

Clay County Ancestral N·E·W·S

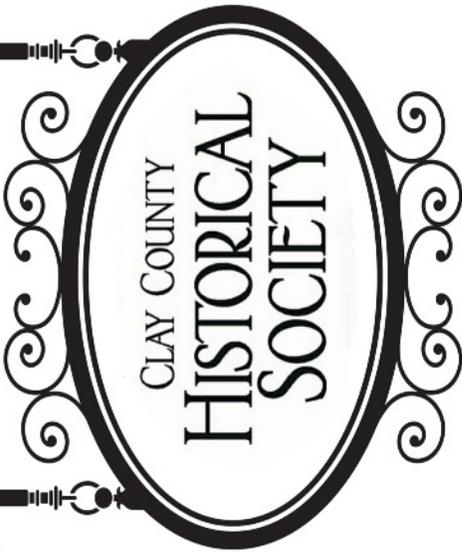


CLAY COUNTY'S BLACK HISTORY

- Harrison Potter
- Brown Bombers Baseball
- First Baptist Church
- The Lincoln Institute
- Aunt Sophia Word
- Manchester B

Spring & Summer 2017 • Volume 33, Number 1

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“Whitewashing”... The President’s View

A special cover, a new president and projects galore!



I am sure everyone has heard the phrase “live and in living color.” If “a picture is worth a thousand words” then a color photo must be worth at least a million. As I begin my presidency of the historical society it’s certainly exciting to usher in the term with our magazine boasting its first full color cover! We hope you enjoy this added feature and if you have suggestions for other ways to improve the Clay County Ancestral News (CCAN) please let us know!

For this issue, we pulled from a variety of sources to create an exciting group of articles and photos devoted to Clay County’s Black History. We introduce readers to Clay native, Dr. Paul White, with his stories “Grandpa Harrison Potter” and “The First Catholic Wedding in Clay County” and welcome back military historian, Gary Burns, with his piece “Clay County’s African American Experience.” We added notable articles by Joe Burchell, Mark Hoskins, and Jerry Emond, that originally appeared in *The Manchester Enterprise* and drew from our Family History collection to give readers the story of Aunt Sophie Word’s family by Sharon K. Carson and Joyce Baker Carson. My father-in-law, Lambert Webb, writes of his sports idol, Bob Gilbert, in “My Greatest Sports Figure” and Robert Mason gives us his first impressions of our town in “Two Days in Manchester.” Danny L. Finley treats us again with his “Lest We Forget” column and Maggie Bowling contributes the Hipsher, Berry Potter, and Salyers Cemeteries. Many of the photos were provided by Ethel P. Martin, John Ed Pennington, and the late Ann Hipsher Fair – they tell the real story!

The color cover is just one of the many exciting things happening here at the society since our last issue. As we anxiously await construction to begin on our museum, we are designing a striking website that will be up and running by the time you receive this publication. We feel it is much-needed and trust that it’s a useful addition the membership will be proud of. We urge you to visit the site (www.clayfamilies.org), browse its many features, and tell us what you think.

Our microfilm (over 100 rolls) has been digitized and will be part of our extensive Nancy E. Hale Digital Library that will eventually include ALL copies of *The Manchester Enterprise*, as well as, available copies of *The Manchester Guardian*, *The Manchester Courier*, and the *Oneida Mountaineer*. Thanks again to the late Ms. Hale for her generous contribution that made this possible.



Things are moving forward with our Pictorial History as we’ve met with the publisher to discuss pricing, layout, presales, etc. Also, within the publishing realm, our full color brochure promoting the society is being designed and will be distributed throughout Manchester and Clay County. Surprisingly enough, it seems that many folks are not aware that a Clay County Historical Society exists, and those that are do not know where we’re located. Hopefully, this brochure will help remedy that.

Those things being said, it’s an honor to take the reins of this fast-moving organization that now boasts more than 500 members! Thanks to past president M. C. Edwards for all his efforts in leading this membership for the last two years – he has left big shoes to fill! By incorporating various leadership styles and ideas, our society will remain fresh and progressive. The two of us are proof that with any successful organization the leader is only as good as the people who surround him and our volunteers are simply the best!

If we’re doing our jobs right you’ll have a sense of excitement and anticipation every time you receive your magazine. We certainly hope you enjoy our focus on Clay County’s Black History! *Happy reading!*

Mike White, President

michaeljwhite@windstream.net



Clay County Ancestral News Spring & Summer 2017

**Cover: The Potter – White Catholic
Wedding, August 6, 1949.
See page 39 for the story.**



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Grandpa Harrison Potter

A Grandson's Recollections



Harrison Potter (front row, far left) played with an early Clay County baseball team. To the right of Harrison is Tom Clark, Gill Lyttle (?), Carlo "Butterlip" Lyttle (Coach), Doc Clark, Frank Drake, Bradley "Hi-Pockets" Lyttle, and Jackie Lyttle. Middle row, left to right: Os (Oscar) Brittain, Otto Brittain, Urakey Lyttle and Jimmy Lyttle. Back row: Willie Potter, Dan Wallace, George Wallace, Theo Hipsher, (?) Eubanks, Ed Pennington, (?) Eubanks, Toll Drake and "Buger" Will Walker. Photo was supplied to The Manchester Enterprise by Charlie Lyttle. It is estimated that the photo was taken between 1915 - 1921.

“Grandpa was the only Black man I knew at the time in Manchester who had an occupation, but did not work for someone else: He was the boss and owner!”

By Paul H. White, Ph.D., O.P.

Many people in Manchester and Clay County knew or knew of my Grandpa, Harrison B. Potter, Sr. Having lived for 98 years and being a fixture on Town Branch Road, Grandpa made a lot of connections and there are lots of stories that can be told about him (some may even be true). To tell them all would be a few volumes, at the least. Thus, this is just a brief recollection of a few items from my memories and knowledge of Grandpa.

To begin at the beginning, Grandpa was born on October 4, 1892 (it is the same day, but not year, of my step-daughter) in Manchester. His father was Berry Potter (born in 1861) and his mother was Emma (or Emily) Bates. Grandma Emma, as Mommie and I started calling her during our genealogy hunts, is a mystery. Grandpa Berry and Grandma Emma were married in 1886 in Manchester. They had three children and my Grandpa was the middle child. Grandma Emma died not too long after Grandpa was born (a few years). Due to the massive fire that wiped-out census material from 1890, we have been unable to find her records or even a death certificate. Grandpa would not talk much about her (even though he had a picture hanging in his room of her all the years I lived there) because the story is she was white (or at least of mixed ethnic heritage; the names we found for her parents were Nancy Bates and Col. John Lucas, but we were not ever sure). Grandpa would say, "People did what they had to do and we do not talk about it" when I would, in my young, unknowing ways, ask him questions about her.

Grandpa Berry remarried in 1899 to Fannie Lyttle and they had five more children (a few of them I got to meet and know). Grandpa grew up not too far from where he ended up building a house (Grandpa Berry's house was at the back end of what is now called Potter Lane Road). As a youngster, Grandpa worked downtown doing different jobs (part of it, I believe, was for the Webb Hotel) and he gained a reputation for being tough and somewhat of a drinker (which stopped when he met Granny). In fact, in hearing those stories about him drinking, I asked him about it. He told me that his lips did not touch a glass of whiskey or liquor. When I told Mom that, she said that was because he drank directly from the jug. Grandpa just laughed and smiled at me, saying he told me the truth: No glass was needed!

It was during those days that Grandpa was involved with some different women, and was married to Lillie Potter. They separated not too long after being married and divorced officially in September 1924. He married Granny



Clarice "Ms. CB" White Potter taught at Potter's Chapel School.

(Clarice White) on November 9, 1924. How they met is one of the stories I need to find! Just a few days before their first anniversary, they had their first child, Vanilla (Mommie).

Grandpa did a variety of things over his life. Besides the odd jobs in his early days, he was in the Armed Services during World War I, but did not get shipped overseas. He worked for a number of years as a coal miner, which is why Granny had a shower installed downstairs in the "big house" not long after it was built in the late 1920s (she did not want him bringing coal dust into the house and around the children).

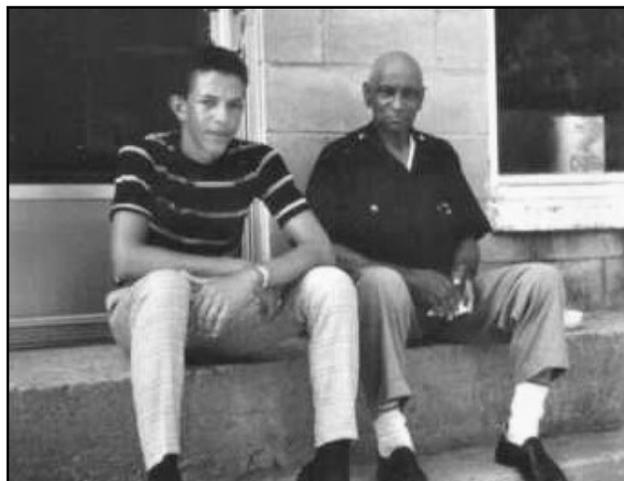
Another major job Grandpa held and was known for around the area was being a farmer. He had some gardens and livestock (cows, pigs, chickens) even when I moved there in 1973 (and he was in his 80s). There is a spot on the property we all called the "hog killing" place. When I was a child, people would bring hogs or cows there to be butchered (I actually learned how to skin a hog and wring a chicken, but Grandpa was not supposed to allow me to do it). I thought it was a lot of fun when people would bring stuff to be butchered because I got to help set up the wood for the fire and put water into the big boiling pot. Now, having to pick corn, dig potatoes, and shuck beans was not as fun! But, there were times I got to slop the pigs, much to Mom's chagrin because I would get into the pen and play. Oh, plus I would chase the chickens! Over the years there, Grandpa had horses, goats, turkeys, and I believe it was either geese or swans.

Most of my memories, though, are of his job owning and running a grocery/early convenience store. Apparently, after Granny retired from teaching in the 1960s, they set up the store full time. The hours were not a regular set, but most days before Granny died in 1977, one of them was down there (it was located just at the bottom of the hill on the property). There were many days I would go and sit in the store or on the steps and just listen to the stories that people would tell. There were some regulars that would stop by, sadly the only names I can remember are Mr. Lester Rowland, Mr. Gilbert (Gibb) Walker, and Mr. Lawrence Pennington (I know there were many others, like a man who lived on Muddy Gap that would stop by just about each evening). The store was not a huge money maker, but it was a community gathering spot. Grandpa was the only Black man I knew at the time in Manchester who had an occupation, but did not work for someone else: He was the boss and owner! After a while, Mom would go down and open the store for people. I even got my turns at doing it from time to time! Yes, some kids dream of having a store, but I got to semi-live it out!

Grandpa could be stern and seem mean and scary, but I know he loved us very much. He had friends and connections that spanned age, ethnicity, and social standing. Given the number of years he lived, many of his contemporaries died but he would connect with others. Many people have told me how he and Granny helped them out of tough spots by giving them food, clothes, and supplies “on credit” (before people were using credit cards). Grandpa had a wicked sense of humor (e.g., the “lips on a glass” above; he would say that he was “deaf in one ear and can’t hear out the other”) and liked to tell stories. As I said, there are so many of them (e.g., sneaking into a Ku Klux Klan rally behind the scenes and asking a friend who was there if he needed Grandpa to help him put on his robe and hood), but I will end with two memories of mine as a child.

First, Grandpa loved baseball. There are times I wonder if I disappointed him not getting into the sport (for me, it was football, basketball, track). I remember sitting with him watching games when we could get them on television. In particular, watching Hank Aaron break Babe Ruth’s home run record and watching the Big Red Machine of the Cincinnati Reds in the 1970s. He would tell me about the Negro Leagues and watching games. Now that I think about it, maybe that is why I enjoyed going out to the Ballpark as a child and watching Little League (but not playing).

Second, I remember when Grandpa came home from the hospital after Granny died. He was 84 years old and this was the love of his life for over 50 years. Standing by the



Harrison Pennington (son of Lawrence and Viola Pennington) and Harrison Potter on the steps of Potter’s Store in the early 1960s.

floor furnace in the living room, people were milling about there and throughout the house. He looked at me and simply said that she was gone. He started crying and just held me. As a little 10-year-old, I just did my best to hug and hold him as he sobbed. When I was told Grandpa died in 1991 just days before I defended my Master’s thesis, that was the image that came to mind first. It was not out of sadness, but thinking that he and Granny are together again.

Yes, Harrison B. Potter lived a remarkable life. These are just some of the memories and information about him. So many called him Mr. Potter or Mr. Harrison, but I am blessed and proud that I got to call him Grandpa.

Paul H. White was born in Langston, Oklahoma. A 1984 graduate of Clay County High School, he attended Berea College and earned both his MA and PhD in Experimental Social Psychology at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. Since 1995, he has been on staff at the University of Utah where he currently serves as an Associate Professor of Psychology and Adjunct Associate Professor in Ethnic Studies. Dr. White has published numerous research articles and traveled internationally presenting workshops, seminars, and lectures. He has received many honors including the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from Berea College and “Most Humorous Psychology Professor” at the University of Utah. He and his wife, also a Berea graduate, live in Salt Lake City.

A second article by Dr. White, “The First Catholic Wedding in Clay County,” appears later in this issue. The cover photo shows his parents and grandparents.

Obituaries from *The Manchester Enterprise*

Jan 11, 1979

Harrington Thompson

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, January 10th for Harrington Thompson age 72.

Mr. Thompson of Hima died Saturday, January 6th at the Memorial Hospital. He was a coal miner and a member of the Baptist Church.

Survivors include the following children: Lily, Jean Brumley, Maureen "Cookie" Henson and William Ed Johnson all of Hima; Larry Gene Thompson, Harold Wayne Thompson and Brenda Gail Henson all of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Also surviving are the following brothers and sisters: Robert Thompson, Beattyville, Kentucky; Aaron Thomspon, Hima; Nannie-Mae Johnson of Saginaw, Michigan and Mealie Williams of Saginaw, Michigan.

Services were held at the Horse Creek Baptist Church by John R. Jones with burial in the Thompson Cemetery.

Rominger Funeral Home, in charge.

September 20, 1935

Colored Man Dies

Berry Potter, 76 year old colored man died from the ravages of pneumonia at his home here, Tuesday night, Sept. 17, after an illness of short length.

He is survived by his widow and five children.

July 20, 1950

Heart Attack Fatal To Mrs. Mattie Clark, 66

Mrs. Mattie Clark, 66-year-old colored resident, died at her home in East Manchester, Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. following a heart attack. She was a member of the Baptist Church and was a retired school teacher.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday at 2 p.m., at the Baptist Colored Church.

Mrs. Clark is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Leona Wilson, Somerset, Kentucky, and a sister, Mrs. Ella Hipsher, of Manchester.

March 21, 1991

Harrison Potter
TOWN BRANCH - Harrison Potter, 98, of Town Branch Rd., Sunday March 10, 1991 at Memorial Hospital in Manchester. He was a retired miner and grocer.

He leaves surviving the following children: Garnett Clark and Vanilla White, both of Manchester, Ky.; Harrison Potter Jr., Phoenix, Arizona; and Daisy Hughes, Oyster Bay, N.Y. Fifteen grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren also survive.

Services were 9 AM Saturday March 16, 1991 at Britton Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Roy Lyttle and Rev. Cecil

April 14, 1977

CLERCIE POTTER

Clercie Potter, 76 of Town Branch road died Saturday at the St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington. She was the wife of Harrison Potter and retired School Teacher and Merchant.

She was a member of the St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Surviving are three children; Vavilla White Manchester; Daisy Hughes Oyster Bay, N.Y. and Harison Potter, Jr. Rochester N. Y.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, at 1 P.M. at the St. Ann's Catholic Church with Father Bertin Glennon officiating.

Burial was in Potter Cemetery in Manchester. Britton Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

July 20, 1934

N. B. Cotton Passes

Napoleon B. Cotton, 72, died of pernicious anemia, at his home near Manchester, Monday, July 16, after an illness of two years.

Mr. Cotton was well known as a scholar, matriculating at Berea College and acquiring his A. B. degree from there. He remained a student throughout his life.

Mr. Cotton was a strict adherent to the bible and its teachings all his life.

He is survived by his wife, three sons, three daughters and five grandchildren; four brothers and one sister.

Funeral services were conducted in the family cemetery Tuesday July 17, Rev. Gifford Walters officiating.

July 16, 1964

Former Restaurant Operator Dies At Age 90

Mrs. Ella Hipshere, 90, former restaurant owner and probably one of the first Restaurant operators in Manchester died Friday. She and her sister Mattie operated a restaurant near where Cap Hollins Barber Shop stands for a number of years.

She died in Southeastern Baptist Hospital in Corbin suffering injuries in a fall received at the home of a niece Mary Reid (Big Sis) where she made her home in East Manchester.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Manchester. The Rev. F.R.

Walters officiated at the service.

Burial was in the Hipshere Cemetery near Pennington Hill.

Surviving are nieces and nephews: Mrs. Mary Reid, Manchester, Lorraine Wilson, Somerset, Charlie and Sam Hipshere Cincinnati, Lillian Johnston, Dayton, Ohio Arthur Spears, Detroit, Michigan, J.C. Clark, Detroit, Michigan, Thelma Fields, Owensboro, Nell Hipshere Lexington, Bruce Hipshere; Lexington, Ky, Joyce Fullwood, Lexington, Lelia, Mildred and Jack Hipshere all of Manchester.

Rominger Funeral Home had charge of arrangements.

January 21, 1971

John (Pepper) Clark

John P. (Pepper) Clark, 65, of Manchester died at his home on Town Branch Friday night about 10 a.m. after a lingering illness.

Death was listed as pneumonia.

He was an employee of the Kentucky Department of Highways in Manchester. Member of the M. D. Church and the Masonic Order in Barbourville.

Surviving are his wife Gerthie Clark and one daughter Anna Lee Clark, Manchester.

Brothers and sisters, Ann Clark, Lillie Wallace, Dicie Lyttle and Joe B. Clark all of Manchester and T. J. Clark of Columbus, Ohio.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Saint Paul A. M. E. Church on Town Branch with the Rev. O. S. Ross and Rev. Harry Walker officiating.

Burial was in the Clark Cemetery.

Rominger Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

The body remained at the Funeral Home until funeral time.

Education for Clay County's Black Students - Part 1:

The 1895 Clay County School Census Record - Schools of Color

The following school census records were discovered in the Kentucky State Archives in Frankfort and transcribed by James Welch. They were later included in the book, *1895 Clay County School Census Record*, compiled by Mr. Welch and published by the Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society. The book contains the district census records of sixty-five Clay County Schools. The four schools listed here are the schools of color.

Each school was required to provide a census of children residing in said district who would be, on the first day of July next, between the ages of 6 and 20 years, stating age, sex, name of each child and name of parent. Teacher's names were not included.

There is no name given for any of the schools, as each was identified by a number or letter; however, based on two articles in this issue - "History of the Manchester B School" by Ann Hipsher Fair and "Black Schools in Clay County" by Jerry Emond - we have some clues. The "C" school could have been either Potter's Chapel or Hima (Horse Creek) and the "A" school could have served the Horse Creek area. Ms. Fair wrote that the current "B" school was built in 1935, but this census taken 40 years prior to that time lists a "Colored

B" school. Other former students have talked of Mize Branch, Sweet Chesnut Hill, and Cotton Branch schools, but it is unknown if any of them were operating as early as 1895.

This information is helpful as there is no 1890 United States Census and the resulting twenty-year gap between the census of 1880 and the census of 1900 can be a genealogical nightmare. Some children who were born after the 1880 census was taken could have married before the 1900 census and as such never listed with their parents/guardians and/or siblings. This census can be used to place these children within their families.

The original records were difficult to read and we ask that you patiently overlook errors in transcription. Every effort, including some guesswork, has been made to provide a legible transcription of the documents. Some district census records were not located and there may have been other schools of color that were not found. When possible, names were reconciled with the 1900 Federal Census.

Names in the first column were the parents or guardians, names in the second column were the children in that household and their ages. Gender (m or f) was sometimes listed.

COLORED A

Census Completed 4-24-1894

Males 34 and Females 33 - 67 Students

Alford Gilbert	Walker 13
Ruben Walker	Alex 18, Mariah 15f, Willie 13, Joseph 10, Lydia 9
B. J. Harrison	Sallie 18, Belle 16, Cornella 14, Parker 11, Thomas 7
Jennie Lyttle	Lettie 18f, C.B. 16m
William Brittain	M.E. 19f, Emma 6f
Albert Lyttle	Fannie 18f, C.B. 17, Mary 16, James 14, Belle 12f, Eva 10f, Albert Jr. 8, Polly 6f
Patsy Turner	John 14, Suda 11f, Shilt 8
James Love	Beverly 19m, Princess 17f, Lula 15f, Arthisia Clark 13f, Charly Gibson 11
James Gilbert Jr.	Minnie 18f, Flora Clark 12
H.M. Gibbs	Patsy 19
Elizabeth Tillett	James 10
Walk Walker	Frank 16, Fannie 15, John 9, Willie 7
Jermina Gilbert	Randall 19m, Alex 15, Sallie 12f, John D. 9
Nancy Gilbert	Henry 16, William 14

Amelia Clark	James 17, Molly 15, Green 7, Ad 10m
S.B. Lyttle	Helen 19
William Love	Issaac Mills 15
Isaac S Manning	Jane 13f
Polly Gibbs	Mattie 17, Molly 16, Burdia 10f
Amelia Thompson	N.S. 16m, Willie 14m, David 10, C.B. 7m
Samuel Gibson	Eddie 10f, Lucy 8
Lucy Hughs	Carter 10m, Sallie 6f
Mary Jane Hipshire	Eller 18f, John 16m, Mattie 13f, T.T. 10m

COLORED B

Census Completed 4-28-1894

26 Males and 25 Females - 51 Students

William Hurd	Frank 19, Nora? 16f, Easter 15f
Polly Pace	Sarah Pace 15, Albert Hurd 10, Rose B. 8f
Eliza Clark	Joseph 14, Ben 9
Lee Gilbert	Olly 17, Lenen? 8m
Rachel Mize	Larken 9, Dale 6m
Emilene Tomson	Baberry Mize 14
Gerry Mize	Mettean 16f
John Cotton	uhor? T. Allen 9m, Martha Ann Collins 8f

Nimrod Cotton Dale 19m, Buley 17m, Bell 16, Daisey 8, Ister 11
 Nelly Cotton Mahrey 19m, ? 13m
 William Samples Ben 18m, Green 16
 John Gibbs Betsy 13f, Hugh 9, Leltz? 8f, Rosa 15f
 Tade? Samples Ned 17m,
 Abraham Gibbs Simon 18
 Thomas? Mize Cornely 18
 Jason Cotton Cleez? 18f, Margaret 13, Dan 16, Gilbert 12m
 Alane Mize May M. 16
 Nathan Cotton Patience 18, Mary 16, Nimrod 15m, Garfield 13, Arthur 11m
 Jesten Powel Ely 16m, Elzzah? 16m (two entries)
 A. Mobley John 17, Sarah 12, Mandy 11
 James Thomas Hurd John 6
 Lucy Pace Sarah 13, Mary 6

COLORED ? (School C?)

School Census Record Completed 5-2-1894
 20 Males and 22 Females - 42 Students
 J.C. Livingston Flora 12f, Sarah or 10f, Lowlan 7m
 Henry Cash Cordelia 18f, Jodie 16m, James 15m, Mary 12f, Ben 11m, Leona 10f, Lucy 8, Ida 7f
 Ellen Litton Francis 10f, James 6
 Sarah Sibert Christopher 9, William S. 17, Francis 7
 Aaron Williams Bob 19m, James 16, Ollie 17f, Joseph 11m, Daniel 8, George 6
 William Garrard Ormsby Neel 15, Chester Garrard 8, Lenora 6f,

Solomon White Emma Chasteen? 13f, Ben White 11, Bart White 6, Thomas White 17
 Sarah Chasteen Sarah 19
 Abraham Thomson Jane 18, James 12, Mary 10
 Daniel Henson Frank 18, Clarinda 18f
 Edward Neel Lula Neel 7f
 Tieby Smith Mariah 12f, Bob 11, Sallie 9f
 Vian Goings Liz 18f, Bob 11, Sallie 9f

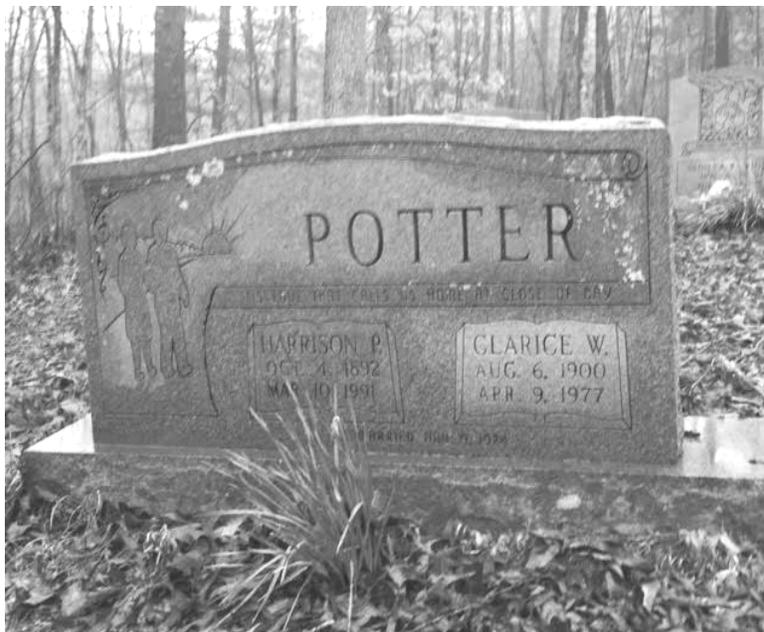
COLORED E

School Census Completed 5-1-1894
 21 Males and 17 Females - 38 Students
 Saly? Brnak George 15m, ? 14m, Mary 9f, Gilbert Gibson 15m, Jacph? 11, Charl 17m, Isil? 13
 John Gibson ? Gibson 15m, Grover? 14m, James 15m, Brian Griffin 12m
 Stivet? Griffin James Potter 13, ? 10f, John 8m
 Dan ? Sim? 15m
 Richard Hure? Manbry? 12f, Rachel Belle 7, Enis 6f
 Marra Arry ? James? 9m
 John Hearle? James 9, Ielorr? 11f, ? 9f, Belle 8f, George 15m
 Berry Potter Berel 11m
 Matthew Potter George 15m, Bart 13m, Kate 12f, Mandie 8f
 Isile Tugle ? Darin 8m, Dory? 6f
 Elry? Mise Hue? Day 7f, Sarah Jane 6f
 Joseph Cotton Betty 16f, Katie 14f, Elery 12f, Cuthour 9m, Julery 7f

We Are Still Recording Cemeteries!

Volunteers of the historical society continue to locate and document cemeteries throughout Clay County. Thanks to the assistance of our many friends who are also interested in these important sites, we have nearly 500 cemeteries on record; however, we learn of new locations nearly every week.

Please contact us (606/598-5507) if you are aware of a cemetery that might not be recorded. Our cemetery experts, Maggie Bowling and James Davidson, will be happy to answer any questions you might have. One thing this project has taught us is “how not” to record a cemetery. In our Fall/Winter issue look for our suggestions of “how to” record a cemetery.



Education for Clay County's Black Students - Part 2:

Black Schools in Clay County

Six Schools Provided Education in the Early 1900s



Manchester B School in the 1960s (photo courtesy Tammy Pennington).

After the school (Sweet Chestnut Hill) burned, classes were held at the 1st Baptist Church on Green Street until the students moved to the “B” School.

According to an article by Jerry Gregory, “Clay County Schools: Teachers, 1875” (CCAN, July 1987) the Clay County Court Order Book of 1868-1876 listed two teachers, G. W. Cope and Pattie Freels, for schools of color.

By Jerry Emond

From The Manchester Enterprise, April 5, 2001.

There were at least six small schools in the county for blacks: Manchester “B”, Hima “C”, Potter’s Chapel, Cotton Branch, Mize Branch and Sweet Chestnut Hill. But before we look at these, I would like to briefly explore the background of how education opened up for Blacks in Kentucky.

Religion played a major role in the education of Blacks in Kentucky prior to 1865. Religious services provided the most integrated society Kentucky blacks, slaves or free, experienced. From the earliest settlements, blacks and whites worshipped in the same churches.

Gradually, blacks began forming their own churches and during the Civil War ministers made their first move to form a separate organization of black churches. Churches were also the center of social and cultural activities within the black community.

Black churches constituted the center of intellectual development as they increasingly opened their doors for informational speeches, exhibitions, and lectures prior to the Civil War.

Education was second only to religion as a goal of black churches. Kentucky did not forbid by law the education of slaves and many white denominations assisted the work of black churches by supporting slave education for religious and humanitarian purposes. Most importantly, the desire of numerous slaves for self-improvement propelled many to learn to read and write.

As the Civil War drew to a close, Kentucky blacks expressed a strong desire for a system of public education. In early 1865 black leaders held strategy meetings on procedure for establishing a school system.

Teachers were predominantly black with some coming from the North who had studied at Oberlin College in Ohio. Others began teaching after studying a term or two at Berea Literary Institute. Despite a large number of problems, the

accomplishments of black schools were impressive.

Berea Institute quickly became one of the major centers of education for blacks. One of Berea’s greatest contributions came in training teachers for Kentucky’s black schools. Of the first thirteen graduates, eleven became teachers.

Many institutions of learning began springing up throughout Kentucky and many were white oriented. But one of them, the Lincoln Institute, opened in 1912 and grew out of Berea College. Lincoln Institute became a major place of education for black students from Clay County.

Since the early 1900’s, as many as six schools in Clay County were for black education. One of the earliest was located on Mize Branch and the teacher was Lettie Philpot. The Mize Branch school operated at a time before records were maintained.

