

**Tales
of Old
Bardstown**

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Tales of Old Bardstown

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BARDSTOWN WOMAN'S CLUB
Compiled by Nora L. McGee, Historian.*

Introduction

I AM bringing you this afternoon, a history of Old Bardstown which is a community unusually rich in traditions, and a Mecca for tourists. These legends are gathered here and there from many sources,—some are copied word for word from old clippings, others are tales which have been handed down through several generations and retold to me. They are only a few of the many that could be told,—the fund seems inexhaustible,—and a complete history of romantic old Bardstown would fill a large volume. Each day discovers new data in my search, and I have had to discard much of the material gathered, for fear of making this paper too lengthy.

One thing I wish to make clear,—I can not in all cases vouch for the absolute truth of the stories. Legends and traditions will become distorted through much repetition, and some of the accounts, I found to be conflicting.

“I know not how the truth may be,
I tell the tale as 'twas told to me”—

and I have written them down as I received them, hoping they will give you some of the pleasure they gave me.

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Potter Shop Hill:

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Federal Hill—"Old Kentucky Home":

Early Settlers in Nelson County and Forts

Nelson County was named for Thomas Nelson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. It was formed in 1784 by the General Assembly of Virginia while Patrick Henry was Governor. The old records approving the act of the Assembly in forming the County are on file at the Court House—they are printed on rough paper, in plain type, and bear the historic signature of Patrick Henry, and the seal and motto of Virginia.

The first settlements in the county were in 1775, when Col. Isaac Cox settled on Cox's Creek, Jonah Heaton on Pottinger's Creek, and John James Rogers in the Cedar Creek neighborhood.

A band under the leadership of Col. Isaac Cox, early in 1775 floated down the Ohio to the mouth of the Kentucky, left their boats and passed into the wilderness. They did not follow the traces of former settlements but struck bravely into the unknown. They reached Cox's Creek, stopped here in the early summer of 1775 and built the fort called Cox's Station, located where the residence of the late Mr. Barney King stands, just above the mouth of Caney Fork.

When Col. Isaac Cox and his bands settled on Cox's Creek, in 1775, they decided there was not enough suitable land for all, so part of them under the leadership of Jonah Heaton started off toward the Rolling Fork, passed over the present site of Bardstown, crossed the Beech Fork, and struck the headwaters of Pottinger's Creek at Rohan's Knob. They called this "Big Lick Knob" on account of the Buffalo licks at its base. The fertile land along the creek attracted them, but in a few weeks they returned to Cox's Station and the permanent Pottinger Creek settlement was not made until 1778 when Col. Samuel Pottinger settled there. He built the first brick house in the county in 1778 twenty miles southeast of Goodwin's station. It still stands well preserved.

In 1776 a brother of Isaac Cox, Proctor Ballard a brother of the famous scout Bland Ballard, John Simpson and David Morrison settled in the vicinity of what is

now Bardstown and called the place Salem or Salem Station. They were soon followed by Alexander McCown, Andrew Hynes, James and Thomas Speed and others.

Four miles southwest of Bardstown out the Boston pike and in the Cedar Creek neighborhood was located Roger's Fort, one of the oldest settlements, founded by John James Rogers in 1775. The Rogers preemption was a vast tract of land lying between Buffalo Creek, east, Cedar Creek, west, Shepherdsville pike, north and Boston pike, south. This was owned by the Rogers till 1812, at which time deeds on file in the County Clerk's office show that the land was sold to Samuel Bealmear and Wm. Baird.

The old fort was built in 1775 and still stands in a fine state of preservation. In the front room to the right may be found port holes, and around the premises the butts of cedar posts may be observed—remains of the old stockade set around the station for protection. To the spring at the foot of the hill, the women would go for water while the men protected them from the portholes. The last Indian killed in the county was shot under a cedar tree nearby, which has since been destroyed during a storm. Back of the family burying ground are many circular depressions marking Indian graves.

In 1785 twenty-five families from St. Mary's County, Maryland, floated down the Ohio on flat boats to Maysville and marched inland to Boston, which was the nearest fortified post to Pottinger's Creek. Here the women and children stayed till the cabins were built. The names of this band are not all certainly known, but Samuel Pottinger was one—also, Basil Hayden, whose bond for his land is recorded in the Court House.

Land along the Rolling and Beech Forks was very desirable and Samuel Gardiner settled what is known as the old Ben Beeler place and built a fort in 1777. Cadwallader Slaughter settled on Beech Fork where John R. Nichols formerly lived. Jesse Davis settled Chaplin Hills. The Kincheloes settled on lower Simpson's Creek and built a fort between Spencer and Nelson Counties.

There are a number of note-worthy old family burying grounds in the County where well known pioneers are buried. One of these is located near where the old toll-gate stood on the Gilkey Run pike on the old Bryan Neal place. Here he and his wife are buried and others connected with the family, among them Wm. Heavenhill who was born in 1738 under a ledge of rock at the foot of Potter Shop Hill. The family had taken refuge there during an Indian raid. He died in 1870.

In the old Presbyterian cemetery in the west suburbs of town is a grave beneath a mass of tangled vines and undergrowth where a broken headstone marks the resting place of John Bosman, killed by Indians in 1785. According to tradition, Bosman, a native of Maryland, was one of the first pioneers to come to Nelson County and acted as guide to hundreds of settlers. He was a trail-blazer and scout, a born pioneer, restless, brave, resourceful, adventurous, true as steel,—all qualities for a frontiersman. The settlers looked upon him as a bulwark of safety and every settler's cabin was his home. He came to this section in 1777 and wintered at Salem Station. One night while Bosman and a

comrade were away seeing to the erection of some cabins on the Rolling Fork, a party of Indians stole several horses from the settlement. The Indian band came upon the two while they were cooking their supper in camp, and during a parley one of the Indians shot Bosman, after which they made off with the horses and provisions. The other settler escaped, made his way back to the settlement, and a party returned for Bosman's body.

The pioneer population was chiefly from Virginia and many were from Maryland and Pennsylvania. They were precisely of that character that was necessary to face savage red skins and wild beasts, which were compelled reluctantly to leave their favorite haunt. They were a set of bold adventurers, full of frolic and fun, real dare devils, who feared nothing. Many anecdotes have been handed down by traditions, and many scattered graves over the county speak of bloody tragedies. In the old cemeteries, the old Presbyterian, the old Catholic and the pioneer burying ground back of the jail, may be read the names of many brave pioneers.





MAIN STREET LOOKING NORTH BARDSTOWN, KY.

The Foundation of Bardstown

Bardstown, September 1775, the second oldest town in the state, was first settled in 1775 by the Baird family. Boonesboro Fort, 1775, is the oldest and Lexington, April 1779, and Harrodsburg, June 1774, first, are about the same age. Some historians claim that Springfield and Shepherdsville are both older than Bardstown. But it is generally accepted that Boonesboro Fort, 1775, was first, Harrodsburg, first town, and Bardstown, second. There was already a scattering settlement here known as Salem, but this was later changed to Bairdstown in honor of the Bairds, and in time became Bardstown, as some of the family insisted upon B-a-r-d as the proper spelling.

Wm. Bard, the first of the name here, was born June 7, 1738 and died at Bardstown, Ky., July 31, 1802. He was reared in what is now Adams County, Pennsylvania, was a descendant of the Scotch Covenanters and a man of piety and learning. The story goes, that Wm. Bard first visited Kentucky in 1768 as salt was scarce in Pittsburg and he with three other men went down the Ohio on a flatboat to Salt Licks, Ky. They were attacked by Indians. Bard and one other man escaped and returned home, carrying a small child as one of the men was married and he and his wife were both killed.

Later Wm. Bard and his brother, Richard, came to Kentucky and located first at Danville. Richard returned to Pennsylvania and William settled where Bardstown now stands, and located a land grant issued by the Assembly of Virginia on 1,000 acres, including the settlement of Salem. He built a cabin four miles north of Bardstown and acquired a large tract of land on Buffalo Creek—part of the land till recent years was in the hands of descendants and an old burying-ground on the place contains four generations of the family. (The Woodson Kurtz place.)

A Colony of Germans had settled out on

the Shepherdsville pike and planned to build a town called Germantown. Wm. Bard did not like the situation and selected the present site. This was a part of his original entry and contained 100 acres where Salem stood, which he had given to his son, David. This land was donated to the trustees for a county seat, the town laid off by Wm. Bard and named for his son, David Bard. The old records showing the initial steps toward the creation of Nelson County and the making of Salem or Bardstown into County seat are dated February 11, 1782 signed by Wm. Bard, and may be found at the Court House. The town was incorporated December 2, 1788 by act of Virginia Assembly.

