



# HARDIN COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

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GUIDE BOOK OF EXHIBITS

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This guide book is intended as a resource for our Ambassador to reference as our patrons may come to them with questions about a particular exhibit. The guide book offers additional information on the pertinent exhibits in the museum. Some of the exhibits have language and labels posted that clearly and completely describe the item in question while others may require volumes of additional information to afford a true and complete picture of the individual or item on display. This Guide Book, while not able to offer the volumes of additional information that one would need to fully understand the life and times of Thomas Jefferson, or even PT Barnum, it is intended provide enough information, from the Hardin County perspective, to satisfy the curiosity and questions of our patrons. Any questions beyond the information catalogued in this Guide Book should be referred to one of the many reference books available or they may ask one of knowledgeable board members with the museum.



EACH BLOCK OF THE QUILT BEFORE YOU HERE REPRESENTS THE STRUGGLES, CHALLENGES, AND TRIUMPHS OF THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY. THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY WAS AN EXPEDITION COMMISSIONED BY PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON AND LED BY MERIWETHER LEWIS AND WILLIAM CLARK BETWEEN 1804 AND 1806. ITS PRIMARY MISSION WAS TO EXPLORE THE NEWLY ACQUIRED LOUISIANA TERRITORY. YOU MAY ALSO KNOW THE TERRITORY THEY WERE COMMISSIONED TO EXPLORE BY ITS BETTER KNOWN NAME: THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE. THE EXPEDITION WAS TO MAP A ROUTE TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN, AND ESTABLISH AMERICAN PRESENCE BEFORE EUROPEAN POWERS COULD CLAIM THE AREA. THE EXPEDITION PUSHED OFF INTO THE WATERS OF THE OHIO RIVER AT LOUISVILLE AND ON THEIR WAY DOWN RIVER, THEY MADE A BRIEF STOP IN HARDIN COUNTY AT WEST POINT, KY TO PICK UP THE EXPEDITION'S BLACKSMITH: JOHN SLACK. THE JOURNEY SPANNED OVER 8,000 MILES OR ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF THE EARTH, TRAVERSING THE MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI, AND COLUMBIA RIVERS. THE CORPS, CONSISTING OF ABOUT 33 MEMBERS, FACED NUMEROUS CHALLENGES INCLUDING HARSH WEATHER, DIFFICULT TERRAIN, AND INTERACTIONS WITH VARIOUS NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES. THEIR SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION PROVIDED VALUABLE GEOGRAPHICAL AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, FOSTERING WESTWARD EXPANSION, AND CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE UNITED STATES' UNDERSTANDING OF THE VAST, UNCHARTED WESTERN TERRITORIES.

## Corps of Discovery Quilt



AT ABOUT 17 YEARS OF AGE, SACAGAWEA JOINED THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY, AND SHE PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION. SHE WAS BORN CIRCA 1788 IN IDAHO, WHERE AT AGE 12 SHE WAS CAPTURED BY AN ENEMY TRIBE AND TAKEN TO BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA. IN BISMARCK, SHE EVENTUALLY MET FRENCH-CANADIAN TRADER TOUSSAINT CHARBONNEAU WHO CLAIMED SACAGAWEA AS ONE OF HIS WIVES. SHE AND CHARBONNEAU JOINED THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY ABOUT 2 MONTHS AFTER THE BIRTH OF HER FIRST CHILD, A BOY NAMED JOHN BAPTISTE. SACAGAWEA SERVED AS AN INTERPRETER AND GUIDE, SHE FACILITATED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE EXPEDITION AND VARIOUS NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES, THEREBY AIDING IN NEGOTIATIONS AND ENSURING THE EXPLORERS' SAFETY. HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE TERRAIN AND SURVIVAL SKILLS PROVED INVALUABLE, PARTICULARLY DURING THE TREACHEROUS CROSSING OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. ADDITIONALLY, HER PRESENCE, ALONG WITH HER INFANT SON, HELPED TO SYMBOLIZE THE PEACEFUL INTENTIONS OF THE CORPS. IMAGINE THIS: A GROUP OF STRANGE LOOKING MEN HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN YOUR CAMP. THEY CARRY WITH THEM THIS MESSAGE: "THE GREAT WHITE FATHER BACK EAST IN WASHINGTON NOW OWNS ALL THIS LAND." "LAND THAT YOU AND YOUR ANCESTORS HAVE DEFENDED, FARMED AND LIVED ON FOR CENTURIES." THE SIMPLE PRESENCE OF SACAGAWEA AND HER CHILD, QUITE POSSIBLY, SAVED THE EXPLORERS FROM SLAUGHTER BECAUSE WAR PARTIES DID NOT HAVE WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THEIR RANKS. HER PRESENCE AND THAT OF YORK'S PROVED TO FOSTER TRUST AND REDUCE TENSIONS WITH THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES THEY ENCOUNTERED IN ROUTE TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND BACK.

