



Warren County History Center
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Lebanon, OH 45036

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THE HISTORICAL LOG

2016

Volume 66 ~ No 2

To Preserve and Present the Heritage of Warren County

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Victoria Van Harlingen

«ADDRESSBLOCK»

Dated Material, Please Open

Friends of Jane Austen
Celebrating Jane's Great Books
May 21, 2016
At Cleaver
Historic Mansion
A Gathering

Costumed Austen Characters
Mansion Tours
Light Refreshments
Lawn Games
Open to Tour @ 10:00
Tickets at wchsmuseum.org
or at the door
FREE to WCHS Members!
105 Cincinnati Avenue, Lebanon, Ohio 45036



CEMETERY TOUR

Learn the stories of Lebanon's notable pioneers through historic reenactments.
May 20 2016
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
\$20 Adults
\$10 Children
\$aid reservation requested
Led by Historian John Zinkus
Corner of Main and West Streets, Lebanon, OH 45036

WCHSMuseum.org 513-932-1817

History Weekend MAY 20-21

Our Warren County Historical Society staff is proud to report that we have won five important grants so far this year. Grants are not easy to write, or win, or administer, so



This painting of Molly Harmon is being restored thanks to member donations and a grant from the Harmon Civic Trust

the staff will be busy the rest of the year and well into 2017 fulfilling our obligations not only to the projects funded by the grants, but also to the grant makers. The grants, in the order they were awarded, are as follows:

Molly Harmon Portrait Restoration - \$2000 awarded by the Harmon Civil Trust, Lebanon, Ohio. The life-sized portrait of William Elmer Harmon's mother Molly which he had painted in 1928 to grace the Molly Harmon Home for Aged Gentle Women was in bad need of restoration. The Harmon Civil Trust matched \$2000 in funds donated by our members to have this portrait restored. It will be on display once again early in July.

In Honor & Remembrance - \$3972 awarded by the Ohio History Fund. This grant is for an oral history project for which we will interview veterans of the last six wars: WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan from as many of the five branches of the armed services as possible. The oral histories will be recorded and transcribed and made available to the public in both printed hard copy and digitally. The grant also allows for six video histories that will be used to craft a mini-documentary of the history of war from WWII through Afghanistan.

Painting Restoration - \$10,200 awarded by Wiebold Studios, Inc., Terrace Park, Ohio. Our now-retired painting and drawing conservation team, Rosemary Chute, the late Gene Chute, and Michael Cohan, spent much of 2014 and 2015 assessing our painting collection. They identified four paintings that needed immediate attention. We were able to raise enough funds to match the Harmon Civic Trust's donation to restore the Molly Harmon portrait. Wiebold Studios' grant allowed us to have the Robert Leake portrait, the Henry Mosler painting, and the European landscape painting of a flock of sheep restored.

Time Travelers History Explorers - \$2000 from Ohio Humanities. This grant allows the continuation of our weekly summer history, arts, and culture program for children and families. The program takes place at the Warren County History Center on Thursdays mornings for one hour and begins June 9 and ends August 11. This grant allows us to hire humanities professionals as guest speakers. The *Time Travelers* program won a History Outreach Award from the Ohio Local History Alliance in 2015.

Harmon Hall/Old Post Office Handicapped Accessibility Capital Project - \$190,000 from the State of Ohio. This grant will launch a campaign to acquire matching capital donations from members and other interested parties to bring about construction of handicapped-accessible entrances and additional parking for both the Lebanon Conference & Banquet Center (Old Post Office) and the Warren County History Center (Harmon Hall).

The Robert Leake portrait before and after restoration by Wiebold Studios, Inc.



Service and Sacrifice: The Kidnapping of the *General*

by Mary Klei, Head Curator

Part IV (Continued from the February 2016 *Historicalog*. *Part I* through *Part III* are available online under the “Members Only” tab at www.wchsmuseum.org)

The story of George Davenport Wilson’s heroism rightly begins here, on the fatal day of June 18, 1862. Seven of the Ohioans who had been tried in Knoxville were called out of their prison cell. They returned an hour later, hands tied and faces ghastly pale.

Pittenger described how his “friend Geo. D. Wilson was leading, his step firm and his form erect but his hands firmly tied...his appearance silenced every one. ‘We are to be executed immediately,’ whispered George.” The “always-outspoken”