The Bards encouraged settlers by laying off lots which might be had at a small quit rent of \$2 per year, no rent required while the Revolutionary War was going on. Settlers improving their land, clearing off underbrush and building a house at least 16 feet square were considered to have a right to their lots.

Bardstown grew rapidly and became the center of the lines of travel from the other settlements to the Falls of the Ohio. In early days it was a town of considerable business importance, a number of manufacturing flourished here, and it became one of the most populous towns in Kentucky. It has always been famous as an educational center, many brilliant men having received their training here, and was noted throughout the South as a town of wealth, refinement and beauty.

Wm. Bard was a surveyor and made the first map of Louisville in 1779, the original was in the hands of Col. R. T. Durrett of Louisville.

Wm. Bard married Mary Kincaid Braxdale, daughter of Joseph Kincaid, and widow of John Braxdale, killed by Indians. She was born in Virginia October 12, 1775 and died in Bardstown, November 10, 1825. They had five sons.

Taverns

There were two stage coach lines from Louisville to Nashville and the one by Bardstown was the favorite route of travel, as all streams were bridged along this line. Bardstown was the noon-day stop on the way from Louisville, a change of horses was made here—in fact, fresh horses were obtained at regular stops every ten or twelve miles,—and passengers had their dinner at the Bardstown taverns built by Jacob Yeiser on the corner of Second and Arch streets, opposite the present Methodist Church. It was erected before 1790, the exact year is not known, and was called the "Old Stone Tavern."

Another house which stood on the same lot deserves a place in the history of Bardstown. Although afterward neatly weatherboarded and presenting a somewhat modern appearance, it was one of the oldest houses in town and was built of yellow poplar logs. According to traditions this was where Louis Phillipe stayed while in Bardstown, and was located opposite the present Methodist Church.

There are many very old residences in Bardstown as records at the Court House will show and strangers visiting here invariably comment upon the quaint appearance and old style architecture in evidence. The custom of building homes directly upon the streets and the colonial doorways excite special interest.

The house where Mrs. Lizzie Powers Mattingly lives has an interesting history. Mrs. Mattingly's grandmother was brought to this community when a child of 8 years by relatives and they stayed at Speed's Fort now known as the Nichols' place just

outside of town on the Bloomfield pike. Here she stayed several years, till she married at fifteen, Mr. Mattingly's grandfather. The young couple came into the settlement and lived first in a log house where Mrs. Mary Agnes Mattingly Spalding now lives. Early in their married life, the husband came home one day and announced that he had bought another home for them,—several acres of land and a log cabin of two rooms on the street,—the present home of Mrs. Mattingly. The young bride was heart-broken at leaving her first little home, but wives obeyed their husbands in those days, and the move was made. The house was weather-boarded, additional rooms built, and the granddaughter of that pioneer couple, now an elderly woman, lives where her family have lived for well over a hundred years. Here her grandmother dispensed hospitality to the travelers, for it became a tavern, and here, it is said; John Fitch stayed for awhile, till he removed to a small room over a grog shop on the south-west corner of Broadway and Main, where Haviland's Store stood, till recent years. Later he went to live with the McCowns at the jail where he stayed till his death. Across the street on the north-west corner was a brick building called the "Tavern of the Seven Stars," afterwards the "Gault House".

The house now owned by Mr. Will Hinkle and in the same block as Mrs. Mattingly, was sold by her grandfather to his brother for a bridle and saddle to induce him to locate here.

The "Black's Tavern."

The Old Beal Residence

The home now owned by Henry Muir is one of the most famous residences of old Bardstown and one of the first brick dwellings. It was built by Mr. Walter Beal and his son, Samuel, between 1790-1800, the brick being burned in a yard near at hand.

Mr. Walter Beal was a merchant in Bardstown in 1788, while the State was

still a part of Virginia, and was a man of great wealth, a large land-holder, and a figure of importance in the local history of those times. In the early days many manufactories were located here and the place was the center of supplies for miles around. When this dwelling was remodelled, an old blotter was found recording a

sale of dry goods amounting to £ 3000 in one day,

Mr. Samuel Beall, the son, was a contractor and many specimens of his designing and supervision may still be seen here, notably, St. Joseph's College. He conceived the idea of a large hotel on the corner now occupied by Robert Crume's Drug Store extending back to Grigsby's warehouse and down Main street to Heyman's,—the ladies' entrance and parlor were to be where Dr. Grigsby is now located (notice the peculiar arched ceilings in there sometimes.) But this fell into other hands and was converted into a business block.

He, Mr. S. Beall, was one of the wealthiest men in the State,—at one time owned the home of Ben Hardin,—and had many dreams which he never carried out. One was to make Boston an important river port with great warehouses and extensive boat landings.

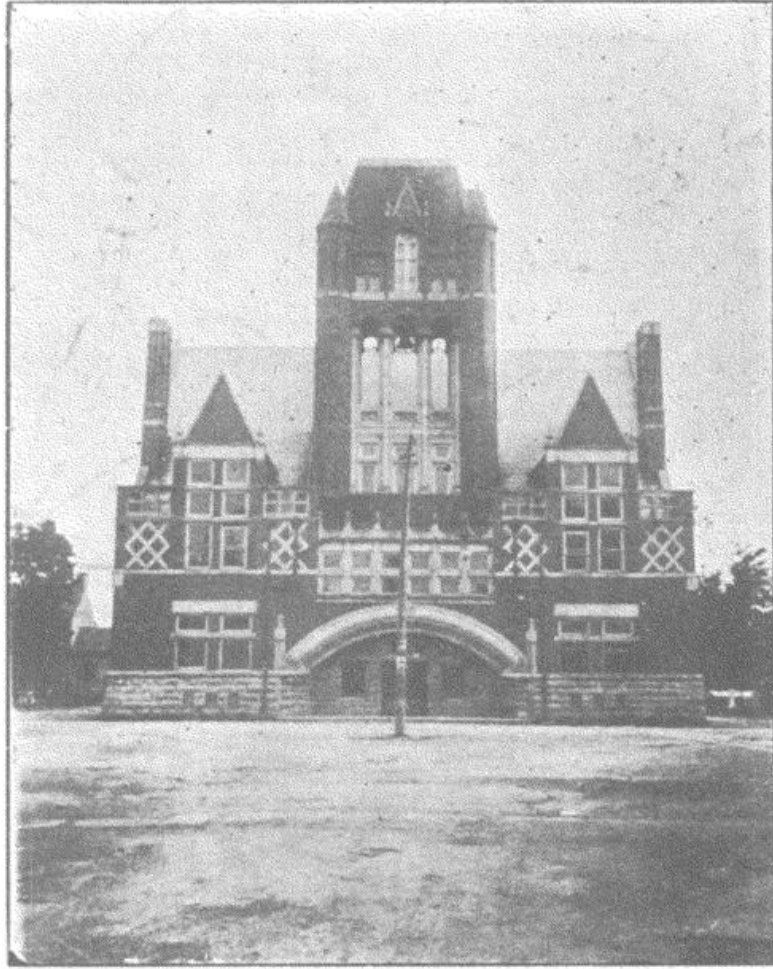
His home, now the Muir place, was of unusual construction, there being two octagon shaped rooms jutting out on either side of the front porch and these could be enter-

ed only from this porch. Upon the roof was a fish pond, but as it was found impossible to prevent leakage, the water was drained off and the space made into a flower garden. Being somewhat of a sportsman, Mr. Beall had a mile race track constructed upon his farm, one of the first in Kentucky, and many notable races were run here. Standing on the porch of the present residence the depression in the ground can be seen and followed, as it encircles the rear of the home in an immense horseshoe.

Mr. Beall had planned to erect a large cotton gin back on his premises, but loss of money prevented him carrying out his design, and in time he was compelled to give up the possession of his home. It passed into the hands of the Wickliffes, and finally to the present Muir family. The house has been remodeled, modernized and still remains one of the handsomest homes of this section.

The Beall family moved away, the descendants are scattered,—one street bearing the name, and old records tell the tale of their having lived here at one time.





COURT HOUSE, BARDSTOWN, KY
Erected in 1892

The first public buildings erected in Bardstown were of logs. The first Court House was built in 1785 of hemn logs, and measured 20x30 feet. Later a stone building was erected whose classic walls echoed to the speeches of Henry Clay, ex-President Buchanan, ex-President Polk and ex-Persident Hayes and other notables. This was torn down in 1891, and the present structure which was completed in 1892, cost \$33,000. The first court held in Nelson

County was in 1785, by mandamus, signed by Benjamin Pope. Patrick Henry was Governor of Virginia at that time.

