
THE GRAYSONITE

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GRAYSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1976

122 East Main Street
Leitchfield, Kentucky, 42755
(270) 230-8989

Successful Open House

The Jack Thomas House held an open house July 17th during the Twin Lakes National Fiddler Championship. Between the hours of 10:00 and 2:00, tours were given by board members sharing the history of the house and Grayson County. It was estimated that well over 200 people took advantage of this free tour.

Back to Business as Usual!

The Grayson County Historical Society is pleased to announce that the Jack Thomas House will once again open to the public without appointments or mask requirements. Tours and access to our history and genealogy library are open to public.

Hours at the house are Monday through Friday from 10AM – 4PM.

New Website Online

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Grayson County Historical Society webpage had been offline for quite some time. Due to the hard work of Board Member Norman Cubbage, a new site has been launched. You can access our site at www.graysoncountkyhistory.com.



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*Newsletter funded in part by a grant provided by the Leitchfield Tourism Commission.

Grayson County Memories

by Colonel (Retired) Allen Boyd

I am a Grayson Countian only by roots, descended from county families whose own roots date back to the late 1700s and early 1800s – Thomason, Haycraft, Tilford, and Pryor settlers, at least two of them Revolutionary War veterans paid in land. I came to know the county and Leitchfield through summers and holiday visits spent with grandparents Herchell and June Thomason and the extended families who surrounded them.

Our Haycraft line descended from Joshua Haycraft, brother of Elizabethtown's Samuel and both of whom migrated to Kentucky after the war. Tilfords and Thomasons originally came from Scotland, then into Kentucky from different approaches. The Tilfords looped down from Virginia through Tennessee while the Thomasons appear to have entered from Indiana a few decades later. The Pryor line appears to have come into the Kentucky melting pot from New Jersey after the war.

Herchell owned and operated the H.A. Thomason Insurance Agency on the Leitchfield square from the 1930s into the 1960s when he retired to develop and tinker around Linwood Estates on Nolin Lake. I still remember him taking us to a knoll on his newly purchased 80 acres overlooking an area that was to become part of the lake and pointing out the various features that would be covered in water by the following summer. The flooded barns, homes, and woods became bass structure, and Granddad had a mental map of where it all was.

I was also fortunate to know all four great-grandparents, George M. and Jewell Haycraft on my grandmother's side and John B. and Iva Thomason on my grandfather's side. The Thomason great-grandparents lived toward Grayson Springs in an old 1850s home now historically labeled "The Cedars" and now restored to magnificence compared to the home I

knew where kerosene lamps were still used. Great-grandfather Haycraft and great-uncle Tilford Haycraft operated the G.M. Haycraft and Son feed store east of the square, and another great-uncle, Ray Haycraft, owned the Ben Franklin Store. Having a great-uncle who ran a dime store was a wonderful thing for an 8-year old.



~The Cedars: View from the Southwest corner of the house. National Park Service Photo

My father, Buddy Boyd, was an Elizabethtown native who came to Leitchfield for his first pharmacist job at Sisk Drugs on the square. He met my mother, Anna June Thomason, while working there. They married and rented an apartment from David Lee and Ruth Hayes, and there was talk about settling in Leitchfield for good in a partnership with Boyd Sisk. But shortly after that began in 1952, he was called to active-duty service in the Army Medical Corps as the Korean War expanded but was fortunately stationed in Germany. Returning with me in early 1955, my parents settled in Elizabethtown where Dad had his own drug store near the square but then moved a growing family to Indiana in the early 60s. Even so, every effort was made for my brother and me to spend summers with grandparents in Grayson and Hardin counties.

The Leitchfield of my youth was to me an idyllic place with welcoming family, a circle of family

friends, and a summer camp-like atmosphere with fishing and fish fries, hunting, rambling the county with my grandfather on his insurance calls, and evenings outside with relatives and their stories. My roots became solid there. My brother and I could knock out an entire list of Boy Scout merit badges requirements in a few weeks under Granddad's supervision. I painted Linwood's original road signs by hand, and the three of us constructed a tree house with—no kidding—bunk beds with springs and mattresses. We learned to swim at Allen's Lake. As we got older, we were introduced to dove and quail hunting, spring break trips for early crappie at Kentucky Lake, and a regular schedule of groundhog elimination at Linwood. We learned to drive in a field behind The Cedars, tearing at least two mufflers off Granddad's 1964 Mustang on those big limestone rocks that populate Grayson County fields. Even after I'd later graduated from college, joining Granddad and his buddies for a Labor Day dove shoot was a must do if I could possibly make it back.

