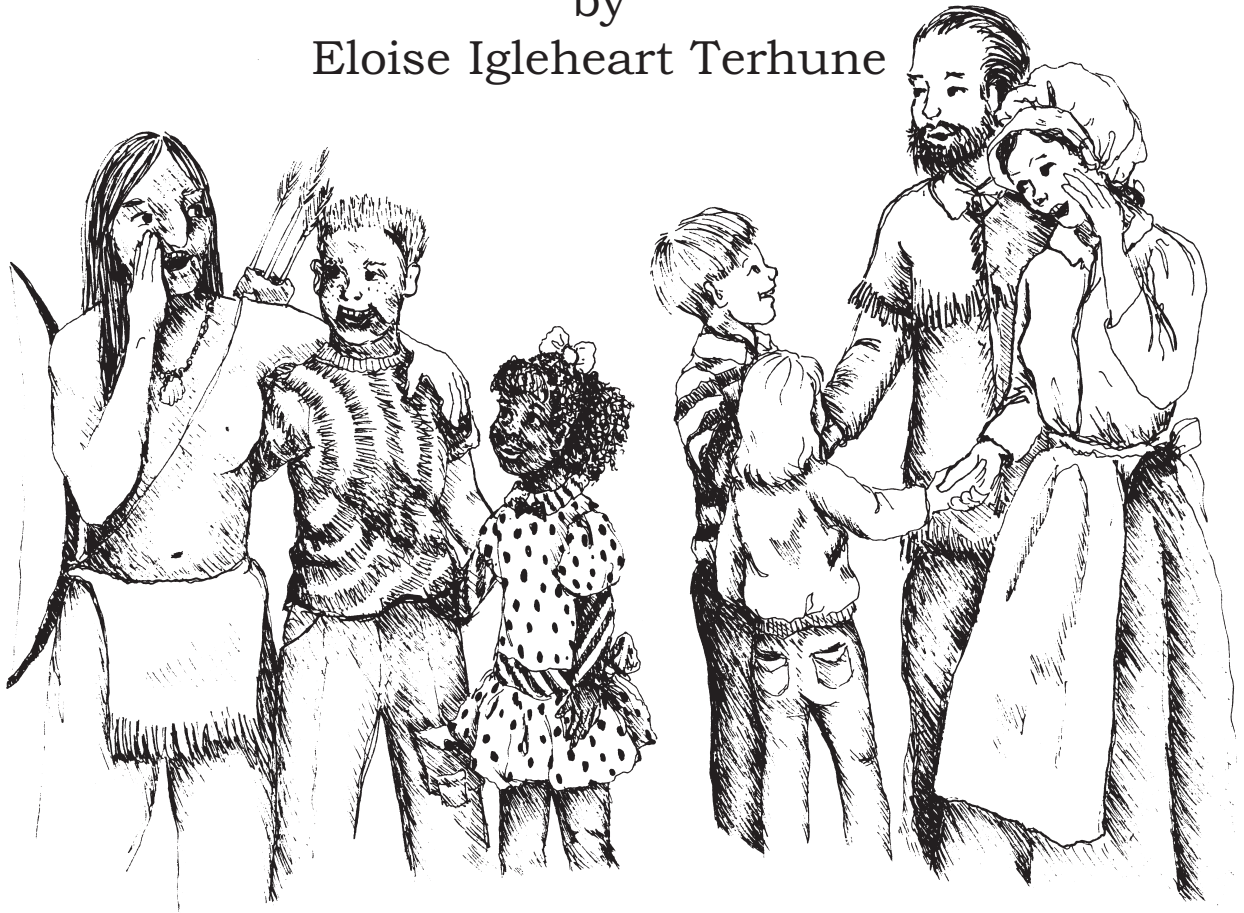


# Shelby County Tales of the Past

Written and Illustrated  
by  
Eloise Igleheart Terhune







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# The First Inhabitants

Have you ever wondered what Shelby County was like two hundred years ago when the first settlements were started? The early settlers found a land much different from the Shelby County you know today.

When the first settlers came to what is now Shelby County, they found an inviting land of gently rolling hills watered by clear, sparkling creeks. Thick woodlands provided abundant game for hunting, and herds of buffalo grazed the lush grasslands. The rich, clay-based soil, underlaid with limestone formed hundreds of millions of years earlier beneath shallow prehistoric seas, promised bountiful crops for future farmers.

Of course, the land was not empty or unhabited. There were early people who hunted and camped in the area as much as a thousand years before the appearance of the first white settlers. Evidence of their presence is still being unearthed each year as more artifacts are found. Excavations at what is now Clear Creek Park have uncovered remains of “fire pits” used by early people to cook food and fire pottery. Examples of this prehistoric pottery have been found at the Clear Creek site. Archeologists believe that Shelby County’s first inhabitants dated from the Late Woodland period, which lasted from around 8000-1000 A.D. Although there were no permanent settlements in Shelby County at that time, it is believed that small groups of two or three households regularly camped there for several months at a time, especially in the spring and fall. These Late Woodland people obtained what they needed for survival by hunting and gathering. They used the resources of the forest to obtain food, make tools and clothing, and to build shelter. They grew a plant called goosefoot and harvested its starchy seeds for food. Later they learned to grow corn.

