

LUCIEN BECKNER FILE

1. POEM.
- 2 Folder with title on front that says, "LETTERS OF COL. LUCIEN BECKNER". Contains a collection Of letters written to Kathryn Owen concerning history and people of Clark County, Winchester, Kentucky.

Good Bye to the Stepstone,
Good Bye to my Home,
God bless those I leave,
with a sigh,
I'll cherish fond memories
when I'm far away,
Good Bye dear old Stepstone,
Good Bye!

LUCIEN BECKNER
DIRECTOR CITY MUSEUM
743 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

Sept. 7, 1961

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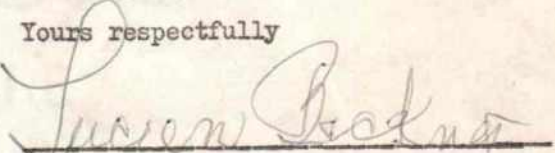
Miss Katherine Owen
423 E. Broadway
Winchester, Ky.

Dear Miss Owen:

Mrs. William Brooks, a good friend of yours, writes me that you are much interested in Clark County History. Dr. George F. Doyle was in charge of the History Department of the Clark County Library but, as he is now living here, I wrote to Mrs. Brooks to tell me who had taken his place. I want to get to Winchester this fall and would like to spend time there. I know a great many sources of our county's history, but have published very little. I feel it is too late to think of me as a publisher now, but I would like to pass my information on so that it may be of some use. If I get to come to Winchester I will try and meet you.

Yours respectfully

LB/pyr


Col. Lucien Beckner, D.Sc. - Director

LUCIEN BECKNER
 DIRECTOR CITY MUSEUM
 743 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
 LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

Sept. 22, 1961

Miss Kathryn Owen
 423 E. Broadway
 Winchester, Ky.

Dear Miss Kathryn:

Inclosed is a copy of a letter I have just received from the State Historical Society in which is some information. The Society knew that I was trying to find something about the family of our Clark County Governor, James Clark. The letter was so informative I want to file it in our history department at the Library, but I also want to stimulate someone into further endeavor. I think it very bad that we know nothing of one of our most talented and interesting families. Personally I knew Richard, the youngest son. He was a hopeless alcoholic in his old age, but he married a wonderful woman who was born in Dublin, Ireland, and whom I knew as "Cousin Louie". She was the heart and soul of our theatrical and musical efforts to entertain ourselves in the old days (before television and movies). Our own attempts were suggested by the half-dozen or so talent troupes we saw in the course of a year. Richard and Cousin Louie had six children: John, Will and Dick, the later a year or two older than I; and three daughters, Marg, Kate, and Fan. The two elder boys left Winchester early and, I think, got jobs with the Railroad Mail Service. The youngest, I think, went to Senator Beck's ranch in Wyoming. I know nothing about their marriages. The eldest daughter, Marg, never married, but in a ripe old age was one of the hostesses in Shakertown in Mercer County. Kate married a drummer from Irvin and I suspect left descendants there. Fan, who belonged to my set, married a Mr. Hancock, but I don't know where she lived. I think our best chance for finding any descendants is Kate's family at Irvin. But I have forgotten her last name, doubtless there are people in Winchester who know it.

Senator Beck may have descendants who could tell you something, but I don't know where any of them are living.

Governor Clark had a brother who was dismissed from the Legal profession because he fought a duel. Afterwards he became a Court Clerk in Estil County for the rest of his life. Probably he has descendants there who could help. Some years ago a builder in Oldham County told me he belonged to Governor Clark's family, but I could not place him. I expect Richard's boys left descendants but I know of none in Winchester. Mrs. Hancock should have descendants somewhere.


The monument originally erected over Governor Clark and his family in the rear of their garden at Winchester, was of Kentucky River marble which goes to pieces in time. Someone had it replaced with the stone now standing there, but also removed the identifying grave markers so that we do not now know where exactly the good Governor and his wife are buried. A few years ago Mrs. W. O. Brooks and I visited the family grave yard and dis-

covered this condition. This Governor's treatment by the Legislature is, perhaps, the shabbiest of that given to any of our governors. The graves should be opened. The identities established. New markers put up and an inclosed plot made of it. Now this probably belongs to the Winchester High School and I am sure it would be glad to help in getting such work done. If not, it could not resist as graveyards are not conveyed when property is assigned. My father owned that place once and at that time the Governor's grave and the others were well marked. The stones had probably been stolen to be made into steps and biscuit boards as so often happens.

I am so glad to learn that one of Mr. Hezekiah Owens daughters is taking such an interest in our history. He was one of our finest citizens. If I can help you at any time do not hesitate to let me know.

LB/pyr

Yours respectfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucien Beckner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Col. Lucien Beckner, D.Sc. - Director

COPY RECEIVED FROM THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO COL. LUCIEN BECKNER

Dear Col: Beckner:

Thank you very much indeed for your kind remarks regarding the magazine. Such pleasing comment is scarce and far between.

I have tried to come up with something on the Governor James Clark family. I cannot find in our genealogical files the names of descendants of the governor. Everybody seems to have descended from his brothers and uncles.

We have a copy (typescript) of Governor James Clark's will. This lists as "children" the following:

- i Robert Christopher
- ii Judith C.
- iii James (born ca. 1792, died Aug. 26, 1813, aged 21 years).
- iv John C.
- v Mary
- vi Susan, died October, 1822, age 4 years.
- vii Richard, youngest son. (Clark County Will book No. 9, page 389.)

As for a daughter who married Senator Beck, my book on the governors would tend to make her a step-daughter. Clark married secondly, Margaret Buckner Thornton, formerly wife of George W. Thornton. One of their daughters was Jane Washington A. Thornton, who married at Louisville, February 3, 1848, James B. Beck.

If I can get from Mrs. Bach or some of the other good genealogists a line on Clark's descendants I will surely send the word along.

