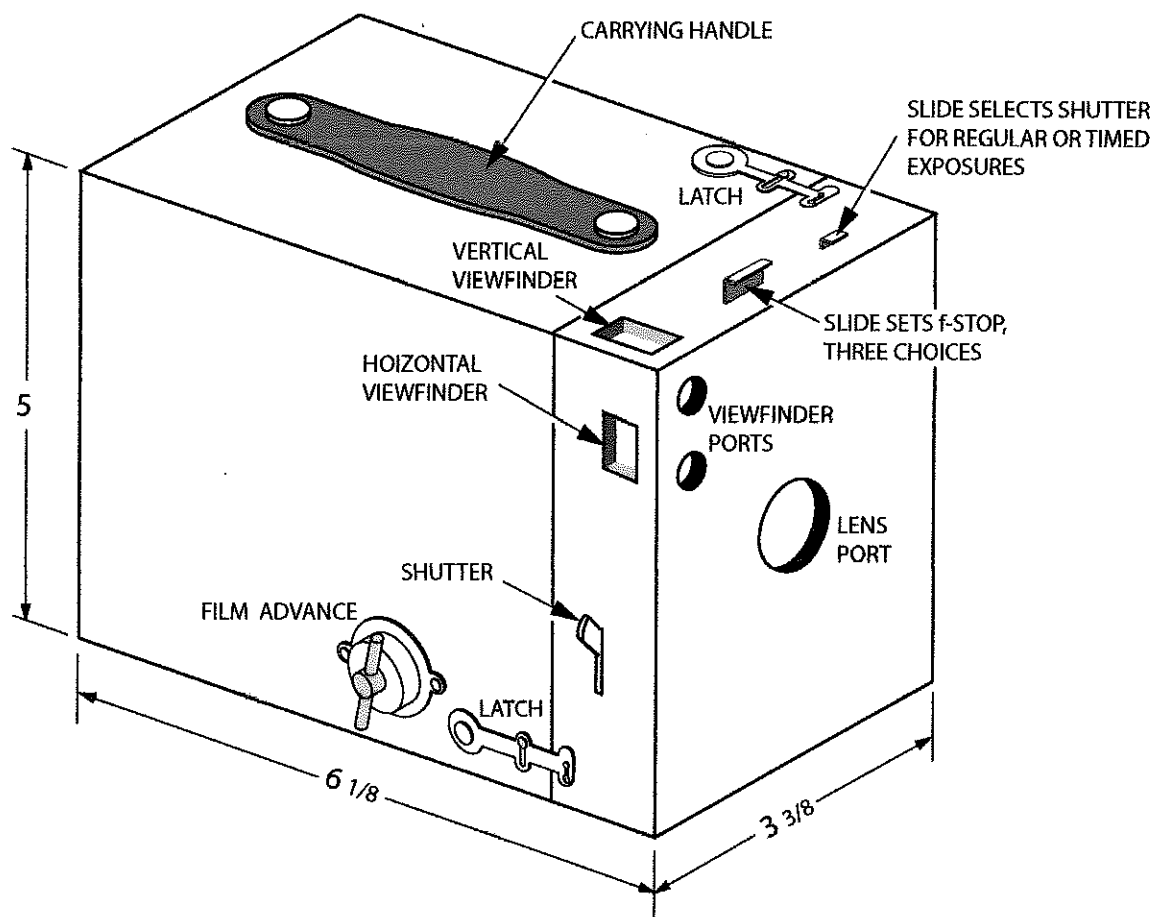


Fig. 6. Box Camera Details. Brownie No. 2A, Model B.
Dimensions in inches.

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the way exposing tiny pegs in the standard's base. These pegs position the plate holder behind the back standard.