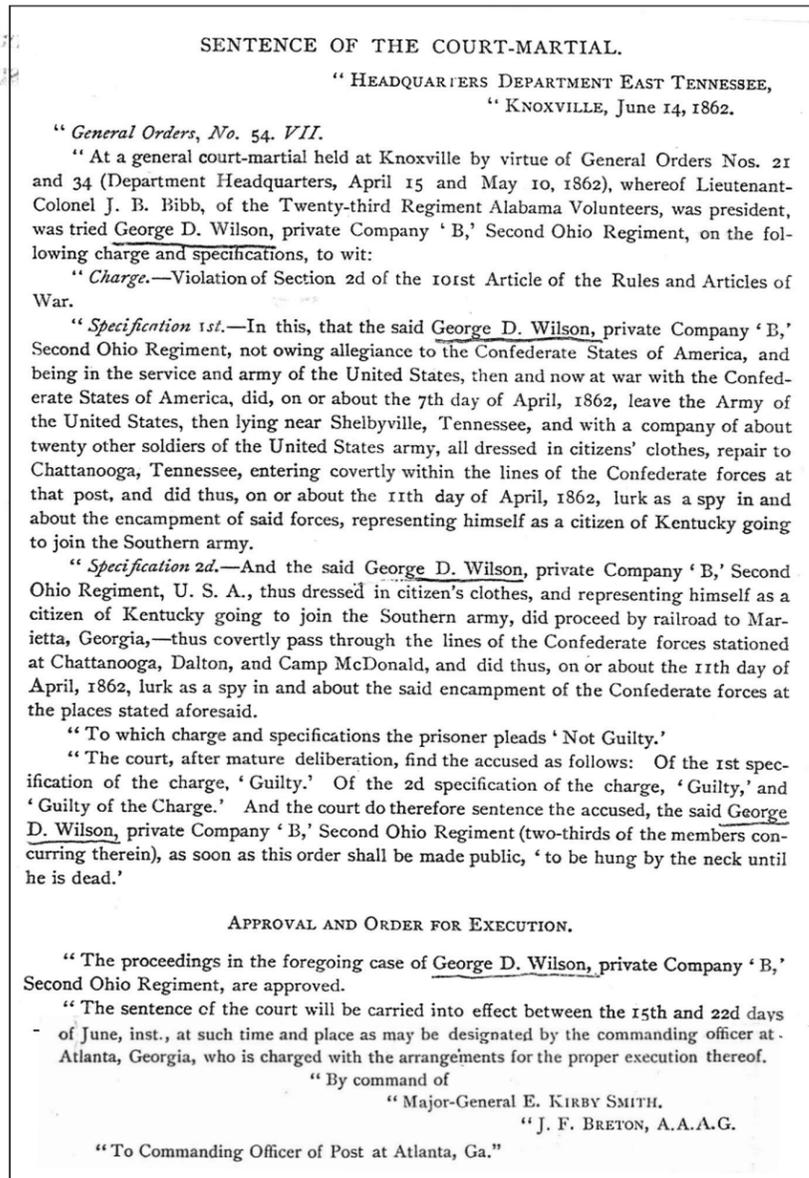
George Wilson had immediately protested that the raiders should be accorded the status of prisoners of war and treated accordingly. He protested also against the sentence of hanging, that was the death of criminals. “We would not care so much to be shot as soldiers, but to be hanged like a dog is a burning shame,” he objected forcefully; then he led the condemned men out, to be taken to the scaffold. They had just now been informed that at the Knoxville trials they had been found guilty of spying. They were to be hanged at once; they had two hours left to live. The subtle allusions to an exchange passed on by the Confederates had indeed been a deception to keep them docile in prison, and the immediate execution was probably intended “when the awakening came” to remove any threat of escape while facing their true fate. George Wilson’s death warrant, as reproduced in Pittenger’s book, is given here with the explanation, “The words, ‘made public,’

have only one interpretation. They mean, when the accused himself is notified. They cannot refer to newspaper publication, for this was never intended....”

George Davenport Wilson had been an atheist, but he said, “Pittenger, I believe you are right, now! Try to be better prepared when you come to die than I am....God bless you!” The final messages the men were permitted to send to families

and friends were never delivered. Wilson now fastened his gold pin enclosing the picture of his wife to the inside of his vest and put the gold seal ring in a small pocket; he gave a copy of his death warrant to a comrade, which eventually was located in the archives in Washington. George Wilson and his six companions were transported to the Atlanta city cemetery for their execution. A mass grave had been prepared. The scaffold stood waiting, a long makeshift platform above which a beam was braced in the branches of two trees. No clergyman was present, but throngs of onlookers had come to witness the hanging. The events that followed were reported to Pittenger by numerous witnesses. George Wilson asked permission to speak when the men stood ready, awaiting their final moment. They considered him an accomplished orator, “and he now spoke with marvelous skill and persuasive eloquence,” wrote Pittenger later, “he had conquered fear and

banished all resentment; and his calm and dispassionate earnestness was such as became a man on the threshold of another world.” This was the “summit of moral heroism” to which Pittenger had referred in his initial description of Wilson.



From Pittenger, William, *Daring & Suffering: A History of the Andrews Railroad Raid*. Originally Published: New York: War Pub. Co., 1887. Nashville, TN, 1999 (author emphasis added)

Upcoming Events SEE WCHSMUSEUM.ORG FOR TICKETS AND DETAILS

May

- 14TH - GIRLS’ NIGHT OUT: RED, WHITE, & LOCAL
- 18TH - LUNCH & LEARN: OHIO CIVIL WAR WOMEN
- 20TH - PIONEER CEMETERY TOUR
- 21ST - GATHERING AT GLENDOWER “FRIENDS OF JANE AUSTEN”



June

- 8TH - GLENDOWER OPENS FOR THE SUMMER
- 15TH - LUNCH & LEARN: THE STALEY MILL FARM AND INDIAN CREEK DISTILLERY
- 18TH - TRACTOR TREK & ICE CREAM SOCIAL
- 25TH-16TH - GATHERING AT GLENDOWER “RECLAIMING OUR SKILLS OF OLD”



July

- 11TH-14TH - HISTORY CAMP FOR KIDS
- 16TH - BUCKEYE BOURBON & BBQ FESTIVAL AT MIAMI VALLEY GAMING
- 29TH-30TH - OLD POST OFFICE FLEA MARKET



Special Exhibits

AT THE WARREN COUNTY HISTORY CENTER THRU SEPTEMBER 3RD!