Teachers at Potter’s Chapel over the years included: Mrs. Harrison Potter, Margaret Philpot, Leila Hipsher, Katy Payne Hipsher, and Blanche Clark. At the Hima School, Helen Drake and Margaret Thompson were teachers.

Sweet Chestnut Hill School was located on the hill behind what is now the Clay County Shopping Center. Teachers there included: Mattie Clark, Professor Mobley, Minnie Downey and Georgia Adams. Other teachers came to Clay County from areas around the state.

Many memories were recounted of Sweet Chestnut Hill before it burned down. After the school burned, classes were held at the 1st Baptist Church on Green Street until the students moved to the “B” School.

While at Chestnut Hill, Gertha Clark, who started school in 1918, remembered the time a pregnant sow got into the building and had a large litter of piglets. “It took a while to clear them out of the school house, so we made a day of it,” she said. “We wanted them to take all day to get them out.”

She also remembered Prof. Mobley who always wore his shoes on the wrong foot. “Every time we saw him we would laugh because of his shoes,” she recounted. “He would wear them on the wrong feet to straighten them out.”

Gertha said that when the weather was bad and the river was up they couldn't walk along the highway and had to walk along a well-beaten path over the mountain to get to school. "We had the time of our life in those days," she said. "I can't say we learned a lot but we had fun doing it."

"We were all good friends," Gertha said. "But when we got mad at someone and wanted to get even, we would take a stick and twist it in a cow patty and stir the water we would carry to school. The kids then drank what we called Cow-patty cool-aide," she said.

Clark remembered George Word who had his farm next to the school. "He was a great cook," she said. "We could smell it from the school and at recess we would sneak over and get some of his cornbread."

Over the years, the smaller one and two-room schools closed and consolidated into the Manchester "B" School before Clay County schools were integrated. The "B" school was a three-room school and housed grades 1-8. Some of the teachers there were Margaret Drake, Mildred Shelton, Lorene Wilson, Blanche Clark, Leamon Hardison, Geneva Combs, Edward Neely, and Edward Taylor. The last principal at the "B" school was William Crowley.

While at the "B" School, Ann Fair said she hated to see Halloween come along. "At Halloween you wanted to stay out of the out buildings," she said. "Those boys would come and push them over into the creek. We hated that," she said.

Fair said that in the winter she would always be late for school. "We would get to school about noon because we would spend most of the morning skating on the river."

High School for blacks before integration was somewhat a hardship because they had to leave to gain a higher education. They either traveled to Barbourville or, the one much preferred was Lincoln Ridge Institute in Shelby County.

The school board paid the tuition to Lincoln Ridge and the students boarded there. "I really enjoyed my time at Lincoln," says Ann Fair. "Besides getting a good education, we were taught to be responsible."

John Ed Pennington remembers that he attended Lincoln Ridge and that during the 1961-62 school year when schools began to integrate, he, along with Samuel Salyers, Archie Fullwood and Maxine Philpot came from Lincoln and went to Clay County High. They were among the first to integrate the county school.

Gertha said that even through segregation, "we never thought much about it. We went to our school and the whites went to theirs," she said.

Of all the black schoolhouses in the county, the Manchester "B" building, located next to Britton's Funeral Home, is the only one that remains.



Left: Picture Day at the School

Below: Elementary Students



History of the Manchester B School

By Barbara Ann Hipsher Fair

The Manchester B School was built in 1935 for the purpose of educating children of color during the years of the segregation of blacks and whites. The building had three classrooms, was heated with coal burning stoves, and had an outdoor toilet overlooking the river below.

Most teachers, with few exceptions, were brought here from other areas to educate the children. Margaret Drake Philpot was the first Clay County native to teach at the school.

Contrary to some beliefs, the “B” in the school’s name does not stand for black. There were two other schools built during this same time period: The “A” School, served the Horse Creek area and the “C” School served the Potter’s Chapel area.

After completion of the eighth grade, parents who wanted their children to further their education, were given the option of them commuting to and from Rosenwald High School, located some 20+ miles away in Barbourville, Kentucky, or attending a boarding school, Lincoln Institute, located in Simpsonville, Kentucky. Most parents opted to send their children to the Lincoln Institute, a unique institute of learning, built in 1910 with students from all over the United States, as well as from Africa and Cuba.

Dr. Whitney M. Young, Sr., a native of central Kentucky, was the president of the school and with the help of then governor, A. B. “Happy” Chandler, secured funding to subsidize tuition for students in the state of Kentucky who had no other schools to attend.

The Manchester B School operated from 1935-1965. Although the desegregation of all public schools became law in 1954, the transition from segregated schools was one of the most tumultuous times in the history of our country.



Teachers

In February 1994, a group of Clay County business people and activists came together in pursuit of a grant from the state to restore the school for the purpose of housing the Welcome Center, African-American Museum, and Clay County Historical Society.

Editor’s Note: After renovation was completed in 1994, the Manchester B School briefly housed the Welcome Center. Today, it stands empty. It is still owned by the Clay County Board of Education.



Older Students of the Manchester B

Education for Clay County's Black Students - Part 3:

The Lincoln Institute

A Long-Distance Education with Hometown Ties



Berea Hall, Lincoln Institute

Before the end of the Civil War, both black and white students worked and studied on the campus of Berea College in Kentucky. After thirty-nine years of integrated education, the Kentucky Legislature forced Berea to abandon this successful but controversial approach to education after State Representative Carl Day of Breathitt County convinced his colleagues in 1904 that integrated education should be outlawed.

After losing the battle over the Day Law when the United States Supreme Court ruled it constitutional, the trustees of Berea College contemplated the future of their school. In addition to continuing to educate the Appalachian whites, the trustees decided to establish a new institution to serve the needs of Black students and the Lincoln Institute was created.

Named in honor of President Abraham Lincoln, the school was established on more than 400 acres between Frankfort and

Louisville in Shelby County. The doors were opened to eighty-five students in 1912 with an educational philosophy focused on the need for adequate leadership of African Americans in both schools and churches. The Lincoln Institute became a prominent boarding school for blacks under the educational guidance of Scott County native, Whitney M. Young, Sr., who was named president in 1935. Young, the school's first black president, served for over forty years.

Following the 1954 United States Supreme Court ruling that outlawed separate but equal schools, Lincoln experienced a steady decline in enrollment and held its final graduation in 1966. Today, the U.S. Department of Labor leases a portion of the campus for the Whitney M. Young, Jr., Job Corps Center.

Lincoln Institute is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance as a prominent educational institution for blacks and because landscape design was provided by the world-renowned Olmsted Brothers firm of Brookline, Massachusetts. It is designated a National Historic Landmark for being the birthplace of American civil rights leader, Whitney M. Young, Jr., Valedictorian of Lincoln's Class of 1937. As executive director of the National Urban League, Young, Jr., was an advisor to Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon. Kentucky Historical Marker #1930 notes the location of the Lincoln Institute.

(Sources: Gary W. Brown, National President, Lincoln Institute Alumni Association; lincolnfdn.org; explorekyhistory.ky.gov; and Ethel Pennington Martin, a Lincoln graduate.)



Ethel Pennington (Martin), 13-year- old Freshman 1956



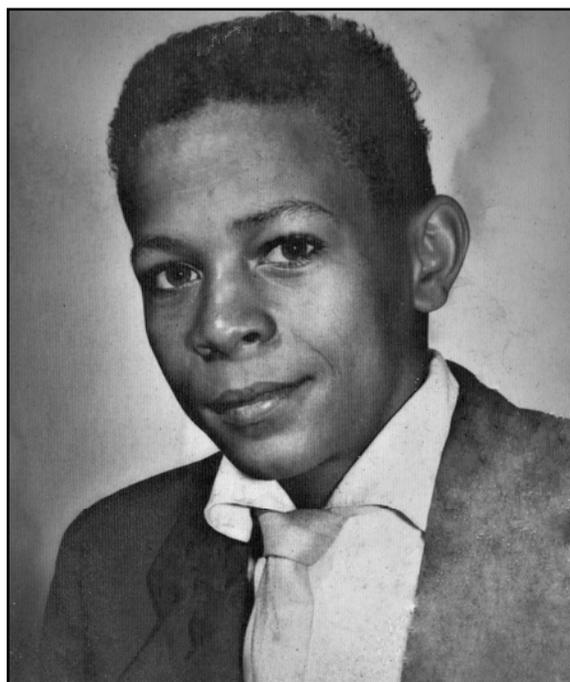
Lincoln Institute's Varsity Basketball Cheerleaders in 1958. Ethel Pennington (Martin) is second from right.



LINCOLN INSTITUTE QUEEN AND COURT
 —Lincoln Institute's "Homecoming Queen" is Wanda Warren, Shelbyville (center), a junior. Runners-up are, left to right: Ethel Pennington, Manchester, Ky.; Isaida Macdonald, Cuba; "Miss Homecoming," Wanda Warren; Rose Ann Goffner, Louisville; Connie Wright, Indianapolis, Ind.



In 1962, Gov. Bert T. Combs, a native of Clay County, gave the Whitney M. Young Hall Dedication Address. President Young looks on.



Carl "Larry" Pennington, 1954 Lincoln Institute

Some Local Students Who Attended Lincoln Institute:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Joyce Baker Carson | Daisy McKee |
| Marjorie Pennington Daise | Willie Jean McKee |
| Lorraine Davis Pennington | Carl Larry Pennington |
| Barbara Ann Hipsher Fair | Doris Elliott Pennington |
| Patricia Lyttle Heaton | John Ed Pennington |
| Daisy Potter Hughes | Vanilla Potter White |
| Ethel Pennington Martin | |

SEPTEMBER 1961

55 YEARS AGO CLAY CO. HIGH SCHOOL Integrated

The year was 1961, on a warm September day, John Edd Pennington, Samuel Sawyers, Maxine Philpot and Archie Fullwood stepped foot on the Clay County High School campus for the first time. It was the day Clay Co. High integrated.

“I t felt like a thousand eyes were watching us,” said John Edd Pennington as he remembers the day he walked into Clay County High School for the first time. In reality, there probably was a ‘thousand eyes’ watching as he, Samuel Sawyers, Maxine Philpot and Archie Fullwood were the first blacks to attend the school.

By Mark Hoskins



John Edd Pennington



Samuel Sawyers



Archie Fullwood

THE FIRST THREE

These brave men were the first blacks to graduate Clay County High School following it being integrated in 1961.

From The Manchester Enterprise, September 29, 2016

Education for Clay County's Black Students - Part 4:

Clay County High School Integrated in 1961

In other parts of the country, it took armed soldiers to escort blacks into white schools for the first time. But that wasn't the case in Clay County, Kentucky on that September day. A story in the September 29th 1961 issue of *The Manchester Enterprise* was headlined, "Clay County High School Integrates Peacefully Monday."

CCHS Principal Robert Campbell said that integration was carried out without incident and called rumors that several students walked out "untrue." John Ed Pennington recalled the events the same way as Principal Campbell. "I don't remember anything bad happening at all," he said. "I remember being scared to death, we all were."

So how did this day come about exactly? Nobody knows for sure, but principal Robert Campbell said in the article, "We are just abiding by the constitution of the United States. If we won't follow the law we might as well be ruled by Castro." That being a reference to Cuba's communist leader Fidel Castro.

Nobody knows for sure, but it may have been made possible through the parents of those first four attendees. "I don't remember how it happened, but in light of what was going on throughout the country, it may have been as simple as just asking if we could," Pennington said.

The long road before integration

Once you've graduated from elementary school at the Manchester "B" school as it was known you only had one option to attend high school prior to integration, according to Pennington. "You had to attend the Lincoln Institute in Shelby County," he said. "You packed your bags, loaded on a bus and went and stayed there. You got to come home on holidays or maybe for a weekend every two months or so. Some took the opportunity while others just dropped out and didn't finish their education," he said.

Pennington attended Lincoln as a freshman and decided to try a new school as a sophomore. "In 1958-59 Barbourville Rosenwald opened for us," he said. "I went there my sophomore year and rode a passenger bus to Barbourville every day."

One year was enough for Pennington as he decided to attend Lincoln Institute as a junior. "I did that because my girlfriend, who is my wife now, was going there," he said with a laugh. But as so often happens in young love, the two broke up two weeks into the school year and Pennington decided he was going home. "I rode a bus from Shelby County to the bus depot in Richmond," he said. "It was just my luck that I ran smack into my mother in the bus station. She was going to Cincinnati to visit a relative and asked me what in the world I was doing there. I told her I had quit school. She said 'you're going to school somewhere come Monday morning' and I replied I wasn't going anywhere unless it was in Clay County."

He thought for sure his days of higher learning were over. But come Monday morning he and Samuel Sawyers met at the Clay superintendent's office to enroll in school. Superintendent Mallie Bledsoe said at the time she was in the education business and the way she viewed it was "just as children going to school." "I can only assume my mother and some of the other mothers got together and approached the board of education," Pennington said. "I was just in total shock when we were allowed to attend." He said, to his knowledge, nobody had ever even tried to attend the high school before.

So, the next day he, Samuel Sawyers, Archie Fullwood and Maxine Philpot officially entered Clay County High School. "I'll never forget that day as long as I live," he said. "Everybody watched us walk into the school, it felt like 1,000 eyes were on us. We didn't get one sign of resistance anywhere."

Pennington only had one incident that he could ever remember. "One day as I was leaving government class a boy tried to block the hallway on me," he said. "A teacher, Mrs. Capitola Roberts, was coming down the hall and I passed by with her. In the next class I was assigned a seat right next to that same boy. After class, he asked me what I thought when he did that. I told him I didn't know what to think. He said he was testing me to see how I would react, after that we became very good friends."

Clay County High School Intergrates Peacefully Monday

Four colored students enrolled without incident at the Clay County High School Monday.

The intergration maneuver marked the first time in history that colored and white students have at-

O. E. S. Pot Luck Set For Monday

Manchester Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star will meet Monday night, October 2, at 6:00 with a "Pot Luck" supper at the Masonic Lodge Hall. After the meal the new officers for 1962 will be installed at the regular meeting. All members of the Chapter are urged to bring a covered dish for the meal and stay for the meeting to follow.

tended the same high school in this county.

Principal Robert Campbell said the intergration has been carried out without incident and called rumors that several students had walked out, "untrue".

"A freshman, a sophomore, a junior and a senior students were enrolled in classes at the High School Monday but did not begin attending classes until Tuesday," Campbell said.

Suffer Stroke

Mary Pennington (aunt) was taken to the Knox Hospital at Barbourville Thursday.

She suffered a stroke of paralytics at her home early Thursday.

Her condition is listed as critical.

He also said plans are being made to enroll several more "sometime in the future" but did not disclose when the action

Cases In Circuit Court

Henry Deaton, charged with volunteer manslaughter in the death of Marion Hurd, plead guilty and given a two year sentence. The case was probated.

Rosco Allen, charged with public drunkenness was found guilty and given a fine of \$30.00.

The Murder trial of Delmer Powell set for Wednesday has been reset to the 8th day of January.

Billy Combs, charged with drunken driven was found guilty and given a fine of \$100.00.

would occur or how many would be involved.

In commenting on the action the principal said, "we are just abiding by the constitution of the United States. If we won't follow the law we might as well be ruled by Castro."

Prior to the intergration the four students had been attending Lincoln High School in western Kentucky. Transportation, books and tuition fees had been paid by the Clay County Board of Education.

Mrs. Mallie Bledsoe, superintendent, said she would rather think of the incident "just as children going to school."

Grade schools for colored children are in existence in the county but no colored high schools are available.

During the second semester of the school year several other black students enrolled at the high school and Pennington said it was just another normal day at school. "It really was just business as usual from that point forward," he said. "In those times it was unusual to see something like this go without any problems or issues but it really did happen that way. That says a lot about our community and how they do things, that still makes me proud to say I'm from Clay County."

Editor's Note: In regard to the four students who integrated Clay County High School in 1961 - Maxine Philpot was the daughter of Odie Philpot and Glasco Pennington. Samuel Salyers (b. 13 Jan 1943; d. 11 April 2004) was the son of Claude Salyers and Hollie Kash. William Fullwood and Helen Cash's son, Archie Fullwood, lives in Lexington, Kentucky. John Ed Pennington still lives in Manchester. His parents were James Amos Pennington and Eleanor Word.

The Manchester Enterprise, September 29, 1961

Ooops...We Made A Mistake

In our Fall/Winter 2016 issue we listed an incorrect GPS for the Macedonia Cemetery. The correct GPS is: 37.241340 -83.835890.



Doug Hopkins of Manchester, Kentucky has generously placed a portion of his coal mining memorabilia on loan to the historical society.

Coal Mining Memorabilia

Doug Hopkins of Manchester, Kentucky has been a collector of coal mining memorabilia for years! His collection is extensive and we are excited that he has generously placed a portion of his items on loan to the historical society. We are displaying photographs, carbide lamps, lanterns, tools, pails, and many other items. Stop by the office to see this impressive collection!



About the Society

Quarterly Membership Report

March 9, 2017

Membership Category	Number
Lifetime	54
Exchange	15
Honorary/Complementary	18
New Members (Since November Meeting)	16
General Membership	416
TOTAL	519

All membership payments are due on January 1. Membership runs from January – December. Please note that yearly dues are \$20. Thanks for your continued support!

The Clay County Genealogical & Historical Society is a non-profit group totally supported by membership dues, donations, and book sales. In existence since 1984, we have more than 500 members and our members can be found in all 50 states!

Our offices are in downtown Manchester just off Main Street in Bankers Alley behind the Clay County Public Library. The building is located on the site of the former Lucas Hotel where, in the late 1890s, Rev. John J. Dickey recorded much of his famous Dickey Diary!

Our office and research library is open to historical society members and non-members on Thursdays and Fridays from 9 am to 3 pm EST. The only exceptions are holidays and in the event of inclement weather. Volunteers are happy to assist visitors and we sell a variety of local items including more than 60 books by local authors or authors with a Clay County connection.

Yearly membership in the Historical Society is \$20 (January–December). Lifetime Membership is \$200.

Members receive:

1. Two issues of our popular Clay County Ancestral News magazine each year with each issue containing more than 70 pages of history, photos, genealogy, etc.;
2. Discounts on copy service and books printed by the Society;

3. Basic research and looks-ups at no cost; and,
4. Opportunities to share and connect with others interested in Clay County, its history and people.

To become a member of the Clay County Historical Society:

- Pay by credit card by calling our office (606/598-5507) on a Thursday or Friday (9 am – 3 pm EST) OR
- Mail a check or money order (\$20) with a completed application (found in the back of this magazine) to CCGHS, PO Box 394, Manchester, KY 40962; OR
- Pay in person at our office.

We encourage our readers to submit items for publication in the Clay County Ancestral News magazine. Please review our submission guidelines in this publication.

CCHS Location

Our offices and extensive research library are in downtown Manchester located just off Main Street in Banker's Alley behind the Clay County Public Library.



Join our Facebook page: The Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society
Visit Our NEW Website: clayfamilies.org

Dr. Aaron Thompson Speaks at Quarterly Membership Meeting!



Clay County High School Senior Class of 1975 elected Aaron Thompson as their President. Shown here, left to right: Robert Baker, Treasurer; Jan Owens, Secretary; Lee Ann Brown, Vice-President; Thompson; and Jerry Lunsford, Sgt. of Arms.

In honor of Black History Month, the Clay County Historical Society was privileged to have interim president of Kentucky State University, Dr. Aaron Thompson, as guest speaker for the quarterly membership meeting on March 9. Dr. Thompson, a Clay County native, addressed the standing room only crowd with "From Appalachia to Academia" in which he outlined the key elements for student success.

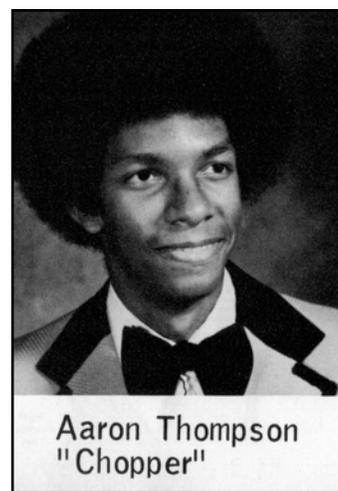
Those in attendance gave Dr. Thompson a standing ovation following his engaging presentation and Society President, Mike White, awarded him Honorary Membership in the Clay County Historical Society.

Dr. Thompson has served as the Executive Vice President for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and as Professor of Sociology in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Eastern Kentucky University. He has a PhD in Sociology in the

areas of Organizational Behavior and Race and Gender relations and over 25 years of leadership experience in higher education and business. Dr. Thompson has traveled over the U.S. and given more than 700 workshops, seminars and invited lectures in the areas of race and gender diversity, living an unbiased life, overcoming

obstacles to gain success, creating a school environment for academic success, cultural competence, and a variety of other topics. He has over 30 publications and numerous research and peer reviewed presentations. Dr. Thompson is the author or co-author of several books and his research has been cited in numerous newspapers and magazines.

Thanks Dr. Thompson for being with us and for always acknowledging your Clay County heritage!



Clay County School Daze: Aaron Thompson with Society 1st Vice President, Danny L. Finley (and his guitar), David Coots and Doug Combs.



Clay County Historical Society Board of Directors and volunteers with Dr. Thompson. Left to right: James Garrison, JoAnne Gregory, James Davidson, Mildred Edwards, LaBerta White, Mike White, Dr. Thompson, Jean Baker Cobb, Maggie Bowling, Bonita Charles, and Preston Roark.



Dr. Thompson and his fourth grade teacher, Ms. Ruby Lois Hibbard



Maggie Bowling, Ethel Martin, and Darnell Hipsher



Tammy Pennington and Jean Baker Cobb



Barb Garrison and Lucy Leneave, a charter member



Mayor Garrison and James Davidson



Senate President Robert Stivers, Society President Mike White, and Director of EKU Manchester, Terry Gray

Lest We Forget

Selections from Past
Issues of the Clay
County Ancestral News



Aunt Sophie Word and Vanilla White (child).

By Danny L. Finley

Philosopher, essayist, novelist and poet, George Santayana, is credited as the originator of the quote, "Those who don't remember the past are condemned to repeat it." It is that very thought which moved us to review some of the past issues of the Clay County Ancestral News and to research the works submitted by those who came before. To share again with those who may have forgotten or for those only now launching their historical and genealogical journey, join us as we look back at selected works from past issues of The Clay County Ancestral News, "Lest We Forget."

Sophia Word Interview – August 1988

For this issue, we revisit the Clay County Ancestral News of 1988 for an interview submitted by Lifetime Member John Ed Pennington that gives incredible insight into the life of his great-great-grandmother, and one of Clay County's most notable citizens, Sophia Word.

Notes about the article nearly 30 years later:

In about 1936, Sophia Word was interviewed by Pearl House as part of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Her words and more than 2,300 other first-person accounts of slavery became the famous seventeen-volume *Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves*. In 2000-2001, the Library of Congress digitized the narratives from microfilm and scanned 500 photographs, including more than 200 that had never been made publicly available. Sophia's interview, and the other narratives and photographs, can be found in the collection "Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936 to 1938" at the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov).

Regrettably, the final two paragraphs of Sophia Word's original interview were omitted from the Clay County Ancestral News article of August 1988. They are included here in their proper location. The article is followed by Word family information contributed by James E. Welch.

Clay County (Pearl House)

The following story of slave days is the exact words of one who had the bitter experience of slavery. Sophia Word, who is now ninety-nine years of age, born February 2, 1837. She tells me she was in bondage for nineteen years and nine months. I shall repeat just as she told the story:

"I wuz here in time of Mexican War and seed'em get up volunteers to go. They wuz dressed in brown and band played "Our Hunting Shirts are Fringed with Doe and away we march to Mexico".

My grandmother came straight from Africa and wuz auctioned off and bought by William Reide Father. When he died William Reides inherited my mother.

Mother married a Bates and had ten of us children.

Our Master didn't auction off his slaves as the other masters would for he was a better master than most of them. When he started to sale one of us he would go out and talk to the old slave trader

like he wuz g'wine to sale a cow or somethin and then he would come back to git the slave he wanted. This was the way my mothers brother and sister wuz sold. When the other masters at other places sold a slave they put the slave on the auction block and the slave trader had a long whop that he hit them with to see if they could jump around and wuz strong. The largest and brought the money [sic].

I wuz a slave nineteen yeahs and nine months but somehow or nuther I didn't belong to a real mean pet [sic] of people. The white folks said I was the meanest nigger that ever wuz. One day my Mistress Lyndia called for me to come in the house, but no, I wouldn't go. She walks out and says she is gwine make me go. So she takes and drages me in the house. Then I grabs that white woman, when she turned her back, and shook her until she begged for mercy. When the master comes in, I wuz given a terrible beating with a whip but I didn't care for I give the mistress a good'un too.

We lived off to the back of the Masters house in a little log cabin, that had one winder in the side. We lived toby well and didn't starve fer we had enough to eat but we didn't have as good as the master and mistress had. We would slip in the house after the master and mistress wuz sleeping and cook to suit ourselves and cook what we wanted.

The Mistress had an old parrot and one day I wuz in the kitchen making cookies, and I decided I wanted some of them so I tooks me out some and put them on a chair and when I did this the mistress entered the door, I picks up a cushion and throws over the pile of cookies on the chair and mistress came near the chair and the ole parrot cries out, Mistress burn, Mistress burn, then the Mistress looks under the cushion and she had me whupped but the next day I killed the parrot, and she often wondered who or what killed the bird.

I've seen whole pigs roasted before open fire place and when it wuz done would put a nice red apple in its mouth and the big white folks company that come would eat of this delicious dish. Sometimes we had to bake pies for a week to supply the

company that wuz invited to our masters and mistresses house. They served elaborate dinners and hundreds of guest wore invited.

My master wuzn't mean as most masters. Hugh White wuz so mean to his slaves that I know of two gals that killt themselves. One nigger gal Sudie wuz found across the bed with a pen knife in her hand. He whipped another nigger gal most to death fer fergitting to put onions in the stew. The next day she went down to the river and fer nine days they searched for her and her body finally washed upon the shore. The master could never live in that house again as when he would go to sleep he would see the nigger standing over his bed. Then he moved to Richmond and there he stayed until a little later when he hung himself."

(Paragraphs missing from 1988 article):

"Our clothes wuz made from cotton and linsey. Cotton wuz used in the summer and linsey fer the winter. Sometimes our clothes wuz yeller checked and most time red. Our stockings wuz made of coarse yarn fer winter to wear with coarse shoes. We had high topped shoes fer Sunday.

I've seed ten thousand of the Union Soldiers and a great many of the rebel soldiers. The Rebel soldiers would take everything they could get their hands on but I never did know of the Union Soldier taking anything. The rebels stole my masters cows and horses and we would have to hide the meat in a box and bury it in the ground."

Notes on the Word Family by James E. Welch:

Birth Years from Clay County Census Records:

- 1870 - Abe 1830, Sophia 1849, Beverly 1863, George 66, Delphia Reid 1810
- 1880 - Abe 1820, Sophia 1843, Beverly 1865, George 1867, Saint 1873, Edward --78, Delphia Reid 1790.
- 1900 - Could not locate
- 1910 - Sophia 1845 (widow), George 1860, Saint 1875, Edward 1878.

Clay County Marriage Records:

Abraham Word married Sophia Reid, 6 January 1870
Edward Word married Flora Livingston, 23 October 1899
Saint Word married Bessie Gibbs, 30 November 1911

From Slavery to Freedom and Beyond

Sophie Word's 100 Year Story and Her Family Legacy



Aunt Sophia Word, 1837-1937. (Photo courtesy John Ed Pennington)

By Sharon K. Carson and Joyce Baker Carson

The following was taken from, "A History of the Families of Joyce Baker and William 'Junior' Carson: The Word Side" on file at the Clay County Historical Society. It is described by the authors as a compilation of interviews and notes kept over the years and includes references to obituaries, newspaper articles, courthouse records, cemetery records, vital statistics and census records.

The earliest known generation of the Word family was Sophie Word's grandmother who came from Africa. Sophia, of Clay County, Kentucky, was interviewed by Pearl House as a part of a project published as *The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography*, by the Greenwood Publishing Company, Westport, Connecticut. It was also included in *Honey, Hush!: An Anthology of African American Women's Humor*, Edited by Daryl Cumber Dance.

Sophie's interview was also used to help describe slavery in Kentucky. One such description was given in the book, *Kentucky, Its History and Heritage* by Fred J. Hood. This book is now out of print, but a copy can be found at the Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society. A full reprint of Sophie's interview can be found in *Lest We Forget* in this magazine.

In her interview, Sophie said that her grandmother came from Africa and was bought by William Reid's father through an auction. After William Reid's father died, William Reid inherited Sophie's mother. Per Sophie's interview, her mother married a Bates and had ten children. According to Sophie's death certificate, her mother was named Emily Reid and her father was named Pomp Bates. According to Sophie's interview with Pearl House, Emily had at least one brother and one sister that were sold by her master.

The *Pittsburg Historical Record* says that Sophia "was owned by different masters but was fortunate in getting into families that were fairly good to her." She could tell true stories to her grandchildren about other slaves who did not fare as well as she did. Her job was usually taking care of the babies in the families and she took the clothes of the small children to the creek to wash them.

Of the ten children of Emily Reid Bates, the following names are known:

1. Sophia Bates Word
2. Aunt Mary, who lived and died in Barbourville
3. Aunt Betty "Bett" who married Larkey Gilbert
4. Virginia who was known as "Ma Ginny"
5. Frank
6. Another brother (according to Doris Clark)
7. Another sister who married a Little or Lytle

It was difficult to find Sophie and her relatives during the years before the slaves received their freedom. The census records showed slave owner names and the number of slaves they owned, but the census did not list the slaves by name. Sophia did appear in the 1870 census in District No. 30 and Precinct No. 1 in Clay County, Kentucky. The Post Office was Manchester, Kentucky. This household was listed by the census taker as of June 21, 1870, on page 2. Her husband, Abe Word, was listed as aged 40, male, black and a farmer. Sophie was listed as Sophiah age 21, female, black, and a housekeeper. George was listed as age 4, male, and black. Beverly was listed as age 7, male, and black. The value of their personal estate was \$100. There was some notation affirmative, cannot read, cannot write. The census indicated that Sophia could not read nor write.