On the Court House Square once stood a log school house where many men, afterward prominent, received their education. Dr. Priestly taught the school and it was known all over the country for the thoroughness and high standard of the training given. Bardstown in those days was an educational center and drew students from all over the country.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Erected in 1827

Churches

Many of the early settlers were Presbyterians,—the Bairds were of that faith. Between 1790 and 1800 the Rev. Terah Templin, a home missionary, was sent into this part of the wilderness in the interest of the Presbyterian church. He preached here, evidently with success, as that became the strongest denomination. While preaching here he was taken sick, died in 1819 and is buried in the old Presbyterian cemetery in the Northwest part of town.

In 1802 Joshua Wilson preached regularly, gathered a congregation and the church was organized. He first preached at the Court House, then the old log church was built in the Presbyterian cemetery. This land was donated by William Beall to the German Reformed Church, who sold it to the Presbyterians. The old log church erected was 25x30 or 35 feet of unplastered bare logs on the inside and would seat one

hundred and fifty people. It was torn down in 1818 and is long since forgotten, save here and there where an occasional reference is made to it. The early records of the church are lost, but we know that Father Wilson remained till 1808, and that he taught school in an old log school house at the North end of Second street. After his ministry the church was vacant two years, then the Rev. Joseph Lapsley was installed pastor. His residence was on the grounds now known as Nazareth. At this time, in 1810, the church had 30 members—in 1813, 49 members.

Two eminent diviners of early days were Nathan Hall and Nathan L. Rice, who are remembered for their religious controversies. That seemed to be a favorite pastime then, and such controversies were of frequent occurrence, when the whole town took sides and excitement ran high.

There is some interesting history con-

cerning the old brick church now used by the negro Baptists, preserved in old records. There once lived in this town a man named Paul Jones, a member of no church and not considered pious. He died in 1812 and left a will in which he asked that out of the proceeds of his estate, a church should be built for the use of all denominations, white and colored. This house was built and considered very handsome for those days, being of brick. Here the Presbyterians held the Session in 1816" and used it thereafter two Sundays a month,—the Methodists used it once or twice a month, and the Baptists frequently,—neither the Methodists or Baptists were very strong at that time in the community. Paul Jones is buried in the Southwest corner of the church lot.

The venerable Bishop Kavanaugh was the father of the Methodist Church here, assisted by the Rev. Jonathan Stamper. The great Methodist pulpit orator, John Newland Maffitt once occupied the pulpit six weeks.

Old papers of 1823 tell of a band of Millerites, who visited here at that time and caused great excitement. This religious sect remained a week and held a revival in a large tent, working upon the negroes and the superstitious. They preached that the end of the world was at hand and set a night for this to occur. Great crowds watched and prayed, but the Angel Gabriel failed to appear at the appointed time, and the crestfallen Millerites folded their tents and stole away by night.

CEDAR CREEK BAPTIST—Cedar Creek Baptist Church is located about five miles southwest of Bardstown and is the second oldest Baptist Church in Kentucky. Severn's Valley Church at Elizabethtown is the oldest. Cedar Creek congregation was gathered together by Joseph Barnett, who was assisted in its constitution by John Gerrard, July 4, 1781 just 16 days after the organization of the Severn Valley Church.

The first pastor was Joseph Barnett, who continued with them till 1785 or longer. The second was Joshua Morris, who filled the pulpit many years; he preached at Mill Creek, also, and at other churches. After the death of Mr. Morris, the church had fre-

quent changes of pastors, other churches grew up around it and for years it has been a weak body.

John Gerrard who assisted in constituting Cedar Creek Church was the first pastor of the Severn's Valley Church. In the spring of 1782, he went hunting in the woods near his home and never returned—he was supposed to have been murdered by Indians.

Among the prominent citizens who were members in the early days were James Rogers and Judge James Slaughter.

In 1849, Nelson Association was formed with eleven churches in the County; Cedar Creek was the oldest church in the Association.

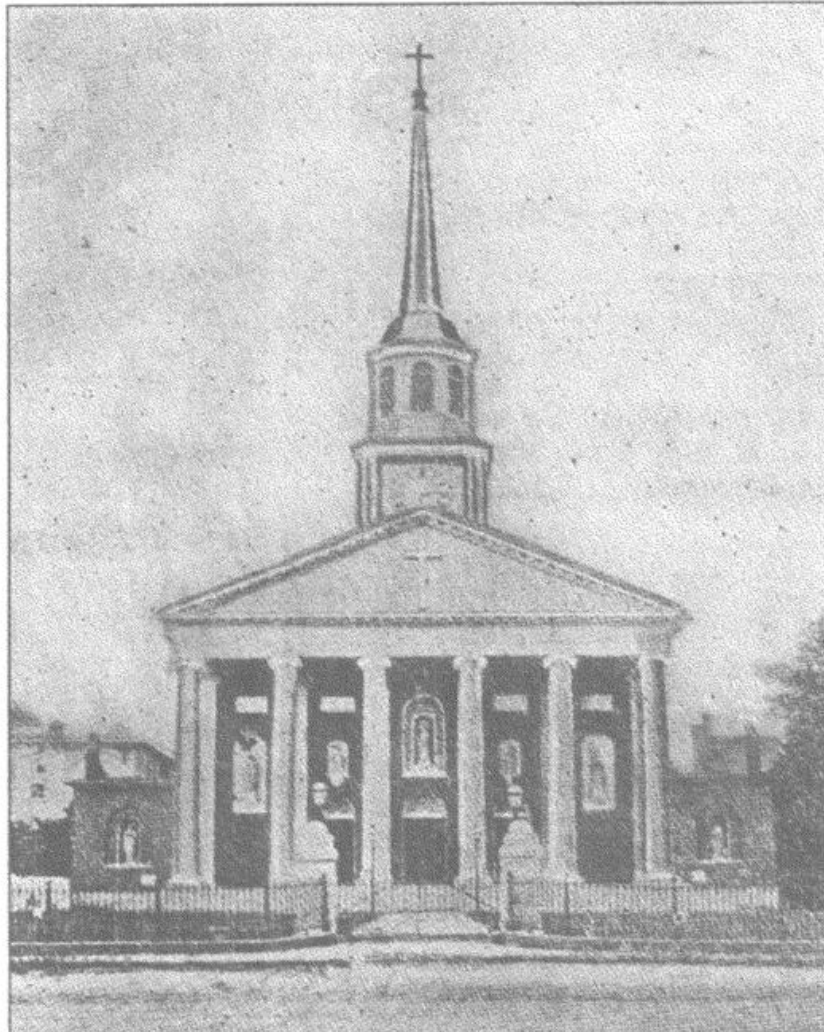
COX'S CREEK BAPTIST—This Church is one of the oldest in Kentucky and is located on Cox's Creek, 6 miles north of Bardstown. Wm. Taylor who settled in that vicinity in 1784 began holding meetings in the cabins of the settlers, and in 1785 assisted by John Whittaker he constituted Cox's Creek Church with a membership of sixteen, which in a few months grew to twenty-six.

This old Church has been from the first one of the strongest and most respected Churches. Such prominent names as Kings, Mays, Coxes, Wells, Crawfords, Formans, Stones, etc., may be found on its membership list. Gen. Henry Crist and Gen. Joseph Lewis were among the early members.

Among the early pastors were Moses Pierson, who succeeded William Taylor, Issac Taylor, who was a son of William Taylor, Smith Thomas, L. E. Kirtley and Preston B. Samuels. Mr. Tylor was the pastor till his death in 1809. His early attempts at preaching were unpromising, but he developed into a good pastor who was absorbed in his work, and he became an inspiration to the settlers.

The anecdote is told of him, that one Sunday after service as he was riding along horseback, he was hailed about a mile from the church by a settler in a cabin—"Where is your wife?" He had to admit that he had forgotten her, and upon turning back he found her fording the creek, her shoes and stockings in her hands. She took it as a joke and often told it with much amusement.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church



THE FIRST CATHEDRAL WEST OF THE ALLEGHANIES.

The first Catholic Church in Bardstown was a small log structure, located in the Catholic cemetery, back of the present cemetery. Here lie many of the early residents of Bardstown. The spot where the first church stood is marked by a marble shaft surmounted by the Angel Gabriel, which was erected through the efforts of Father O'Connel.

The present structure is a most historical and beautiful building, noted for its splendid architecture and excellent preservation. John Rogers of Baltimore, Md., was the architect, and it was built while Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget was in charge of this diocese, at an original cost of \$14,000. It is over 100 years old,—the

corner stone was laid July 16, 1816, and the church was consecrated in 1819, three years later. The immense pillars inside and across the front are solid logs cut from the surrounding wilderness wood and hewed by hand, hauled to the place by oxen. The bricks were burned in a yard nearby.