HATS OFF TO THE GILDED AGE

Ladies fashions from 1870 to 1900

Demitasse

FOR THE UPPER CLASS



An exhibit of over 70 different demitasse cups from around the world.

Elegant & Charming!

History Camp for Kids ♦ July 11-14

PROTECT & SERVE

The History of First Responders in Southwest Ohio

WCHS Historian & Education Director John Zimkus has developed a comprehensive and fun program for students entering the 4th through 8th grades!

Campers will learn about the hard work and sacrifices the members of the police and fire departments of our area have made over the decades in their efforts to protect us and our communities.



\$45 WCHS Members, \$50 Non-Members. Limited space available. Registration forms at WCHSmuseum.org.

Camp Schedule

Monday July 11	Tuesday July 12	Wednesday July 13	Thursday July 14
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	8:45 AM - 1:30 PM <u>Bring Sack Lunch</u>	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	8:45 AM - 1:30 PM <u>Bring Sack Lunch</u>
Activities at the Warren County History Center	Field trips to Warren County Sherriff's Department and Lebanon Fire & Police Stations. Picnic lunch at Harmon Park	Activities at the Warren County History Center	Field trips to Greater Cincinnati Police Museum & The Fire Museum of Greater Cincinnati

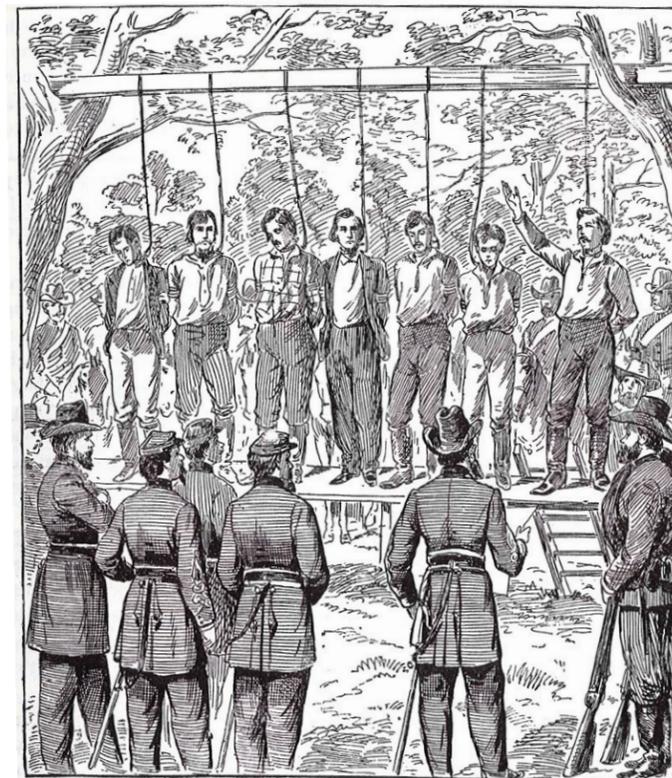
George Davenport Wilson's final words on the scaffold, as paraphrased by Pittenger, are given here in tribute to Wilson and his condemned companions

"He began by telling them that though he was condemned to death as a spy, he was no spy, but simply a soldier in the performance of duty; he said that he did not regret dying for his country, for that was a soldier's duty, but only the manner of death, which was unbecoming to a soldier. Even those who condemned them well knew that they were not spies; then leaving the personal question, he declared that he had no hard feelings toward the South or her people, with whom he had long been well acquainted; that they were generous and brave; he knew they were fighting for what they believed to be right, but they were terribly deceived. Their leaders had not permitted them to know the facts in the case, and they were bringing blood and destruction upon their section of the nation for a mere delusion. He declared that the people of the North loved the whole nation and the flag, and were fighting to uphold them, not to do any injury to the South, and that when victory came the South would reap the benefit as well as the North. The guilt of the war would rest upon those who had misled the Southern people, and induced them to engage in a causeless and hopeless rebellion. He told them that all whose lives were spared for but a short time would regret the part they had taken in this rebellion, and that the old Union would yet be restored, and the flag of our

common country would wave over the very ground occupied by this scaffold."

A similar description is recorded in the Judge Advocate General's report. Further: "among those who...perished was Private Geo. D. Wilson.... He was a mechanic [?] from Cincinnati, who, in the exercise of his trade, had traveled much through the States North and South, and who had a greatness of soul which sympathized intensely with our struggle for national life, and with joyous conviction of our final triumph."