There is some question as to how well the information on the birth dates were carried down by word

of mouth, or otherwise recorded, as ages differed from one census to another. By the next census of 1880, if Abe had been 40 in 1870, he should have been around 50 by the next census. In the 1880 census of Clay County, Abraham was listed as 60 years old. He was black, male, married, a laborer, who could neither read nor write. His place of birth was Kentucky and his mother and father's place of birth was Kentucky. Sophia was 37, a mulatto, female, wife, keeping house, could not read nor write; born in Kentucky

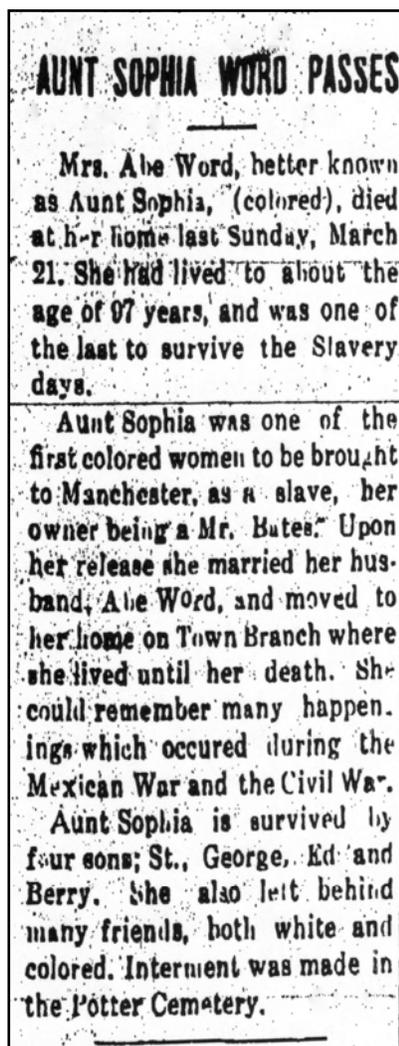
and her parents were born in Kentucky. Beverly P. was a 15-year-old mulatto, male, son, single, and at home. He attended school within the census year and could neither read nor write. His parents were born in Kentucky. George was 13, a mulatto, male, a son, single, and at home. He attended school within the census year and could not write. His parents were born in Kentucky. Saint was 7 years old, a mulatto, male, a son, and single. He attended school within the census year. His parents were born in Kentucky. Edward was 2, a mulatto, male, son.

In 1880, Delphia Reid was also living in the household of Abe and Sophia Word. She was a mulatto female aged 90. She was listed as a widow, kept by the county. She was blind. She could not read nor write. Her place of birth was Kentucky; her father was born in Kentucky and her mother was born in Maryland. The census does not tell her relationship to Sophie. If her age was correct in the census, she would have been born around 1790. In 1870, Delpha Reid was listed as a 60-year-old black female, hired servant living with the family of James W. Smith who was the 34-year-old Circuit Court Clerk.

In 1890, many of the census records were not available. The next census for Clay County was 1900. The Clay County Historical Society compiled the census records into two volumes. The Words were not listed in either volume.

In the two-volume set of the 1910 census records compiled by the Clay County Historical and Genealogical Society, the Words were listed as follows. Sofa Word was the head of

the household. She was female, black, age 65, and widowed. She and her parents were born in Kentucky. A son, George, a male, black, age 42 and single and a son, St., a male, black, aged 35, and single were listed in the same household. On the same page of the census records was the household of Ed Word. Ed was the head of the household, male, black, age 32, married, born in Kentucky and parents were born in Kentucky. Flora was listed as his wife, female, black, age 27, born in Kentucky with both parents born in



The Manchester Guardian, March 26, 1937

According to Sophie's death certificate, her mother was named Emily Reid and her father was named Pomp Bates.

Kentucky. Their children were Mary, a daughter, black female, age 8, born in Kentucky; Alonzo, a son, black male, age 6, born in Kentucky; George, a son, black male, age 3, born in Kentucky; and Bessie a daughter, black female, aged 8 months, born in Kentucky.

Sophie's mother, Emily Reid, was listed in the 1870 census as a 43-year-old female, black housekeeper. Also listed in the household were: Santanna, 21, black male, who worked on a farm; Ginny, age 13, female, black, at home; Mary, age 10, female, black, at home; Pampy, age 7, male, and black; Emily, age 5, female, black.

In the 1880 census, Emily Reid was a widowed, female mulatto, aged 54, keeping house. She had a medical problem called scrofula. She could not read nor write. She was born in Kentucky, her father was born in Kentucky, and her mother was born in Maryland. In the same household with her was Emma, a 15-year-old female mulatto who was a granddaughter who was single. Also in that household was Pompey, a 17-year-old male mulatto, who was a grandson and single. Both children were born in Kentucky and their parents were from Kentucky. Both attended school within the census year.

In researching information on William Reid in hopes of finding out more about Sophie's family, several clues have been found. Although the clues do not prove the name of Sophie's grandmother, they do all seem to tie together. Based on Sophie's interview, we know that her grandmother came from Africa and was bought by William Reid's father. William Reid inherited Sophie's mother, Emily, when his father died. Sophie also indicated in her interview that her mistress was called Lyndia. In the marriage records in the Clay County Courthouse, a marriage license record exists for William Reid and Lydia Langlin or Ledia Langlen on November 23, 1830. Their marriage date was December 13, 1830. This record is very old and hard to read.

In the court records of Clay County on August 8, 1838, William Reid made an agreement with Roger Cornett of Clay County: "In consideration of \$625 – Mortgage of four negro slaves named Mary, Emily, Geland and Elizabeth."

The 1840 census did not give as much detail as later

census records. In the 1840 census record for Clay County, William Reid's household contained one male and one female between the ages of 30-40 and one male child between the ages of 5-10. They also had 2 male and 3 female slaves.

William Reid and Daniel Bates had more than one interaction. In the court records of Clay County on August 1, 1838, "William Reid and Lydia, his wife of Clay co AND Daniel Bates of Clay co (now dec'd)" appeared on a deed conveying 500 acres of land on Horse Creek for \$525. Also in the court records, on July 11, 1843, a ruling was made against William Reid and some of his property was sold to the highest bidder. Daniel Bates purchased the property. Daniel Bates was shot in September, 1844, but before he died, he recorded a will. This will was recorded December 28, 1844, Will Book A, pages 127-130. He "requested that his slaves, Joe Nash & wife, Lucy, and his negro man Pompey should be set free." According to the Kentucky Historical Society Register, Volume 2, 1952, Daniel Bates operated salt manufacturing furnaces.

In the court records of Clay County, on November 5, 1844, William Reid mortgaged "his slaves Mary and her five children, Emily, Gillian, Betsy, Nancy, and the children of Emily." This clue strongly suggests that Sophie's grandmother was called Mary.

In the 1850 census record for Clay County, William Reid was 47. He was a doctor who had been born in Ireland. He was married to Lydia, age 42, born in Maryland. Also living in the household was Stephen, age 19, and Marjaret Beaty, a 22-year-old female who was born in Ireland. William Reid had the following slaves: one mulatto female, age 24; one black male, age 10; one black female, age 6; one black female, age 5; one mulatto female, age 4; one black male, age 2.

In the census of 1860 for Clay County, William Reid was age 58. He was a physician and he had been born in Ireland. Lydia was his wife. She was age 54 and she was born in Maryland. William Reid had the following slaves: one mulatto female, age 35; one mulatto female, age 16; one mulatto female, age 14; one mulatto male, age 12; one mulatto female, age 10; one female mulatto, age 5; one mulatto female, age 2/12? (hard to read age).

William Reid in 1860 also reported for M. C. Bates – one male, mulatto, age 39, manumitted, which means free or released from slavery. This male is believed to be Pompey Bates, or Sophia's father. We know from Daniel Bates' will that he freed Pompey. We also know from Sophie's death record that her father was Pomp Bates. Since Pomp Bates married Emily Reid and William Reid kept Emily as a slave, it would be logical for William Reid to report Pomp in the census as a free person.

According to Sophie Word's death certificate, she was over 100 years old when she died on March 21, 1937. She was born in Kentucky on February 2, 1837. Her parents were listed on her death certificate as Emily Reid and Pomp Bates. She was widowed at the time of her death.

The *Manchester Guardian* on March 26, 1937, ran Sophia's obituary in the paper. The article indicated that Sophie was known as "Aunt Sophia." The article reads, "Aunt Sophia was one of the first colored women to be brought to Manchester as a slave, her owner being a Mr. Bates. Upon her release she married her husband, Abe Word, and moved to her home on Town Branch where she lived until her death. She could remember many happenings which occurred during the Mexican War and the Civil War." The article also said, "She also left behind many friends, both white and colored." Sophia Word was buried in the Potter Cemetery in Clay County.

Sophia married Abraham Word. Sophia Reid and Abraham Word's marriage license is on file at the Clay County Courthouse. Their marriage certificate was dated January 6, 1870.

Sophia had the following children:

Berry "Pappy" Word was born February 5, 1881 in Clay County and died August 13, 1959. He was a coal miner and is buried in the Pittsburg Cemetery. Berry Word married Bertha Garrard on March 11, 1907 in Clay County, Kentucky. The witnesses were J. V. Dickson, James G. Gilbert, and William Marcum. James Eversole performed the ceremony. Bertha Garrard's parents were Sallie and Billy "Pap" Garrard of Manchester, Kentucky. Berry and Bertha Garrard Word had the following children:

A. William "Bill" Word, born November 25, 1907, in Clay County and died in 1971. He served in WWII. He was buried in the Pittsburg Cemetery.

B. Sophia Word

C. John Word, was killed in the coal mines.

D. Edith Belle Word, born in Manchester, Clay County, Kentucky on March 18, 1920, and died on March 1, 1994, in London, Kentucky. She married James Clarence Riley. He was born February 25, 1913, to Fred and Lula Riley. He was an elder at the North Main Street Christian Church in London, Kentucky and worked forty-three years at Sue Bennett College. For many years, he was the head chef. He

died November 30, 1999, and was buried in the Pittsburg Cemetery. Edith and James had the following children:

d.i. Leona Jane "Jackie" Riley was born on March 11, 1938. She married Johnny Ralph Carson, son of William "Dick" and Beatrice Carson, on February 5, 1959. Jackie died on November 27, 1991, and was buried in the Pittsburg Cemetery. Jackie and Johnny Carson had the following children: Paul Jonathan, Paula Lee, Patti Lisabelle, Philip Glenroy, and Pearl Leona.

d.ii. James "Jim" Riley who married Mary. They lived in South Bend, Indiana. He retired from the State Department in 2001, and they returned to London.

d.iii. Delbert "Doogee" Riley who married Carrie. He was in the military and worked at the Pentagon. They settled near Arlington, Virginia.

d.iv. Freddie Riley who married Willa and lived in South Bend, Indiana. He later lived in Richmond, Kentucky.

d.v. Peggy Louise Riley who married Marc Berry and lived in Findlay, Ohio

d.vi. Richard Riley who was born on January 14, 1947. He married Alice Faye Rees on September 26, 1981. They had one son, Richie Riley.

d.vii. Berry Riley who married Sharon Lynne Osborne from Grundy, Virginia.

d.viii. Larry Riley who married 1) Tonia Riley and 2) Ruby Ennis

d.ix. Chester Riley who married Mary Berry from Williamsburg, Kentucky

E. Christine Gracie Rosetta Word was born December 12, 1916, and died on December 25, 1961. She married Decorse Baker on September 30, 1933. His parents were William and Mary Baker. Decorse was born on October 8, 1908, and died on July 25, 1936, after being struck by a train at the Pittsburg railroad crossing. Decorse and Rosetta's children were:

e.i. Mary Louise Baker, born February 2, 1934, and married Roy Elliott, Jr.

e.ii. Joyce Baker, born January 23, 1935, and married William Charles "Junior" Carson, Sr. in April 1957. Joyce attended Lincoln Institute. Junior and Joyce had the following children: William Charles "Bill" Carson, Jr., Ricky "Rick" Nelson Carson, Timothy "Tim" Ray Carson, Mark Allen Carson, Lanetta Ruth "Etta" Carson, and Gary Lamar Carson.

e.iii. James Walter Baker, born December 20, 1936. He drowned when he was three years old.

Rosetta married 2) Charles Riley, the son of Tip and Ophelia Carson Riley. Their children were:

I. Charles Givens "June" Riley, Jr.

Ii. Norma Jean Riley

Iii. Garrard Wayne Riley

F. Pearl Word

G. Louise ("Lou") Word was born on Mary 6, 1906, in Manchester in Clay County and died on September 26, 1992. She married Eugene "Gene" Baker on March 23, 1925. Eugene's parents were Will and Mary Baker. Gene died along with his brother in an automobile accident in 1934. Louise married 2) Hershell Peters and 3) W. J. "Uncle Son" Riley. Eugene Baker and Louse had four children:

- g.i. Raymond Earl Baker who died in 1968
- g.ii. Eugene Baker, Jr. who died in 1966
- g.iii. Anna Lee Baker who died as a baby
- g.iv. Mary Frances Baker who married William Henry and lived at Lynch, Kentucky

Saint Word married Bessie "Ms. Bessie" Gibbs on November 30, 1911, in Clay County. They were married at Patsy Gibbs' in the presence of Dora Lyttle and ? B. Lyttle. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Pompey Bates. (Note that Sophia Word's father was also called Pomp Bates. In the 1880 census, in the household of Emily Reid, Pompey, was a 17-year-old male mulatto, who was a grandson and single. It would be interesting to know if Rev. Pompey Bates was that grandson. It is unlikely that this Rev. Pompey Bates was Sophie's father, since he would have been about 90 years old at the time of Saint's marriage. Pomp Bates married Laura Thomas on November 11, 1896, at Jamina Gilbert's. Jennie Davisson and Caroline Gilbert were witnesses. James Gilbert, a minister of gospel, performed the ceremony.) St. Word died October 5, 1939.

Edward "Ed" Word who married Flora "Taddy" Livingston in Clay County on October 23, 1899. They were married at Jennie Gilbert's and the witnesses were Thomas Gilbert and William Creech. The minster performing the ceremony was James Gilbert. Flora's parents were Jim "Kit" Livingston and Polly Livingston. Flora's father was a full-blooded Indian from Blackwater, Virginia in Lee County. Ed and Flora had the following children:

- A. Mary Word, the oldest, married a Wade and lived in Cincinnati
- B. Lonzo Word, died in Harlan
- C. George Word, known as "Little George"
- D. Bessie Word married Chest Neal from Barbourville; she died in Harlan County
- E. Virginia Word married J. C. Caldwell and lived in Manchester. Their children were William Ed, Jackie Lou, Wanda, James, Fanetta, and Paul Ricky.
- F. Armentress (or Armintres) Word married John Ed ("Junior" or "Frog") Pennington. Their children were Brenda, Carolyn, Rollie, Phillip Ray, Phyllis Kay, and Sean.
- G. Eleanor Word married James Amos Pennington on January 3, 1933. Their children were Bobbie Marie, Flora Mae "Bootsie," Pearl, Gil, John Edward, Ronnie, Jerry Wayne, Sharon Kay, and David.
- H. Estill "Jack" Word who married Ruma Mary Gibson and was a Veteran of WWII. Their children were Denver, Estill, and Flora Gay.

I. Other children died young.

George Word, called "Growler George" had two children, Oscar and Otto Brittain

Beverly P. Word, a son who was mentioned in the census records.

Sophia Word's sister, Virginia, was called "Ma Ginny." She had a daughter, Letty, and a son, Steve. Letty married Jim Philpot and had the following children:

Odie Philpot married 1) Eva Walker and 2) Glasco Pennington. He died in 1991.

Arthur Philpot died young

Margaret Philpot married a Drake and lived in New York
Viola Philpot married Lawrence Pennington. Viola and Lawrence had the following children:

A. Harold Pennington

B. Doris Pennington married Garnet Clark. Their children:

- b.i. John L. Clark
- b.ii. Charles L. Clark
- b.iii. Patty Clark
- b.iv. Bill Clark
- b.v. Kenneth "Catfish" Clark
- b.vi. Janet Clark Carson

C. Charles Pennington

D. Stanley Pennington

E. Jimmy Pennington

F. Carl Pennington

G. Marjorie Pennington Daise

H. Ethel Pennington married Luther Carl Martin, Jr. Their child:

h.i. Luther Carl Martin, III

I. Harrison Pennington married Glenna Gilbert. Their child:

i.i. Crystal Pennington

J. Arthur Pennington

Other families related to the Word family include Garrard, Gilbert, Griffin, McClain, and Mays.

Sharon K. Carson married Joyce Baker Carson's oldest son, Bill. Sharon and Bill met when they were both attending Berea College. They now live in London, Kentucky. Joyce Baker Carson passed away in late 2016.

Past CCAN Articles Relating to Clay County's African American History

- "Jack, A Slave" - August 1989
- "Slavery in Clay County" - Fall/Winter 2007; Reprint Fall/Winter 2014
- "The Railroading of Pomp Bates and George Word" - Spring/Summer 2011
- "The Badge" - Spring/Summer 2011
- "Clay Countians in America's Wars: 1861-2011" - Fall/Winter 2011
- "Art & Mystery" - Fall/Winter 2013
- "Clay County History Timeline" - Fall/Winter 2014

The Shadow Miner

By E. B. "Reb" Allen
March 26, 1976



How'd the dust blight come upon me?
Then I'll tell you if I must,
'bout the blight of the Shadow Miner,
Who walks the midnight dust.

T'was the year '76, and the middle of March,
At the end of the number one line,
When the Shadow brought fire, and smoke and death
To the boys in the Oven Fork Mine.

The smoke was so thick, you could cut it.
The heat more than any could bear.
And the sound of top falling on the roadway
To the portal for which we must steer.

It was silent on number three section.
The Shadow had plotted the mood.
There was no sound of life or motion
To break the solitude,

Except the wiling of the gob rats
That squealed in fearful disgust,
And the flapping of the brattice cloth curtain,
Making way for the smoke and the dust.

I said to myself, "I must keep my nerve."
Though far the portal be,
Yet my heart would be much lighter
If I only had company.

And so I sang and shouted,
Keeping rhythm, as I sped.
To the screech from the soles of my work shoes,
As they sprang beneath my tread.

Not far into the air course,
Had I stumbled on my way,
When I saw a dusty figure,
In a capuchin of gray.

And bending upon my shoe toes,
With a long and limber stride,
I caught the dusty stranger,
And we traveled side by side.

But no token of communion,
Gave he by word or nod,
And a fear chill fell upon me,
At the crossing of the gob.

For I saw by my dim lit mine light,
As I followed, lungs a bust,
That the walking of the stranger,
Left no footprints in the dust.

Then the fear chill gathered o'er me
Like a shroud around me cast,
As I sank upon the gob pile,
Where the Shadow Miner passed.

And the other miners found me
Just before the break of day,
With my fair skin burned and blackened,
As the dust in which I lay.

But they spoke not, as they raised me,
For they knew that in the night,
I had seen the Shadow Miner,
And had withered in his blight.

Submitted by Ted Garrison

The Shadow Miner is my favorite of the many poems Reb Allen has written. He originally wrote the poem in memory of the men who lost their lives in the Scotia Mine accident in Letcher County, Kentucky in 1976. It has been

circulated throughout most of the world and is now being read in the coal mining areas of Wales, Nova Scotia, and in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, England. I must agree with a lady from Yorkshire who lost her father in a mine accident when he

was forty years old, when she said, "This poem is for the coal miners of the world."

My distant cousin Reb Allen is an accomplished historian, genealogist, and poet. He lives in Henry County, Kentucky.



*From the 123rd Church Anniversary
and Homecoming Program
Sunday, October 24, 1993
Pastor – Rev. I. W. Cotton*

CHURCH HISTORY

A landmark left to us by our fore-fathers, First Baptist Church, a heritage of which we are proud.

First Baptist Church was organized and built about 1870, the property being purchased from Benjamin F. White, but didn't get a deed until Clara Burchell made a "quit claim" deed in 1986.

The first pastor was Rev. Bardwell, other pastors were Rev. Trent, Rev. May, Rev. Madden, and Rev. Goins.

Services are held twice a month. Many people have worshipped their Lord and Savior in this place of worship. After the death of Rev. Goins, the church called Rev. I. W. Cotton to this pastorate on January 3, 1993.

Once again the church will step forward knowing that Christ will be in the midst of trials with her, while she stretches out the rod of faith over the seas of transgression and iniquities that lies before her, she'll sing the song of deliverance as did Israel.

REFLECTIONS

The Scripture says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." God was in the plan for this Church in the 1870s. He has opened doors that no man could

close.

Time and space won't permit the naming of the patriarchs of this church. But God knows them all. They received spiritual food from the preached word and the singing of hymns.

Jesus has been and still is the chief cornerstone. The words of Jesus are true today as they were yesterday, "where there are two or three gathered in my name, I will be in the midst of them. Amen."

First Baptist Church sketch and homecoming program provided by Tammy Pennington from the collection of her parents, John Ed and Lorraine Pennington.

The Legacy of Dorothy Winslow Cottongim



L. Ralph & Dorothy Cottongim

Another longtime friend of the Clay County Historical Society has passed. Dorothy Louise Cottongim of Salem, Indiana passed away July 21, 2016. She was 86.

Dorothy first came to Manchester and the historical society to research her husband's families – Brown and Cottongim. She and her husband, Ralph, recorded the Gregory Cemetery at Hima, Kentucky, and it appeared in the Fall / Winter 2000 issue of the Clay County Ancestral News.

She never forgot her visits to Clay County and, upon her death last July, she left a legacy of \$500 to the society. As you will read in her accompanying biography, Dorothy was passionate about preserving cemeteries. In her honor, the board of directors has designated the funds to be used to complete the cemetery index for Clay County. We think Ms. Cottongim would be pleased.

The following was provided by her daughter, Sara Day:

Dorothy was a Salem High School graduate, a life resident of Washington County and a member of the Canton Christian Church. She was a member of the Washington County Historical Society, where she served on the board for many years. She was also a member of the Michael Paul Vandervoort Chapter of Colonial Dames, the Scott and Washington County Historical Societies and the General Charles Scott Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Dorothy worked for Personal Finance after she graduated from high school, before going to work for the Stevens Museum. She was an avid researcher of genealogy. Over the years, she helped do research for many people and their families. She recorded cemeteries markers in Franklin Township to be made into books for the Washington County Historical Society. She also served on the cemetery committee to help preserve the county cemeteries. She wrote a book on her Reyman family which was published after years of extensive research. During research on her husband's families – Brown and Cottongim – she was lead to Kentucky's Laurel and Clay Counties where she visited museums, cemeteries and historical societies.

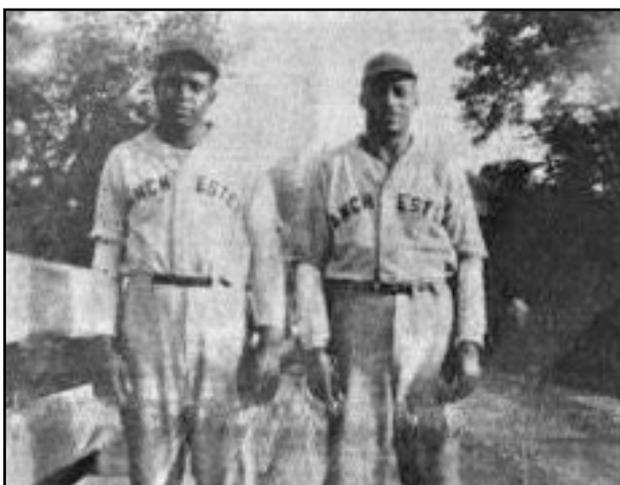
Dorothy Louise was born June 25, 1930, in Washington County, Indiana, the daughter of the late Ralph and Alice (Williams) Winslow.

On December 23, 1950, she married Lee Ralph Cottongim, who survives. They would have been married 66 years in December 2016.

We thank the Dorothy Cottongim Trust for the generous gift. A tribute to Ms. Cottongim will hang in the society library.

Great Baseball in Early Manchester

Brown Bombers and Manchester Hustlers Provided Excitement for Baseball Fans



Bomber first baseman, Billy Caldwell, and teammate, Garnett Clark in 1947.

By Joe Burchell

From The Manchester Enterprise, August 27, 1987

Yes, Manchester has been home to some outstanding teams since the early 1900s. The Manchester team of 1914 went undefeated, beating squads from all over Southeastern Kentucky. Some of the great players of the 1930s and 40s were Archie Hall, a pitcher with a “big league” fastball, catcher “Satch” Lyttle, Odie Philpot, “Stormy” Whitis, “Monk” Treadway, “Tuffy” Treadway, Lester “Gypsy” Smith, Gill Lyttle, Gib Walker, “C” Bowling, James Potter, Bradley Lyttle, Cloyd Rice, “Turkey” Burchell, Frank Drake, Earl Howard, Brack Garrison, Bob “Goat” Burchell, Hoyt Smith, Carl and Mark Maggard and others. Coaches for the Manchester teams in those days were C. P. Ramsey, Ben Potter and Earl Lyttle.

Archie Hall is considered by many to have been the

county's best-ever baseball player. Hall, a left-handed pitcher came to Clay County from Dayton, Kentucky during the 3-C's (Civilian Conservation Corp) under President Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930s. At the time he was being wooed by the American League's Boston Red Sox to join their farm team.

“He had talked about playing professional ball before we came to Manchester,” said Emma Hall, widow of the late Archie Hall. “After he had been here (Clay County) a while they (players from Manchester) found out that he could play ball so he joined up with Price (Coach C.P. Ramsey),” she said.

“They'd play all over the place, even Hamilton, Cincinnati and Lexington. I never missed a game,” she added.

“One day in Lexington, Archie was pitching, and doing great but he had a wooden splint on the first finger of his pitching hand (he was recovering from a broken finger). The umpire came out to the mound and made him take the splint off, just like in the game on TV the other day (Joe Neikro of the Cleveland Indians was ejected from the game for having a manicure kit in his back pocket),” said Hall. “Archie kept on getting them out without the splint. He was a dandy,” she said.

Mrs. Hall still has in her possession the game-ball used on opening day in 1949. “It was given to Archie by his number-one fan Millard Barrett,” said Hall. Inscribed on the baseball is: Opening day 1949, Manchester - 4, Berea - 2, pitcher - Hall, fan - Barrett.

Baseball games prior to the 1930s were played on the field at Cedar Crag (located behind Memorial Hospital) then later moved to the Sportsmans (Ramsey) Park.

There was an absence of baseball during World War II, but in 1946 the bats were swinging once again. Manchester had two outstanding teams during that period, the Brown Bombers (all black team) and the Hustlers (all white team). Both teams had several individuals with the talent to perhaps make the major leagues. But few big league scouts ever ventured into the area.

Baseball games prior to the 1930s were played on the field at Cedar Crag (located behind Memorial Hospital) then later moved to the Sportsmen's (Ramsey) Park.



The Brown Bombers were one of Manchester's earliest baseball teams playing during the early 1940s until about 1952. Back row (left to right): Bob Gilbert, Garnett Clark, Charley Lyttle, Sam Hipsher, Garnett Potter, Dan Wallace, Fred Lyttle. Front row: Ray "Slick" Carson, Jackie Hipsher (mascot), John Potter, Arthur Potter, Frank Lyttle, Wilburn Moore, A. B. "Hambone" Olinger, Billy Caldwell. (Photo courtesy Wilburn Moore)

The Bombers were coached by "Big" Jack Hipsher, the Hustlers by the legendary C. P. Ramsey.

The Bombers starting unit included left-handed pitcher Joe Carter who possessed a great "out drop" (curve ball), right-hander "June Bug" Gilbert, catcher Bob Gilbert, first baseman Billy Caldwell, second baseman Jim Drake, shortstop Charley Lyttle, third baseman Garnett Clark, outfielders Arthur Potter, Garnett Potter and Frank Lyttle.

Others on the team were: Bruce Hipsher, Dan Junior Wallace, Sam Hipsher, Arthur Lyttle, John Potter, Pearl Clark, Everett Gibson, Sylvester King, Willie B. Cornett from Hazard, Barbourville's Otis Gilbert, A.B. "Hambone" Olinger and William Potter.

"William Potter hit a ball they ain't found yet," said a laughing Garnett Clark.

C.P. Ramsey's late 1940s team members were pitcher

"Big" Cecil Burnett and "Little" Cecil Burnett, Bob Stivers, Frank "Teddy" Reid, Benny "Monk" Smith, "Shock" Howard, Harry Smith, Ed Owens, Bill Campbell, Bill Dearer, "Ducky" Dan Burchell, Ben White, Earl Campbell, John Campbell, J. Abner, Homer Garrison, Roy "Katy" Isom, Denny Campbell, Roy Jones, Clemons Keith, Josh Shelton and Earl Ruth.

At the same time these two teams were playing, Dr. C.C. Jordan was coaching Manchester's (under 18-year-old) American Legion team.

The Sportsmen's (Ramsey) park was the place to be on Sunday afternoon. Several hundred fans would attend double headers every Sunday to watch the two local teams host "out-of-towners," and on occasion face one another. When the Brown Bombers and Hustlers squared-off it was commonly called the "little world series."

The Bombers were coached by “Big” Jack Hipsher, the Hustlers by the legendary C. P. Ramsey.

To show you just how popular baseball was in those days, on April 29, Judge William Roach threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Mayor Bige Hensley to officially open the 1940 season as a packed house looked on.

Admission to a doubleheader was 25 cents, and once at the park, fans had almost anything they wanted in the way of food. Hotdogs, popcorn and giant barrels of lemonade with big slices of lemon and giant blocks of ice (only five cents a glass) were on sale.

Many fans would bring baskets of fried chicken to munch on. All you can say about those days at the ballpark is that “it was a happening. The place to be.”

“You could smell that popcorn all the way into town,” said Charley Lyttle. “Those were the good ol’ days,” he said with a big grin on his face.

“I remember as a youngster, I would retrieve foul balls for Coach Ramsey during practices,” said Bob Gilbert. “In return he would let me in to watch the games free,” added Gilbert.