Many valuable relics and paintings have found their way here, and the history of some of the most valuable, according to Father O'Connel who made a study of the subject is as follows:

The painting over the altar, the "Crucifixion" was painted by Van Brae in Antwerp, 1821, and is valued at \$100,000. This was the gift of Father Nerinckx, who was

afterward the founder of Loretto. He seems to have been something of a collector for he brought other paintings from abroad, one the Rubens at Nazareth.

The following were the gifts of Louis Phillipe after his return to France. In the Sanctuary on either side of the "Crucifixion" are two Van Dykes, the "Winged St. Mark" with the lion's head visible at the side, and "St. Peter" in prison chains. The "Coronation" on the west wall is by Murrillo, and the "St. John" by Van Dyke. On the east wall hangs "The Flaying of St. Bartholomew" by Rubens,—this is the most valuable painting in the church being valued at \$125,000.

The bell, also, was the gift of Louis Phillipe. It was cast first by Leo Feres Jean at Lyons, France in 1773. It was 3

feet 6 inches in height and 3 feet 6 inches in diameter. It became cracked in some way since hanging in St. Joseph's and had to be recast.

There are some lovely priests' robes which were presented by Louis Phillipe,—the embroidery is the work of the queen and her maids.

This Church was the first Cathedral west of the Alleghenies,—Bishop Flaget removed the head of the See to Louisville.

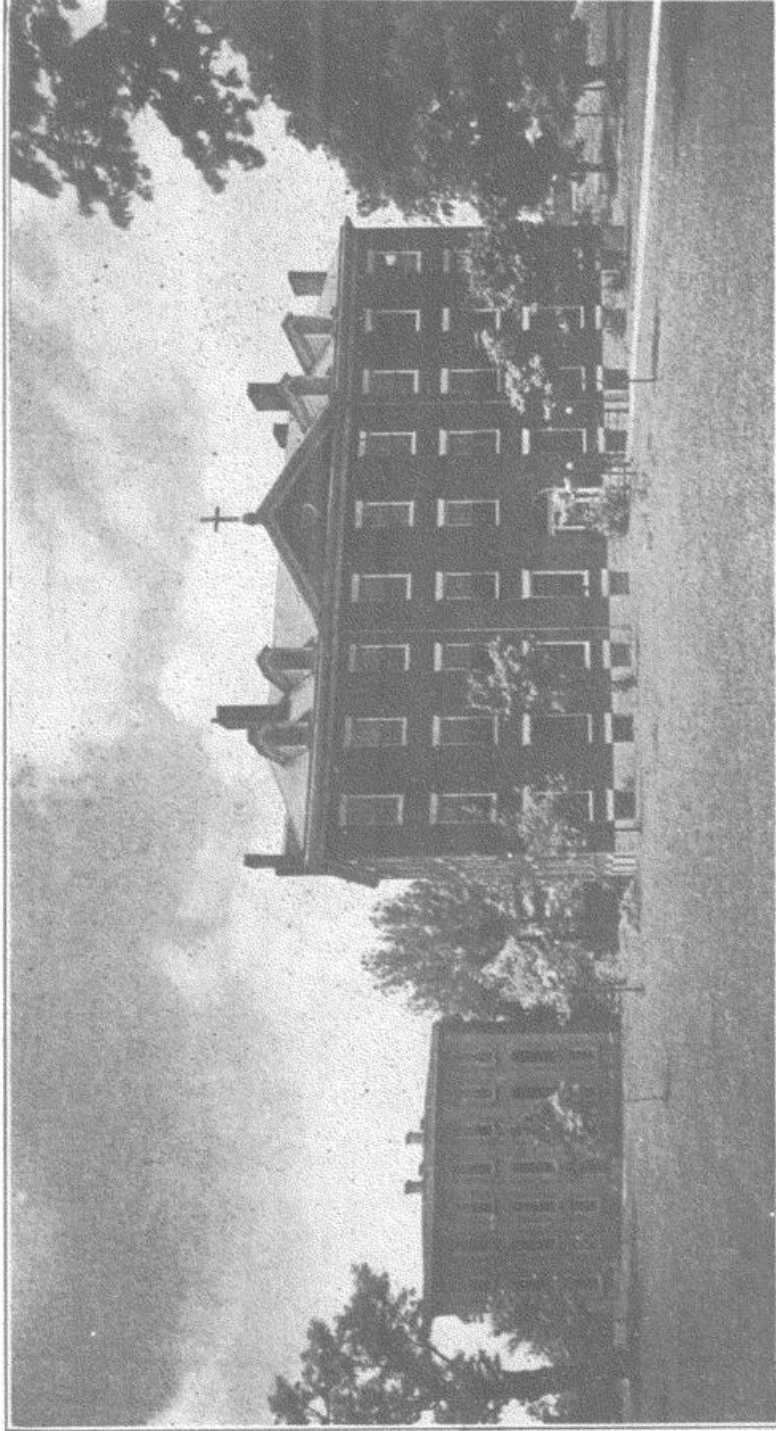
Father Robert Abell was the first priest, and his great nephew, Rev. J. J. Abell preached the fiftieth anniversary sermon in 1869 and delivered the oration on the centennial anniversary in 1919,—thus writing, through 100 years, one family with St. Joseph's anniversaries.

St. Joseph's College

St. Joseph's College was established in 1819 by Bishop Flaget and became known far and wide because of its superior faculty and great educational advantages. It was designed and constructed by Samuel Beall. From 1848 to 1861 it was under the control of the Jesuits, but owing to some misunderstanding with Bishop Spalding, they left

and established a school farther west. Some of our greatest men owe their fame largely to the training received at St. Joseph's. A few of the many who attended there and afterward gained prominence are Jefferson Davis, Augustus Garland, Zach Montgomery, Theodore O'Hara, who wrote the "Bivouac of the Dead."





ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Nazareth Academy

The history of Nazareth and of St. Thomas are closely associated. St. Thomas, one of the oldest churches in Kentucky, is four miles from Bardstown out the New Haven pike and was established in 1812. There was a church edifice and a rectory in which the priest lived,—Bishop Flaget once lived here. The foundation of the Sisters of Charity in Kentucky dates back to 1812, one and one-half years after the arrival of Bishop Flaget. The Theological Seminary was removed by Father David to St. Thomas, twelve months before the establishment of the Sisters of Charity. The Superior of the Seminary, with the advice and consent of Bishop Flaget conceived the idea of founding a community of religious women to devote themselves to the service of God and the good of their neighbors.

In November 1812, Sister Teresa Carrico and Miss Elizabeth Welsh came to live near the church in a small log house of two rooms one below and one above, with a little cabin adjoining which was used as kitchen. During the ensuing year several others joined the community, among them Sister Catherine Spalding in 1813, who became their first Mother Superior. Year by year the order grew,—in 1815 they removed one-half mile from the church where they opened a girls' school.

In time land was bought where Nazareth is now located two and one-half miles north of Bardstown, and in 1822 the Community was transferred. Here thrived one of the most prosperous schools in the south.

Story Of A Rubens, "Adoration of the Magi."