The hanging was a grisly, hideous spectacle. Five men gave up their lives with merciful swiftness, but owing to the flimsy quality of the ropes, the two heaviest broke them and fell unconscious to the ground. They were given water and were immediately hanged again. As soon as the seven were pronounced dead they were deposited side by side in the mass grave. At war's end, on December 18, 1865, a letter was sent to Ohio Governor Charles Anderson from the provost marshal's office in Atlanta naming the seven Ohio men hanged as spies "...at this place. They are only about eighteen inches under ground. If the people of Ohio knew as much about this execution as I have learned since I have been here, they would certainly send for their remains and take them home and bury them at the State Capitol and erect an appropriate monument over their remains." The bodies were not to return home to Ohio. In February, 1866, the Ohio legislature passed a resolution requesting that the seven executed raiders be removed and reinterred in the National Cemetery for U.S. Soldiers at Chattanooga. There they rest in peace to this day. A search for the bodies in Atlanta found their grave about 200 feet from where the gallows had stood. The remains of George Davenport Wilson were identified by the pin bearing the likeness of a woman on his chest and his ring was also found in a fragment of his vest. His final resting place is grave number 11178, section H. James Andrews' body was later brought to the National Cemetery to lie near the graves of his raiders. In 1889 the Ohio legislature authorized the expenditure of \$5000 for a monument to the Andrews Raiders to be erected at the site of their graves. The monument was unveiled on Memorial Day, 1891—a large marble pedestal on which stands a bronze model of the *General* and its tender. The pedestal was duly inscribed with the names and military units of the raiders. The monument centers an arc of eight headstones belonging to the seven executed raiders and Andrews.



George Wilson addresses the crowd from the scaffold. From Pittenger, William, *Daring & Suffering: A History of the Andrews Railroad Raid*. Originally Published: New York: War Pub. Co., 1887. Nashville, TN, 1999

A bizarre coincidence is noted here. The speaker at the unveiling was former Governor of Ohio J.R. Foraker. Foraker of Ohio was first cousin to Captain Green J. Foreacre, CSA, (heretofore mentioned as) provost marshal of the military post in Atlanta in June 1862 and the official responsible for making the arrangements to execute the seven raiders. The extreme differences and animosities between these two men led to the Captain changing the spelling of the family name. The last surviving man of the Andrews Raiders died at his

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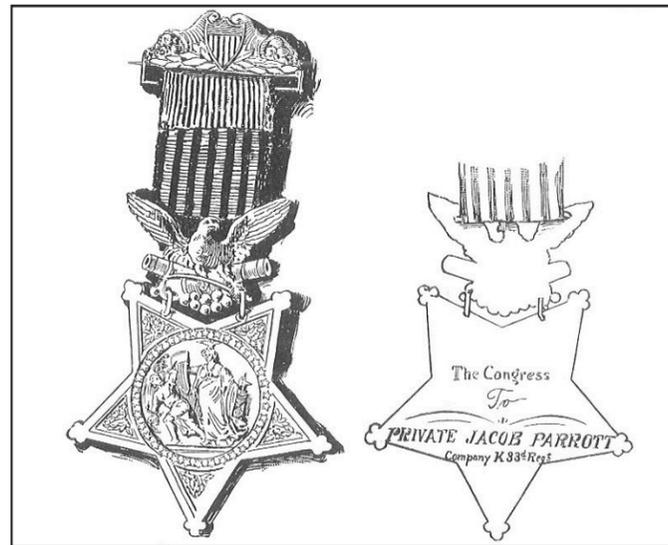
home in Dayton, Ohio on October 15, 1923. He was John Reed Porter.

The six soldiers who remained in prison drew closer spiritually; they prayed, asking God to help them in their own final time on earth. It seemed that their fervent prayers were answered, for Pittenger wrote: "...death did not claim another victim in our midst." The six prisoners were sent to Richmond, Virginia for exchange in December, 1862, as it had come about that the South held a far greater number of prisoners than did the North. They were incarcerated in Libby and then in Castle Thunder prisons, from where they were taken to City Point to be exchanged on March 17, 1863. Eight of their original 24 had made successful escapes and returned to active duty.

The six liberated Ohioans arrived in Washington and spent several days during which they were interrogated and gave depositions. The consensus reached by astonished officials was that "the failure of the mission had been unavoidable." The failure occurred, they concluded, not because of poor planning nor any lack of bravery on the part of the participants. But rather, had it not been due to the delay of a day and the unforeseen encounters with the extra trains, the mission would have succeeded, changing the course of war in the South and possibly bringing it to an earlier close. The terrible cataclysm of the Civil War would elevate the honor of the American armed forces and cause those who fought nobly to be held in high esteem. Many of the combatants, though they came from all walks of life and were of all ages, proved themselves to be heroes beyond the call of duty. According to author Russell S. Bonds, an assistant Adjutant General in the War Department, Edward Townsend, soon after the Civil War commenced, began to think of ways to bring inspiration to an army which, it seemed, could not win a battle. Townsend realized that the United States had nothing to compare with the European military's way of awarding medals to honor the bravery of heroes in battle. In 1861 he wrote a memorandum proposing that a medal citing courage and valor of the highest order be established for the fighting men on the field of battle, but the proposal was rejected. The United States Navy subsequently created its own Medal of Honor in December, 1861. Thereupon in July 1862, during the War, President Lincoln signed a bill instituting the Army Medal of Honor; in 1863 it became a permanent decoration which could be awarded for heroism retroactive to the onset of the War and could be awarded to all ranks of the army. But as of March 1863, no one had received the medal.

On March 25, 1863 the six surviving Andrews Raiders were summoned to the office of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, who in a historic moment presented the first Medal of Honor to the eighteen-year-old raider, Jacob Parrott, who had demonstrated great courage and outstanding bravery while undergoing the severe lashing after being captured. The other five Ohioans each received this highest decoration just before making a call on President Lincoln, who wanted to meet these heroes. It required several more months for the eight escaped raiders, having returned to service, to be awarded their medals;

they were decorated in September. However, of the seven men who were executed on June 18, 1862 George Davenport Wilson and Perry Shadrach received no Medal of Honor, although the other soldiers were awarded theirs posthumously. The reason for this omission remains unknown.