## THINK ABOUT IT:

Skills: Fluency, flexibility, observation

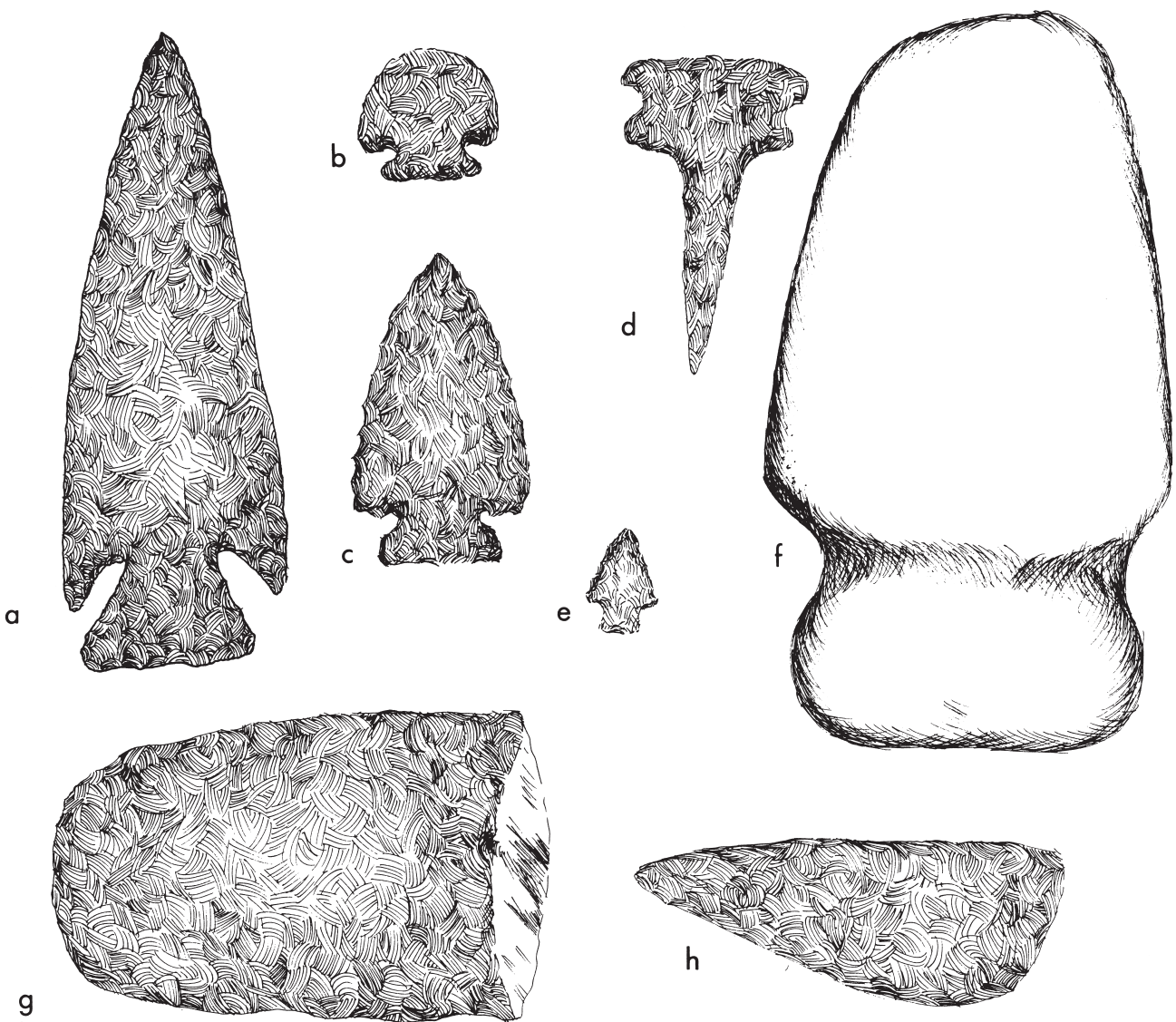
What resources shown in the picture below could early people have used for survival? In how many different ways might they have used each of these resources?



# Find the Function

It is still possible to find artifacts left by Late Woodland people and later Indian tribes. Arrowheads, hammerstones, axe heads, knives, and other hunting weapons are common in rural areas of the county. Hide scrappers, drills and other tools are often found by farmers, particularly those living near creeks.

here are some drawings of indian artifacts found in Shelby County just south of Shelbyville. Examine the shape of each artifact and see if you can figure out how the Indians might have used it. Check the answers on page 30.

