

HISTORY  
*Of*  
SHELBY COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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*Under the Auspices of the*  
SHELBY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL-HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY'S COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

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Laughlin to give spiritual advice to her husband who had been brought to Shelbyville for trial on a charge of murder.

Pat Higgins was the first Catholic in Shelbyville and Wm. Shinnick, who came to this country in 1849, was the next.

In 1853, Bishop Spaulding, of the diocese (afterwards Arch Bishop of Baltimore) went to Europe to obtain more priests for Kentucky. He succeeded in getting five, one of whom was Rev. John H. Bekkers, a native of Holland. To him is due the establishment of a church in Shelbyville.

In 1855, he made his first trip to Shelbyville. His presence soon became known to the handful of Catholics here and the next morning after his arrival the first mass ever celebrated in Shelbyville was celebrated at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shinnick.

Subscriptions for the establishment of a Catholic Church was headed by Mr. John Tevis for two hundred dollars, signed by Lud Fore, Marion C. Taylor, G. A. Armstrong, Culvin Fore, each giving one hundred dollars. Other donations from non-Catholics put the sum total up to nine hundred dollars. This with several hundred accumulated among the few Catholics themselves, encouraged Father Bekkers in his ambition to build a church here.

Mrs. Jane Campbell donated the lot on which to build the church. Prior to her first marriage, Mrs. Campbell was a Catholic and lived in Baltimore. She married Mr. Peter Crapster and the grandfather of the former assistant post-master. After Mr. Crapster's death she married William F. Campbell, also a Protestant.

The lot was located on east Main Street, corner of First. The deed from W. F. Campbell's wife, Jane, was dated December, 1859. The lot was seventy-eight by two hundred and twenty-four feet.

Excavation for the foundation was made in the spring of 1860. The brick for the building were made by Ed. and John Brady. The foundation was laid under the direction

of James McCarthy and he was assisted by Peter Lee, David Boyle, Thomas Fox, Thos. Gernert, John and Michael Harris, Joseph McGann, Will McFadden and John Lyons, for which work they received no pay. Carpenterman's work was done by Watts and Wells; the bricklaying by a man named Campion; plastering by Nolan, and stone work by Herman Deiss and Michael Brown.

The Church of the Annunciation was dedicated by Rt. Rev. M. J. Spaulding. Two years later a rectory was built and then the priest (who had lived in a boarding house) had a home of his own. After Father Bekkers, Father Lawrence Bax and Polydore Fermont, a missionary priest, attended the spiritual wants of the congregation until 1861, when Rev. M. D. Lawler was appointed regular pastor. Rev. D. F. Crane, afterward Chaplin St. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital, came in 1868.

In the early '60's a pipe organ was purchased and given by Mrs. Chas. Harwood. The first organist was Miss Lizzie Deiss, then came Miss Maggie McQuillan, Miss Mary Shinnick, Alyce Dubourg, W. S. Kaltenbacher, Miss Mary Meade and Mrs. Ed. Shinnick. The first marriage ceremony in the church was that of Michael Brown and Miss Kate O'Connor, on January 8, 1861.

scendants of some of these children still live in Shelby County. Nicholas' son, Richard (Born Oct. 10, 1777) married first, Elizabeth Thornton in 1818. After her death he married her cousin, Susannah F. Thornton in 1822. Both these young women came from Caroline County, Virginia. Richard Meriwether died in Shelby County, Kentucky, May 17, 1850. He was survived by his wife, Susannah, a daughter, Elizabeth, who died young, and three sons, Richard, Thornton and George Wood. Richard Meriweather, Jr., never married. Thornton Meriwether and George Wood Meriwether married and left children. The Meriwethers of Shelby County are descended from the above named. Wills and deeds are on file at Shelbyville, Ky.

From the coming of Nicholas Meriweather V, from Virginia to Shelby County, Kentucky, he was active with other pioneers in the building of churches, schools and roads. He married as said the second time, a sister of Martin Daniel. The children and their descendants of this marriage live in Louisiana and Mississippi. Nicholas Meriweather V, died at the home of his son, Richard Meriwether near Christiansburg, Shelby County, Ky., where he was buried.\*

References:

"Colonial Virginia Register," W. G. Stanard, pp. 98, 100, 102-105, 107.

"Meriwether Family," by Hon. George R. Gilmer, Ex-Governor of the State of Georgia.

"Family Records," by the late George W. Meriwether of Louisville, Ky.

\*Compiled by Mrs. Susan Thornton Meriwether Henning.