Facsimile of medals of honor given to surviving members of the Andrews raid and to the families of those who perished. From Pittenger, William, Daring & Suffering: A History of the Andrews Railroad Raid. Originally Published: New York: War Pub. Co., 1887. Nashville, TN, 1999

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EPILOGUE

On January 28, 2008 Congress authorized the awarding of the Medal of Honor to George Wilson and Perry Shadrach. Not much of what followed is known. The procedure concerning posthumous medals is reported to be thus: the medal is held by the State until a descendant claims it.

The above Congressionally authorized medals for Wilson and Shadrach were apparently not claimed; nor did the President act on the matter, whose privilege it is to award the Medal of Honor personally. The Congressional authorization expired in 2010.

About twenty years after the raid and its gruesome end, one of the two engineers who drove the *General* for Andrews, William J. Knight, made a career of traveling on the lecture circuit, carrying with him a large panorama, or illustrations of incidents occurring during the chase painted on a canvas roll. When unrolled before the audience, the pictures served to bring the talk to life. On boarding a Baltimore & Ohio train at Belleville, Ohio Knight was requested to come to the baggage car. There the baggage master, a young man of about thirty years, introduced himself as David Davenport Wilson, son of George Davenport Wilson. He had noticed Knight's name and title on the panorama roll, and he saw that Knight was wearing his Medal of Honor. Young Wilson asked Knight if he recalled whether his father wore any jewelry while the raiders were in prison. Knight did remember a gold ring with a seal and a pin

he had received on his journey home in the spring of 1825. "My reception West of the Mountains so far has exceeded my expectation . . . In all the villages through which I passed crowds of decent orderly citizens visited me with much kindness and cordially welcomed me." Clay enjoyed all the attention. Although he wrote the president on June 28 he was "obligated to decline many invitations to public dinner." He still planned on attending several public functions on his way back to Washington. He told Adams in the letter, "I shall leave my residence on the 6th or 7th of July and passing by Louisville, I shall join my family at Cincinnati and proceed to the City . . . I apprehend that it will be the last of July before we shall reach Washington."

Eliza Clay celebrated her twelfth birthday on Tuesday July 5, 1825. Shortly thereafter she and the rest of the Clay's "tolerable large family" left their home in Lexington and began their ill-fated journey to the nation's capital.

They traveled by their own private coach. Besides Eliza Clay and her parents, the group included her older sister, Anne and her husband, James Erwin. Anne Brown Clay Erwin was 18 years of age and expecting her first child early that winter. Also going were Eliza's younger brothers, six-year-old James Brown Clay and four-year-old John Morrison Clay.

The Clay family reached Cincinnati on Tuesday, July 12. The next day Henry Clay attended a large public reception celebrating the beginning of the Ohio and Miami Canal. This "Great Canal" would be officially dedicated in Middletown, Ohio the following week. Dignitaries from all over Ohio, its neighboring states, and beyond were in attendance. At the dinner numerous toasts and speeches were made. Clay was extremely pleased by the geniality in which he was received at this function. "My reception at Cincinnati was in a high degree cordial and distinguished" he wrote Adams. "On no former similar occasion was a public dinner so numerously and respectably attended. Between our political friends and mine entire concord & cooperation prevail."

By this time, however, Eliza had come down with a fever. Dismissing it as excitement over the trip, the Clay family continued their journey. That Thursday, July 14, they reached the residence of Judge Jacob D. Lowe. The retired associate judge of the common pleas court lived some 25 miles north of Cincinnati near Mason, Ohio, where what is now the Kirkwood Inn on US 42.

END OF PART ONE - to be continued in the August 2016 *Historicalog*



Henry Clay's home, Ashland, in Lexington, Kentucky

Continued from page 7

point was very obvious to the secretary of state. Adams wrote in his memoirs, “that Clay would willingly support me if he could thereby serve himself . . . (and) have a prominent share in the Administration . . .”

Clay had in mind being secretary of state. He saw it as a natural springboard to the presidency. It had worked for Madison, Monroe and was about to work for John Quincy Adams. Clay, or rather Letcher upon his behalf, however, had never specifically asked for that position.

The Kentucky and Ohio delegations to Congress announced their decisions to cast their votes for Adams on January 24, 1825. These two states were ones Henry Clay had carried in the election the previous fall. Many Westerners were shocked that Kentucky would not support their fellow son from the West, Andrew Jackson. Four days later, on January 28, an unsigned letter appeared in the *Philadelphia Columbia Observer* newspaper. It accused Clay of delivering House votes for Adams in exchange for him becoming the secretary of state. The public outcries of a “corrupt bargain” between Adams and Clay had begun.

Henry Clay had “A Card” published in the *Washington National Intelligencer* on January 31, 1825 after the “corrupt bargain” accusation was reprinted in that newspaper. He called the unsigned letter a “vile paper” and called its author, “whomever he may be, a base and infamous calumniator (slanderer), a dastard and a liar.” He demanded the author come forth and meet him on a field of honor. Clay’s willingness to duel over the letter was embarrassing to Adams.

On February 9 the House of Representatives voted. Each state received only one vote regardless of the size of its delegation. Of the 24 states, Adams received votes from thirteen, Jackson seven and Crawford four. John Quincy Adams was declared the president after only one ballot.