Leitchfield family also encouraged me through what would become a 26-year military career. Uncle Ray Haycraft had been an infantry officer during World War II, and his captain's bars proudly became mine. He passed away in 1994 while I was serving a second tour in Germany, but I'd made an effort to visit him on our way overseas in 1992 to tell him I'd been selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel. While Uncle Tilford Haycraft had never served, he'd sent a son into the Air Force and was just as supportive of military careers as Uncle Ray. A newly promoted Colonel Boyd was able to visit him in a nursing home in Elizabethtown just weeks before he passed away in 1998. His last words to me were, "Colonel, I'm proud that you served," which meant more to me than anything anyone else could have said. Knowing I had the support of those two men along with my grandfather was, simply, a motivator to continue. But of course they represented lines of ancestors who'd served county and kings even before they served America during the Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War,

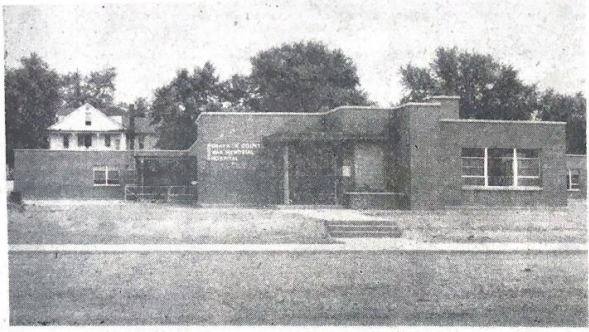
World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam. I was just another in that line that represented America to me.

That Leitchfield I knew in the 1960s and 1970s was different town than it is today. Then absent Wal-Mart and strip malls, most of the town's business was conducted around a busy square and the 2-3 blocks radiating from it. The Alexander Hotel offered "fine dining" while Southland Manor fried a mean mess of fish and Reba Simpson served country ham at her restaurant known simply as "Reba's." Saturday mornings from the square to the stockyards were busy as farmers came to town, shopped, and paid bills. A number of downtown business owners closed stores and bought back a little fishing time on Thursday afternoons in advance of those Saturday mornings. It would be inconceivable today, but business in those days literally closed on a weekday afternoon to let people take some down time and enjoy the outdoors. On Sundays, I remember churches filled with worshippers in their best Sunday dress and who then filled the restaurants afterward. Sundays were time for worship, family, and a respite from chores, much closer to what prior generations believed Sundays were about.

College that began in the early 1970s made visits more sporadic as Georgia Tech kept me busy and the Army filled summer, but I came back as often as I could. Even a day or a night passing through on the way home to Indiana was enough to return a certain calm that only Leitchfield could give amid whatever pressures there were elsewhere. As I graduated, began serving what would become a long Army career, and married, Julie and I visited as often as we could. Leitchfield had been one of my earliest destinations to show off my fiancé. There was no prouder moment, then, than returning to Leitchfield from a long first assignment in Europe with my grandparents' first great-grandchild in 1980. It was a repeat performance.

~Continued on Page 7

New Hospital Will Be Ready for Patients on Monday, July 2nd



Grayson County's new \$242,000 hospital will be ready to receive patients next Monday according to Dr. David Barrow, head of the Barrow Medical Foundation, Lexington, which will operate the institution. This is a 20-bed hospital with double the capacity if necessary. It has been dedicated as a memorial to Grayson County's men who have fought and died in the service of their country. Open House will be held at the hospital on next Sunday. ~June 28, 1951 Leitchfield Gazette

70 years ago in The Leitchfield Gazette, June 7 BOY TUMBLES FROM HOTEL WINDOW

Mike Long, 4 escaped serious injury Saturday afternoon when he fell from a second-floor window at the Alexander Hotel to the concrete sidewalk.

