

The Wilson Club
INCORPORATED
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

A Pictorial History of Henderson County *1775-1950*



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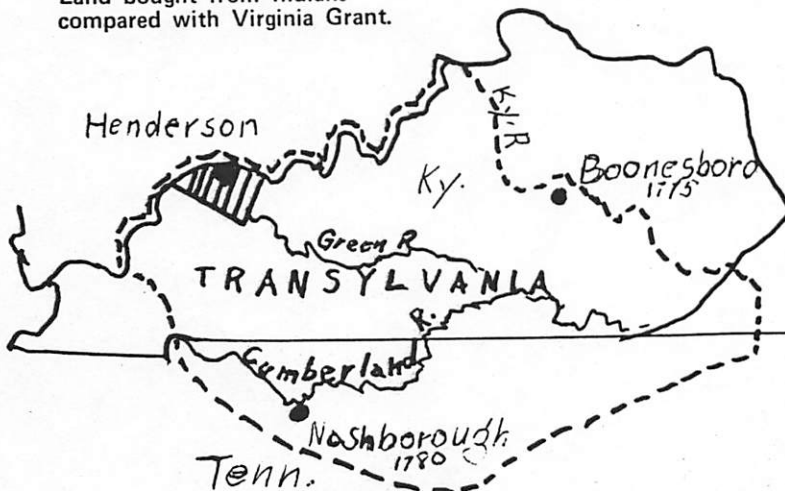
... A Dream and the Reality

Judge Richard Henderson had a dream of a new colony, to be established west of the mountains, where the settlers would have self-government, freedom of religion, and plenty of land. Of course, it would be a proprietary colony with the colonists paying a nominal fee to the indulgent proprietors for their services of buying the land from the Indian owners, surveying and policing. Eight others joined him in this huge land speculation: John Williams, James Hogg, William Johnson, Thomas, Nathaniel and David Hart, John Luttrell, and Leonard Henley Bullock.



Colonel Richard Henderson
1735 - 1785
"The Political Father of Kentucky"

Land bought from Indians
compared with Virginia Grant.



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COMMUNITY METHODIST HOSPITAL

Henderson's legal studies had convinced him that only the Cherokees had title to the land between the Kentucky and Tennessee rivers and that the Camden-Yorke decision gave individuals the right to bargain with the Indians. Daniel Boone and others had brought him reports of the richness of the land and the ominous truth that all former attempts at settlement had been thwarted by the Indians. Even James Harrod and his group had to return to Virginia for the winter of 1774-75.

During that winter Henderson, Boone, Nathaniel Hart and the interpreter, Thomas Price, had visited the Cherokee villages and talked trade with the chiefs. Finally, on March 17, 1775, the three Cherokee chiefs made their marks on a treaty selling to the Transylvania Company all the land between the Kentucky river and the headwaters of the Cumberland for 10,000 pounds in money and goods. This was estimated to include twenty million acres. In addition, Henderson bought a path from the treaty site at Watauga to Cumberland Gap.

Before the treaty was signed, Daniel Boone and 40 ax-men had started cutting a trail to the settlement which was soon named Boonesborough. There, in May of the same year, Kentucky held its first legislative assembly and its first religious service. Because of the lessened danger from Indians the Virginians returned to Harrodsburg and new settlements were started at Boiling Springs and Logar's Fort.

Included in Boone's trail-blazing groups were a black man and woman. Later, while Boone was absent from the fort, the black man was the only one who could make gunpowder for the defense of Boonesborough. History does not record his name.

Politics on the Eastern seaboard changed rapidly and soon the proprietors were asking to become the 14th state in the Union. Virginia refused to accept them and claimed all the land west of her boundaries in 1776. In 1778, she granted the Transylvania Company 200,000 acres at the junction of the Green and Ohio Rivers, two hundred miles from the nearest settlement. (Map on this page shows relationship between the original purchase and the grant.)

Having lost part of the battle for his land, Henderson now went farther south and established Nashborough (Nashville) in 1780. This was claimed by North Carolina in 1782 and the Company was granted land in Powell's Valley in eastern Tennessee. Richard Henderson died in North Carolina in 1785, and years passed before the other proprietors could claim their Virginia grant.

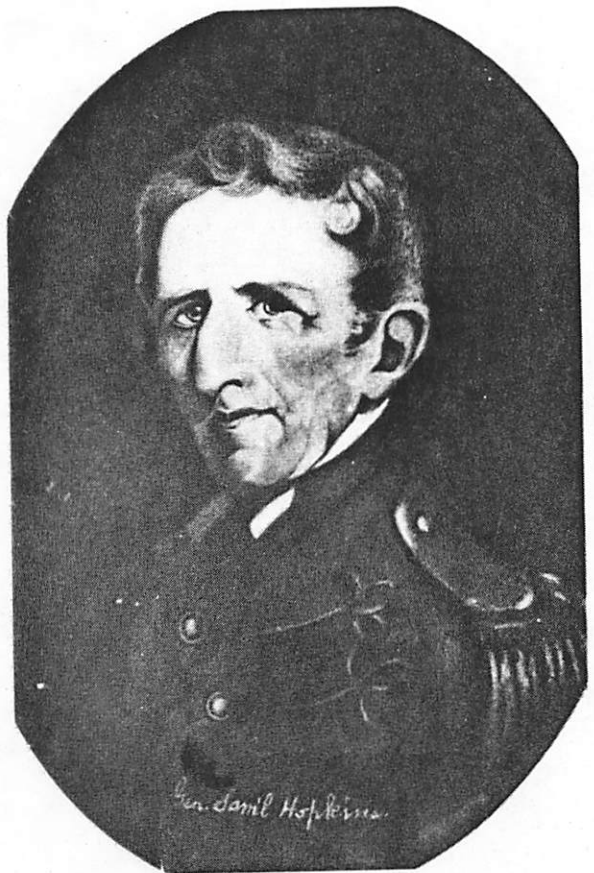
In March, 1797, the Transylvania Company sent three men down Green River to its mouth to survey the Henderson grant. They were Samuel Hopkins, agent for the Company, Thomas Allin, surveyor, and Henry Purviance, lawyer. They laid out the town in one week (see pages 20-21) and spent the rest of the time trying to survey the rest of the grant over flooded fields. It was divided, as equally as possible, into eight parts (Bullock and David Hart each held only one-half share.) On July 31, 1797, the Transylvania Company held its last meeting and drew lots for both the Henderson grant and the Powell's Valley land.

When these surveyors arrived in 1797 they found a group of settlers already established in a village the rivermen had named Red Banks. Some of the first to settle on the bluffs in 1792 were: Michael Sprinkle, John Upp, William Smith, John Husbands, John Haussman, Jacob Sprinkle, John Kurkendall, Eneas McCallister and John Dunn. In their Ordinance of August 9, 1797, the Company gave to each male person who had built or was residing in Red Banks on, or before, May 1, 1794, one lot of one acre. The name "Henderson" was then given the town in honor of the president of the Company.

Although Judge Henderson died twelve years before the town of Henderson was surveyed, his nephew, also named Richard Henderson, settled here. James Hogg, who found his surname a detriment in politics, had his sons' names changed by legislative action to Alves, their mother's maiden name. Walter Alves married Amelia Johnson, the only daughter of William Johnson, and they moved to Henderson. David Hart's daughter, Rebecca, married Wynn Dixon and moved to Henderson where their son, Archibald Dixon, became lieutenant-governor and U.S. Senator. General Samuel Hopkins spent his remaining years in Henderson as agent for the company, judge of the new county after 1799, and leader and arbiter in general.

While none of the original proprietors ever lived in Henderson many of their descendants did. The only man known to have been connected with the Company from the Treaty of Watauga in 1775 to the settlement of Henderson was William Bailey Smith, surveyor with Boone in laying out the Wilderness Road, Indian fighter at Boonesborough, carrier of grain to Nashborough during the winter of 1780-81, and finally a settler near the mouth of Green River where he died in October, 1818,

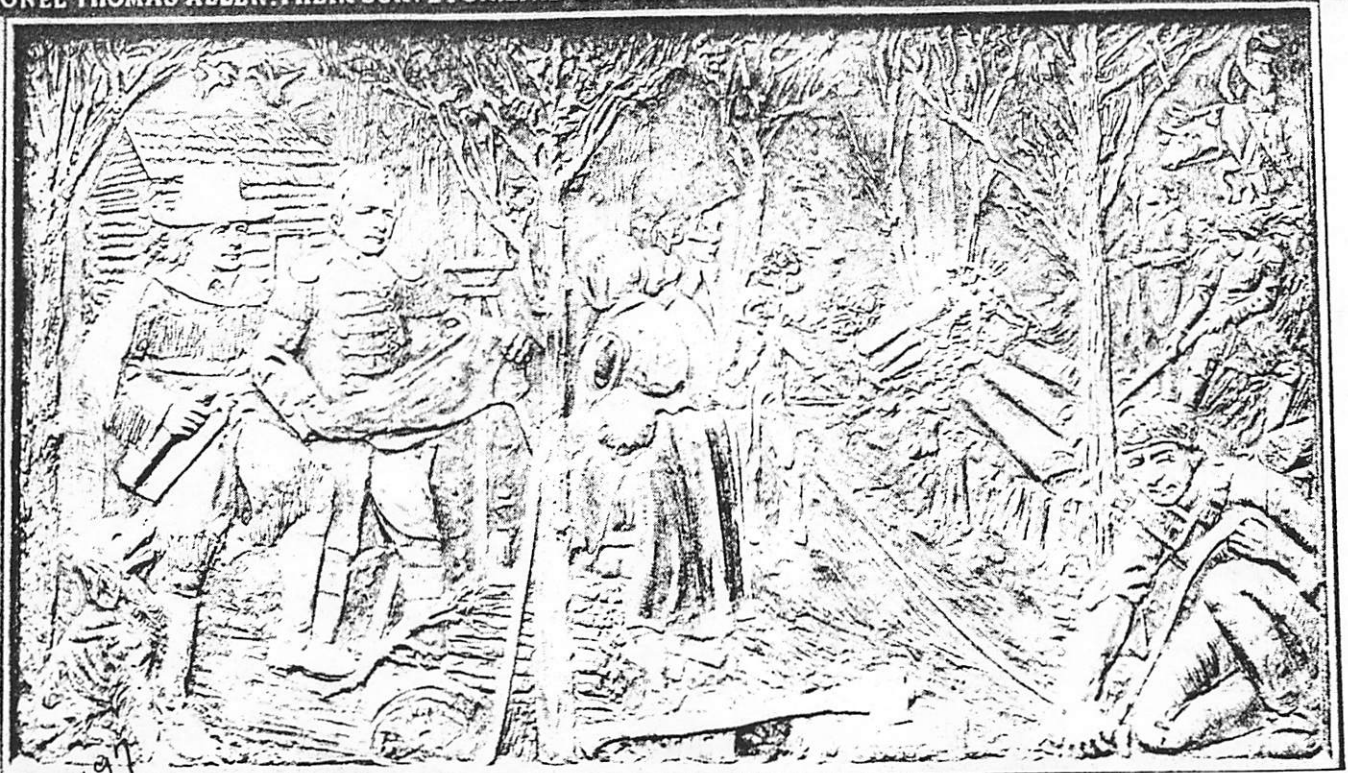
Founded at the junction of two main waterways, Henderson later became the crossroads for two railways and two highways. It is known as the only town on the Ohio that has never been in it.



General Samuel Hopkins

Bronze Tablet in Henderson Courthouse

MARCH 31, 1797. GENERAL SAMUEL HOPKINS AS AGENT AND ATTORNEY IN FACT FOR THE TRANSYLVANIA CO. WITH COLONEL THOMAS ALLEN. THEIR SURVEYOR. LAID OFF THE TOWN OF HENDERSON. NAMED FOR RICHARD HENDERSON.



... Nature and the Naturalist



Self-Portrait of Audubon

In the Spring of 1810 John James Audubon brought his wife and son to Red Banks and set up a store with Ferdinand Rozier. Rozier soon became discouraged with prospects and persuaded Audubon to move the merchandise to Ste. Genevieve on the Mississippi River in the middle of winter. Ice delayed them for six weeks. In the meantime Lucy and Victor Audubon had been left with the Doctor Rankin family in Henderson where Lucy became the tutor for the Rankin children.

Audubon sold out to Rozier and returned to Henderson early in 1811. A business venture in New Orleans with Thomas Bakewell, brother of Lucy, failed due to the War of 1812; but the Audubon-Bakewell store in Henderson succeeded. Audubon began land speculation in the city and by 1817 was the third wealthiest man in Henderson. In 1815 he built the first house in the section now known as Audubon, on the corner of Loeb and Shelby streets, but later resided near the store in downtown Henderson.

THE INFERNAL MILL

Unfortunately, Thomas Bakewell persuaded Audubon to join in a partnership with him and Thomas Pears, an Englishman, to erect a steam mill. On March 10, 1817, Audubon and Bakewell applied for a lease on a portion of the river front. The town trustees gave them a tract, 200 feet square, beginning at the corner opposite lot no. 4, corner of Water and Second Streets, for a term of 99 years. They agreed to pay for it at the rate of \$20.00 per annum.

During that year the partners built a steam grist and saw mill, on the high bluff commanding a view of the river, at a cost of about \$15,000. The Ohio River at that time extended some one hundred yards beyond the mill and contained a beautiful grove of trees in which the farmers picnicked while waiting at the mill for their grinding.

The mill, forty-five by sixty feet and consisting of four stories and a basement, was built at an enormous cost for that day. It was remarkably constructed with foundation walls four and a half feet thick made of flat and broken rock. Since no rock of this type was found near Henderson, it is supposed that Audubon brought it by boat from some other place.

The joists were trees cut near by and left unhewn. These heavy trees were laid wall to wall, closer together than the ordinary sawed joists of today. No weight placed on the floor of the mill could have made an impression. The weather boarding was of yellow poplar, whipsawed.

Wild Turkey Cock

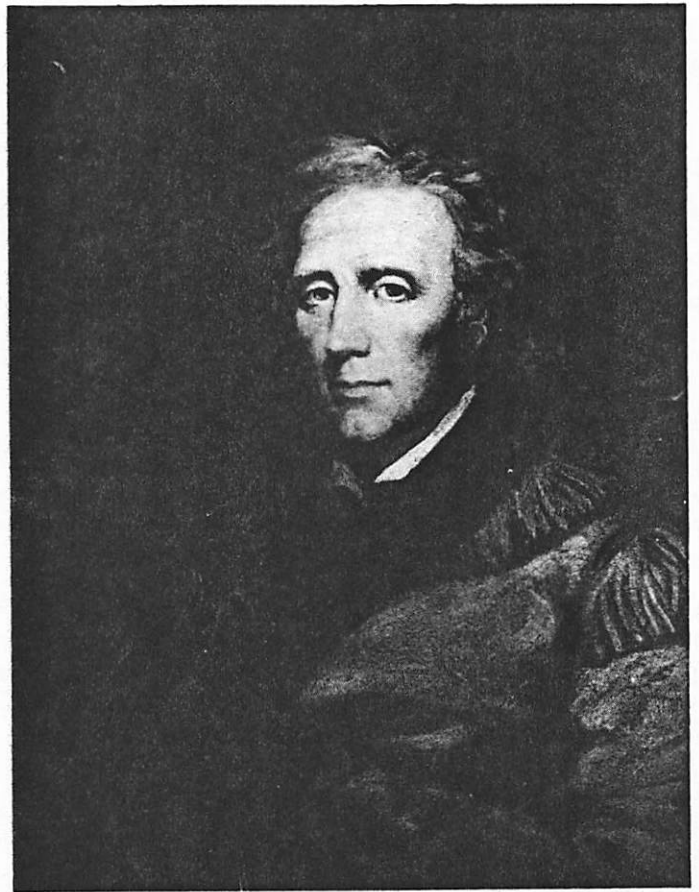


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AUDUBON BOARD OF REALTORS

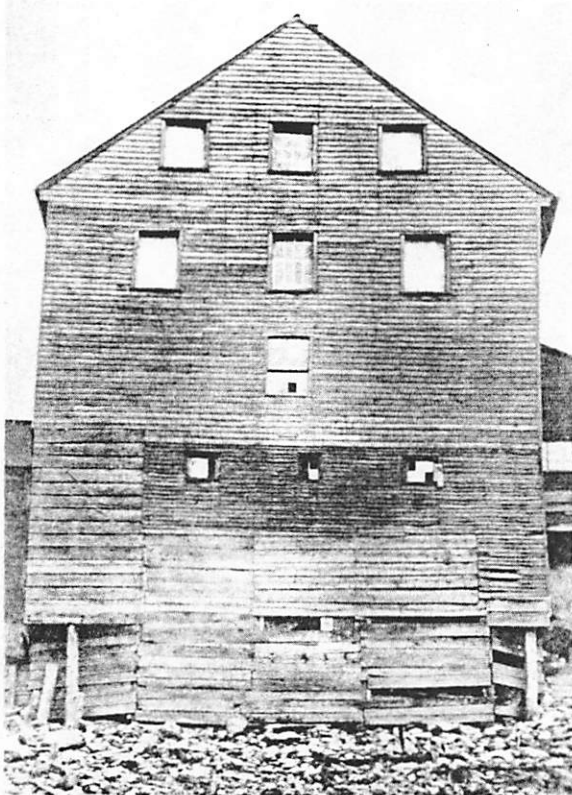
Audubon had bought 1200 acres of timber near Henderson for the lumber he needed. About this time a flat boat with ten or twelve stout fellows and their wives came down the river and, declaring themselves to be "Yankees", asked for work as wood cutters. Audubon set them to work cutting down the trees, and observed that they were trained woodsmen. Some time later Audubon went to their camp and found the "Yankees" had gone, taking his draught oxen, and had harried the place of everything that could be taken. Other woodsmen were found and the mill was finished.