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## Sakakawea (Sacagawea)



THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY, LED BY MERIWETHER LEWIS AND WILLIAM CLARK FROM 1804 TO 1806, INCLUDED A NOTEWORTHY FIGURE NAMED YORK, AN ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICAN WHO PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE EXPEDITION. YORK, OWNED BY CLARK, WAS NOT ONLY A LABORER BUT ALSO A VALUABLE MEMBER WHO ENGAGED WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES, SOMETIMES SERVING AS A SYMBOL OF CURIOSITY AND DIPLOMACY DUE TO HIS UNIQUE APPEARANCE. THE NATIVE AMERICANS THEY ENCOUNTERED ALONG THE WAY HAD NEVER SEEN AN AFRICAN AMERICAN BEFORE AND THEY WERE ABSOLUTELY FASCINATED. HIS SKILLS IN HUNTING, SCOUTING, AND INTERACTING WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WERE CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE JOURNEY. HE WAS NOT GRANTED THE SAME RECOGNITION OR REWARDS AS HIS FELLOW EXPLORERS UPON THEIR RETURN DESPITE HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS. YORK'S JOURNEY WITH THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE STARK REALITIES OF SLAVERY AND RACIAL INEQUALITY PREVALENT AT THE TIME..

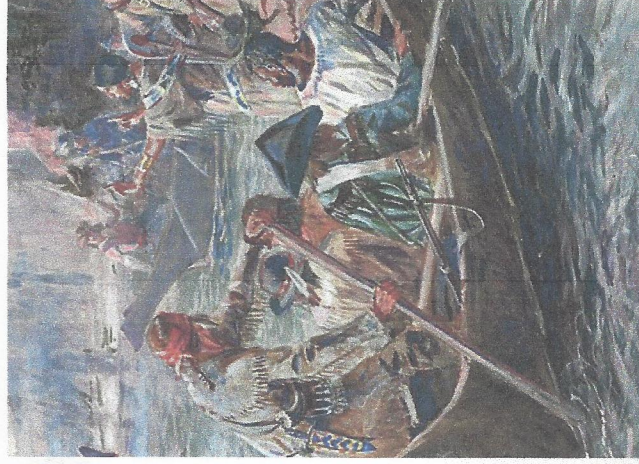
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## York



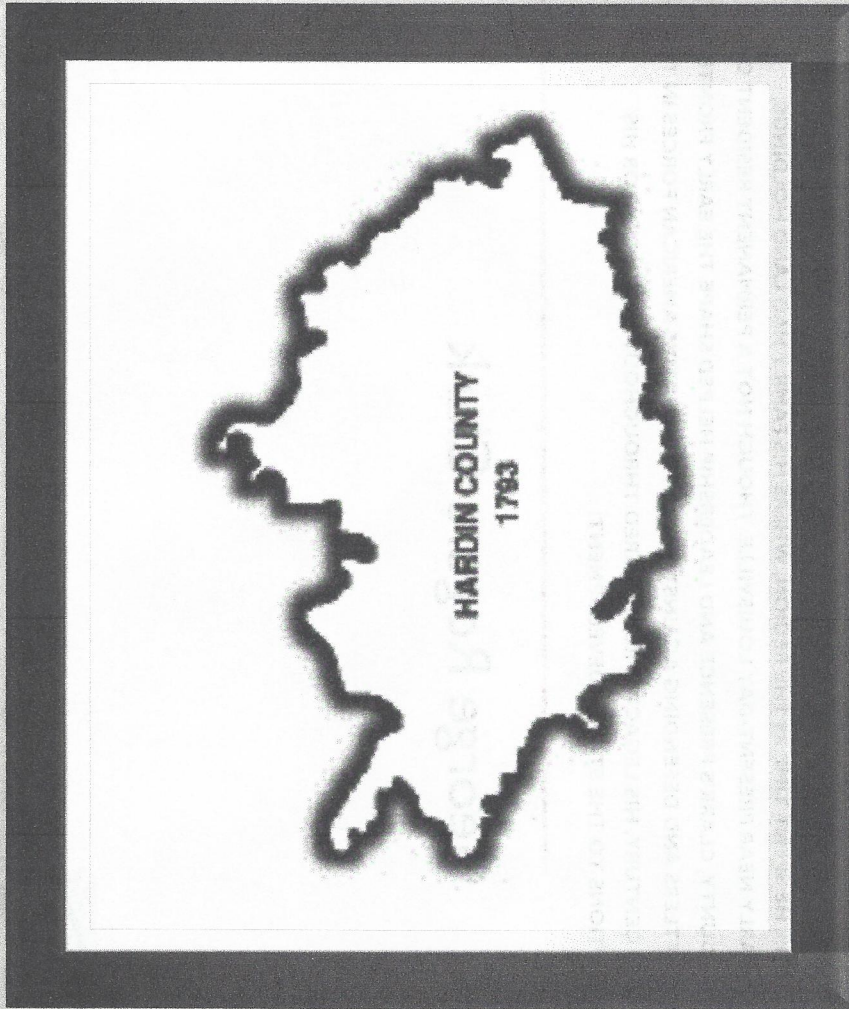
THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY LEFT LOUISVILLE AND MADE A BRIEF STOP AT WEST POINT, HARDIN COUNTY, KY WHERE A HARDIN COUNTY RESIDENT NAMED JOHN SLACK, WHO JOINED THE EXPEDITION. JOHN SLACK'S EXACT ROLE AND CONTRIBUTIONS WITH THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY REMAIN LESS DOCUMENTED THAN THOSE OF OTHER MEMBERS. AS ONE OF THE EARLY RECRUITS FOR THE EXPEDITION, SLACK'S INVOLVEMENT LIKELY INCLUDED TASKS SUCH AS NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGING TERRAIN, HUNTING FOR FOOD, AND ASSISTING WITH THE OVERALL LOGISTICS OF THE JOURNEY. HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE CORPS WOULD HAVE ENTAILED ENDURING THE SAME GRUELING CONDITIONS FACED BY THE TEAM, FROM EXTREME WEATHER TO DIFFICULT ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE AND NEGOTIATING WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES. WHILE NOT AS PROMINENTLY RECORDED IN HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS, MEMBERS LIKE SLACK PLAYED CRUCIAL ROLES IN THE SUCCESS OF THE CORPS BY SUPPORTING THE LEADERS, LEWIS, AND CLARK, AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS THAT LED TO THE EXPEDITION'S ACHIEVEMENTS.