Plate Holder: The plate holder fits on matching pegs that align the active plate negative in the same plane as the focusing screen when it was upright behind the back standard. Inside the plate holder are two light tight compartments sharing a common inner section. At the outer side of each compartment is a sliding cardboard lid. Withdrawing the lid nearest the lens readies the active plate inside and its photographic emulsion for exposure when the lens cap is opened. Once the lens cap is closed and the plate holder lid is replaced, the exposed plate is again sealed in darkness inside the plate holder. Flipping the holder top-to-bottom correctly positions the second negative behind the back standard.

The view camera travels in a wooden box with an iron carrying bail. The sides, top and bottom of the box are 5/16 inch thick stock joined with butt joints nailed together. The carrying case measures 10 3/8 inches high, 11 inches wide and 7 1/4 inches deep.

Camera Cloth: A black cloth to drape over the camera and the head and shoulders of the photographer is an important piece of equipment in taking pictures with view cameras. The cloth allows the image on the focusing screen to be seen more clearly in brightly lit situations.

Brownie: George Eastman introduced the Brownie camera in 1900. The camera sold for one dollar. A six-exposure roll of film negatives for the Brownie cost 15 cents. Developing the negatives and printing the pictures ran just 40 cents (5).

The photographer's box camera is a No. 2A Brownie, Model B. Roll film loads inside the camera after the back is unlatched. Film passes over rollers that position a negative first at the back of the camera. From there, the negative moves onto a take-up spool controlled by the side-mounted, film advance knob. Fig. 6 shows the dimensions and the external controls of the No. 2A Brownie. The camera has separate viewfinders for horizontal and vertical orientations of the camera. A slide diaphragm sets one of three f-stop openings for the lens. Shutters for box cameras typically open and close in 1/30th to 1/60th of a second. A second slide control in this camera model allows the photographer to make operator-timed exposures.

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KENTUCKY PHOTOGRAPHERS IN THE EARLY 1900s

PHOTOGRAPHS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS

A picture of a boyfriend? A photo of the new house? A memento of a birthday party? These were some of the reasons people chose to use photographs for remembering special people and occasions. Gifts of photos, such as Christmas presents, were not uncommon, and a scan of Kentucky newspapers during the decade 1900-1910 indicates that advertising by photographers was heavier in November and December. Photos of a boyfriend or girlfriend might have been given, and Christmas was a good time to offer photos of children to family members. Anderson's Studio in Hopkinsville had an ad entitled "Christmas Gifts" which announced, "If you want photographs for Christmas presents, come now and sit for them, so as to give us time to finish them," while Luther Jordan encouraged Glasgow residents to "come as soon as you can" for "fine pictures for Christmas" (1). James Smith, a photographer of Font Hill, in Adair County, was traveling to different towns in late fall to make himself available for taking pictures and the local newspaper indicated that Vervin Watson, another photographer, was "having a good trade" in Glensfork in late November (2). The photographer H. O. Schroeter advertised that he was making "cabinet photos," "Kodak photos," and "photo buttons," listing the range of products that were available (3). These categories decrease in size and price, respectively, with the cabinet photos being about 4 inches by 6 inches and costing, according to Schroeter, \$1.50 for a dozen; the Kodak photos were priced at sixty cents per dozen.

Photographs that recognize important occasions remind us in later years of events we have experienced and people we have known, thus providing emotional satisfaction. As this exhibit's photos show, one important occasion was the building of a house, and pictures of the house usually included family members in front of it. The acquisition of automobiles increased dramatically in the period 1900-1910, with car registrations increasing from around 8000 nationally in 1900 to around half a million in 1910 (4). A picture of a new automobile, often with the car's owner and perhaps a driver, signified the event of an important purchase. To mark a different kind of achievement, the Columbia, Kentucky, schools rewarded "highest grade achievers" by giving them "beautiful post-cards by Mr. E. A. Cox, the photographer" (5). Picture taker J. W. Coy encouraged people to purchase photos that he had taken of "the picnic party at the Fair Grounds" in Adair County; they were twenty-five cents (6). Important occasions such as a birthday party or reunion were made more special by having a photographer present to commemorate the gathering.