Although Audubon labored at the "infernal mill" from dawn to dark, the business did not flourish. Both partners deserted him and tried to reclaim their portion of the property. He injured his right hand, his drawing hand, on the steam engine. Nicholas Berthoud, Lucy's brother-in-law, became a partner in the bankrupt mill and later purchased most of Audubon's Henderson property.



Audubon's Portrait of Daniel Boone

Audubon Mill short time before it burned.

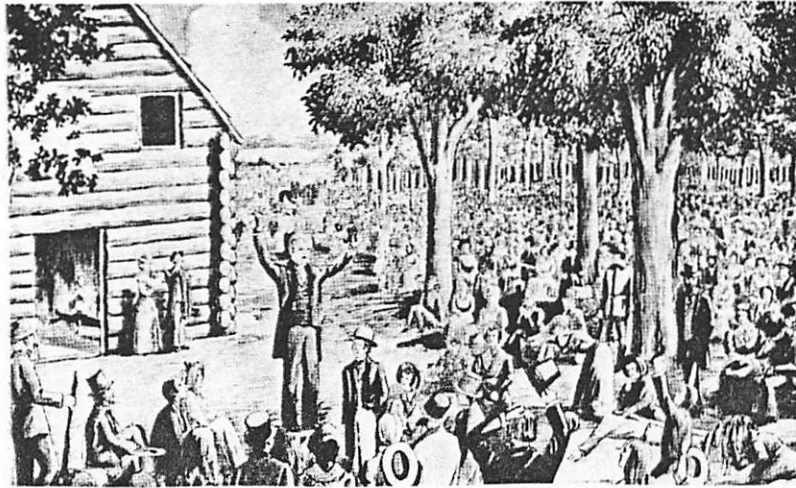


A second financial disaster was a steamboat that was heavily financed by Audubon and Bakewell. Audubon acted as agent in selling the boat to a combine of seven influential businessmen in Henderson. Later he sued them on the complaint that the paper money with which he had been paid was worthless. They entered a counter suit of \$10,000 for damages suffered from Audubon's "malicious suit". He was physically attacked by Samuel Bowen and stabbed him in self-defense. He asked for change of venue on the civil suit and it was moved to Daviess County where it was dismissed because the plaintiffs failed to appear.

The sheriff took every personal possession except his portfolio of bird drawings, believing they were worthless. Despondent and bankrupt, John James Audubon left Henderson for Louisville with only the clothes he was wearing, the portfolio of original drawings, and his gun.

The old mill was used as a tobacco warehouse for some years and finally burned on March 18, 1913. The riverfront property reverted back to the city in 1915. The site was later named Audubon Mill Park and was the first local memorial to Audubon.

... A Spiritual Awakening



CAMP MEETINGS

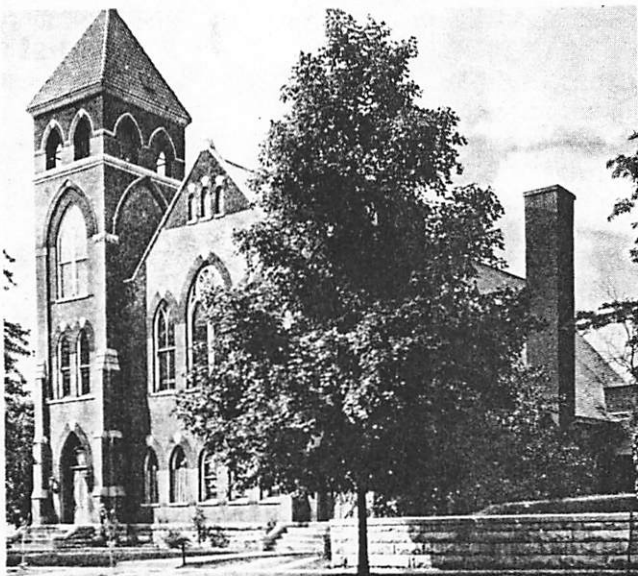
Few church buildings existed in 1797 and when such eminent evangelists as James McGready (especially well-known in Henderson County) and William and John McGee began preaching in the Green River country, camp meetings were attended by people from a hundred miles away and lasted for a month or more. The story is told that when Audubon was bringing his family to Henderson in a canoe (their 2nd trip) they were startled by screams from the Indiana bank. Mistaking them for Indian war whoops they pulled hard for Red Banks. Later they learned the Methodists were holding a camp meeting on Pigeon Creek.

BAPTIST CHURCHES

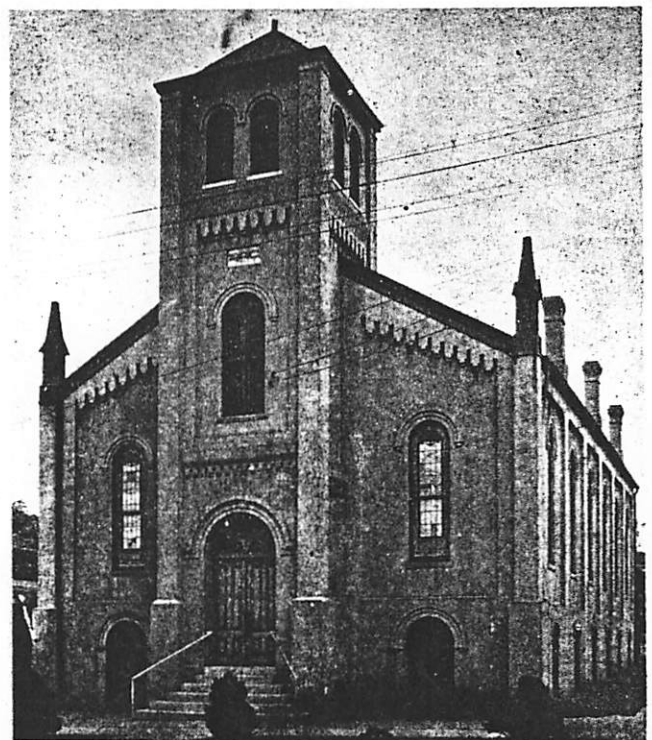
The first church building in Henderson county was the Graves Creek Baptist, built in what is now Webster County but later moved to the end of Airline Road. The First Baptist Church of Henderson originated in a revival meeting held by Rev. J.L. Burroughs in 1839 in the Old

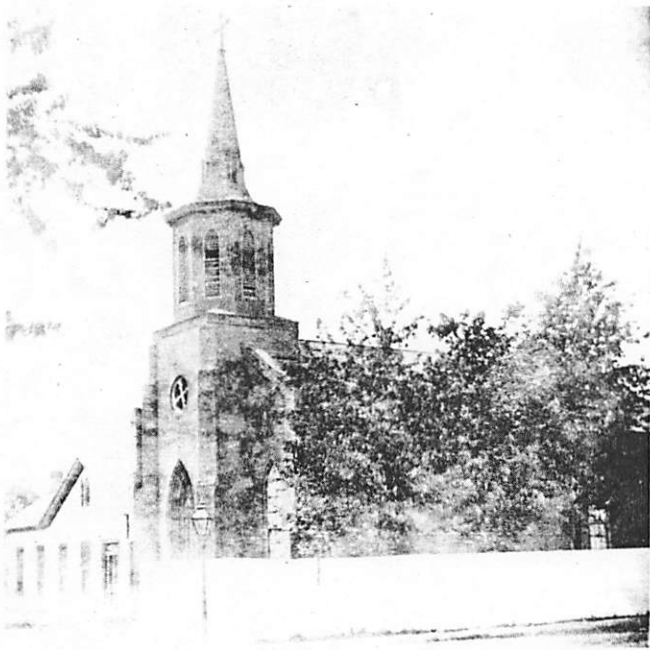
Union Church. Immediately after organization they began erecting a house of worship on the corner of Elm and Center streets where their present sanctuary stands.

In the meantime the African Baptist Church of Jesus Christ began in log cabins, corn and tobacco fields. In 1840 they were admitted to membership in the "White Baptist Church" and later (1845) were organized into their own congregation which met in the basement of the White Baptist Church for 21 years. They bought their first pastor, Rev. Willis Walker, from his owner for \$520. By 1857 they had 370 members. In 1866 they bought the old Methodist Church on the corner of Washington and Elm, and in 1879 removed the frame church and erected a two-story brick building, later stuccoed and in use today.



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CATHOLIC CHURCH

Catholics were among the earliest settlers in Henderson, but they were without a spiritual leader until 1824 when Reverend Durbin of Union County was assigned the pastoral duties.

In 1861 the members completed a small brick building on the corner of Third and Ingram streets known as the Church of St. Louis. This was used until 1882 when the Holy Name church was built on Second and Ingram streets.

METHODIST CHURCH

Records of a small Methodist society go back as far as 1805 when they met in homes and later in the Union Church. By 1840 they were meeting in a small frame church on the corner of Washington and Elm. They moved to the present location on the corner of Green and Third streets in 1856 and completed their church in 1859.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Their first building was erected on the corner of Main and Third streets in 1837. In 1856 the lot on the corner of Center and Green streets was purchased and Bishop B.B. Smith was requested to have plans drawn. He visited England a short time after this and returned with plans modeled after the Stoke-Poges Church and early in 1859 the present church building was completed.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian Church had its beginnings with the preaching of Elder William Brown in the year 1841. Largely through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Philip VanBussum a building was completed in 1855. In 1861 this building was used by the Federal authorities for a military prison and hospital.



... A Craving for Knowledge



One-room school at Columbia (about 1889)



COUNTY SCHOOLS

The first school of which we have a record was not in the village of Henderson but in the county, in the neighborhood of Diamond Island (location unknown). In October, 1794, Henry Patmers sent John Dunn a request for ten shillings to pay his quarterly subscription to Patmers' school.

A number of communities started with subscription schools. The oldest chartered high school in the county was Corydon (left). The first class graduated in 1878, and it is said that at one time 55 of the 65 rural teachers in the county had been educated at Corydon. In the second decade of this century they hired L.H. Gehman as principal and he introduced a new concept -- a junior high school. As a result each pupil had to complete 13 years of school to graduate.

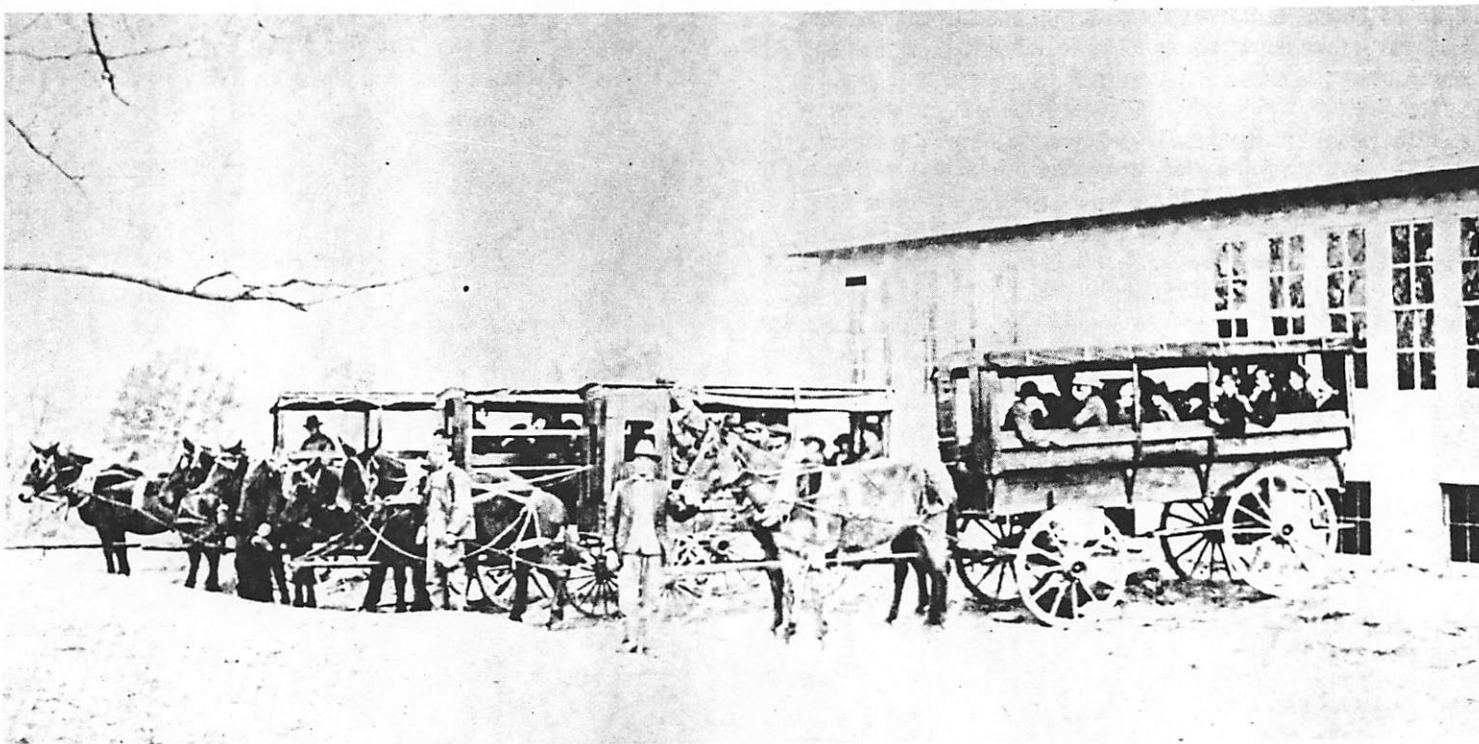
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OHIO VALLEY NATIONAL BANK



County Teachers in 1882

A push toward consolidation began near the end of the second decade and reached its peak in the 1930's with eight county high schools. The small schools were necessary because buses could not be used on the existing dirt roads and mule-drawn wagons could not transport pupils for long distances. Corydon was the last independent school to join the county system.

School Wagons at Cairo School in 1923



HENDERSON SCHOOLS

The early settlers in Henderson regarded education as a solemn religious duty and either hired private tutors or established private schools. Lucy Bakewell Audubon was one of the most famous tutors, teaching the children of Dr. Adam Rankin and Gen. Samuel Hopkins.

Mrs. James Wilson, who owned Henderson's first piano, opened a "Select School for Girls" in her home in 1819. She taught piano, singing, French and English, embroidery, plain and fine sewing, and deportment.

Academies in other sections of the state used the legislative act of 1799 to appropriate unclaimed land in Henderson County (Notably Harrodsburg which received a grant of 6000 acres) but local justices failed to have the land, offered them by the State, surveyed and patented. However, in 1813 the Henderson Academy was established with a board of trustees, headed by Adam Rankin.

The school was located on the corner of Third and Elm streets in a log house rented from Mrs. Catherine Brent and in a lot so overgrown with blackberry vines that it was soon nicknamed "Blackberry Hall." Strict rules of conduct included: obedience to teachers, politeness, no gambling or swearing, and no keeping of bad company. The first tutor, Rev. Daniel Comfort, was paid \$250 for a six-months term. Elisha Plumb who came in 1817 had his salary raised to \$600. A number of other private schools flourished at different times.

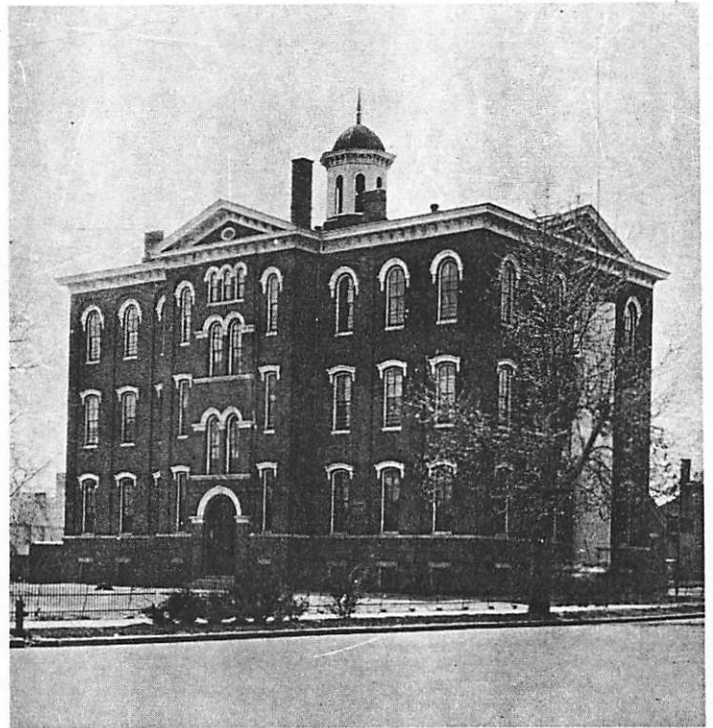
The public school system of Henderson was established in 1869 with the first building erected on the corner of Green and Center streets -- Center Street School. It opened in September, 1871, with Mr. Maurice Kirby as first superintendent. The top floor served the Henderson High School which graduated its first class in June, 1873.

In 1906 James R. Barret purchased the Adams residence on Washington Street and gave it to the city with the provision that manual arts be in the curriculum. With an annex built in 1910 and a gymnasium in 1927, the Barret Manual Training High School served the community for almost fifty years.

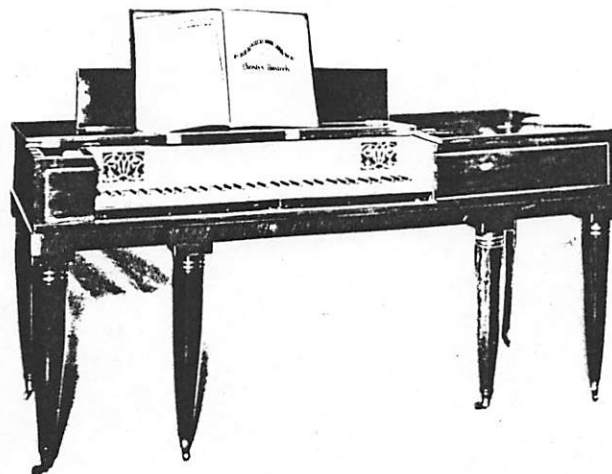
The Kentucky Education Association met in Henderson in 1910 with meetings held in the Opera House.



