

African American Neighborhood History Project

Photographs

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1. Jefferson Jacob School, Prospect.
Unidentified school children and teachers, 1920's.
Donated by Pen and Brenda Bogert, 9 October 2000.
2. James T. Taylor, age 24.
3. James T. Taylor at his house.
4. James T. Taylor (seated in middle, front row).
5. Harry Hall Merriwether.
6. Harry Hall Merriwether and his second wife.
7. Merriwether House, Harrod's Creek.
8. Martin Dunbar's grandmother, Lula.
9. Martin Dunbar's mother (in sailor suit) at the Lincoln Institute.
10. William Stokes (Martin Dunbar's grandfather).
11. Dunbar family: Martin Dunbar (rear), Martin Dunbar's father (lower right);
Martin Dunbar's son and two grandsons.

Images transferred to Filson photograph
collection 015PC55

Brooks Genealogy

I. Lewis Brooks – (1827 - ?)

Married Harriet Ruedd in 1860 (1835 - ?)

From 1870 - 1900 they were living in Harrod's Creek neighborhood. [1870 US census Jefferson Co., Harrod's Cr. Pct., # 43-41; 1880 US Census Jefferson Co., Harrod's Cr. Pct., # 48-57; 1900 US Census, Jefferson Co., Harrod's Cr. Pct., #331-351.

A. Nettie Brooks – b. 1855

B. Anthony Brooks – b. 1858

C. Lewis Brooks – b. 1860

D. Simon Brooks – (1862 – 1920)

Married Edlene Jacob. Simon was buried in Prospect.

1. Laura E. Brooks (1902 -). Attended a one-room school in Prospect, and later attended the Jefferson Jacob School, named for her maternal grandfather. (See JACOB genealogy). **Interviewed.**

E. Robert Brooks – b. 1864

F. Mary Ann Brooks – b. 1866

G. Nannie Brooks – b. 1870

H. Edward Brooks – b. 1872.

Jacob Genealogy

I. Jefferson Jacob (1835 - ?). Was a farmer, pastor and community leader.

Married Susan _____ (1838 - ?)

They were living in the Harrod's Creek Pct. in 1870 and 1880

A. Edmonia Jacob – b. 1856

B. Edward Jacob – b. 1858

C. Charles Jacob – b. 1866

D. Sidney A. Jacob b. 1867

F. Edlene Jacob (1868 – 1954)

Married Simon Brooks.

1. Laura E. Brooks – (1903 -). (see BROOKS genealogy).

G. Annie Jacob – b. 1872

H. Jane Jacob – b. 1873

I. Laura Jacob – b. 1876

J. Parker B. Jacob – (1877 – 1957).

K. Mary F. Jacob – b. 1879.

Lang Genealogy

I. Thaddeus Lang (1825 - ?). Living in 1880; died by 1900.

Married Elizabeth Kiger (1837-1915). Her parents were Addison Kiger and Matilda Watson. The Langs were living in the Saltillo Pct., Oldham County in 1870 and 1880. By 1900, Elizabeth Lang was living in Harrod's Creek with her son, Addison, and grandson, James T. Taylor. Elizabeth Lang died at Central State Hospital and was buried in Louisville Cemetery.

Children of Thaddeus and Elizabeth Lang:

A. Addison Lang – (1856 – 1922). Buried in Louisville Cemetery.

B. Fanny Lang – b. 1859; died ca. 1885.

Married Edward Taylor in 1883. (See TAYLOR genealogy).

1. James Thomas Thaddeus Alexander Taylor – b. 1885

Married Etta _____

a. James S. Taylor – b. 1914

b. Minnie Alta Taylor – b. 1912. **Interviewed.**

c. May Etta Taylor – b. 1919

C. John W. Lang – (1860 – 1928). Buried Louisville Cemetery.

D. George Lang – (1864 – 1924). Buried Louisville Cemetery.

E. Jane Lang – b. 1866

F. Charles Lang – b. 1868

G. Alonzo Lang – b. 1870

H. Florence Lang – b. 1873

I. Robert Lang – b. 1875

J. David Lang – b. 1879

Merriwether Genealogy

I. Harrison Merriwether (1810 - ?). Born in Shelby Co.

Married Jane _____ (1825 - ?)

They were living in Saltillo Pct., Oldham Co., in 1870.

A. Isaac Merriwether – (1845 – 1928). Died at Harrod's Creek. Buried in Louisville Cemetery.

Married Mattie Taylor (1852 - 1924) on 2 January 1872 at 12 Mile Island.

Marriage performed by John Buckner. Witnesses were Mat Jacob and Jefferson Jacob [Jefferson Co. Marriage Book 2-C, p. 232]. Isaac (Ike or Zack) and Mattie were living in Saltillo Pct. in 1880. In 1910 they were living in Harrod's Creek Pct. The 1910 census showed "Zack" Merriwether, age 59 and Mattie Merriwether, age 56, married for 39 years. Occupation for Isaac Merriwether, who was unable to write, was "preacher of the gospel". [1910 US Census Jefferson Co., Harrod's Creek Pct., # 51-51]. They still were living there in 1920). (See TAYLOR and LANG genealogies).

1. Mamie Merriwether – b. 1875

2. Harry Hall Merriwether – (1879 - 1954)

Married Sunshine H. Clinton (1881 - 1940) on 24 June 1907 [Jefferson Co. Marriage Book 5-C, p. 92. No date, witnesses, or pastor given; marriage bond, dated 27 June 1907, with Harrison Kennedy as bondsman]. She was the daughter of Willis Y. Clinton and Nancy _____. She was buried in Eastern Cemetery. In 1910 Harry Hall and Sunshine Merriweather were living at 630 Laurel St. in the Smoketown neighborhood of Louisville. He worked as a chauffer. Census showed they were each married for the first time and had no children. [1910 US Census, Jefferson Co., ED 70, Family # 284, 29 April 1910]. In 1920 they were living in Harrod's Creek Pct. Harry H. Merriwether death certificate [age 71, 15 March 1954, Vol. 10, # 4944].

1938 1938 Louisville City Directory

Dr. A. C. and Elnora McIntyre at 2105 W. Chestnut St.

1940 Sunshine Merriwether died

1941 1941 Louisville City Directory

Elnora E. McIntyre: Assistant in Colored Dept., LFPL, residing 2105 W. Chestnut St.

1942 1942 Louisville City Directory

H. H. Merriweather, janitor at Weissiger-Gaulbert Apts., residing at Harrod's Creek

Elnora M. Merriweather: Assistant in Colored Dept., LFPL, residing 2105 W. Chestnut St.

a. Mary Margaret Merriweather. **Interviewed.**

3. Lilly Merriwether – (1880 – 1947). Died at Harrod's Creek. Buried in Louisville Cemetery.

Taylor Genealogy

I. Thomas Taylor (1825 – ca. 1873-1880)

Married Frances Jacob (1830 - ?).

In 1860 the only free African American in the Harrod's Creek area was Jefferson Taylor, age 54. He was living with the family of Humphrey Pate [1860 US Census Jefferson Co., Falls of Harrod's Creek, 31 August 1860].

In 1870 Thomas and Frances Taylor were living in Harrod's Creek Pct. in Jefferson Co. Thomas worked as a farm hand and had \$200 in personal property. Living next to them were the families of Jeff Taylor (age 58), William Taylor (age 36) and George S. Taylor (age 38). [1870 US Census, Jefferson Co., Harrod's Creek Pct., 17 August 1870, p. 6]. Thomas died by 1880, at which time the household was headed by Frances Taylor. Living with her were her children William, Eddie, Minnie, Thomas, Sarah and Haggie. They lived in "The Neck", Harrod's Creek.

Children of Thomas and Frances Taylor:

A. Mattie Taylor – (1852- ?).

B. Nancy Taylor – b. 1854

C. Eveline Taylor– b. 1855

D. Rina Taylor– b. 1857

Married Wilson Magruder

E. William Taylor– b. 1858

F. Edward Taylor– b. 1860

Married Fannie Lang (see LANG genealogy) on 23 August 1883. They were married by Jefferson Jacob in Jefferson Co.. Witnesses were James Enders and William Brown. [Jefferson Co. Marriage Book 3-C, p. 96]. Fanny died about the time of James' birth, and James was raised by his maternal grandparents, Thaddeus and Elizabeth Lang.

1. James Thomas Thaddeus Alexander Taylor – (1885 – 1965).

Married Julia Etta McAfee (1888 - 1942).

a. James S. Taylor – b. 1914

b. Minnie Alta Taylor – b. 1911. Attended Jefferson Jacob School (built ca. 1918). **Interviewed.**

c. May Etta Taylor – b. 1919

G. Minnie Taylor– b. 1866

H. Thomas J. Taylor– b. 1868

I. Sarah Taylor– b. 1870

J. Haggie Taylor- b. 1873

Printed by MapDraw Demo Version.