The best of the Bombers and Hustlers combined to form a “mixed” team in the early 1950s. “We slept together, ate together and played ball together and never had a bad word,” said Lyttle. “We’d stick together. If someone said something to any of us they might as well have said it to the whole outfit, we got along great,” said Lyttle.

Some members of that “mixed” team were: Josh Shelton, Benny “Monk” Smith, Charley Lyttle, Garnett Clark, Bob Gilbert, Rollie Reid, brothers Johnny and Jimmy Lyttle, “Skimp” Campbell, Eugene Campbell, Tony Short along with brothers Maynard and Roy Jones.

Roy Jones of the Paces Creek area actually made the Major League as a pitcher with the Cleveland Indians, but a sore arm cut short his career.

One youngster who was a member of that “mixed” team counts himself “fortunate” for having played with that group of men. “It was a time I’ll always remember,” said Tony Short who began playing with the team at age 16. “I was very fortunate to be able to play with those guys, I have some wonderful memories of those years,” he added.

“I remember we won a tournament at Hyden to advance to the state (tournament). In the final game of the region, Bob (Gilbert) hit three consecutive homeruns. A few days later at the state (tournament), the public address announcer began telling the crowd about Bob’s three straight homers

during the finals of the Hyden tourney. I’ll never forget, Bob hit the first pitch high up on the mountain in center field for a homerun. It was a great thrill for me just to be there and see that happen,” said Short.

Only three members of the great ‘47 bomber team live in Manchester today (Charley Lyttle, Garnett Clark and Bob “Scorpion” Gilbert). Each can vividly remember their playing days.

“When I was a little boy back in the ‘30s I’d watch my dad (Bradley Lyttle), Odie (Philpot) and those “old-timers play ball,” said Lyttle. “I would wish I could play like those boys. It inspired me to play watching those games back in the ‘30s.”

“When I was growing up my heroes were Archie Hall and my dad (Bradley Lyttle),” said Lyttle. “Archie could really pitch that ball. It took a good man to hit him,” added Lyttle.

“I’ll never forget ole “Satch” Lyttle, he was a crowd favorite. When he stepped to the plate he’d stomp then paw in the dirt with his spikes, then yell “get back, get back.” He would carry on a sight, he was a real crowd pleaser. Most of the time he would strike out but the fans really loved ole Satch,” said Lyttle with a big smile on his face.

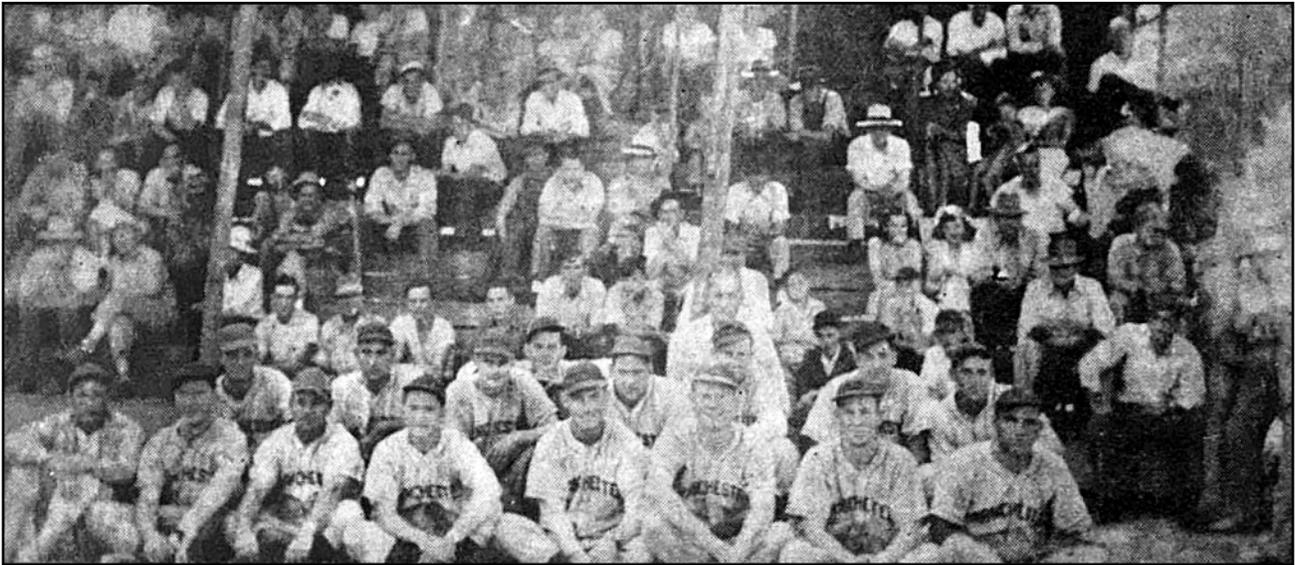
No one loved to play the game any more than those three. “I remember working in the coal mines all day and playing ball all evening. I played for about 15 years, I really loved to play,” said Lyttle.

“I was playing ball when my first son was born,” recalls Garnett Clark. “I remember someone sending word that my wife had just given birth. I told them that I was playing ball and would be there when the game was over. I was very happy about having a son, but I had a game to play, besides there wasn’t anything I could do,” said Clark, who says he “played baseball until he couldn’t play anymore.”

“Our dads and uncles all played ball, we were just following in their footsteps,” added Clark. “I recall playing down at Middlesboro one day, they brought in a professional pitcher by the name of (Bob) Bowman just to pitch against us. He beat us 2–1, but when they came to our place a few weeks later he (Bowman) wasn’t with them, we whipped their tails off,” said Clark with a big chuckle.

Benny “Monk” Smith, the teams center fielder recalls a similar event that took place in Lexington. “We had beaten this (Lexington area) team earlier in the season and they

When the Brown Bombers and Hustlers squared-off it was commonly called the “little world series.”



1947 Manchester Hustlers, front row (left to right): "Sally" Owens, "Shock" Howard, Harry Smith, Frank "Teddy" Reid, Ed Owens, Earl Campbell, John Campbell and Bill Campbell. Middle Row: Bob Stivers, Homer Garrison, "Little" Cecil Burnett, "Big" Cecil Burnett, Bill Dearer, Clemons Keith and Roy Jones. Back Row: Benny "Monk" Smith and Coach C.P. Ramsey.

wanted to beat us real bad," recalls Smith. "They brought in a professional pitcher and catcher, paid them \$100 each." "They just beat us 1-0 on a bloop single," recalled Smith.

The team, (primarily C.P. Ramsey) sponsored themselves, however some businesses did help with expenses. "The merchants bought us uniforms one season," said Gilbert. "They would give us a little money along and then go watch us play, we really appreciated those folks," said Gilbert.

Transportation was no real problem for the local teams. "Ol' "Spaz" Garrison would haul us in an old school bus," said Clark. "If we had to stay late we would all pitch in and come up with two or three dollars and he would stay as long as we liked," said Clark.

"Roper Seal used to have an open bed fruit truck, he would put on a load of hay and haul us to a lot of games, we really had some good times," said Gilbert.

"I remember one time Roper ran over a bee hive on the way back from Stanford, you've never seen such carryings on," said Clark.

Equipment in those days was a lot different than athletes have today. Gloves were much smaller than the "baskets" that are used today. When you see some of those old gloves, one wonders how in the world they could catch a ball.

"Some of us would "load up" before each season and drive to Richmond or Lexington to buy our bats and balls. You couldn't get any around here (Mountains)," said Lyttle. "If we broke a bat we'd drive a nail in where it was cracked and wrap tape around it. We only had three or four bats to last us all season so we had to take good care of what we had," he added.

"Today if a ball gets a little scratch on it, the umpire will throw in new ball. In our day we would hit the same ball in two or three games or until someone knocked it away," said Gilbert.

A baseball was so scarce during that time the team would pay someone 50 cents a game to retrieve balls that were hit into the Little Goose River.

It is interesting to note that most of the new players to come along over the years used "hand-me-down" equipment. "When the older players began to retire they would give their gloves and shoes to the young players," recalls Gilbert.

"We were young and couldn't afford to buy our own gloves at that time. As a matter of fact we gave our stuff away to the younger players when we quit playing," said Clark.

Some of the faithful fans that tagged along with the team on road trips were: Brit White, Briar Woods, Bradley Lyttle, Kim Walker, "Chicken" Gilbert, "C" Bowling, "Spaz" Garrison, Roper Seal, Cloyd Rice and others.

There is a lot more that could be said of those great players and teams and fans of yester-year. Time and space will not permit anymore said at this time.

I wasn't around during that time although I wish I could have been. Somehow, I can't help but agree with Charley that those were "the good ol' days."

Editor's Note: The three members of the 1947 Manchester Brown Bomber team interviewed for this article, Garnett Clark (third baseman), Charley Lyttle (short stop), and Bob Gilbert (catcher) are now all deceased.

My Greatest Sports Figure

Youthful Memories of Bob Gilbert



Three members of the 1947 Brown Bomber team were photographed in 1987 by Joe Burchell. From left: Garnett Clark (3b), Charley Lyttle (ss, wearing original 1946 uniform with glove) and catcher Bob Gilbert (photo courtesy The Manchester Enterprise).

By Lambert Y. Webb

I just sat down for a moment to let some of the hustle and bustle of this fast-paced living scoot on by while I rest. Then, for some unknown reason, from somewhere in my past, someone who at some earlier date meant a great deal to me, just jumped from my memory bank right out into my present-day consciousness.

With these memories came feelings from days long gone by. Feelings that even today cause little goose bumps to bounce off parts of my body just beneath the skin on the back of my neck. It's really great when memories like this stimulate such good feelings.

It was just such an experience that brought to me the memory of a person, a baseball person, who was my greatest sports figure. We have all known great baseball players, like Johnny Bench who had the tremendous ability to throw out players as they attempted to steal a base; Pete Rose who could hit so well because he could count the

stitches on the ball even when it had been thrown at a high rate of speed; and there was little Joe Morgan, an excellent defensive second baseman, but the glove he wore looked as if he had borrowed it from some ten-year-old kid. Your greatest baseball figure, the one who seemed to touch you the most, could have been a local individual not nationally known at all.

When I was a young boy riding around Clay County with my dad, helping him drive that old gray, four-door 1948 Plymouth with the suicide rear doors, I would sometimes say, "Daddy, let's stop by Drake's and get a hot dog and a Pepsi." Mr. Drake ran a little restaurant near the high school where he sold delicious hot dogs, soda pop, and various other items, some of which were a little more illegal than hot dogs. Mr. Drake was my Daddy's friend and occasionally Daddy stopped there mostly to talk about "old times." They would always wind up talking about the days when they played baseball.

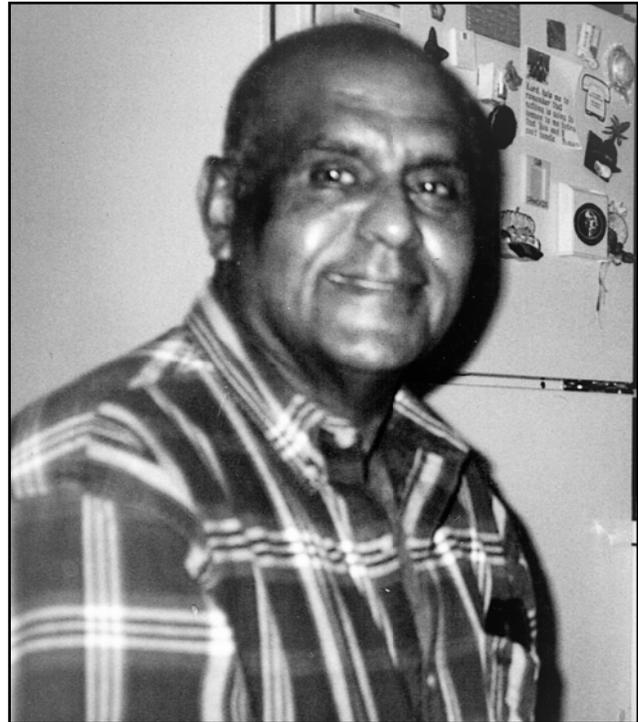
I was a very young boy, but I loved listening as they talked about particular games. What happened? Who won? They spoke of great local players, with names like Archie Hall and “Stormy” Whitis. Daddy told me Mr. Drake was such a good pitcher that he could have played with any major-league team anywhere if given the opportunity. Daddy said, “Mr. Drake could throw a baseball that would come to you at tremendous speed, get right up to your bat and drop straight down to the ground.” The days they spoke of must have been “the good old days” that you sometimes hear about. They were good to me as I sat and listened as they replayed them.

Mr. “Chicken” Gilbert was the number one shoe shiner and floor sweeper at “Cap” Hollen’s barber shop. I would, in my many strolls around the Town Square, walk into the shop and watch Mr. Gilbert. He never ignored me because I was small and he was never too busy to speak to me. Man, could he make that rag “pop” and he could put sunshine in the toe of a man’s shoes. But, in my mind, the greatest “claim to fame” “Chicken” Gilbert had was that he fathered and raised the child who grew up and influenced a young boy who was raised near the same little country town.

“Chicken” and Mrs. Gilbert’s son Bob Gilbert was the greatest baseball player I have ever known. He not only was great on the playing field, but this level of greatness extended to his daily life as well.

Daddy always took us to the local baseball games every time he could. I was just a little boy, not old enough or big enough to be good at anything but watching. I would stand behind the backstop, press my face up against the rat wire, and watch everything that happened. I would especially be back there when Bob was catching. There were many other good players, probably with much more God given talent than Bob possessed. But Bob had a unique quality that most others did not have.

Yes, he could hit pretty good, he had a pretty good arm, and he could run along with the batters who hit the ball and protect the first baseman in case of a wild throw. But Bob had something that made fans and all little boys like me love him and love the game. Bob had a “chatter” or “chant” that was calm, but loud, it flowed rhythmically and it was melodic, almost to being poetic. It never seemed to stop. There were some “come on baby’s,” and some “bring that old pill right on in here to me,” a few “one more time’s,” and one or two “He didn’t even see that one brother Roy.” There were grunts and groans to fill the gaps. When Bob did it, it sounded like one long beautiful song. Once in a while he would walk out in front of the plate, holding the baseball



Bob Gilbert, a small boy’s baseball idol.

up so that the batter could really take a good look at it. This little Horse Creek boy loved it.

Bob Gilbert not only performed on the baseball field, but he performed in his walk through life as well. When you met Bob his eyes, his face, his white teeth came to you in his smile.

Right now I would love to walk across from Anderson Burns’ place toward the old Webb Hotel and meet Bob Gilbert headed up toward the Creech building where he worked. I would say, “Good morning Bob.” He would then turn with all his radiance and say ... just to me ... “How are you, brother Webb?”

Thanks to my Dad for introducing me to Bob and thanks to Bob for giving me great memories. He was my greatest.

Lambert Webb is the father of LaBerta Webb White, the Society’s Recording Secretary. He was a pretty good baseball player himself, playing third base with the great Dobson’s Supermarket softball teams of the 1960s. Their rivalry with the VFW teams were legendary and played on the same field where his baseball idol, Bob Gilbert, played years earlier. Lambert Webb lives in Henry County, Kentucky.

A Story of a Slave Who Became a Member of Her Owner's Family

Matt Marcum



*Matt at the Marcum home on Red Bird in Clay County
circa 1920.*

By Marjorie B. Vagle

This article appeared February 23, 1995 in The Woodford Sun, Versailles, Kentucky.

Since February is Black History Month, I have documented a story from records, by word of mouth from people who experienced it, and from the family cemetery, about a female slave who became a member of our family. Her name was Matt and she was born in 1847 in Virginia and was purchased in 1859 at the age of 12 by my great-grandfather, Hiram Marcum (born Dec. 29, 1820) and my great-grandmother Sally Marcum (born Feb. 29, 1824).

They lived in Clay County, Ky., in the Red Bird River area, and after the Civil War ended, Matt, then 18 years old, did not want to leave, and so she stayed with the family and took the family name, becoming Matt Marcum. I recall stories told that during the Civil War, Union soldiers raided the smoke house and stole horses from the barn, although members of the extended family were on both sides in the war. Hiram Marcum died in 1892, and Matt remained with Sally Marcum until Sally passed away in 1917.

After my great-grandmother Sally died in 1917, Matt came to live with my mother's (Mary Marcum Britton) parents, Phillip and Susan Marcum, who lived in the same area. Hiram and Sally Marcum had 13 children and each was given 1,000 acres of mountain land. The land that my mother's family inherited is where the family home was located (and where Matt lived for the rest of her life), and is now a part of the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Matt was very much an individualist. There were very few blacks in that area of Eastern Kentucky and she preferred to just be with the family. There were many children and she loved them all, and helped take care of my sister Lucille, my brother Phillip, and myself when we were very young. She did not like to work in the kitchen but loved to be outdoors, always wearing a special hat, and her favorite cuss word was "Gonny Hamit." I have a vague recollection of seeing her laid out (the first dead person I had ever seen) in my grandparents' home when she died in 1925.



Matt Marcum, 1847-1925

She was loved by all and even today any generation in our family knows who she was, and a cousin was named after her. She did not like to have her picture taken, and so we only have one photo of her taken outside my grandparents' home in about 1920.

She is buried in the Uncle Farmer Roberts graveyard along-side my great-grandparents Hiram and Sally, about one mile from my grandparents' house where she died. I have visited it several times, and the tombstone reads simply "Matt Marcum 1847-1925," it needs repair now and we plan to do that soon.

This article was provided by Andrew Brown, a descendant of Hiram and Sally Marcum. Mr. Brown is an attorney practicing in Lexington, Kentucky.

Right: Grave marker in the Farmer Roberts Cemetery (photo courtesy Carla Hacker).

In a 1978 interview, an elderly Frank Bowling spoke of Matt Marcum:

"And I remember . . . the old slave awful well. She was awful well-respected in this country. Everybody liked her. She'd go in and eat or stay with anybody she wanted to. She wore brogan shoes, what we called brogan shoes, and a belt around her dress. She'd always wear . . . back then you'd send wool off and have cloth made. We'd call it jeans. She mostly wore a jeans dress and a man's hat. And she'd always ride in the side saddle though. She'd . . . but . . . but she'd . . . she wanted to dress like a man and a woman both, seemed like. She'd . . . she'd wear a man's shoes and a belt around her dress, and a man . . . she always wore a big black hat, a man's hat. And she could plow. I always thought she could lay off a row of corn straighter than anybody I ever saw. And . . . the Marcums always thought an awful lot of her. That . . . that old lady, Aunt Sally, she . . . Matt stayed and took care of her as long as she lived. And I've always understood if you went there after anything, Aunt Sally'd always say, 'You have to see Matt.' . . . And after Aunt Sally passed away, why, that left Matt with no home. She went down to . . . to Aunt Sally's son, Petey Marcum, and stayed there until she died. . . ."



Cover Photo: The First Catholic Wedding in Clay County

Vanilla Ruth Potter Marries Jimmie L. White



Potter – White Wedding, August 6, 1949. Back row, left to right: Daisy Potter (sister of the bride), Harrison Potter, Sr., Jimmie White, Rev. Cletus Gillson, Vanilla Potter, Clarice Potter, Harrison Potter, Jr. (brother of the bride). Front Row: (unidentified girl), (unidentified boy), Bertha Walker and Ethel Pennington.

By Paul H. White, Ph.D., O.P.

August 6th is a special day. I always reflect on the history of that date. In 1900, my grandmother, Claricy White Potter, was born in Barbourville, KY. In 1945, the first atomic bomb was used in war. In 1993, I spent my first full day as a Ph.D., having defended my dissertation the day before. Also, in the Catholic Church, August 6th is the Feast of the Transfiguration.

So, as Catholics world-wide were celebrating that feast day in 1949, history was being made in Clay County, KY, as the first Catholic wedding in the county's history took place. If not for that wedding, I would not be writing this story!

It is said that that wedding got the Congregation of Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity (Trinitarians Order) to start a mission in Manchester, which is St. Ann's Catholic Church. In a nice twist of fate, many years later,

St. Ann's would move from the location in East Manchester to a new larger space (where it is still housed) across the street from where this wedding took place. The tale is that Granny and Grandpa (Harrison B. Potter) assisted in getting the property for St. Ann's.

If you have not figured it out by now, I am talking about Mom (Vanilla Ruth Potter) and Dad (Jimmie L. White). However, before going into the wedding itself, just a brief background on them. Mommie was born (November 6, 1925) and raised in Manchester, the eldest of three children by Harrison Potter and Claricy White Potter. She was born at home in the little pink house they had that is still on the property. On her original birth certificate, they listed her a "male!" Mom attended school in Manchester (where Granny taught) and went to the Lincoln Institute (started by my alma mater, Berea College) for high school. She started Kentucky State College at age 16, graduating with a B.S. in Commercial Teacher Education at 20.5 years old in 1946. After college, she moved to Baton Rouge, LA, working in the Registrar's Office at Southern University.

Dad was born (December 13, 1920) and raised in Texarkana, Arkansas, the fifth of six children by Will and Georgia Ann White. Dad was "Jimmie" and he had an older brother named James. Also, on the 1930 Census (Granny Georgia remarried after Grandpa Will's death), Dad was listed as "daughter" (my guess is due to the spelling of his name)! Dad went to Booker T. Washington High School and played football at Arkansas State University. After graduating, he joined the Army and fought in Europe during World War II. After the War, he got an M.S. in Dairy Science at Michigan State University, taking a job heading up the Dairy Department at Southern University. It was at Southern that Mommie and Dad met (for years, I teased Mom that she should have stayed there so I could have grown up close to New Orleans!).

While neither really told me about how they met and dated (details I did not want to know anyway, until now of course), I did get the story of the proposal and the wedding day from Mommie. Dad's time at Southern was done and he had decided that Mom was the one for him. So, he came up to Manchester to meet with Granny and Grandpa. From Mom's side of things, Dad talked more with Grandpa (given that Grandpa was doing his farming work at the time, which gave them something to bond over) and apparently asked Grandpa about marrying Mom, but she could not recall Dad asking her directly. She joked years later that Dad and Grandpa should have gotten married.

Once things were settled, Dad, being Catholic, and Mom,



Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie White

being a convert while in Louisiana, wanted to have a Catholic ceremony. However, there were no Catholic facilities or priests in Manchester or Clay County at the time. Through some connections, they were able to get Fr. Cletus Gillson to perform the ceremony at Granny and Grandpa's home - the same house where I spent most of my adolescent years. On the marriage certificate, Fr. Cletus had to put Laurel Co., London as the authorizing county/city!

The wedding was a small affair with family, friends, neighbors, and their children in attendance. Mommie's sister, Aunt Daisy, and brother, Uncle Potter (Harrison, Jr.) served as witnesses. I believe Ethel Pennington Martin and Marjorie Pennington were the flower girls. As a child, I would play with an old upright piano in the basement not knowing that it was the one from their wedding picture until many years later! Also, she told me the bedroom we used when she moved back to Kentucky was the room in which she got ready for the wedding.

Afterwards, they lived at the house in the upstairs area for a while and then Dad took a job running the Dairy Farm

Certificate of Marriage

This Certifies That

James Lee White and Vanilla Ruth Potter

were united in

Holy Matrimony

According to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church and in Conformity with the Laws of the State of Kentucky

In Manchester Church, at the home of bride

on the 5th day of August 19 49.

The Rev. Cletus Gillson officiating
 as appears from the Marriage Register of this Church

Witnesses { Harrison B. Potter
Daisy Ellen Potter

Issued by Rev. Cletus Gillson Date Aug. 6, 1949

Form 4M50 / T. H. Stemper Co., Inc., Milwaukee, Wis.

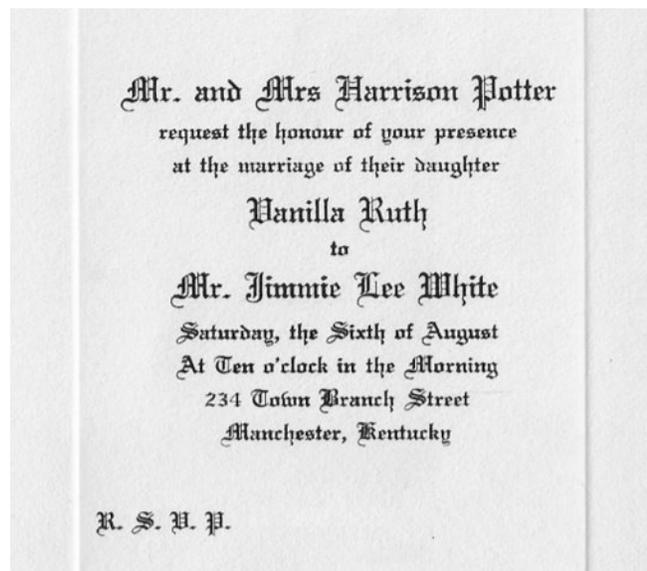
and teaching Agricultural Science at Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma (where my siblings and I were born). He worked there until retiring in 1986 and died in 1987. Mommie moved back to Manchester to take care of Granny and Grandpa in 1973 (with one of my sisters and I as children) and stayed until her death in 2009, working for a number of years at St. Ann's Church.

Thinking about it, this was not just the first Catholic wedding in Clay County, but it was two African Americans. Either alone were few in number at the time in Manchester, so the combination seems impossible. Also,

odd to consider the number of times I looked at those wedding photos as a child without knowing the history behind them. Now when I view the photos, I see not just my parents, but the legacy they started and that our family continues.

I love you, Mommie and Dad.

To learn more about the author, Dr. Paul White, see "Grandpa Harrison Potter" in this issue.



The Sacramental Register shows that Vanilla Potter and James Lee White were married with Nuptial Mass at her home in Manchester on August 6, 1949. Rev. Cletus Gillson officiated.

Witnesses were Harrison B. Potter, Jr. and Daisy Ellen Potter. Vanilla's parents, Harrison and Claricy Potter. James' parents, Will (deceased) and Georgiana White.

According to church records, they were both converts. James was baptized on April 15, 1949, at St. Thomas Aquinas in East Lansing, Michigan, and Vanilla was baptized on April 30, 1949, at St. Francis Xavier in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



THE STORY BEHIND THE COVER PHOTO....

We enjoy the challenge of selecting a special cover for every Clay County Ancestral News magazine. The Potter - White wedding photo was perfect for this cover and has long been one of our favorites, even before we discovered that it marked an important event in Clay County history – the first Catholic wedding!

After contacting the late bride’s son, Paul White, we learned more about the wedding and received two wonderful stories for this issue – “Grandpa Harrison Potter” and “The First Catholic Wedding in Clay County.” Rev. Patrick Stewart of St. William Catholic Church in London, Kentucky, researched and provided information regarding the wedding from the Sacramental Register.

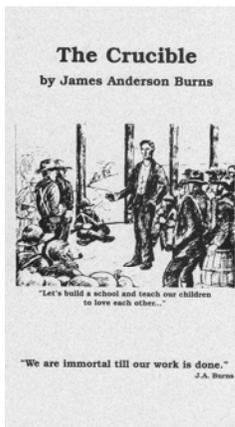
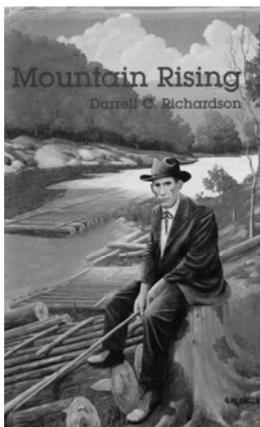
The original photo, generously shared by Ethel Pennington Martin, a flower girl in the shot, was black and white. As our president insisted on a color cover for this issue, our friend Ralph Goins of Coppell, Texas, was enlisted to colorize the photo for us. Shown here with Mildred Edwards and Mike White, Ralph is a photography

expert who generously donates his time and talents to improving our old photos, especially those for our Clay County Pictorial History book. In addition to the wedding photo, he was also responsible for enhancing and improving several other photos that appear in this issue. You might have seen Ralph’s popular Facebook page, "Photographic Memory Lane." If not, you should stop by for a photographic treat!

Ralph is the son of Dishman Goins and Brilla Fisher of Clay County. His paternal grandfather was Charlie "Peahead" Goins of Beech Creek; his maternal grandfather was Granville "Boss" Fisher of Horse Creek.

Ethel Pennington Martin is a descendant of Emily Reid Bates; her great grandmother, Virginia, was a sister of Sophia Word. Viola and Lawrence Pennington were her parents. Ethel attended the Lincoln Institute that is profiled in this issue.

Thanks to Ethel for the original black and white photo and to Ralph for making our first color cover something special!



New Book Offerings

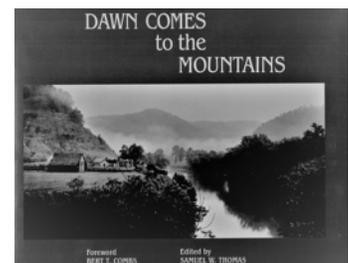
Through a special agreement with Oneida Baptist Institute (OBI) we are now offering these popular publications:

Dawn Comes to the Mountains, Edited by Samuel W. Thomas \$25.

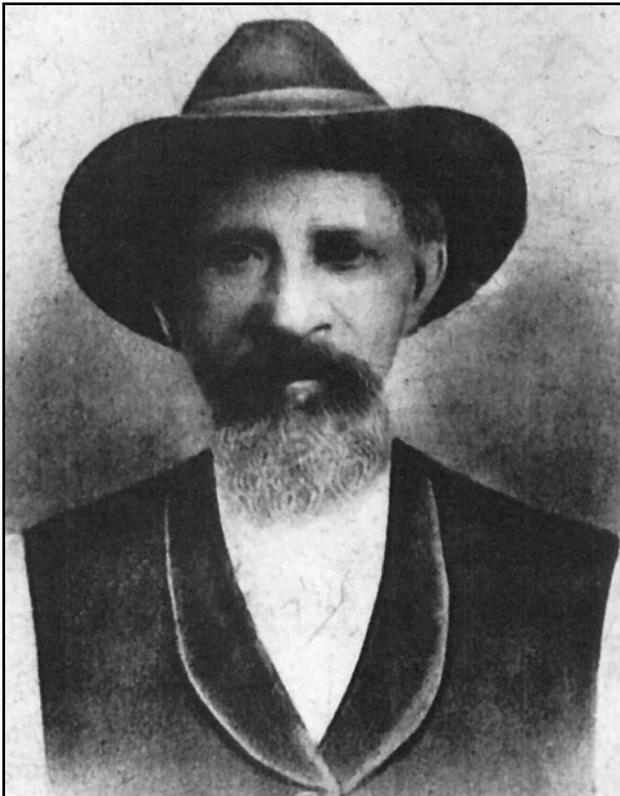
The Crucible, A Tale of the Kentucky Feuds by James Anderson Burns \$10.