Barret Manual Training High School



Old Center Street School



Photograph by Mauran Dameron, Henderson, 1915

Piano used in Mrs. Wilson's School

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TAPP FUNERAL HOME

THE FATHER OF DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

H.F. Jones was born in Henderson county in 1868 and as a young boy went to Evansville to work as a houseboy for a white newspaperman who encouraged him to finish high school and attend Terre Haute Normal School. His Evansville benefactor moved to Washington, D.C. and wrote "Hence" Jones to come to Howard University where he received his law degree in 1893 and entered practice in Chicago.

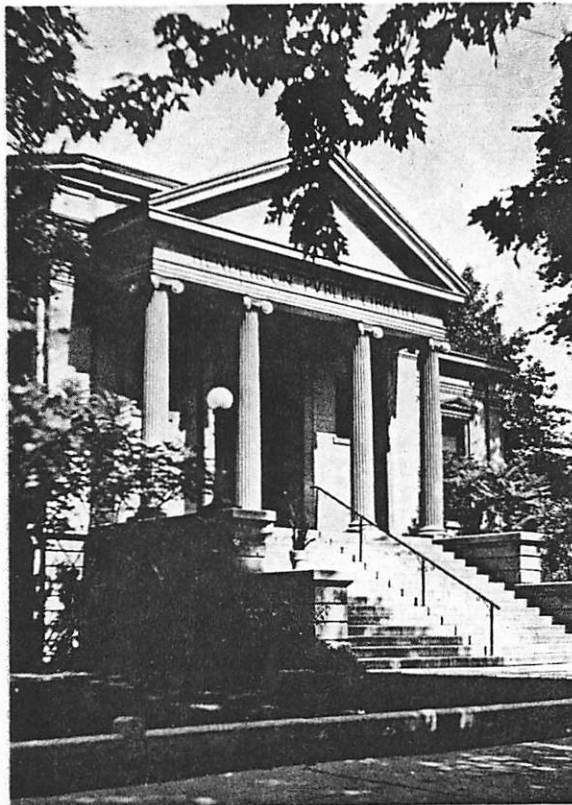
Love for his childhood sweetheart, Mary Cabell, brought him back to Henderson where he practiced law a few years and then became principal of Alves Street School. In 1896 the lawyer-teacher read the famous Plessy-Ferguson decision and realized that Henderson must provide Blacks with a high school.

Joined by such Black stalwarts as Ed Brown, Rev. P.H. Kennedy, Rev. J.M. Mundy, Drs. Armistead and O'Neil, F.B. Doxey, Alec Carr, and others, he persuaded the school board and city fathers to appropriate money. In 1905, on the top floor of Alves Street School, Douglass High School opened with a ninth grade and H.F. Jones became principal of two schools.

Douglass High quickly became the center of Black culture and inspiration. Every Friday evening the student body became the Dunbar Literary Society and presented discussions on Black history, Black achievements, upward bound activities and current events. Black artists and scholars were brought to the city on a regular basis. Jones resigned as principal in 1922 and was followed in succession by Franklin P. Smith, T.J. Long, F.A. Taylor, B.Y. Norris, Kenneth Meade, W.H. Storey and Herbert Kirkwood.

When the school outgrew its Alves Street facilities, the Black community, led by the P.T.A. with Ora Glass as president and Saphronia White as secretary, bought the Kennedy home at Dixon and Alvasia and gave it to the school board. Additional growth caused the school board, in 1931, to erect the building at Alvasia and Clay streets which now houses the Sandefur Training Center.

One court decision brought the school into being; another, on May 17, 1954, signed its death warrant. In May, 1965, Douglass High School and Alves Street School were closed and a new era began.



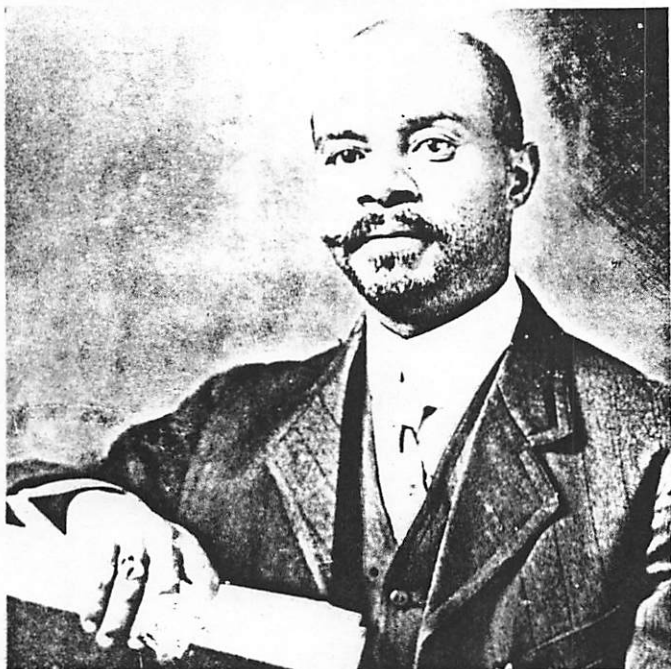
HENDERSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Most citizens leave public school at 18, or younger, but one institution of learning is available throughout their lives—the public library. Thus Henderson citizens are indebted to Edward Asher Jonas, an early publisher of the Henderson Journal, for meeting Andrew Carnegie on the golf links and convincing him that Henderson would welcome a library.

Mr. Jonas found Carnegie easier to convince than the Henderson officials. Carnegie's gift was conditioned on the city providing a suitable lot for the building and enacting a special tax to pay the maintenance and operating cost of the library. Jonas started the fund by giving lectures and providing other forms of entertainment. On May 3, 1902, Mayor J.H. Powell and Henderson's 12-man Council approved a board of directors for the Henderson Public Library. A lot was purchased on the corner of Main and Washington streets from Mrs. Ruby Dallam Dudley and a library built at the cost of \$18,739. It was constructed of stone and followed the Temple style of classical architecture.

On December 16, 1903, the board elected Miss Susan Towles as librarian and she remained with the library until her retirement in 1949. By request of Mr. Sneed, president of the Library Board, the first book acquired was the Holy Bible. By the time of the formal opening on August 1, 1904, 500 books had been accessioned and were on the shelves ready for use.

In January, 1942, the Fiscal Court started making an annual appropriation to the library and it was opened to county residents. When Miss Towles retired, the board elected her assistant, Miss Sara Winstead, as head librarian. Sara had been taught by Miss Sue and continued her training through seminars and extension courses. She made a fine and well-loved librarian until her retirement in 1973.



... A Competitive Spirit

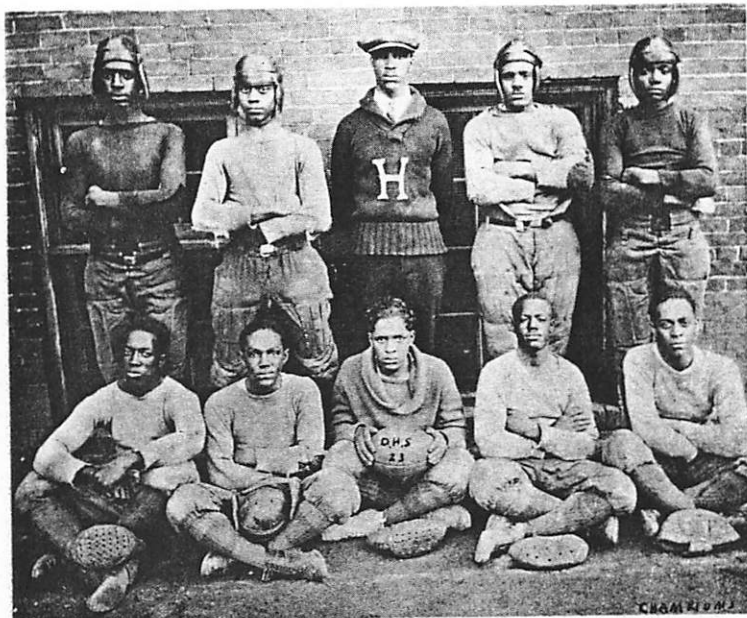
DOUGLASS HIGH FOOTBALL TEAM

Champions of Western Kentucky, 1922-23

First Row (L to R): Theodore Hancock, Clifton West, John Ware, Odell Posey, Hardy Bacon

Second Row: Hamilton Dixon, Lorenzo Jones, R.L. Henson (Coach) Charles Posey, Robert Dixon.

Not Present: William Winters, Hodge Eakins, Eugene Smith, Henry Eakins, James Dixon, Silas Griffin, Shelton Langley



B.M.T.H.S. GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

Won the State Championship by defeating a team coached by A.B. Chandler.

First Row: Mittie Eblen (F), Francele Harris (G), Ethel Brown (F), Agnes Rotenhoefer (C)

Second Row: Cynthia Matthews (Sub), Helen Kiefer (G), Jew Schoepflin (Coach), Virginia Posey (Sub), Ann Hulse (Sub.)

B.M.T.H.S. BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

Won the first tournament held in the state of Kentucky, 1915-16, at Centre College, Danville

Won National Championship, Athens, Ohio.

First Row: Austin Cottingham, William Spoehr

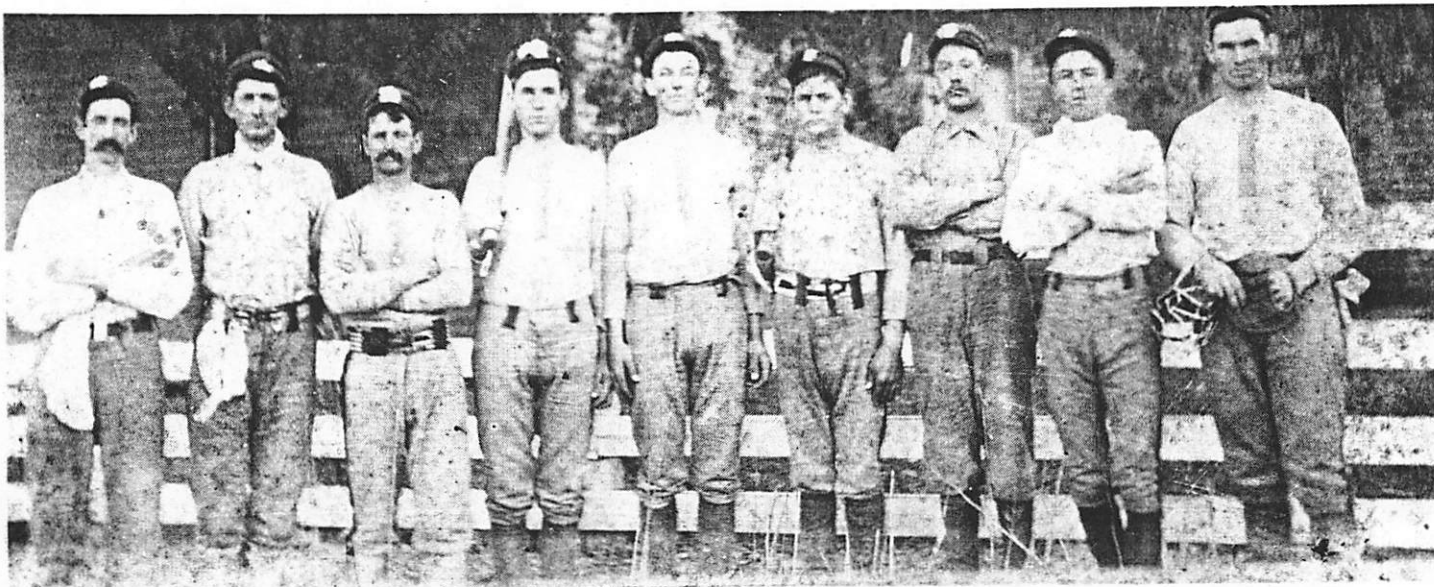
Second Row: Bill Gardner, Greene Fitzhugh, Harry Jones

Third Row: Anthony Dishman, Mr. Leaker, Jew Schoepflin, Yaney McGhee



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ROBARDS INDEPENDENT BASEBALL TEAM, 1894

This team was organized only a few years after Anthony Doubleday's development of modern baseball. Specific identification is unknown but the team was composed of: Made Eakins, Nay Eakins, Issih Eakins, Dace Howard, Wilford Howard, N.K. Toy, Dink Currey, Thomas Young and Bayne Eblen.



1894 HENDERSON ATHLETIC CLUB

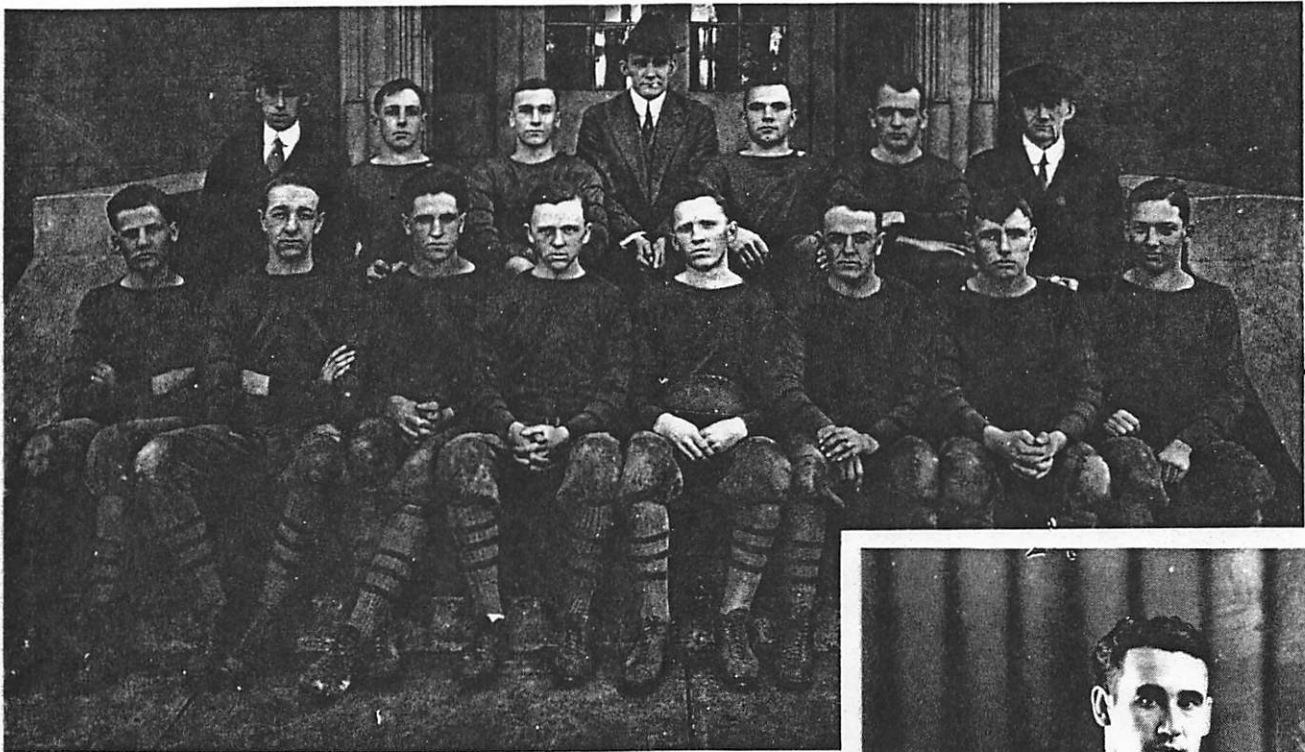
Composed of many players who had already completed successful college careers on such teams as Sewanee and University of Michigan. Some names have been lost over the years.

First Row: 1. Unknown, 2. Charles Heineman, 3. Pete Soaper, 4. Unknown

Second Row: 1. Richard Stites, 2. Unknown, 3. B.G. Witt, 4. Jim Rash, 5. --- Johnson, 6. Irving Larue, 7. --- Eblen.

Third Row: 1. Unknown, 2. David Clark, 3., 4., 5., Unknowns, 6. Larkin White, 7. Robert Michaels.

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WSON



B.M.T.H.S. FOOTBALL TEAM, 1915

First Row: Greene Fitzhugh, Sam Lambert, Burno Cecil, Lockett Robards, Marvin Eblen, Shelby Elliott, Davis Eblen, Harry Jones

Second Row: Jew Schoepflin, Austin Cottingham, William Spoehr, Mr. Babb, John Ed Eblen, Bill Gardner, Mr. Leaker

WEIGHT LIFTER

Robert Mitchell from Henderson, represented the United States in the 1936 Olympics at Berlin, Germany, as weight lifter. This was the year that Jesse Owens refused to give Hitler the Nazi salute.

CORYDON FOOTBALL TEAM, 1914

First Row: Albert "Happy" Chandler, Ralph Gibbson

Second Row: Roger Proctor, Basil Raymond, Charles Cates, Robert Hughes, Joe Brown, Owen Stapp, Shirley Sheffer.