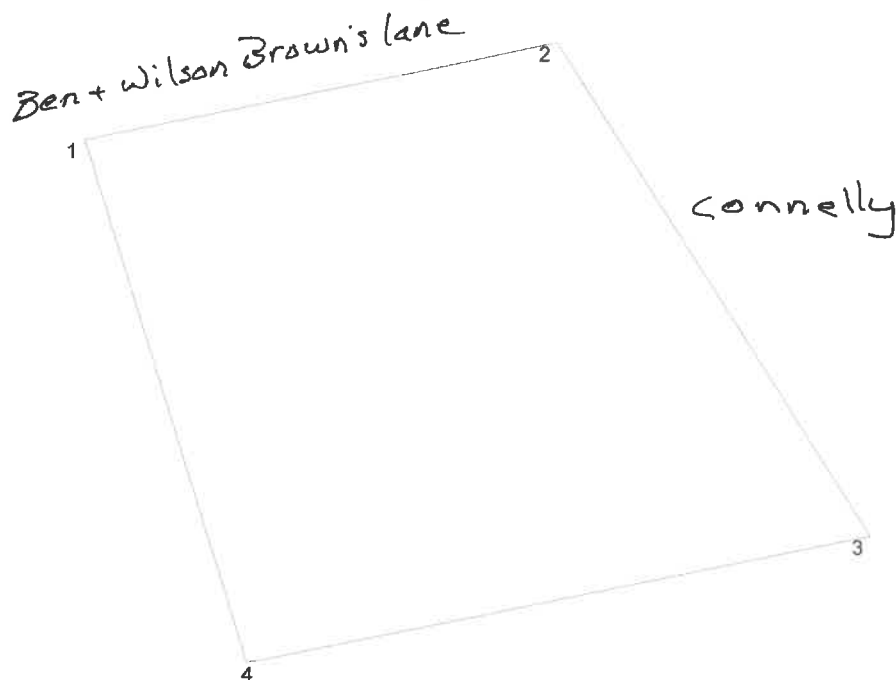
Deed Book 197, p. 457.

B. F. Hartsfield Estate to Jefferson Jacob.

26 February 1876.

\$583.31 (\$260.00 cash, balance in two installments).

7 acres.



Scale = 1: 184
Feet

- 1 N 78.75° E 462
- 2 S 32.5° E 561
- 3 S 78.75° W 610.5

4 Back to pob

N	78.75		E	462	
S	32.5	E	561		
S	78.75		W	610.5	

C

~Deed Book 197, p. 457.
B. F. Hartsfield Estate to Jefferson Jacob.
26 February 1876.
\$583.31 (\$260.00 cash, balance in two installments).
7 acres.
*spec=0Standard

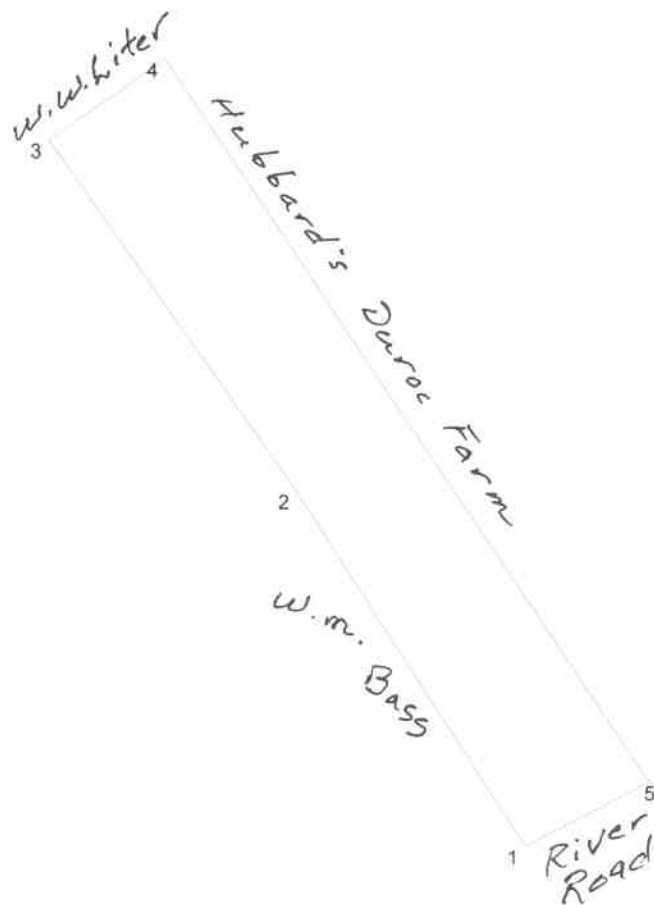
Printed by MapDraw Demo Version.

Jefferson Co. Deed Book 1038, p. 189.

D. G. Skaggs and wife to James to James T. Taylor.

1 March 1923.

\$2,094.75. A 23.94 - acre tract on River Road."between the towns of Harrods Creek and Prospect".



Scale = 1: 567
Feet

1 N 33° 5' W 1252
2 N 35° 30' W 1270
3 N 55° 20' E 417.5

4 S 34° 5' E 2572
5 Back to pob

N	33	5	W	1252
N	35	30	W	1270
N	55	20	E	417.5
S	34	5	E	2572

C

~Jefferson Co. Deed Book 1038, p. 189.
D. G. Skaggs and wife to James to James T. Taylor.
1 March 1923.
\$2,094.75. A 23.94 - acre tract on River Road."between the towns of Harrods Creek and Prospect".
*spec=0Standard

Printed by MapDraw Demo Version.

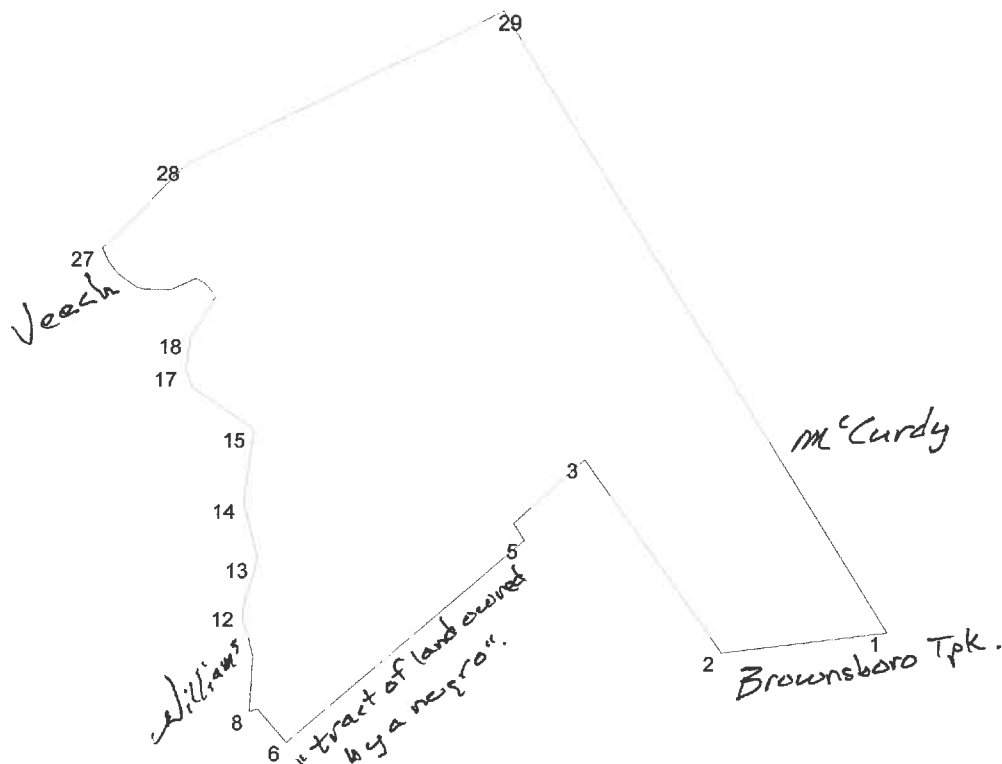
Jefferson Co. Deed Book 1033, p. 120.

D. C. Clarke and wife to James T. Taylor.

23 January 1923.

Tract of 189.2 acres on Brownsboro Turnpike, for \$25,000.

Same as DB 989, p. 505.



Scale = 1: 1072
Feet

Jefferson Co. Deed Book 1033, p. 120.

D. C. Clarke and wife to James T. Taylor.

23 January 1923.

Tract of 189.2 acres on Brownsboro Turnpike, for \$25,000.

Same as DB 989, p. 505.