While the boy's mother was taking a bath, he unhooked the screen and climbed upon the window sill. He toppled out the window striking a wooden awning over a door, sliding from there to the sidewalk, striking on his chest and chin. He narrowly missed hitting a man who was passing. The child was taken to the office of Dr. M. Phelps where he received first aid. He then was taken to the home of a relative in Louisville in the Tom. S. Ellis ambulance. Mike is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marty Long of Louisville, who were staying at the hotel.

***The GRAYSONITE is available in color
in Digital (.pdf) Format – Just ask!***



Ken and Nancy Robinson Scholarship Awarded

The Historical Society has sponsored this Ken and Nancy Robinson Scholarship for several years. This year, applicants wrote an essay on effects of the pandemic or one based on family history in Grayson County.

The 2021 scholarship was awarded to Eli Helm of Leitchfield. After graduating in the top 3% of his class, Eli has plans to attend the University of Kentucky in the fall, with a major in Finance. Eli is the son of Chris and Allison Helm.

The scholarship is in honor of former president Ken Robinson and his wife, Nancy who were the lifeblood of the historical society for many years. We are honored to continue their legacy by sponsoring a scholarship in their name.

Behind the Door

By Board Member Melinda Baum

Have you ever heard of mustache cup? I had not until researching for the next installment of Behind the Door. After some quick research I learned that a mustache cup was thought to have been invented by a British potter by the name of Harvey Adams around 1860. The physical feature of this invention is described as having a half mooned-shape ledge at the top of the cup with a small opening to protect the gentleman's mustache from getting wet when drinking.

Our featured article focuses on a mustache cup that has ties to Puckett/Logsdon family lines so sit back and enjoy the names of the family, and this cup's travels from the Puckett family to the Logsdon line. The current owner of the cup is Sandy Logsdon Skeeters and this is her (and her family's) tale of the cup.

The mustache cup starts its journey with Thomas Jefferson Puckett. He was born in Hart County in 1837, the son of David Crockett Puckett and Loucretia Logsdon. Thomas is the GGG grandfather to the current cup owner, Sandy.

As years pass the cup makes it way to a daughter of Thomas—Minnie Francis Puckett. Minnie Francis marries into the Logsdon family and there begins the cup's travel into the Logsdon line. Minnie marries Lowry Logsdon and they have a son named Lawrence Logsdon in 1895.



If you have been keeping track, Lawrence is the grandfather (he was called Pappy) of the cup owner, Sandy. Lawrence and his wife, Lula (she was referred to as Mammy) was allowed to pick out some family heirlooms for their six grandchildren and one of the things they picked out was the cup to give to their granddaughter, Sandy. The mustache cup was held in safe keeping for several years in Mammy's old Hoosier cabinet before being passed along once more.

The age of the cup is uncertain but by the family's recollection it is around 150 years of age and was possible that the cup belonged to David Crockett Puckett so it could be a little older.

Sandy told me this cup came into her possession in 1986 when her Mammy, (Lula) came for a visit. Mammy brought the cup on her final visit to Sandy and passed away a few months later. Sandy tells me she has never seen another cup like it in any of her antiquing trips and this mustache cup is one of her most cherished possessions.



PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Historical Sketches & Family Histories of Grayson County - \$51.75

The First Grayson County Court Record Book, July 23, 1810 – April 28, 1814 - \$36.35

VOL I Grayson Co Cemetery Book (revised) - \$51.75

VOL II Grayson Co Cemetery Book - \$51.75

VOL III Grayson Co Cemetery Book (revised) - \$51.75

Grayson County School Census 1899-1900 - \$28.60

1903 Special Edition of the Grayson Co Gazette - \$15.75

1926 & 1937 Maps of Grayson Co - \$15.00 ea.