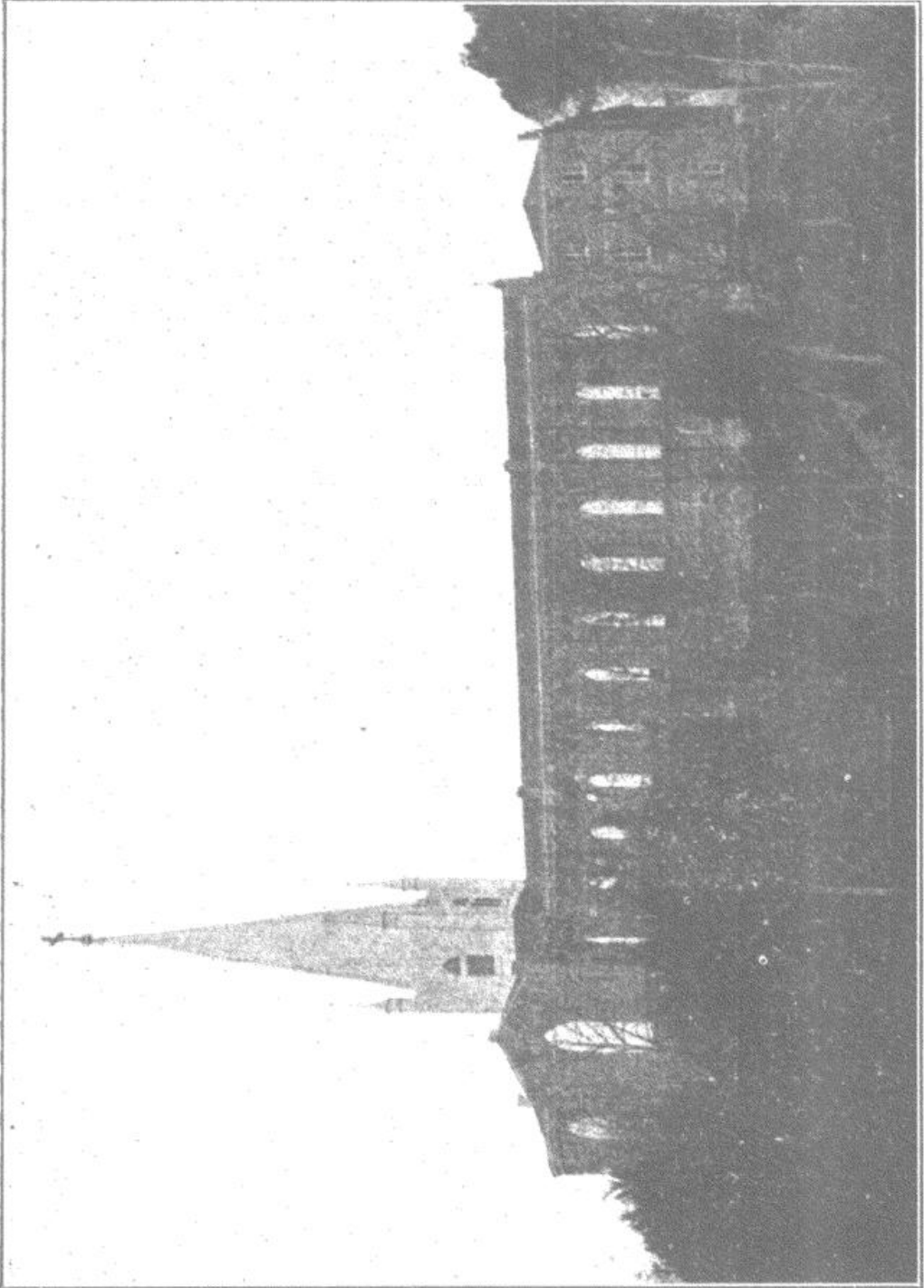
In 1824 when the first brick church was built at Nazareth, Bishop Flaget presented them with a Rubens. "The Adoration of the Magi," which had been given to him by Father Nerinckx. Father Nerinckx upon his return in 1817 from a visit to Belgium, his native land, had brought with him a number of relics and paintings which he had solicited for the church here.

The new church at Nazareth was consecrated in 1854 and there seemed to be no suitable place to hang the painting, so it was laid aside finally misplaced and forgotten. In time, while some repairs were being made, it was uncovered in a closet of kindling wood, and although dingy with dust and age, it was recognized by one of the Sisters. With Father Russell's help it was fastened together and hung for safe-keeping till an opportunity might offer to have it restored by competent hands.

One day, John Ward Dinsmore, a Cincinnati artist who was painting the portraits of Mothers Frances, Columba and Helena was shown the old picture which he identified as a Rubens. He was allowed to clean it, and today the pictured group stands out in the colors of 300 years ago.

The picture represents the Virgin holding the Child, St. Joseph in the background, while the Magi and attendants stand about in adoration. It is painted on four thin boards of hardwood, glued together and covered with a cement preparation, and is set in a black frame with a narrow band of gold next to the painting.





GETHSEMANI

Gethsemani

The founder of the original order of Monks was St. Benedict, a holy man of Italy in 480. But it was not until six centuries later that the first monastery was established. In time the order degenerated till Abbott Rence in 1700 undertook a reformation of La Trappe in France. This order spread all over France till an overcrowded condition existed, then two Monks, Father Paulin and Father Paul were sent to the New World in 1848 to locate a site for a new monastery. They visited Bishop Flaget then 86 years old, in Louisville, and he suggested that they consider Loretto. The Sisters there owned a tract of land which they called Gethsemani, and after

due consideration, 1,400 acres were purchased for \$5,000.

On October 28, 1848, forty Trappist Monks in charge of Father Eutropius left France for their new home in Kentucky. Gethsemani was established in 1848 by Father Eutropius, the founder, and was consecrated in November 1866. At that time there were 1,500 acres under cultivation by the brotherhood, and two schools were being conducted one for boys, one for girls. The girl's school was taught by the Franciscan Sisters, the boy's by the Trappist Monks, this burned a number of years' ago.

A most beautiful description of the present Abbey may be found in the "White Cow!" by James Lane Allen.

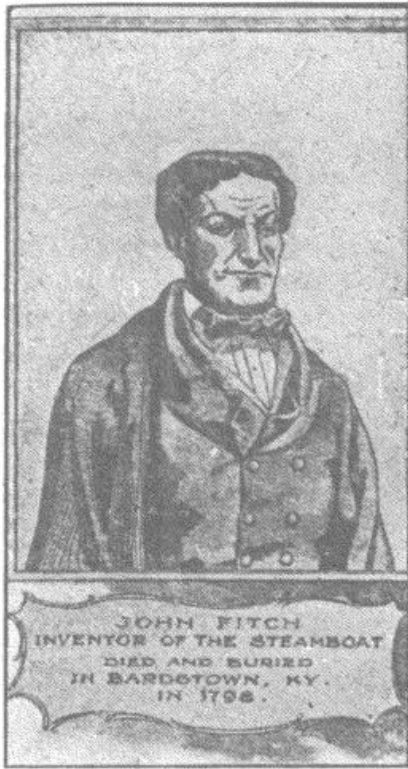
Louis Phillipe

In 1796, Louis Phillipe, who afterward occupied the throne of France, and his two brothers landed in Philadelphia as exiles from their country during the Reign of Terror. They travelled westward, visiting the principal cities and in the course of their journeyings reached Bardstown. Louis decided to stay, while his two brothers continued their travels. He went by the name of Smith, set up a little shop and began work at the watchmaker's trade, and, also taught a class in French. The little house where he stayed while here has long since been torn down, but stood on the spot now occupied by C. E. Norton's residence. He remained in Bardstown a

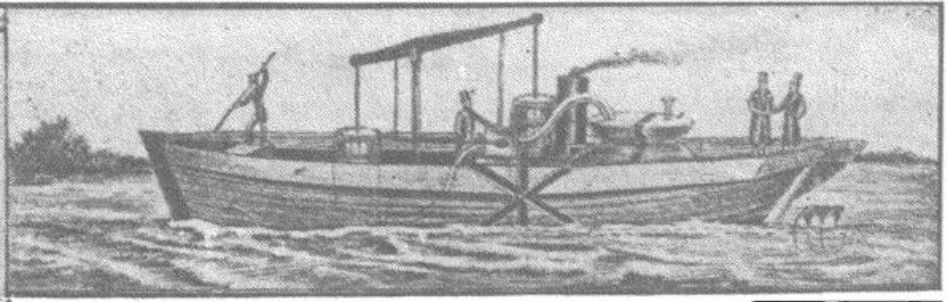
year, possibly longer, befriended by Bishop Flaget, till conditions having become more settled in France, he returned to that country and was made king. To show his gratitude and appreciation of the kind treatment shown him by Bishop Flaget, he sent a number of valuable gifts to the Cathedral here.

E. M. Russell, once a jeweler in Bardstown, had in his possession a silver watch, which was of a make 200 years old and, also, had the distinction of having been repaired by Louis Phillippe. The watch bore a mark in it, showing that the later king of France, or "Smith", the watchmaker repaired it in 1803.





JOHN FITCH
INVENTOR OF THE STEAMBOAT
DIED AND BURIED
IN BARDSTOWN, KY.
IN 1798.



FITCH'S STEAMBOAT OF 1790

Carrying passengers for hire between Philadelphia and Burlington on the Delaware River, during the Summer of the same year. He was granted patent rights by the Congress of the United States, August 26, 1791, and no other steamboat patents were granted until after Fitch's death in 1798.

John Fitch

It is known that John Fitch lived in Bardstown a number of years, died here and his body lies in the old cemetery back of the jail in a grave, neglected and unmarked for years. Finally, from old records, the spot was located and a low slab of marble was erected by the John Fitch Chapter, D. A. R.'s. The story goes that John Fitch had expressed a wish to be buried "On the shores of the Ohio, where the song of the boatman would enliven the stillness of the resting-place, and the music of the steam boat would soothe the spirit." Poor John Fitch! No one cared enough at his death to see that this wish was carried out. Sometime ago there was talk of removing his body to South Windsor, Connecticut where he was born January 21, 1743, but this met with decided opposition. He received no sympathy there while living and there is no reason for believing that he would care to sleep the last sleep there.