Group identities were solidified through photographs that captured family, employment and social groups at a particular point in time. Pictures of family units are important ways to identify their members, including parents and children or extended to include spouses, as the photos of the Reynolds and Davis families, each of which is also identified with the family's home-place in the background. A

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reunion picture further extends the family group. For example, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Taylor of Beaver Dam, Kentucky, saw all of their children and grandchildren for the first time in a number of years at a 1900 reunion. The newspaper account mentioned that this day of great joy would be savored in future weeks and months because "the family had a photograph made by Mr. A. D. Taylor" (7).

Employment, school and recreation are other opportunities for group formation. This exhibit of photos taken by Will Reynolds contains several pictures of businesses, and each one includes in front of the establishment its employees, a group of people united in their work activities and goals. Throughout the twentieth century, it has been common for schools, grades or classrooms to have photos made of pupils and teachers. Three such photos are in this exhibit and can prompt anecdotes and memories of wonderful friendships for viewers. Finally, sports teams are often photographed, usually in uniform, to record group efforts and enjoyment. Attention was drawn to the picture taken of the Hopkinsville ball players in 1904, with the newspaper report that "photographer Charles H. Anderson has taken a first-class" picture of the team at the end of the season. The article adds that the photo "is 8 x 9 inches," a not-inexpensive photographic purchase in 1904 (8).

Owning photographs, although certainly not a novelty in the early years of the twentieth century, prompted enough interest for a photo party in Greensburg in 1901. According to the local news, "Misses Sallie and Mamie Baker entertained quite a number of their lady friends" for a three-hour afternoon party for which each guest brought "the first picture she had made." The newspaper pronounced it "one of the enjoyable affairs of the season" (9).

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Photographers captured images of people in a variety of locales, including their galleries or studios, front porches and yards, and against landscapes. Some photographers had studios in the commercial districts of towns and cities. These are identified in newspaper advertisements and city and state business directories. For example, the two Glasgow photographers, Adolph Rapp and Luther Jordan, had studios on the downtown square, and Main Street was a common address for photographers in Kentucky in 1902-3 (10). Some Reynolds' portraits in this exhibit are presumably made in a studio, with a cloth backdrop nailed to the wall and the same vertical wall support behind the backdrop. In one of the family pictures, there are even sample photos on the left of the image captured in a studio. Temporary studios could be created by tacking a backdrop to people's front porch posts. An Adair County photographer, Miss Hallie Biggs, traveled from house to house; the newspaper states that she was "visiting several homes Saturday afternoon doing work as she went" (11).

Newspaper accounts give notice to a number of photographers who traveled from small town to small town, either for a day at a time or staying in a place for several months. The local news for Gradyville, Kentucky, announced "F. G. Buell, of Marrowbone, one of the best photographers in the state, is with us for a short time.

If you want your picture [taken] give him a call" (12). Another short-term photographer was J. B. Lisenby, of Denmark, Kentucky, who visited the Weed community for a day or two, "delivering pictures and making negatives" (13), while the Hartford news account mentioned that photographers Buskill and Nall "will leave Monday for Aurora, Indiana, where they will locate for a short while" (14).

An intriguing story is that of H. O. Schroeter. Schroeter and his family traveled to ports on the Green River in his "floating studio" and would stay for several months at each location. The ports included Hartford, Rochester, and Calhoon [sic]. The Hartford stay typically began around October 1 and ended between February 1 and March 1. He would begin his newspaper advertising before his arrival so that people could expect him. A December article indicated, "Schroeter, the photographer, is still at the Hartford wharf with his floating studio.... Go to him for first-class work" (15). His advertisements promised that he would "take pictures of the people in first-class style at living prices" (16). An unexpected news item in June 1903 indicated that he had traveled to Cripple, Colorado. In late August he was again traveling west with the promise to his wife that as soon as he had gotten settled he would send for his family. The newspaper revealed in early September that Schroeter was likely not out west but in Cincinnati—evidently with the servant girl. The paper further indicated that his wife had already contacted an attorney (17).