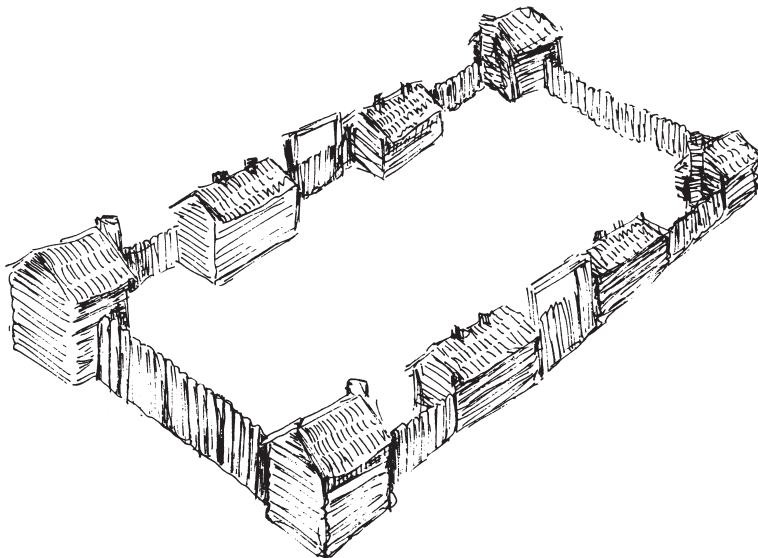


# Settlers and Stations

The first settlers in what would soon become Shelby county were led by Squire Boone, a brother of the well-known explorer Daniel Boone. Squire Boone first visited the site of his later settlement in 1775, when he made a small improvement on a plot of land overlooking Clear Creek, about three miles north of what is now Shelbyville. In 1776, he returned to the site and found in the creek a stone about one inch thick and eighteen inches square. Using a mill pick, Squire Boone picked his full name and the date into the stone. He then painted the letters and numbers with red paint and placed the stone on the property he had claimed. The stone disappeared about three years later, but by that time the property was already known locally as “Painted Stone”.



Squire Boone and another settler named Evan Hinton came to the Painted Stone site in 1779 intending to start a settlement there. Boone and Hinton were caught by the hard winter of 1779-80 and were forced to survive the harsh weather alone at Painted Stone in what was probably a crudely constructed hunting shelter. Other settlers, including thirteen families with children, joined them in the spring of 1780. Boone and the other settlers built houses and a fort for defense against Indians. The fort was called Squire Boone’s Station or “Painted Stone”. named for the stone on which Squire Boone had painted his name in 1776. At the time it was built, Squire Boone’s Station was the only station between Harrodsburg and what is now Louisville.





By the end of 1780, the population of the Painted Stone Station as Grown to over a hundred men, women, and children, with a militia of around 25 men. Squire Boone served as a Justice of the Peace at the station, and in 1780 he preformed the first marriage ceremonies in Shelby County.

Squire Boone's Station was abandoned at the end of 1781 after the Long Run Massacre and Floyd's Defeat. When settlers returned to the station in 1783 or 1784, they found that Indians had burned it to the ground in their absence. They rebuilt the station and reestablished their settlement. Later, Squire Boone left the Painted Stone station and went to Richmond, Virginia. There, he served in the legislature for several years and also worked as a Baptist preacher. In 1786, Squire Boone's Station was turned over to a Colonel Lynch, and its name was changed to "Lynch's Station".

Several other stations sprang up soon after the Painted Stone Station. Tyler Station was located about four miles east of Shelbyville and two miles east of Squire Boone's Station. It was established in 1783 by Captain Robert Tyler and Bland Ballard. Brackett Owen Station was built soon after, near what is now Grove Hill Cemetery, by a settler named Brackett Owen. Brackett Owen's station is chiefly remembered as the site of the first Shelby County Court session, held in 1792. It was also the site of the first church in Shelby County, a Baptist church, which was established in 1785. Indians prevented its congregation from meeting or hearing a sermon for the next two years. Other stations were Whitaker's Station, also known as "Red Orchard", and Hume's Station.

In addition to these stations, a Low Dutch colony was established in what would soon be Shelby County. The colony was located in and around what is now Pleasureville, on 8,600 acres of land bought from Squire Boone and other landowners between 1784 and 1786. The Low Dutch settlers, who came mostly from Mercer County, built a fort of logs and stones in this densely forested area surrounded by hostile Indians. Thirty or more families lived within the fort. Indian attacks forced the settlers out of the area, and it was not until 1794 or 1795 that they returned to improve and develop the settlement. Many families in the Pleasureville area today trace their ancestry to these early settlers.

Life was not easy in any of these early stations or settlements. Houses were simple log cabins, some of the first with only three sides to protect their inhabitants from the worst of the weather. Most cabins consisted of only one room, with one window and one door. Many had floors of hard-packed dirt. Furniture was simple and handmade of native wood. Most tools, utensils, and dinnerware were also wooden and locally made. Settlers who had ovens or iron knives had to import them from abroad, at great expense. Most homes had racks made of wood or deer antlers to hold their prize weapons: the long rifle, powder horn, bullet bag, and hunting knife.