1	S 83° 5' W 931.26	16	N 16.5° W 102.8
2	N 35° 25' W 1321.32	17	N 8° E 185.79
3	S 48° 25' W 534.93	18	N 33° E 262.02
4	S 35° 10' E 110.88	19	N 43° W 99
5	S 49° 34' W 1739.1	20	N 63.5° W 52.8
6	N 41° W 247.5	21	S 66.5° W 151.8
7	S 71° W 46.86	22	N 89.5° W 148.01
8	N 3° E 307.89	23	N 73° W 52.8
9	N 12.5° W 136.95	24	N 54° W 119.96
10	N 28.25° W 61.05	25	N 39° W 87.12
11	N 1° E 80.52	26	N 22.5° W 79.86
12	N 16.25° E 282.65	27	N 45° E 676.5
13	N 13° 10' W 337.92	28	N 64.5° E 1943.7
14	N 8.25° E 399.96	29	Back to pob
15	N 56° W 429.99		

S	83	5	W	931.26
N	35	25	W	1321.32
S	48	25	W	534.93
S	35	10	E	110.88
S	49	34	W	1739.1
N	41		W	247.5
S	71		W	46.86
N	3		E	307.89
N	12.5		W	136.95
N	28.25		W	61.05
N	1		E	80.52
N	16.25		E	282.65
N	13	10	W	337.92
N	8.25		E	399.96
N	56		W	429.99
N	16.5		W	102.8
N	8		E	185.79
N	33		E	262.02
N	43		W	99
N	63.5		W	52.8
S	66.5		W	151.8
N	89.5		W	148.01
N	73		W	52.8
N	54		W	119.96
N	39		W	87.12
N	22.5		W	79.86
N	45		E	676.5
N	64.5		E	1943.7

C

~Jefferson Co. Deed Book 1033, p. 120.

D. C. Clarke and wife to James T. Taylor.

23 January 1923.

Tract of 189.2 acres on Brownsboro Turnpike, for \$25,000.

Same as DB 989, p. 505.

*spec=0Standard

Jefferson Co. Deed Book 268, p. 597.

Louis Hardin to H. Kennedy.

1.15 acres at Harrod's Creek on Wolf Pen Branch Rd. for \$46.00 (\$20.00 cash and the balance due in 1 year).

Deed Book 268, p. 599.

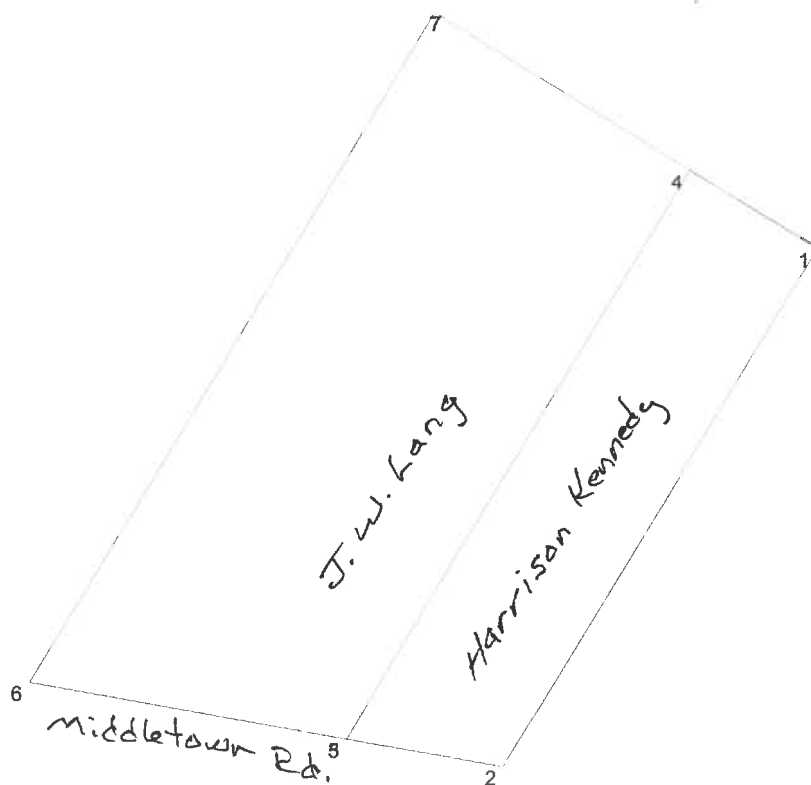
Louis Hardin to J. W. Lang.

2.62 acres for \$104.80 (\$52.40 cash).

20 March 1884.

20 March 1884.

Land formerly owned by Henry Allison.



Scale = 1: 140
Feet

S	31	W	439
N	80	W	117
N	31	E	482
S	59	E	109

~Jefferson Co. Deed Book 268, p. 597.

Louis Hardin to H. Kennedy.

1.15 acres at Harrod's Creek on Wolf Pen Branch Rd. for \$46.00 (\$20.00 cash and the balance due in 1 year).

20 March 1884.

*spec=0Standard

Jefferson Co. Deed Book 268, p. 597.
Louis Hardin to H. Kennedy.
1.15 acres at Harrod's Creek on Wolf Pen Branch Rd. for \$46.00 (\$20.00 cash and the balance due in 1 year).

Deed Book 268, p. 599.
Louis Hardin to J. W. Lang.
2.62 acres for \$104.80 (\$52.40 cash).
20 March 1884.
20 March 1884.

- | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | S 31° W 439 | 5 | N 80° W 234 |
| 2 | N 80° W 117 | 6 | N 31° E 568 |
| 3 | N 31° E 482 | 7 | Close |
| 4 | S 59° E 109 | | |
| | New | | |

S	52.75	W	351.45
S	37.75	E	278.85
N	52.75	E	351.45
N	37.75	W	278.85

~Henry Fry to William Hardin.
DB 101, p. 437, 13 July 1858
2.75 acres of 27 acre tract.
SE bounded by land sold by Fry to Moore & Thatcher; SW bounded by Thatcher
*spec=0Standard

Form V. B. 5-23-27

1 PLACE OF DEATH

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

State Board of Health

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

County Jefferson

Vol. Pct. _____

Registration District No. 155File No. 22473Registered No. 3788

Inc. Town _____

Primary Registration District No. 1774City Louisville(No. 522-5 Jackson St., _____ Ward)

(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)

2 FULL NAME John W. Lang(a) Residence. No. 522-5 Jackson St., _____ Ward.

(Usual place of abode)

Length of residence in city or town where death occurred _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. How long in U.S. if of foreign birth? _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. (If nonresident, give city or town and State)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX

Male

4 COLOR OR RACE

Col

5 Single

Married

Widowed

or Divorced

(Write the word)

Married

5a If married, widowed, or divorced

HUSBAND of

(or) WIFE of

Elmira Lang

6 DATE OF BIRTH

(Month)

(Day)

1920 (Year)

7 AGE

58 yrs.

_____ mos.

_____ ds.

If less than 1
day hrs.
of min?

8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED

(a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work

Laborer

(b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)

9 BIRTHPLACE (city or town)
(State or country)Ky.

PARENTS

10 NAME OF FATHER

Thaddeus Lang11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town)
(State or country)Ky.

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER

Elizabeth Rieger13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town)
(State or country)Ky.

14

(Informant)

Chas H. Lang(Address) 522-5 Jackson

15

Filed SEP 22 1928 L. M. F. Broduskin

Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH Sept 20, 1928
(Month) (Day) (Year)17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Sept 15, 1928, to Sept 20, 1928, that I last saw him alive on Sept 19, 1928, and that death occurred on the date stated above at his home.
The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Enlarged HeartContributory (Secondary) High Blood Pressure
(Duration) _____ yrs. 3 mos. _____ ds.18 WHERE WAS DISEASE CONTRACTED
(Duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.

If not at place of death?

Did an operation precede death? _____ Date of _____

Was there an autopsy? _____

What test confirmed diagnosis?

(Signed) L. M. F. Broduskin M. D.
SEP 22 1928 (Address) 1600 So 25th

*State the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and nature of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal. (See reverse side for additional space.)

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL

Louisville CountySept 23, 1928

20 UNDERTAKER

ADDRESS

R. G. MayCity

WRITE PLAINLY IN UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

Form V. S. 1-A
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
Department of Health
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

State File No. **26768**
Registrar's No. **5915**

Registration District No. **11** Primary Registration District No. **6101**

1. PLACE OF DEATH:
(a) County Jefferson
(b) City or town Harrods Creek Ky
(c) Name of hospital or institution:
(If not in hospital or institution write street number or location)
(d) Length of stay: In hospital or community _____
(years, months or days)

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
(a) State Ky (b) County Jefferson
(c) City or town Harrods Creek Ky
(If outside city or town limits, write RURAL)
(d) Street No. Rural
(If rural give precinct)
(e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.7 _____ year

3(a) FULL NAME Lillie Merriweather
3(b) If veteran, _____ 3(c) Social Security No. _____
Name war _____ No. _____

4. Sex H 5. Color or race C 6(a) Single, widowed, married, divorced widowed

6(b) Name of husband or wife _____
6(c) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ Years
7. Birth date of deceased march-18-1880 Years
(Month) (Day) (Year)

8. AGE: 67 Months _____ Days _____ If less than one day hr. _____ min.

9. Birthplace Ky

10. Usual occupation at home

11. Industry or business _____

FATHER { 12. Name Isaac Merriweather
13. Birthplace Ky

MOTHER { 14. Maiden name Mattie Taylor
15. Birthplace Ky

16(a) Informant's own signature Lillie Merriweather
(b) Address Harrods Creek Ky

17. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL
Place Friends Cemetery Date Dec-29-47

18(a) Signature of funeral director J. M. Morgan & Son
(b) Address 1508 W. Walnut St.