Two days later Henry Clay called upon John Quincy Adams. “We had a conversation of about an hour,” Adams recorded. “I then offered him the nomination to the Department of State. He said he would take it into consideration and answer me as soon as he should have time to consult opposition and thought all the projects of that nature which have been announced were mere ebullitions of disappointment at the issue of the election, which would soon be abandoned.”

Henry Clay was wrong. The cries of a “corrupt bargain” would not “soon be abandoned.” They would linger all through his term as secretary of state and haunt him for the rest of his public life. Jackson supporters would constantly bring the matter up, clouding many of the important programs and issues he tried to promote during his time at the State

Department. Andrew Jackson, who referred to Clay as “the Judas of the West,” would remain his political enemy for the rest of his life.

Not being offered the position to head the State Department until after Adams was chosen president, gave Clay the opportunity to dispel the charges of being involved in the illicit exchange of political favors. All he had to do was refuse temptation of power and turn down the job he felt would lead him straight to the presidency. On Thursday, February 17, Clay informed the president-elect he would be his secretary of state.

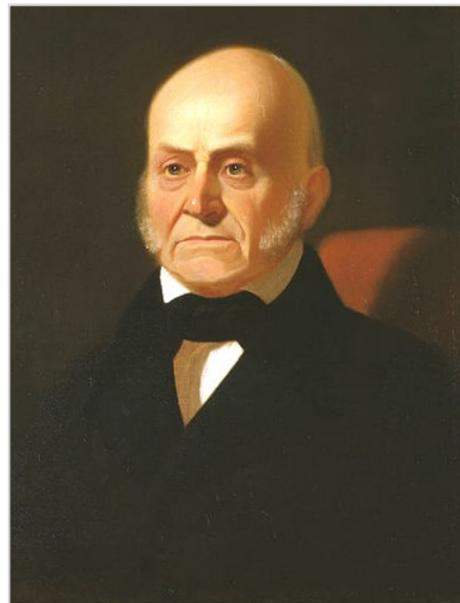
In 1825, the State Department was housed in a building at Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street, NW in Washington City. Clay worked hard, putting in some 12 to 14 hours a day at his new post. He found the position, however, somewhat dull compared to his livelier years as Speaker of the House. He also had to make the adjustment of being a member of a presidential cabinet, and no longer being his own man. He was now representing a president, one he did not necessarily admire. It bothered him that many of his suggestions to President Adams were being rejected. Henry Clay was also not physically well when he undertook the role of secretary of state. The pressures and strain of the job were draining his strength. He turned to his family for comfort but matters were about to get worse.

In mid-May 1825 Henry Clay returned to his home, Ashland, in Lexington, Kentucky. He had decided to move his family to Washington City to be with him. In preparation for their 500-mile journey, he had to sell much of their livestock and furniture and find a suitable renter of their home. Henry Clay’s “hard featured” wife, Lucretia, at first, was not happy about moving to Washington. Her 20-year-old daughter, Susan Hart Clay Duralde, encouraged her to “go more into the world” and leave Lexington. Susan, who was the Clays’ oldest living daughter, was married to Martin Duralde. They lived in New Orleans and had two small

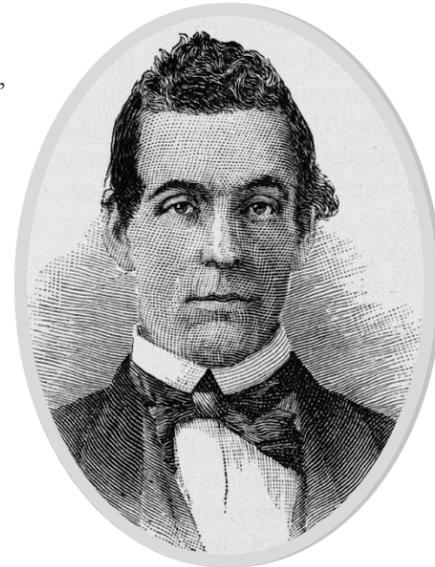
children. Susan wrote her mother “although you will perhaps not like (Washington) much at first, you will soon get accustomed to it.” Mrs. Clay finally acquiesced and agreed to the move.

Lucretia was glad that she would have 11-year-old Eliza, her only unmarried daughter, as company. Mrs. Clay “anticipated much gratification from her society and from (Eliza) completing her education” in Washington City. Eliza was described in a newspaper account, some 50 years later, as the Clays’ “beautiful and intelligent daughter.” Although being “rather delicate physically,” she was said to be “wise and womanly for her years.”

Henry Clay was surprised by the warmth of the greetings



President John Quincy Adams



George Davenport Wilson

which held a picture of George’s wife, the mother of David. George Wilson had requested that these two keepsakes be buried with him. When the bodies were exhumed for reburial at Chattanooga, the jewelry was found and sent to Washington. David Wilson held out his hand for Knight to see that he was wearing his father’s ring. The War Department had sent the items to Columbus, Ohio, where they were advertised and claimed by David Wilson.

In August, 1888 the National Grand Army of the Republic Encampment was held in Columbus, Ohio. The *General*, now restored after its wartime duty, was brought in as “honored guest,” as were the surviving participants of both North and South in the raid. On the first day of that celebration, the newspapers carried the obituary of David Davenport Wilson, reporting that he had been killed in a train wreck in Knox County, Ohio.