John Slack Swicks



# ORIGINAL HARDIN COUNTY

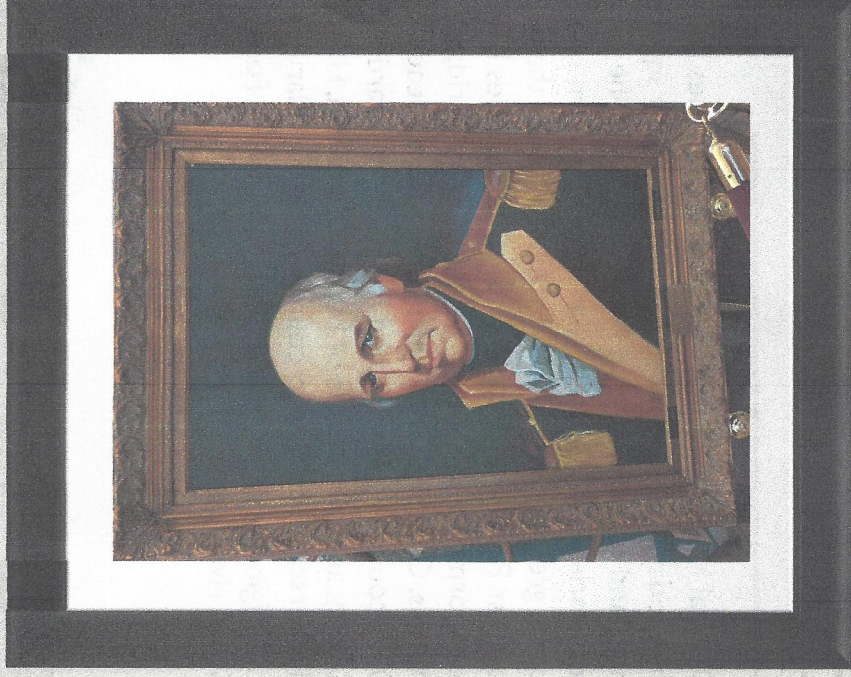
Original Hardin County was 6 and a half times larger than today's boundaries encompassing 4,000 square miles and taken fully from Nelson County. The original boundaries reached from our current eastern border to the green River at Munfordville following the River to West Point. All or part of 12 other counties have been formed from this original area. Breckinridge, Daviess, Grayson, Green, Hancock, LaRue, Meade and Ohio counties were formed from original Hardin County, as well as parts of Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Henderson and McLean counties. The boundaries of the original area were the Ohio, Salt, Rolling Fork and Green rivers.



GEORGE ROGERS CLARK, A REVOLUTIONARY WAR HERO, HAD SIGNIFICANT TIES TO HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY. KNOWN FOR HIS MILITARY LEADERSHIP IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY, CLARK ALSO INFLUENCED THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF KENTUCKY. AFTER HIS CAMPAIGNS, HE SPENT TIME IN THE REGION, WHERE HIS FAMILY HAD LAND HOLDINGS, PARTICULARLY NEAR PRESENT-DAY LOUISVILLE. THOUGH NOT A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF HARDIN COUNTY, CLARK'S PRESENCE AND LEADERSHIP HELPED SHAPE THE EARLY FRONTIER, AIDING SETTLERS AND DEFENDING AGAINST BRITISH AND NATIVE AMERICAN FORCES IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY. HIS LEGACY IS REMEMBERED THROUGHOUT KENTUCKY FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE'S DEVELOPMENT.

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## George Rogers Clark

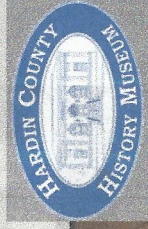




DANIEL BOONE, THE LEGENDARY AMERICAN FRONTIERSMAN, SPENT A SIGNIFICANT PART OF HIS LIFE EXPLORING AND SETTLING THE WILDERNESS OF KENTUCKY, INCLUDING HARDIN COUNTY. IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY, BOONE PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE WESTWARD EXPANSION, BLAZING TRAILS AND ESTABLISHING SETTLEMENTS. THOUGH NOT A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF HARDIN COUNTY, HIS INFLUENCE WAS FELT IN THE REGION AS HE LED EXPEDITIONS AND ASSISTED IN THE DEFENSE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES FROM NATIVE AMERICAN RAIDS DURING THE TUMULTUOUS TIMES OF FRONTIER CONFLICT. BOONE'S LEGACY IN HARDIN COUNTY IS REMEMBERED AS PART OF HIS BROADER CONTRIBUTION TO KENTUCKY'S EARLY DEVELOPMENT.