19(a) JAN 3 1948 (Date received by local registrar) (b) JAN 31 1948 (Date received by State Registrar)

20. DATE OF DEATH Dec-26-1947

21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from 12-26-1947 to 12-26-1947 that I last saw him alive on 12-26-1947 and that death occurred on the date stated above at 8:30 P. M.

Immediate cause of death: (1) Chronic High Pneumonia
N.I.D.

Due to (2) Cerebral Hemorrhage

Other conditions _____
(Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)

Major findings:
Of operations 101-152

Of autopsy _____

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____
(b) Date of occurrence _____
(c) Where did injury occur? In or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? _____
(Specify type of place)
(d) Means of injury _____

While at work? _____

23. Signature J. M. Morgan & Son
Address 1508 W. Walnut St. Date signed 12-30-47

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

USA
KY
Louisville
Society
Historic
Filson
5
Folder
J76
A
Mss.
Collect
Caridge
Jones

1 PLACE OF DEATH
Jefferson

County.....

Vol. Pch. 148 Registration District No. 756

Inc. Town..... Primary Registration District No. 8001

City Louisville (NR.F.D. # Harrod's Creek Ky. Ward)

2 FULL NAME Mrs Mattie Merriweather

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX Female 4 COLOR OR RACE Colored 5 Single Widow
Married
Widowed
or Divorced
(Write the word)

6 DATE OF BIRTH 1875
(Month) (Day) (Year)

7 AGE 49 yrs. 0 mos. 0 ds. IF LESS than 1 day 0 hrs. 0 min?

8 OCCUPATION
(a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work None
(b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)

9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) Ky.

PARENTS

10 NAME OF FATHER Thomas Taylor

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) Ky.

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Francis Jacob

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) Ky.

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
(Informant) Harry Merriweather
(Address) R.F.D. # Harrod's Creek

15
Filed June 10, 1924 Miss Selie Schenck
By V. Luster Registrar

16 MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH June 2, 1924
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from April 17, 1924, to June 2, 1924, that I last saw her alive on June 1, 1924, and that death occurred on the date stated above at 3:30 pm.

The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
Anaemia, and myocarditis

(Duration) 1 yrs. 15 mos. 15 ds.

Contributory (Secondary) nephritis

(Signed) Robt. B. Smith M.D.
6-5- 1924 (Address) 588 N. Main

*State the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violent Causes state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents)
at place 2 yrs. 0 mos. 0 ds. In the State 2 yrs. 0 mos. 0 ds.
Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death?
Former or usual residence 1001. m. l. street

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Louisville Cem DATE OF BURIAL June 5th
1924

WRITE PLAINLY WITH INK

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY WITH INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

Form V. S. 1-A
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
Department of Health
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

State File No. 17016
Registrar's No. 3137

Registration District No. 6112 Primary Registration District No. 6112

1. PLACE OF DEATH:
(a) County Jefferson
(b) City or town Harrods Creek Ky.
(c) Name of hospital or institution:
(If outside city or town limits, write RURAL)
(If not in hospital or institution write street number or location)
(d) Length of stay: In hospital or community _____
(years, months or days)

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
(a) State Ky (b) County Jefferson
(c) City or town Harrods Creek Ky.
(If outside city or town limits, write RURAL)
(d) Street No. _____
(If rural give precinct)
(e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A. _____ years

3(a) FULL NAME Mrs. Sunshine Merriweather.
3(b) If veteran, Name war _____ 3(c) Social Security No. _____
4. Sex ♀ 5. Color or race C 6(a) Single, widowed, married, divorced married
6(b) Name of husband or wife Harry Merriweather
6(c) Age of husband or wife if alive _____ Years
7. Birth date of deceased _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)
8. AGE: Year 54 Months _____ Days _____ If less than one day hr. min.
9. Birthplace Ky
10. Usual occupation at home
11. Industry or business _____
FATHER { 12. Name Willis Y. Colston
13. Birthplace Ky
MOTHER { 14. Maiden name Nancy
15. Birthplace Ky
16(a) Informant's own signature Harry Merriweather
(b) Address Harrods Creek Ky.
17. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Eastern Cemetery July-15-1940
18(a) Signature of funeral director St. John's Mortuary
(b) Address 1508-W. Walnut, St.
19(a) Jul 17 1940 (Date received by local registrar) (b) [Signature] (Registrar's signature)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
20. DATE OF DEATH July - 13 - 1940
21. I hereby certify that attended the deceased from _____ 19 _____
to _____ 19 _____, that I last saw him alive on _____ 19 _____, and that death occurred on the date stated above at 10:05 A.M.
Immediate cause of death Cerebral Hemorrhage, 1 da.
Due to Atherosclerosis
Chronic pericarditis 3 yrs.
Other conditions HTA - 4
(Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)
Major findings:
Of operations _____
Of autopsy _____
22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____
(b) Date of occurrence _____
(c) Where did injury occur? in or about home, on farm, in industrial place
in public place? _____ (Specify type of place)
While at work? _____ (e) Means of injury 38007
23. Signature Edwards Fischer (M. D. or other)
Address 731 E. 1st St. Date signed 7-17-40

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING
N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY WITH INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied.

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N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY WITH INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied.

WRITE PLAINLY (WITH UNFADING INK--THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD)
 N. B.--Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR ENDING

FORM V-8 1-3004

Commonwealth of Kentucky
 STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
 BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

614

1 PLACE OF DEATH
 County Jefferson
 Vol. Anchor Registration District No. 552
 Ino. Town..... Primary Registration District No. 335
 City Lakeland (No. Central State Hospital St., Ward)
 2 FULL NAME Lizzie Lang (Lang)

File No. 10241
 Registered No. 47
 (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3 SEX <u>Female</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>Colored</u>	5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED <u>Married</u> (Write the word)	16 DATE OF DEATH <u>April 1</u> 191 <u>5</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)	17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Nov. 29</u> , 191 <u>2</u> , to <u>April 1</u> , 191 <u>5</u> , that I last saw her alive on <u>March 31</u> , 191 <u>5</u> , and that death occurred on the date stated above at <u>3.0</u> p.m. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Argenic Heart Disease</u> (Duration)..... yrs. <u>6</u> mos. ds. Contributory..... (SECONDARY)..... (Duration)..... yrs. mos. ds. (Signed) <u>A. J. Davidson</u> , M. D. <u>April 1</u> , 191 <u>5</u> (Address) <u>Lakeland Ky.</u> State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES state (1) MANNER OF INJURY, and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL or HOMICIDAL. 18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS OR RECENT RESIDENTS) At place of death <u>2</u> yrs. <u>9</u> mos. <u>11</u> ds. In the <u>68</u> yrs. mos. ds. Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? Former or usual residence <u>Louisville Ky.</u>
6 DATE OF BIRTH 18 <u>47</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)	7 AGE <u>68</u> yrs. mos. ds. IF LESS than 1 day ... hrs. or ... min.?	8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work. <u>House work</u> (b) General nature of industry business or establishment in which employed (or employer)	19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Louisville Ky.</u>	
9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Ky.</u>	10 NAME OF FATHER <u>Adison Kinn</u>	11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <u>Ky.</u>	20 UNDERTAKER <u>Gas Taylor</u>	
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Matilda Watson</u>	13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>Ky.</u>	14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) <u>Reem Central State Hospital</u> (Address) <u>Lakeland Ky.</u>	DATE OF BURIAL 191 <u>5</u> ADDRESS <u>Bay to avs.</u> <u>Louisville Ky.</u>	
15 Filed <u>Apr 1 - 5 21</u> 191 <u>5</u> M. S. Herr			191 <u>5</u>	

11-3194

WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK - THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

M. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

Commonwealth of Kentucky
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1440

1 PLACE OF DEATH

County Jefferson
Vol. Harrods
Ino. Town Cruck

Registration District No. 756

File No.

Registered No.

Primary Registration District No.

City Lex (No. St. Ward)

(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

2 FULL NAME Isaac Meneweather

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

3 SEX male 4 COLOR OR RACE Dark 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (Write the word) Married

16 DATE OF DEATH Jan 6 1928
(Month) (Day) (Year)

6 DATE OF BIRTH 1855
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Dec 20, 1927, to Jan 6, 1928, that I last saw him alive on Jan 6, 1928, and that death occurred on the date stated above at 6 P.M. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:

7 AGE 73 yrs. mos. ds. IF LESS than 1 day ... hrs. or ... min.?

Pneumonia
Acute
(Duration) yrs. mos. ds.

8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work Framer (b) General nature of industry business or establishment in which employed (or employer) Fam. Work

Contributory (SECONDARY) (Duration) yrs. mos. ds. (Signed) W. W. Hobbs, M. D. Jan 6, 1928 (Address) Harrods Creek

9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) Jefferson Co Ky

10 NAME OF FATHER Harrods Meneweather

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) Jefferson Co Ky

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Unknown

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) Unknown

*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL or HOMICIDAL.