His whole life was unhappy,—even as a child he suffered harshness, neglect and ill-treatment, his marriage was unhappy,—and his later years were a series of disappointments,—success eluded him to the

last. He left a journal which gives a clear insight into his trials.

While a boy, he was apprenticed to a watch-maker and spent a miserable two years bound to a disagreeable, exacting man. Early in life he showed a marked talent for mechanics,—and later qualified himself as a surveyor, to which line of work a great part of his life was devoted. He surveyed the country west of the Alleghenies, including Ohio and Kentucky, then known as the northwest, made a map of this region and tried to raise funds for his experiments by the sale of it.

He was a lieutenant and a gunsmith during the Revolution and was one of the soldiers to endure the hardships of Valley Forge.

He first conceived the idea of steamboat building in 1785, and his first successful trial was made in 1786 on the Delaware River,—20 years before Fulton launched the "Clermont" on the Hudson. In 1788 he completed his first passenger steamboat which ran from Philadelphia to Burlington. It is recorded that in October 1788 he carried 30 passengers from Philadelphia to

Burlington in three hours and ten minutes at a rate of six miles per hour.

But people ridiculed John Fitch, refused the financial aid necessary in his experiments, and at last broken down with continued misfortune, but still with confidence in his invention, he turned his back on coldness, jealousy and lack of appreciation and entered the wilderness of Kentucky for a life of seclusion. He located at Bardstown where he had bought land during a surveying tour, and while here he constructed a model steamboat which he floated on the town creek just below the bridge. Tradition says that there was once a lake where the Post Office, Dan Talbott's and Wilson's Drug Stores and Mr. Charles

Boones residence now stand, and extending halfway up the business block, and that here, too, he experimented with his models.

On a hot summer day he ended his bitterly disillusioned life in an old tavern at Bardstown, through the medium of a draught of poison. We are all familiar with the following extract from his journal: "I know of nothing so vexatious to a man of feelings, as a turbulent wife and steamboat building. I experienced the former and quit in season and had I been in my right sense I should undoubtedly have treated the latter in the same manner, but for one man to be teased with both, he must be looked upon as the most unfortunate man of this world."

Historic Valleys

One of the most picturesque as well as most historic spots in this part of Kentucky is the valley lying east of Bardstown. Standing on the high west bluff which overlooks this valley and the winding road curving like an immense horseshow, the view is impressive. The trees on one hillside opposite shade "Wickland" the former home of E-Governor Beckham. Under these trees camped at different times the soldiers of both armies during the Civil War. The trees on another hillside screen "Federal Hill", once the home of Judge John Rowan Sr., and the birthplace of "My Old Kentucky Home."

The road winding between these two hills goes on to Springfield and was once the old wilderness way leading to Cumberland Gap. It was one of the first constructed in the State and dates back to the 50's. Over this road marched Bragg in 1862 to a memorable engagement at Perryville. In 1863 Sue Munday and his guerilla band galloped along this road one winter night, to the home of William R. Grigsby. Forcing an entrance while guests filled the house with mirth, they shot down three Federal officers.

From the west bluff projects a flat rock known as "Lover's Leap", because, the story goes, an Indian princess leaped to her death from here, when abandoned by

her lover. In the valley below a great warrior whose name was a terror to the pioneers lies buried, for this was an Indian burying ground. Somewhere near, so tradition says, a vast quantity of treasure is interred,—undiscovered to this day.

In the old brick house, recently remodelled by Mr. Tom Moore lived the tanners and on the hillside below may still be seen the marks of the old tan yard vats. This was at one time an important industry but the Civil War put an end to it.

Beside the "Town Creek" below stood the "Old Mill". Between the bridge and the site of the old mill is a wide deep pool once called the "baptising hole" for here the negroes brought their converts. Here too, it is said John Fitch floated his steamboat models.

Above the bridge is a point of land on which a scaffold was built in May 1858 upon which were hung three slaves, Ben, Jake and Cy for the murder of their master, James G. Maxwell, a prominent farmer of Bloomfield. This scaffold stood for years, a grim warning to wrong doers.

Close by "Lover's Leap" may be seen the entrance to a cave which runs back under the town for a mile. In 1788, Raphael Lancaster came with his family to Bardstown and until their cabin home was built, they lived in this cave. From this pioneer fam-

ily sprang those of that name in the County. They owned a cow but no milk pans, so the good wife made use of some maple sugar troughs in the cave.

A never-failing spring near furnished the early settlers of the town with clear, cold water and the cave was a refuge from the Indians.

Old Water Mill

The oldest mill south of the Ohio River has been torn down within the recollection of many residents in this community. It was situated on the outskirts east of Bardstown and was known far and wide as "Brown's Old Mill," as it did the grinding for a large section of country. It was an old-fashioned water-mill with an overshot wheel and was built in 1798 by Nehemiah Wells, a pioneer millwright. For many years it did a prosperous business, much of its product being sent to the principal Southern markets by way of flat-boats. Long ago the mill became the property of Philip Doran, a Trappist Monk. After operating it a short time, he closed it up and returned to Gethsemani. In its last days it was purchased by the city and used as an adjunct to the workhouse, an extensive rock quarry surrounding the old plant.

During the Civil War a band of Federal soldiers was surprised in the old mill building by General John H. Morgan and a detachment of his troops. A sharp engagement followed which resulted in the capture of the Unionists.—one of Morgan's men was killed, Alex Moody, and lies buried in a clump of trees not far distant. Many bullet marks were discernible in the woodwork of the building, when it was finally sold and torn down for the iron work in its structure and the stone which was used in other buildings.

Thus perished one of Bardstown's oldest and most picturesque land marks.

Story Told Of Old Water Mill

The old mill was the scene of a horrible murder in the early days. At one time it was in the hands of a miller named Silas Marsden, who lived with his wife and adopted son, Henry Winthrop, in a cabin near. At a short distance from the mill in a clump of cedars were three rude slabs of limestone marking the graves of these three who met tragic deaths. Near the

threshold of the mill was a towering oak tree whose branches reached out over a broad flat rock, which bears dark discolorations that turn red after rain. Some say that these are bloodstains, for the murder was committed beneath the oak tree and the victims fell dying upon the rock.

Henry Winthrop, the adopted son, grew up reckless and dissipated, giving his foster parents much trouble. But Mrs. Marsden was very fond of the boy and for her sake Marsden had been lenient with him. The young fellow went from bad to worse and finally was arrested for forgery; but through the efforts of his father, a pardon was granted him on condition that he leave the country. Marsden furnished him money and he disappeared.

Sometime after this, Pompey, one of Marsden's trusted slaves, told his master that he had witnessed a meeting between Mrs. Marsden and a man during the husband's absence in Bardstown the night before. Marsden was seized with a demon of jealousy, and planned to watch his wife. He told her that urgent business called him away indefinitely, and that night the half-crazed man stationed himself near the mill and awaited developments. Soon a man and a woman, whom he recognized as his wife, came out of the darkness and paused upon the rock, conversing lovingly. Marsden leaped from his concealment and fired several shots at the couple and both fell fatally wounded. But as his wife breathed her last she pointed to the dead man and whispered, "Henry." Instantly a terrible light broke upon Marsden, who realized that it was his adopted son, returned secretly to visit his foster mother of whom he was really fond.

Marsden fled, the mill passed into other hands and the years went by. One morning the miller found, upon the rock, the body of a man who had shot himself through the head,—it was Silas Marsden, the unhappy murderer.

Potter Shop Hill

Two miles east of Bardstown where the Loretto pike joins the Springfield pike is a steep hill known as "Potter Shop Hill". Rowan's creek flows south along the foot of the hill through a deep ravine bordered on either side by dark woods and cedar thickets. Shelving rocks extend out over the water and it would be hard to imagine a wilder, more lonesome, rugged spot,—a fitting scene for the gruesome murder committed on an unusually high ledge about half a mile back from the pike.

At the foot of Potter Shop Hill once stood a mill and nearby a large weather-boarded log house. The mill was owned by Judge John Rowan and there worked two young men, lovers of a girl named Nancy Hayes, whose family lived in the log house. Nancy's father ran a blacksmith shop near the large log house, which was afterwards sold and used as a Potter Shop. The Potter Shop was burned during the Civil War to prevent the Federals from using it as a small pox hospital.