Survival in the early settlements required hard work from all members of each family. Men were responsible for clearing the land, building the houses, and defending the settlement against Indian attacks. They also had to do all the outdoor work, including raising and harvesting the crops, without the benefit of modern agricultural equipment.



Women also worked long hours. In addition to cooking, cleaning, and other household work, they were also expected to milk the cows and make all clothing that the family would need. This meant that a woman would have to card the wool or flax, spin the thread, weave the cloth, and then sew the garments for her family. She also had to knit the family's socks. Women working together at quilting bees made blankets and quilts to keep the families warm during the cold winters.

Children had to help with household chores and watch younger children. Girls learned to cook and sew by helping their mothers. Boys worked outdoors with their fathers when they were old enough, learning to hunt and raise crops at an early age.

Clothing worn by early settlers was plain and simple. Men wore breeches made of buckskin or linsey-woolsey and hunting shirts, a kind of blouse which reached from the neck to the knees with large, blousy sleeves, a hanging cape, and a belt. They also wore leggings and moccasins made of deerskins, and sometimes shirts of cotton or linen. Women wore plain linsey-woolsey dresses, linen sunbonnets, woolen stockings, and homemade shoes. Only rarely did a pioneer woman have the luxury of wearing ruffles, lace, or buckles to make her dresses more attractive. Luxuries like straw hats for the women were also rare, and were worn only by those who could afford them.

Shelby County's pioneer families depended on their crops and the surrounding forest for their food supplies. Meat was usually deer or small game such as squirrel or rabbit. Wild nuts, fruit, and berries were gathered and eaten. Most families kept cows for milk, from which the women would make butter and cheese. Corn grown by the family could be made into cornbread, hominy, and mush.

# Time Ticklers

An **anachronism** is anything that is out of its proper time period. For example, a television antenna on the roof of an ancient Egyptian house would be an anachronism, since television has not yet been invented at that time.

The picture below shows a scene in the everyday life of a Shelby County pioneer family. However, if you look closely, you will see several items in the picture that could not have been found in a pioneer cabin. Can you spot fifteen anachronisms in the drawing?



# Indian Attacks

Indians were a constant danger to settlers in the early stations. As more and more settlers arrived and threatened their hunting grounds, Indians began to attack the settlers more and more aggressively. Here are the stories of some of the more famous Indian Attacks.

## The Buffalo Meat Disaster

In the winter of 1780, Evan Hinton negotiated a contract to provide buffalo meat for General George Rogers Clark and his soldiers at the Falls of the Ohio, in what is now Louisville. Hinton contracted with many hunters and acquired almost 150,000 pounds of buffalo meat, which he planned to cure at the Painted Stone station. Late in the winter, he and two other settlers went to Louisville to buy the salt needed to cure the meat. On their return trip, they camped within three miles of Painted stone. While they were camped, an Indian raiding party accompanied by a renegade white settler named Simon Girty attacked. They captured Evan Hinton, his companions, and their horses. **Hinton either drowned or was killed trying to escape by way of the Great Lakes.** The salt was either stolen or destroyed by the Indians. Without the salt necessary for curing, the buffalo meat spoiled and rotted. the settlers eventually had to throw over 100,000 pounds of it into Clear Creek below the station. Only 16,000 pounds were usable.

## Squire Boone's Shirrtail Escape

In April of 1781, Squire Boone's station suffered a major attack by Indians led by Simon Girty. The attack began when three young men went out very early in the morning to clear land for the spring crops. Four or five Indians appeared and killed one of the men and took another captive. The third young man escaped to the fort to summon help. Ten or Twelve men, including Squire Boone who was caught wearing nothing but his long white shirt, set out after the Indians. As they traveled along a pathway through the fields north of the fort, they were ambushed by a group of about twenty-five Indians. Several of the settlers were killed or wounded in the skirmish. As the settlers began to retreat, Squire Boone was shot in the right arm just below the elbow. He grabbed his gun and ran a few steps before taking a second shot in his right side.

In spite of his injuries, boone was able to make it to the safety of the fort. He was so badly wounded that many thought he would die, and a settler was sent to bring a doctor from Harrodsburg. Although the doctor never arrived, Squire Boone did eventually recover. His right arm, however, healed about an inch and a half shorter than the other one and always remained partially crippled. For the rest of his life, splinters of the shattered bone would occasionally work their way out through the skin. Simon Girty often boasted about the attack, laughing that he had "made Squire Boone's shirrtail fly!"