Conventions were a way for photographers to exchange ideas, learn about new techniques, and participate in photographic competitions. For Kentucky photographers in the early part of the twentieth century, this opportunity was the Kentucky and Tennessee Photographers Association, which had its first meeting in April 1901 in Nashville, with about 400 people in attendance (18). The second year, 1902, the meeting occurred in June in Louisville and promised exhibits and contests, as well as papers and a "demonstration in posing and lighting, by Mr. Felix Raymer, instructor at the Illinois College of Photography" (19). The photographers were back in Tennessee (Chattanooga) for the 1903 meeting, which awarded a prize for miniatures to Ethel C. Stanford, of Louisville, among other awards (20). The convention comprised four days of meetings at the 1904 meeting in Lexington and then in the 1905 meeting in McMinnville, Tennessee. At the Lexington meeting, another female photographer won a gold medal: Miss Nancy Orear, of Mt. Sterling, Kentucky (21).

A national event that brought together Kentucky photographers, if not literally photographers, was the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. The Kentucky Exhibit Association worked statewide to collect photos, along with other products, from each of Kentucky's counties, although not all counties had photographers apply for the title of "official World's Fair photographer." Photos were representative of historic sites, buildings, agriculture, and especially schools. The official photographer for Barren County was Glasgow photographer Adolph Rapp (22).

BARREN COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHERS

Interest in and accessibility to personal photographs experienced significant growth in the first decade of the twentieth century. By 1906, there were about 120 fulltime photographers in Kentucky (23). Those who were not fulltime were employed as merchants (such as Will Reynolds), shoe salesman (John Lowe of Adair County (24)), farmer (Wade Highbaugh) and undertaker (Mr. Rippietoe of Adair County (25)). The number of statewide picture takers would be augmented if traveling photographers without studios were included. In Bowling Green in 1906, there were six photographers, an increase from three in 1902-3 (26). For Glasgow, there were two photographers (Adolph Rapp and Luther Jordan) to serve a population of more than 2200 [1900 census]. Besides Rapp and Jordan, there were at least three other photographers in the first decade of the 1900s in Barren County: Lucien Dodson; Wade Highbaugh; and Will Reynolds. Reynolds, this exhibit's photographer, has a biographical statement elsewhere in the exhibit's documentation. Here follow brief biographies of the other four Barren County photographers.

Lucien E. Dodson (1870-1948) began his career in Horse Cave, in Hart County. In the 1900 census, when he was 29 years old, he was listed as a "photo artist." There is evidence from the stamped signature of some of his photos that his wife Ella assisted him in the business. Between 1900 and 1910, he and his family moved to Lower Bowling Green Road in Glasgow and he was employed in a sawmill. The 1920 census lists his occupation as "lumberman distributor." At this time, his daughter Ollie and her husband, Davis Tandy, a bookkeeper, are living with her parents. Dodson died 9 December 1948 of a cerebral hemorrhage. His obituary indicates that he was a "timber and mill man," but makes no mention of his having been a photographer (27).

Wade Highbaugh (1874-1971) grew up in Hart County and lived in the corner of Hart and Barren Counties, close to Mammoth Cave. Census records in 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 list his occupation as farming, so he was not fully employed in his photographic work. However, his obituary indicates that he was a "retired photographer at Mammoth Cave" (28). He was a Cave City photographer working for the *Evening Post* at the time of Floyd Collins' entrapment and was the photographer of several photos of Collins (29). Highbaugh and his wife Annie had six children, three sons and three daughters.