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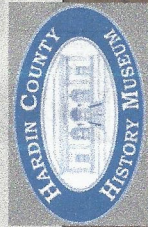
## DANIEL BOONE



IN HARDIN COUNTY, A SPINNING WHEEL STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO THE REGION'S RICH HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE. THIS TRADITIONAL APPARATUS, OFTEN FOUND IN HISTORICAL HOMES AND MUSEUMS, WAS ONCE A VITAL TOOL FOR LOCAL FAMILIES, ENABLING THEM TO SPIN YARN FROM RAW WOOL OR FLAX. THE SPINNING WHEEL NOT ONLY SYMBOLIZES THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF THE COUNTY'S EARLY SETTLERS BUT ALSO REPRESENTS THE INTRICATE CRAFTSMANSHIP AND DOMESTIC SKILLS THAT WERE ESSENTIAL TO EVERYDAY LIFE. TODAY, IT SERVES AS A POIGNANT REMINDER OF HARDIN COUNTY'S INDUSTRIOUS PAST, CONNECTING CURRENT GENERATIONS WITH THE ARTISANAL TRADITIONS OF THEIR ANCESTORS. <sup>1</sup>A

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## THE SPINNING WHEEL



## WALKING WOOL WHEEL

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The walking wool wheel, or great wheel, is a traditional spinning tool used in Hardin County, Kentucky, during the 19th century. Often found in rural households, it was employed to spin wool into yarn, playing a crucial role in textile production before industrialization. The large size of the wheel allowed for faster spinning compared to smaller spinning wheels. This tool, central to self-sustained farming communities, reflects the ingenuity and craftsmanship of the era, contributing to Hardin County's agricultural and domestic history.



## BARN LOOM

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The barn loom, a large wooden loom used for weaving, was an important fixture in Hardin County, Kentucky, during the 19th century. Typically found in barns or outbuildings due to its size, it was used by families to weave cloth from homespun fibers like wool, cotton, and flax. This loom played a vital role in household textile production, enabling early settlers to create fabrics for clothing, bedding, and other essentials. The barn loom reflects the self-sufficiency of Hardin County's rural communities and the importance of weaving in the region's domestic and agricultural life.



## QUILTING FRAME

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The quilting frame was an essential tool in Hardin County, Kentucky, used by women in the 19th century to create quilts for warmth and decoration. These wooden frames, often large and adjustable, were designed to hold layers of fabric and batting taut while quilts were meticulously hand-stitched. Quilting bees, where women gathered to work on quilts together, were common social events in rural communities. The quilting frame symbolizes the creativity, resourcefulness, and communal spirit of Hardin County's residents, as quilts were both practical household items and expressions of artistic skill.



## CLOCK WHEEL

The clock wheel, used in Hardin County, Kentucky, during the 19th century, was a tool designed to unwind yarn from a spindle in an orderly manner. It worked much like the gears of a clock, allowing yarn to be measured and wound evenly onto a reel or into skeins. This tool was essential in textile production, especially after spinning, as it helped ensure that the yarn was prepared properly for weaving or knitting. The clock wheel's presence in rural households reflects the importance of efficient yarn handling in the daily life of Hardin County's self-sufficient communities.



HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, LIKE MUCH OF THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN PARTS OF THE STATE, WAS PRIMARILY INHABITED BY VARIOUS NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES BEFORE EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT. THE SHAWNEE TRIBE IS THE MOST COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH THIS REGION. THEY WERE A NOMADIC PEOPLE, KNOWN FOR THEIR HUNTING SKILLS AND FOR MOVING ACROSS THE OHIO VALLEY, INCLUDING AREAS THAT NOW ENCOMPASS HARDIN COUNTY. ADDITIONALLY, THE CHEROKEE AND CHICKASAW TRIBES WERE KNOWN TO HAVE A PRESENCE IN KENTUCKY. THE CHEROKEE, ORIGINALLY FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES, EXTENDED THEIR RANGE INTO PARTS OF KENTUCKY FOR HUNTING EXPEDITIONS. THE CHICKASAW, PRIMARILY FROM WHAT IS NOW MISSISSIPPI, ALSO VENTURED INTO KENTUCKY FOR SIMILAR PURPOSES. FURTHERMORE, THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY, PARTICULARLY THE SENECA TRIBE, WAS KNOWN TO INFLUENCE THE REGION THROUGH TRADE AND CONFLICT. THOUGH THESE TRIBES DID NOT NECESSARILY ESTABLISH PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS IN HARDIN COUNTY, THEIR MOVEMENTS AND INTERACTIONS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED THE AREA'S HISTORY. THE COMPLEX WEB OF TRADE ROUTES, HUNTING GROUNDS, AND MIGRATORY PATHS HIGHLIGHTS THE RICH NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE THAT PRECEDED EUROPEAN COLONIZATION IN HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY.

