

◆ Boone Co. Historical Society ◆

Editor: *Betsy Conrad*

January—February 2004

Mark Your Calendar for these 2004 events:

January 15: Our own **Jack Rouse** presents a fascinating program on the **Orphan Brigade** and the local people involved.

March 18: **Antiques Appraiser Bobby Hill** will estimate the value of your special antique — limited to one article per paid membership. No furniture, please.

May 20: **Richard Anderson** presents **The Anderson Ferry story**.

July 15: The **History of Florence** will be held at the Florence Nature Park. Join former Mayor Carroll M. “Hop” Ewing, Councilmember David A. Osborne, and others for an interesting program.

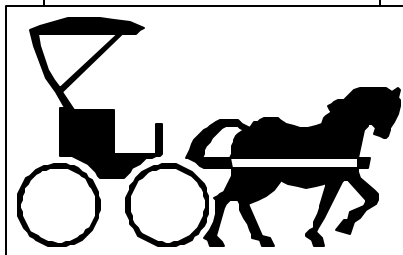
September 16: **Dr. J. M. Huey** will present a program about his grandfather, a **Civil War doctor** who was a prisoner of war.

November 18: **Mike Rouse** is preparing a fascinating program on **old-time funeral customs**.

And don't forget the 1920s style **Derby Day Party at Dinsmore Homestead, Saturday, May 1**.



The mission statement of the Boone County Historical Society will be to develop awareness and promote appreciation of the history of Boone County.



Copies of **BOONE COUNTY: FROM MASTODONS TO THE MILLENNIUM**, the library-quality hard-bound volume full of fascinating stories and pictures of Boone County's history, are available during business hours at **Florence Government Center** for \$30. All proceeds go to the Boone County Historical Society.

Northern KY History Day : Saturday, Feb. 28 at NKU

“Deep Time History, Kentucky’s Fossil Heritage” will be the opening presentation at 2004’s Northern Kentucky History Day. Noted paleontologist Dr.



Glenn Storrs will also discuss Meriwether Lewis’s second trip to Big Bone Lick in 1807 to collect fossils for Thomas Jefferson. Lewis wrote several letters to early Cincinnati luminaries postmarked from “Big Bone Lick.” The event takes place Saturday, February 28 at NKU.

The opening presentation is followed by a series of concurrent workshops and informational programs from which to choose. Don’t miss the opportunity to attend this event. You will soon receive a brochure in the mail listing the various speakers and sessions, along with details on reservations and parking.

The Boone County Historical Society will staff a table in the exhibitors’ area and offer our books for sale. If you would like to assist, call President Virginia Lainhart at 689-7240.

Boone County Militia in the Battle of the River Raisin

by Laurie Wilcox, Reference Associate, Boone Co. Public Library

Nearly 200 years ago the men of the Boone County militia, under Captain Uriel Sebree, answered the call of President Madison to serve in the War of 1812. There had been growing tensions between the United States and Great Britain since the end of the American Revolution. The British never fully recognized their defeat and so had continually tried to regain control of the colonies. Contrary to the Treaty of Paris, signed in 1783, the British kept their forts on American soil manned with soldiers and continued to incite and arm the Native Americans. By 1806 they had also been capturing American merchant ships and pressing the sailors into British Naval service.

Even with all of these reasons not all Americans were in favor of going to war. The south and west, who were most affected by the British and Native American attacks, had long been preparing for war but the north and east, who were somewhat insulated from such attacks and had greater economic ties to Britain, were opposed to the war. In January of 1812 when President Madison called on each state to fill their quota of one hundred thousand militia to be held in ready the Governors of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island refused. Kentucky, on the other hand, raised 1500 men above the state quota totaling 7000 men.

The Kentucky militia was to assemble at Georgetown by August 15th and then go north to join the troops of General Hull in Detroit. The troops stopped in Newport to gather supplies and they learned of General Hull's surrender of Detroit. For his surrender General Hull was removed from command and would later be court-martialed for cowardice. The morale of the troops was shaken until they heard that General William Henry Harrison was to replace Hull as the Commander of the Northwest. Harrison was well liked and respected by the Kentucky troops. On August 27th the troops left Newport traveling north going through the Ohio cities of Cincinnati, Lebanon, Dayton, and St Mary's. The march through Ohio was not an easy one, the army suffered through bad weather, lack of winter clothing, and an inadequate food supply. Over 100 men lost their lives.