Luther Lee Jordan (1869-1937), the son of a tailor, was born in Horse Cave and grew up in Barren County and by 1910 was living on Lower Bowling Green Road, not too far from Lucien Dodson. His studio was on the south side of the downtown square. He was a photographer, especially of portraits, all of his life. He studied photography from T. F. Bottomley, who at one time had a studio in Glasgow. Jordan worked briefly in Louisville and Nashville before establishing his photo gallery in downtown Glasgow (30). His obituary states that he won state and national recognition in photographic contests. Jordan's photo entitled "The Village Cobbler"

"won first prize at the national Woman's Home Companion contest" (31). Jordan and his wife Ada had no children.

Adolph Rapp (1849-1921) maintained his home and photographic studio at the corner of Main and Race Streets in downtown Glasgow; the studio was downstairs and his home upstairs. He grew up in Louisville after immigrating with his parents in 1855 from Germany to Kentucky. Before embarking on a career as a photo artist, Rapp was a confectioner, as indicated in the 1880 census. His photo portfolio included portraits as well as numerous scenes in the Glasgow area, and he was the official World's Fair Photographer for Barren County in 1904, with the responsibility of taking pictures that were representative of important venues in the county. Besides photography, he was known as an artist of paintings and sketches (32). Rapp and his wife Fannie had a son and two daughters.

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THEN AND NOW

Several landmarks featured in the photographic plates in this exhibition survive in Cave City today. Other sites, such as the grounds on Highway 31-W where town's public school buildings stood for a century look significantly different. A sampling of "Then and Now" views are presented below. All of the "Now" photographs were taken in February-March 2009.

Plate no. 931: Peoples Bank on First Street.



Plate no. 919: Webb & Harlin Livery Stable on Railroad Street.

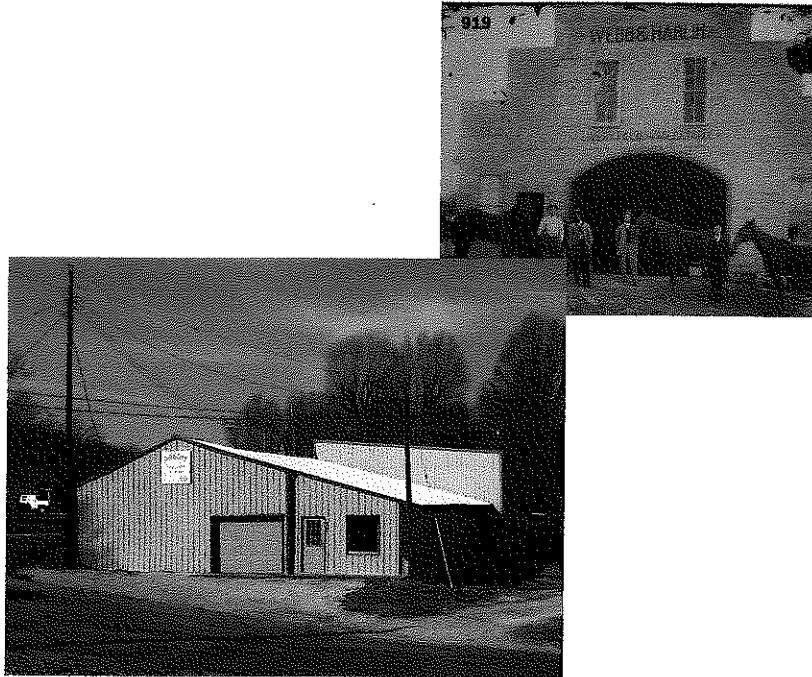


Plate no. 905: E. T. Ford's Groceries on Kirtley Street.