## Indigenous People



## PIONEER CABIN

This cabin was built in Hardin County circa 1820 and endowed to the museum as a wonderful example of pioneer life in the county. Pioneer cabins in Hardin County, Kentucky, much like this one were simple log structures built by early settlers in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. These cabins, made from the abundant timber in the region, typically featured a single room with a stone fireplace for cooking and warmth. The pioneers used basic tools to craft these homes, often relying on family and community help. The cabins reflected the settlers' resilience and resourcefulness as they established a foothold in the wilderness, shaping the early frontier culture of Kentucky.





# GENERAL BRADDOCK

## LOYAL, BRAVE AND THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AFRICAN AMERICAN FREEMAN

General Braddock was an enslaved man from Hardin County, Kentucky, who gained local recognition for his skills and abilities. Despite the limitations of enslavement, he was highly regarded in the community, and his name was notable enough to be remembered in local history. His story reflects the complex dynamics of slavery in Kentucky, where enslaved individuals were often valued for their labor and expertise but still lived under oppressive conditions. General Braddock's legacy is a testament to the endurance and contributions of enslaved people in shaping the local history of Hardin County. Later in life, General Braddock became a free man by depriving ten native Americans of their lives. He joined a hunting party of local men bent on revenge against the indigenous inhabitants and if he could kill ten Indians then he would gain his freedom. General Braddock made his quota and became the 1<sup>st</sup> free African American in Hardin County.



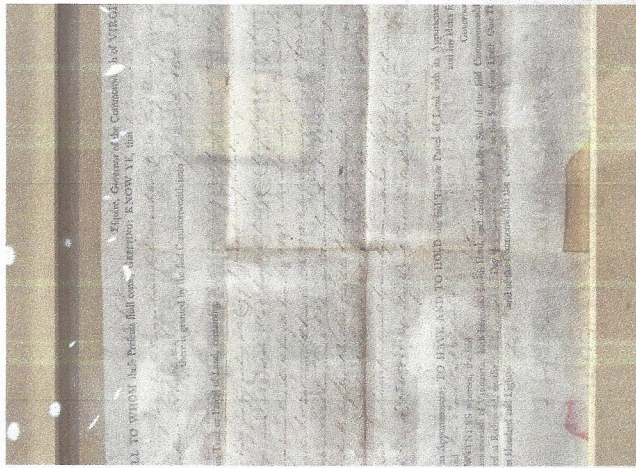
# BROOM-MAKING TABLE AND VICE

In Hardin County, Kentucky, broom-making was a traditional craft, and a broom-making table and vice were essential tools for this trade. The table provided a sturdy workspace, while the vice held broom handles securely in place as artisans attached broomcorn and stitched it into shape. This equipment was often found in small workshops or even homes, where locals produced handmade brooms for both personal use and sale. Broom-making became a significant cottage industry in the 19th and early 20th centuries, contributing to the county's rural economy and craft heritage.



# LAND GRANTS

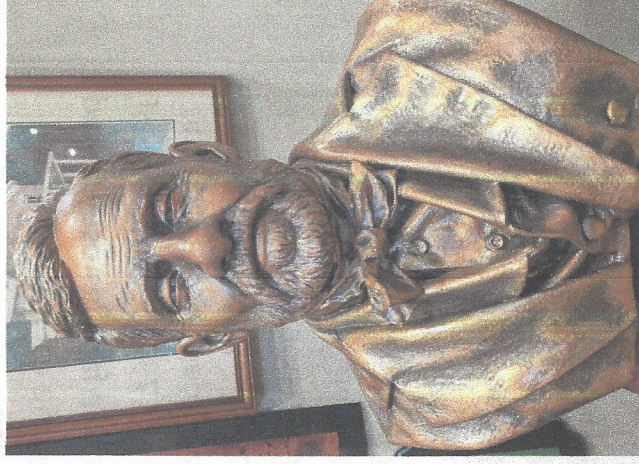
After the American Revolution, land grants were given to soldiers as a form of payment for their service. In Kentucky, particularly in areas like Hardin County, these land grants were issued by the Virginia government, as Kentucky was then part of Virginia. The land grants you see here were signed by Patrick Henry and Edmond Rudolph while they served as governor of Virginia. Soldiers and officers were granted large parcels of land, which encouraged settlement and development in the region. Hardin County, formed in 1792, became one of the areas where veterans and their families established farms and communities, shaping the early growth and settlement patterns of the county.



## SAMUEL HAYCRAFT, JR SON OF A PIONEER, LOCAL POLITICIAN AND HISTORIAN

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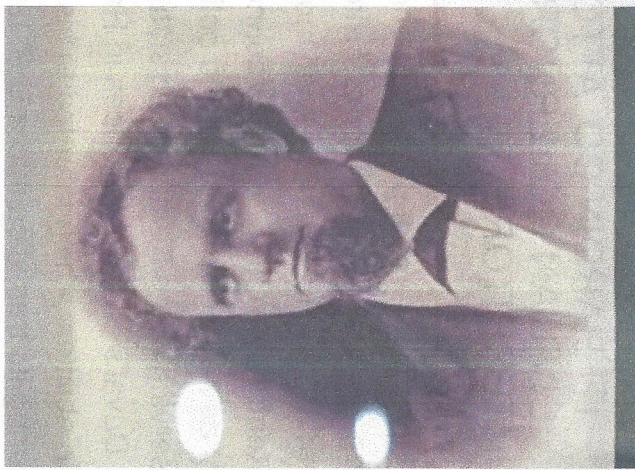
Samuel Haycraft, Jr. was an early settler and prominent figure in Hardin County, Kentucky, known for his contributions to the region's history and development. Born in 1795, he played a vital role in documenting the early history of the county and served as the clerk of both the county and circuit courts for many years. Haycraft authored *A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky and its Surroundings*, preserving important details about local history, including connections to figures like Abraham Lincoln. His work remains a key resource for understanding the early days of Hardin County.



