

Harrison County soldiers helped give Abraham Lincoln a Christmas gift

The 18th Kentucky Regiment in the Civil War

BY BARKLEY GRIFFETT

They would fight at Chickamauga, and they would march to the sea with General William Tecumseh Sherman.

If you are a native of Cynthiana you may well be aware that the town was the site of two Civil War battles when General John Hunt Morgan attacked the town with his Confederate troops, first in 1862 and two years later in the summer of 1864.

Less known is the fact that the 18th Kentucky Regiment of the U.S. Volunteer Army was the only Kentucky infantry unit to take part in General William T. Sherman's famous March to the Sea in 1864.

These soldiers were from Harrison County and Bourbon, Nicholas, Pendleton and Kenton Counties.

Most of them were farmers. None of them had military training. Few of them had ever been outside the state of Kentucky. The year was 1861 and the country was in a civil war when they volunteered for service.

They signed up for duty with the 18th Kentucky Regiment, United States

Volunteer Army and mustered into service in Cynthiana and Paris. They would leave their homes in February, 1862, and the ones who survived, and reenlisted, wouldn't return until the summer of 1865.

Nearly 2,000 men made up the 18th Regiment of Kentucky. Among the Harrison County soldiers were Marion Crump, James Whalen, E.F. Marshall, Henry Duckworth, Elias Herrington, Commodore Argo, Lewis Furnish, Jack Ramey, Robert Ashcraft, James Hampton, Stephen Tomlin, Wilford Fryman, Henry Middleton, Hezekial Slade, James Cummins, Edward Adams, Hugh Marshall, William Workman, Mose Sosby, Levi Florence, Philip Ammerman, William Dayton, Joe Snapp, Lloyd McGill, Thomas Hicks, James Webber, William Cox, W.T. Dailey, John Morrison, Thomas Shumate, John Cook, Milton Riddle, Daniel Glasscock, William Sipe and Harrison Feeback.

The men of the 18th Kentucky were in the Battle of Chickamauga and were present at James Bennet's farm in Durham, North Carolina when Confederate General Joseph Johnston surrendered his troops to General Sherman.

They would march over 2000 miles. They fought

at Cynthiana and Richmond, Kentucky. They fought at Hoover's Gap, Tennessee. They fought in Gaylesville, Alabama and Bentonville, North Carolina. They would march in the Grand Review of the Union Armies on May 24, 1865, in Washington, D. C.

On Nov. 15, 1864 they embarked on their last assignment. They would commence on a journey of over 1000 miles from Atlanta to Savannah under the command of Gen. Sherman.

Editor's note: The 18th Kentucky was present for the siege of Savannah, Dec. 10-21. On Dec. 22, 1864, Gen. Sherman sent a telegram to President Abraham Lincoln saying, "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about 25,000 bales of cotton."

From there they continued through the Carolinas to Richmond, Virginia and then on to Washington, D.C. after Johnston's surrender April 26, 1865.

The regiment moved to Louisville in June and mustered out July 18, 1865.

During the course of its existence, the regiment lost a total of 243 men during service. Five officers and 85 enlisted men

were killed or mortally wounded; one officer and 152 enlisted men died of disease.

AFTER THE WAR

- Levi Florence returned to Harrison County and married Dorcas Roberts, a native of Carter County, Ky, in 1871. They settled near Buena Vista where Levi farmed. He and Dorcas were parents to seven children. He died in 1914 and is buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. On the application to receive a veteran's headstone was written "With Sherman".
- Lewis B. Furnish married Mary Kendall on September 16, 1869. He died on April 27, 1888 at the age of 56. He and his wife were the parents of six children. His grandson, Wilson B. Furnish, married Nancy Williams and settled on White Oak Pike. The great-grandchildren of Lewis B. Furnish (children of Wilson and Nancy) still live in Harrison County.
- Andrew Jackson "Jack" Ramey moved to Headquarters with his wife, Delilah Buckler Ramey, and their five children where he farmed and operated a blacksmith shop. In 1867 his sixth child was born; a son named William Sherman Ramey. Jack Ramey died

in 1908 at the age of eighty. He is buried in the Barterville Cemetery in Nicholas County. Three of his great grandchildren, Betty Ramey Clifford, Joanne Ramey Williams and Mary Russell Ramey Muntz live in Cynthiana.