Thanks again for your encouragement. (I have been promised a helper in July, 1962!) Maybe then I will not have so many errors. It is a difficult thing to read proof to one's self.

Sincerely

(signed) Glenn

G. Glenn Clift.

LUCIEN BECKNER
DIRECTOR CITY MUSEUM
743 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

October 17, 1961

Miss Katherine Owens
423 East Broadway
Winchester, Ky.

Dear Miss Katherine:

Your letter was very interesting. It named Mrs. Margaret Shaw as a member of Governor Clark's family, I was not aware of this. I only knew one member, Richard, and you named his three girls, Margaret, Kate and Fan, without naming his three sons, John, William, and Dick. My memory of the first two is very dim because they left Winchester when I was a small child, but Dick was nearly my age and I knew him well. I don't recall exactly what happened to him, but think that Senator James Beck took him to Wyoming where the Senator had a ranch. Mrs. Shaw must have been a daughter of the Governor's, but I never knew her. A few years ago a lawyer named Clark of Oldham County told me that he was of that family, but I don't know if he meant the Governor's or one of his brothers. There is no one in Winchester now, so far as I can recall, who knew any of the Governor's grandchildren. The Clark family simply disappeared from our ken. Perhaps there are other stories of the meetings of veterans and of the tales they told that could and should be published. I think the SUN will publish anything of that kind.

I remember some of the veterans of 1812. The records of 1812 were never properly kept. The Masonic Lodge at Winchester has a British cutless brought back by Captain A. C. T. Lewis who's uncle was Captain of the Kentucky Riflemen who made the dispersion of Perry's fleet in the Battle of Lake Erie. I doubt if any member of the Winchester Lodge knows what the cutless is and can only hope that it has not been thrown away. Get some member to get it and deposit it on the walls of the county library with a proper inscription.

Placed on the Courthouse walls are lists of our Revolutionary soldiers. Lists of our soldiers of the succeeding wars should also be placed there. However, the Revolutionary reports are not complete. They do not include the garrison at our local Stations during that war and at Strode's Station there was a skirmish between the British and Indians on March 1, 1779-80. Also many moved from the various stations in Clark, particularly McGee's, and took part in the first battle of the Blue Licks a few days before the big one. Also those who were at the siege of Boonsboro and settled in Clark who should be on that list. The University of Louisville has films of the Calendar of Kentucky State Papers which is a list of the Shane papers. In them are many papers referring to Clark County. I believe the University would make prints of them for reference. The state Historical Society has the same films and would do the same.

There are many of our historians who have done well in private and who should be remembered. A card index system could be adapted which would give what is known of anyone who occurs in our history and it could be added to with further information as accumulated. In time this would amount to a Clark County biographical encyclopedia. In the Shane papers could

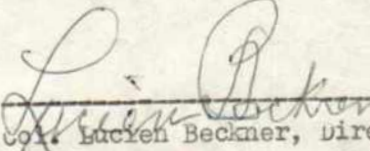
PAGE-2 - Letter to Miss Katherine Owens from Col. Lucien Beckner, D.Sc.

be found our early Stations and their locations could be made by those of you who know the County. I have published a number of Shane Papers relating to Clark County in the Filson Club quarterly. A letter to that Club here would get a list of those papers, the dates of the publication and perhaps club members in Winchester would donate their magazines. A few years ago I gave a number of them. In one, William Clinkenbard tells of the life of Strobe Station and the siege.

I want to get to Winchester this fall, and if so will do my best to see you so that we can compare notes on local history.

Yours respectfully

LB/pyr



Col. Lucien Beckner, Director

LUCIEN BECKNER
DIRECTOR CITY MUSEUM
743 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY
November 11, 1961

Miss Katherine Owen
423 E. Broadway
Winchester, Kentucky

Dear Miss Katherine:

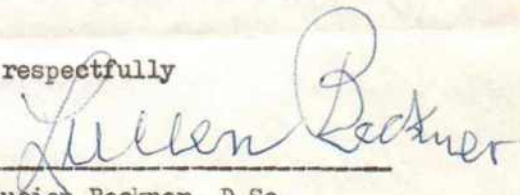
Inclosed is a letter from the great-granddaughter of Governor Clark, and my answer to it which might be of value to local historians. I may have told you in one of my letters, if not, I had better say that Mr. Richard Clark, son of the Governor, was a hopeless alcoholic. It was a disease with him and he could do nothing for himself or his family. His wife Louise taught music and kept up the family. Her husband was respected as a gentlemen, but not as a family provider. It was one of the most pitiful cases I ever knew. His wife is buried in the Winchester Cemetary and I presume their children put markers over their graves. It is strange that none of the family of a man as useful as Governor Clark's was remained in his home town. Please show these letters to Mrs. W. O. Brooks who went with me one day to inspect the Clark burial ground.

Dr. George Doyle calls on me occasionally and I see him at the meetings of the Filson Club. He is a little bit lost in Louisville, but will make out all right. His son is doing very well.

Would you like to join the Filson Club or the State Historical Society? Or perhaps you are already a member of both or either? If not I would be honored to propose your name.

LB/pyr

Yours respectfully


Col. Lucien Beckner, D.Sc.

November 10, 1961

Mrs. E. Harry Brown
115 5th Street
Ravenna, Kentucky

Dear Mrs. Brown:

Please accept my thanks for your kind and informative letter. I remember your father slightly, but I remember your Uncle Jim a little bit better. However, they left Winchester when I was quite small. Dick was a year or two older than I, but I thought he went to Wyoming with Senator Beck. You tell me, though, that his descendants are living in Michigan. How could I get in touch with them. Kate married in Irvin and I thought it would be possible to find some descendants of hers there. Fanny was a girl of my set. She was three years older and married a Mr. Hancock, I knew them well at one time but have lost track of them. Some one told me that they are now living in Texas. She was very lovely, bright, and attractive and all of the young fellows were devoted to her. When Margaret brought your grandmother to Winchester to bury her I was one of the pall bearer. We all loved "Cousin Louie" because she was the life of our musical and theatrical entertainments. Outside theatrical troops were scarce in those days and we had no television or movies to entertain us so, as you can imagine, she was a valuable part of this community. She and my mother were great friends and I took piano from her. She was born in Dublin and no kin to any one in America but all of us called her "Cousin." I saw Margaret some years ago at Shaker-town in Mercer county where she was one of the hostesses. We had a long chat, but I didn't think to get any genealogic data from her then which I have since regreted.