## JOHN YOUNG BROWN GOVERNOR OF KY, MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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John Young Brown, who served as Governor of Kentucky from 1891 to 1895, had a significant connection to Hardin County, where he was born in 1835. A native of Elizabethtown, Brown went on to become a skilled lawyer and politician, serving in the U.S. House of Representatives before becoming governor. His time in office was marked by his advocacy for states' rights and opposition to monopolies. Brown's roots in Hardin County helped shape his political views, and his early life in the area played a key role in his rise to prominence in Kentucky politics.



# WILLIAM POPE DUVAL

1<sup>ST</sup> HARDIN CO. ATTORNEY AND 1<sup>ST</sup>  
CIVILIAN GOVERNOR OF THE FLORIDA  
TERRITORY

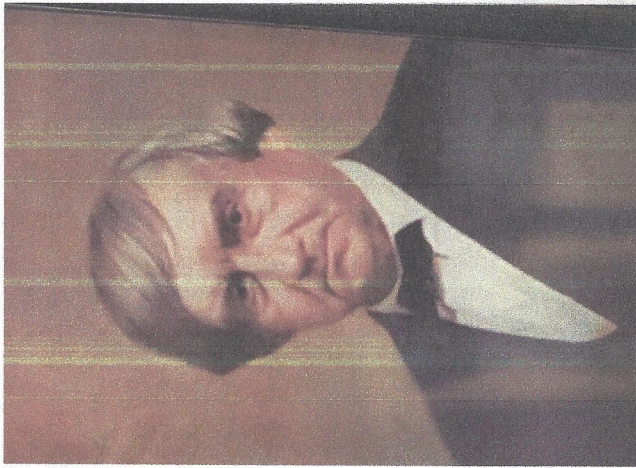
William Pope Duval was a prominent early American politician and the first civilian governor of the Florida Territory, serving from 1822 to 1834. Born in 1784 in Virginia, Duval moved with his family to Hardin County, Kentucky, in his youth. His connection to Hardin County was significant as he began his legal and political career there, practicing law and serving in the Kentucky legislature and as the first Hardin Co. Attorney. Duval's early experiences in Hardin County helped shape his leadership abilities, which later led to his notable role in governing Florida during its transition into a U.S. territory.



## JOSEPH HOLT LAWYER, SOLDIER, AND POLITICIAN.

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Joseph Holt was a prominent lawyer, judge, and political figure who served as Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army during the Civil War, where he played a key role in the prosecution of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. Born in 1807 in Breckinridge County, Kentucky, Holt had strong ties to Hardin County, where he spent part of his early life and practiced law. His connection to Hardin County was foundational in shaping his legal career, which later propelled him to national prominence as a staunch Union supporter and a key figure in military justice during a pivotal time in American history.



## MARTIN H. COFER LAWYER, SOLDIER, JUDGE

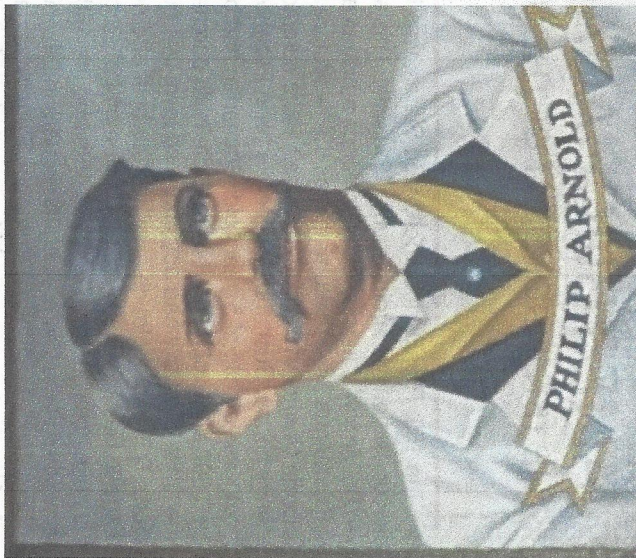
MARTIN HARDIN COFER, chief justice of court of appeals, and one of the most notable members of the bar of Elizabethtown, was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, April 1, 1832. He moved to Illinois in 1853, where he was licensed by the supreme court there to practice law. After about three years he returned to Kentucky in April, 1856, and opened a Law office in Elizabethtown. When the Civil War began, Cofer was serving as a Captain of the Hardin County State Guard. His sympathies were with the confederacy, eventually joining the the 6th Kentucky Vol. Infantry Regt, CSA as a colonel. Cofer was made provost marshal of the Army of the Tennessee a position he held until the end of the war. After the war, he returned to Elizabethtown and resumed his professional career where he was elected to the circuit court and then to the court of Appeals where he served eight term eventually serving as Chief Justice until the time of his death.