George Washington's Land in Grayson County
by Curtis Dewees - \$20.95

Early Churches of Grayson Co by Barry Downs - \$15.75

David Leitch by Curtis Dewees - \$16.00

Dock Brown Kentucky Outlaw (DVD) - \$15.00

PATCHWORK a History of Grayson County (DVD)
copied by the Historical Society - \$10.00

My Kentucky Home – Grayson County - Movie (DVD)
Documentary made for KET - \$21.00

Memories of Leitchfield High School (DVD) - \$20.00

Prints of Historic Grayson County Buildings in Ink
by Nancy Robinson - \$11.50

Joseph and Pheebe Dewees of Grayson County, Kentucky and their Descendants - by Curtis Dewees - \$26.00

Caneyville Community Club Cook Book 2018 - \$12.00

**A 6.00% sales tax will be added to all items. Shipping is \$5.00 per item.*

Books may be ordered by phone: 270-230-8989 or at our website www.graysoncountykyhistory.com

Business hours: Mon. – Fri. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

QR code for Historical Society Website :



New Members

Cal Dennison

Craig Duncan

Martha I. Shaw

ITEMS DONATED BY

Douglas Smith

Walter Ray Lyons

Ronald R. VanStockum Jr.

WC and Lucy Dennison

Dennie Fentress

Diana Tomes

Monetary Donations

Margaret W. Anderson

C. Edward Glasscock

In Memory Donations

Linda O'Bryant- In memory of Timothy Lee Duvall

Joyce Thomas Legg York- In memory of

Joe Bob Stevenson

Mary Margaret Sarver

Nany F. Head- In memory of Clarence Logadon



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Leitchfield Walking Tour: October 9th, 10:00 AM

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My grandparents both passed away by the early 1990s and by the end of that decade nearly all family that I'd know in Leitchfield was gone. Lives and times were changing, and Leitchfield was changing with them. The busyness of the square had moved to the edge of town while businesses many, including me, had known for generations struggled to remain relevant and compete. Yet good things, too, have happened. Different businesses have come, and the community has a regional medical center to replace the small under-equipped hospital that many old-timers avoided. New schools were built, and the recreational activities that created the "City of the Twin Lakes" have exploded from what I knew standing on a knoll above what would become Nolin Lake.

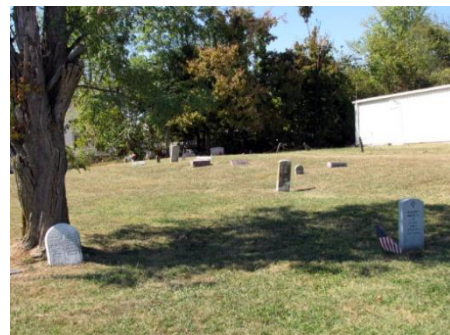
While the Leitchfield of those younger days has changed, I still know it and still come back. The roots continue to beckon, and for some reason I need a dose of Leitchfield now and then. It's an easy, memory-filled day trip from our home in Bloomington, Indiana, as this new older, retired Army colonel has time to stand on the square or outside my grandparents' home and remember. I admire the efforts and contribute to the Grayson County Historical Society because it works to preserve that history and those memories while honoring those who made them. Even those of us who never quite lived there also have Grayson County roots and memories that need to be preserved.

LOCAL CEMETERY PROJECT

The Grayson County Historical Society is supporting a program to repair and make improvements to local cemeteries. The first cemetery will be the Woodson Cemetery located directly across the street from the former Leitchfield City hall on US Highway 62.

The Woodson Cemetery is one of the most visible cemeteries in Grayson County. It was established in the 1800s as an African-American cemetery. Interred in the Woodson Cemetery include many veterans from almost every major US military conflict including the Civil War. Also interred is the first African-American Leitchfield City Council member. Sadly, many of the graves are unmarked and many of the headstones are in need of repairs.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution may do so by sending the same to the Grayson County Historical Society at PO Box 84, Leitchfield, KY 42754. The Historical Society request that any contribution contain a notation that the donation is for the cemetery project. Donations can also be made in person at the Jack Thomas House on East Main St, Monday through Friday, 10:00-4:00.



The Grayson County Historical Society

The Board of Directors currently consists of
President Scotty Gore, and 8 voting members:

Kelly Stevenson – Vice President

Norman Cabbage – Treasurer

Rose Booth – Secretary

Board of Directors include: Melinda Baum, Allison
Helm, Dennis Fentress, Bill Clemons and Joyce
Bell.

www.facebook.com/JackThomasHouse/

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Board of Director's meetings are usually the 2nd
Tuesday of every month at 6:00. ❖



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PO BOX 84
LEITCHFIELD KY 42755