Captain Sebree and company arrived at Maumee, Ohio, on January 10, 1813 under the command of General James Winchester. After the army's arrival residents from Frenchtown, approximately 25 miles to the north of Maumee pleaded for rescue from the British and Native Americans occupation of their town. The local residents also supplied intelligence of the British movements. On January 15 news came to General Winchester that the Native Americans were planning to burn Frenchtown. The morning of January 17th General Win-

chester sent 550 men under Colonel William Lewis from their camp at Maumee to secure Frenchtown. He sent an additional 110 men under Colonel John Allen that same afternoon. The two companies met that night about half way to Frenchtown.

Col. Lewis & Allen learned that the British and Native Americans, now numbering 400, were fortifying Frenchtown. The American troops arrived to within three miles of town around noon then formed their battle lines. They attacked from three sides, Captain Sebree and his men from Boone County were in the center column of attack.

The initial charge of the Americans was very successful at driving the British and Native Americans out of town and into the woods about a mile north of the town. The fighting continued, tree to tree until dark when the British broke off the fight and retreated north to Brownstown, across the bay from the British Fort Malden which was already massing for a counterattack. They had lost 30 men and had 50 wounded in the January 18th battle. The Americans won the battle at the cost of 13 killed and 54 wounded.

Once fighting stopped the Americans carried the wounded back to Frenchtown and put them up in the houses of the town. That night the American troops celebrated their victory with the British stores of flour, wheat and beef. Col. Lewis sent word to General Winchester of the victory and need of reinforcements. Frenchtown was not easy to defend with three sides open and the fourth on the riverbank. General Winchester readied his troops and sent word to General Harrison asking for even more reinforcements. General Harrison immediately sent a battalion of men under Col. Wells to help and readied his own troops to leave Ft Wayne to help secure Frenchtown.

Col. Wells and General Winchester both arrived at Frenchtown on January 20th. Col. Wells' men camped in a field outside of the fortifications of the town. On the afternoon of January 21st General Winchester received reports that the British were five miles from Frenchtown.

On the morning of January 22 under the cover of darkness and morning mist the British were almost in camp when the sentry saw them and fired his weapon and woke the American soldiers. They held their ground for about 20 minutes then broke ranks to fall back and regroup. General Winchester, who had been staying in a house in town, came on the scene to see his troops retreating and ordered a company of 50 men under Captain James Price of Jessamine county to get the wounded out of the houses and take them to cover. Captain Price's group were the first to discover that while the British attacked from the north the Native Americans had surrounded the rest of the

town making escape nearly impossible. There was fierce fighting for some time and the Kentuckians fought bravely but eventually General Winchester was taken prisoner. He was persuaded by the British Colonel Proctor to order his troops to surrender for fear of the Native Americans getting out of hand if the fighting continued.

Many of the American troops hearing of the surrender tried to retreat but were killed in the escape attempt. When the battle was over the British were in a hurry to get back to the safety of their fort because they knew General Harrison was getting near with his troops. The American troops who could walk were taken prisoner and marched to Fort Malden by the British army and the Native Americans. The American wounded were promised that the British would send sleds for them in the morning to take them to Fort Malden. The British left only three men as guards for the wounded but these men left during the night.

On January 23rd the promised sleds to carry the American wounded to Fort Malden did not come. What did come that morning were nearly 200 Native Americans. They plundered homes and the wounded for valuables, and then killed Americans who could not walk. The town itself was completely burned to the ground and the settlers were threatened not to bury the dead or rebuild. Those able to walk were claimed as prisoners and taken to Detroit where they were ransomed.

Over 60 unarmed American wounded were killed. This was later known as the "Massacre of the River Raisin." Newspapers around the nation carried the story of the massacre and it fanned the flame of hatred toward the British.