## Long Run Massacre

The most constant Indian attacks of 1781 frightened and discouraged the settlers at Squire Boone's Station. In September, when they received warning of a planned Indian attack at the station, the settlers decided to abandon the station. They planned to move to

the Beargrass stations which they felt would be safer. On September 13, 1781, everyone left the station except Squire Boone's family and the widow of Evan Hinton. Boone, was still weak from his gunshot wounds, and his twelve-year-old son, Moses, were the only men left to defend the station.

The families leaving the station were accompanied by several members of the Jefferson County Militia for protection against possible Indian attack. Unfortunately, as they traveled Lieutenant Welsh, commander of the militia guard, became ill and was unable to keep up with the group. Ten of the militia guard stayed at the rear of the group to protect the sick man. Other members of the group became scattered along the trail, making an easier target for the Indians. The ambush occurred shortly after noon near Long Run creek. Most of the women and children immediately dismounted and hid in the trees so the men could defend them, but a few of the families fled instead. After fighting bravely for a while, the other men decided that the women should take their horses and flee to Linn's Station, which was eight or nine miles away. As the families began to run and gather the horses, the Indians followed them for about a mile, killing between eleven and fifteen settlers as they fled. Several other settlers were wounded. The retreating settlers continued to run toward Linn's Station, crossing both Long Run and the deeper Floyd's Fork Creek on the way. The survivors began arriving at the station that evening, with stragglers still arriving the next day. The attack, known as the Long Run Massacre, was one of the largest massacres of settlers recorded in Kentucky history. It is also sometimes called Boone's Defeat, although Squire Boone was not even present when it happened. It was, however, a major setback for his station.

### **Floyd's Defeat**

The Long Run Massacre had been devastating for the settlers at Painted Stone, but the Indians were not yet finished with them. The night following the massacre, the Indians camped on the east bank of Long Run. There they were joined by another party, making a total of around two hundred Indians. They had planned to attack Squire Boone's Station itself, but changed their minds. They decided instead to wait and ambush the party sent from Linn's station to bury the dead and rescue the settlers remaining at the station.

The next day, September 14, 1781, a group of twenty-seven men led by Colonel John Floyd set out toward the site of the massacre. They rode into an Indian ambush between Floyd's Fork and Long Run. The Indians, using guns and tomahawks, attacked from the rear. During fierce fighting, the settlers managed to kill nine or ten of their attackers, but their own losses were greater. Seventeen of Floyd's men were killed or captured, and one more died of his wounds after returning to the station.

Following these two crippling attacks, the settlers of Squire Boone's Station moved into the Beargrass stations until the danger from Indian attacks lessened. Squire Boone himself spent the winter of 1781-82 at the Low Dutch Station near what is now Pleasureville. The next winter, he bought some land east of Harrodsburg and settled there briefly before returning to Virginia to plead for aid in the defense of the western frontier.

## Tick Creek Massacre

In 1788, Bland Ballard was staying at Tyler Station located on Tick Creek. his father was living outside the protection of the fort in order to be closer to a nearby sugar camp. Early in the morning, Ballard's younger brother, Benjamin, went outside his father's house to gather firewood. A group of about fifteen Indians shot him and then attacked the house. The only man in the house to defend the family was Ballard's father, who was not able to fight off the Indians.

From the fort, Bland Ballard heard the sound of gunfire. Since he and one elderly settler were the only men left to defend the fort, he grabbed his gun and ran alone toward his father's cabin. As he neared the house, he hid behind a stump and began firing on the Indians. By that time, the Indians had already killed his father. They also killed one of his sisters and his half-sister. They tomahawked his youngest sister, she somehow survived the ordeal and later recovered. Ballard's stepmother tried to escape through the back door, but an Indian attacked her with his tomahawk. Rushing to the house, Bland Ballard fired and hit the Indian, but not in time to save his stepmother from the fatal tomahawk blow. Ballard continued to fight, and killed as many as six or seven of the attackers.