- Thomas Shumate was wounded at the battle of Richmond, Kentucky in 1862 but survived his wounds. He married Martha Bell in 1866 at Carlisle. They lived on Republican Pike with their six sons and two daughters. Thomas died in 1924.
- Sgt. Wilford Fryman married Artemecia McDonald and lived at Morning Glory until the death of his wife in 1900. Wilford and Artemecia had seven children, including two sons — Sherman and Ulysses. He died in Harrison County in January 1827 and is buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery near Buena Vista. His tombstone bears the inscription "18th Kentucky Regiment".
- Lt. William Dayton settled with his wife, Eliza, in Robertson County, Kentucky where he was a tobacco buyer. He and his wife were parents to eight children, including a son, William Sherman Dayton. He died in 1904 at the age of 69. He is buried at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Robertson County.
- Henry Duckworth

married Elizabeth Collins and settled in Pendleton County where he farmed. He and his wife were parents to one son. Henry died on November 10, 1914 in Montgomery County, Ohio. He is buried in the Dayton, Ohio National Cemetery.

- Elias Herrington and his wife Melissa along with daughter, Seralda Jane, lived in the Sylvandell area of Harrison County where Elias farmed. He died June 5, 1923. He is buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.
- William Walker Workman returned home to Claysville and later settled in Milford, Kentucky with his wife, Nancy, and their eight children. He died in 1904 and is buried in the family cemetery in Bracken County.
- Lt. Colonel Hubbard Milward lived in Lexington after the war and became postmaster in 1884. He and his wife, Katherine were parents of three children. He died in April 19, 1893 at the age of 56 and is buried in Lexington Cemetery.

Source: United States Register of Deaths of Federal Volunteers 1861-1865 and U.S. War Department, The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1880-1901.

MUSEUM CORNER

Cynthiana began life in Bourbon County

CROMWELL'S COMMENTS
December 13, 1828

Perrin, in speaking of the first settlers on the site of Cynthiana, says: "It suited the convenience of a few of these old worthies, in 1793, one year after Kentucky became a State, to establish a county seat on the South Fork of Licking," but I judge that few of our citizens of today know that the town so established was in BOURBON County, yet such is the fact.

The act to establish the town of Cynthiana was approved by the General Assembly, Dec. 10, 1793, and section No, 6, "This act shall commence and be in force from the passage thereof." An act dividing the County of "Bourbon" to create "Harrison" was passed Dec. 21, 1793, but the enabling act did not become effective until February, 1794.

Thus it would appear that for the space of 60 days, at least, Cynthiana was located in Bourbon County.

It may interest some of our readers to learn just how

Cynthiana was created, so below we have the first section of the enabling act which contains the gist of the matter, the remaining sections being mostly devoted to wherefore's and whereas's.

"ENABLING ACT"

"Chapter 35, Acts of the Second General Assembly of Ky.

"An Act to establish a town on the lands of Robert Harrison, in the county of Bourbon, approved Dec. 10th, 1793.

"Whereas it is represented to the General Assembly that one hundred and fifty acres of land lying on the east side of the South Fork of Licking, opposite the mouth of Gray's Run, be property of Robert Harrison, has already been laid off into a town, with convenient streets and alleys, the lots containing half an acre each: therefore,

"Be it enacted by the General Assembly, Section 1. That the said town be established by the name of CYNTHIANA, and the property thereof vested in Benjamin Harrison, Morgan VanMatra, Jeremiah Robinson,

John Wall, Sr. and Henry Coleman, Gentlemen Trustees, who, or a majority of them, are, by virtue of this act, directed to sell the residue of lots in said town for the best price that can be had giving three months previous notice in the KENTUCKY GAZETTE, taking bond and sufficient security for the moneys or specialties arising from such sales, which shall be transferable to Robert Harrison or his legal representatives, and execute deeds in fee, as well as those who already have purchased lots, as them who may purchase in future, obliging the purchasers to build on each lot within four years after such purchase a house eighteen feet long and sixteen feet wide, with a brick or stone chimney thereof."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TAKEN FROM History of Cynthiana—Items of Interest

Nov. 22, 1928-The first recorded deed in our Court

House, April 1st, 1794, was Alexander Adger, conveying 100 acres of land lying on the waters of Townsend Creek. The consideration was 50 pounds sterling, about \$250.00 present day money. As Townsend first touches Harrison county near the bridge on Paris Pike, it is fair to assume that this tract of land would be somewhere in the vicinity of the land now owned by John W. and Sterling P. Hinkson.