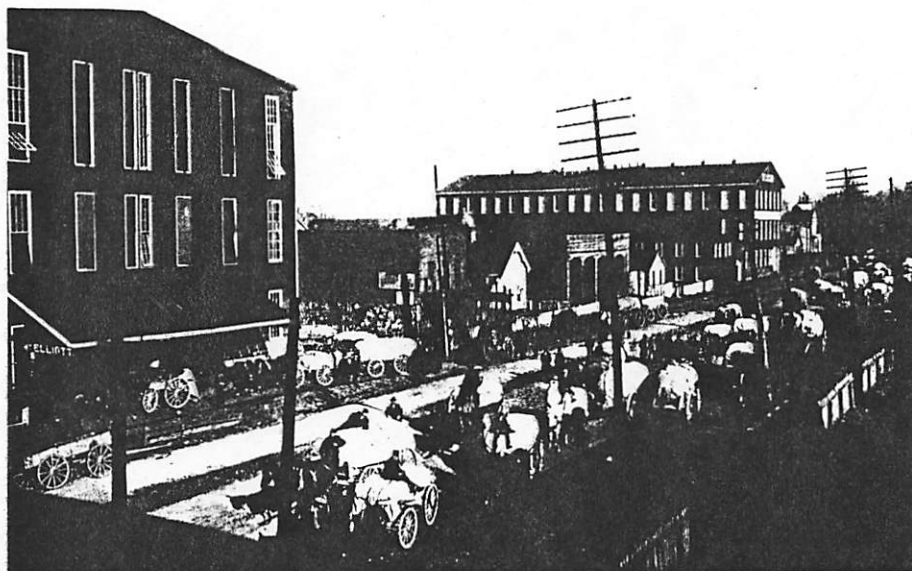
Third Row: Cinnamon Veach, Gip Hancock, Byron Tapp, Van Clark, Albert Schnabel.

Not Shown: Jack Allen, Felix Anderson



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ALLES BROTHERS

... Rich Farm Land



Delivering Tobacco at Henderson

TOBACCO

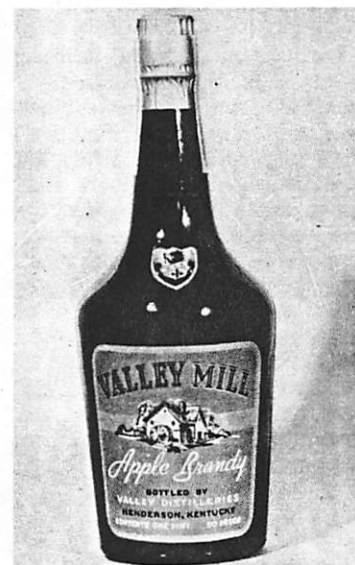
As far back as 1792, Henderson was the largest tobacco growing county in the state. At that time tobacco was the equal of money in every respect; one pound being accepted in lieu of one penny current money in Kentucky.

At first it was shipped by hogshead down the Ohio. Then stemmeries were erected and farmers could deliver loose tobacco by wagon. In addition to those in the city, 27 factories were built in the county. A typical example was J.T. Hust who had three tobacco factories, one each at Cash Creek, Ranger's Landing, and Curdsville in Daviess County.

Henderson was the "Dark Tobacco Capital" of the world and estimated acreage ranges from 40,000 to 75,000. It is reliably reported that 40 million pounds were sold annually at the turn of the century. In the twenties, when Great Britain placed restrictive taxes on tobacco, the market declined rapidly.



J. T. Hust

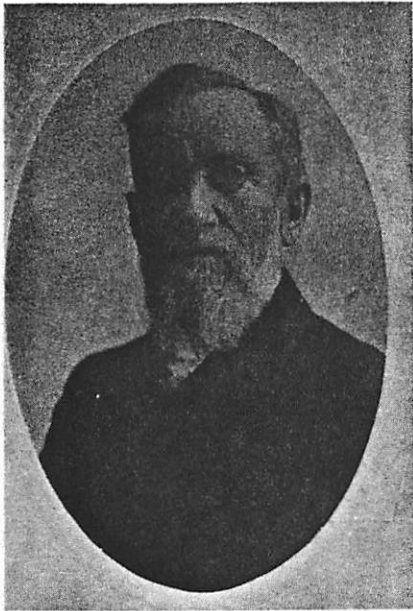


W. A. Sandefur, Jr.



ORCHARDING

The first large-scale orchard reported in Henderson history is that of Elias D. Powell, brother of Governor Lazarus Powell. He planted a hundred acres of apple trees on his farm near Smith Mills, half in crabs and half in seedlings. He blended the juice to make a fine grade of apple brandy that was shipped from "New York Landing" on the Ohio to all parts of the country.



Rev. Edwin McCollom

Rev. Edwin McCollom, who retired from the ministry at age 52 because of a health problem, lived to establish orcharding in Henderson on a commercial basis and to earn the title of "Father of Kentucky Horticulture", to quote a university professor of horticulture. Starting with ten acres of apples near Wilson Station, he made a scientific study of the subject (although prejudiced toward the Winesap!) and soon was selling apples by the carload. He passed his knowledge on to others and Henderson county planted 5000 acres to apples. Then the trucking industry began bringing in apples from Michigan, a state with a better climate for apples. Recognizing this trend, Frank Street and Ben Niles began pushing peaches and for a while both fruits were major crops.

W.A. Sandefur, a nurseryman at Robards, developed and trademarked the Polly Eades apple, a summer apple that is remarkable for flavor, shipping stamina and keeping qualities.

FIELD CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

In addition to fruit, Henderson has led the state in production of corn, popcorn, hogs and soybeans. The 60,000 acres along the 110 miles of the Ohio and Green rivers have always been known as corn land. As early as 1856, Indiana papers were describing the 16-foot corn growing in Henderson county. It was here that herbicide was first used in cornfields. (see picture)



Donald Martin

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES AND EXTENSION SERVICE

Henderson farmers had worked through co-operatives since the "Wheelers" of the 1880's, but it was with the coming of the first county agent in 1912 (The first in the state) that the Extension Service furnished leadership for the organizations. Soon the county was leading the state in Farm Bureau memberships and its 4-H Club members were winning state and national honors. Donald Martin, farm agent from 1921-27, pushed the 4-H Clubs into prominence and is an example of the fine agents Henderson has had since then: J.M. Dyer, H.R. Jackson, Arthur Williams, Stuart Brabant, William Hendrick.

H. R. Jackson, Joe King and Visitor Examine Corn Field



Sponsored by

TAPP FUNERAL HOME

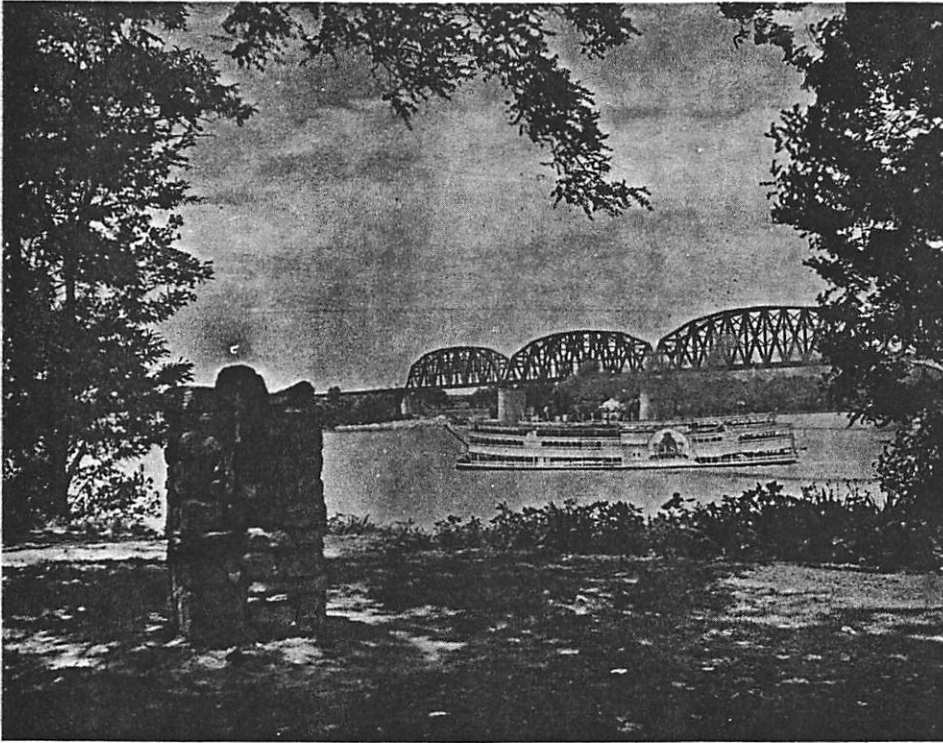


Before "Pam" was invented, or Japan began importing soybeans, Henderson County farmers united to build the Ohio Valley Soybean Co-Op. The method of delivery has changed but the flow of grain continues to lead Kentucky's production.

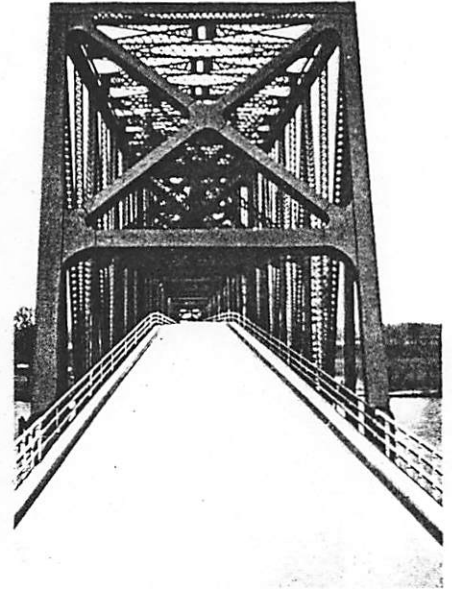
The first rural electric system to be energized in the state was connected on the Frank Street farm in October, 1937.



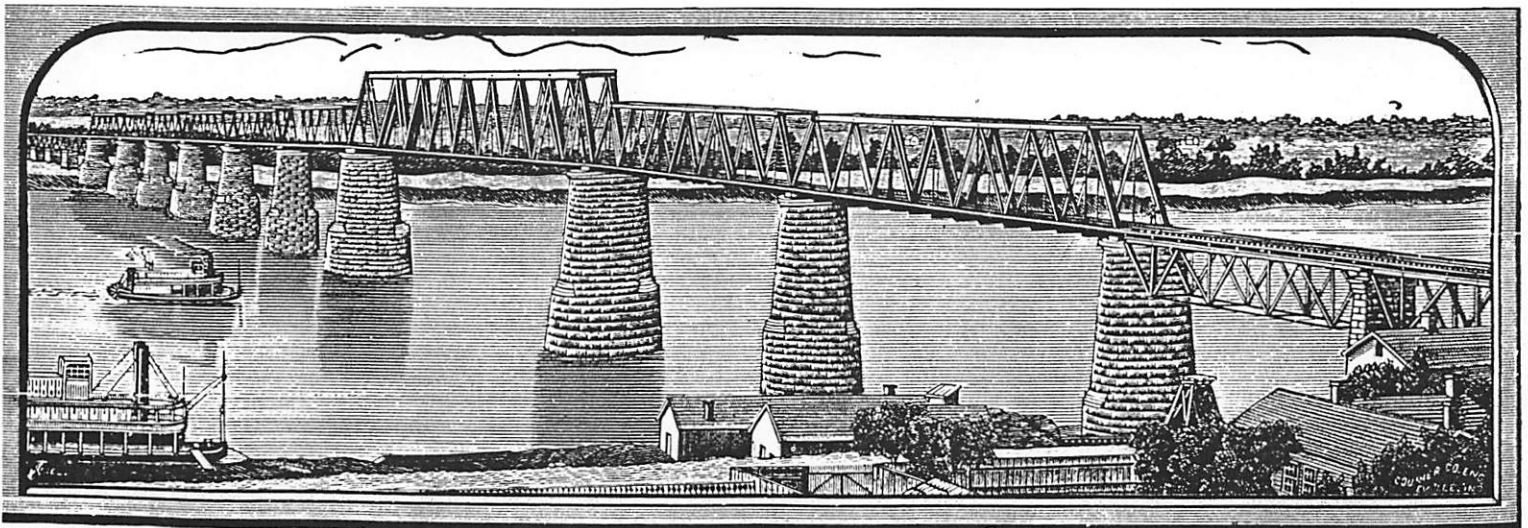
... Transportation by Water and Land



A Ewing Galloway Photo taken from Audubon Mill Park

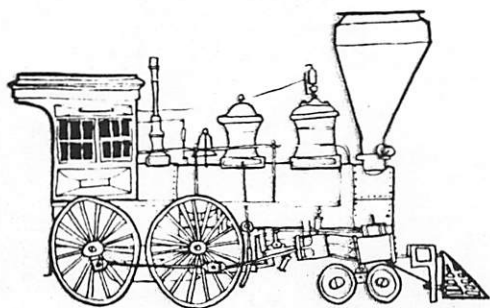


Highway Bridge built in 1932



First L&N Bridge opened in 1885

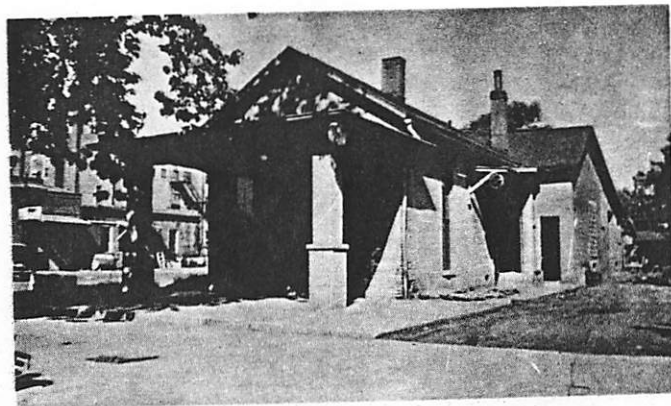
Sponsored by
FARMERS BANK & TRUST CO.



RAILWAYS

Henderson citizens organized companies and bought bonds for years before a serviceable railroad was ever constructed. In 1856 Lazarus W. Powell was elected president of the Henderson & Nashville Railroad. A few blocks of track were laid along Fourth street and Young E. Allison reported that small boys enjoyed the one handcar placed on it. After the War, the road was completed to Madisonville in March, 1869.

In 1889 a street railway was built with cars drawn by teams of mules wearing jingling bells. In 1894, the city permitted the company to change to electricity provided the cars not exceed 12 miles per hour.

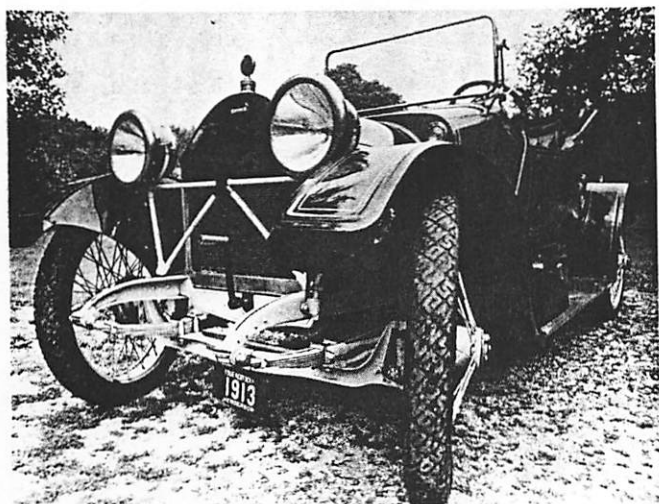


HOW TO SAIL AN INTERURBAN

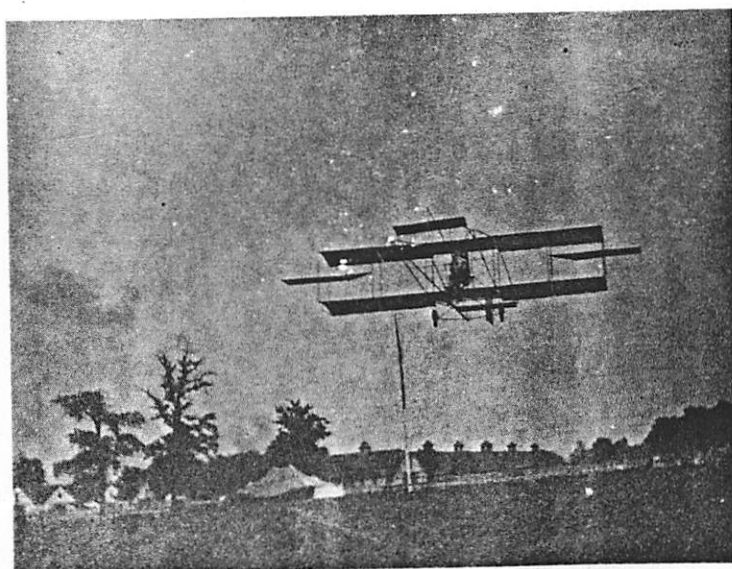
An Indianapolis paper carried a story with this title about the traction system between Henderson and Evansville from 1912 to 1928. It was one of the few interurban ferries ever operated in North America. The company leased tracks from the I.C. Railroad which it had used before it was admitted on the L&N bridge.

Rails ran down the bank to low water level where they joined a floating cradle 150 feet long, capable of holding two cars. Cars were edged onto this cradle which was then locked into position against the ferry. The river passage required 12 minutes of the 45-minute run in normal weather. Dinner bells were used to keep it on course at night.

Paul Sheets, Sr. recalled a day when a northern gale blew the ferry downstream and into the Kentucky bank. It was carrying a freight car and 40 or 50 passengers. When the passengers became hungry, the captain, R.S. Moats, and engineer, R.L. Duke, used chickens from the freight car to make burgoo for them.