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS OR RECENT RESIDENTS) At place of death yrs. mos. ds. State yrs. mos. ds. Where was disease contracted? If not at place of death? Former or usual residence

(Informant) W. W. Hobbs

(Address) Harrods Creek

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Harrods Cemetery DATE OF BURIAL 1-9-1928

15 Filed Jan 9, 1928 James R. ... REGISTRAR

20 UNDERTAKER J. B. ... ADDRESS 1001 ...

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

Form V. S. 1-12m-4-19-19

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County Jefferson
Vot. Pct. Harrods Creek
Inc. Town _____
City _____ (No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
State Board of Health
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
Registration District No. 756
Primary Registration District No. 8001
File No. 20054
Registered No. _____
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

2 FULL NAME Addison Lange

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3 SEX <u>M</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>C</u>	5 Single Married Widowed or Divorced (Write the word) <u>Widower</u>	16 DATE OF DEATH <u>Aug 30</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)	
6 DATE OF BIRTH <u>1851</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)			17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Jan 15, 1922</u> , to <u>Aug 30, 1922</u> that I last saw him alive on <u>Aug 30, 1922</u> and that death occurred on the date stated above at <u>12</u> m.	
7 AGE <u>61</u> yrs. _____ mos. _____ da. IF LESS than 1 day _____ hrs. or _____ min?			The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Acute Pericarditis Myocarditis</u>	
8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work. <u>Farm Work</u> (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer) _____			(Duration) _____ yrs. <u>2 1/2</u> mos. _____ ds.	
9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Kentucky</u>			Contributory (Secondary) <u>Don't know</u> (Duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.	
PARENTS	10 NAME OF FATHER <u>Thaddens Lange</u>		(Signed) <u>H. T. Smith</u> M. D. <u>Aug 31, 1922</u> (Address) <u>621 W. Bluff</u>	
	11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) <u>Kentucky</u>		*As to the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violence, state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.	
	12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Elizabeth Higgin</u>		18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents) at place _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. In the _____ State _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.	
	13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>Kentucky</u>		Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? Former or usual residence _____	
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) <u>Charles Lange</u> (Address) <u>518 S. Jackson</u>				
15 Filled <u>Oct 16, 1922</u> <u>Sadie Schmidt</u> Registrar <u>Jas H. Hathaway</u> 716 S. Burton				

11-3194 CCH 954
Jas T. Taylor 10-24-22

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

1 PLACE OF DEATH

County *Jefferson*Vol. *Harrods Creek 6335*Ino. Town *Lebanon*City *Lebanon*

2 FULL NAME

Siman Brooks

Commonwealth of Kentucky

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Registration District No. *557*Primary Registration District No. *6333*(No. *Prospect* St., Ward)

14149

File No. *34*Registered No. *34*

(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX

4 COLOR OR RACE

5 SINGLE

6 MARRIED

7 WIDOWED

8 OR DIVORCED

9 (Write the word)

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WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

Form V. S. 1-50m-8-25-23

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
State Board of Health
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

22874

1 PLACE OF DEATH

County Jefferson

Vot. Precinct

Inc. Town

City

Registration District No. 755Primary Registration District No. 2275(No. City Hospital Ward)

File No.

Registered No. 3606

(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.)

2 FULL NAME George W. Lang

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX M4 COLOR OR RACE C5 Single Married
Married
Widowed
or Divorced
(Write the word)

6 DATE OF BIRTH

(Month) (Day) (Year)

7 AGE

51 yrs. 0 mos. 0 ds.IF LESS than 1
day hrs.
or min?

8 OCCUPATION

(a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work Contractor
(b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)9 BIRTHPLACE
(State or country)

10 NAME OF FATHER

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER
(State or country)

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER
(State or country)

14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

(Informant)

John Lang
(Address) 516 S Jackson

15

Filed

OCT 20 1924

REG. IN A. ONEONE

Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH

Oct 19 1924
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased

from 1924 to 1924that I last saw him alive on Oct 19 1924and that death occurred on the date stated above at 1924

The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:

Fractured Skull + Fracture upper leg (was riding in auto + was hit by telephone post (Auto Accident)) ds.

Contributory

(Second) OY L CARTER, Colonel(Signed by Joseph Beck M. D.Oct 20 1924 (Address) Court House

*State the disease causing death, or, in deaths from violent causes state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents)

at place 516 S Jackson In the 51 yrs. 0 mos. 0 ds. of death

Where was disease contracted,

If not at place of death?

Former or

usual residence

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL

DATE OF BURIAL

Louisville, Ky Oct 21 1924

UNDERTAKER

ADDRESS

East H. Hathaway 716 S. Creston

11-314

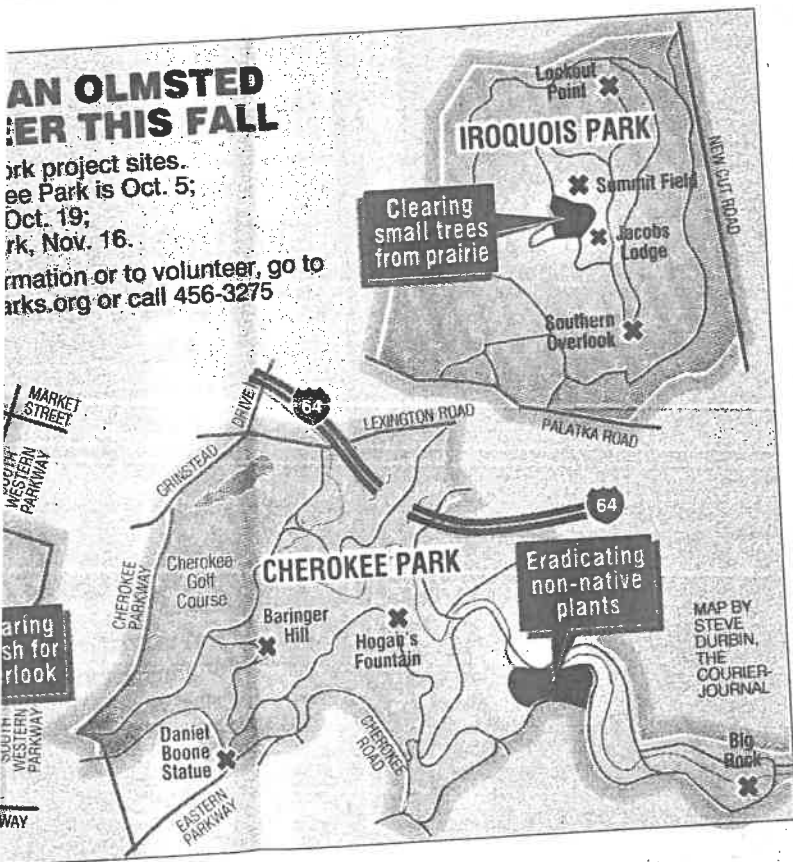


PHOTOS BY DAVID R. LUTMAN, SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL

he native prairie atop the old parade field in Iroquois Park.

AN OLMSTED ER THIS FALL

rk project sites.
ee Park is Oct. 5;
Oct. 19;
rk, Nov. 16.
ormation or to volunteer, go to
arks.org or call 456-3275



LookingBack

Subdivision may be named after early developer

By BILL PIKE
bpike@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

During his 79 years, James Taylor was a farmer, bus driver, quarry operator, bridge and road builder, president of a real-estate company, community leader and perhaps the first African American to develop a modern suburban subdivision in Jefferson County.

Taylor, who died 37 years ago but is still well-remembered, could soon have a subdivision named after him.

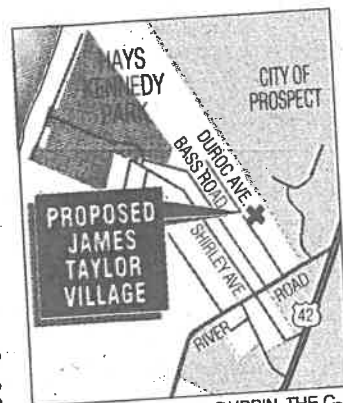
Eastwood Construction and Development wants to build James Taylor Village, with 12 single-family homes and 42 condominiums, along Duroc Avenue, off River Road near Prospect.

The Louisville-Jefferson County Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 5 on the proposal, which involves a zoning change.

Don Bright, owner of Eastwood Construction, named the proposed development for Taylor. "That would fit the neighborhood," Bright said. "He was the first developer out there."

Taylor developed the area, which is between River Road and Hays Kennedy Park, during the 1920s.

The subdivision was laid out like modern subdivisions. That distinguished it from other suburban African-American developments, where development was more haphazard.



BY STEVE DURBIN, THE C-J

**James Taylor
"was always
busy doing
something."**

Laura Brooks

A roadside marker on Shirley Avenue sums up Taylor's role: "James Taylor (1885-1965) was chiefly responsible for the modern Harrods Creek community. Ambitious entrepreneur, Taylor purchased land from Mary Shirley Helm in 1919 and began to sell lots to other African Americans in 1923. The Taylor Subdivision became the

See SUBDIVISION
Page 2, col. 1

Natural and secluded, close and convenient

- New Homes From \$295,000-\$400,000+
- Natural Walking Trails through woods
- Woodmont Swim & Tennis Club

**New Phase IV
IS NOW OPEN**

CMB

MONT
arrett 423-1010

Chenoweth zoning request complicated



"He would do anything he could to try to help blacks improve themselves," Dunbar said. "I'm glad he lived in this neighborhood. I'm glad I knew him."