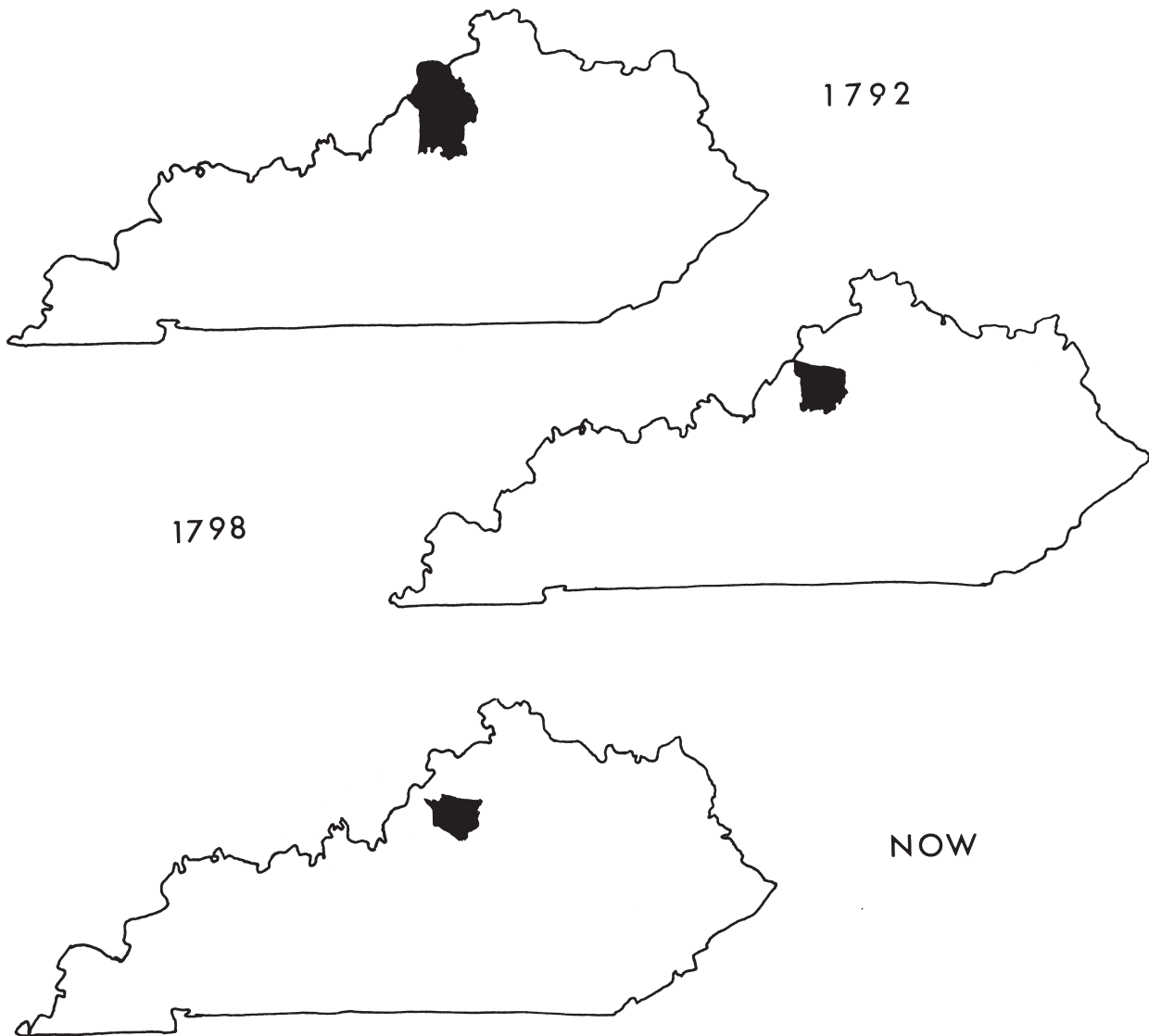
It is interesting to note that Bland Ballard, who showed similar courage in several other Indian encounters, went on to serve several terms as Shelby County's representative in the Kentucky Legislature.



# Creation of a County

When Squire Boone's settlement was built, Kentucky was still a part of Virginia. This changed in June of 1792, when Kentucky became a separate state, the fifteenth in the United States.

Shelby County was officially established as a county on September 1, 1792. It was named in honor of Isaac Shelby, the first governor of the new state of Kentucky. It was the third county to be formed after Kentucky became a state. The county, formed from part of Jefferson County, was about three times as big as it is now, and included all or parts of what are now Anderson, Franklin, Carroll, Henry, Oldham, Spencer, and Trimble counties. The maps below show how the size and shape of Shelby County have changed since 1792.



# Early Shelbyville

Only a few months after Shelby County was formed, county leaders decided to form a town. Four justices of the Quarterly session (what we would call magistrates today) and four justices of the peace, all appointed by Governor Isaac Shelby, held their first court session on October 15, 1792. among the decisions made by the court were the location of the town and the location of public buildings in the town. The new town was to be called Shelbyville in honor of Governor Isaac Shelby. The land on which Shelbyville was build was near the point where the main road from Frankfort to the Falls of the Ohio in Louisville crossed Clear Creek between the mouth of Mulberry Creek and the mouth of the first branch west of the Mouth of Mulberry Creek. The land was owned by a bachelor settler named William Shannon. Shannon offered to donate one acre of land for public buildings and to divide fifty acres for town lots if the court would agree to establish the town there. After some deliberation, the court accepted Shannon's proposition, and the location for the new town of Shelbyville was decided.

the settlers lost no time in beginning construction of the new town. Before the end of the first court session, the justices had already heard a request form Sheriff Standiford for a jail. The court ordered a jail to be built near what is now the intersection of Fifth and Main Streets. The jail was fifteen feet square, built of stone with walls three feet thick and bars on both windows and the door. Apparently the early settlers had the same problem with stray livestock as we have today with stray dogs and cats, because a quarter-acre pound was soon constructed near the jail for the purpose of confining stray horses and other livestock until they were claimed by their owners.