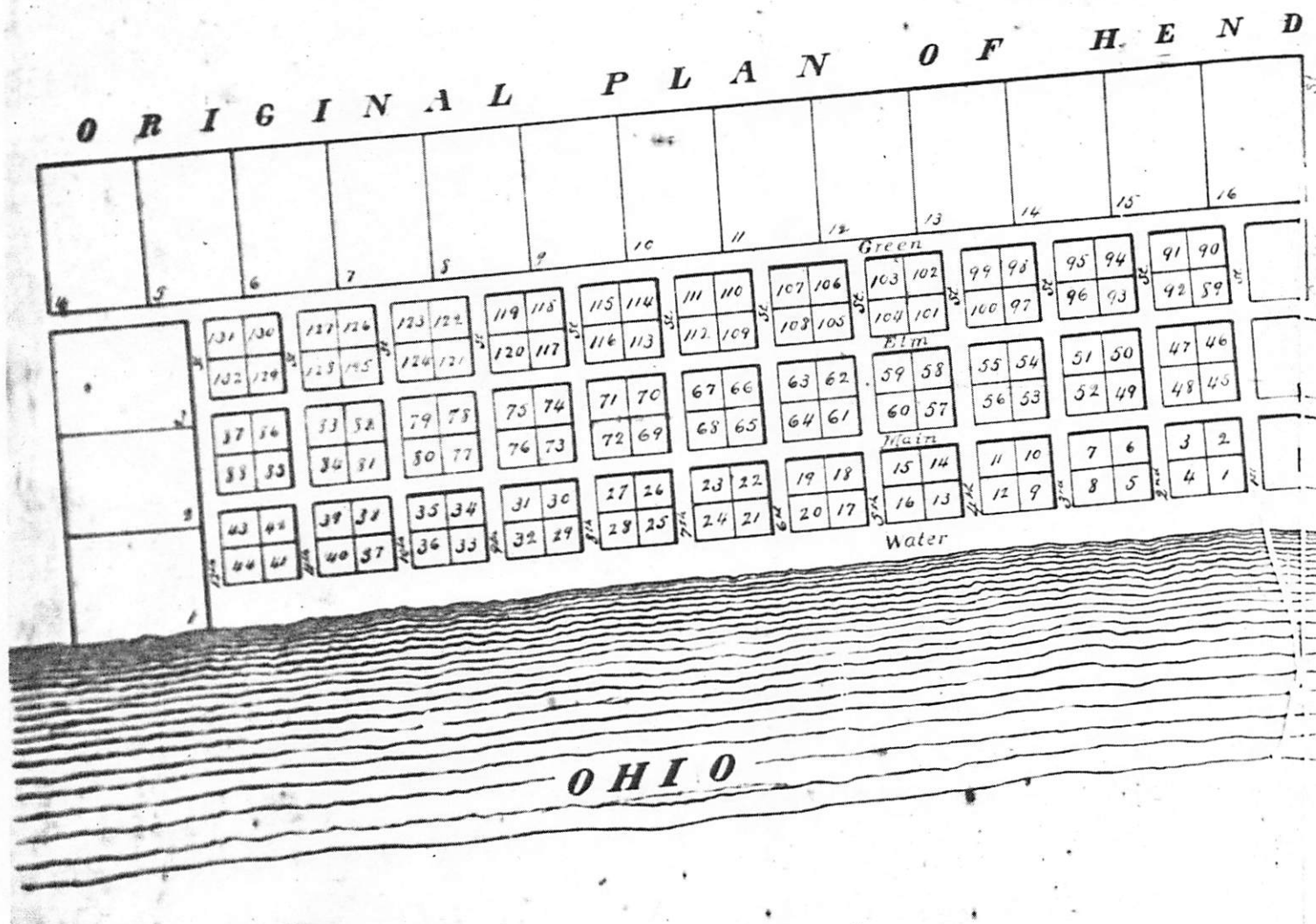


Early "Henderson" Car Restored by
Prentice Brown; Built in 1912



First Henderson Airplane
Flown by Baxter Adams

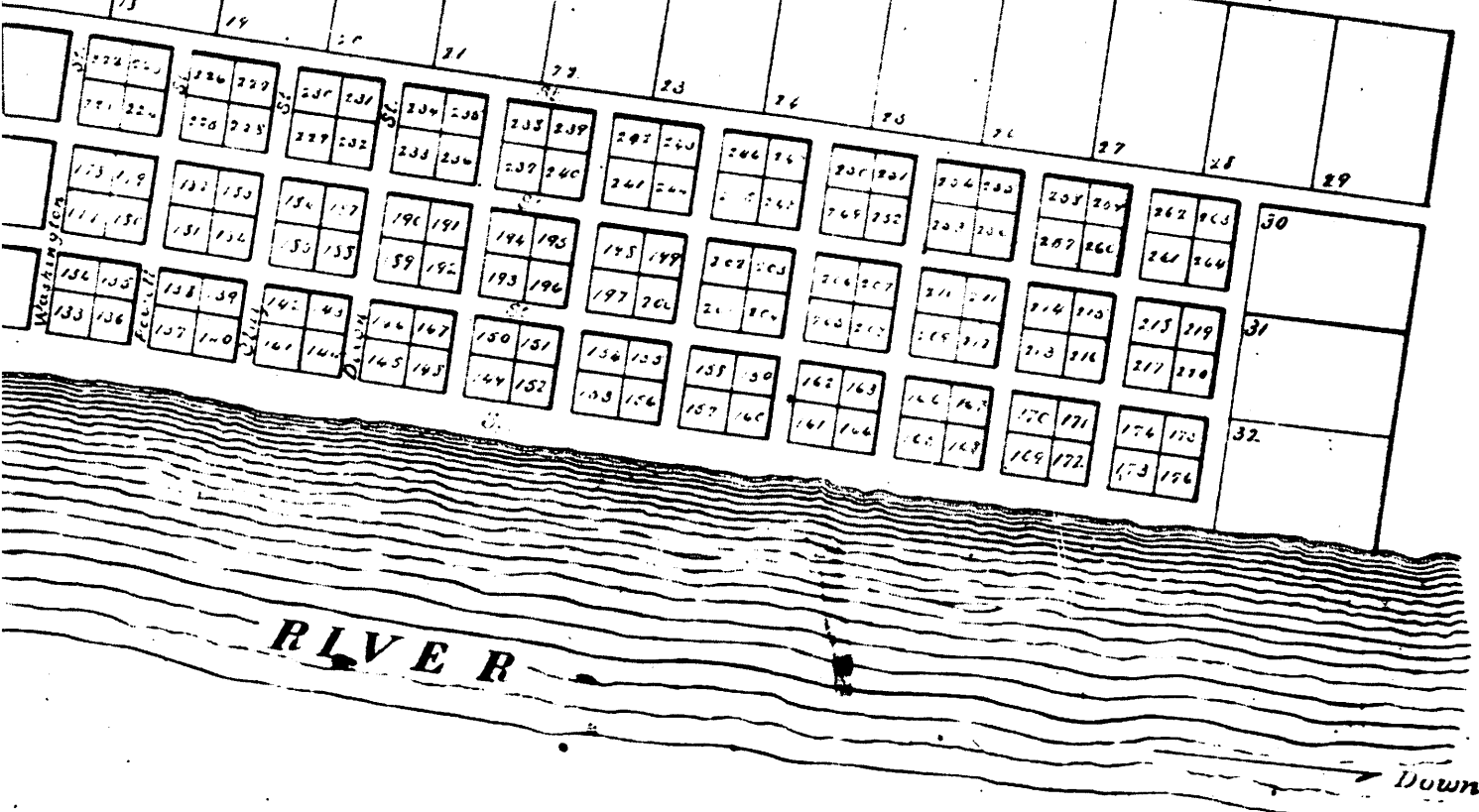
Sponsored by
SEARS IN EAST GATE



LOTS GIVEN MEN WHO SETTLED BEFORE 1794

Lot No.	Location	First Owner	Present Owner (Resident)
3	SW Cor. 2nd & Main	Eneas McCallister	Soaper Hotel (Audubon Inn)
4	SE Cor. 2nd & Water	John McCallister	Greyhound Bus Station
5	NE Cor. 2nd & Water	James Worthington	Plaza Bar
6	NW Cor. 2nd & Main	John McComb	Temporary City Bldg.
7	SW Cor. 3rd & Main	William Lawrence	Old Y.M.C.A.
8	SE Cor. 3rd & Water	Hugh Knox	Imperial Building
9	NE Cor. 3rd & Water	John Walker	C.B.S. Dress Co.
10	NW Cor. 3rd & Main	Jacob Barnett	Elk's Club
11	SW Cor. 4th & Main	Dunn's Heirs	Dave Hart
15	SW Cor. 5th & Main	Elias Griffith	Herman Sheffer
16	SE Cor. 5th & Water	John Knight	Ohio Valley Provision
17	NE Cor. 5th & Water	Jacob Upp	S.W. Langley
20	SE Cor. 6th & Water	Michael Sprinkle, Sr.	Henderson Water Works
21	NE Cor. 6th & Water	Michael Sprinkle, Jr.	Vacant lot
50	SE Cor. 2nd & Elm	Mathew Dobbin	Quinn's Corner Store
51	SW Cor. 3rd & Elm	Jonathan Anthony	Henderson Home Federal

PERSON AND OUT LOTS



Lot No.	Location	First Owner	Present Owner (Resident)
52	SE Cor. 3rd & Main	John Simpson	Electrolux Sales & Service
53	NE Cor. 3rd & Main	Joseph Sorthington	Big Rivers RECC
54	NW Cor. 3rd & Elm	Humphrey Barnet	Gibson's Automotive
55	SW Cor. 4th & Elm	Samuel Bradley	Residential
60	SE Cor. 5th & Main	John Hewitt (Assignee for Husband)	Mrs. J.T. Armstrong
61	NE Cor. 5th & Main	Michael Heay	Vacant (Ray Preston)
62	NW Cor. 5th & Elm	Willis Oldham	Trinity Lutheran Ch.

EARLY PURCHASERS OF LOTS

1	NE Cor. 1st & Water	John Hart	Hecht Lackey
18	NW Cor. 5th & Main	Eneas McCallister	Effie Vaughn
22	NW Cor. 6th & Main	Eneas McCallister	William Elliott
71	SW Cor. 8th & Elm	John Jordan	Armory
82,83,	11th, Main, & Elm	Jonathan Anthony	Clore Court
84.84			
88	SE Cor. 12th & Main	George Grant	Pearl Ayres Lowe
95	SW Cor. 3rd & Green	John J. Audubon	First Methodist Church
138	SW Cor. Powell & Main	Evans Bennett	E. Lambert Farmer

The Forward Flow of Time

... Introduced Industry

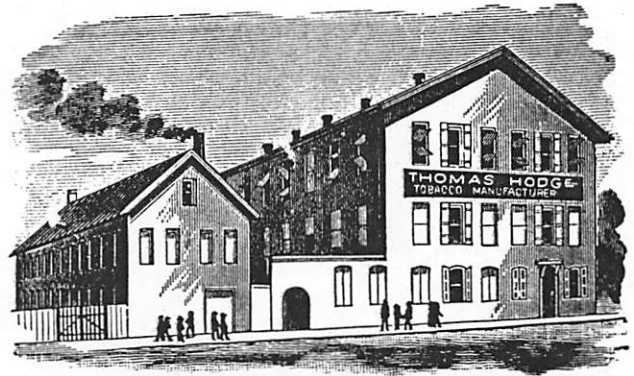


HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

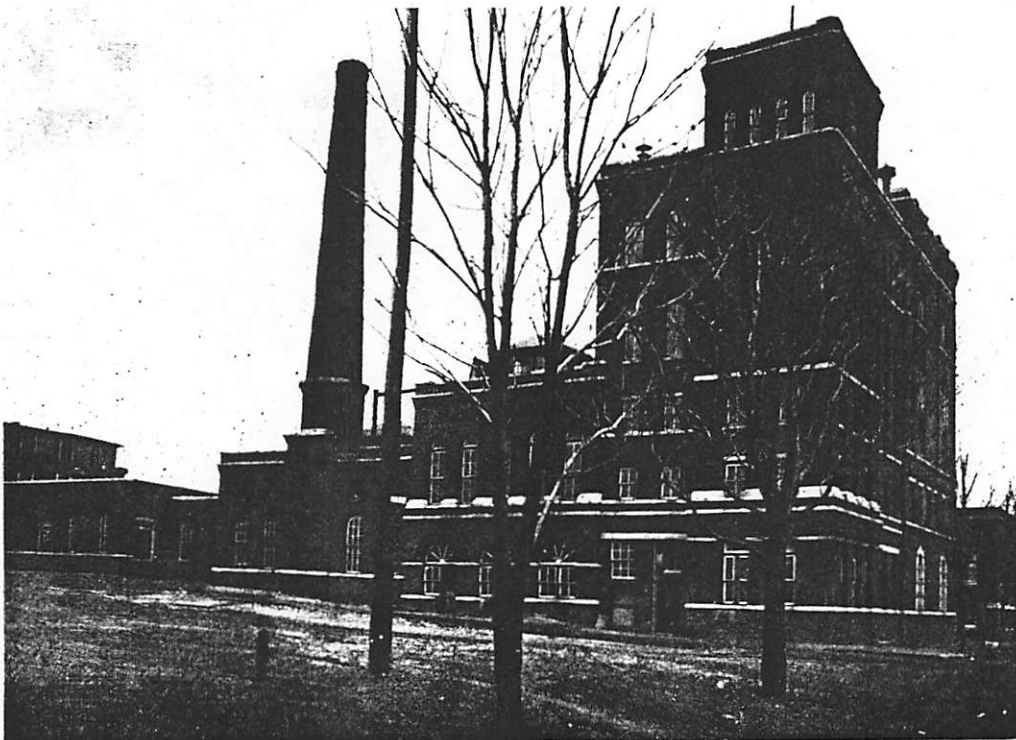
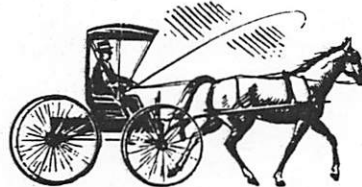
Henderson's earliest industry was tobacco exporting as noted under agriculture. Twice Henderson has been recognized as a wealthy city because of fortunes tobacco built: in 1860 it was listed as second wealthiest city in the world, next to Heidelberg, Germany; just before World War I, it was reported to have the highest per capita representation of millionaires.

Distilleries and buggy factories were the next important industries. D.R. Burbank built the first true whiskey distillery about 1867. He was followed by Oakland Distillery, Hill and Winstead, Withers Dade and Company, E.W. Worsham and Company. This latter company was sold to Henry Kraver who could produce 200 barrels per day. The 18th amendment closed this industry. Three buggy and wagon factories (With the name Delker predominating) operated successfully until the advent of the automobile.

Textile manufactures began in the 1880's with Henderson Woolen Mills organized in 1882 and noted for "Kentucky Jeans", and the Henderson Cotton Mill, one of the largest in the West, commenced work in 1885.

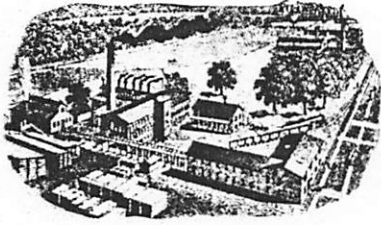


Thos. Hodge's Tobacco Factory



Henderson Brewing Company

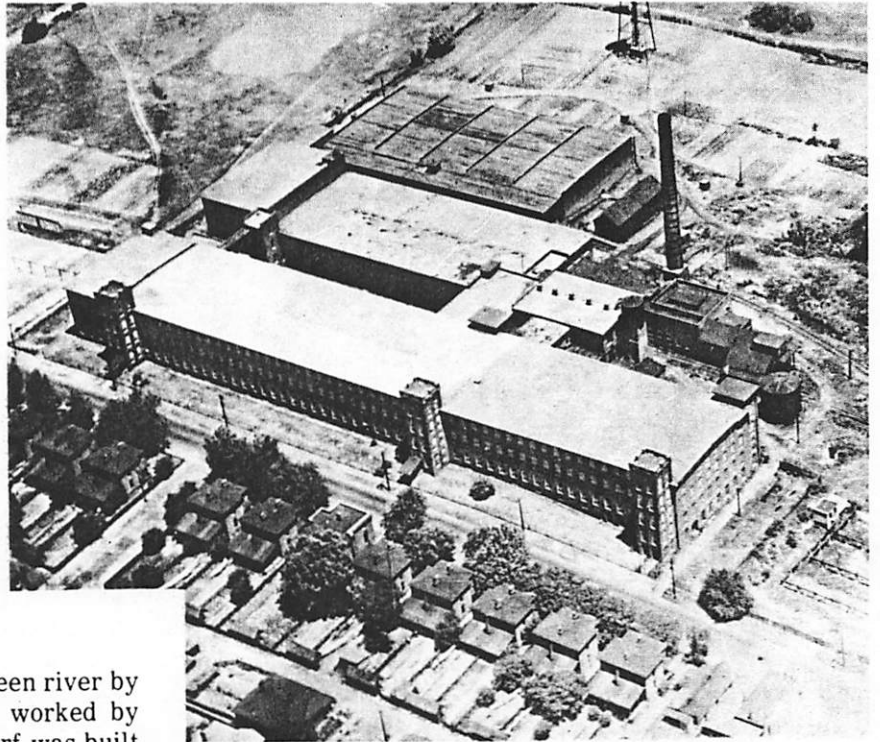
Sponsored by
GLENER PRINT SHOP



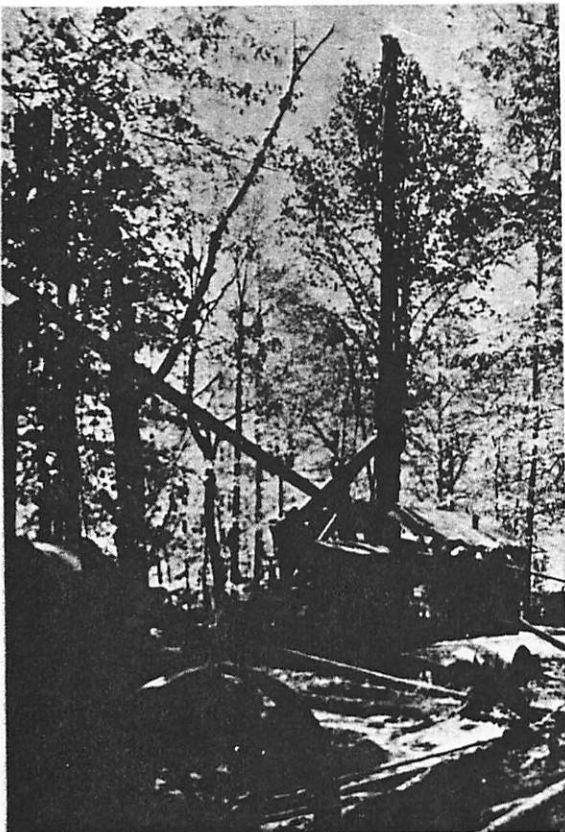
COAL AND OIL

As early as 1826 coal was brought down Green river by barge from out-croppings that were easily worked by pitting. The first coal tipple on the river wharf was built in 1870.