There was a Kit Clark in Clark County when I was a young man, who claimed kin with the Governor. I suspect that he was a son or grandson of Bennett Clark, but don't know. I cannot even find if he left descendants.

The State has put a monument in Governor Clark's burial ground in the garden behind the mansion he built which is now owned by the State School Board, but somebody has stolen the markers from all of the graves. My father owned the mansion at one time and I was partly raised there. It was a delightful home and is still the finest "Old home" in town.

Can you tell me where each of your uncles and aunts are buried? Did your Aunt Margaret leave any genealogical papers? Did she die in Harrodsburg? What kin was Senator Beck's wife? I would like to call on you and talk the Clark family history, but fear I will be unable to do so as I am quite old and getting too feeble to travel. You did not tell me if or not you had any children.

Yours respectfully

LB/pyr

Mrs. E. Harry Brown
115 5th Street
Ravenna, Kentucky

Dear Col. Beckner:-
I am in receipt of your
letter, regarding my aunt
Gus James Clark. All
the grand children have
passed away, namely John
who was my father, Dick +
Jim Clark, Margaret, Kate
+ Fanny who were my
aunts + uncles. I know of
no living descendants
left except the great
grandchildren, namely
myself who is John's
daughter + Dick, Jim
+ Margaret (Clark) Mc Key
who are Dick Clark's

children + reside in
Michigan,
Gov. Clark's brother
Sumner Clark, served as
Still County's first county
clerk in 1808. I am
unable to locate any
descendants of his, here in
Still Co. Am sorry I
am unable to give you
any more information, but
hope this will be of some
use to you. My aunt
Margaret was the historian
of the family, if she were
living probably she could
give you more information
Ruf.

Helena (Clark) Brown

LUCIEN BECKNER
 DIRECTOR CITY MUSEUM
 743 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
 LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

November 30, 1961

Miss Katherine Owen
 423 E. Broadway
 Winchester, Kentucky

Dear Miss Katherine:

Some years ago I furnished Mrs. Duth, then postmistress, a list of the postmasters who have served Winchester and the dates when they served. I wish you would find out if that list is still at the Post Office, and if you find it ask permission to copy it, it is not long, as I remember, it doesn't attempt to discuss the events that occurred in any terms.

Also ask at the Sun office if they have a list of the newspapers published in Winchester and Clark County. I furnished that list some years ago and do not recall what was done with it. There was a paper published in Ford, but I fear no copies of it have been kept. Would you know who to contact to find out if or not any can be located? If any are found they should be filed in a Clark County library. About the beginning of this century, or a little later a gentleman in Oregon whose name, I think was Anderson wrote a book called Old Fields which was a story of life in Winchester in the very early days.

During the Civil War Dr. M. S. Browne was attached to a Confederate command which had a running fight with the Federalists from about the corner of Main and Broadway out toward Mt. Sterling. When I owned the paper there I wrote the story of it as told to me by Dr. Browne. His daughter, Ora, married James S. Chambers and moved with me to Lexington. They had a son, Moreau B. Chambers, who was for many years connected with the Mexican Government and is now employed at Williamsburg. Dr. Browne had a son, Isaac, a well known doctor in Winchester who married and died there. He left a daughter, and perhaps, a widow. Dr. Browne doubtless served about the time that Capt. S. G. Sharpe and his pal, Doc Emerson, captured Winchester and ran the Federalists troops under General Bush to Paris. Dr. Browne doubtless served about this time. I also published this story in The Sun when I owned it. It was of such length that it took up two issues and was headed by Col. Quisenberry. If you do not find these stories in the collection they may run for you free a request that any one who has copies of this story will give it to the Clark County Library or permit its republication. I think, perhaps, the State Historical Society or the Filson Club or maybe the Winchester of Lexington papers would be glad to publish these stories.

A year or two ago I gave the Clark County Library a scrapbook kept by Judge James Flanagan. This book has much historical material in it. You will find that in the library I believe.

Lucien Beckner
 Yours respectfully

LUCIEN BECKNER
 DIRECTOR CITY MUSEUM
 743 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
 LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

December 5, 1961

Miss Katherine Owen
 423 E. Broadway
 Winchester, Kentucky

Dear Miss Katherine:

My list of Mexican War soldiers was of the group that went from Clark County to Mexican War to avenge Norbert Hawkins, a stepson of John. He was killed by the Mexicans in Fannin's massacre and the young men formed themselves into a group called the Avengers, mounted their horses and rode to Texas. I am sure that they got there in time to take part in San Jacinto. Col. Quisenberry wrote me that they did and he wrote the story of Kentuckians in the Mexican War. I was told by some of them who were living when I was a boy the story of Hawkin's Avengers and I published their names and story in the Kentucky Historical Register.

General John Stuart Williams, who was born, I think, in Montgomery county married Molly Harrison, a grand daughter of Mathew Patton, our first shorthorn man. Patton lived on the Clintonville Pike, I think, and organized a company in Clark and the adjoining counties and had enough nerve and pull to get them send to Mexico as an independent company. At the Battle of Cerro Gordo where the Mexicans had a battery on a hill commanding the route our army had to travel General Scott ordered Williams to capture the battery. He charged up the hill and did so. I heard him tell that the ravines on the hillside were so filled with deadmen that his company had to walk on them in order to get to the top. His exploit was so illustrious that he gained the nickname of 'Cerro Gordo' and General Scott commissioned him a Colonel and sent him back to Kentucky to raise a new regiment which added Clark and the counties adjoining it north and east. When the victorious American Army marched into the Capitol of the Aztecs General Scott placed Col. Williams, John C. Breckinridge and one other Colonel from Fayette in the spearhead of his procession. They were the three handsomest men in the army. Each was six feet four, of magnificent carriage and rode the finest Kentucky horses. You can imagine what an impression they made on these conquered people. A great many Clark county men were in the Mexican War and perhaps a number were in the San Jacinto fracas.