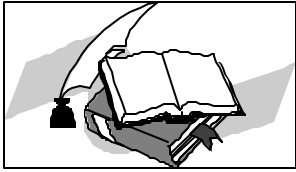
The American prisoners were marched from Fort Malden, near present day Windsor Canada, to the Niagara River where they were released into New York state on condition that they not serve in the war again. Some of the men who had fought at the River Raisin joined Colonel Richard M. Johnson's Kentucky cavalry and severely defeated the British at the Battle of the Thames on October 5, 1813. The American's rallying cry was "Remember the Raisin." After the Battle of the Thames the American troops went to the battlefield on the River Raisin paid their respects to their fallen comrades and buried the dead.



Uriel Sebree, Captain, POW Jan 22
Robert Kirtley, Lieutenant, resigned by 22 Dec 1812
Barnett Rogers, Ensign?

Following is a listing of the men from Boone County who fought in the Battle of River Raisin:

William Campbell, Sergeant, POW Jan 22
Uriel Cave, Sergeant?
Joel Garret (Garnet), Sergeant, Lt. vice Robert Kirtley Dec 2, 1812
E. Hawkins, Sergeant, POW Jan 22
Allen Morgan, Sergeant?
John Dulaney, Corporal?
John Ellis, Corp?
Richard Gainer, Corp?
Johnson Watts, Corp, POW Jan 22
Mills Wilks, Corp, WIA Jan 18; POW Jan 22
Nathan Underwood Fifer, POW Jan 22
Simeon Christy, Drummer, Discharged
Alphen, Ransom, Private, POW Jan 22
Alloway, John, "?
Barbee, John, ", POW Jan 22
Barnum, Barney, "?
Cherry, John, ", POW Jan 22
Conly, Robert, ", POW Jan 22
Cornelius, Terrill?
Crow, Thomas S., WIA Jan 18; KIA Jan 23
Day, Joseph, WIA Jan 18
Dickerson, Samuel, POW Jan 22
Estes, John, ?
Fitzgerald, Jesse
Flint, Simeon
Green, Nathaniel
Gilmore, James
Grimsley, Silas, ", Discharged
Hawkins, Gabriel, POW Jan 22
Holler, John
Hughes, Hugh
Jones, John, POW Jan 22
Lane, Martin, POW Jan 22
Marshall, John
Merit, James
Mosby, Daniel
Mosby, Thomas, POW Jan 22
O'Neal, David, POW Jan 22
O'Neal, William
Polly, John
Porter, Thomas
Rowen, John, POW Jan 22
Royell (Russell), Abednego, POW Jan 22
Royster, James
Sanford, Lawrence
Seals, Barnet (Bernard)
Searcy, Berry
Smith, Benjamin C.
Smith, John (Johnston), POW Jan 22
Smith William I.
Stephens, Thomas
Terrill, Robert, WIA Jan 18; POW Jan 22
Thomas, James O. W. ,
Tour, John, WIA Jan 18
Vickers, William
Vinsant, John, KIA Jan 18
Watson, Laban
White, Willis

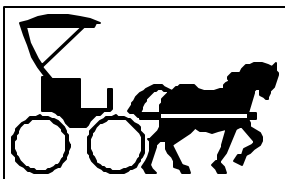


Boone Co. Historical Society
 P.O. Box 23
 Florence, KY 41022-0023

History at the Library:

- **Historic Preservation Planner Matt Becher presents the history of the Petersburg Distillery at 2 pm Tuesday, Jan. 20 at Scheben Library.**
- **BCHS Vice President Bruce Ferguson presents the History of Union at 7 pm Monday, Jan. 26 at Scheben Library.**
- **James Duvall presents John Uri Lloyd's Connection to Florence at 7 pm Thursday, Feb. 26 at Florence Library.**

The Boone County Historical Society provides program meetings on the third Thursday evenings of January, March, May, July, September and November. Unless otherwise announced, the meetings will be held at the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Boulevard.



BCHS Membership Privileges

Annual Membership Fee is only \$15 per household, **due every January**. This modest fee covers the cost of our newsletter mailings. We appreciate all who have joined the Boone County Historical Society to help us preserve and make known some of the history of our County. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join and attend our meetings. Membership fees can be sent to:

**BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P. O. BOX 23
 FLORENCE, KY 41022-0023**

The Boone County Historical Society has received **tax-exempt status**. This means that all gifts to the Society are tax deductible.