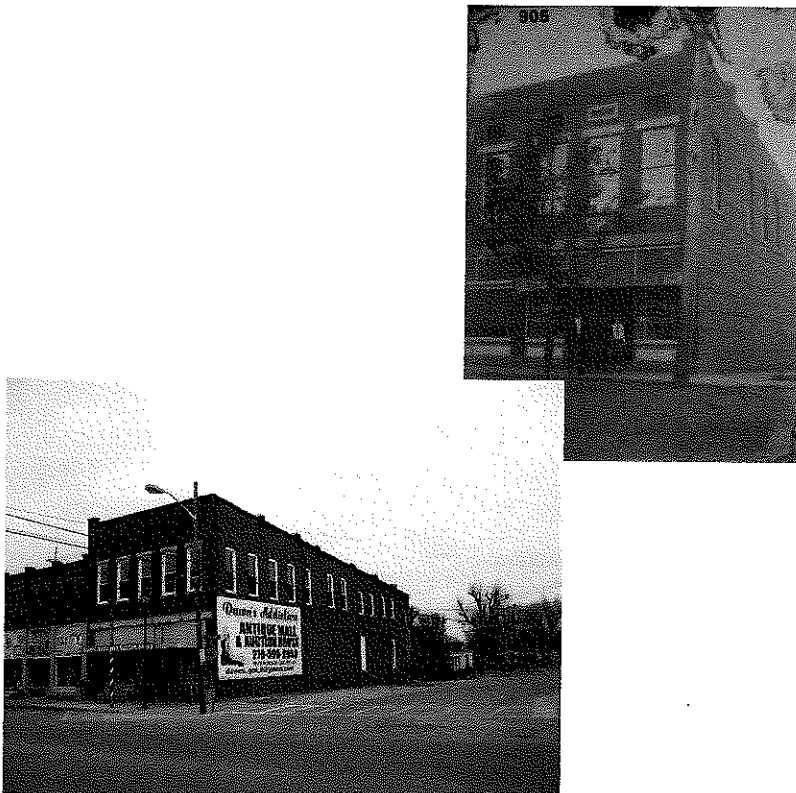


Plate no. 904: W. H. Lancaster residence on Mammoth Cave Street.



Plate no. 901: United Methodist Church on Duke Street.

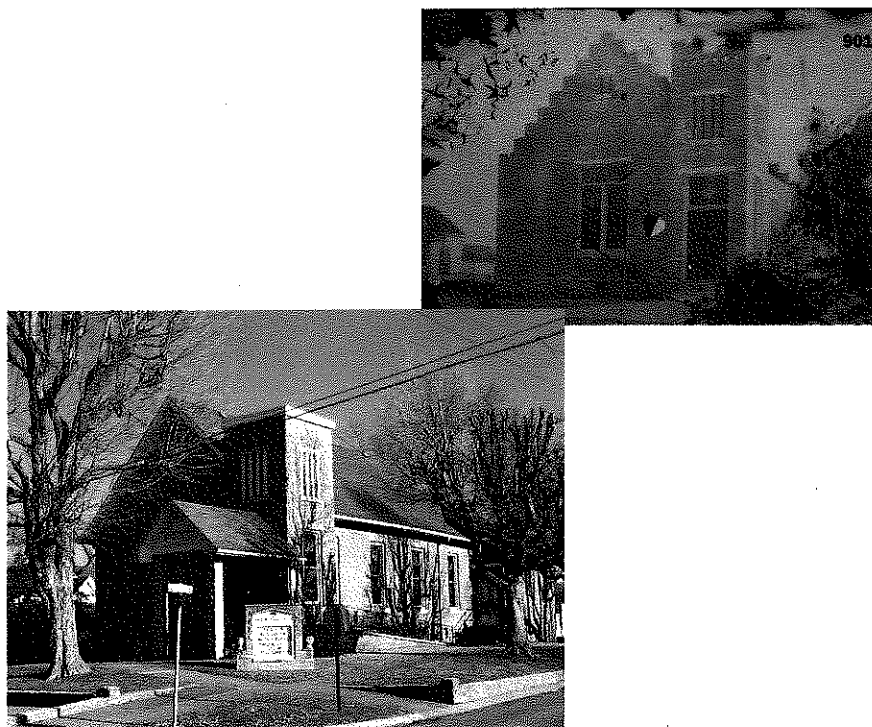


Plate 903: Baptist Church on Kirtley Street.