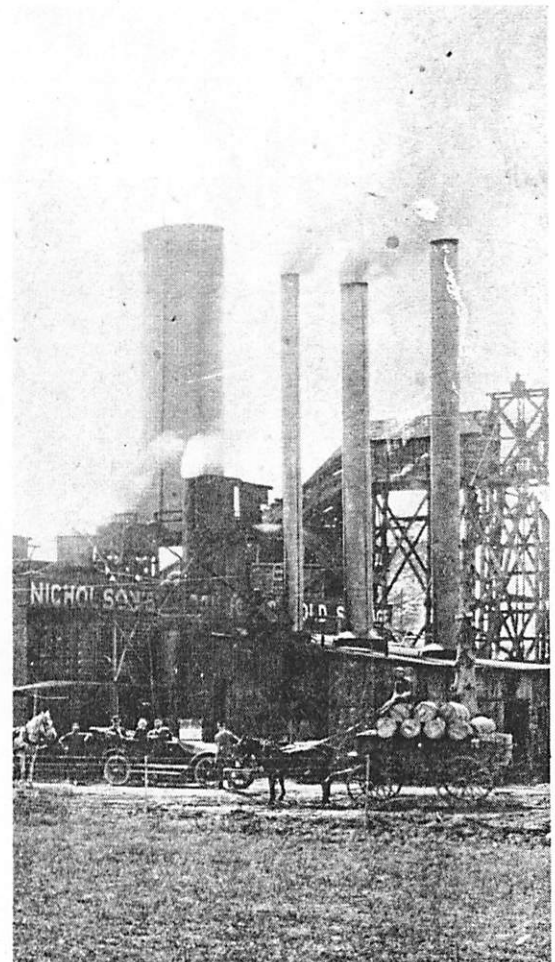
The first producing oil well was discovered near Niagara in 1926-27. The drilling of a gusher on C.T. Blackwell farm east of Hebbardsville in 1938 brought an oil boom which in fourteen years brought a peak of 12,500,000 barrels, roughly 6½% of all oil in the U.S.



Cotton Mill



First Gusher in Henderson County



Nicholson Coal Mine

... Established Communication



EARLY NEWSPAPERS

The first newspaper, the **Columbian** was established in 1823 with William R. Abbott as publisher and Josh Cunningham as printer. A copy of it for March 15, 1828, is on display at the Audubon Museum. Beginning in 1841 this paper was printed for several years in a frame printing office on the Public Square.

Two papers were printed during the Civil War, the **Henderson News** and the **Reporter**. 'Because of its strong secessionist views, the **Reporter** suspended publication as "a sort of military necessity". Later it was purchased and removed to Sardis, Mississippi.

In 1885, Henderson had three newspapers: **The News** with Ben Harrison as publisher and editor, **The Journal** with Hon. M. Yeaman and E.L. Starling as editors, and the **Gleaner**, founded and published by C.C. Givens.



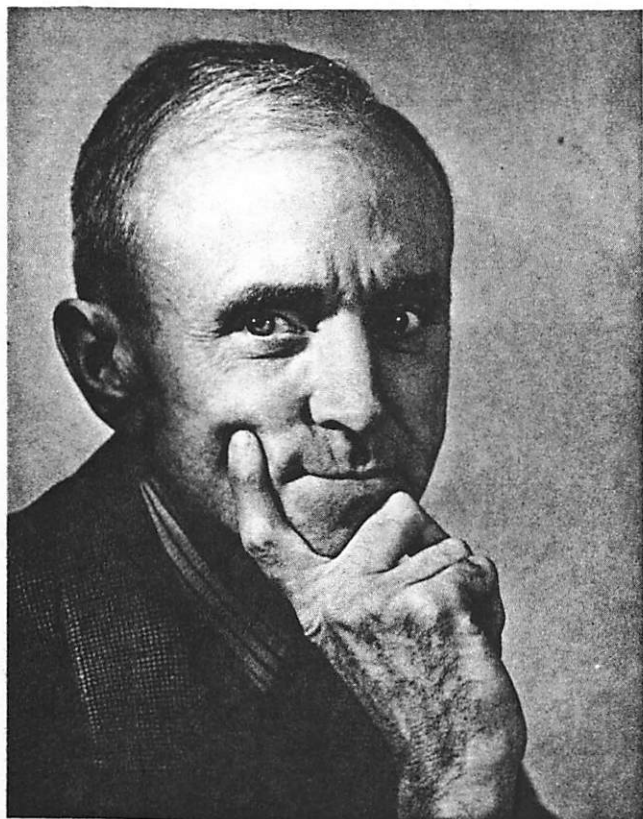
Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Harris

In 1909 Leigh Harris moved to Henderson "to run a newspaper." He brought with him his wife, Jane, and two daughters: Pat, aged 5 and Francele, aged 3. Before the next half-century was over all four had helped "run a newspaper". Starting with the bankrupt **Journal**, he built it up until he was able to join forces with **The Gleaner** published by C.C. Givens. Later he gained control of both papers and moved them to 216 North Elm.

"Mamajane" collected during the early days and read proof until the day of her death. In 1937 Francele Armstrong, the younger daughter, began writing a column for the paper and as her father slowed with age, she gradually assumed other duties until 1950 when she became editor and publisher.

Ewing Galloway

Ewing Galloway, a Henderson native who became nationally famous, grew up in the Dixie community. His first writing was as reporter for the **Gleaner**. Later he moved to New York where he continued to write until he was able to establish an agency for handling photographs. For years his pictures were carried in many textbooks and magazines. After retirement, he returned to Henderson county and wrote the column, "Molehills and Mountains" for the **Gleaner**.



Sponsored by
THE GLEANER

THE NEWSBOY

How long newsboys have been delivering the paper to the doorstep is not known, but in 1899 they presented their customers with an attractive booklet, "Songs of the Carrier Boys".

A NEW MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

In the 1920's radio receiving sets became plentiful, but it was Bethel Brown who built the first sending set. In 1941 Hecht Lackey brought the first broadcasting station to this area. The picture below shows the main studio when WSON went on the air on December 17, 1941.

Hugh Edward Sandefur, a bedfast invalid, linked the two media by acting as reporter for the *Gleaner* and announcer for WSON.

THE HENDERSON DAILY GLEANER

SONGS OF THE CARRIER BOYS.

1899.



COMPLIMENTS OF THE CARRIER BOY.



...Furnished Entertainment



FROM SHOWBOATS TO MOVIES

Entertainment, in one form or another, played a great part in the history of Henderson, from the early days to the present. Inns and taverns were opened as early as 1794 for gathering places for the travelers and the men of the town. The first hotel, the "Spiedel House" was opened in 1827, with a dining room and a public hall. Dancing seemed to have been very popular in the early days and the records of the old Grave Creek church show that several of their members were dismissed because they had been dancing. The young ladies attending one of the Private Schools in Henderson were taught music and dancing.

Before the turn of the century, theatres began to be opened and the people of Henderson had the opportunity of seeing the best of shows. At that time, three railroads came into Henderson and this became the official stop-over for all shows traveling in all directions. During these stop-overs many of the finest shows played at the new theatres and Henderson soon became known as the "Best Show Town" in this area.

The first theatre was the Gabe Opera House, located on First Street between Main and Elm. Plays from New York were featured and season tickets were sold for \$25.00 per seat. Another theatre was connected with the Barret House, a fine hotel, on the corner of Main and First Streets. The theatre and the Hotel burned sometime before 1900. The Park Theatre, located on Main Street opposite Central Park, was considered the most beautiful theatre this side of Chicago. This theatre also burned but was rebuilt on the same site about 1900. The new building was not as beautiful as the original Park Theatre but the acoustics were perfect. It was considered one of the finest theatres for the presentation of plays in the country. It seated 900 people and was sold out many times. It was named the "Grand".

In both the Park and later the Grand theatres the best of entertainment was presented. Companies came from the Metropolitan Opera in New York with their fine

singers and some of the great Operas were performed. Many Light Opera and Musical companies gave such plays as the "Bohemian Girl" -- "The Girl of the Golden West" -- "Heart Breakers" and "In Old Kentucky". Among the long list of road shows that played in Henderson were -- George M. Cohan's "Seven Keys to Baldpate" -- Jerome Kern's, "Oh, Lady, Lady" -- Irving Berlin's, "Stop, Look, and Listen". Other shows were "Abie's Irish Rose", the show that had the longest run on Broadway. "Wild Fire", featuring the greatest of actresses, Lillian Russell. Jane Cowl, the fine stage star from New York gave delightful performances. The temperamental Eva Tanguay played here and becoming upset slashed the front curtain with her large diamond ring.

Al G. Field came each year with his "Minstrels", always giving a fine parade down the streets of Henderson with the band and the "Minstrel Men", ending with a noon concert on the corner of Second and Main Streets. Buffalo Bill's "Circus and Wild West Show" and George White's "Scandals" came many times and were always enjoyed.

Another form of entertainment in the early days was the "Show Boats". These boats of great beauty and glamour came down the Ohio River yearly and docked at the end of Second Street. There was always a grand concert given on the calliope, also a parade of the performers around town. Then a fine performance of the old fashioned "Melodrama" was given afternoon and night.

The excursion boat, John S. Hopkins, make round trips to Evansville, Ind. every Sunday in the summer, featuring good bands for dancing and often plays and home talent shows. People gathered on the banks of the Ohio and in the adjoining park, awaiting the return of the John S. Hopkins. The long wait was always rewarded by a concert of the band or the calliope.

In the 1880s there was a German singing society of several hundred voices in Henderson under the direction of Professor J.M. Bach. This group met in the Liederkrantz Hall, located on the second floor of the building on the corner of Second and Elm Streets. This singing group was one of the glories of Henderson.

Later there were the home-talent shows -- the great Elk's Minstrels -- Freida Klauder Finn's dancers and their recitals. The Henderson Choral Club gave musicals and later the Henderson Music Club presented fine programs under the leadership of Professor Harry Von Tobel.

Of course the Circus cannot be forgotten. The best came to Henderson many times and was always enjoyed. The greatest performers of the Circus world thrilled and delighted the citizens under the big top.

Very early, the movies came to Henderson. Some of the first movie-houses were the Savoy -- the Nickelodeon -- the Lyric and then the Princess and the Grand. The movies with Charlie Chaplin--William S. Hart--The Gish sisters -- Mary Pickford -- all of the early movies were shown. A premier showing of that spectacular -- "The Birth of the Nation" was at the Grand Theatre with Johnny Huhlein's orchestra in the pit. Tickets for this event were \$1.25 per person.

Johnny Huhlein had the most outstanding band and orchestra in the tri-state. His orchestra played for professional productions and the old silent movies. Mrs. Walter Quinn (Melicent B.) was the pianist for this orchestra. She was among the first movie pianists to provide "mood" music to illustrate the action of the silent movies. Mrs. Quinn took an active part in all musical activities in Henderson.

Huhlein's Band had the honor of going to Frankfort to play for the inauguration of A.O. Stanley as Governor, in 1915.

Entertainment, Kentucky style, has always been the "Horse Racing". From the very first days, horses were raced down the main street of Henderson. At the great County Fairs held annually at the old Fair Grounds, horse racing was the main event. On November 8, 1922, the "Dade Park" (now Ellis) Race course was opened with A.B. Dade as the official starter. The Green River Jockey Club planned and built the race track, with A.B. Dade, Lee Baskett, A.G. Crutchfield, D. Hilary Baskett and Bradley Wilson serving as directors.

There were many more great names, bands, orchestras and other forms of entertainment that gave to Henderson the very best that could be had.



W.C. HANDY The Father of the "Blues"

W.C. Handy was born in Florence, Alabama, in 1873. At an early age he was stranded in Henderson when a carnival he was traveling with, closed. He secured a job as janitor at the old Liederkrantz Hall where Prof. J.M. Bach was directing a singing group and listened and learned from the professor. He also worked for the Hamilton family who encouraged him in his music.

Handy formed his own band and played for dances and other events in Henderson. Here he met, and later married, Elizabeth Price, a Henderson native. After he became famous, he gave Henderson credit for his first inspiration for the Blues, although none was composed here.

After moving to Memphis, Handy wrote a song entitled "Mr. Crump" for a local election campaign. In 1912 this song appeared as "The Memphis Blues" and made musical history as the first "Blues" song ever published. He continued to write, record, and publish music, with "The St. Louis Blues" being his most famous song.

W.C. Handy came back to Henderson to help raise money to build the swimming pool named in his honor. In a musical program at the Kraver theatre, Handy played many of his famous songs and "Happy" Chandler, then Governor of Kentucky, sang along with him.

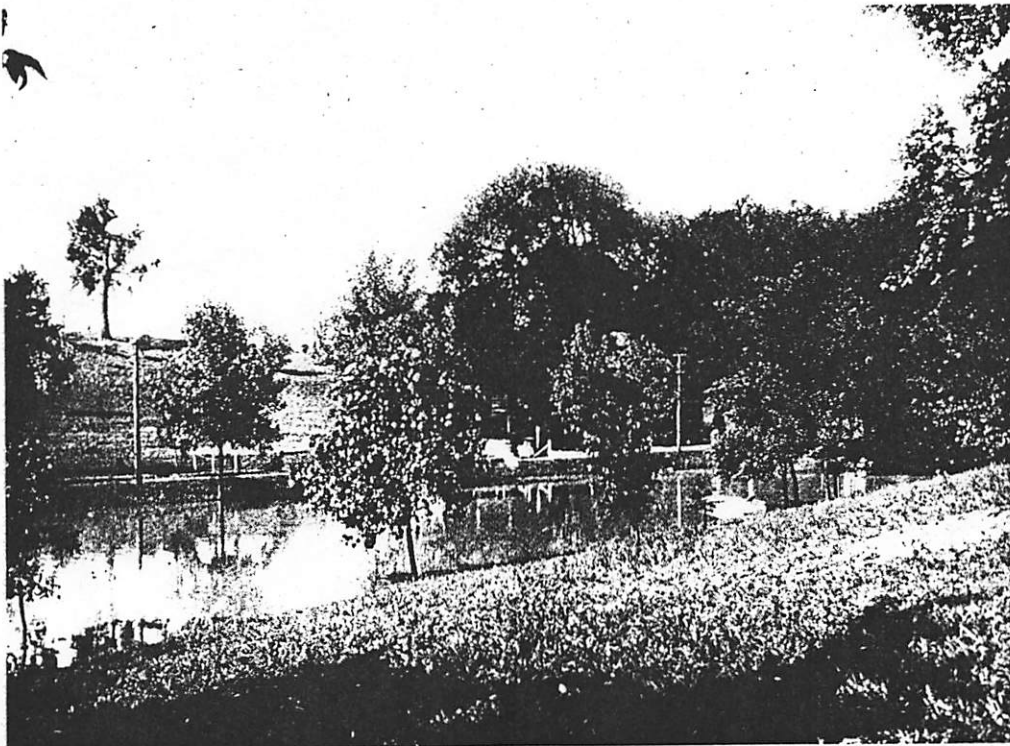
Handy became blind a number of years before his death in 1958. For years he had been known around the world as "Father of the Blues."



... Developed Restful Parks

TRANSYLVANIA PARK

Idea for fountain was first conceived by J.B. Johnston, city clerk from 1883-1887. James E. Rankin, Sr., brought back ideas from New York and fountain was completed in 1893 or 1894. The handsome band pavillion can be seen in background.