Mountain Rising by Darrell C. Richardson \$20.

S/H will be \$6 and KY residents add 6% sales tax.



Clay County's African American Experience



Abraham "Abe" Thompson

By Gary Burns

President Abraham Lincoln issued the original version of the Emancipation Proclamation on 1 January 1863. It was followed months later by General Order No. 143, which accepted African American men into the military services of the Union. The Emancipation, when issued, was in truth a tactical move on Lincoln's part rather than an act of compassion, but something he had wanted to do since the beginning of the war. The Emancipation did not abolish slavery as it is often represented or commonly believed. Its wording, "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof *shall then be in rebellion* against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free," excluded those persons held in bondage in the northern states, as well as, the border states, Delaware,

Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri. In a letter to Orville H. Browning in September 1861, President Lincoln conveyed how important it was to not turn the slaveholders in the Border States into enemies of the Union by immediately freeing their slaves. "I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game. Kentucky gone, we cannot hold Missouri, nor, as I think, Maryland. These all against us, and the job on our hands is too large for us."¹ Torn between the two evils, losing the Union or postponing abolition, Lincoln held the abolishment of slavery in its totality for a later date.

In 1860, Clay County had 85 slaveholders. Much of the white population was either too poor to own such expensive chattel property or adamantly anti-slavery. Like most of the state, Clay was also bitterly divided on the issue of slavery as it pertained to state's rights. The county gave men to both sides of the conflict and sometimes turned family forever against one another. For a sparsely populated county, there were 49 free blacks and, an incredible 209 free mulattos. Free persons of color were ten percent of the total population just prior to the Civil War. There were 258 enslaved persons living in the county according to the last slave schedule ever taken. The figures alone are testimony to people of color's contribution to the culture and economic growth of nineteenth and twentieth century Clay County. Oddly, the mulatto population of the county fell by almost half after the Civil War.

Family forefathers, such as Arthur and Julia Potter Hipsher appeared on county records after the Civil War, indicating that persons of color still felt safe to move into the diversely populated area. Arthur was a veteran of the Union Army. He had probably been enslaved until that point. He first appeared in records when he enlisted in Kentucky.

The 122nd Regiment of Infantry, United States Colored Troops was formed at Louisville, Kentucky on 21 December 1864. Many of the men who made up that regiment were African Americans slaves sold to new owners as substitutes to fulfill the obligations of the latest owner's service. It was no surprise when many of those same substitutes fled service (deserted) at the first opportunity. Nelson, a substitute standing in for his new

Adair County owner deserted from the army less than ten days after induction.

Arthur Hipsher was also a substitute. He was born in North Carolina around 1840 and at the time of his enlistment was believed to be eighteen years old. He was shown on the rolls of enlistees during the formation of the regiment as "Hipshure, Arthur" and gave no residence or status before that event. All other military records use the spelling "Hipsher."

According to his substitute agreement, Arthur was standing in for W.C. Hazelwood of Madison County. W.C. may have been William Clifton Hazelwood. Hazelwood (also Hazlewood) does not appear on either the 1850 or 1860 slave schedule for Madison County, however, he and his family lived in Madison (Kingston area) after the war. One possibility is that W.C. purchased Arthur for the specific purpose of avoiding the draft himself. He does not appear to own slaves for the twenty-years prior, at least not in Madison County.

Arthur was mustered in on the 18 October 1864 at London for one year of service. Also, enlisted that same day from London was: John Harris, George Keen, Richard Lisle, Ben Lane, Quarles Litton, Andrew Biggerstaff, Taylor Bowen, Thomas Bybee, Achilles Adams, Charles Bogie, Humphrey Chenault, Henry Crook, Westley Dillion and Jabey Dunn. It is a safe assumption that all of these men were Eastern Kentuckians or had been purchased by white Eastern Kentuckians to specifically fill army ranks in their place. John Tribble also enlisted on the 21st at London. He was born in Mississippi and believed himself to be around twenty years old. By the turn of the year he was sick in the hospital in Louisville. He would remain in the hospital until discharged from the unit in 1865, never standing on line once. John was a substitute for Robert Tribble of Madison County.

The variations of spellings for both Arthur's first and surname are nothing unique or unusual. Many of the men in the regiment later admitted on their pension applications they did not know their father's name, went by their owner's name and then changed it, or gave false names to protect themselves against being recognized as runaways. More often than not, they were illiterate as well, and went on the rolls by phonetic spellings. On Arthur's substitute agreement he had to make his mark "x" indicating that he was illiterate at the time. It might take several generations before the surname took on its commonly accepted spelling. Hipsher would remain the same for almost a century.

Eighteen-year-old Zachariah Todd enlisted on 3 October 1864 as a substitute for A.R. Todd of Madison County,

Mr. G. W. Price (black)
of Clay county heart Sir
you will please give
Abraham Tompson
Licence to marry Miss
Carline Mize By my
consent this March 1st 1865

Hugh Mize gardeen
Witness
James Inham

March 1, 1865, Hugh Mize gardeen (guardian) gives consent (consent) for his daughter Carline (Caroline) to marry Abraham Tompson (Clay County Missing Marriage Permission Slips).

Kentucky. Zachariah died in the hospital at New Albany, Indiana on the 24th of the same month of typhoid pneumonia, having never made the first march or heard a shot fired in battle. Alexander R. Todd was white, married, about thirty years old, and a wagon maker or blacksmith living in Kingston. It can be assumed that Zachariah may have been one of a few or the only slave owned by a blacksmith and therefore not used to living in confines with large numbers. When the young men were introduced into communal living to the scale of that of the army, it was unavoidable they would succumb to viruses transmitted by then unknown means, such as: pneumonia, mumps, measles and smallpox.

Unlike John Potter, a substitute from Warren County, discussed below, Arthur's trail of paperwork is basically nonexistent before his enlistment. Movement of his army regiment and experiences of other members of the unit shows some history that would be common to Arthur. The 122nd's war story can be summed up in a series of marches and counter-marches, arduous labor details to dig defensive fortifications, and watching their numbers dwindle from disease. If there is no glory in war, the 122nd found only honor in the title as soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic, but nothing more.

Life for soldiers, Confederate or Union, black or white, was largely miserable. They lived as prey for the elements, slept on the ground, consumed the worst of food in meager amounts and prayed to go home in some semblance of a whole man. The black soldier's perceptions, however, were quite different from that of his white counterpart.

Command of black regiments always went to white



Abe Thompson's second wife, Lucy Butcher

officers. In a time when blacks were generally looked upon as slow thinking and slow moving, the officers almost to the last later felt that the stereotypes attributed to blacks, and especially the black soldier, was "absurd."²

Their white officers concluded that they preferred to captain black troops over white. Officers viewed the black soldier as more eager to learn every facet of military knowledge, not just the subject he found interesting or thought useful. There was a curious nature to the black soldier, which made him more attentive and less obstinate about tasks such as drill, discipline, and inspection that his white counterpart saw as a waste of time.

A black regiment's commander summed up the basis of their martial enthusiasm, "They understand what the war is about."³ Every small detail that they learned was a step closer to the knowledge free men had, knowledge previously denied blacks that kept them intellectually, as well as, physically enslaved. The colonel went on to say, "I do not see the slightest obstacle in the nature of the Negroes to making them good soldiers.⁴ On the contrary, there is much in their natures to making them superior soldiers." It would take another century and a half-dozen more wars before the American military admitted how correct he was.

The 122nd left Louisville and boarded a boat headed north via the Ohio River. At a point near the railroad bridge that crosses the river in Pennsylvania the men disembarked and climbed the hill. Their ranks stretched along the track.

The first train that came along headed in the right direction stopped and loaded the entire unit. They were carried by rail to the Union Army depot, then at Baltimore (June 1865). The regiment debarked and took up the march to Fort Federal Hill, approximately five miles distance. There, they were housed in a large barrack. It was late in the evening when they left the train. Soldiers caught no more than a few minutes of sleep before they were up and performing mundane camp duties. While they awaited orders, the young men, like Arthur, who understood hardship enjoyed ample big wood stoves, a roof over their heads and plenty of chow. For some, the army was the lap of luxury, clean water, clothes, and shoes; things they had never had before. When white officers voiced their concerns about what they saw as extreme hard work and excessive physical strain, the black soldiers – having endured the brutal labor of slavery – found their leader's anxiety almost laughable.

In spite of all that soft living and abundance of stoves, the north was extremely cold with heavy snow and soon took its toll on soldiers not yet acclimatized. Men developed swollen toes, aching from frostbite. Treatment for the affliction was crude. The surgeons told them to initiate a regimen of sticking their feet in the snow and never go near the fire.⁵ When that did not work, the toes had to be removed.

When the rivers became passable, the 122nd boarded boats again and sailed down river to the Chesapeake Bay. The stay was short. From there the unit took boats to the Willington/New Bern area of North Carolina. That stay was also short-lived. The routine of getting on and off boats was becoming too familiar. They were ferried back north to Portsmouth, across from Norfolk, Virginia.

The unit history highlights the 122nd's participation in the defense (building) of Portsmouth and the siege of Richmond; that is not what most of the men recalled in their later life. When they returned to Virginia from North Carolina they were accompanied by African American former slaves, refugees. The soldiers also recalled guarding prisoners at Newport News. Other than a Confederate fortress on one side of the river during one movement that fired a few shots at their transport, no one recalled ever being shot at. Yet, they were far more animated than their sister unit, the 123rd Infantry USCT. The 123rd was also formed in September 1864 at Camp Nelson, Kentucky. There they would remain until all were discharged after the war.

Kentucky's African American soldiers, 24,000, accounted for more than half of the state's black male population. All of them were allowed to enter service after

April 1864 and would serve until the end. The nation's total number of black men in uniform was 179,000. Of that number, only 3,000 died in battle. The remainder of young men who served in the fight for their own freedom died of illness. Eleven times more African American soldiers died of disease than violent action.⁶ No one was immune to the invisible enemy.

Records do not indicate what illness or injury Arthur had, but at Portsmouth during February 1865 he was in the hospital for more than twenty days.⁷ He recovered quickly and was back on duty when the regiment sailed for Corpus Christi, Texas. The most exciting part of the journey to Texas was when the ship got stuck on a sandbar off Corpus Christi. A steamboat towed her free.

When the war ended Union representatives knew Texas was going to be a hotspot for diehard Southern sympathizers. Texas was the one state, which had been in a rebellious flux for more than forty years. Half of the 27,000 occupation troops being sent to restore order and establish Reconstruction practices were black units. Most of what the men of the 122nd remembered about Texas was drilling and camp duties. There were expected, yet shocking, incidents of violence against black soldiers and their white officers. Their officers, now convinced and unconditionally loyal to their men, often came to the relief of black soldiers being threatened or harassed. They sometimes paid the ultimate price for their interference.

On 23 September 1865, Arthur was discharged at Corpus Christi. It can be assumed that he made his way by rail, horse or walked back to Kentucky. When he was hospitalized he had lost or abandoned his \$2.30 shelter-half (tent). Before he could be discharged he had to pay for the government property, despite that he had never drawn a paycheck from the same government. He, along with most black soldiers, would never live to see the government finally pay arrears to its black veterans. The first black soldiers had enlisted under a segregated pay scale, drawing less money because of their color than their white comrades of the same rank. The issue of equal pay was, in the end, irrelevant, as the government seems to have never intended to pay them, period.

It is unknown what Arthur's connection was with Clay County before his service, he does not seem to have returned to Madison County and had no binding ties there. In 1865 or 1866 he purchased land in Clay County, according to tax records now stored in the Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort. The original deed would have been destroyed in the fire that burned the county courthouse. Arthur married Mary Jane Potter on 29

December 1866 in Clay County. Mary's situation before the war may be even more mysterious than Arthur's. On her death certificate for 11 January 1934, Mary's daughter, Ella, gave the birthplace of both of Mary's parents as Massachusetts. Her mother was given as Julia Potter and "unknown" Potter as her father.

There is speculation that Mary's mother, Julia, was a slave. Mary always gave her own birth state as Kentucky. The problem for genealogists is the fact that Massachusetts was the first state to abolish slavery, 8 July 1783. If Julia Potter and her husband were born in Massachusetts, as had obviously been passed down through family history – "Julian" (sp) Potter was living with the Hipsher's in 1870 – then it is impossible they were either one slaves in that period. If Mary were born in Kentucky around March 1864, why would two African Americans, secure in their freedom in Massachusetts have placed themselves and their children in danger of being enslaved by going to an area where slavery was not only legal but also the norm? It should be mentioned that Massachusetts was a busy hub during the heyday of the Underground Railroad. Julia may have ended up in Massachusetts or have been kidnapped from there and removed to Kentucky and slavery. It is all speculation at this point.

Who then was Julia and where did she originate? That may be an impossible question to answer but there are possible assumptions. On census records Mary, or "Jane" as it seemed she liked to be called, gave her parent's birth state as Kentucky, not Massachusetts. Finding a former enslaved person's records prior to the Civil War usually comes up short. John Potter, however, was an African American slave who was placed in service to cover his owner's draft requirement. His owner, I'll call by the pseudonym Bartholomew, resided in Bowling Green, Kentucky.⁸

By 1860, Warren County, the mother county of Bowling Green, had 882 slaveholders, 3893 slaves that were recorded as pureblood African decedents, while Mulatto slaves numbered 1068. Almost one-quarter of the slave population was biracial – a modern term, of course. The case of Bartholomew is a perfect and heinous example of how this seemingly unusual percentage came to be half white. Even John Potter was described as "yellow" in skin color on his enlistment contract.

Bartholomew is recorded in a Warren County vital records book as being the father of a son born to his legitimate white wife. Ironically, or hypocritically, on the line directly above this birth he is also listed as the father of a black female child born to "Charlotte," and simply named "June." The lack of a last name and color of the baby

indicate that Charlotte was a slave. A fifteenth-century law was used to relegate the status of the mixed-blood offspring to that of the mother, not the father. The enslaved female became a conduit for more human property, which belonged to the father upon birth. Seldom were these children treated or loved as their white half siblings were. On the eve of the Civil War, Warren County did not have an above average population of free people of color – 99 persons of African decent and 105 mixed race persons.⁹

In 1830, two free blacks were listed as slaveholders in Warren. While that may sound dastardly, more than not it was a method by which free blacks purchased their family members and kept them in a protected status on paper. No one would steal another's property but a free black was always in danger of being abducted off the street and sent "down river" to some southern plantation, far from the reach of legal defense in proof of their citizenship.

Jane Potter Hipsher may have never known that her father was her mother's owner at the time of her conception, or she may have wanted to protect her mother's memory. John Potter's paperwork to stand-in as a soldier for Bartholomew is extensive. While it is possible that Julia was John's older sister or mother, there is no solid evidence, as yet, for that connection. John was placed in the 13th Regiment of Infantry, USCT and later 13th Regiment Heavy Artillery. What happened to him after the war is unknown. The connection between Julia and John is a leap of faith, but they were the only family of slaves bearing the surname of Potter in the right age group living in Kentucky at the time. Mary and Arthur named one of their sons John.

There were women by the same name from Massachusetts; however, when Julia was definitely living in Arthur's home those others were located in states other than Kentucky. Julia only appears on the 1870 census living in Clay County, after which she may have moved north. She was 48 in 1870 and it was common for a woman, even in later life, to marry. Women generally could not support themselves alone in that era. Considering the life of misery Julia probably had, both mentally and physically, 48 was old for a woman of the nineteenth century.

Civil War veteran, Abraham Thompson, was also registered as a resident of Manchester, Clay County in the 1890 index. His records for military service are part of the muster of men who joined the 123rd Infantry. He was enlisted for his owner, John Thompson, in September 1864 at Camp Nelson. Abraham was born in Lincoln County, according to his enlistment record. Since he used the last name of his owner at the time, he may have been the slave of John for some length prior to enlistment, possibly since

birth since they were still in Lincoln County when the draft started.

Except for the veteran's index of 1890, there appeared no one by the name of Abraham that fit into the proper age group in Clay County between 1865 and then. Shortly after 1866, Clay County sees the arrival of Abe Amos Thompson. No military records for Abe seem to exist, however, it is my belief that Abraham and Abe are the same person.

Abraham was mustered out of Company G, 123rd Infantry USCT on 16 October 1865 at Louisville. His record of service was as sterile as that of the regiment he had been a part of – again, the unit never moved during its existence. He did go on furlough in September 1865. Unlike Arthur Hipsher, Abraham received pay in June 1865 and was paid \$100 on discharge. Abraham was described as five-one and dark complexion. For his time, he was only slightly below average height. He was 35-years old when he joined. His discharge is the last time that "Abraham" the veteran, is heard from until 1890.

Abe Thompson married Caroline Mise sometime before or near 1866. They had their first child, Betsy Ann (sometimes: Betsy, Betty Ann) around the same year. Betsy married Thomas Birch, a coal miner in Hima, on 9 January 1890. Caroline's family was unique for the time and place. Her father, Reps Mize (spelled in various ways but that version on his Last Will is used here), was a free person of color living in Claiborne County, Tennessee, near Tazewell. Tazewell is directly south of Clay County, though a challenging hundred miles or more to travel in the 1800s. Reps appears on the 1840 census as a mulatto farmer with his wife, and two children. Reps is joined by another mulatto family, by the same last name and all free, on the same census. Names of persons do not appear until the 1850 census and Caroline is the third child, given as age six, along with Hugh, age 14, and Narcissa, age 16 and Reps's wife, Dicy. Neither Reps nor Dicy could read or write and none of the children attended school during the year prior to 1850. In 1860, Caroline was 16 and still at her parents' home in Claiborne. She, of course, left that home by 1870 and was married in Clay County with her own family. Where the two married or how they met is a mystery. Reps did not move his entire life and by the 1870 census he was married to his second wife, Martha. She brought two stepsons to that union.

The marriage between Caroline and Abe ended in divorce. She was living with her daughter Elizabeth and her husband William Mise in 1900. The two were married in Clay County in November 1889. Caroline was gone from

their home ten years later; she probably remarried (discussed later). She was 58-years-old in 1900. Caroline's son-in-law, William Mise, was the son of the only other family of free persons of color living next to her family in Claiborne, Tennessee when she was a child. William's father was Littleton Mise (Mise). His mother was listed as "unknown" by his informant, Stella Clark, on his death certificate in 1935. He was also listed as divorced at the time of his death.

During the taking of the 1880 census, Littleton Mise had moved from his home of Tennessee to Manchester, Kentucky. He continued to move north and died in Indiana. Littleton appeared first in official documents in 1849 when he was approved for a grant of 400 acres in Claiborne he had applied for in 1846. Owning property for a person of color was not only a sign of acceptance by his community but paving stones laid for enfranchisement.

Abe Thompson married Lucy Butcher as his second wife. They had several children together. His death date is commonly stated as 1884. The last child born to the couple was probably William. William died in New Albany, Indiana in 1982; his birthday was given as 5 February 1900. This fact makes it impossible for Abe to have died before, as Lucy and Abe were listed on William's death certificate as his parents. The informant on the death certificate was Ella Hipser, daughter. In the 1910 census, Lucy Thompson listed herself as widowed.

William's older brother Frank died in 1962 in Manchester, Kentucky. He was born 3 February 1894. James "Jim" may have been the oldest son of Lucy and Abe. No one seemed to know his exact birth date to include on the death certificate and simply stated his age as 54; with a death in 1924, he would have been born around 1870 or 1871.

Maryland Thompson was born 10 October 1896 to Lucy and Abe. He grew up, joined the Army Quarter Master and then Medical Corps and never returned to Kentucky. Maryland joined the Army on 18 September 1914 and retired as a Tech-Sergeant, 1 December 1943, serving in combat theaters through both World Wars. Just prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, he and his family were stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, a home for African American units during the segregated years of the military and nation. They were living at 134 Linda Vista, Pittsburg, California, at the time of his death. He and his wife, Rufina, were buried together in the Golden Gate National Cemetery, California.

In an odd and unexplainable turn, there was also a twenty-three-year-old Maryland Thompson from



Maryland Thompson, Abe and Lucy's son, retired from the Army as a Tech-Sergeant. He and his wife are buried in the Golden Gate National Cemetery.

Manchester who enlisted for the Spanish American War at London, Kentucky on 24 February 1898. He was assigned to the 9th Cavalry. No further could be located on him or his connection to the Clay County Thompsons. The 9th rode into battle along with the Rough Riders at Kettle Hill, Cuba. Another Clay County man would also be present in Cuba for the Splendid Little War.

John Franklin Hipsher was born on 12 December 1877 in Clay County to Arthur and Mary Jane Hipsher. John married Mary Lyttle 11 April 1899 in Manchester. Their first child, Roscoe was born on 9 March 1901 and lived in Pikeville as a young man. He was accidentally shot on 4 November 1921. Roscoe lived until 6 November. Mary and John had their second child, Florence who was born on 4 February and died 20 August 1904 from croup. Mary disappeared from records after the birth of Florence. She may have died in childbirth or some other tragedy. John married again on 25 October 1909 to Ethel Pennington.

Ethel and John were at the mercy of twentieth century fate. Georgia was born to the couple on 19 January 1910. She only survived 25 days past her fourth birthday. On Friday, the 13th, 1914 the child's clothes caught fire from an open fireplace; she died from her injuries the same day. While John had already suffered the loss of a child with his first marriage, Ethel had not yet dealt with such pain. Between the two marriages, John would father fifteen children.

John served in Company B, 24th Regiment of Infantry from 28 May 1898 to 31 January 1899, Spanish American



John Franklin Hipsher married 1) Mary Lyttle and 2) Ethel Pennington.

War. He was described on the muster rolls as six-foot tall with a brown complexion. At six foot, he was one of the tallest men recruited. Like his father, John was accustomed to hard work and probably inherited Arthur's stout frame.

The regiment formed at Fort Douglas, Utah in 1898. On 30 April, the bulk of the regiment left Georgia for Tampa, Florida. They arrived in Tampa on 2 May. Training and preparation continued in camp until 8 June when the regiment marched two miles to the train and were then taken to Port Tampa. At the port, the men, equipment, and pack mules were loaded into a small vessel on the evening of the 9th and began an eighteen-mile trek out to the transport *City of Washington* (Transport # 16). The *City of Washington* was originally built in 1877, as a two-mast sailing ship, although in 1898 she received the addition of one steam engine. On the evening of 15 February she had been moored in Havana harbor when the *USS Maine* exploded. The *City of Washington* was the first ship to untie and recover survivors. Now, her task was to transport troops back to Cuba to avenge those unlucky souls lost during the sinking of the *Maine*.

The 24th Infantry arrived and transferred to the transport about 2am, at which time the *City of Washington* headed back to Port Tampa. Reports from the *Eagle* confirmed a Spanish torpedo-boat destroyer and armored cruiser patrolling the waters between Tampa and Nicholas Channel, Cuba, through which the convoy had to pass. The threat was sufficient to halt the movement. The men remained officially birthed aboard until the 14th when they

were cleared to sail. During their stay, most troops detested the cramped bunks and stale air of the quarters and made primitive sleeping accommodations on the beach. The army helped by adding a routine of daily calisthenics to keep them physically entertained.

The *City of Washington* pulled into Santiago, Cuba on 19 June. The landings met with light enemy resistance. The men disembarked onto the beach at Siboney, a small village on the eastern edge of Santiago on the 25th. The regiment marched about a mile from the beach and set into camp near the "Hacienda de Cactillo" (sp). They remained at the Hacienda until the 27th, and then marched six miles to a new campsite near Las Guasimas. Fortunately, or unfortunately depending on the personal view of the soldier, the 24th missed the action at Las Guasimas by three days.

On the 24 June, as the Spanish retreated in the face of the American advance, a stiff fight resulted from the dug-in Spanish rearguard. "Fighting Joe" Wheeler, a former Confederate general now in command of the vanguard, during the hottest point in the battle, yelled, "Lets go, boys! We've got the damn Yankees on the run again." Barring Wheeler's confusion of wars, both sides hailed the action as a victory for their side.

During the first three days of July the regiment fought at Fort San Juan, storming the heights and taking the entrenchments and blockhouse. Their glory was hidden in the shadow of Roosevelt's Rough Riders storming Kettle Hill, to the right flank of the 24th Infantry. The Americans then began siege warfare of Santiago until 15 July. The city's surrender signaled the end of hostilities on Cuba. With a ridiculous assumption by army doctors of the time that blacks had some inherent immunity to tropical diseases, such as yellow fever, the regiment was then assigned to the "yellow fever camp" as orderlies. John was not immune. On 25 August he fell sick with a fever. He did not exit the hospital until 15 January 1899.

The 24th returned to Fort Douglas on 1 October 1898. Stepping from the train they marched about a mile before they found streetcars, provided by the grateful citizens of Salt Lake, to transport them to post. It would be the last time until the Korean War that black and non-black American soldiers fought in such close proximity to one another in combat.

John was discharged at Fort Douglas, Utah. He returned to Kentucky where he farmed and raised a family. He spent almost seven months in 1928 as a patient in the U.S. National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Dayton, Ohio, but was dropped from their rolls without explanation.

In 1918, at age 40, when John registered for the draft he was still described as tall and stout. John died 11 September 1945 in Manchester at 67 years old.

John's son, Arthur "Jack" Hipsher was born 1 September 1913. Jack served in the Army from March 1941 to March 1943. He was a member of the Anti-tank Company of the 368th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Infantry Division. After his service, Jack also returned to Clay County. He worked mainly as a commercial driver throughout his life. Jack died in 1971 and is buried in Clay County.

Black soldiers from Clay County, who had served with distinction during the Civil War and Spanish American War, became inspirations to young men being called upon to fight another world war. The African American soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines of the Depression Era would live up to their example, and in the process, forever change attitudes about people of color. Most of the WWII veterans who survived the war lived to see a desegregated school system and military. They enjoyed the simple pleasures of equal citizenship, such as a bus ride from the vantage point of any available seat. Their efforts to prove themselves in combat and on the factory floors during the Second World War were as much a contribution to civil rights as Dr. King's letter from Birmingham jail. Upon their return from the battlefield, there would be many more years of prejudice, violence and indignity to endure, but military life and the rigors of the battlefield prepared them to meet all obstacles.

Amos Henson was among the group of free persons of color who resided in Clay County before the Civil War. His origins are another enigma. Even the date of his death is lost to time. Amos appears on the rolls of men from Clay County who registered for possible military service in July 1863. He is the only black man among them. He gave his age as 27 years old when he registered. He was single in 1863 and listed his birthplace as Kentucky.

The next time that Amos appeared in Clay County records was with the birth of a child, Ruphus (sp), to him and Caroline Mise. Caroline gave her birthplace as Claiborne County, Tennessee. He and Caroline suffered the loss of not one, but two, children in 1878: Catharine, age one year sometime around November, and Daniel, three months old in December. Both died of an undetermined sickness. On both records, Amos indicated his birthplace as Clay County.

A man named Amos Henson married Lucinda Sturgeon in Clay County in October 1880. Whether this is the same Amos or not is unknown. The record is only an index and gives no details of race or age. Caroline Mise appears to

have been the same woman who married and divorced Abe Thompson in the late 1860s. It appears by tragedy or discord, the marriage to Amos may have also ended soon after the death of their children. What happened to Ruphus Henson is a mystery; he is not heard from again.

Was Amos the patriarch of the Henson family in Clay County? After the marriage to Lucinda, Amos seemed to vanish like his son Ruphus. Daniel died as an infant but that name would somehow filter into the Henson family of the twentieth century. Clay County's Daniel Henson would also have a son named Dan "Hawk" Henson. It will take much more research to prove the connection between this Henson family and Amos. It is with Dan "Hawk" that the story of another member of the Greatest Generation begins.

Earl Combs, a white Clay County man was compelled by sympathy and necessity to take unto himself the task of writing the Secretary of War in April 1944. The act was a sizeable endeavor for any small-town citizen but even more so because Mr. Combs had set aside the mores of contemporary society and was crossing racial boundaries to assist friends and neighbors of Hima, Kentucky.

Hima, thanks to the coal industry, was a bustling town in its heyday, with several movie theaters, bars, general stores (company stores), and of course, families who made their livelihoods digging coal. Black and white families lived as neighbors and did their best to help one another. There existed, however, a diluted, but still present, system of segregation. Children went to separate schools according to their race. Black sports teams traveled to other communities to play other all black teams.

One place was the great equalizer though; that was in the depths of the coalmines. There, every man's eyes strained to take in the bleak light of a carbide lamp. He swung the same weight pick and hammer and chipped the valuable stone from its hiding place regardless of his skin color. Black or white, he breathed into his lungs the same coughing dust and his face, at the end of the day, knew only the color of coal. His race did not give him an advantage for his next day's work in the mines, or make him exempt from explosions, cave-ins, and any number of other deadly accidents. Every man knew, as Tennessee Ernie Ford so eloquently put it, that he owed his "soul to the company store." When men were too old to go down in the mines any more, there was no retirement, medical care or even rest. They struggled on to raise gardens and depended more than not, especially during the Depression years, on adult male children to supplement survival.