You know the first president of Texas was not Sam Houston, as many people believe, but Henry Smith, a Kentuckian, but I don't know his county. I think the County Library has a Congressional Publication giving a list of all members of the Congress and Senate and in it you will find General Williams autobiography. It is well to get to know these men and their histories. If the Library doesn't have a copy have them write to your Congressman or Senator requesting one.

Dr. Doyle is living here and I am going to try to get him to look up the Clark County papers in the Shane Collection. The Filson Club has copies of all of them. I got Mr. Thruston, the former President of the Club to photostat them all and bring them

to Kentucky. Copies of the photostats are in the Kentucky Historical Society and the University of Kentucky libraries. Clark County should have films of each paper mentioning it. When I was assistant editor and later editor of the Wilson Club Quarterly, I published William Clinkenbeard's story of Strodes Station and also Allan's story of the beginning of Winchester. I sent the Clark County Library a great many copies of the Wilson Club Quarterly and, I think, they contained the Clark County papers that I have published. Mrs. Rosemarie Brooks came to my door and took them away in her automobile. I have a few more that I would be willing to donate if somebody from Winchester comes by the Museum in a car. I do not know what the institutions which have the Shane films would charge for copies of them; but I am sure that the charge would be light to some of the wealthy people of Clark. They should donate enough to acquire the films. Put a plea in the daily paper. I don't think they will charge you for it. I am going to try to get Dr. Doyle to go over the Callendar of Kentucky Papers in the Wilson Club and perhaps copy them either by typewriter or photostat. Do you have a 'reader' for handling films? I have some and will send them to you if I can find them. Dr. Doyle wants something to do and I think that should please him.

At the northwest corner of Hickman and Main Streets where now stands a filling station was an old brick mansion in which tradition states that Mark Twain's mother was born. I think his ancestor was one of the garrison at McGee's Station near Becknerville. This ancestor was a Clement. They all moved from Clark to Campbellsville and to Missouri where Mark was born. Will Lampton was the "funny" editor of Judge, the Republican paper in New York which was opposed by Punch. Will Lampton's father lived in the house next to the home of Dr. Doyle on the southeast corner of Hickman and Maple. He had three children, Will, Mrs. Allan Sympson and Nellie, who later in life married Dr. G. W. Miller and moved to Florida. Miller's first wife, Susan G. Anderson divorced him because of Nellie and the law firm of Beckner and Beckner, my father and I, represented her in a very sensational suit. The Doctor and Nellie had no children and, I think, both died in Florida. Mrs. Allen Sympson was a second wife, but they had one daughter, Florence, who married Stanley Nelson, the son of Judge George Nelson. They moved to Atlanta where Sympson was stationed. Perhaps Mrs. Jeff Stewart, if living, could tell you about them.

Will Lampton would spend his vacations from New York in Winchester and made my newspaper office his headquarters. He sometimes wrote me one of his famous "yawps". His father, who was Mark Twain's first cousin was almost as full of fun as Twain himself. He kept the crowd laughing where ever he stopped to talk. I talked to Mark Twain about him and Twain seemed to know about his remarkable sense of humor. He lived around Ashland most of his life, and in Winchester only his later years. He would walk across the street and talk to Miss Nannie Hickman, a lively old maid of eighty, who lived in the Old Hickman house where Addison Witt and his wife died. We could always tell when Mr. Will was around by the shrieks of laughter from Miss Nannie. My father lived on the corner of the alley across from the and we saw quite a bit of old Mr. Will. I don't know anyone in Winchester who could tell you anything about him since I have moved.

Gov Bowen was a native of Clark and a jolly, good fellow around town. He married Christine, the second daughter of Professor Milam, who taught dancing, fencing, and drove in trotting horse races. He had three children. His eldest, Eugenia, by his first wife who, I think, was an Elkin of the Boonsboro Pike married Henry Phillips and they had one son, Theodore, named for his grandfather Phillips, who is now with the National Broadcasting Company. His third daughter, Gary, married a Professor of Latin called Peale and they moved to Peale's home in South Carolina. Gov had no children and I don't know anything else about the Peales. Gov learned the negro dialects so well that we all urged him to join a Minstrel Troop. He joined Al Field and was the star performer and End Man with Field for many years. He also

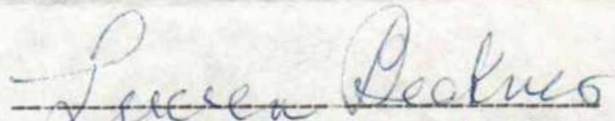
He also had a very good voice. I think he was a cousin of Ed Kissenger, a Clark County farmer who was an expert with a banjo and a guitar. He was a star in all of our local dances. I don't know whom to tell you to consult about Gov Bowen. Ike Tracy, or Jim Stokeley, or Ed Smith, or Lat Allen, if any are living could tell you or refer you to some one who knows something about him. Doubtless Theodore Phillips of the National Broadcasting Company, if you could contact him, might be able to tell you much.

This is a long letter, but it contains much fact and some tradition. The facts all come from my own memory and the tradition from hearing the old men gossip.

Do not hesitate to call on me if I can help you in anyway.