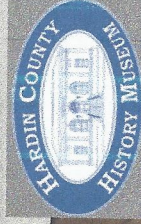
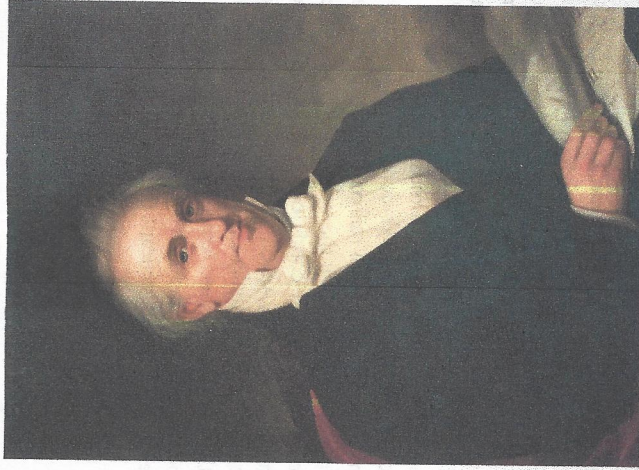
## PHILIP ARNOLD AND THE GREAT DIAMOND HOAX

Philip Arnold, born in Hardin County, Kentucky, was a 19th-century con man best known for orchestrating one of the most famous diamond hoaxes in U.S. history. In the early 1870s, Arnold and his cousin John Slack claimed to have discovered a massive diamond field in the western United States. They successfully duped investors, including prominent businessmen, into investing large sums of money, not once but twice before his hoax was exposed. Arnold's 1st scheme netted him around a million dollars which was quickly followed with his 2nd effort that duped some of the country's most notable businessmen and politicians out of nearly 10 million, in today's dollars. The scheme was exposed when geologists working on the transcontinental railroad heard about the find and made the point that diamonds, rubies, garnets and all the other gems that Arnold scattered in his phony mine developed under different conditions and couldn't occur naturally in the same place. Now that the jig was up, Arnold returned to Hardin County where he survived several class action lawsuits eventually keeping most of his ill-gotten gain. Now flush with cash, and after the lawsuits stopped Arnold settled down to become a local businessman even opening a bank. Although Arnold's bogus mine venture was short-lived, the diamond swindle of 1872 left a significant mark on the history of American fraud.



## JAMES BUCHANAN, THE 15TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

James Buchanan, the 15th President of the United States, was born in Cove Gap, Pennsylvania, but has a notable connection to Hardin County, Kentucky. This area was the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, Buchanan's successor, which adds a historical link between Buchanan and the region. Due to a mysterious set of circumstances the two future leaders found themselves concurrently in Hardin County which added to their list of common experiences that included their time in the white house. Buchanan happen to be in Elizabethtown around 1814 as a young lawyer when Lincoln was a child of 5 years old. Buchanan had been sent to Hardin County to defend claims on 6,000 acres of land around White Mills purchased by his father as an investment. At the time, Kentucky had abysmal land laws that put the ownership of each parcel of land in question. This circumstance attracted the best attorneys in the country to the Commonwealth and to Hardin County to "test their metal" by arguing boundaries and ownership. Knowing this, it is quite possible that the future 15th and the 16th Presidents of the United States walked past one another somewhere along the square in Elizabethtown sometime in the fall of 1814. Shortly thereafter, Buchanan returned to Pennsylvania, and it would be another 45-some-odd years before the two men would be reunited again in Washington City as President and President-elect.



## THE JENNY LIND CAPE

The Jenny Lind cape is a historical garment named after the famous Swedish opera singer Jenny Lind, often referred to as the "Swedish Nightingale." Jenny Lind traveled through Hardin County on her way to Louisville for her concert in the mid-1800s. She stopped to spend the night in Elizabethtown where she sang from the stoop of the Hill House, known today as the Brown Pusey House and a day later she repeated her performance from the porch of Young's Hotel in West Point. Popular in the mid-19th century, the cape became a fashionable item due to Lind's immense popularity during her American tour in the 1850s, promoted by P. T. Barnum. The cape, typically made of fine materials like velvet or silk, featured elegant designs and was often worn by women as a stylish outer garment, reflecting the era's romantic and sophisticated fashion trends.



## EMILIE TODD HELM CONFEDERATE WIDOW AND ELIZABETHTOWN POST MASTER

Emilie Todd Helm, from Hardin County, Kentucky, was the half-sister of Mary Todd Lincoln and the wife of Confederate General Ben Hardin Helm, making her Abraham Lincoln's sister-in-law. Despite her husband's allegiance to the Confederacy during the Civil War, Emilie maintained a close and complicated relationship with the Lincolns. After General Helm's death at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863, Lincoln invited Emilie to stay at the White House to mourn, showing the personal ties that transcended their political differences. Her presence there caused controversy due to her Confederate sympathies, but Lincoln's gesture reflected the family bond they shared amidst the conflict.



## BEN HARDIN HELM CONFEDERATE BRIGADIER GENERAL AND LINCOLN'S BROTHER-IN-LAW

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Ben Hardin Helm was a Confederate brigadier general from Hardin County, Kentucky, with close personal ties to Abraham Lincoln. Helm was married to Emilie Todd, the half-sister of Lincoln's wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, making him Lincoln's brother-in-law. Despite their family connection, Helm chose to fight for the Confederacy during the Civil War, a decision that deeply saddened Lincoln. Helm's death at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863 was a personal loss for Lincoln, who mourned his brother-in-law despite their political differences. This relationship highlights the deep divisions the war caused even within families.