The original fifty-one acres of the town, extending from what is now Third Street is what is now Seventh Street, were divided into twenty-five two-acre squares and the one-acre square donated by William Shannon for public buildings. \* By January of 1793, plans had been made for some of the public buildings, including the court house.

Construction of the first Court House began in January, 1793. It was built by William Shannon, who finished construction on March 19, 1793. The building was made of logs. It was twenty feet by sixty feet, with one door in the end facing the street. It had a plank floor and a loft made of loose planks laid over the joists. The interior of the building was plain, with places for judges, jury, and a bar. The exterior of the court House was decorated with plain shutters over each of the building's two windows.

In March of 1793, workers were hired to clear timber from the public square and from the areas designated for the town's streets. Many of the logs cut from these areas were used in the construction of a corduroy road (a road made of logs laid side by side) through the swampy area from what is now Third Street to Clear Creek on the east.

\* The acre of land originally donated by William Shannon can be seen today at the intersection of Fifth and Main Streets. It has been divided into four squares. the Shelby County Court House occupies one square, just as it did in the early days of Shelbyville. the small park in front of Centenary United Methodist Church is another square. The Shelbyville Fountain and the Veteran's Memorial are located on the other two squares.



houses build on lots within the Shelbyville city limits were sturdily build and spacious for that time. This was due tin part to a rule requiring the new houses to be made of hewed logs, at least a story and a half high, with stone chimneys. By 1794, there were around twenty such houses in Shelbyville.

The streets of Shelbyville were simply dirt roads for the first thirty-seven years of the town's existence. This made travel difficult in wet weather, when the streets turn to slippery mud and deep puddles formed. Finally in December 1828, after the town had paved the part of the street fronting the public square and the court house, the Board of Trustees ordered each property owner to macadamize his side of Main Street by 1829. Property owners also built brick sidewalks in front of their property.

Within a few years, the town of Shelbyville was a busy community. By 1800, it was the seventh largest town in the state with a population of 262 residents. There was a marketplace where residents of the county could sell or trade goods. There were three doctors in the town by 1800, as well as millers, carpenters, blacksmiths, provided lodging and served meals as well as drinks. If you were passing through Shelbyville in 1805 and decided to spend the night at one of the taverns, you would have paid twenty cents for your meal, eight cents for the night's lodging, and seventeen cents for hay and shelter for your horse.

The government of the new town made many laws regulating every aspect of everyday life. There were laws setting taxes and even a law setting price limits for tavern-keepers. There were laws telling merchants when and how merchandise could be sold at the marketplace. It was illegal to take any merchandise into or out of the market house until after it had been offered for sale. A slave was not allowed to sell merchandise except on market day, and then only with written permission from his owner. Slaves were also forbidden to attend Sunday School. There were also laws concerning water use. It was illegal to use water from he public wells to water horses or cattle, or to wash clothes in the public square. Some of Shelbyville's early laws, such as the one prohibiting kite flying in the town or the law against playing football in the street, seem strange to us today. It was illegal to play "bandy" (a game similar to hockey) on Sunday. Until 1844, it was even against the law to plant trees along the side of the street!

Punishments for lawbreakers were sometimes severe. For many years, the penalty for stealing was death by hanging. People who broke minor laws were simply fined. Parents were held responsible if one of their children broke a law. Likewise, a slave owner was held responsible for any crime committed b one of his slaves. If a slave broke a law, he would receive ten or more lashes at the public whipping post and the slave's owner would be fined. For major crimes, the penalty could be a jail sentence or death. The first legal execution in Shelbyville occurred on August 10, 1809. the person executed was a man named Ned (no last name) who had been convicted of murder. According to historian Ed Shinnick, the man was sentenced to be "hanged by the neck until he is dead, dead, dead." There have been a total of five legal executions in Shelby County.

With most of the buildings in Shelbyville constructed of wood, fire was a constant hazard. To protect the citizens from the danger of fire, a fire department called the Phoenix Fire Company was formed. In 1820, the first fire engine was purchased. It was a crude pumping machine which was hauled by horses to the fire, where members of the company would carry water from the public wells and pour it in to the machine, from which

other members would pump it through a short hose onto the flames. A law was passed requiring every property owner to keep on hand five leather buckets to be used in carrying water to the machine. In 1829, when there was a severe drought, a fire cistern was dug on the Fifth Street, on the east side of the Court House at the cost of \$40 to the city and \$20 to the county.

Church was an important part of the life in early Shelbyville, although churches were not built in the town as early as they were in other parts of the county. The first church building in Shelbyville was located on Washington Street just east of Fifth Street. It was built in 1814 and was called the Shelbyville Meeting House. The building and the lot were owned by the Methodists, but it was used by the Baptists and the Presbyterians as well as the Methodists.