Yours respectfully

LB/pyr


Col. Lucien Beckner, D.Sc. - Director

January 18, 1962

Miss Katherine Owen
423 E. Broadway
Winchester, Kentucky

I have tried to answer your questions to the best of my ability. In regard to information about myself my secretary, Mrs. Richardson, and my assistant Mr. Carylsle Chamberlain will send you a brief sketch as soon as they are able to do so (we are trying to put a book about the Colonel together and have so many papers, notes, clippings, etc to sort that it will take a little time--pyr)

My father, William Morgan Beckner was born at Morefield in Nicholas County, Kentucky about 1841. See the Congressional Record and/or Ed Porter Thompson's History of Kentucky. His father was Jacob Locke Beckner and his mother, Nancy Lancaster, both natives of Kentucky. His father died when he was about seven years old, he was educated in the Rand and Richerson Academy at Maysville where he also taught and read law under Judge McWhirter. Came to Clark County in 1864. He and John R. Proctor and Mr. R. H. Hallem ran away to the south and joined General Morgan in Tennessee. My father's mother sent Mr. Hamilton Gray, a lawyer of Maysville down and got him out because of his youth.

He was made City Judge at Winchester shortly after his arrival and then principal of our public school, then County Attorney, then County Judge. He formed a law partnership with John B. Houston and later with Judge Charles Stephen French. He had a number of other partners and out of his law office have come two State Senators, four Legislatures, two members of Congress and one member of the Constitutional Convention, one Kentucky Prison Commissioner, one Kentucky Railway Commissioner, one candidate for Congress, who was defeated--me, three County Attorneys, one Common Pleas Judge, and many others who added much to the development and luster of Kentucky.

In the Congressional Convention of '90-91 he was Chairman of the Committee on Education and did more than anyone to formulate our public school laws. He practiced law successfully and with the highest ethical standards all his life. He delivered an address before the United States Educational Committee at Saratoga, New York in the 70s or '80s on the subject of educating the Southern people. He made an address at Berea College, which was then bi-racial, and was so condemned for it that people didn't speak to him or his family for a long time, but three years later the same people who wouldn't speak to him elected him unanimously to the Constitutional Convention. He was owner and editor of the Clark County Democrat. He was consulted by all of the coal and lumber companies in Eastern, Kentucky. For years he was Attorney for Ginn and Company, schoolbook publishers. He was attorney for the Guayquil and Quito railroad Company of Ecuador, South America, which employment took him to New York, London, Berlin and Paris.

He did in 1910 of flu which raged then nearly as badly as in 1917.

You asked in your letter about Joseph Venable Morton. He was the son of Quin Morton of Shelby County. Joseph V. Morton married my mother's oldest sister, Sarah. They had five children, the eldest, John, died in infancy. Mr. Morton was educated at Washington and Jefferson College for the Presbyterian Ministry, but he became so deaf that he was unable to be ordained. He had a number of brothers and sisters, one of his sisters is Patricia Joyes of this city and has left interesting descendants here. Another sister married a Hannah in Shelby County and another married a Wilson here in Jefferson County. He had one brother, Andrew. Andrew was in Paris during the Franco-Prussian War and used to tell us children awful stories of eating cats and rats during the German blockade. He would make up all sorts of gruesome tales just to tease us. We were very fond of him. Joseph Venable, my uncle, was a charming musician playing the organ in the old church, which is now the County Library, for thirty odd years. Often he would play music that was not religious and when people would speak to him about it his reply was always, "God likes pretty music". He taught his son, Will, who was Vice President of Converse College in South Carolina when he died, the violin, flute, and piano. He taught his daughter, Fan, the piano, his other sons, Thompson and Charles Hay the guitar. The ladies of his church built in his home at the southwestern corner of Hickman and Maple Streets a big pipe organ after he retired from his church services. I loved to go into his organ room and listen to him play his wonderful music; he heard the organ by means of a brass rod that ran from the organ to his teeth.

Mr. Morton had one leg which had a permanent right angle bend, it was caused by poor surgery done when he was a boy. He always wore an iron extension foot which he patented and was able to sell a number of them. He was a fine workman and had several patents. He was a wonderful story teller and loved children. Joseph V. made his boys the best sleds in Winchester and although many copied them they were never able to make them as well. They were big, splendid sleds carrying six or eight boys and girls. We used to coast down the Courthouse hill to the bend on Hickman Street, down Main Street hill from Rezin Scobee's house near the southern city limits to Broadway for about a mile; then down Maple Street here from Boonsboro to Washington in Ducktown.

He represented the Singer Sewing Machine people for years and sold and repaired machines all over the country. He was a member of our school board and took an interest in everything in our community affairs insofar as his deafness and lameness permitted.

His son, William, married Susan Van Lear, daughter of the Presbyterian Minister. They had two daughters, one of whom is living in Winston-Salem. His daughter, Fan, married Walter N. Jackson, United States Federal Court Clerk in Shreveport, La., and they had two sons, John Morton and Walter Neville. His son, Thompson, was an engineer and helped build many railroads in the western states. Thompson was very useful, married a girl in New Mexico and left a son and, I believe, two daughters. His youngest son, Charles Hay was educated for the Presbyterian Ministry in Geneva, Switzerland and Edenborough, Scotland. He served churches in Missouri where he married and left two daughters, both commercial artists. One married a nephew of John Hays Hammond and, I think, lives in Miami, Florida. The other is also married and lives in Chicago. Joseph Venable Morton painted excellent portraits and his artist brother, John, was the most famous portrait painter in Mexico. This is about all I can tell you about Joseph V. Morton. He and his wife are buried in Winchester, but the graves are unmarked.