## GOVERNOR JOHN L. HELM POLITICIAN, CONFEDERATE SYMPATHIZER, PRESIDENT OF THE L&N RAILROAD

Governor John L. Helm was a significant political figure from Hardin County, Kentucky. Born in 1802, Helm served twice as governor of Kentucky, first in 1850-1851 and then in 1867, though his second term was cut short by his death. He was a staunch supporter of states' rights and the Southern cause during the Civil War, though he worked to reconcile the state afterward. Helm also served in the state legislature and as president of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, where he politically maneuvered the railroad to be built through his hometown of Elizabethtown instead of the less expensive route through Bardstown. The Elizabethtown route had many challenges, primarily among those who were laying track up and over Muldraugh's hill which rose some 500 ft. in just over four miles from the bottom of the valley to just north of the city limits. The railroad was completed in 1859 contributing to the economic development of the entire region. His family was influential in Kentucky politics, with ties to both local and state leadership.

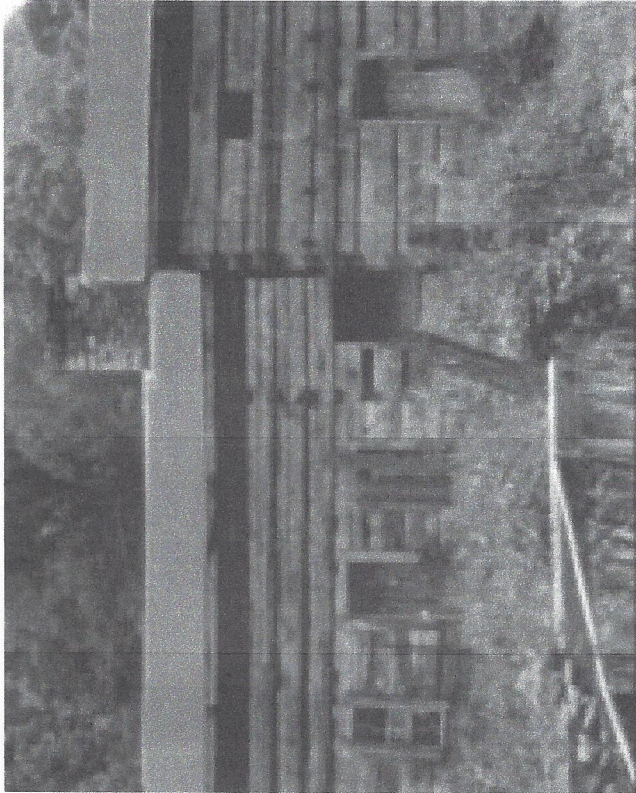


## MERCHANDISING ESTABLISHMENTS CALLED ORDINARIES

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Merchandising establishments began to appear in Hardin County around 1795. These businesses were "one-stop-shops" combining a tavern, stable, and inn, to serve the needs of the infrequent traveler. Known as Ordinaries, these enterprises were located about the distance of a one-day horse or carriage ride apart. Some of the locations for these establishments later became thriving communities that continue today. In a mix of public and private interest that we might find peculiar today, county government regulated the price of service that an Ordinary could charge to protect the traveling public in the vacuum of competition. Some of the prices that the court determined to be fair in 1793 were:

- \$0.15 for a half pint of whiskey.
- \$0.06 for the lodging for one person for one night; and
- \$0.25 for a meal.



## LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE TURNPIKE

Louisville and Nashville Turnpike was the first all-weather road built between Louisville and Nashville. It followed a similar route as Dixie Highway except for a few slight changes. The word turnpike originally meant a turnpike or toll gate, but by about 1825 it had come to signify a road surfaced with some hard material. The pike was conceived in 1826 by an Act of the Kentucky legislature; though by the time the company's charter expired the road had not been constructed. In 1833, the legislature incorporated another turnpike company to accomplish the job. An all weather road meant that commerce could continue even during the winter months when dirt roads became impassable quagmires. Hardin County farmers and businessmen could now travel as needed to sell their goods or conduct business along the L&N turnpike.





## STAGECOACH STOPS: THE HAYCRAFT INN

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The Haycraft Inn was one of the many stagecoach stops on the Louisville & Nashville turnpike built as respites for the weary traveler. The Sign of the Lion was another located at N. Main St. and the square in Elizabethtown. The oldest portion of Haycraft inn was constructed ca. 1814. and the building was enlarged to its present size when purchased by Daniel Haycraft, ca. 1820. , The inn continued to be a popular stopping place for stagecoaches despite the railroads becoming the preferred mode of transportation. The inn operated until 1884 but soon thereafter was closed to the public because of declining stagecoach travel. A few other locations at the end of the road where you would find a stagecoach stop were:

1. Hardin's Ford that later became the city of Hardinsburg,
2. Vienna or the Falls of Rough: found on the boundary line between Breckinridge and Grayson County at the Falls of Rough River and,
3. Chiopiomingo or Rockhaven located in Meade County on the Ohio River near the mouth of Otter Creek and Rock Haven.