In our present time descendants of George Davenport Wilson have been sought by the administration of the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw, Georgia, where the *General* has found a permanent home. It is hoped that Warren County, Ohio enlistee Private George Davenport Wilson’s place in history may one day be recognized and honored as befits his courageous role as an Andrews Raider and his valiant acceptance of his fate.

Suggested Further Reading

Bonds, Russell S. *Stealing the General: The Great Locomotive Chase and The First Medal of Honor*. Yardley, PA: Westholme Publishing, LLC, 2006.

O’Neill, Charles. *Wild Train: The Story of the Andrews Raiders*. New York: Random House, Inc., 1956.

Pittenger, William. *Daring & Suffering: A History of the Andrews Railroad Raid*. Originally Published: New York: War Pub. Co., 1887. Nashville, TN, 1999.



PORTRAIT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN



Herschel Jones’ portrait of Abraham Lincoln hangs in the research library at the Warren County History Center

This portrait was donated to the Warren County Historical Society by the family of Fred E. Jones, who was a judge of the 12th district Court of Appeals in Warren County and the brother of the painter, Herschel J. Jones.

Herschel J. Jones, born April 11, 1928 and died June 6, 1993. He was married to Grace E. Jones of Middletown, OH. They had four sons. Mr. Jones owned and operated Jones and Associates Advertising agency in the Lebanon area from 1975 until his death in 1993. In his earlier years, before becoming a commercial artist, he painted area scenery pieces and a number of portraits including this one of Abraham Lincoln. He painted the portrait of Lincoln with the use of a palette knife—using a bronze bust of the former President as a guide. The painting was a gift to his eight-year-old son who needed a Show & Tell item for school that would celebrate Abraham Lincoln’s birthday. Needless to say, his son won the Show & Tell contest that day, having brought the coolest item in.

Tax Free IRA Charitable Rollover Permanently Extended

If you are age 70 ½ or older you may now instruct your IRA custodian to transfer any amount, up to \$100,000, directly to the Warren County Historical Society Endowment Fund, Building Fund, Glendower Fund or Operating Fund. This distribution would not be included in your taxable income (but could fulfill any required minimum distribution requirements) and would not produce an income tax deduction. This outright gift must come directly from your IRA custodian to the Warren County Historical Society. Gifts may be made at any time in 2016 and in future years without expiration.

The Old Clark Thread Box

by Jeanne Doan, Exhibits Curator

If you're reading this, odds are good that at some point you've watched the show "Antiques Roadshow," and if you're like me, you've felt a thrill as you've watched the obscure, fascinating, and sometimes unexpected history of a seemingly mundane object unfold. Sometimes the object turns out to be worth quite a bit of money, and sometimes not, but again, if you're like me, the real value of an object lies in its history.

Here at the Warren County History Center, we have a seemingly mundane object—a small rectangular antique box—that may well have an obscure and fascinating history, and it's a mystery I'd like to share with our readers.

When I began working at the WCHC, one of my first projects was taking inventory in the General Store located in the Village Green at the History Center. Eager to take on the task, I peeked in through the windows, as so many of our visitors do every day—and suddenly I had a small idea of what a large task this was actually going to be. As of this writing, we have arranged, reorganized and redisplayed approximately one

quarter of the contents of the exhibit. While cleaning out the bottom cabinets on the rear wall, among the glass, porcelain and earthenware crocks, I found a small box labeled "George A. Clark; Sewing Threads." On the lid was a peeling sticker, outlined in red ink, which read: "25 pkgs. Foreign Flint, M&T etc (Old World)." Seemed straightforward, at least as far as such a thing exists when historical objects are involved.

Upon opening the box, however, it soon became clear that something rather more extraordinary than thread was nestled inside: tiny packages of faded salmon-pink crepe paper and dusty cotton balls sheltered petite arrowheads, flint scrapers, stone circles, and even teeth. Small paper tags were handwritten in French—a language I do not speak nor understand, though words like "Neolithique" and "Paleolithique" jumped out as excitingly familiar. On just one of these tiny tags was a name: Arthur DeBruge. Thus our journey of discovery began.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, fossils and

prehistoric artifacts were being actively hunted throughout the world, by archaeologists and historians with varying pedigrees. In 1928, Dorothy and Alonzo Pond were a newly married couple associated with the Logan Museum at Beloit College in Wisconsin. They were hired to dig in Algeria at escargotières, or large mounds of small snail shells and ashes left by prehistoric campers. In Algeria they met Arthur DeBruge, a retired French postman with a passion for spending his vacations practicing the art and science of archaeology. In her wonderful memoir *If Women Had Courage...* Dorothy Pond describes an incredible world out in the deserts of North Africa, where the Ponds and Monsieur DeBruge lived in increasingly difficult circumstances shoulder-to-shoulder with native workmen and dug trenches in the hard soil for flints, stone tools, and bone. What they found was sorted, cleaned, and catalogued every day. Some of the artifacts remained in Algeria in the Antiquities Museum; some would go back to Beloit College; yet others would find their way into private collections.



A box of mysterious items was found in Harmon Hall.

Arthur DeBruge, retired postman, had such a private collection, and this is where our little treasure box might possibly come from—although this is speculation, and our trail seems to have run cold. How did the box find its way to Ohio from France? Whose hands has it passed through, and how many eyes have wondered at the unique prehistoric bits of human ingenuity inside? We can only guess, and hope that one day this tiny box is

able to thrill us with its full story. In the meantime, the mystery remains—which, we admit, is quite a thrill in itself.