The first record we have of a lot disposed of by the original Trustees, Benjamin Harrison, Morgan Van Matra (Van Meter), Jeremiah Robinson, John Wall and Henry Colman, was No. 42 of the "old plat." This was deeded to one Hugh Stevenson, and our historian says, "the ground now occupied by Marks McCabe." This translated into the geography of today, would be the site of Sam Hill's restaurant, West Pleasant Street.

Marriages

A few months after the establishment of the town

we find Dan Cupid getting busy, with the result that the first marriage license in Cynthiana was issued to Samuel VanHook to wed Miss Hannah Truesdale in May of 1794. The historian then proceeds to mention several more marriage licenses issued along about the same time, and also, says, "the list might be continued to the present time," as the record is preserved entire. In the earlier records, however, the day of the month is often omitted. We note in most all of the licenses mentioned that the names are the same as borne by citizens of today; so it is quite probable that there are people living in Harrison county, descendants of these early marriages.

More information on the founding of Cynthiana can be found in the book by Richard Anderson, South Fork of Licking. It is available for purchase at the museum on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

WAY BACK WHEN

10 YEARS AGO ... DEC. 10, 2015

- State Representative Tom McKee presented a \$1 million check to the Harrison County Fiscal Court. The Community Development Block Grant will help complete the Cedarbrook sewer project,
- It was announced Ruler Foods will open in the former Food Lion location in January.
- The archery teams competed at the Frankfort Archery Classic. The Southside/Westside Elementary team, with 14 members, finished fifth of seven teams. Eastside/Northside, with only nine, did not not have enough members to compete as a team. The middle school team, with 17 archers, finished third of seven teams. The high school had eight competitors and thus did not have a team score.

25 YEARS AGO ... DEC. 7, 2000

- Births announced this week: Bryson Nathaniel Lemons was born to Wade and Angela Lemons on Dec. 1; Trevour McCoy was born to Amber Ashcraft on Nov.

State Representative Tom McKee presented a \$1 million check to the Harrison County Fiscal Court. The Community Development Block Grant will help complete the Cedarbrook sewer project,

14; Dalton Clay Morris was born to Terry and Terra Morris on Nov. 13; Madison Nicole Johnson was born to Amanda Richardson and Ray Johnson, Jr. on Nov. 8; Nathan Tyler McRoberts was born to Maggie Jean McRoberts on Nov. 4.

- Children from Tammy Bruce's class at Curry United Methodist Church's preschool sang for residents in Harrison Memorial Hospital's extended care wing. The young crooners included Jace Northcutt, Brannon Herrington, Madelyn Judy, Logan Bruce, Alex Kinsey, Jaclyn Fryman, Madison Dixon and Bryson Clifford.
- Bob Gregg, director of the state champion Harrison County High School marching band, served as grand marshal of the 2000 Christmas parade.

50 YEARS AGO ... DEC. 11, 1975

- Births announced this week: Allison Amanda Kasley was born to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kasley on Nov. 24; Stephan Crae Allen was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Allen, no date given; twins Richard Hamilton Palmer and Jonathan Palmer were born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Palmer on Dec. 5; Starla Kay Faulkner was born to Mr. and Mrs. David Wayne Faulkner on Dec. 3; twins Jenny Brook Ansley and Sarah Hope Ansley were born to Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ansley on Dec. 1; Shawn Lynn Booker was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Booker on Dec. 2; Johna Ivette Tucker was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Tucker on Dec. 1.
- The 3M Club's float was named best of the Christmas parade. Their Spirit of '76 float had a Peace and Liberty theme.



This picture shows Bobby Vanhook following the 4-H Saddle and Spur Club on his tractor during a trail ride in the fall of 1975. The location of the picture was not identified.