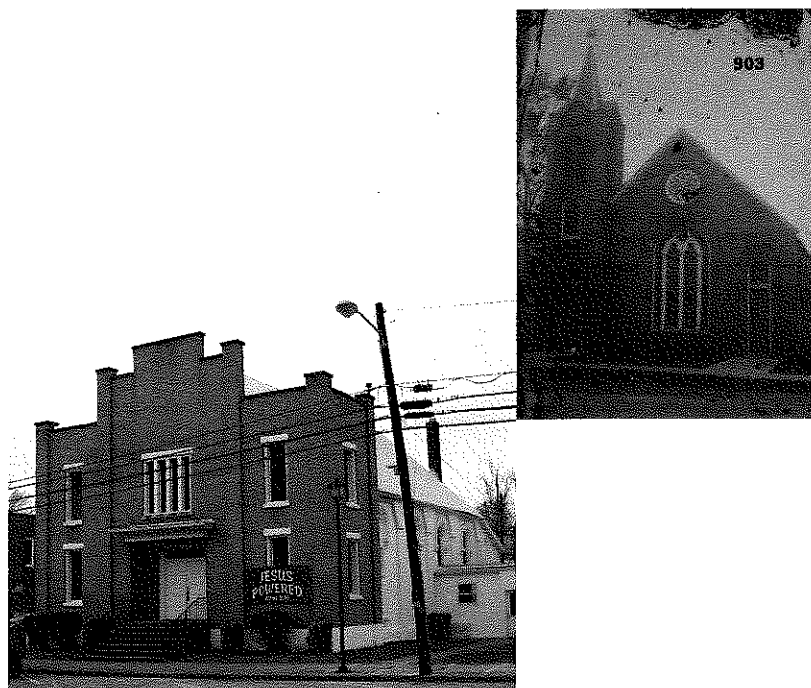


Plate no. 935: Public School on Louisville and Nashville Turnpike (Highway 31-W).

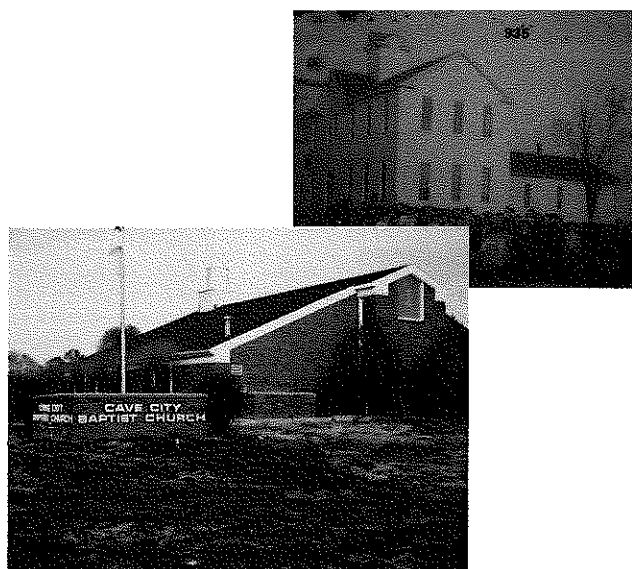


Photo by Eddie Belle Denison

EPILOGUE

Isn't it surprising—this collection of photographic plates with scratches and peeling emulsions? The more you look at the plates, the more the imperfections are filtered out and recede into a slightly noisy background. Instead the eye focuses on the exquisite details captured in the images even as the ear hears the stories they tell of days long bygone.

Thank you for viewing this exhibition of Cave City scenes.

Those who prepared the exhibit hope that you are likewise stimulated to collect, to research and to organize the stories and the photographs of your heritage. Do share what you learn with others. It will wonderfully enrich the understanding and appreciation of us all to know the events, the buildings and especially the people that populated the times in which you are connected—times that are fast slipping away from our kin and those who follow.



Fig. 7. W. R. Reynolds, Jr. Photo by L. E. Dodson, Horse Cave, KY.