When the elderly parents' provider was absent from the home, working in the burgeoning defense factories or

drafted into the military after the Pearl Harbor attack, it was a distinct possibility the older folks could starve to death. Therein encompassed the reason for Mr. Combs's compassionate outreach to the Secretary of War. Combs's letter was really a follow-up to one Mrs. Elisia Henson, also of Hima, penned in her own hand on 9 January 1944 to Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States. Combs attested in his correspondence that Daniel "Dan" Hawk and, his wife, Elisia "Lizza" Goins Henson were in the poorest of health and generally in dire straights financially. Elisia had told the president she was chronically ill. Her husband was, in his mid-sixties, simply put, worn out. Dan (1873-1960) had labored his entire life at farming but it was Elisia who the community worried most for.

Mrs. Henson politely wrote to the president requesting that her son be released from the army and be allowed to come home to take care of the family. There was no indication of race in her letter, although, it gave evidence of her feeble hand and education denied one of her time and place. She was just a loving mother who desperately needed help. She told the president that no one would help her and Mr. Henson, specifically because they were "Democrats." At the end of the letter, almost in defiance of those pitiless Republicans who had not supported him or the Hensons, she informed Mr. Roosevelt both she and her husband had voted for him.

The son she was referencing was Bev Henson born in 18 March 1915. Before the war, he and his brother Dough (Daugh or Daw) had worked in the mines while living at home. In the 1940 Federal Census, both had worked 26 weeks that year and earned a respectable \$208. Oddly, the entire Henson family was listed as white on the census, as were all their neighbors. Through the progression of census takers over the years, beginning in 1900, the family went from black to mulatto, and finally, became Caucasian, at least on paper. Any number of theories could be posed as to why this transition occurred and they would probably all be wrong.

Bev joined the U.S. Army on 19 February 1941, less than three months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was among the first group of men inducted into the 368th Infantry, the cornerstone unit that would form the 93rd Infantry Division at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. The men that arrived on the 1st and 2nd of March, to the oldest continuous running military installation in the United States, were primarily from Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia and Ohio.¹⁰ Like Henson, they had grown up in coal camps and rural homesteads void of indoor plumbing

and continuing education. Because of their backgrounds many of the men were seen by their veteran cadres to be rough.

By the time the letters from Mrs. Henson were circulating around Washington D.C., Bev was serving with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 368th Infantry, 93rd Infantry Division, somewhere in the Pacific Theater of operations. The 93rd, like her sister unit the 92nd, serving in Europe, was an all-black division. They were the only two black infantry divisions that served during the war.

The 368th had a long tradition of combat service. The regiment had been part of the all-black 92nd Division during the Great War. The African American doughboys of that war mostly fought alongside the French. When they were engaged in joint operations with American units, their critics were many and their proponents few.

The 92nd Division of the Great War called themselves "the Buffalos," in tribute to their early heritage as Indian fighters in the Old West. The "West," as many blacks discovered, was a place largely free of the prejudice of Nineteenth Century America. Along with a melting pot of ethnic and white cowpokes, it is estimated that more than twenty-five percent of all cowboys were African American. Like the mines, saddles tended to make all men equal.

When the 93rd was activated in preparation for WWII, the unit chose the blue Adrian helmet for their shoulder patch. The French helmet represented the 93rd's duty in the Great War and their brotherhood with the French who they fought alongside. The 368th Regiment was regrouped as part the 93rd Division during WWII and would eventually deploy west.

In January 1944, the 93rd finally saw tangible indication they were going to be allowed to experience combat. It seemed an odd wish to see the terror of frontline duty when so many were desperately praying to get out of combat. With the men of the black divisions, however, it was affirmation of being an equal citizen, something that other races took for granted. Second Battalion of the 368th sailed out of San Francisco on 23 January 1944, bound for Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands aboard the USS *General John Pope*. "Hanson, Bev, private, U.S. Army" was recorded present in the lengthy passenger muster rolls. The misspelling would not follow him. The convoy dropped their anchors off Guadalcanal at 11:00 on 6 February. The men reluctantly had to settle for one more night in the cramped confines of the troop transport and were not disembarked until the following day.

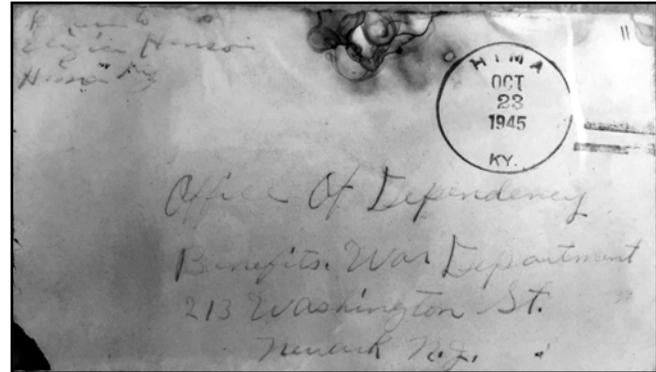
The division was piecemealed out from there; they would not function as a division-sized element until the end of the

war. Company G, went to Banika Island, Russell Islands, on the 10th, where the most important fight going on was that against tropical diseases, in and out, of the hospital, and boredom. Once more, the members of the 93rd, regardless of location, found themselves relegated to menial, backbreaking tasks such as unloading ships, stacking supplies and building billeting areas and roads. Many of the troops would receive debilitating back and joint injuries, which would cause them chronic pain for the rest of their lives. The embarrassment would follow them into the postwar Veterans' Administration medical system.

The 368th spent the latter part of 1944 on Munda Island, New Georgia. After a hard fight in July-August 1943 to take Munda, all-black engineer companies quickly arrived on scene and began restoring and upgrading the airfield at Munda. On Munda, the men fought a myriad of tropical diseases. Perhaps for the all-black units throughout the armed forces, by far the most unbearable disorder was being a fighting unit in name only.

Soldiers of any color or creed make the best of their environment. The men of the 93rd Division quickly set about to improve their situation. They staged barbeques, musicals, and shows among their own ranks. The division had not one but two weekly newspapers: *The Clarion* and *The Daily Mail*. For those who could gather at the regimental amphitheater, there was also a radio program called "Tan America on the Air," produced by one of the unit's soldiers.¹¹ Like all young men on or near the fighting, the 368th and her sister units had their favorite pinup crushes; in a majority vote, the darling of the 93rd was Lena Horne. Her classic song "Stormy Weather" and her many appearances in Hollywood films (at a time when MGM made her parts short and easy to cut in case of racial objections) made her the full package of beauty and talent. Whether old fashioned moms such as Lizza Henson would have approved of every hut and tent plastered with a seductive thinly clad Horne image is questionable. Regardless, Horne was every fellow's dream "mopsy" (gal friend).

With two full divisions of frontline black GIs, and thousands more in support units, the USO formed African American troupes to spread some homegrown entertainment across recently conquered Pacific islands. Actors and singers Kenneth Spencer and Julie Gardner, fresh off the big screen in *Cabin in the Sky* and *Bataan* made their way to the Solomon Islands in late 1944. The show performed in front of both white and black audiences. Spencer found that the show was just as warmly received by



Bev Henson's mother, Elizia, wrote letters, including one to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, requesting that her son be released from the army to come home and take care of his sick and needy family. Bev never received an early release and was finally discharged on Christmas Eve 1945. His mother had died ten days earlier.

all colors as those strictly black units. He stated white troops "seemed to realize how much they had been missing colored entertainment."¹² White soldiers might not have admitted it openly but Spencer was probably closer to the truth than society was ready to accept.

Second Battalion spent the month of April 1944 engaged in jungle warfare training. Henson's company would not only receive wide-ranging training by combat veterans of the Pacific, but would eventually put that training to use more than any other element of the 93rd. Yet, as if to lessen their opportunity for advance or glory, 40 men from each company, including G, were ordered to guard a ration dump that same month. On the 19th the company gave 50 men for a 24-hour detail to unload a boat. They were probably one of the best-trained units in the Pacific but because of their color, no army general chose to use them. When someone needed a working party, though, they turned to the 93rd to fill the requirement. Their leaders tried to compensate by putting out as many patrols as possible.

Company G supplied a detail to go on boat patrol starting 15 May. These patrols were to search out remaining Japanese hiding in the interior of Vela LaVella. The patrols used a loudspeaker and interpreter to navigate rivers and shorelines to coax the Japanese into surrender, when possible. The after action patrols would become the crux of the battalion's combat history.

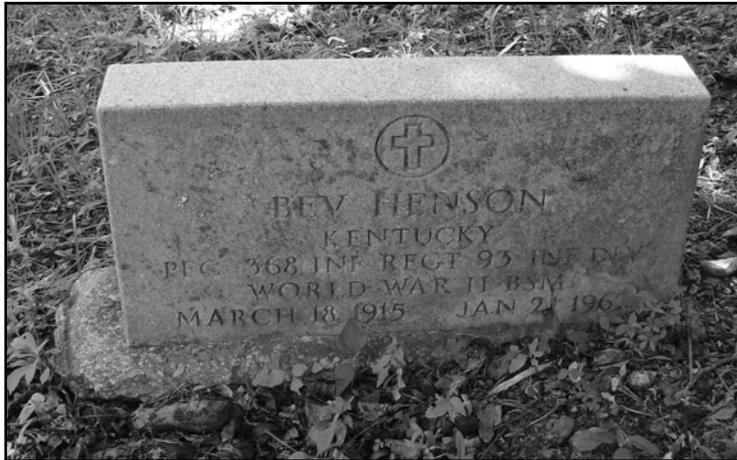
The unit moved again; Company G embarked from Vela LaVella on 14 June and arrived on Sasavele, Solomon Islands the same day. The division was headquartered on Munda until November. Elements of the regiment including Company G, sailed for Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, on

21 November aboard the *John Lykes*. All transports arrived by 5 December. As usual, the 368th had not received orders to participate in the battle for Hollandia (22 April-6 June). The battle for Hollandia included one of the largest surrenders of Japanese forces during the war. There was, therefore, little need for patrolling or seeking out holdout Japanese. The real shame, select units of the 368th, including G, had been formed into a Regimental Combat Team. The RCTs were designed to fulfill specific combat missions and were typically the shock troops that drew the toughest objectives. They were hammers without nails to drive.

The next movement began on 5 April 1945 when the 368th RCT departed Hollandia for Morotai. On 6 April 1945, *LCI(L) 622* carried 179 men of G. Company from Hollandia to Morotai. All the LCIs transporting the 368th arrived on 10 April. By 15 April the regiment had taken control of the perimeter defense, with Company G on the far right, safeguarding from possible efforts by the Japanese to counterattack and reoccupy the island.

The highpoint of the stay on Morotai was when a seven-day patrol by one platoon of Company G went into the Kokota River Basin to locate and recover the body of a soldier that was killed in action in the area. The patrol was confronted by small parties of Japanese but could not confirm killing any of the enemy. Neither was the grave of the American soldier located.

When men are programed to fight, and then prevented from doing so, under the sanctioned umbrella of war, unfortunate incidents occur. Compounded by the boredom of rear area, incessant menial details, the men grew frustrated to the point of violence against one another. During the latter part of March 1945, along with a bout of accidental shootings, a soldier intentionally shot and killed another. A court-martial trial was held and the perpetrator was sentenced to death. He was subsequently hanged for the murder sixteen days later. At a time when the 368th was one of the best-trained infantry regiments in the army, and frontline units were being literally reduced from companies to squads, common sense would dictate the 93rd Division



should replace those drained units but the color of their skin was not trusted enough to let them do so. Historians and generals would be left to wonder, how many lives would have been saved by taking exhausted units off the line and replacing them with the fresh troops of the 93rd? It was the heavy price paid due to segregation and a society

that believed skin color made some men more skilled at war than others.

During WWII, the idea that blacks were so different from whites permeated even to the medical department. Men died on Pacific island beaches from lack of blood transfusions, while unused stocks of African American soldiers' blood wasted in storage. Doctors, knowing better, were prohibited from mixing the blood of the two races because it might pass along some undefined and mystical black qualities to white soldiers. What exactly would those traits have been, one could postulate: the courage and fortitude of the Zande or Zulu warriors perhaps? Or would the white soldiers somehow have acquired the tactical wisdom and temperament of Hannibal Barca? It was a desperately foolish time when it came to crossing lines formed by hate and misunderstanding.

The mishaps continued to mount. One soldier was shot by accident, "mistaken identify" in May, while on patrol, another hit by shrapnel while standing the perimeter. A soldier carrying a .45 Automatic (service weapon) shot himself by accident with his own pistol. Within the regiment at the end of the war, almost as many soldiers were casualties of accidents and violence from fellow soldiers as were killed in combat.

The RCT left Morotai on 29 June. They arrived at Zamboanga Providence, Mindanao, Philippines on 1 July. There, the regiment set up camp at Ayala, twelve miles west of the city of Zamboanga. Their first duty was to relieve the battle-worn 41st Infantry Division. It was late in the conflict but the 93rd sought whatever remained of the enemy and made no qualms about destroying him if he gave any resistance.

The 368th picked up responsibility for the defense and elimination of Japanese forces on the Zamboanga Peninsula. According to the unit history, Company G

completed a ten-day patrol being on 10 July in the Sanito-Caparan area, encountering scattered groups of enemy and “one organized position.” They dispatched all with impunity. Still in keeping with the idea of scattered elements among the 93rd, small units performed the patrolling and assault missions. Each squad or platoon had its own story to tell. They eliminated small pockets of diehard Japanese still intent on fighting to the death. The regiment’s column of “enemy killed,” slowly mounted into the hundreds. In the Philippines, where men of the 368th served, they killed 1097 enemy soldiers and captured 85, at a cost of six of their own killed and 12 wounded. All of the casualties incurred by the 368th arose from patrols and assaults by the 3rd Battalion during July and August on Jolo Island, Philippines. That did not preclude others from displaying their warrior ethos.

In mid-September detachments of the 368th worked aboard PT boats from Motor Torpedo Squadron Thirty-Eight. The boats ran members of the regiment into waters surrounding Mindanao. Efforts were being increased to contact Japanese soldiers still believing they were fighting a war the rest of the world knew was over. The Japanese were not easily convinced and fierce firefights frequently erupted; the Japanese were out gunned and out performed on each encounter. The mission only lasted a week before the PT boats were called back for decommissioning. The end of patrols and fighting was also signaled for the 368th. Like all units and ships in the Pacific, the challenge after 2 September was to figure points and how soon that sum would get a man home.

Of the handful of men who earned medals for bravery, only one man in the entire division was reported to have received a Silver Star, the nation’s third highest award. Following that was the Bronze Star Medal. While no record of the citation (telling a brief summary of the action) exists, due to the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Center, in which more than 85% of all military records were destroyed, Henson’s headstone applications records the issue of the Bronze Star for valor to the same. The records of the 368th were also poorly maintained and no citations for any members of the 368th could be located. The only citation was that of a 368th soldier who was working on a detail near the beach when an explosion occurred on a ship. The 368th soldier risked his life to swim into the inferno and drag injured sailors back to shore. Time after time he made the round trip through the fire, each time recovering another sailor. While the Soldier’s Medal is not a combat award, there were many sailors who owe their lives to the courage of this black warrior. It was these rare opportunities in

which the black soldier leapt without destination that made many of the generalship at least begin to rethink their status quo bias.

Bev was discharged on Christmas Eve 1945. He had served throughout the war in a combat unit, never been in trouble and promoted in a reasonable time for the day; Private First Class in July 1944.¹³ Bev’s mother was never successful in obtaining an early release for him; she died of a massive cerebral hemorrhage (stroke) ten days before Bev was discharged. He returned to Clay County after the war and remained there for the rest of his life, raising a family and working to better the community, both black and white. Bev died of a heart attack on 21 January 1962.

He would not live to see the full weight of the Civil Rights movement accomplish what so many had prayed and longed for, for so many generations. African Americans are often forgetful of the part the anonymous few, such as Arthur and John Hipsher, Lizza Goins Henson and her son, Bev played in the final outcome. Through their kindness, courage, and hard work they transformed the face of Clay County and America to one of vivid color.

¹ Abraham Lincoln to Oliver H. Browning, Letter, 22 September 1861, Lincoln Papers, Illinois State Historical Library.

² Thomas W. Higginson, *Army Life in a Black Regiment* (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1970), 13.

³ *Ibid.*, 14.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Elizabeth A. Regosin and Donald R. Shaffer, ed, *Voices of Emancipation: Understanding Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction through the U.S. Pension Bureau Files* (New York: New York University Press, 2008), 188.

⁶ Ira Berlin, ed., *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation 1861-1867, Series II: The Black Military Experience* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1982), 633.

⁷ Balfour U.S.A. General Hospital at Portsmouth is known to have served black soldiers and is probably where Arthur was treated.

⁸ I purposely excluded the owner’s name to protect the integrity of decedents.

⁹ All numbers are from the census study compiled by the Research Department of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1924 and online at the University of Kentucky Libraries, http://nkaa.uky.edu/subject.php?sub_id=179.

¹⁰ Steven D. Smith, *The African American Soldier At Fort Huachuca, Arizona, 1892-1946* (Columbia, S.C: University of South Carolina --South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, 2001), 68.

¹¹ Robert F. Jefferson, *Fighting for Hope: African American Troops of the 93rd Infantry Division in World War II and Postwar America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008).

¹² “Fighters’ Footlight Front,” *The Billboard*, 25 December 1943, 23 & 25.

¹³ *Morning Reports*, National Archives, St. Louis, file: 13675

Others Who Served



Garnett Clark

(b. 16 Feb 1923; d. 13 Dec 1992)

US ARMY, WWII

Enlisted 8 Jul 1943; Released 11 Nov 1945

Married Doris Pennington

Buried Manchester Memorial Gardens



John L. Clark

(b. 27 Jun 1948)

Served in Vietnam

*Son of Garnett and Doris Pennington
Clark*



Harold Pennington

(b. 25 Jan 1928; d. 14 Jan 1986)

US AIR FORCE, Korean War

*Son of Lawrence and Viola Philpot
Pennington*



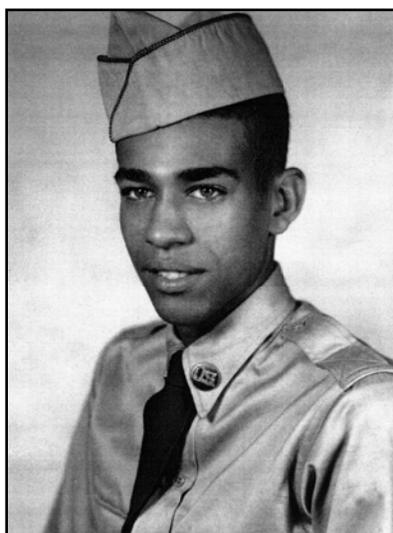
Charles Edward Pennington

(b. 13 Mar 1931; d. 30 Jan 2009)

Sergeant First Class, US ARMY, Vietnam

Enlisted 5 Aug 1947; Released 31 May 1970

*Buried Glen Rest Mem. Estates, Franklin, OH
Son of Lawrence and Viola Philpot Pennington*



Clarence Stanley Pennington

(b. 8 Sep 1933; d 27 Oct 2003)

US ARMY, Korean War

*Son of Lawrence and Viola Philpot
Pennington*



James "Jimmie" Baker Pennington

(b. 14 Oct 1935; d. 1 May 1960)

US AIR FORCE, 20th Fighter Wing

*Son of Lawrence and Viola Philpot
Pennington*

Hipshire / Hipsher Family

Originally compiled by James C. Welch. Additional information provided by Maggie Bowling.

Arthur Hipshire (b. 14 July 1848, NC; d. 8 Nov 1892) married 29 Dec 1866 in Clay County to Mary Jane Potter (b. 18 March 1846; d. 11 January 1934, Clay). Arthur was a Private in the Civil War 1864-65, 122 Reg US Troops for 1 year and 1 month. In the 1870-1880 Clay County Census; 1900 Clay Census had 11 children, 7 alive. Mary was in Clay 1910-1930.

The children of Arthur Hipshire and Mary Jane Potter Hipshire were:

- A. Huston Hipshire (b. 1865)
- B. James Hipshire (b. 1868)
- C. Ella Hipshire (b. April 1875/80; d. 10 July 1964); Never married.
- D. John Hipshire (b. 12 Dec 1877, Clay; d. 11 Sept 1945, Clay) In 1900-1930 Clay. Served in Spanish American War. Married 1) Mary Lyttle (b. April 1878; d. 1904-09), 11 Apr 1899, Clay; 2) Ethel Pennington (b. 4 July 1882, Clay; d. 27 Jan 1981, Clay), 25 Oct 1909, Clay.
 1. Roscoe (b. 9 March 1901; d. 6 Nov 1921)
 2. Florence (b. 4 Feb 1904, Clay; d. 20 Aug 1904, Clay)
 3. Lawrence (b. Dec 1905; d. 18 Oct 1991)
 4. Georgia (b. 19 Jan 1910; d. 13 Feb 1914)
 5. John Hipshir, II (b. 23 Sept 1911, Clay; d. by 1920)
 6. Leila Jane (b. 23 Sept 1912, Clay; d. 23 Apr 1990, Clay)
 7. Arthur "Jack" (b. 1 Sept 1913; d. 26 April 1971, Clay) married Ella Thompson.
 8. John Hipshire, II (b. 12 June 1916, Clay; d. before 1920)
 9. Nelle June (b. 12 June 1916, Clay; d. 14 Dec 2008); not married.
 10. Thelma H. (b. 29 Apr 1918, Clay; d. 13 Oct 1965, Daviess)
 11. Helen Joyce (b. 27 Oct 1923, Clay; d. 3 March 1988); m. 2 Jun 1962, Clay to John B. Fullwood.
 12. Theowille B. (b. 9 April 1923; d. 19 Oct 1952)
 13. Mildred E. (b. 24 Apr 1928, Clay; d. 22 Dec 2004, Clay); not married.
 14. Bruce C. (b. 23 Aug 1929, Clay; d. 25 Aug 1978, Fayette); married Lillian Prather.
 15. Sam (b. 20 June 1931, Clay; d. 18 Jan 2016); married Katie Payne.
 16. Barbara Ann (b. 24 Apr 1933, Clay; d. 19 Nov 2010, Laurel); married Edward Fair.
- E. Mattie Hipshire (b. Oct 1881) Married 27 Dec 1909, Clay to Thomas Clark (b. 1880). In 1920 Clay he was a merchant, she was a teacher. In 1930 Clay he was a clerk.
 - a. Lorena Clark (b. 1911)
- F. Theophilus Hipshire (b. March 1884; d. 1921) In 1920 and 1930 Clay. Married 12 Nov 1911, Clay to Ella Clark (b. 1893/94)
 - a. Charles Hipshire (b. 26 Oct 1919, Clay)
 - b. Mary E. Hipshire (b. 1922)
- G. William Hipshire (b. Apr 1875 ?; not listed in the 1880 census)

Read Historical Society Articles in the Manchester Enterprise!



The *Manchester Enterprise* newspaper is featuring stories from back issues of the *Clay County Ancestral News*!

To subscribe to Clay County's hometown newspaper call 606-598-2319 (Ext. 21) or order online at www.themanchesterenterprise.com.

Subscriptions are available inside Clay County (\$36) and outside Clay County (\$42) and include the online E-Edition.

What's Going on at the Society?

Welcome to New Volunteers!

James Davidson, who recently retired from the First National Bank, and Preston Roark who just retired from the US Postal Service, are now volunteering at the society. They don't have set schedules since they are "easing into" their retirements, but they drop in regularly to assist with family research, cemeteries, etc. Welcome to James and Preston!



Stivers and Sizemore Donation

Thanks to Dr. Deann Stivers Allen of Manchester, Kentucky, who recently donated items from the estate of her late parents J. P. Hillier Stivers and Jewel Sizemore Stivers. She and Society President Mike White are shown with a photo of her Sizemore grandparents and a bushel gourd grown by her grandfather, Judge Franklin Pierce Stivers (Clay County Circuit Judge 1940-46). Slips of paper with the names of potential jurors were kept in the gourd; names were drawn when a jury was needed. Look for Dr. Allen's article about her family in the Fall/Winter 2017 CCAN.

Coming Soon!

A revised and updated version of the *Clay County Marriage Index 1807-1923!* A dream project of our own Maggie Bowling is finally happening with the able assistance of Bonita Charles. They have worked tirelessly to make corrections and provide updates - there are more than 200 new entries! This fantastic book, originally compiled/revised by Laura Johnson and Kim Johnson, has always been a "must have" for researching Clay County families. We project it will be available in the summer!

Items for Sale!

We have expanded our collection of books written by local authors and books written about the area. Currently, we have more than sixty selections and are working to secure several exciting publications previously considered "out of print." See "Books for Sale" to make a selection or shop online at clayfamilies.org.

When Will the Museum Open?

Construction has been delayed on the museum until the Clay County Public Library receives final notice of grant funding, but we have been assured that this is a minor delay and work will begin very soon. In the meantime, we are still collecting items and accepting donations (See Acquisitions section). If you would like to donate something to the museum, please call us to discuss the possibilities.

Pictorial History Update

The Clay County Pictorial History has been progressing nicely and we thank everyone who has been so kind to share their photos with us. Great photographs are still coming in from far and wide, but we have had to set a deadline of **May 1** for accepting photos. We are working with a publication company and hope to begin presells very soon.

Peters Military Collection

Stephanie Russo of Cleves, Ohio has loaned items belonging to her Clay County ancestor, Henry Clay "H. C." Peters, who participated in the Spanish American War. The artifacts will be an important part of the future museum's military exhibit. We have Henry's canteen, several bayonets, a bolo knife, a soldier's handbook, a handmade razor, a handmade Filipino sword, and a sawfish implement, as well as, family photographs, copies of personal letters, family genealogy, etc. Henry was the son of William Peters and Paralee Susan Durham. Stephanie's article regarding H. C. will appear in the Fall/Winter CCAN.



Charley Lyttle – Ada Potter

Charley Lyttle (b. 23 Sep 1923; d. 1 Jun 2013) married Ada Lee Potter (b. 18 Jan 1922; d. 29 Oct 1994), the daughter of John Potter and Cleo Cotton.

Charley played third base for the legendary Brown Bombers of the 1940s and early 50s. An interview with him and other players conducted by Joe Burchell in 1987 appears in this issue as “Great Baseball in Early Manchester.”

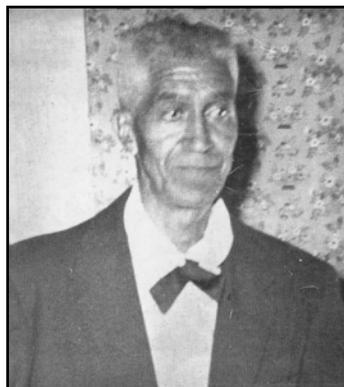
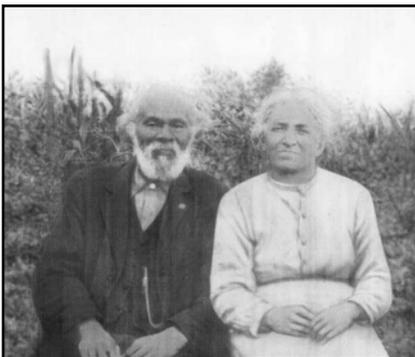
According to his obituary, Charley was a proud coal miner for 25 years and a member of the First Baptist Church of Manchester, where he served as a deacon. They had three daughters: Gail, Barbara, and Lena. Charley and Ada are buried in Manchester Memorial Gardens.

Charley was the son of Bradley Lyttle (b.20 Nov 1894; d. 9 April 1975) and Emma Drake Lyttle (b. 8 Oct 1895; d. 5 Sep 1993). They married 23 Dec 1916, in Clay County. Bradley was also a noted baseball player. He appears in a baseball photo with the “Grandpa Harrison Potter” story as Bradley “Hi-Pockets” Lyttle. According to his WWII Draft Card, he was approximately 6’2” and weighed 160 pounds. Bradley and Emma’s children included: Beatrice, Catherine, Louise, Charley, Frank, Fred, and Patricia.

Bradley’s father, Albert Lyttle, is listed on the 1890 Veterans Schedule as having served in the Civil War. He was nineteen in 1864, when he enlisted at London, Kentucky as a slave of D. Y. Little. Albert married Sophronia Britton in Clay County, 30 Apr 1868. Their children included Emma, Peter, Stephen, Fannie, Carlo, Mary, James, Belle, Eva, Albert, Polly, Lucy, Lilly, and Bradley. Albert was born in Harlan, Kentucky and died 27 Aug 1917 in Clay County, he was 77. He is buried in the Berry Potter Cemetery.



Charley Lyttle



Left to Right: Albert & Sofronia Britton Lyttle, Charley's father Bradley “Hi-Pockets” Lyttle (played baseball in Manchester in the early 1900s), Charley Lyttle with his 1941 Oldsmobile Coupe.

Two Days in Manchester...



Rob Mason and his close friend, T. C. Sizemore, are shown with Myrtle Shoupe of Hima.

By Robert L. Mason

This article appeared in the Clay County News, March 15, 1994.

I arrived in Manchester in mid February, and was delighted to find a bustling community tucked away among the convoluted peaks of the mountains, like some medieval fortress. Standing there in the center of greater metropolitan Manchester, surrounded by that parapet of mountain peaks, I was gripped by a sense of exhilaration and awe, assailed by a rare admixture of emotions, not unlike those emotions which Hannibal must have felt, after having surmounted the insurmountable Alps, to double park his elephants at the gates of embattled Rome.

It was the middle of the week; the weather was

unseasonable fair, as I set off in search of the *Clay County News*, where I'd been assured of employment, by the publisher, Paul Hensley. Conducted expeditiously along my way, by the kindly directions of two Manchester natives, I located the newspaper office in due course. Within an hour, I was joined there by my dear friend, the noted columnist, Col. T. C. Sizemore.

We sat at length discussing with the publisher an entire range of matters – some personal, some professional. Following our confab, the Colonel took me on an abbreviated tour of the city. Later that evening, we stopped by **Pat's** at the head of Town Branch Road. The Colonel treated me to a couple of hefty, fully-dressed cheeseburgers, that were as delicious as any burgers I've ever eaten. Before we parted for the night, the Colonel pointed out **Millie's**, as being an excellent spot for grabbing a fine breakfast.