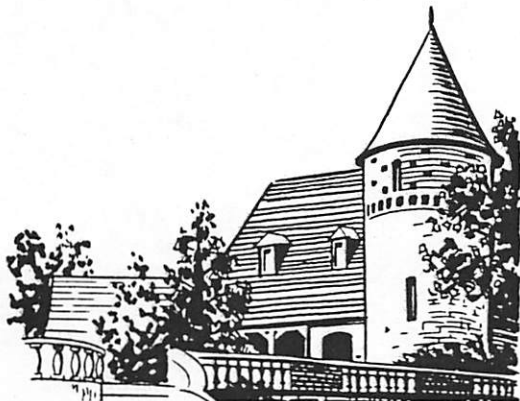
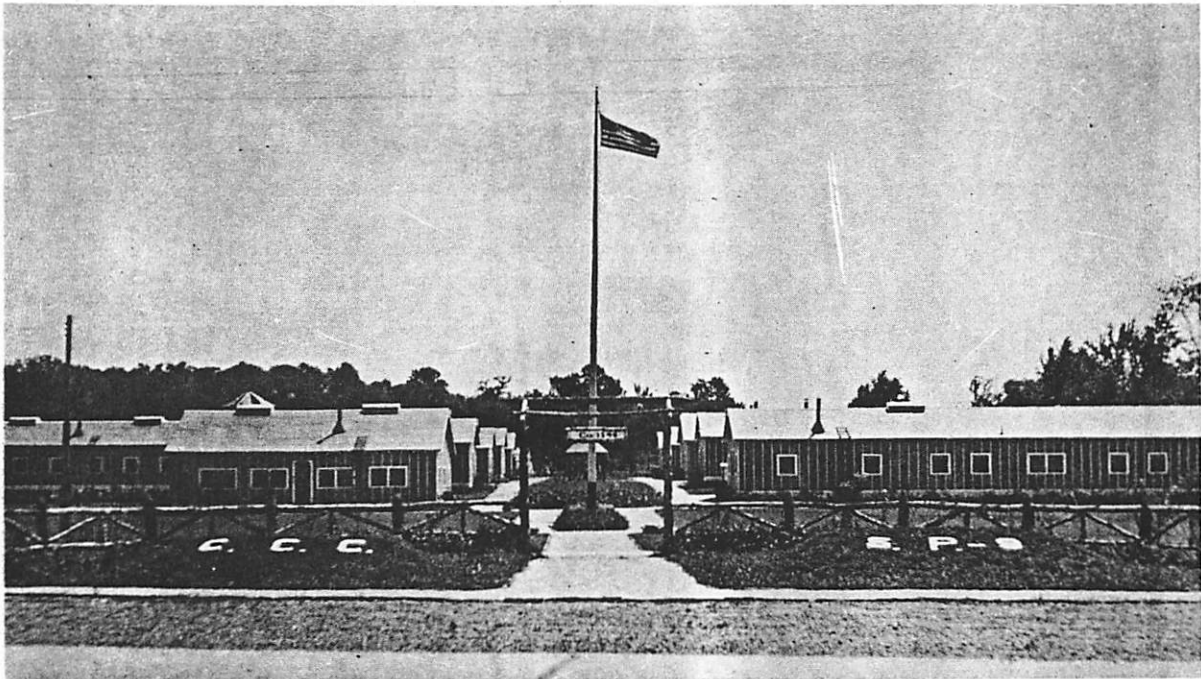
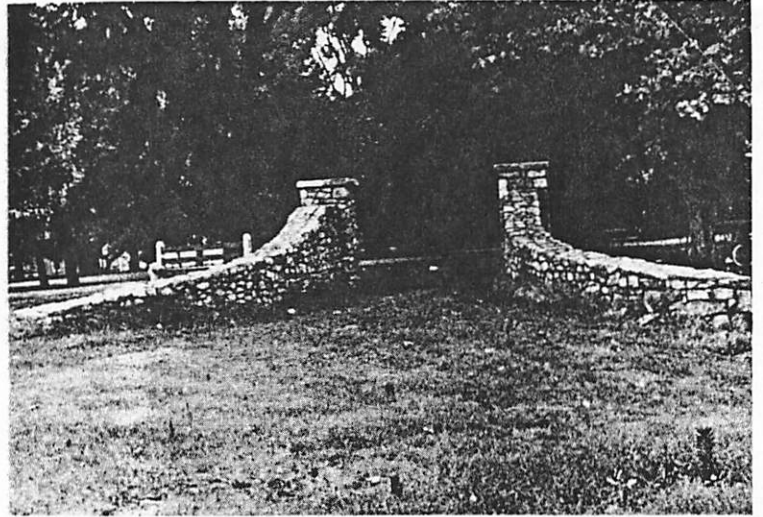
ATKINSON PARK

Atkinson Park, a wooded tract situated on a bluff overlooking the Ohio river, was founded by John C. Atkinson, former mayor of Henderson, and named in honor of him and his father.

Sponsored by
OHIO VALLEY NATIONAL BANK

Audubon Mill Park

This was the first memorial to John J. Audubon in Henderson. It lies just south of the riverfront and is the location of his famous mill. Just north of the riverfront is Sunset Park, formerly called Barret.

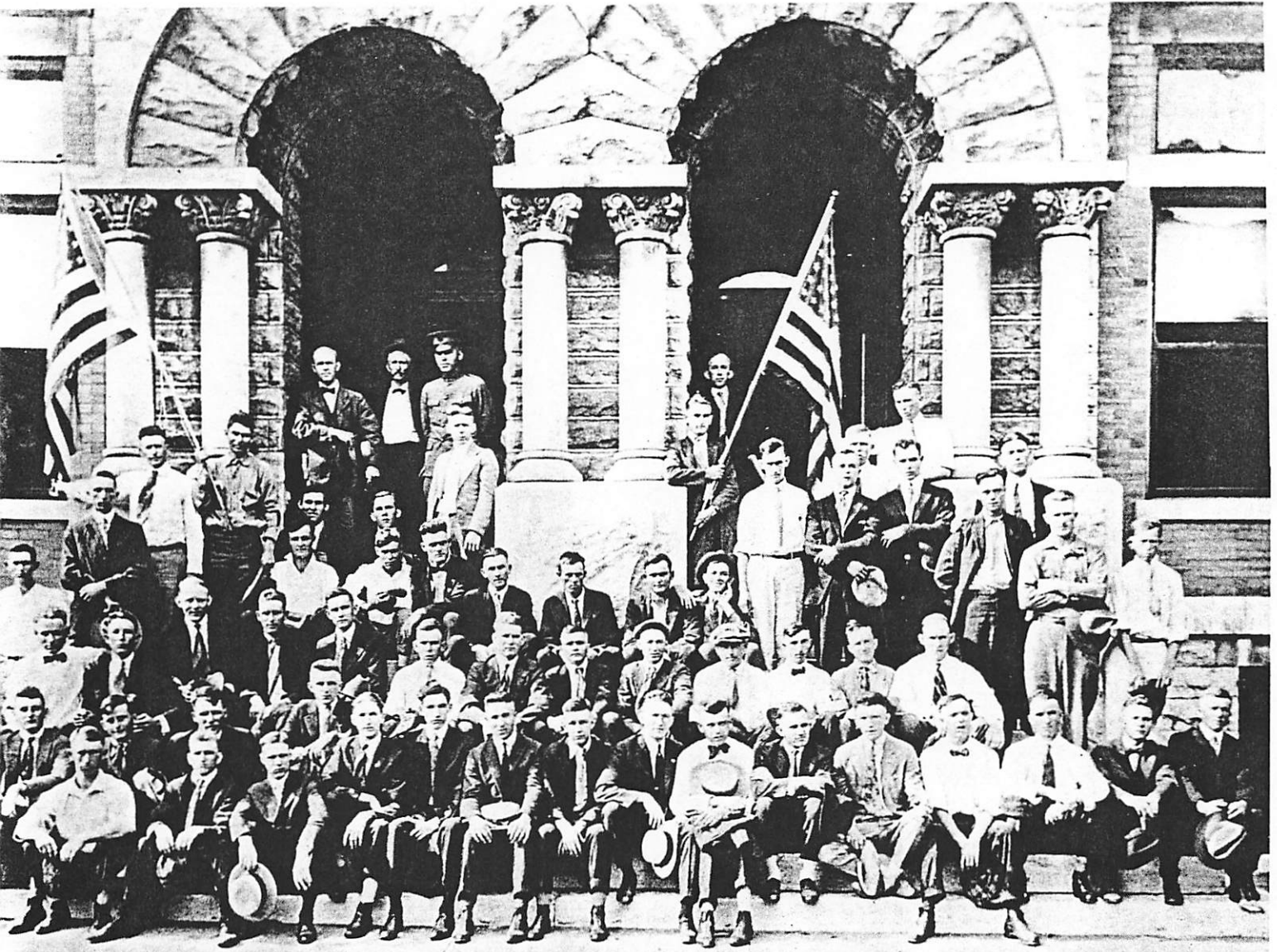


AUDUBON STATE PARK

Three miles north of Henderson is a 500-acre tract presented to the state by citizens of Henderson county in memory of John James Audubon. The original construction was done by men in the CCC Camp (shown above) in the 1930's.

In 1934, Emma Guy Cromwell, director of Kentucky State Parks joined forces with a group of citizens headed by N. Powell Taylor, Leigh Harris, Ben Niles, Mayor Lee Hurley and their wives to push for donations to the park. The park contains the Memorial Museum built in the French Norman style of architecture.

... Involved the Military



THE LAST CONTINGENCY OF MEN TO LEAVE HENDERSON FOR ARMY IN WORLD WAR I

HENDERSON'S WAR RECORD

The first man killed in the Mexican War was Philip Barbour from Henderson. First American killed in World War I enlisted from Evansville, but originally lived in Henderson county. In World War II, Henderson county exceeded all quotas in War Bond sales by a higher percentage than any other county in the nation.



Sponsored by
HENDERSON HOME FEDERAL



AN ADMIRAL AND A GENERAL

Rear Admiral Husbands Kimmel is shown standing next his ancestral home in Henderson. His ancestors were connected with Richard Henderson as early as 1770 when Herman Husband led the Regulators in disrupting Judge Henderson's court in North Carolina. Later the son, John Husband, settled at Red Banks before 1794. In turn his grandson, Manning Kimmel graduated from West Point and was Major when he resigned to join the Confederates. His great-grandson was jumped over 47 other admirals to be given the top Navy post in 1941.

The exploits of Gen. Adam Rankin Johnson in this county during the Civil War are well-known, especially the taking of Newburgh with fake cannon.



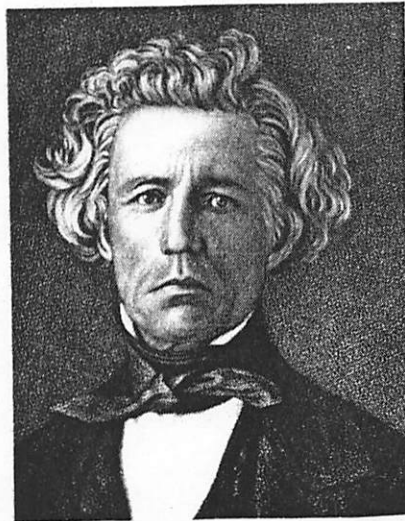
... Reached the Capital



LAZARUS POWELL
1812-1867
State Representative, 1836-38
Governor, 1851-1855
Commissioner to Utah, 1858
U.S. Senator, 1859-1860



AUGUSTUS OWSLEY STANLEY
1867-1919
U.S. Congress, 1902-14
Governor, 1914-1919
U.S. Senator, 1919-1925
Chairman of International
Boundary Commission



ARCHIBALD DIXON
1802-1876
State Representative, 1830-2
State Senator, 1836-1840
Lieutenant-Governor, 1844-1848
U.S. Senator, 1852-1855



JOHN YOUNG BROWN
1835-1904
U.S. Congressman, 1859-1861
U.S. Congressman, 1873-1877
Governor, 1891-1895



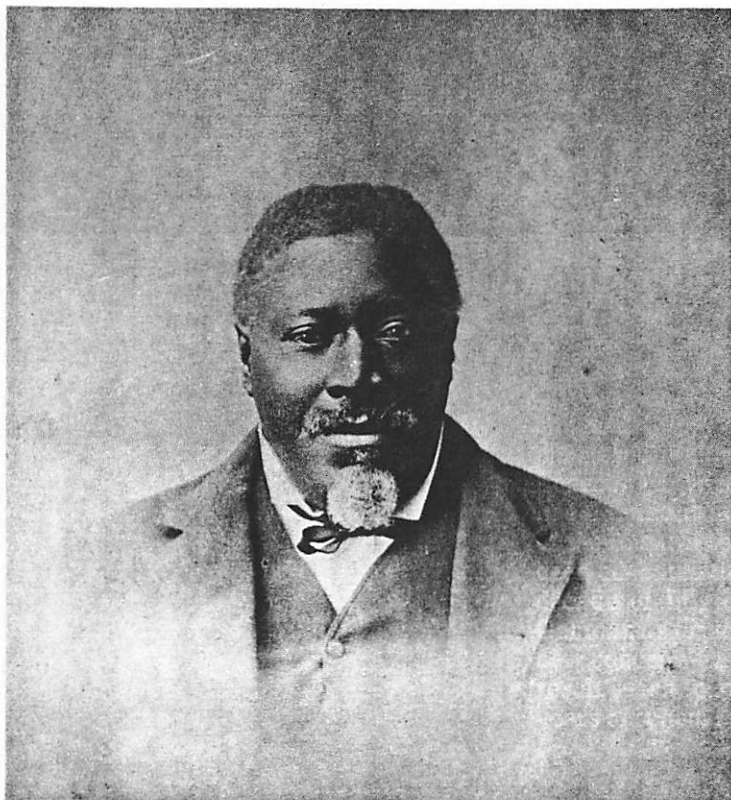
ALBERT BENJAMIN CHANDLER
1898-
State Senator, 1929-1931
Lieutenant Governor, 1931-1935
Governor, 1935-1939
U.S. Senator, 1939-1941
Governor, 1955-1959

Sponsored by
W K D Q

... Served the Public

EARLY MERCHANTS

The four Mann brothers: Dave, Abe, Fred and Ike, came to Henderson in 1872 and started a store. Dave soon moved on to New Madrid, Missouri, but the other three built a successful business on the northeast corner of Second and Main streets. Recognizing the fact that farmers' pay is seasonal, they established a system of installment buying, said to be the first in the country. Abe's daughter-in-law still operates a Women's Wear Shop in Henderson.



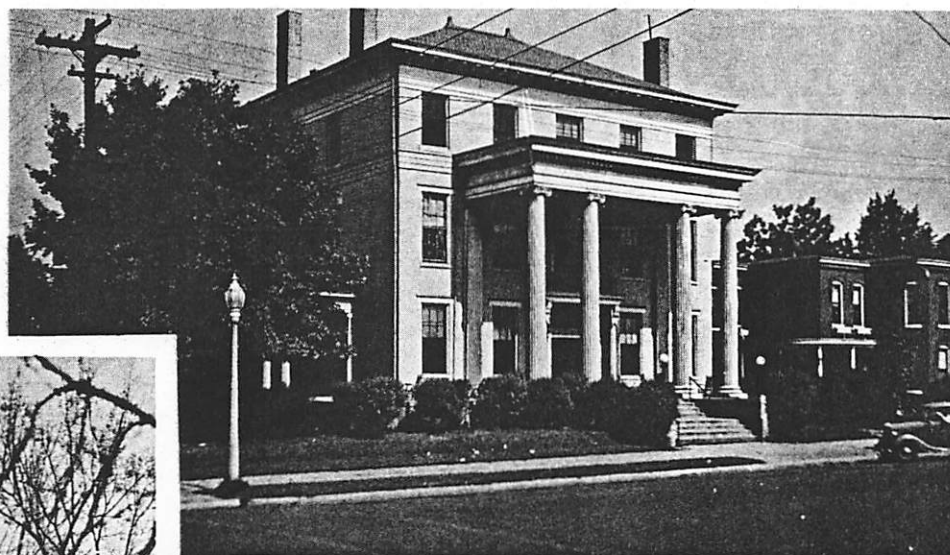
A THREE-GENERATION BLACKSMITH SHOP

Mike Brown came here when his owner became the wife of Henderson's first mayor. She allowed him to work for others and keep his pay, so he was able to buy his wife's freedom before the Civil War. Immediately after the war, he opened a blacksmith shop on First street and it was handed down, in turn, to his son, Ed, and his grandson, Sneed. Three generations of farmers, black and white, found efficient service there.

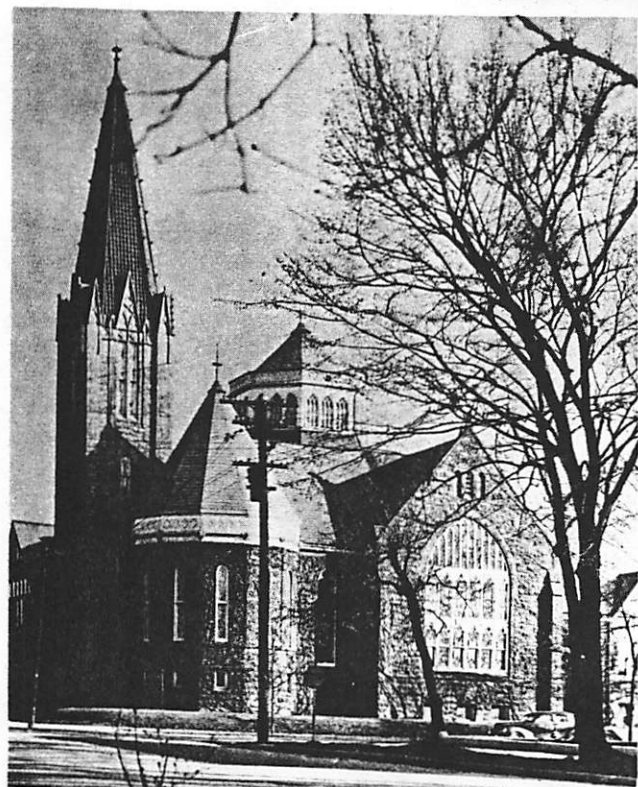
... Demonstrated 19th Century Architecture



HENDERSON COURT HOUSE
1843-1963



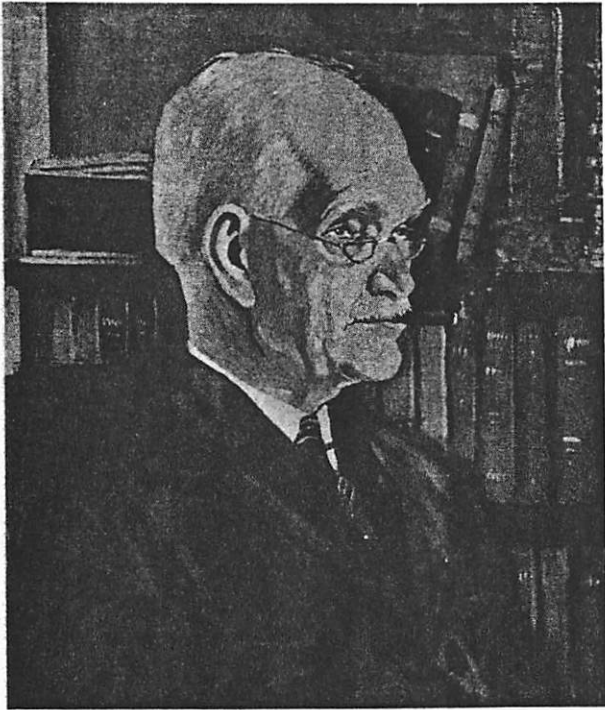
ELKS HOME
1906-1974
Built Earlier by John C. Atkinson



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1842-1972

Sponsored by
FARMERS BANK & TRUST CO.