Hay Taliaferro and his brother William came to Clark County about 1814, they married sisters. Hay married Elizabeth and William wife's name escapes me, but they were both Tutts. Their father was Captain Richard Tutts of, I think, Spottsylvania County, Virginia. His title comes from the Revolutionary War. Hay Taliaferro settled first just above the Bull's Eye Lick about two miles south of Winchester. When he was living in Clark that farm belonged to Mr. John Duncan Willis. The Lick was good salt sulpher but when they dug a well on the other side of it they ran into a strong vein of and the Lick ceased to run. There were buffalo trails leading from the Lick south to Boonsboro and the Blue Licks. I do not know where William settled. Hay had a number of children, the first one born in Kentucky was John T., born in 1815. Hay's great-uncle, of the same name was the host at a famous tavern in Virginia and Hay's grandmother was a sister of the first Hay. William died in Clark and his widow with a number of children moved to Cooper county Missouri. Hay bought the old hotel which stood where the modern Brown-Procter hotel now stands. When Hay Taliaferro owned the old hotel it was known as the Indian Queen Hotel. The Indian Queen was named in honor of Pocahontas. And that name was first used in New York where meetings of the Jeffersonians party took place. Great numbers of hotels throughout the nation which were Jeffersonian in politics adopted that name. Hay died in Winchester in the Cholera epidemic of 1823. His wife died in 1824 and they are buried in unmarked graves on what is now the Sid Shepperd farm which ajoins the Louisville Gas and Electric Company's pumping plant on the Four Mile Road.

His eldest child, Marie, married Richard French, grandfather of James who was Circuit Judge, representing our district in Congress at the time Morse invented the telegraph. He brought the first piano to Winchester. This piano is now owned by my daughter, Mrs. James Kittrell, Lexington, Kentucky. French was nominated for Governor against Richard Menefee and the race was so spectacular that the Legislature established meniffee County and named its county seat Frenchburg.

John T., Hay's son, married the daughter of Squire William Hickman who owned the furniture factory on Hickman Street across the alley from where the Episcopal church stood. Hickman bought the big brick house on the northeast corner of Hickman and Maple Streets from the Couchmans who had originally built it as a tavern, but sold it to the Hickmans before they used it. The Hickman furniture sotre made much furniture some of which is still in existence in families around the county, but its identity is, I expect, lost.

Major taliaferro had four children, three daughters and a son, Charles Hay, who died as a child. His eldest daughter, Sarah, married Joseph V. Morton, his youngest daughter, Lucy, married Dr. I. H. McKinley, and his other daughter Elizabeth (or Betsy as she was called) married william Morgan Beckner, these last were my parents. Major Taliaferro had a brother who died in Boon County Kentucky and had another brother, Robert who was pastor of the Babpist Church in Austin, Texas. He also had a sister who was grandmother of the Hon. William wallace of Kansas City. His oldest brother, Charles, married late in life after serving as County Court Clerk in Clark, and moved to Cooper County, Missouri where he left a large family. There were other children but their names have eluded me.

I have many Taliaferro kin yet in virginia, missouri and elsewhere that I occasionally visit. My grandfather was County Clerk in Clark and Postmaster twice. but the only kin I have in Clark County were the Frenchs, the Bright sisters, and the Timberlakes. I had some distant Tutt kin, and there may be some of them left, but not of that name.

You asked about Captain Robert Scobee. I don't know much about him, but there should be Scobees still living in Clark who could tell you about him. From the dates given I would

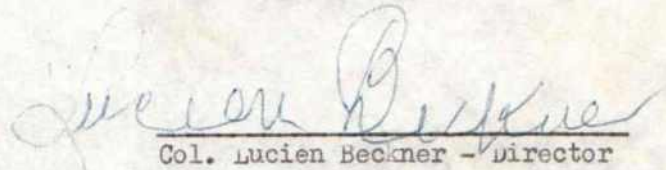
think that he was a soldier of the War of 1812. I wish that you would write to the War Department in Washington and ask them for the names of the Companies that went from Clark County to the War of 1812. Some of them served on Commodore Perry's fleet. They were under Captain Lewis and our national historians mention that Winchester riflemen served Perry in his victories. Clark County made the cables of hemp, soap and tar which Perry used on some of his ships. Other Clark County soldiers were in the massacre at the River Raisin, one of the most horrible tragedies of any of our wars. Others from our County went with Harrison into Canada and fought at the Battle of the Thems. Others went to Jackson's assistance. I remember some of them who were living when I was a boy: Captain James Sympson, Major Warnell and a few others who's names have slipped away from me. When I was a boy the soldiers of 1812 marched down main Street. I still remember how old and feeble they looked. If the names of all these heroes were neatly typed they could be put in the entrance of the Court House like the Soldiers of the Revolutionary war now are. You asked

You asked about General MacArthur, I think he was one of the officers at the fort in Detroit when old General Hull surrendered it without even a struggle. MacArthur broke his sword to prevent its having to give it to the British. This has been written up in accounts of the War of 1812. I thought for a while that he was the ancestor of our MacArthur of the last great war, but I understand that that MacArthur was the son of an immigrant. I believe that the General MacArthur whom you speak of was a Governor, but of what state I am not sure.

If I can help in any way let me know and don't forget to write for the records I spoke of. Remember that the Government records are not complete about the soldiers of the war of 1812, consequently they may try to fob you off on that account, but don't let them!

Yours respectfully

LB/pyr


Col. Lucien Beckner - Director

LUCIEN BECKNER
 DIRECTOR CITY MUSEUM
 743 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
 LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

February 12, 1962

Dear Miss Katherine:

If you have recovered from my epistle of last week I will attempt to answer some of your other questions. Also would like to add a bit to the information I was giving on the old burial ground that was formerly the Sid Sheppard farm. John B. Houston who was Attorney-General of Kentucky is also buried in the Winchester Cemetery. The Bar of Winchester used Judge Flannigan to prepare the inscription on the tombstone. The Judge made several glaring errors. I remember General Houston slightly and was in his room at the Reece Hotel the day before he died. He was my Father's first law partner.