Deciding to begin my first full day in the mountains with a mountain breakfast, I headed straight for **Millie's**. It was a little after 9:00 a.m., when I walked down the steps and into **Millie's**. No one seemed to notice me, and that was reassuring. I was a stranger in town, and strangers often find themselves targeted for stares and other, less overt, surveillance. I took a seat at a vacant table in the middle row, and about 15 feet from the back of the room. There were tables behind me, but they were all vacant, so I sat with my back to the wall. I didn't want to trample on the time-honored tradition that, when a stranger in town, one should sit with one's back to the wall. Besides, my vantage point allowed me to keep an eye on the door, and to observe whatever else was going on. There didn't appear to be an awful lot going on, but no one goes to the trouble of hiding an ideal eating spot in a cellar – unless something is going on. I decided to keep my eyes open, while awaiting someone to come and take my order.

There was a single man at the table nearest me, but he seemed half asleep. The first two tables had been pulled together, and around them were seated eight men. I would later learn that that area is known as the **Liar's Table**. According to the Colonel, who is familiar with some of my hunting stories, had I but known or been known, I might well have been seated among those eight worthies – with honors.

It occurred to me, suddenly, that no one had taken the slightest notice of me – other than the young waiter who had taken my order. That rankled a bit. What kind of town was this, where no one noticed strangers? Finally, I decided that Clay Countians must be adept at covert surveillance. I decided to resort to stealth observation, myself. Feigning nonchalance, I watched them all. I could only understand an occasional syllable or two of the conversation emanating from the **Liar's Table** – something about some fellow who was drinking too heavily. And that, I'm told might apply to half the adult male population of the county.

A young waiter brought my breakfast, and a young woman entered the restaurant, carrying a child on her hip – the child appearing to be no older than three. The woman and child disappeared somewhere to the rear of the place, and it would later become apparent that the woman worked there.

Turning my attention to breakfast, I discovered hot toast and a steaming pile of scrambled eggs, two sausages that looked like hamburger patties, and a ration of hash browns that the plate could barely contain. There was a large glass of orange juice to complete my order. Still, my check would

“Suddenly, I knew why Millie's had gone underground. If the outside world ever learned about the delicious food being served, and the meager prices of the meals...”

come to less than \$3.00. Suddenly, I knew why **Millie's** had gone underground. If the outside world ever learned about the delicious food being served, and the meager prices of the meals...

An elderly man began playing with the young child – her name, I would later learn, is Tiffany. The child was perched atop the counter, near the door. The elderly gentleman must have kissed the child, for he began to tease her, saying “I got some of Daddy's sugar.” This delighted the little girl (to) no end, and she squealed with babyish laughter. I watched them openly then, the old man and the child, each joyously celebrating the other and the pulse of life that joined them to one another, and to all living things. What human heart could have denied this tender moment to an old man, to a child or to me?

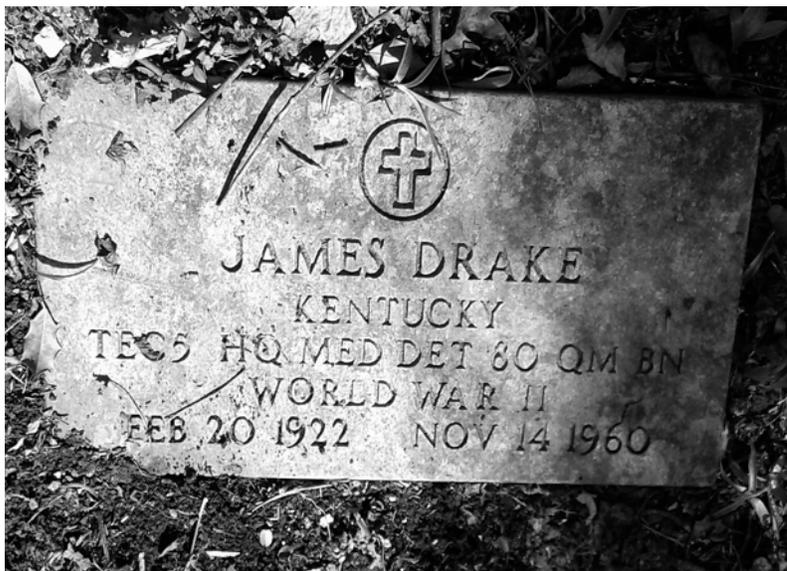
Following breakfast, I walked down to the newspaper office. Later, I had some business to conduct up on Courthouse Hill. After concluding my business, I decided to take a stroll along the scenic route, down Center Street, where the open face of the mountain yawns with earthen jowls and rocky teeth. Looking off into the distance, I beheld the majesty of mountain peaks, towering into the sky – antediluvial upthrusts, some having long since succumbed to the indignity of human roads and human habitations, while other, pristine, indomitable and shrouded with the tattered remnants of clouds, looked down in muted laughter on the puny, ineffectual encroachments of civilization.

I was two days in Manchester. Yet, standing there along that serpentine road, looking up at the peaks that crown the city, I wondered just how long a man must live in the mountains, before he can call himself a mountain man.

The late Robert L. Mason attended Rosenwald and Providence High Schools. He joined the Marines in 1966 and was sent to Viet Nam where he served as a machine gun team leader and gunner with the Third Battalion of the Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment (Third Marine Division). After returning to the states, he attended Jefferson Community College and the University of Louisville and married Sheila Davis in 1970. Rob was a journalist and an author. His book, “The Ultimate Beagle, That Natural Born Rabbit Dog” was published in 1997.

Clay County Cemeteries

“May the Work I’ve Done Speak for Me”



Drake Cemetery

GPS Location: 37.155470 -83.766238

Driving Directions: From downtown Manchester (Clay County 911), travel north on Hwy 421 approximately 0.30 of a mile, then turn left onto Green Street. At the Stop sign turn left onto Church Street. At the top of the hill turn left onto Circle Drive and follow road approximately 0.45 of a mile. The cemetery is on the left slightly up the hill.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Birth</i>		<i>Death</i>		<i>Parents</i>
Drake, James “Jimmy”	20 Feb 1922	Clay	14 Nov 1960	Clay	Benjamin Franklin Drake – Elsie Lyttle
Jenkins, Artisha Drake	1901		1956		John Drake – Sallie Brooks
According to Kentucky Death Certificates the following are buried here, but their graves are unmarked:					
Brooks, Huston*	20 Aug 1879	Clay	28 May 1951	Clay	Frank Brooks – Sally Smith
Drake, Benjamin Franklin	12 May 1894	Clay	26 Mar 1968	Clay	John Drake - Sallie Smith Brooks
Drake, Elsie Lyttle	19 Mar 1896	Clay	17 Oct 1957	Clay	Steve Lyttle – Helen Clark
Drake, Sallie Smith Brooks	1 Sep 1857	Clay	6 Sep 1952	Clay	J. S. Hacker – Mary Smith

The cemetery is organized in three rows of three graves each. In addition to the four unmarked graves listed above, there are three more graves marked only by field stones.

** At one time, a funeral home marker was present for Huston Brooks.*

The Drake Cemetery was recorded by Mike White of Manchester, Kentucky. To provide additional information or make corrections, please contact Mike at 606/598-6520 or by email at michaeljwhite@windstream.net

John Hipsher Cemetery

GPS Location: 37.152448° -83.770334°

Driving Directions: From the center of Manchester (Clay County 911 office), travel north on Hwy 421 approximately 0.30 of a mile, then turn left onto Green Street. At the Stop sign turn left onto Church Street. After 0.25 of a mile, turn left onto Radio Hill Road. Take the first right into the old factory entrance. The cemetery is on the left.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Birth</i>		<i>Death</i>		<i>Parents</i>
Fair, Barbara Ann Hipsher	24 Apr 1933		19 Nov 2010	Laurel	John Hipsher - Ethel Pennington
Fields, Thelma H.	29 Apr 1918	Clay	13 Oct 1965	Daviess	John Hipsher - Ethel Pennington
Fullwood, Helen Joyce	27 Oct 1923	Clay	3 Mar 1988	D.C.	John Hipsher - Ethel Pennington
Hipsher, Arthur Jack	1 Sep 1913		26 April 1971		John Hipsher - Ethel Pennington
Hipsher, Betty J. Bledsoe	2 Oct 1935		30 Jan 1963		
Hipsher, Bruce C.	24 Aug 1929	Clay	25 Aug 1978	Fayette	John Hipsher - Ethel Pennington
Hipsher, Carol Marie	16 May 1962		10 Feb 1963		
Hipsher, Ethel P.	4 July 1882	Clay	27 Jan 1981	Clay	James Pennington - Jane White
Hipsher, John E.	12 Dec 1877	Clay	11 Sep 1945	Clay	Arthur Hipsher - Mary Jane Potter
Hipsher, Leila J.	23 Sep 1912	Clay	23 Apr 1990	Clay	John Hipsher - Ethel Pennington,
Hipsher, Mildred E.	24 Apr 1928	Clay	22 Dec 2004	Clay	John Hipsher - Ethel Pennington
Hipsher, Nelle June	12 Jun 1916	Clay	14 Dec 2008		John Hipsher - Ethel Pennington
Hipsher, Sam	20 Jun 1931	Clay	18 Jan 2016		John Hipsher - Ethel Pennington
Hipsher, Theowille B.	9 Apr 1923		19 Oct 1952		John Hipsher - Ethel Pennington

The John Hipsher Cemetery was recorded by Maggie Bowling of Manchester, Kentucky. To provide additional information or make corrections, please contact Maggie at 606/598-1840, by email at maggie40962@yahoo.com, or on Facebook.

Salyers Cemetery

GPS Location: 37.108073° -83.755404°

Driving Directions: From the junction of Highway 421 and Highway 11 at Garrard, south of Manchester, travel south on Highway 11 approximately 1½ miles, then turn right onto Engine Branch Road. The cemetery will be on a hillside on the left side of the road.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Birth</i>		<i>Death</i>		<i>Parents</i>
McCarthy, Frances	1908		23 Feb 1991	Clay	
Salyers, Bobby Joe	30 Aug 1952	Clay	25 Aug 2015	Tennessee	Claude Salyers - Hollie Kash
Salyers, Claude	10 Mar 1918	Perry	13 Feb 1987	Clay	Ambrose Salyers - Dallis Gibson
Salyers, Hollie K.	20 Sep 1918	Clay	26 May 1997	Clay	Fait Kash - Martha Thompson
Salyers, Jeanette	25 Apr 1938	Clay	26 Jul 1976	Clay	Claude Salyers - Hollie Kash
Salyers, Mary Elizabeth	6 Mar 1961	Clay	12 Jun 2005	Fayette	Claude Salyers - Hollie Kash
Salyers, Matthew	12 Apr 1941	Clay	8 Apr 1988	Kansas	Claude Salyers - Hollie Kash
Salyers, Samuel Lee	13 Jan 1943	Clay	11 Apr 2004	Clay	Claude Salyers - Hollie Kash
Seagar, Wilma Jean	13 Nov 1950	Clay	May 2010	Fayette	Claude Salyers - Hollie Kash

The Salyers Cemetery was recorded by Maggie Bowling of Manchester, Kentucky. To provide additional information or make corrections, please contact Maggie at 606/598-1840, by email at maggie40962@yahoo.com, or on Facebook.

Berry Potter Cemetery

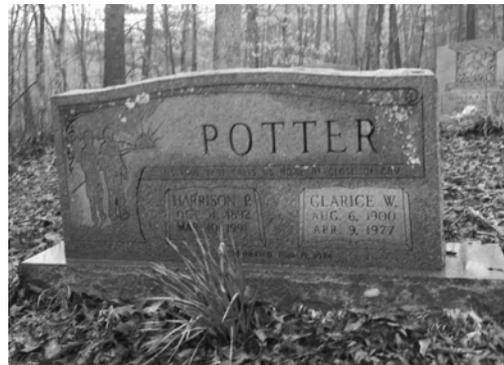
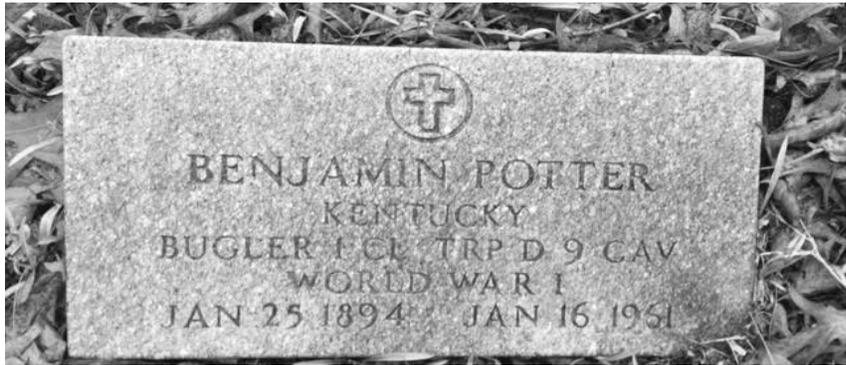
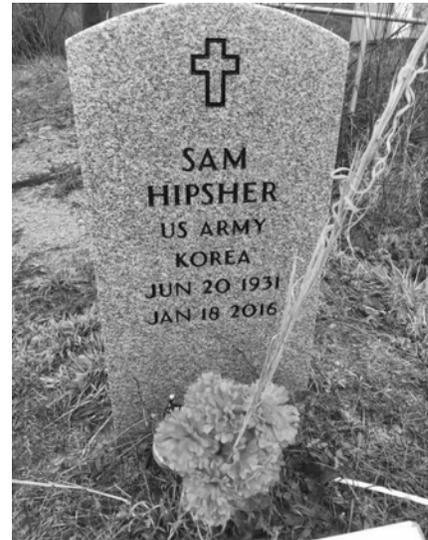
GPS Location: 37.146480° -83.764040°

Driving Directions: From Manchester (Clay Co. 911 office), travel south on Hwy 421 approx. 0.60 mile, turn right onto Pennington Hill Road. Travel approx. 0.12 mile, turn right onto Potter Cemetery Road beside the Pennington Hill Holiness Church. Follow right fork of road up the hill to the cemetery.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Birth</i>		<i>Death</i>		<i>Parents</i>
Birch, Annie Clyde	30 Mar 1926		27 Sep 2012		Richard Love - Ora Hughes
Birch, Margaret	1907		1939		? Pennington -
Birch, Walter Jr.	1928	Clay	29 Aug 1987	Clay	James Birch - Margaret Pennington
Bowling, Edward C.	3 Nov 1908	Clay	19 Apr 1972	Clay	Steve Bowling - Nancy Gilbert
Duncan, Fronia	10 Jan 1900	Clay	1 Oct 1989	Perry	Berry Potter - Fanny Lyttle
Fullwood, Glasco A.	9 Dec 1923	Clay	27 Apr 1992	Fayette	James Birch - Margaret Pennington
Gibson, Abraham	3 Oct 1893		29 Nov 1952	Clay	Sam Gibson
Harris, Audrey D.	5 Jul 1931	Clay	21 Oct 1994	Clay	James Birch - Margaret Pennington
Hoskins, Shawana	26 Apr 1976		5 Feb 2010		
Hughes, Daisy P.	29 May 1928	Clay	6 Dec 1995	Clay	Harrison Potter - Clarice White
Lyttle, Daisy P.	30 Sep 1887	Clay	4 Apr 1973	Clay	Berry Potter - Emily Bates
Lyttle, Roy	25 Sep 1923	Clay	11 Feb 62	Clay	Albert Lyttle - Daisy Potter
McKee, Georgie	10 Sep 1913		11 Aug 1993	Fayette	Albert Lyttle - Daisy Potter
McKissic, Fannie	1895	Clay			Dan Pennington - Nurcie Thompson
Pennington, Anna Mae					
Pennington, Dan	28 Jun 1870		28 Nov 1928		? Pennington -
Pennington, Eleanor	9 May 1912	Clay	30 May 1991	Clay	Ed Ward - Dora Combs
Pennington, Florence	19 Sep 1900		11 Nov 1902		? Pennington
Pennington, Gary Lynn	18 Nov 1959	Clay	12 Mar 1998	Clay	? Pennington-Flora (Boots) Pennington
Pennington, James Amos	2 Apr 1910	Clay	10 Oct 1966	Clay	Dan Pennington - Nurcie Thompson
Pennington, Lenora	1888		30 May 1980	Clay	William Garrard - Sally Black
Pennington, Nurcie	17 Jul 1872	Clay	27 Dec 1945	Clay	Abe Thompsom - Mary Henson
Pennington, Walter	ca. 1883	Clay	11 Mar 1956	Whitley	James Pennington -
Potter, Benjamin	25 Jan 1894		16 Jan 1961	Jefferson	William Potter, Sr. - Matilda Gilbert
Potter, Berry E.	1858		17 Sep 1935 *	Clay	William Potter, Sr. - Harriet Bates
Potter, Clarice W.	6 Aug 1900	Knox	9 Apr 1977	Fayette	Charlie White - Hannah Jones
Potter, Earl	1904	Clay	8 Jun 1989	Clay	Berry Potter - Fanny Lyttle
Potter, Fanny	30 Sep 1872		15 Jan 1950	Clay	Albert Lyttle - Frona Britton
Potter, Gilbert W.	13 Jul 1910		22 May 1954	Fayette	
Potter, Harriett		Clay			Berry Potter - Fanny Lyttle
Potter, Harrison	4 Oct 1892	Clay	10 Mar 1991	Clay	Berry Potter - Emily Bates
Potter, James Narkus	15 Jul 1912	Clay	15 Feb 1963	Fayette	John H. Hipsher - Louise Potter
Potter, Louise	20 May 1881				
Potter, Maud	1904	Clay	20 Sep 1990	Fayette	Bufford Gilbert - Princess Love
Potter, Roy	1940		18 Oct 1996	Owsley	? Potter -
Potter, William Jr.	8 May 1870		21 Nov 1928		William Potter, Sr. - Harriet Bates
Potter, Willie	27 Nov 1865	Clay	4 Feb 1939	Clay	William Potter, Sr. - Harriet Bates
Walker, Alexander	7 Dec 1873		7 Mar 1955	Jefferson	? Walker -
Walker, George Pearl	17 Jul 1948		6 Jan 2013		
Walker, Veronica Lee	29 Nov 1980		4 Apr 1982	Fayette	George Walker -
White, Vanilla P.	6 Nov 1925	Clay	13 Jul 2009	Clay	Harrison B. Potter - Claricy White
Williams, Louise P.	20 May 1881				? Potter -
Word, George	1866		1948		
Word, Sophia	2 Feb 1837		21 Mar 1937		
Word, St	1873		1939		

*Grave marker lists Mr. Potter's death as "1932", however his obituary, printed in *The Manchester Guardian* of September 20, 1935, reported his date of death as September 17, 1935.

The Berry Potter Cemetery was recorded by Maggie Bowling of Manchester, Kentucky. To provide additional information or make corrections, please contact Maggie at 606/598-1840, by email at maggie40962@yahoo.com, or on Facebook.





New Members

New members since the
Fall/Winter 2016 CCAN:

Join Online at clayfamilies.org

C. W. Brock

#4641
6459 Rich Pond RD
Bowling Green, KY 42104
(Murray)

Molly Jo Brockinton

#4642
8402 Jax-Conway RD
Jacksonville, AR 72076
(Murray)

Deborah C. Holle

#4643
3583 S CR 475E
Seymour, IN 47274
(Baker)

Stephanie Russo

#4644
5236 Zion Road
Cleves, OH 45002
(Peters, Caudill, Durham,
Casteel, Cook)

James A. Neal

#4645
198 Royal PKY
Frankfort, KY 40601
(Seaborne, Strong)

Gilbert Rader

#4646
PO Box 172
Manchester, KY 40962
(Rader)

Darrell Woods

#4647
195 Hexagon AVE
Louisville, KY 40229

Cloyd Smith

#4648
6145 Possum Hollow
Cedar Grove, IN 47016

Barbara Duerksen

#4649
4804 S 72nd ST
Lincoln, NE 68516
(Baker, Clark)

Judith L. Terry

#4650
1005 Blue Ravine RD
#113
Folsom, CA 95630

Eugenia Oelrich

#4651
10707 Stargate LN
Cincinnati, OH 45240

Joe Winbigler

#4652
912 Main ST
Clinton, MA 01510
(Weaver, Jackson, Bowlin)

Barbara W. Colter

#4653
200 Langdon AVE
Manchester, KY 40962
(Garrard, White, Langdon,
Marcum)

Violet Hignite Cooley

#4654
1569 N US 31
Seymour, IN 47274

Mayme Hamblin Wilson

#4655
300 Monroe RD
Cynthiana, KY 41031

Russell & Alice Gregory

#4656
66 Stinson Hill
Manchester, KY 40962
(Gregory, Stinson)

Mattie Arnett Brinley

#4657
4395 Bryston RD
Grove City, OH 43123
(Arnett, Brewer, Bowling,
Carpenter)

Carol Glenn

#4658
35 Spandrel DR
Fairfield, OH 45014

Baxter Jones

#4659
793 Paces Creek RD
Manchester, KY 40962

Monica Davis

#4660
148 Davis RD
Manchester, KY 40962

Charlene Davidson

#4661
1151 Harbison CT
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Ted Woods, JR

#4662
680 J. L. Hughes RD
Manchester, KY 40962
(Woods)

Karin Thomas

#4663
3373 Crestview DR
Bethel Park, PA 15102

Bernita Voorhees

#4664
329 Dakota Run
Maineville, OH 45039

Ray & Janice Burns

#4665
607 E Bard ST
Crothersville, IN 47229

Jean Burchell

#4666
404 Washington AVE
Jersey Shore, PH 17740
(Burchell, Garrard)

Ruby McDaniel

#4667
45 Carriage Hill DR
Erlanger, KY 41018

Sharon Zegarzewski

#4668
9582 E Stone Creek
Claremore, OK 74017

Paul Baker

#4669
5173 East Laurel RD
London, KY 40741
(Baker, Hibbard, Hacker,
Barrett)

Ann Mobley

#4670
322 Circle DR
Manchester, KY 40962
(Gregory, Mobley)



Welcome New Members

C. W. Brock of Bowling Green, KY and his daughter Molly Jo Brockinton of Jacksonville, Arkansas. They are researching the Murray family.

New Lifetime Members

Samuel Thompson and Cookie Henson with Honorary Member Dr. Aaron Thompson (right).



Mary Sparks Evans
#4671
313 Masee DR
Dothan, AL 36301

Clint Harris
#4672
38 Circle DR
Manchester, KY 40962
(Harris, White, Valentine)

Tamara K. Jones
#4673
402 E. Bogart RD
Sandusky, OH 44870
(Davidson, Gilbert, Jones,
Ledford, Gregory)

Dorothy Rice
#4674
996 Brushy Branch RD
Manchester, KY 40962
(Sams, Keith, Murray,
Wilson)

Cookie Henson
#4675
115 Colony DR
Manchester, KY 40962

Dr. Aaron Thompson
#4676
172 Wildcat DR
Richmond, KY 40475

EKU Manchester
#4677
50 University DR
Manchester, KY 40962

Margaret Sams
#4678
6 Red Oak Circle
Johnson City, TN 37604

LIFETIME MEMBERS:
We would like to thank those who have demonstrated their support of the Clay County Historical Society by becoming Lifetime Members:

Renee Beets, London, KY

Gary Burns, Belton, TX

Paul D. Carmack, Tipp City, OH

Sharon K. Carson, London, KY

Bonita Charles, Manchester, KY

Barbara W. Colter, Manchester, KY

EKU – Manchester, KY

Jack Endicott, Big Creek, KY

Ralph Goins, Coppell, TX

Clint Harris, Manchester, KY

Cookie Henson, Manchester, KY

Scott Milinski, Pompano Beach, FL

Myra Nichols, Troy, OH

Gilbert Rader, Manchester, KY

Beve & Sandy Reynolds,
Manchester, KY

Vietta Richardson, Florence, KY

Samuel Thompson, Beattyville, KY

Steven Ward, Dayton, OH



Donations & Acquisitions

Donations since Fall/Winter 2016:

Up to \$49

Donna Abner, Corbin, KY
 Julia P. Adams, Vero Beach, FL
 Lizzie Barrett, Connersville, IN
 Guylyn Bowling, Chillicothe, OH
 Robert Bowman, Franklin, OH
 Diane Burns Brads, Buena Vista, VA
 Molly Brockinton, Jacksonville, AR
 Steve Burns, Lebanon, OH
 Tom Burns, Xenia, OH
 Jason Chadwell, Manchester, KY
 Bonita Charles, Manchester, KY
 Joyce Collins, LaPalma, CA
 Liz Gregory Cross, Reading, OH
 James Davis
 Barb Duerkson, Lincoln, NE
 Mildred Edwards, Manchester, KY
 Wallace Edwards, Booneville, KY
 Carolyn Falin, Corbin, KY
 John Fermon, Danville, IL
 Lorene Gabbard, Manchester, KY
 Dr. Mark Haynes, Ganado, AZ
 Don Hensley, Rapid City, SD
 Maynard Hines, Yorktown, VA
 Emma Holmgren, Oakdale, CT
 Donna Isaacs
 Anita Maggard, McKee, KY
 Donald Metzger, Cocoa, FL
 James Neal, Frankfort, KY
 Elsie Wilson Phillips, Ft. Wright, KY
 Vanda Rice, Manchester, KY
 Hazel Roche, Monravia Falls, NC
 James Sheldon, Melbourne, FL
 Lin Sullivan, Waltham, ME
 Betty Veitch, Rio Rancho, NM
 David L. Walker, Sterling, VA
 Douglas White, White Lake, MI
 Kellie Williams, Oakland, OR
 Jess Wilson Royalties
 Ruth Wilson, Wilmore, KY

Donate Online at clayfamilies.org

\$50 to \$99

Sandra Barnett, Lexington, KY
 Malvery Begley, Georgetown, OH
 Jim & Maxine Cass, London, KY
 Jean Dellinger, Piqua, OH
 Janet Gambrel, Lenoir City, TN
 Jack Hornsby, Grove City, OH
 Deena Pace, Chandler, AZ
 Minnie Parker, Oxford, OH
 In memory of his wife, Joyce -
 Terry Scherf, Sandusky, OH

\$100 to \$249

Janet Britton Braun, Leesburg, FL
 Paul Douglas Carmack, Tipp City, OH
 William R. Rigby, Elizabethtown, KY
 Eddie & Ruby White, London, KY
 Mike & LaBerta White, Manchester, KY

\$250 and Greater

Dorothy Cottongim Trust
 Clint Harris, Manchester, KY
 James Phillips, Manchester, KY

ACQUISITIONS:

Linda Martin Hendrix (Salem, AL)

Large variety of office supplies including copy paper, binding supplies, binders, etc.

Joyce Mills Cobb (London, KY)

Ed Mills family information and photographs

Walter & Andrea Sizemore (Tahlequah, OK)

Notebooks containing information related to George "All" & Agnes Sizemore & Henry "Hunting Shirt" & Rachel Sizemore

Family Tree Maker files detailing large numbers of Sizemore family members

Robert "Bob" Blanshard (McKee, KY)

A Portrait of Jackson County, Kentucky 1858-2008, The Jackson County Development Association

Barbara White Colter (Manchester, KY)

Early edition of *The Trail of the Lonesome Pine* by John Fox, Jr.

Collection of early Manchester and White family photographs

Information and photographs from 1999 dedication of Kentucky's Monument at Vicksburg National Battlefield Park

Doug Adams (Manchester, KY)

Handmade brick from the McCreary Hotel, Burning Springs, KY; inscribed "BEN"

Dr. Daniel H. Hopkins (Manchester, KY)

Collier's Magazine, July 25, 1953 with "That Good Old Mountain Justice" article regarding Clay County.

Information regarding early Clay County coal trains and train travel

Assassination at the State House, The Unsolved Mystery of Kentucky's Governor Goebel by Ron Elliott

Beyond the Mountains by Lucy Lois Cloyd Smith

Bound volume containing detailed records of the 1930s Clay County Civil Works Projects

Karen Rice (Manchester, KY)

Pistol cleaner from the home of Dr. J. L. Anderson

Clint Harris (Manchester, KY)

Collection of maps of early Manchester and Clay County

Variety of office supplies

Rebecca Hensley (Hammond, LA)

A copy of her book, *Reduced to Equality: My Odyssey to Renounce Racial Privilege – and Find Myself*

Cody Lovins (Manchester, KY)

Partially metal artifact found near Patty’s Rock on the South Fork of the Kentucky River near Oneida. Item is yet to be identified, but could have been from the old water mill or dropped from a raft that overturned trying to navigate “The Narrows.”

Pat Burchell (Manchester, KY)

1940-1941 Clay County High School Annual from the estate of Bea Hammons Burchell
Clay County Fair Programs from 1925 and 1926, Dr. J. R. Burchell, President Burchell Family photos, genealogy and stories

Helen White (Manchester, KY)

The Kentucky Encyclopedia, John Kleber, Editor

Sheila and Rashid Mason (Manchester, KY)

Photographs, writings, and publications from the estate of her late husband and his father, journalist and author, Robert Mason

Angela Inman Marlow (LaFollette, TN)

Family Bible of Samuel B. Gregory (1876-1951) and Margaret Peggy Hensley (1871-1943)

Mark Hoskins of The Manchester Enterprise (Manchester, KY)

Newspaper Display

John & Lida Becknell (Manchester, KY)

Bible of the Garrard Family from the estate of Emma Lyttle Lucas

Dr. Deann Allen (Manchester, KY)

Sizemore and Stivers family photographs, documents, and memorabilia from the estate of her parents, J. P. Hillier and Jewel Sizemore Stivers

Bonita Chalupa Charles (Manchester, KY)

Sony sound system

Faye Gregory (Manchester, KY)

1955 Manchester Insurance calendar, Charles F. Young, Mgr.

Jackie Busch (Fredericksburg, VA)

Copies of *Beyond the Mountains* written by her mother, Lucy Lois Cloyd Smith

ITEMS PLACED ON LOAN

Stephanie Russo (Fairfield, OH)

A variety of military items belonging to her Clay County ancestor, Henry Clay Peters, Veteran of the Spanish American War

Doug Hopkins (Manchester, KY)

Extensive collection of coal mining memorabilia

Thanks To Everyone For Their donations!