The Marquette property is south of Massie. In the rezoning

**GRAND
OPENING
AUG. 29, 30**

Beef Tenderloin

10 Lbs.
Baby Ba

**5 Lb. Bag
Boneless
Chicken
Breasts** **\$2**
SA \$5.

**Flown in Fresh
Salmon Fil**
\$7.98 SAV
LB. \$2.01

**The Great
Kingsley Bar-B-Q**

Beef, Chicke

Gourmet Deli Special
Kingsley Roast Turkey Breast

Kingsley V. Baked Ham

Book **Medical History** **Delusions** **Illustrated \$1** **\$2.95**

Rock
Half 1993-1



The one-lane bridge on River Road over Harrods Creek looks about the same today as it did in a 1916 photograph.

Ambitious farmer-developer James Taylor paved the way for area's black community

NEARLY 6-FOOT-3, strong and "very, very handsome," James Taylor cut quite a figure in his day.

But more than his looks, the farmer, developer and quarry owner who died in 1965 is remembered in Harrods Creek for carving out and ensuring the survival of a black community there.

Black roots in Harrods Creek date to the slave days. After the Civil War, freed blacks found homes in pockets around southern Oldham County, Harrods Creek and Prospect.

Taylor was born in 1885 and raised by his grandmother, a midwife, on Wolf Pen Branch Road. His neighbor, a black minister known as Brother Kennedy, is said to have built a school for blacks on what is now Jacob School Road.

Students came primarily from the all-black sections called The Neck, near what is now Hoskins Beach Road, and Happy Hollow, an enclave off U.S. 42 on a road of the same name.

But it was Jacob School Road and James Taylor's subdivision, stretching along River Road from about Carslaw Court past Duroc Avenue that became the core of the black community after the 1920s. Both those areas were once

owned by the Shirley family, whose farm holdings in the area date to the mid-1800s. (The Neck and Happy Hollow have disappeared as families died out and sold to developers.)

In those days, most whites didn't sell property to blacks. But one branch of the Shirley family apparently ignored convention. Deeds show A. E. Shirley sold his farm to Taylor around 1920.

Another Shirley sold to individuals such as 70-year-old Chester Trowel's father, who bought one acre on Jacob School Road in 1919 for \$300. That was big money for a farmhand making 85 cents a day.

Why did they sell when others wouldn't?

"The impression I've always gotten," said Trowel, of Bass Lane, "is that these people were just interested in helping out blacks, seeing them do well."

James Taylor more than fulfilled that hope.

At age 14, Taylor bought a team of mules and a plow and began contract farming in the area. He branched off into construction, road building and eventually real-estate development. Taylor subdivided the old Shirley farm in 1924 and began selling to blacks only.

"At first he sold only to family," recalled Taylor's daughter, Minnie

Alta Broadbuss, 77. Later, he "carefully screened" buyers for other lots on Shirley Lane, Bass and Duroc. Many of the people worked on farms or for nearby estates.

"He always said by the time he was 35 years old he wanted to have \$35,000 in the bank," said Broadbuss. "He overdid that."

"He was a wonderful person, a real businessman," recalled Laura Brooks, 82, the granddaughter of Jefferson Jacob, the slave for whom a now-defunct Jacob School was named.

She bought a lot in the 1940s from Taylor, who was "very, very handsome" and worked as a domestic for the Garvin Brown family for 37 years, she said.

She and others remember Hays Kennedy, the daughter-in-law of Brother Kennedy. She spent years operating programs for children in Harrods Creek. The park west of Taylor's holdings bears her name.

Green Castle Baptist Church on Rose Island Road and Harrods Creek Baptist Church at 7610 River Road, remain primary institutions for blacks in the area.

Brooks, Broadbuss and Trowel agree it's important to them to live where their forefathers worked.

"I've been here all my 70 years," Trowel said. "I know practically everybody out here. Everyone is very friendly."



KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL
The State Historic Preservation Office

April 17, 1989

Mr. & Mrs. William Kellar
6421 Upper River Road, Box 74
Harrods Creek, Kentucky 40027

RE: Merriwether House (Site #JF-690)
Jefferson County Multiple Resource Area

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Kellar:

The Kentucky Heritage Council is pleased to announce that your property listed above was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on March 22, 1989. Listing in the National Register gives recognition that the site has historical, architectural, or archaeological significance within the context of the community, State, or Nation. Benefits include limited protection against adverse action by Federal agencies and eligibility for Federal tax benefits for depreciable historic structures as specified in the Economic Recovery Act of 1981.

We are enclosing a Certificate of listing and a blue decal for you to apply to a window at the main entrance to your historic property. These indicate that the property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places or is a contributing building in a National Register District.

I know you share our pleasure that the property has been so honored. We encourage you to help us keep the file on your property current by sharing with us any newly obtained information on the history of the site. Thank you for your participation in the preservation of Kentucky's heritage.

Sincerely,

David L. Morgan, Director
Kentucky Heritage Council and
State Historic Preservation Officer

DLM:MP/bsc

Enclosures



Harrods Creek

Settlers took a turn at mills; verdant hills and lowlands were home to diverse groups

By GRACE SCHNEIDER/Staff Writer

CORN FIELDS, lush woodlands and meandering creeks dotted Harrods Creek in the 1940s. Farmhouses, barns and a few small summer cabins were scattered beside River Road.

A grocery store, post office and garage sat near Wolf Pen Branch and River roads.

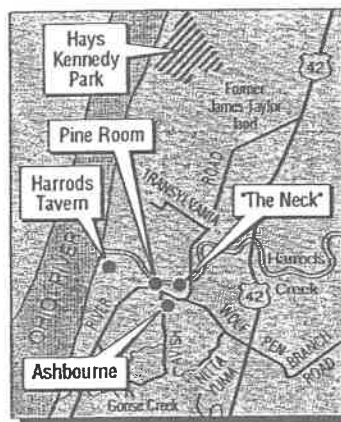
A classic farm community?

Hardly. Harrods Creek has always been more than that. Its unusual geography — an area bordered by the Ohio River, bisected by two large creeks and surrounded by a collar of high hills — has drawn a diverse mix of people since the late 1800s.

In the waning days of the last century, the pretty hillsides were home to wealthy Louisville families; the creek and the river, to working-class whites. And through a twist of opportunity, a group of blacks carved a niche there, too.

All three groups still have a place in the community, which is bounded roughly by the river on the west; U.S. 42 on the east; Lime Kiln Lane to the south; and the area near Hays Kennedy Park on the north.

Harrods Creek's story began in



the late 1700s. The Ohio's current made the waterway's mouth a logical stop for flatboats.

Some accounts say that the creek was named for James Harrod, who came to Kentucky in 1773 and founded Fort Harrod, the site of present-day Harrodsburg. Other records point to Capt. William Harrod, whom George Rogers Clark tapped to command the first fort at Louisville in 1779.

A settlement started sometime before 1775 near the present-day River Creek Inn on River Road and Guthrie Beach Road. A popular

spot for flatboat men was the old Harrods Tavern.

Its remains are the thick stone walls and fireplace inside the Captain's Quarters bar and restaurant.

The Transylvania Co., a frontier firm that also established Transylvania Seminary (now Transylvania University) in Lexington, laid out a city upriver from the creek. Lots were sold, but the town never developed, according to records at the Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation and Archives.

Transylvania Avenue, which branches west off River Road, is located on what became known as "the seminary land."