CHAPTER XIII

*Joseph Hornsby\**

The master and mistress of Mt. Vernon were no busier with, or more ambitious about the landscaping or gardening they were doing on the banks of the Potomac one hundred and forty years ago than was one of the pioneers of Shelby County. A diary written in ink between April, 1798 and August, 1804, by Joseph Hornsby at his home in Southwestern Shelby County near where Clark's Station on the Southern Railway now stands was devoted almost entirely to a record of the planting of rare flower seeds, the transplanting of valuable vines and shrubbery and to his visits and inter-relations with those who were then his relations and neighbors.

His beautiful home at that place was called, "Grasslands," and he is said to have owned eight thousand acres at the time of his death. A son of Joseph Hornsby and Hannah Linkley of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk County, England, born in 1746, he came to Williamsburg, Virginia when seventeen years of age. In about 1770, he was married to Mildred Thornton Walker, daughter of the distinguished Dr. Thomas Walker, the first Kentucky explorer, and of Mildred Thornton. Just what year they reached Shelby County is not definitely shown by the records, but his large holdings of land in the vicinity of Clark's Station and where he died when he was sixty-six years old, came to him, of course, through grants, when the property was still within the State of Virginia. He and his wife of such distinguished ancestry were the parents of five children, all born in the 1770's. They were Hannah Hornsby, who married Thomas Allen, Mildred Hornsby, who married her cousin, Nicholas Merriweather Lewis, Joseph Hornsby, who married Cynthia Allen (they had ten children) Thomas Hornsby, who married Frances Henderson and Margaret

\*Data furnished by Mrs. Bell Watson Boteler.

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Hornsby, who married John Allen. The latter couple like Joseph Hornsby and Cynthia Allen, reared a family of ten children, and all five of the children of Thomas Hornsby were the parents of families whose descendants for four and five generations have lived and died in Shelby County; or are still esteemed citizens of Shelby, or have been among those who went out into the world and helped to make Shelby County favorably known, particularly in the States out under the western skies, long years after the original Joseph Hornsby had sowed and planted and raised his flowers in the pioneer Kentucky. The Allen, Hornsby, Boteler and Lewis families are some of those whose names have been familiar in Shelby County and to Shelby countians, wherever located for more than a hundred and thirty years.

## PART VI

### TRADITION AND REMINISCENCES

## HISTORY OF SHELBY COUNTY

*Shelby County members General Assembly, House of Representatives*

Sprigg, 1830, 1834, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1851-1853; Jas. M. Bullock, 1831, 1836; Isham T. Underwood, 1833; Nicholas Smith, 1837; Wm. C. Bullock, 1838; John A. Logan, 1839; Wm. Welch, Walter C. Drake, 1841; Robert Doak, Wm. S. Helm, 1842; Lloyd Tevis, Fleming L. Garnett, 1843; Martin D. McHenry, 1844, 1846; Shannon Reid, Jas. G. Bales, 1845; Wm. L. Jones, 1846, 1848; John Brower, Hartwell A. Bailey, 1847; Josiah H. Magruder, 1848; Tandy M. Allen, Gideon Mitchell, 1849; Thos. Todd, 1850; Jas. L. Caldwell, 1851-1853, 1857-1859; Marion C. Taylor, Thos. Jones, 1853-1855; Archibald C. Brown, Joshua Tevis, 1855-1857; Stephen T. Draue, 1857-1859; Henry Bohannon, 1859-1865; Fielding Neil, 1859-1861; Jos. W. Davis, 1865-1867; Culvin Sanders, 1867-1869; John F. Wight, 1869-1871; Jos. P. Force, 1871-1873.

The Representatives from this time forward were in the order named:

Thos. W. Hinton, John F. Wight, John A. Thomas, G. N. Robinson, Harrison Bailey, J. C. Beckham, G. N. Robinson, J. J. Long, John Botts, Newton Bright, P. J. Force, Michael O'Sullivan, S. W. Booker, J. A. Frazier, Elliott B. Beard, John W. Holland, Dr. W. R. Ray, Geo. L. Pickett, W. T. Beckham, John Edwin Brown, E. J. Doss.

Those of the Senate from 1878, who were residents of Shelby County were in the order named:

William Anderson, Newton Frazier, Philip J. Beard.

## CHAPTER III

### *Delegates in Constitutional Convention*

The State records of the compact with Virginia in 1789, and of the Constitutional Convention held in Danville in 1792, do not give the names of the representatives composing the convention.

Shelby County's delegates in the Constitutional Convention of 1799, were Benjamin Logan and Abraham Owens. In the third Constitutional Convention in 1850, Shelby was represented by Andrew S. White and John W. Johnstone; and in the fourth Constitutional Convention of 1890-91, by J. C. Beckham.