Clay County Historical Society 2017 Officers

President

MICHAEL J. WHITE
Manchester, KY
michaeljwhite@windstream.net

1st Vice President

DANNY FINLEY
Manchester, KY
dlnfinley@windstream.net

2nd Vice President

JEAN BAKER COBB
Manchester, KY

Treasurer

BONITA CHARLES
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bonita.charles52@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

LABERTA WHITE
Manchester, KY
labertawwhite@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

MAGGIE BOWLING
Manchester, KY
maggie40962@yahoo.com

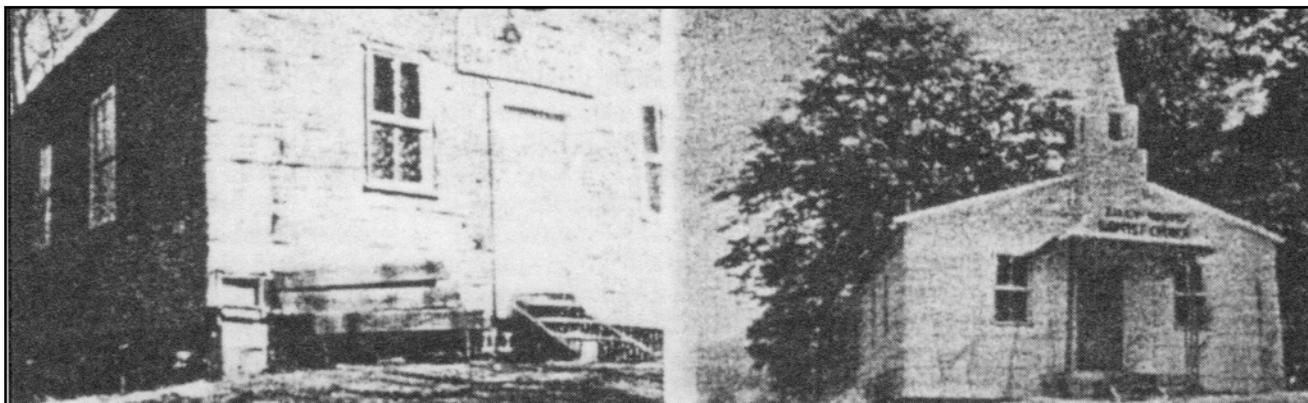
Librarian

MILDRED EDWARDS
Manchester, KY
mildrededwards@yahoo.com



2017 Officers: Front Row (l to r) - Maggie Bowling, Jean Baker Cobb, Bonita Charles. Back row (l to r) - Mildred Edwards, LaBerta White, Mike White, and Danny L. Finley.

History of the Lilly Grove Baptist Church



Early Photos of Lilly Grove Baptist Church

By Roy Lyttle

Reprinted from Clay County Kentucky, History and Families, published by the Clay County Historical Society in 1994.

African American History in Clay County cannot be complete without mention of the Lilly Grove Baptist Church. For several decades, this institution has provided many important services to the community.

The Lilly Grove Baptist Church was founded by the Rev. William Johnson and his wife, Bertha. The couple along with their eleven children came to Clay County from Birmingham, Alabama. In 1959, the Reverend decided to build a church. He named the church Lilly Grove, because of a dream he had about a grove of lilies.

The original structure was a one-room building that was built a few hundred feet from the Reverend's home. The church members primarily consisted of the family.

In 1971, the church awakened to a new beginning. Due to age, Rev. Johnson could no longer perform the duties he had once performed as pastor so a new pastor was then appointed. Rev. Dennis Rush, then the pastor of the Horse Creek Baptist Church agreed to co-pastor the church.

A deacon was then ordained by the name of Roy Lyttle. Dennis Rush and Roy Lyttle worked together to improve the condition of the church. Lyttle's carpentry skill was a

big advantage to the church during the seventies. The first renovation drastically improved the looks of the building.

Lyttle as deacon taught Sunday School and Rev. Rush preached the Saturday night service which at that time was only held once a month.

Lyttle and Rush saw a potential for the church to grow. During a conversation between Rev. Johnson and Deacon Lyttle on the possible expansion of the property, Lyttle (asked), "How much of the property belongs to Lilly Grove?" The Reverend replied, "If you step off the porch you are on another man's property." That property was soon after given to the church. The only payment the owner asked to receive was in the form of prayers.

In 1978, Rev. Johnson died at age 91. Rev. Rush and Deacon Lyttle continued to work in the church. Deacon Lyttle asked Rush, "How can we possibly build a new church?" Rush replied, "Have faith." In 1980, the present building was finally completed.

In 1985, Rev. Rush retired as pastor and Lyttle was then ordained as pastor of the church. Rev. Lyttle held the doors open for all people which allowed the church to grow effectively.

Over the decades, the church has undergone many changes. Through the hard work of certain members and generous donations given by certain organizations the one-room church consisting of only a few family members grew into a large brick building with 107 members in 1993.

Queries, Letters, Feedback

November 2016

I would like to thank you so much for the Murray history. I have really enjoyed it. Looking forward to coming back over another time. Thanks very much, Your friend,

C. W. Brock

Bowling Green, KY

December 2016

I loved all the extra info in the fall book! Lots of it and hope to see more later. Thank You!

Berty Elliott

Camden, OH

December 2016

Hello, I have enclosed a check for lifetime membership. Thanks for all your collective good work.

Steve Ward

Dayton, OH

December 2016

Dear Friends at the Clay County Historical Society,

Thank you for the wonderful abilities you have in keeping our county's history alive and preserving it. I appreciate the article about my life at Hima.

Ruby Lois Hibbard

Hima, KY

January 2017

Please find enclosed my check for the 2017 Membership dues. I always look forward to the Society's publication.

Thank you for doing such a good job!

Laraine Williams

Crestwood, KY

January 2017

Please find enclosed my check to renew my membership in the Clay County Historical Society. Thank you for your fine work.

Jill Davidson

Schwenksville, PA

January 2017

I would like to renew my membership in the Society. I sure do appreciate all the hard work you do! I hope to get to Clay County someday and stop by the Society.

Dr. Mark J. Haynes

Ganado, Navajo Nation, AZ

March 2017

We love the magazine and all the work that you do.

Candace & Frank Sasser

Cincinnati, OH

March 2017

Please find enclosed my check for the 2017 dues. I look forward to each issue of the CCAN and thank you for your efforts.

Best Wishes,

Jolene M. Boyer

Fredericksburg, IN

March 2017

Please renew my membership and also my daughter's membership in the CCHS. My check is enclosed with a donation to

help you all keep things going. And thank you, and the other staff, and also the contributors to the magazine for all you do. Sincerely,

Bill Rigby

Elizabethtown, KY

Feedback from our Square transactions:

Thank you for making our research trip such an enjoyable experience. You have a wonderful research library. Looking forward to a return visit. - **Deborah Holle**

I arrived later in the day, but one of the volunteers was very helpful so that I got more research done than might have been possible. She was very pleasant and gave me ideas for my next trip. THANK YOU!!! - **Barb Duerksen**

Friendliness, efficiency, and all aspects of the Society.....God Bless you all. - **Rudy Hamblin**

Great! - **Irene Taylor**

Friendly and efficient. - **Jean Dellinger**

Everything - **Steven Ward**

Bonita is the bomb - **April Turner**

Friendly! - **Rebecca Gardenour**

The staff - **Velma Julian**

Submitting Items for CCAN

The Clay County Ancestral News (CCAN) magazine is a biannual publication of the Clay County Genealogical & Historical Society.

We encourage readers to submit articles, photographs, documents, stories and genealogy. Items should focus primarily on Manchester, Clay County and families associated with the

area. Our preferred format for text is Microsoft Word. We encourage the use of a standard font, preferably 12-point Times New Roman. Photos should be submitted in JPEG format, scanned at 600 dpi or greater.

Items should be sent to the Society's email address at ccgnhs@gmail.com, or to the Clay County Historical Society, PO Box 394, Manchester, KY 40962.

We reserve the right to accept and print articles we regard as appropriate and edit them for publication. We do not assume responsibility for errors of fact or judgement on the part of contributors. Reprinted articles are published as they originally appeared.

Contact us at 606/598-5507 (Thursdays and Fridays; 9 am to 3 pm EST) with any questions.



We accept all forms of payment including credit cards! We combine shipping costs on multiple purchases. Contact us at 606/598-5507 for more information.



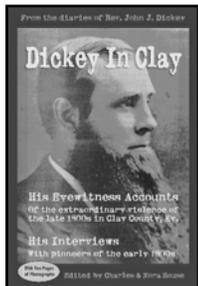
**Books by Maggie Bowling:
Manchester Memorial Gardens**

A comprehensive listing of Clay County's largest cemetery. Includes name of deceased, birth date, death date, marriage place, and parents' names. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.



1913-1923 Marriage Book
Includes bride and groom's name, age, license and marriage date, marriage statistics, and parents. Also contains bride index. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

1924-1934 Marriage Book
Includes bride and groom's name, age, license and marriage date, marriage statistics, and parents. Also contains bride index. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.



**Books by Charles House:
Dickey in Clay**
Edited by Charles & Nora House. Rev. John J. Dickey came to Clay County in 1897 with intentions to clean up the famously wild place. Over a three-year period he chronicled the violence and gunplay and finally gave it up as a lost cause.

In the meantime he conducted scores of interviews with elderly residents about the earliest days of the

Items For Sale

county. The result is one of the most comprehensive narratives about the history of a place ever set down on paper. Soft cover, 248 pages, index. Price: \$25, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Heroes and Skallywags, The People Who Created Clay County Kentucky

A detailed history of Clay County that sheds light on how the divide between the elite salt barons and the ordinary settlers shaped the character of the county that exists to this day. Soft cover, 331 pages, index, source notes. Price: \$25, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Blame it on Salt

The first 150 years of an unruly county and some of its people. Clay County history through the lives of an extended family. Soft cover, 320 pages, index. Price: \$25, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

The Outrageous Life of Henry Faulkner

The life of painter and poet Henry Faulkner, from his traumatic childhood at Falling Timber Branch in Clay County to a flamboyant bohemian existence in New York, Los Angeles, Key West, Sicily, and other far-flung outposts. Soft cover, 312 pages, index. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

**Books by Jess Wilson:
A Little Bit of This and That**

Soft cover, 155 pages, large print. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

From Huckleberry to Possum Trot

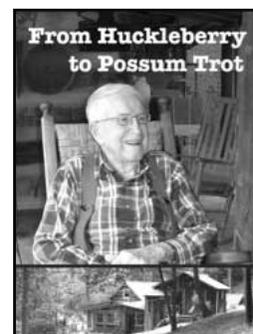
Soft cover, 519 pages. Price: \$25, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

The Sugar Pond and the Fritter Tree

Soft cover, 298 pages, large print. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

When They Hanged the Fiddler

Soft cover, 274 pages, large print. Price: \$20, plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.



Shop Online at clayfamilies.org

Back Issues of Clay County Ancestral News (CCAN)

Issues 1985-2007: Price: Members \$3 each OR 5 issues for \$12; Non-Members \$5 each OR 5 issues for \$20



Issues 2008 to Present: Price: Members: \$5; Non-members: \$10

(Add \$3 s/h when purchasing 1-2 issues; add \$6 s/h for three-five issues; please call for s/h when purchasing more than five issues. Kentucky residents add 6% sales tax.)

CCAN Special: We have so many requests for older issues that we offer this grouping at a special discounted

price. Seventy-nine priceless back issues of the Clay County Ancestral News (CCAN), covering the time period 1985-2015. The magazine was sometimes issued as many as four times in one year, but has been published biannually since 1999. Comprehensive index is included. Member price is 35% less than the cost if the 79 issues were purchased individually - a real CCAN Special!

Price: Members: \$155, plus \$20 s/h, tax included; Non-members: \$205, plus \$20 s/h, tax included.

Books Printed by the Society

Census

1830/1840 combination, 1850, 1860, 1870, or 1880

1900 (Volume 1 or Volume 2)

1910 (Volume 1 or Volume 2)

1920 (Volume 1 or Volume 2)

1930 (Volume 1 or Volume 2)

Price: Members - \$18, OR Non-Members - \$20; plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

A History of Clay County, Kentucky, by Roy White, Editor and Publisher of the Manchester Guardian. Originally published as a series from May-December 1932. Soft cover, 85 pages, index. Price: Members - \$12, OR Non-Members - \$14; plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Clay County History and Families. Reprint of the hard bound book published by the Clay County Genealogical & Historical Society in 1994. Includes Clay County history and 163 pages of family histories/genealogy. Soft cover, spiral

bound, 344 pages, index. Price: Members - \$44.95, OR Non-Members - \$49.95; s/h and KY sales tax included in price.

Life and Trial of Doctor Abner Baker. Soft cover, 191 pages, large print, index. Price: Members - \$18, OR Non-members - \$20; plus \$6 s/h; KY residents add 6% sales tax.

Books by Society Members

Descendants of Jackson Roberts, by Linda Roberts Sibley. A genealogical account of the Jackson Roberts family of Southeastern Kentucky. Soft cover, 228 pages. Price: Available at Amazon.com.

Descendants of David W. and Malinda Roberts, by Linda Roberts Sibley. A genealogical account of the David W. Roberts and Malinda Davidson family of Southeastern Kentucky. Soft cover, 281 pages. Price: Available at Amazon.com.

Kentucky Grandmothers: Sustainable Living, by Linda Roberts Sibley. The author and her mother venture into the woods at the family farm in Clay County to find poke sallet for supper. This endeavor leads to documenting the plants and trees on the farm, and is a catalyst for Sibley to document the knowledge and skills she learned from her mother and her grandmothers on preserving and preparing foods. Soft cover, 230 pages. Price: Available at Amazon.com

Pioneers of Beech Creek Cemetery Book, by Harold O. Goins. Includes Little Beech Creek, Harts Branch, Sally Lyttle Branch and Coal Hollow. Price: Available at pioneersofbeechcreek.com

Available Direct From Author

Clay County Family Roots and Beyond Series. Order directly from: James E. Welch, 54 Creekstone, London, KY 40741. E-mail: jwtelch@kih.net

Clay County Family Roots and Beyond Series, Vols. 1-6. Each volume contains information and photographs regarding many Clay families. Volume 1 is out of print. Pricing varies. Order directly from: James E. Welch, 54 Creekstone, London, KY 40741. E-mail: jwtelch@kih.net.

Kentucky Ponders Supplement. Order from: Patricia Saupe, 5411 Briarwood Dr., Aurora, IN 47001. (Kentucky Ponders is out of print.) 367 pages, index. Price: SALE! \$25 ppd.

We Also Have

Dead Language, by L J Smothers. Recollections of the life and times of a Catholic son with multiple siblings. Stories are a half fantasy yet whole-hearted tribute to a lost era when life was grand and a bit magical. Soft cover, 290 pages, Large print. Price: \$15.

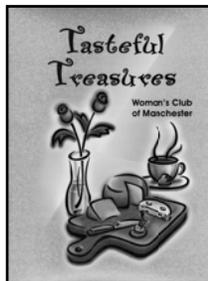
SHIPMATES, The Men of LCS-52 in World War II, by Gary Burns. The story of a WWII gunboat that served in the Pacific theater during 1944-45 and her crew including Clay County men, Laton Burns and Lloyd Clements Keith. Soft cover, 272 pages. Price: \$30.

Coldiron Family Genealogy, by Otto Coldiron. Second edition, 2009. Only comprehensive compilation of Coldiron family genealogy published to date. Compiles all descendants of George Coldiron (1730-1805). Contains 4100+ Family Group Records that total 882 pages of the book. Hard bound, 1226 pages, index for family records & index for cemetery records. Price: \$45 (reduced from \$59), includes s/h. Order from Otto Coldiron, 1125 Arlanie RD, Masaryktown, FL 34604. Email ottoc@earthlink.net

Ancestry DNA Kits: \$99

Nine Generation Pedigree Chart (27" x 21"): \$5

Tote Bag: \$5

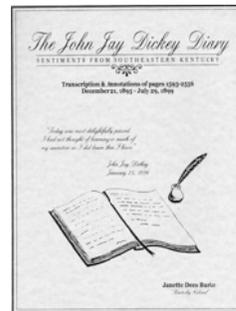


Tasteful Treasures - a reprint of the Woman's Club's most requested and most popular cookbook, Favorite Hometown Recipes published in 1976. Contains over 600 tried and true recipes from some of Clay County's most famous and best cooks! S/h will be \$6 and KY residents add 6% sales tax.



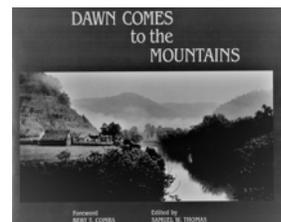
Through an agreement with the Woman's Club of Manchester we are offering the following: **Clay County Courthouse 1936-2002 print (16"x20")** commissioned by the Woman's Club of Manchester and painted by noted Clay County artist Michael Wheeler - \$20. A set of 10 note cards of the print is also available - \$8. S/h will be \$6 and KY residents add 6% sales tax.

The Historical Society is now selling copies of **Rev John J. Dickey's Diary** (reels 3 and 4) transcribed by Jan Burke! The books contain a wealth of information regarding Clay County and are a must for anyone interested in the history and genealogy of Eastern Kentucky. Book 1 contains a transcription of microfilm Reel #3 of the **Dickey Diaries** (pages 1593-2556; 963 diary pages covering 21 Dec 1895 to 29 Jul 1899). Book 2 contains a transcription of microfilm Reel #4 (pages 2557-3526; 969 diary pages covering 6 Aug 1898 to 5 Jul 1904). The books are paperback, 8 1/2 X 11, with comb binding. And they each contain a detailed index! The set of two books sell for \$99 or one book \$50. S/H will be \$6; sales tax of 6% will be added to KY residents.

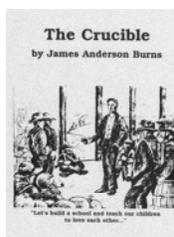


Books We Are Selling From OBI

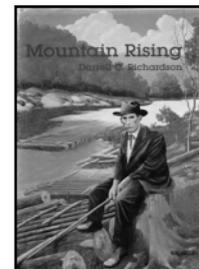
Through a special agreement with Oneida Baptist Institute (OBI) we are now offering these popular publications. S/h will be \$6 and KY residents add 6% sales tax.



Dawn Comes to the Mountains, Edited by Samuel W. Thomas: \$25. A coffee table quality book with 130 profound photos of an eastern Kentucky settlement school, the isolated environs which fostered it, and the feuding mountaineers who built it. The Oneida Baptist Institute was founded in 1899 within the confines of Clay County to counter the devastating family feuds which had persisted uncontested since the Civil War.



The Crucible, A Tale of the Kentucky Feuds by James Anderson Burns: \$10. This fascinating narrative is a brief story of James A. Burns own life, ideals and works. No other but "Burns of the Mountains" could tell the story.



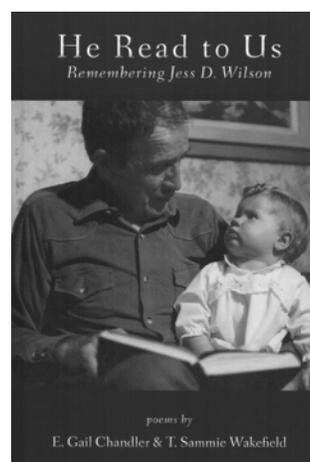
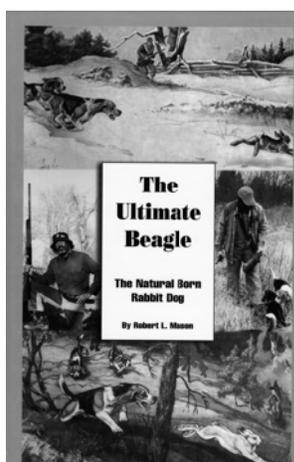
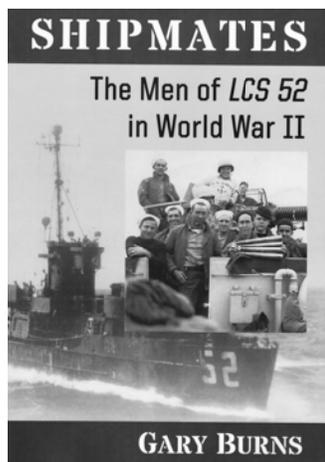
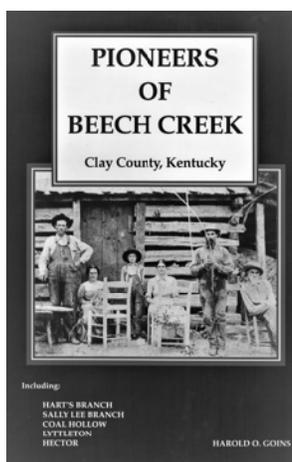
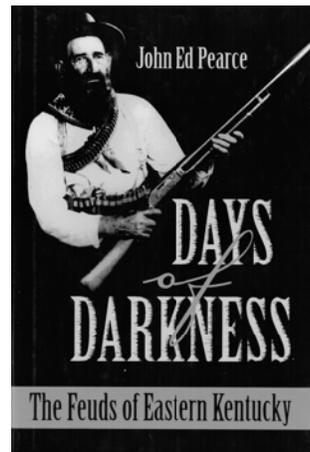
Mountain Rising by Darrell C. Richardson: \$20. The story of James Anderson Burns and the Oneida Baptist Institute.



Clay County Historical Society accepts all forms of payment including Visa, MasterCard, American Express & Discover! Contact us at 606/598-5507 for more information.

More Books For Sale

Title	Author	Cost
All the King's Horses, Livin' & Dyin' on Little Beech Creek	L. J. Smothers	\$15
Battle of Wild Cat Mountain	Kenneth Hafendorfer	\$10
A Beautiful Journey	Lucille Carloftis	\$25
Beyond the Mountains	Lucy Cloyd Smith	\$15
Dark and Bloody Ground	Darcy O'Brien	\$10
Days of Darkness	John Ed Pearce	\$20
Faith Unfeigned	James Burchell	\$2
Gaelic & Germanic Rock Art in KY	James Burchell	\$5
He Read to Us, Remembering Jess D. Wilson	Chandler & Wakefield	\$15
How Sweet It Is	Jarrett Van Meter	\$20
Kentucky Sacred Soil	James Burchell	\$5
Mollie Whuppie	Anne Shelby	\$15
Pioneers of Beech Creek	Harold O. Goins	\$50
Pipes of a Distant Clansman	Gary Burns	\$20
Presbyterian Church in Clay County	Grace Wilson	\$10
James Washington Reid, Day Book	Rich Nallenweg	\$30
Rhymes on Lines and Other Poems	Jess Wilson	\$12
The Stone of Witness	James Burchell	\$5
The Ultimate Beagle	Robert Mason	\$50



\$6 s/h and 6% sales tax for KY residents must be added to the price.

**Please Plan to Attend the Next Membership Meeting
Thursday, May 25 at 2:00 pm EST
Offices of the Clay County Historical Society**

More Photos from Our Membership Meeting!



Dr. Aaron Thompson



Dr. Aaron Thompson



Dr. Thompson & President White



Standing Room Only Crowd



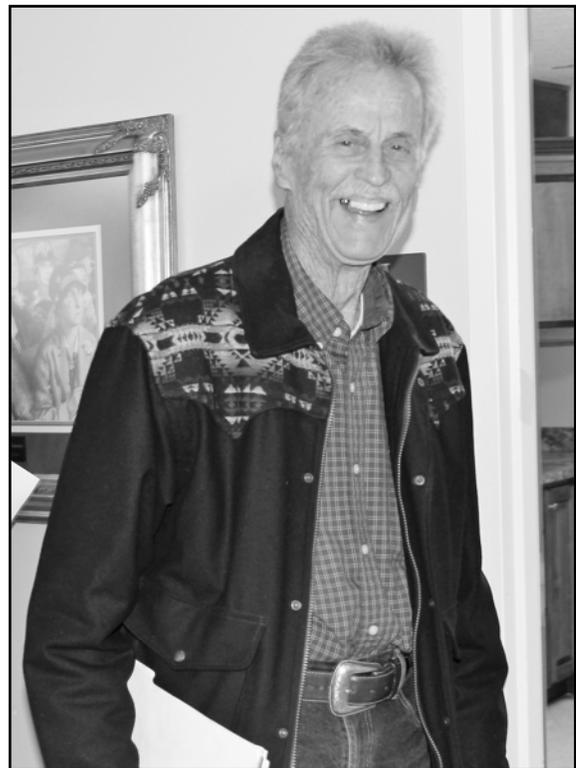
Gail Miller, Joyce Holeman, and Mike White



EKU Manchester Director Terry Gray and Dr. Thompson



Maggie Bowling and James Davidson



Society Volunteer, Ted Garrison



Refreshments



Membership Application

Join online at clayfamilies.org

Mail application with payment to:

Clay County Historical Society
 PO Box 394, Manchester, KY 40962

Contact us: 606/598-5507 OR ccgnhs@gmail.com

Facebook: The Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society

Organized in 1984, the Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society is a non-profit group totally supported by membership dues, donations, and book sales.

Yearly membership runs from January–December. Members receive: 1) Two issues of the *Clay County Ancestral News* magazine with each issue containing more than 70 pages of information, articles, and photos; 2) discounts on copy service and books printed by the society; 3) basic research and look-ups at no cost; and 4) occasions to connect with others interested in Clay County history & people. We accept credit cards, checks, & money orders.

Our extensive research library is in downtown Manchester just off Main Street in Bankers Alley behind the Clay County Public Library. We are open on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm EST except on holidays and in the event of inclement weather.

_____ NEW MEMBERSHIP	_____ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
_____ MEMBERSHIP (2017)	\$ 20 _____
_____ ADDITIONAL YEAR (2018)	\$ 20 _____
_____ LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP	\$200 _____
_____ DONATION	\$ _____

DATE: _____ TOTAL: \$ _____

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

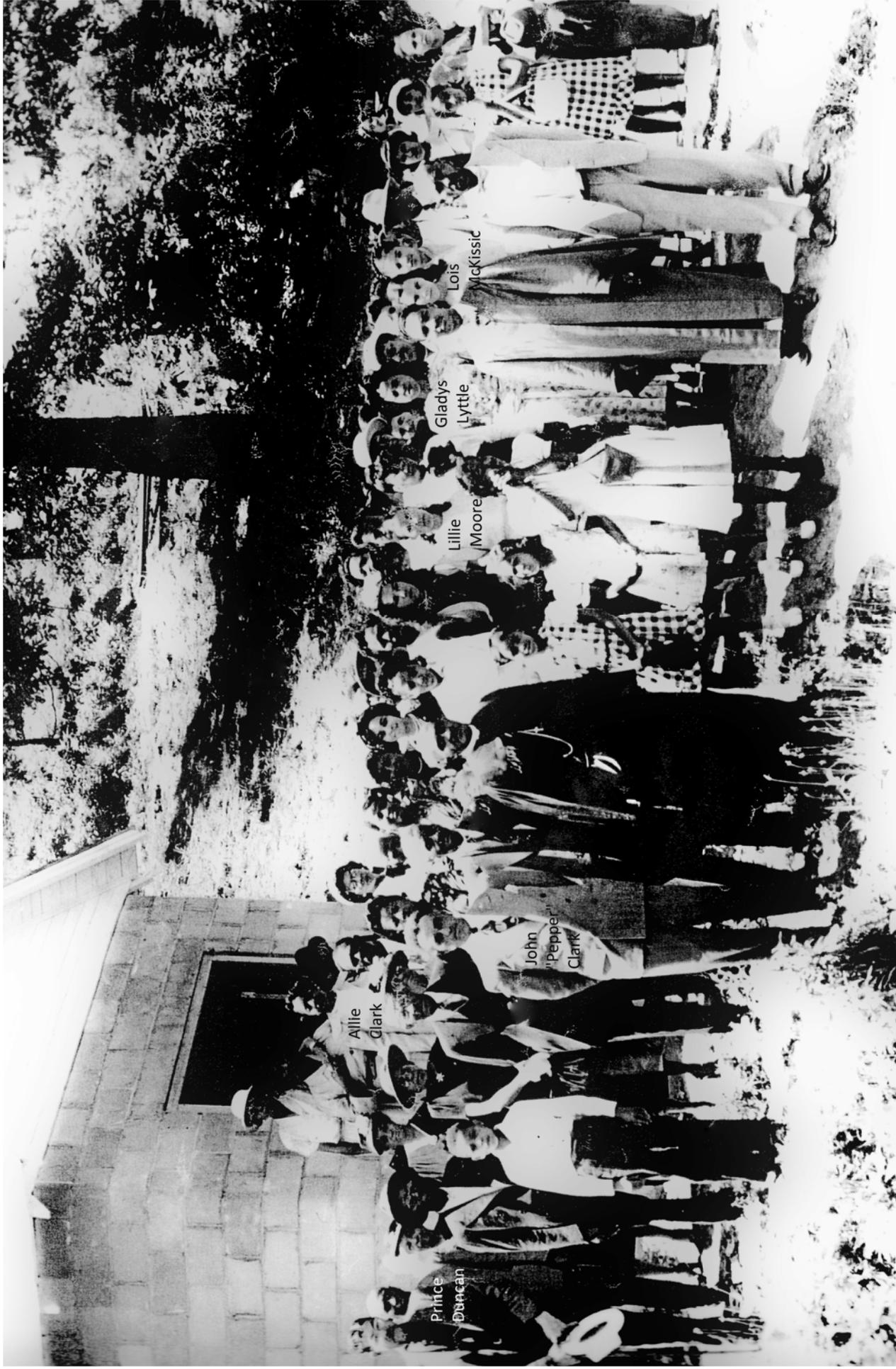
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

FAMILIES OF INTEREST: _____

FOR OFFICE USE: Member #: _____ Payment: _____

Thanks for being a member! We appreciate your support!

St. Paul AME Church, Town Branch Road (ca. late 1940s – early 50s)



We would like to identify more people in this photo. Please contact us to provide additional names.

Clay County Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 394
Manchester, KY 40962

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