I don't remember what the Huston-Hanson debate was about, but do know that Hanson was a Brigadier-General in the Confederate Army and was killed at Murfursborough or Stone River. He was the son of Samuel Hanson and the grandson of Richard Hickman. Hanson practiced law in Winchester all his life. Huston and Hanson were both able debaters. When Hanson was lying on a cot dying after the battle a young surgeon came in to wait on him. This man was Dr. John A. Mills, he and Hanson had been boys together and had grown-up in the same town. Dr. Mills lived on the west side on the South of Main Street. I remember Dr. Mills quite well. He married a sister of J. J. Simpson and a daughter of J. James Simpson who was Chief Justice of Kentucky. They had two children, John Augustus who studied law but died in his early twenties and Mary (or Daisy) as she was called) who married Beauford A. Tracy, but left no children. Dr. John Augustus Mills set my arm when I was a boy and had broken it. His father was Dr. John A. Mills, and his father was Dr. John A. Mills. They were all graduates of the University of Pennsylvania and the older one was a doctor there during the Cholera epidemic of the 50's.

Alson in re: the Cholera epidemic Mrs. J. W. Harding had a horrifying experience during that terrible time. She was pronounced dead and they were holding her funeral service in the family parlor when Dr. Mills came in took one look at her--ordered ice put to her immediately--and she revived. I have heard her describe her feelings when she lay there alive but unable to move so much as an eyelash and heard them say that she was dead and must be buried immediately because of the Cholera.

Tell Mr. Bedford I will be glad to help him, but can't see him as my condition is so unpredictable, but if he would like to come down here I will be glad to help him as best I can. I am sure that Dr. Doyle and the people of the Filson Club will also be glad to help him. Mrs. Lucille Clark is a member of the Filson Club and, no doubt, she will also be glad to help. Mr. A. N. Massie wrote a history of Clark County, it was published but I don't know who could furnish you with any information about it now. But his grandson, Dr. Johnson of Louisville had one copy when he died however I don't know what happened to it though.

Mr. Leonard Tracy has written a story of the early Tracy settlement which I gave to the Clark county library years ago. He teaches at the University of Kentucky and you can get his name from the Lexington Telephone Directory if interested. It is also possible that Mrs. Regina Scobee has a copy of it. She lives in Winchester.

I made an address, a few years back, on the Glamorous Shorthorn Age of Clark County in which I give quite a few shorthorn histories of Clark County, Montgomery County and Bourbon County.


Can't answer your completely about W. R. Tutt, but he was my cousin. My great-grandmother was Betsy Tutt, wife of Hay Taliaferro. Her sister married William Taliaferro, a brother. They died in Winchester.

Sam Cathwood, our County Clerk, who lived in the old tavern building where the post office now is (a building we Beckners lived in years afterwards) was our ^{weather} ~~water~~ prophet. He used a goosebone which would turn a little deeper color whenever a change in weather was due. We had no better in the "good old days". He left a daughter who married Edward Bean of Clark County, but they had no children. They were our cousins. Another group of Tutts from Clark were married into the Martin Family and one of them, Asa, had a brother Tutt Martin who was a major. They were uncles of the late Joseph Martin who married a Hodgkin. Asa Martin had a very lovely daughter, Ella, who was a most attractive songbird when she was growing up.

Will write more soon.

Yours respectfully

LB/pyr


Col. Lucien Beckner, D.Sc.

LUCIEN BECKNER
 DIRECTOR CITY MUSEUM
 743 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
 LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

Feb. 15, 1962

Dear Miss Katherine

Although you haven't asked me about John Swift, it occurred to me that you might not have heard the story in its entirety and would be interested. Clark contains the grave of John Swift of the Swift Silver Mine Story. The story is that he was captured by the British in the War of the Revolution and imprisoned on the old hulk Jersey, in Wallabout Bay, now in the harbor of Brooklyn, New York. Many of the prisoners in the Jersey contacted ophthalmia which put out their eyes. The story goes that Swift, after the Revolution set out to find his silver mine. In the description he had the mine was located in the western part of then Virginia, now Kentucky. As he was blind he had to have help in trying to locate the mine. The story is published in Kerr's History of Kentucky, where it is told by Connely. Dr. Martin of Clark has a letter from Swift telling about this mine, and one of the early Appersons in Mt. Sterling also had a letter about it from Swift. He raised a company of men in Clark who went with him to try and locate his mine. Swift knew it was located in a region that was covered by sandstone which stood above the surrounding country. His company from Clark took him into what is now Wolf County which had many features of the country he was looking for. A Creek in that county is still called Swift's Camping Creek, commemorating a campsite they made on it while they searched for the mine. This brought him to Clark where he finally died and is buried behind a little house standing on the Ecton Pike. But, which is probably torn down by now.

I took his journals, correlated them and with the help of the Government Topographic sheets of Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky I traced his route from eastern Virginia back to his mine. It was on what is now called the Mine Fault, I believe in Johnson County, and the topography is very much like that in Wolf County. I found the remains of a furnace under the sandstone cliff, two ironpots in a niche in the cliff which had never been explored until I did so, and on a beech tree at that spot I found the names incised.

Mr. Wooddard, Major John Taliaferro, and Mr. Richard French told me about his life in Winchester. They said he had a little negro boy slave who led him around; but the little boy would sit him amongst the men with whom he wished to talk, and then leave him and play marbles nearby with other boys about his age. When Swift was ready to go, and would call for his boy, if the little fellow was too interested in the game he would not answer until the game was over. Then he would come forward and ask sweetly, "Master Swift, did you call for me?" I think he should make something of interest of this story and also find where he is buried. Perhaps the deeds in the Clerk's Office could help.

You will find in the Clerk's Office many wonderful stories of the days gone by.

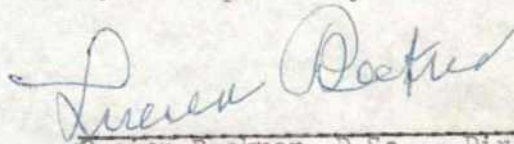
FEB. 15, 1962 - LETTER TO MISS KATHERINE OWEN - FROM COL. LUCIEN BECKNER - PAGE 2

In the Circuit Clerk's Office I found where a man had sued the widow of Col. Richard Callaway for his wages as a buffalo hunter. I also found where Daniel Boon gave the origin of ^{his} the Lullabigrub (not sure of this spelling). When I was a boy the records were always kept in a little, dark, dingy, dirty closet attached to each clerk's office. In the redesigning of the interior of the Court House, the records are now kept in a large, light, attractive, clean office.