Nancy favored one of her lovers, Amos Molloy, the manager of the mill, while she disliked the other, Noah Matheny. One morning Nancy came to the mill and quarreled with Amos,—in the afternoon she returned and the two started for a walk down through the ravine. That night a man came dashing wildly into town, and told of finding Nancy's body horribly mangled, the head severed, on the ledge of rock back in the country.

A party immediately formed, returned to the spot and found the story true. Noah Matheny was with them and he it was who discovered a bloody handkerchief with the letters "A. M." At once a search for Amos was started and he was found disheveled and frantic at a neighboring cabin. When dragged to the scene of the murder with a rope around his neck, he told a story of a man who attacked him and Nancy, with an axe while they walked. He tried to rescue the girl but was thrown over the ledge by the maddened assailant. This story was not believed by the mob, and he was hung on a tree spreading out over the rock,—this was the first lynching in Nelson County. Noah Matheny soon left for parts unknown.

Years afterward, a minister of Bardstown was aroused one night, and asked to come to a doctor's office where a dying man wished to make a confession. A storm was raging and the man told of having been thrown over the cliff with his horse while riding along the lonely road during the wind and rain. His over wrought imagination caused him to believe that the spirits of Nancy Hayes and Amos Malloy in vengeance had dashed him to his death, for, drawn by a guilty conscience through the years, Noah Matheny had returned to the scene of his crime. He, it was, who so brutally murdered Nancy Hayes and was the cause of an innocent man's death.

Ben Hardin

Among Kentucky's historic residences is the former home of Ben Hardin, one of Kentucky's greatest criminal lawyers. The old homestead is situated in the southwest suburbs of Bardstown and is a large irregular brick structure. It was erected between 1819-22 by Mr. Hardin on land that was contained in the original preemption of the Bards.

Ben Hardin who erected and long occupied this residence was born in Pennsyl-

vania February 29, 1874 and at the age of four years was brought to Kentucky by his parents who settled in Nelson County. The Hardins were French Huguenots who fled to America after St. Bartholomews Eve. At an early age he was placed in the school of Dr. Priestly then the ablest educator in the west. At twenty he began the study of law under Felix Grundy, made rapid progress and was admitted to the Bardstown bar, where he became one of

the most picturesque figures in a brilliant group.

His first case was one in which a large tract of land was involved, and though alone on his side and opposed by some of the most distinguished lawyers, he won out, his fame was made and he never lacked for clients. He was prominent in politics and served in many a public office. He became famous for his numerous debates with Henry Clay and was one of the most successful attorneys that ever practiced his profession within the domains of this old Commonwealth. All good stories and witticisms of the day were attributed to him. John Randolph said in a caustic speech, "Hardin is like a kitchen knife whetted on a brick; he cuts roughly, but he cuts deep." The name "Kitchen Knife" clung to Hardin till his death; also, the title, "Red Fox", given him by some prominent contemporary.

In early life Mr. Hardin married Elizabeth Barbour, daughter of Col. Ambrose Barbour of Washington County, one of Kentucky's famous pioneers. Seven children were born to them—three sons and four daughters—who in turn married people of note. His home life was happy, his doors were always open and he dispensed lavish hospitality to many distinguished guests, among whom may be mentioned, Gen. Wm. Preston, ex-Sen. Garland, Bishop Kavanaugh, Judge John Rowan, Governor Wm. Duvall, and others of national reputation. His wife was a Methodist and during his later years he joined that Church.

Ben Hardin's death occurred in September 1852 and was the result of a fall which he received while journeying horseback from Bardstown to Lebanon to attend Court. He was buried in an old graveyard between Springfield and Lebanon, by the side of his mother, and his grave is marked by an unpretentious stone bearing the simple inscription, "Ben Hardin of Bardstown." His wife died a month after he did, in August,—her death hastened by constant attendance upon her husband. She was buried in the pioneer cemetery here,

and a defaced marble shaft marks the resting place of "Elizabeth Barbour Hardin, wife of Ben Hardin."

"Morton's Spring," celebrated in the early annals, as furnishing water to the Bardstown pioneers, is located on the old Hardin farm, and although it is a half mile from the house, Mr. Hardin would drink no other water while at home.

His law office was located in the large front yard, shaded by forest trees, but this small building was long ago demolished and much of the yard sold off into building lots.

Another point of interest on the old farm is the ruins of an old water-mill which was situated at the foot of the famous paved hill near the Beech Fork River. This was one of Ben Hardin's favorite haunts, also the dense woods which covered the land south of the residence at that time. The old mill was destroyed by a flood, and the foundation stones were used in building the bridge which now spans the Beech Fork.

The "Paved Hill," famous as being a portion of the old pioneer road that led from the Ohio River south to Nashville ran through the Hardin farm. It is a masterpiece of the art of road building in those days, and is a marvel of durability and skill.

Near the terminus of the "Paved Hill" and close to the Beech Fork, is a singular formation. It is a mound running parallel to the river, several hundred feet long, 60 or 70 feet in height, and its summit about 100 feet wide. A rock promontory or cliff at its upper end juts out a considerable distance and makes a beautiful spectacle. In the spring it is thickly covered with Indian pinks and other wild flowers, which has given it the name of "Flower Mound." This curious formation is supposed to be the work of the mound builders.

The old Hardin home was General Leonidas Polk's headquarters during the occupation of Bardstown by Bragg's army. He was entertained by Judge Linthicum, then the occupant of the home. A portion of the Confederate forces were quartered near the house and to this day relics of the old encampment may be found.

"Old Kentucky Home"

Another of the famous residences in Kentucky is "Federal Hill," the old Rowan homestead, about half a mile east of Bardstown near the Springfield pike. The dwelling is a massive structure of brick, with heavy paneled doors, high ceilinged rooms and elaborately carved mantelpieces. Through its center runs a wide hall containing a colonial staircase. Within its walls are the accumulated treasures of years, priceless heirlooms, and rare old portraits. The building is situated on an eminence amid old shade trees which almost hide it from the view of the passerby.

The original Rowan in Kentucky was Wm. Rowan, a native of Pennsylvania. He came to Kentucky at the close of the Revolutionary War and settled near Louisville, later on Green River, and finally removed to Bardstown that his son, John, might have the superior educational advantages offered here by the renowned school of Dr. Priestly,—this was a log structure on the Court Square and many famous men received a classical education there.

In 1795 John Rowan, the son, was admitted to the Bardstown Bar, and at about this time he married, and erected the stately mansion known as "Federal Hill" 1795-87. His advancement in public life was remarkable, and he served his country in various posts of trust and honor until his death in Louisville, July 13, 1843. He was powerful in physique, aristocratic in bearing, and Old Ben Hardin dubbed him the "Monarch," a highly appropriate title.

While Judge John Rowan lived at "Federal Hill," many distinguished men were entertained there, such as Henry Clay, James Monroe, Governor Metcalfe, John Crittenden, Ben Hardin, James Guthrie, Wm. Duvall, Governor Wickliffe, James K. Polk, Theo. O'Hara, Lafayette, Stephen Collins Foster and others.