... Created Literature and Art



HENDERSON WRITERS

Because he was prolific in many fields, Young E. Allison represents Henderson's writers. Lucy Furman was the best-known novelist to originate here. Three historians should be named: Mrs. Archibald Dixon for her history of the Missouri Compromise, Adam Rankin Johnson's *Partisan Rangers*, and E.L. Starling (below) for his well-known *History of Henderson County*, 1887.



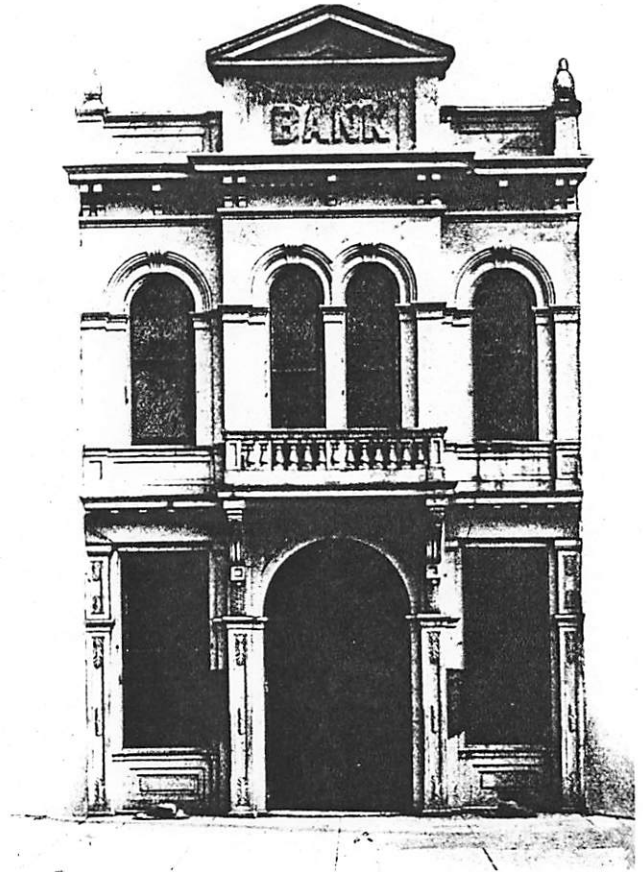
HENDERSON ARTISTS

Lyda Williams' portrait of Uncle Skillet represents Henderson artists in the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Uncle Skillet is remembered as the town character who announced early auctions by ringing a bell and calling the news in rhymes.

... Built Stable Banks



Union Bank and Trust Company



Henderson National Bank

EARLY BANKS

In 1909 Henderson had seven banks, six in downtown and one in Audubon: Ohio Valley at its present location, Henderson National is now First National, Farmers Bank & Trust in building recently known as Mental Health at 223 N. Main, Union Bank & Trust in building now occupied by City Building, Henderson County Savings Bank is now Redding Jewelry, Planters State Bank is now Bi-Low Store, Peoples Savings Bank at 1305 Helm street.



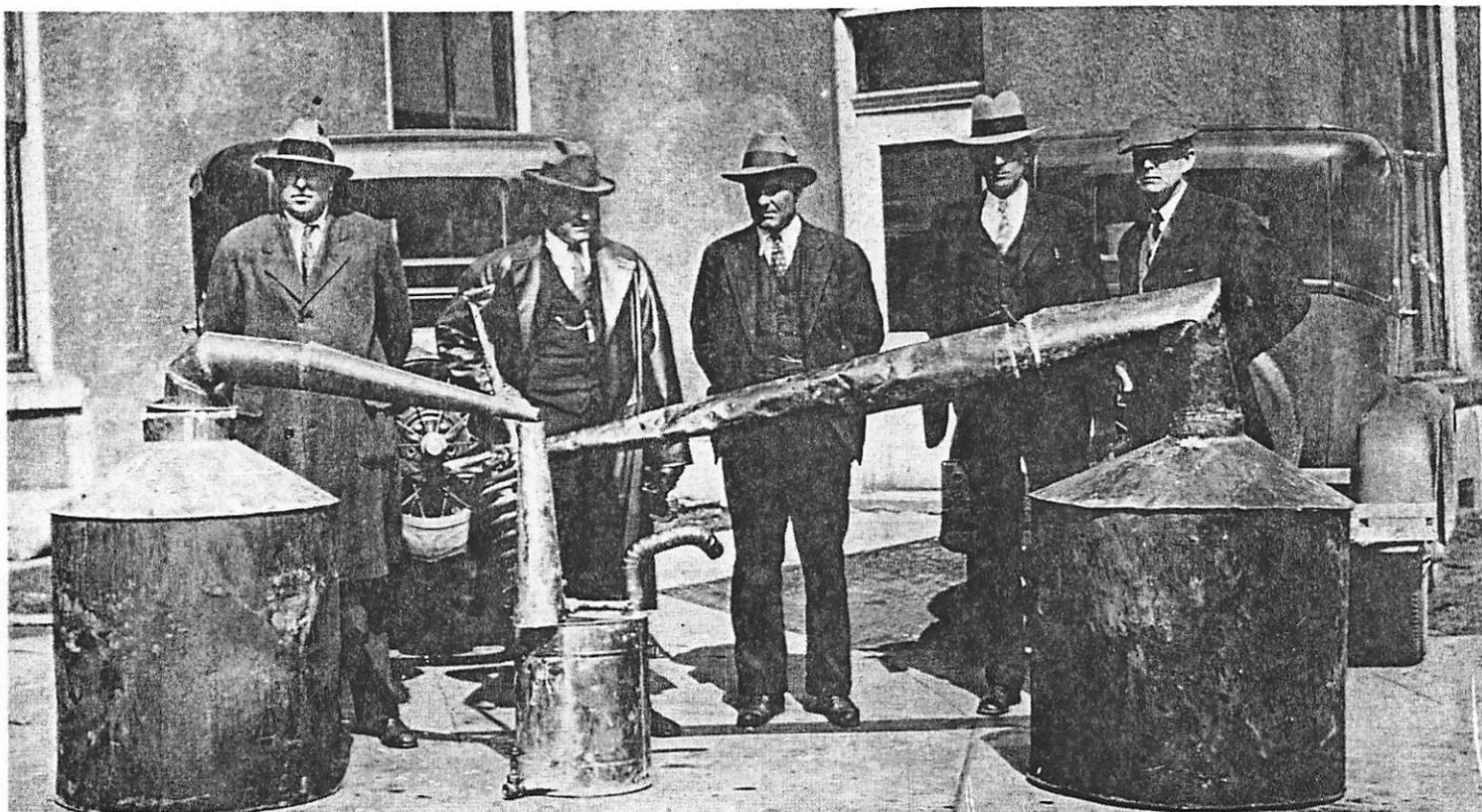
Jesse Tapp

AND A BANKER

While these banks were serving the people of Henderson, a young boy was preparing himself to become an international banker. Jesse Tapp graduated from Corydon High School in 1916 and later served as agricultural economics adviser to four presidents: Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson. He became president of the Bank of America and in semi-retirement was still Chairman of the Board.

Sponsored by
FIRST NATIONAL BANK

... Protected the Citizens



COUNTY SHERIFF CAPTURED MOONSHINE STILL IN 1931

Shown in the picture are: Sheriff Robert C. (Cotton) Soaper,
Deputies: Jim Tom Reed, Claude Brown, Frank Cosby, Albert Dade.

POLICE FORCE OF HENDERSON, 1896

Almost illegible names were deciphered to read: Draper, Martin,
Dean, Radman, _____, Clay, Walker, Trafton, Young, Henry,
_____, Becker, Hocking.



Sponsored by
HENDERSON COUNTY STATE BANK

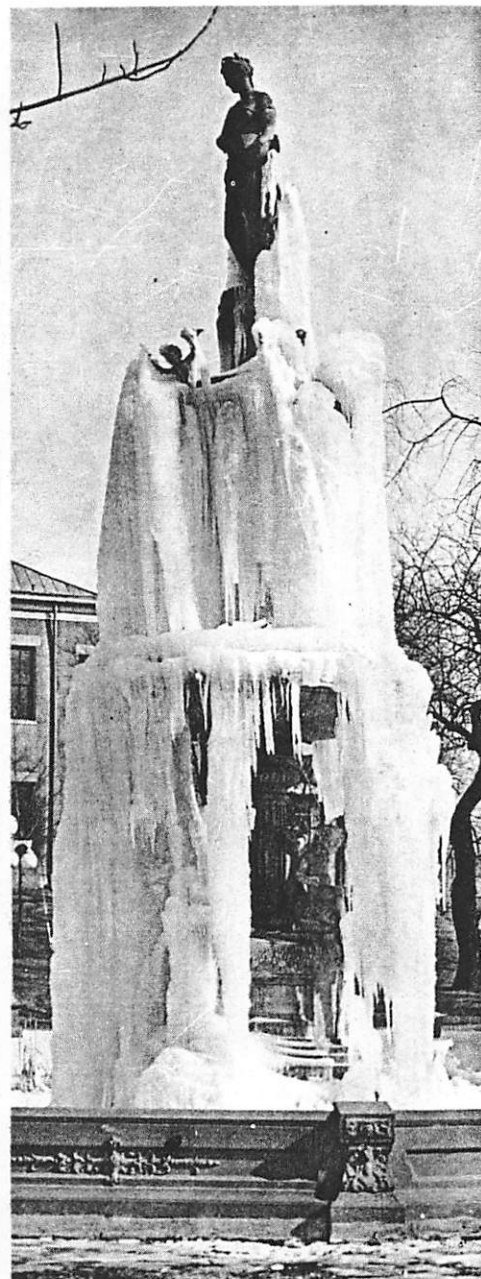
... Impeded by Extremes of Weather



The Ohio River Frozen Solid



The Approach to Audubon Memorial Bridge During 1937 Flood.



UNUSUAL WEATHER IN HENDERSON COUNTY

1807 — Collins reports a "Cold Friday" in February when the mercury fell 60 degrees in twelve hours, accompanied by a violent snowstorm.

1811—Starling reports it as the year of great earthquakes, the comet, the Tippecanoe campaign and first steamboat.

1901—Great sleet storm in February which lasted three weeks. Misty rain kept falling and piling up ice on everything. The breaking of trees sounded like cannonading with crashes almost every minute. So great was the damage to timber that a sawmill had to come in later. One poplar tree was six-feet in diameter and 50-feet tall.

1914—Cyclone described on opposite page

1936-37—Two years of disasters. During winter of 1936 the Ohio River was frozen from bank to bank with ice strong enough for crossing. In the summer of 1936 no rain fell for almost four months; cattle had to pick grass all night to get enough to eat, according to Rev. Swann. Even the grasshoppers died!

In January, 1937, the Ohio River reached its highest level in history. For seven days and nights boats were in constant use to rescue people and livestock in distress.

1951—Feb. 2, lowest temperature - 23.1 degrees below zero.

Sponsored by

UNION FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN

CYCLONE HIT HENDERSON

HENDERSON DAILY JOURNAL

VOLUME XXX, HENDERSON, KY. FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 17, 1914. NO. 68.

Death and Terrible Destruction In The Wake Of Awful Storm; Property Loss Half Million

TWO DEAD, SEVERAL INJURED AND AT LEAST A HALF MILLION DOLLAR PROPERTY LOSS IS THE TERRIBLE TOLL OF A CYCLONE WHICH SWEEPED THRU THE CITY OF HENDERSON THURSDAY ABOUT SIX O'CLOCK.

With the electric light plant partially wrecked the city is in darkness, the Interurban and streetcar systems are out of commission and the newspaper offices are without electric motor power.

The path of the cyclone seems to have been only about four blocks wide and about twelve blocks long.

It seems to have hit the city in the lower end, blowing down smoke stacks and damaging the Tobacco Extract works and damaging the Stratman Concrete Works.

Along Main Street came the storm, wrecking completely the rear end of the Robertson livery stable, laying low the beautiful trees of the Court House yard.

The roof was blown from the Hodge Tobacco Factory on South Green Street.

The Livery barn on South Main Street conducted by Malcolm Robertson, was partly unroofed and the rear end blown out.

The large tobacco factory of James R. Barrett, corner of Main and Fifth Street was completely demolished.

A large factory owned by R.H. Soaper and standing on the opposite corner from the Barret factory was almost completely destroyed.

The Imperial tobacco factory standing on the corner of Third and Water Streets was partly unroofed and the building was otherwise damaged by the storm.

A portion of a plate glass window in the Kingdon Hotel was blown out. The rear of the Elam Drug Store was damaged, part of the Elm Street wall being blown down.

The roof of the Transient Inn was plucked from its fastenings and carried into the street. The Mecca Restaurant was unroofed and the front badly damaged. The storm reached to Oreen Street on Second blowing down trees and littering the street with wreckage.

Third Street and Elm Street are heavily coated with broken trees and twisted wires. Traffic is blocked between Main and Elm on Third. The south end of the Electric Light plant was totally demolished and all power cut off.

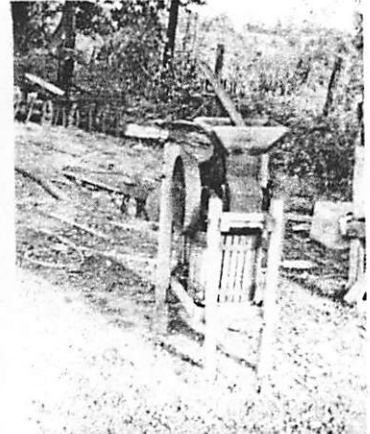
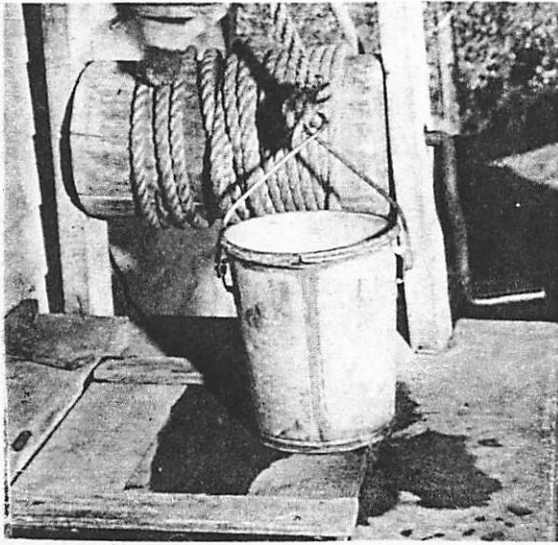
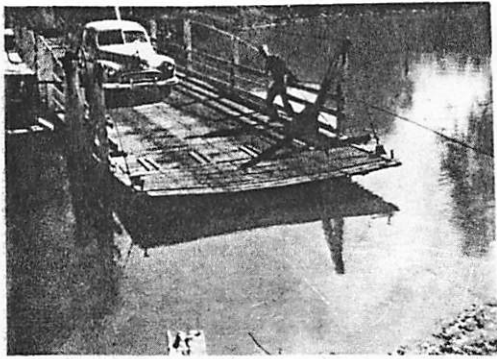
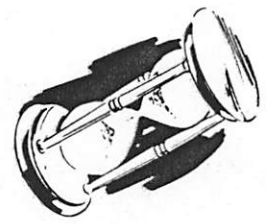
The three story brick building on Green Street occupied by Crane Furniture Company was blown over crushing beneath it a small frame residence and killing Mrs. Milliam Suell and her 14-year-old nephew, Bonnie Suell. Hundreds of men worked for four hours removing the wreckage before the bodies were recovered. The little boy had been caught under a stove and a stove leg had pierced his body. The woman was crushed and badly mangled.

Two big windows were blown out of the Kahn store on the corner of First and Main. Then on Main Street the following buildings were unroofed and otherwise damaged:

The Central Restaurant, the Woolworth five and ten cent store, the Kleymeyer building occupied by Pargny and the Nickeleodon, Thompson's Drug Store and the Blanc Jewelry store were all unroofed. Fire started in the jewelry store and the fire department was called out and soon extinguished the blaze. Other buildings on each side of the street were damaged more or less by the violent hurricane.

Several windows were blown out and part of the roof blown off the Mann Bros. store. Water poured in on the top floor greatly damaging the stock.

The Hourglass is turned over



1974 SCHEDULE OF BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

- March 2 Unveiling of plaque commemorating Revolutionary soldiers from Henderson, Transylvania Park, by Daughters of American Revolution.
- June 27 Mock trial of "Offenders" and punishment at the stocks, Midwest Harness. Races named for early settlers.
- June 29-30 Early Crafts and Pioneer Show, Transylvania Park, Henderson County Crafts Society.
- August 8 Farm Bureau Picnic
- June-August Community-wide beard contest
- August 17 Thurmond Harp - Shriners Bicentennial Parade
Marathon Dance, 10:00 P.M.
- August 20 Square Dance
- August 21-25 Riverboat Days — Retailers
- August 22-25 Great Ohio River Flat Boat Race
Great Ohio River Flat Boat Mail Delivery
- August 24 Old Time Athletic and Field Events
Country Store, Transylvania Park, Henderson County Garden Club
Flea Market; B.M.T.H.S. Reunions, Classes of 1924, 1954.
- August 25 Great American Country Music Show, benefit of Henderson Mental Health Center; Gospel Sing, Audubon Park
- August 31 A Night with W. C. Handy, a jazz-blues festival, Henderson County Middle School stadium 7:30 P.M.
- September 23 Hugh E. Sandefur Training Center Industry Appreciation Banquet, County High School
- September 26 Ohio-Wabash Valley Historical Society Meeting, Immanuel Baptist Temple
- October 4-5 Regional Arts & Crafts Show, Audubon Park
- November 12 Henderson County Homemakers 50th Anniversary, Youth Center, Atkinson Park.



THE ANNUAL FLATBOAT RACE AND POSTAL COVERS

Henderson's 1973 Entry



KY. BI-CENTENNIAL '74'
GREAT OHIO RIVER
FLAT BOAT MAIL RACE

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