Will write again soon.

Yours respectfully

LB/fyr



Lucien Beckner, D.Sc. - Director

LUCIEN BECKNER
DIRECTOR CITY MUSEUM
743 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
LOUISVILLE 3, KENTUCKY

March 21, 1962

Miss Kathryn Owen
423 East Broadway
Winchester, Kentucky

Dear Kathryn:

William Hickman of Winchester was not a preacher. You have his business correct. He was a member of the County Board of Magistrates, which gave him the title of "squire." The William Hickman who was a preacher was a kinsman and preached the first Baptist sermon preached in Kentucky on a store corner in Harrodsburg. I can give you his pedigree, but it does not touch Clark County. William Hickman, who lived on the corner of Hickman and Maple Streets, was the son of Henry Hickman and his wife Phoebe Eastham, for whom my sister Phoebe is named. General Richard Hickman of Caveland was a brother of Henry and therefore an uncle of Squire William. Richard was Lt. Governor in the War of 1812 and sat when Governor Isaac Shelby left the State to go with General Harrison to the Battle of Thames.

I cannot give you the exact location of the Blue Ball Tavern, but the County Court records will tell you the location of the precinct which was named for it and presumably contained it. I hunted for years for the Blue Ball sign but could not find it.

You asked about the Mt. Zion Church. My memory is not clear. Perhaps it was Stamper's, the first Methodist Church in the County, which was on the Paris Pike on the back gate of the farm that belonged to Mrs. Asa Bean. There were grave yard markers, country rock, standing on its site. I knew it because Mrs. Bean was my grandfather's cousin, and I spent many happy hours in her home but cannot say whether that was Mt. Zion or not. Make some preacher of that connection locate it for you.

David McGee's Station was near Becknerville. He was the uncle of the other McGee who built in the northwestern corner of the county near the Bourbon-Fayette line. Mrs. Renick might be able to tell you about him. Joel Tanner Hart had an uncle who was killed there by the Indians.

I would like to give some things I have to the Library but am in no condition to say just when I can gether them; but if I can, I will let you know. Your offer is very kind.

I was surprised you found Will Clinkenbeard's tombstone. His story of life at Strode's Station, as reported by Shane, is the best story of that kind. He had a brother who lived on the west side of the Paris Pike in the house that used to belong to Mrs. Anderson (Miller). Shane visited all the pioneers he could in his day. The first was for memories of the founding of Presbyterians, but he found so many memories that were not Presbyterian that he took them all down and left an immense body of "interviews." Draper, the historian of Wisconsin, who wrote so much about the pioneers, bought half of them at Shane's death; the other half going to the Presbyterian Church, which holds them in Philadelphia. Shane offered his purchase to the State of Kentucky if it would build a library to contain them. Kentucky refused, and Shane gave them to Wisconsin, which built him the library. Wisconsin gave us a calendar of the Kentucky papers. Mr. Thruston, of the Filson Club, left \$25,000 in his Will to photostat the Wisconsin collection, and the Filson Club did so. Also the State Historical Society and Kentucky University did likewise. The Presbyterian Church has never given us a calendar on the ground that its collection refers only to the church. But an investigation by C. R. Staples of Lexington, years ago, showed that it contained great numbers of pioneer history papers.

The book you mention is named "THE SORROWS OF NANCY," and it was written by Lucinda Boyd of Harrison County, Kentucky, in an effort to prove that Abraham Lincoln was born in Clark County at the Matthew Hume Farm at Thatcher's Mill. She got the Lincolns mixed up, and her theory is wrong. Mrs. Cheirs, nee Ethel Garner, probably has one that she might give if she is still living.

I used to be well acquainted in Oppenheim, but I suppose it has lost its foreign flavor by now. I am glad you found this story.

Some of the lawyers should help in research on precincts (I suppose you have heard of the origin of the name Princeton); all precincts are set out by the Board of Magistrates, and names and areas are recorded in the County Court Order Book. The preachers of the various denominations there should be called on to write the story of their churches. I believe the Baptist and Presbyterian Seminaries here in Louisville have records of all of the churches of their denominations in the State. I presume other churches kept the same records. Goff Bedford is anxious to interview me, and I am more than willing, but my health is such I cannot set a date with any certainty. Dr. Doyle calls on me occasionally, and I shall be glad to ask him any questions you think he could answer. Mrs. Brooks recently asked me for a date for Goff Bedford, but I had to be indefinite with her also. I have tried to get Dr. Doyle to go over the Shane calendar here and pick out and copy the Clark County items, and he is possibly doing so. I have many of them copied but have lost track of the papers. If I were in Winchester, I could get in a


3.

car, with a stenographer, and talk about the places and people that my memory brings up, but I have been too feeble since December to attempt it with assurance of succeeding.

In my article in the Filson Club quarterly on Kentucky's Glamorous Shorthorn Age I tell a good many facts about that interesting time. Some member of the Gay or VanMeter or Goff connection could add much to it, and I would suggest that B. D. Goff, who married my cousin, Bess Spahr, or others suggested by him should be interviewed. The books of the Shorthorn Breeders should be gathered up. The records are in New York somewhere and perhaps many family books in Clark. Mrs. Renick could help. Tell her I sent you to her, and do not be afraid, as she is very gentle and obliging.

Clark, Bourbon and Montgomery Counties established the Kentucky Saddle Horse Breed. Life stories of the successful breeders and their assistants would be of interest, and the old stock papers of the past could tell many of them. Miss Maybelle VanMeter of Lexington, now in the 90's, has many papers and a good memory. Her nephew, Archie Hamilton, formerly State Senator from Fayette, might tell a great deal.

Yours truly,



Lucien Beckner