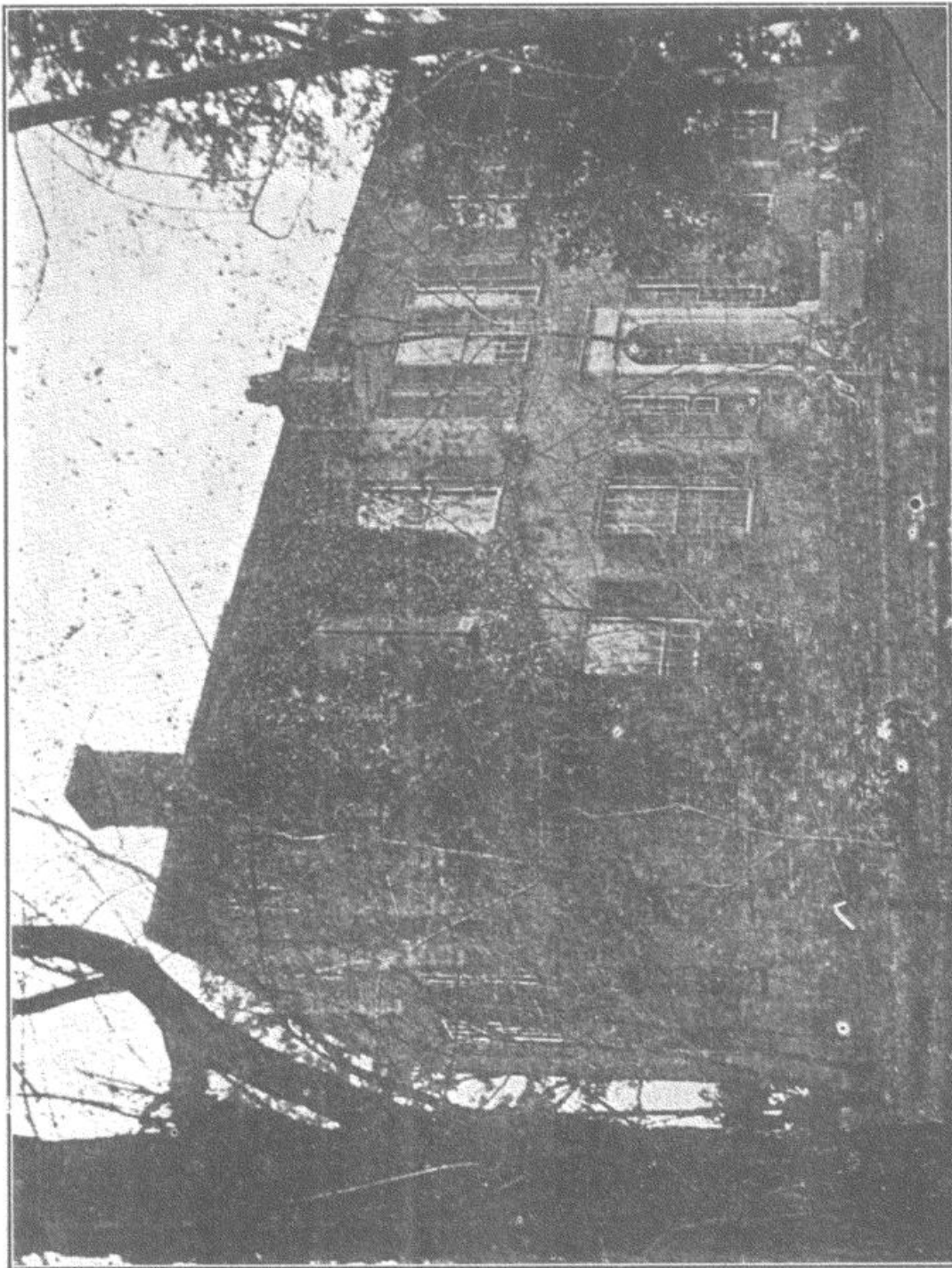
In the yard between the residence and the Springfield pike are the ruins of an old stone springhouse which was once two stories high. Judge Rowan's law office was in the second story and here a number of well known lawyers began their legal educations. Judge Rowan frequently entertained his friends in this spring house.

He was the owner of a number of slaves and during a cholera epidemic in 1883, five members of the family and 23 negroes lay dead at one time. The family burying ground lies a short distance east of the house and here Judge Rowan and many of the family lie buried. He requested that no stone mark his resting place, but in after years the family erected a shaft topped by an urn. A strange thing is told, that the urn was thrown from its place again and again by the branches of a willow tree nearby till finally it had to be removed permanently.

At Judge Rowan's death the estate passed into the hands of his son, John, who was, also, a man of prominence. He married a Miss Rebecca Carnes, who was a beauty of Baltimore, Md. Their daughter, Mrs. Madge Rowan Frost, has lately sold the old home to the State as a memorial to Stephen Collins Foster and his immortal song "Old Kentucky Home," which was inspired and written here.

Foster wrote the song in late August or early September 1852, while he and his sister were visiting at "Federal Hill,"—Judge Rowan was his father's cousin. The story goes that he composed the words while at the old spring house,—upon coming up to the dwelling, he sat at a desk in the hall where he jotted them down on paper,—this identical desk is shown to visitors. In 1919, the late M. Baker Smith, a well-known resident of Bardstown, then in his 88th year remembered the first singing of "My Old Kentucky Home." He recalled a house party of gay young folks, among them a girl with a beautiful voice. Foster coached her and she sang the song the world has been singing ever since.

Stephen Collins Foster was born near Pittsburg, Pa., July 4, 1826. Although he had a natural fondness for music he was educated for a business career. This proved distasteful however, and he devoted himself to music. He wrote 175 songs which at once became popular and were translated into foreign languages. Over 300,000 copies of "Old Folks at Home" were sold. In nearly every case Foster wrote the music as well as the words of his songs, and kept



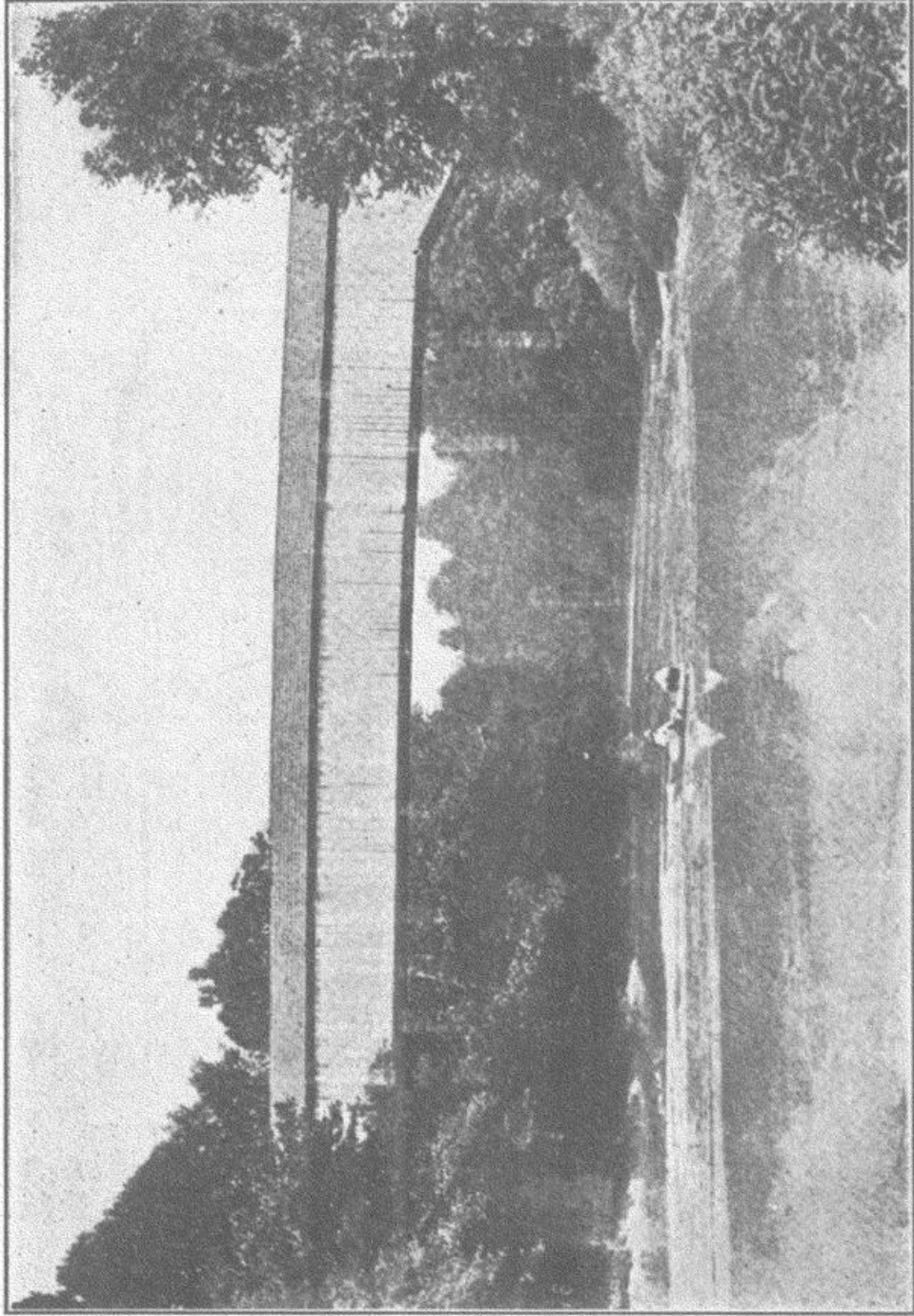
FEDERAL HILL WHERE "MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME" WAS WRITTEN

the air within the range of ordinary voices. Though his melodies are simple, they are graceful and refined, the result of study and appeal to the critical as well as the popular ear—they deal with universal sympathies. "Old Kentucky Home," "Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground," "Old Black

Joe," "Old Uncle Ned," "O.d Folks at Home," are a few of the many.

Foster was a handsome man of culture and refinement, and was of a modest and retiring disposition. He married Miss Jane Denny McDowell, of Pittsburg, where he spent most of his life. He died in New York City, January 13, 1864.





BRIDGE OVER BEECH FORK RIVER
Erected in 1865