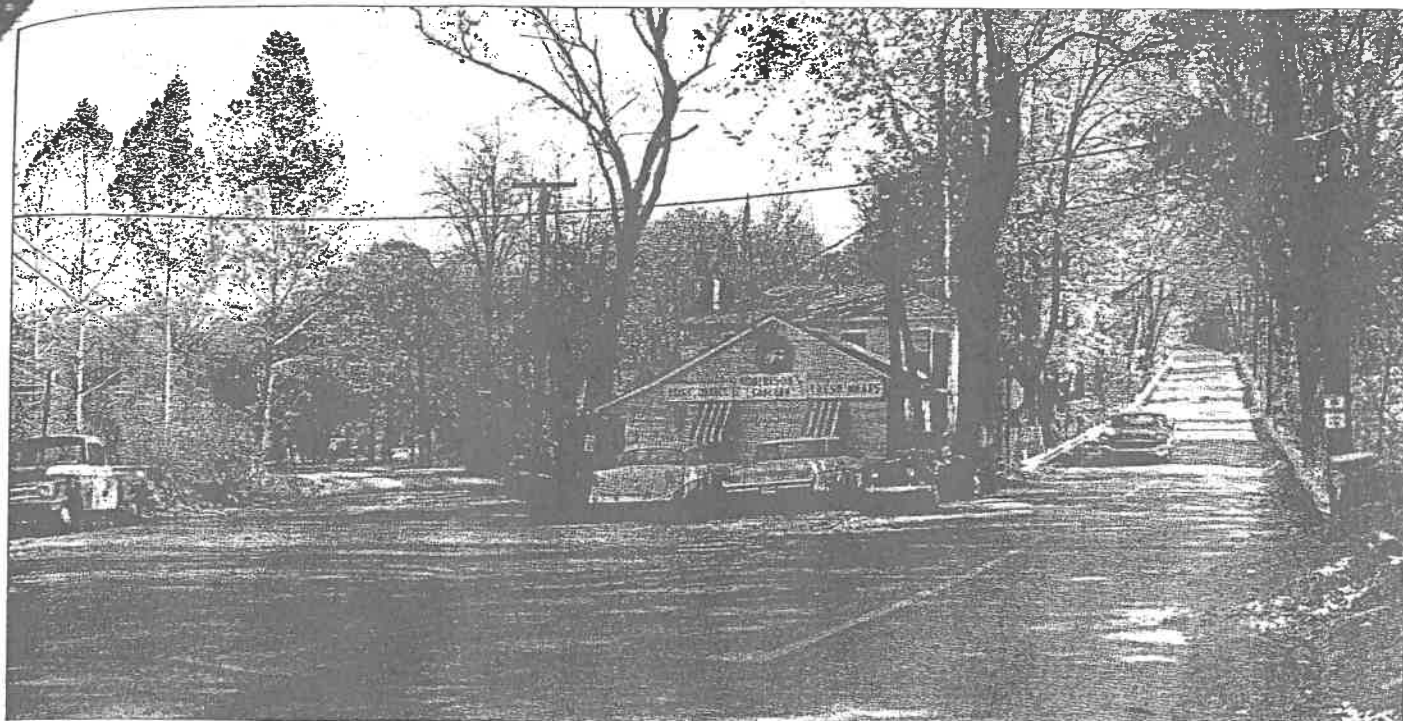
In the waning days of the 18th century, Harrods Creek was a hot spot. Cargo was unloaded at wharf and sent south on Louisville Westport Pike (now River Road) or over another roadway to Middletown and Jeffersontown. The stop let travelers avoid Louisville, which was known as a disease-infested swamp.

Louisville, however, had been cleaned up by the early 1800s. After about 1810, most of the traffic bypassed Harrods Creek for the growing town downstream. But the former was still popular for its ferry to Utica, Ind.

Rosewell, a two-story brick mansion on an original 4,000-acre estate in Harrods Creek, was built in the 1850s. It was the home of the Charles G. Middleton family when this photo was taken in 1940. It is still used as a private residence.



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Harrods Creek where River Road and Wolf Pen Branch come together looks about the same today as it did in a 1964 photograph.

Farmers and millers, attracted by the rich bottomland and abundant water, sank roots along the creek and the Ohio River. At least four mills served the area, including an early version of Wolf Pen Mill, which some accounts say burned down twice. A sturdy stone mill dating to 1870 still stands off Wolf Pen Lane on Sallie Bingham's estate, Wolfpen Farm. A stone wall thought to be a remnant of another mill sits beside a beautiful stairstep waterfall on the farm.

Local legend holds that a flax mill was operated there during the early 1800s by a man named Bash. An enemy caught up with Bash and torched the mill to cinders one night — with the miller and his wife inside. People still call the creek Bash's Branch, said Martin Sweets, 75, of Prospect.

Another settler, Thomas Barbour, built a grist mill on Harrods Creek in 1808, and an 1878 map shows a Barbour family farmed 92 acres beside Harrods Creek.

Barbour Lane — also the former name for Wolf Pen Branch Road before it veers off Barbour Lane east of U.S. 42 — bears the family's name.

Since those days, the community's evolution has mirrored that of other Jefferson County suburbs, such as Anchorage and Glenview, according to county records. Once covered with farms, the area became dotted with summer estates for Louisville's wealthy. The inter-urban railroad built in the early 1900s helped foster these suburbs.

Other sections of Harrods Creek became full-time residences for people such as John Lang, 84, a

mechanic and son of an estate overseer who owned land that now houses Mooser's Garage at 6337 River Road.

"I always called this a hand-me-down neighborhood," said Mary Lang, John Lang's wife, whose family has lived in Harrods Creek since the late 1800s. "Land was passed from generation to generation."

Mary Lang once operated the Chick Inn restaurant, at 6325 River Road. She leases it now to another business owner.

In Lang's day, say area residents, the Chick Inn's fried chicken and other dishes went unmatched.

"They had the best fried oysters you ever put in your mouth," Sweets offered.

Sweets until recently lived in Nitta Yuma, an unusual housing development up the hill from River Road at Wolf Pen Branch Road.

In 1890, Brown-Forman distillery founder George Garvin Brown and two business partners purchased 100 acres of hilly farmland off Wolf Pen Branch.

They built three spacious homes and formed the Nitta Yuma Co. (an Indian term meaning "high land"), outlining an arrangement in which each owner paid a pro-rated share for upkeep and other community expenses. Their descendants still live there. Other homes were added to the enclave, but much of its exclusive ambiance remains.

Another blue-chip enclave, Ashbourne, is an estate directly across River Road from the Chick Inn and the Lang home. Sally Brown, the wife of deceased distillery magnate W. L. Lyons Brown, lives there.

Some of the blacks who moved to the area worked for people in the "big houses." But not all black roots can be traced to Nitta Yuma and Ashbourne.

Harry Merriwether and his son Isaac bought two acres in two separate tracts on Harrods Creek in about 1890 and their family members have lived in the area since.

So have the descendants of James Taylor, a black man who bought a farm near what is now Bass Avenue and subdivided it, selling to blacks only.

Harrods Creek's "diversity" makes it interesting, said Meme Sweets Runyon, of Nitta Yuma.

Although the mix already was present in Harrods Creek by 1890, it became more pronounced as the farms bordering the Ohio gradually gave way to summer cottages and later to full-time riverside homes after World War II.

In those days, all worlds met at Helen Robertson's general store and post office at the middle of the fork at River Road and Wolf Pen Branch, recalled the late Robertson's daughter, Alice McDonald, of the St. Matthews area.

"You didn't need a newspaper," said Mary Lang. "All you had to do was go to Robertson's."

The river and creek, recalls Glenview resident George McBride, was plied by lots of rowboats and small craft. Later, the area began to attract a following of weekend water worshipers that has burgeoned today, with enormous sailboats and cabin cruisers skimming the currents.

"At night along the creek and along River Road, the bug-repellent

The Merriwether house near Harrods Creek has been in that family since 1890, when Harry Merriwether moved there.

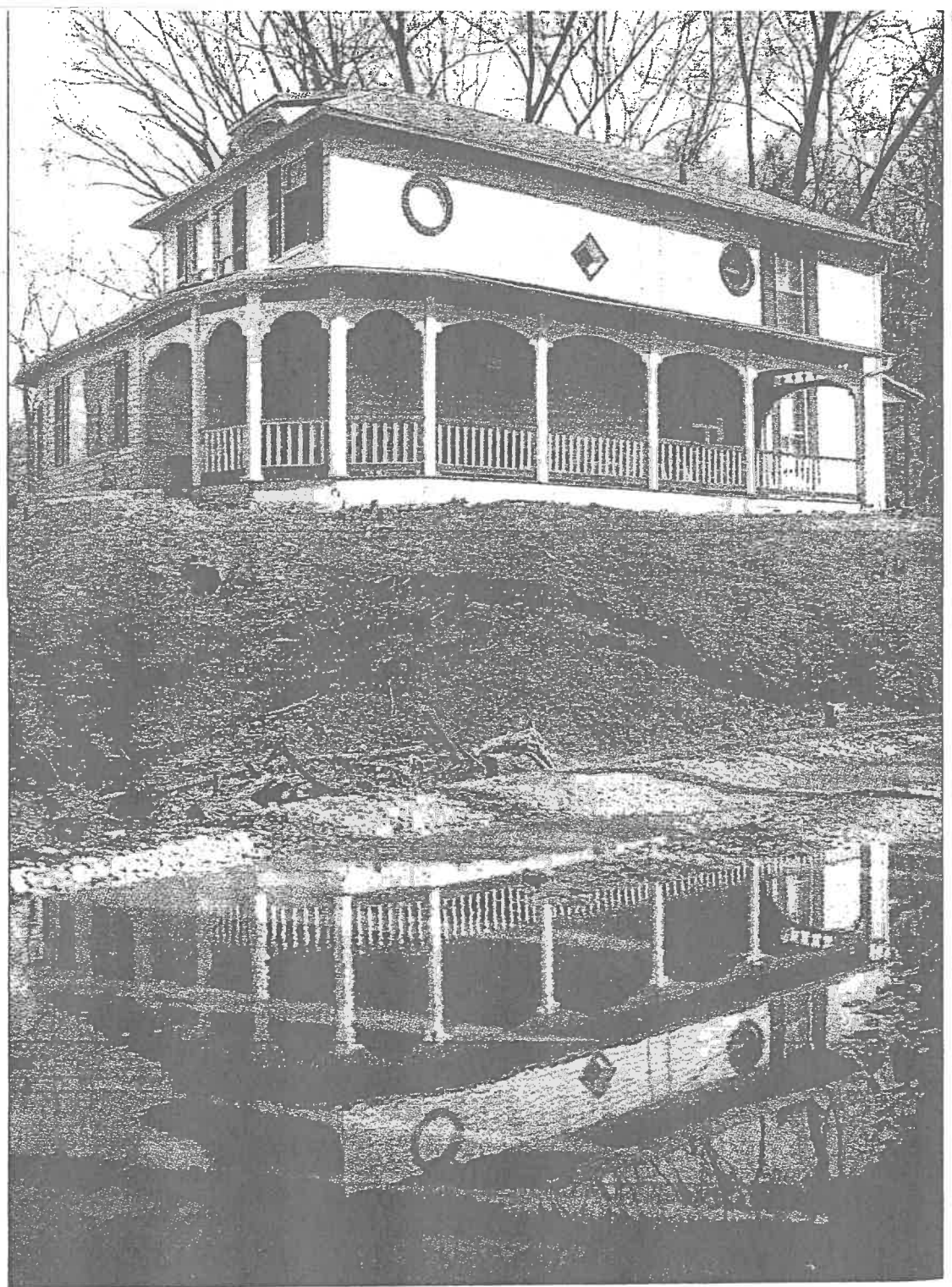
DID YOU KNOW:

■ For a week in 1934, the kidnapping of a Harrods Creek resident grabbed the national spotlight. A "filling-station" employee nabbed Alice Stoll, 26, the daughter-in-law of Stoll Oil Refining Co. president Charles C. Stoll. The kidnapper demanded a \$50,000 ransom.

Sightseers and reporters converged on the community. Many reportedly waited for news at the Harrods Creek post office and grocery store.

After about six days, the ransom was paid and Stoll was released in Indianapolis. Thomas H. Robinson Jr., of Nashville, Tenn., was captured 18 months later in California, convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

■ The one-room Harrods Creek School once stood just north of the River Road bridge over Harrods Creek. A white Masonic Lodge building is there now. ■ A tavern once stood on the site of Ashbourne, the W. L. Lyons Brown estate on River Road at Wolf Pen Branch Road. County records show the house, parts of which date to the early 1800s, was also a home for Confederate veterans of the Civil War.



lights flicker on. Jukebox songs stir the air; laughter comes from taverns," said a 1965 article in the Louisville Times.

Certainly one of those laughter-filled taverns was the Pine Room, a popular nightclub and restaurant that burned down in 1977 after 35 years in business. "I got a lump when the Pine Room burned," McDonald said.

The Pine Room is now a real estate office — an appropriate business considering the building boom under way today.

"Everyone wants to live by the

river anymore," said McBride, who operates a towing firm from his 1,400-foot Ohio River frontage just south of Captain's Quarters.

Large lots are being subdivided to accommodate big-ticket homes, many displacing summer cabins, mobile homes and other modest remnants of a bygone era.

Amelia Guthrie Habich, whose family has owned the Captain's Quarters land and adjoining tracts on Guthrie Beach Road since 1933, is selling 47 of her 52 acres.

Despite strong opposition from many residents, developer Fourth

Avenue Corp. is proceeding with plans to fill banks near the creek and river to build 32 homes and a 198-slip marina.

The Langs and others worry that development in the area and up the creek in Oldham County is polluting their stream and wiping out the small-town feeling they enjoy.

"In the spring, sometimes it [Harrods Creek] really stinks," said Mary Lang. But she admits, pollution or not, there's no place like Harrods Creek.

"It's still the most beautiful place to us."

Prospect and Harrod’s Creek, 1870-1920
African American Residents

Table 1. 1870-1920 Censuses, Harrod’s Creek Precinct (Prospect and Harrod’s Creek).

Census Year	# Households in Own Dwelling	Male Head of Household- Own Dwelling	Female Head of Household – Own Dwelling	# Households in White Dwelling	Male Head of Household – White Dwelling	Female Head of Household – White Dwelling	Total # Persons in Own Dwelling	Total # Persons in White Dwelling	Total # Persons	Own	Rent	At School	Cannot Read	Cannot Write	Cannot Read or Write
1870	23	23	0	27	15	12	125	190	315			1	1	21	189
1880	39	37	2	7	4	3	203	74	277			21	1	6	112
1900	47	40	7	0	0	0	195	34	229	18	29	43	0	7	29
1910	36	33	3	0	0	0	156	15	171	18	18	43	0	7	31
1920	50	42	8	0	0	0	206	9	215	22	28	38	0	0	1

Table 2. Occupations, 1870 - 1920.

Year	Farmer	Farm Hand/Farm Laborer/ Laborer	Teamster	Keeping House	Domestic Servant Cook Houseboy Housegirl	Gardener Yardman	Washerwoman Laundress	Farm Overseer	Porter	Lawyer	Inspector Checker	Chef	Whitewasher	Nurse	M C
1870	3	93	0	24	63	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1880	14	39	1	33	52	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
1900	6	53	2	0*	34	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
1910	16	34	2	29	18	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1920	9	33	3	0*	33	0	15	5	2	1	2	1	0	4	

*this occupation not listed in 1900 or 1920 Census

Table 3. African American Heads of Household Who Owned Property in Harrod’s Creek Precinct, 1900

Name	Mortgaged	Farm or House	Community	1913 Title Map
Lang, George	No	House	Harrod’s Creek	Yes
Kennedy, Harrison	Yes	House	Harrod’s Creek	Yes
Enders, Mattie	No	House		
Craighead, Benjamin. J.	No	Farm	Harrod’s Creek	Yes
Jackson, Hannibal	No	House		
Magruder, Wilson	No	House		
Taylor, Edward	No	House		
Hodgkins, Joseph	No	House	Harrod’s Creek	Yes
Jacob, William	No	House	Harrod’s Creek	Yes

Jacob, Jefferson	Yes	Farm	Prospect	Yes
Brooks, Simon	No	House	Prospect	Yes
Brooks, Robert	Yes	House	Prospect	Yes
Miller, Elisha. R.	Yes	Farm	Prospect	Yes
Tompson, Emma	No	House	Prospect	
Peter, John	Yes	House	Prospect	Yes

Table 4. African American Heads of Household Who Owned Property in Harrod’s Creek Precinct, 1910

Name	Mortgaged	Farm or House	Community	Community Name, 1910	Road	1913 Title Map
Peters, John W.	No	House	Prospect		Barbour Lane	Yes
Taylor, Susie*	No	House	Prospect		Barbour Lane	Yes
Miller, Elisha R.	No	Farm	Prospect		Barbour Lane	Yes
Brooks, Simon	No	Farm	Prospect	Happy Hollow	Prospect Road	Yes
Jacob, Parker	No	Farm	Prospect	Happy Hollow	Prospect Road	Yes
Brooks, Robert	No	Farm	Prospect	Happy Hollow	Prospect Road	Yes
Smith, George	No	House	Prospect	Happy Hollow	Prospect Road	Yes
Jacob, William H.	No	Farm	Harrod’s Creek		River Road	
Merriweather, Isaac	No	Farm	Harrod’s Creek	The Neck	River Road	
Craighead, Benjamin J.	No	Farm	Harrod’s Creek	The Neck	River Road	Yes
Magruder, Wilson	No	House	Harrod’s Creek	The Neck	River Road	
Taylor, Edward	No	Farm	Harrod’s Creek	The Neck	River Road	Yes
Jackson, Sarah	No	House	Harrod’s Creek	The Neck	River Road	
Sousen, Jim	No	House	Harrod’s Creek	The Neck	River Road	
Gibson, Jackson	No	House	Harrod’s Creek	The Neck	River Road	
Hoskins, Joe	No	Farm	Harrod’s Creek	The Neck	River Road	Yes
Kennedy, Harrison	No	Farm	Harrod’s Creek	The Neck	River Road	Yes
Lang, Addison	No	Farm	Harrod’s Creek	The Neck	River Road	Yes

*Emma Thompson’s sister

Table 4. African American Heads of Household Who Owned Property in Harrod’s Creek Precinct, 1920

Name	Mortgaged	Community	Community Name, 1910	Road	1913 Title Map
Kennedy, Harrison	No			River Road	
Brooks, Simon	No			River Road	
Miller, Elijah R.	No			River Road	
Jacob, Hiram	No			River Road	
Jacob, William	No			River Road	
Ingram, Richard	No			River Road	
Stokes, Albert	No			River Road	
Taylor, Edward	No			River Road	

Bradford, John W.	No			River Road	
Brown, William	No			River Road	
Gibson, Jackson (Mrs.)	No			River Road	
Lang, Maggie	No			River Road	
Merriweather, Harry	No			River Road	
Merriweather, Isaac	No			River Road	
Craighead, Benjamin J.	No			River Road	
Hodgkins, Joseph	No			River Road	
Howard, Alonzo (?)	No			River Road	
Taylor, James T.	No			River Road	
McGruder, Frank	No			River Road	
Jacob, Parker	No			River Road	
Howard, Maise	No			Edwards Road	
Smith, George	No			Edwards Road	