Sources

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1825 - Henry Clay's Year of Tragedy

by John J. Zimkus, WCHS Historian & Education Director

Many historians believe Henry Clay made the political blunder of his life on February 17, 1825 when he accepted President-elect John Quincy Adams's offer to be secretary of state. U.S. Senator and future president Martin Van Buren said that the political union between Clay and Adams was the equivalent of the signing of Clay's "political death warrant."

His acceptance of the post put into motion a series of events that would help make 1825, politically and personally, one of the most tragic years in Henry Clay's life. It would inadvertently lead to the death of his 12-year-old daughter Eliza in Lebanon, Ohio.

Since 1811, Henry Clay had served six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives as its speaker. Here, "Prince Hal," as he was sometimes called, ruled the House as if it was his own little kingdom. He was one of the most powerful men in America, but Henry Clay was also one of the nation's most ambitious. He wanted more.

The years leading to the election of 1824 saw the end of the Federalist Party. This left only the Democratic-Republican Party as a national political entity. In 1824, the Democratic-Republican Party splintered as four separate candidates sought the presidency. One faction, led by Andrew Jackson, would evolve into the Democratic Party; while another, led by John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay, would become at first the National Republican Party and then the Whig Party.

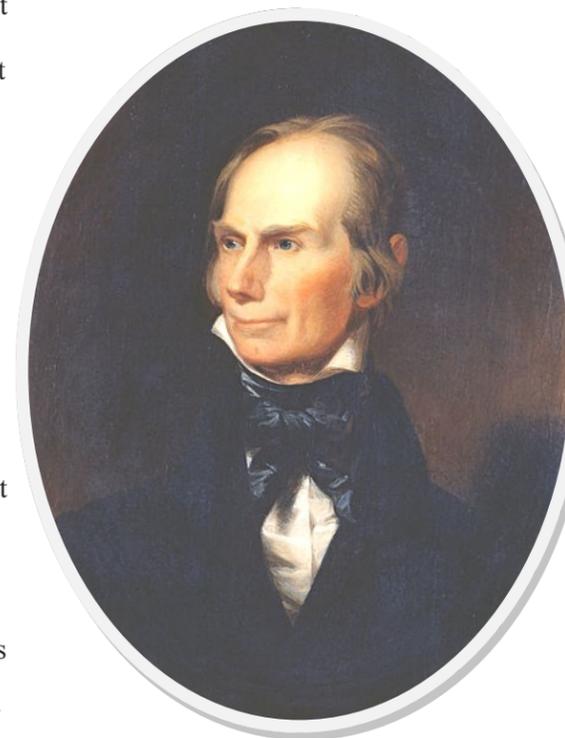
In the presidential election of 1824, the four main candidates were Secretary of State John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts; the hero of the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812, and the newly elected U.S. senator from Tennessee, Andrew Jackson; Secretary of the Treasury William H. Crawford of Georgia; and Speaker of the House Henry Clay of Kentucky. None of the four candidates received the majority of electoral votes needed to become president. This put the choice of the next chief executive in the hands of the House of Representatives. Only the top three candidates, however, would be considered by the House. Henry Clay came in fourth.

Clay was shocked that he lost to men he felt were less worthy of the position than he was. The loss of the election did, however, put him in a very powerful position. Henry Clay could now play the role of kingmaker. He felt he could virtually hand pick the next president by throwing his support

behind him. The question now was whom he would support.

William H. Crawford was not even considered. Crawford had suffered a paralytic stroke during the summer of 1823 that left him nearly blind and barely able to walk. News of his plight had been kept a secret with only a few men knowing the full extent of his condition. As for Jackson, a fellow Westerner, Clay did not take him seriously as a political leader. This was in spite of Jackson's ability to get the largest number of electoral votes of the four. "I cannot believe killing 2,500 Englishmen at N. Orleans qualifies for the various, difficult and complicated duties of the Chief Magistracy," wrote Clay.

Besides, if Jackson became president that would mean there would be four, or possibly eight, years of a Western president. Clay reasoned the chances were not good that the nation would tolerate another Western president when it was his turn to be elected. When questioned as to whom he would support Clay wrote, "What do you desire? That I should vote for Mr. Crawford? I cannot. For Gen. Jackson? I will not." The choice had to be Adams. Politically, Adams' views were close to Clay's. The secretary of state agreed with Clay's national economic program. Personally, their relationship had been strained in recent times. Clay considered John Quincy Adams a rather pious and cold New Englander, a political lightweight compared to himself, and someone he personally did not like. Adams, likewise, had no great love for Henry Clay. He was disgusted by what he perceived as Clay's loose morals and the image that was portrayed of him—that of



Henry Clay

a womanizer, a carouser, and a gambler. He felt Clay was responsible for many of the attacks from the House that criticized his performance as secretary of state. However, Clay and Adams felt their political union would be a profitable one for both of them. Adams' ambition for the presidency was as strong as Clay's.

They corresponded through unofficial visits to Adams by U.S. Representative Robert Letcher from Lancaster, Kentucky. Clay and Letcher at the time shared the same rooming house on Ninth Street in Washington D.C. The first meeting between Letcher and Adams took place on December 12, 1824. Letcher's conversation was a little vague in substance but his

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