During the middle 1800's, many changes occurred in Shelbyville. Residents began to replace their log homes and businesses with attractively designed brick or frame buildings. Roads were improved, allowing Shelbyville residents to travel by stagecoach to other towns in the county and in the state. The L & N Railway, which came to Shelbyville in 1870, and the Louisville Southern Railway in 1888, provided a more rapid form of transportation for people and goods. When telegraph lines were installed, residents could communicate more easily with friends and relatives in other towns. Shelbyville was a vital and growing community, just as it is today.

Activities to try:

1. Take a walk through the downtown historic district. Look for buildings with cornerstones showing the date of construction. Make a time line showing what you learned from your observation.
2. Choose one of Shelbyville's historic buildings and draw a detailed picture of it. Do some research to find out what architectural style the building represents. Share your findings with the class, explaining what features of the building helped you identify its style.
3. Have a scavenger hunt! Make a list of buildings to find (for example: a building containing a suit of armor....a building which was constructed in 1897....a building with a red tile roof....). Exchange lists with a partner and see how quickly you can find the buildings listed.

# Pioneers in Education

Education has always been a top priority with Shelby County citizens, beginning with the very first settlers who established the first school in Shelby County. It was a tiny building located on Clear Creek about two miles south of Shelbyville on land owned by William Shannon. It was served by two schoolmasters from the time the first settlers arrived until sometime in the 1790's. In 1798 another school was started in a Presbyterian church about three miles southwest of Shelbyville. It was taught by Professor Godfrey Ragsdale. Other small schools sprang up on the outskirts of Shelbyville to the north, east, and west. Also in 1798, the Shelby Academy opened in a building located at what is now the corner of Eighth and Washington streets. By 1816, the Shelby Academy had grown to an enrollment of fifty students and a faculty of two teachers.

The school for which Shelby County is best known is the Science Hill School. Science Hill School was begun and managed by Julia Tevis, the wife of a Methodist minister named Rev. John Tevis. The famous girl's school opened in 1825 with an enrollment of twenty students. As the school's reputation of excellence spread, it attracted students from all over the southeastern states and beyond, as well as Shelby County girls. The school accepted both day students and boarding students.



Discipline at Science Hill School was strict. Girls were expected to attend Sunday School and church services at the nearby Methodist church in addition to their classes at Science Hill School. Boarding students were also expected to keep their own clothing clean, mended, and in order. They were also required to sweep and dust their own rooms and make their beds daily. Mrs. Tevis felt that assuming responsibility for their surroundings and their belongings would be a valuable discipline for the girls and would help build character. After a room inspection each morning, the girl's rooms were locked until evening. This practice kept the girls from congregating in their rooms to "romp and gossip" or to read novels, a strictly forbidden activity. Punishment for any infraction of the rules included demerit marks, dictionary lessons, or extra homework.

Julia Tevis was committed to academic excellence. She usually spent at least seven hours a day teaching in the classroom, followed by several more hours of private lessons in drawing, French, and music. She often taught these lessons while holding a baby in her arms or rocking a cradle with her foot. Mrs. Tevis wrote a book, Sixty Years in a School-Room, which tells about her experiences as an educator. She continued to manage Science Hill School, working long hours as a teacher and administrator, until her death in 1880. At that time, her duties were taken over by Dr. W. T. Poynter. His wife, Clara M. Poynter succeeded him as administrator after his death in 1886. Dr. Poynter's daughters, "Miss Harriett" and "Miss Julia", ran the school until 1939, when it closed as more and more students began to take advantage of expanding public school opportunities. the Poynter sisters continued to live in the Science Hill Building until their deaths.

In 1827, an advertisement for Science Hill School listed the following fees for a five-month term:

Item	Fee
Tuition for general curriculum (reading, writing, arithmetic, and English grammar)	\$10.00
Tuition for the above plus History, Rhetoric, and astronomy	\$12.00
Music Fee	\$16.00
French Fee	\$12.00
Painting Fee	\$ 8.00
Board	\$40.00

Use your math skills and the chart above to solve these problems:

1. If a young lady from Shelbyville attended Science Hill School as a day student to study the basic curriculum (reading, writing, arithmetic, and English grammar) plus music and painting, how much would her parents have to pay for a five month term?
2. If a young lady from Alabama came to Science Hill School as a boarding student to study the basic curriculum (reading, writing, arithmetic, and English grammar) and french, how much would fifteen months of instruction cost her parents?
3. If a young lady from South Carolina came to Science Hill School as a boarding student to study the basic curriculum for five months and then added to her study history, rhetoric, astronomy an music for the next five months, how much would her ten months of education cost?

## **St. James College/Shelby College**

Another Shelby County school which was famous during the 1800's was St. James College. It was a successor to Shelby College (formerly Shelbyville Academy). It was located on land bordered by Clear Creek on the north and extending to Washington Street between Eighth and Tenth Streets. Its exact location was approximately that of the present Northside Elementary school building. In 1841, the Episcopal Church in Kentucky took over the college and supervised its operation for many years.

St. James College occupied a large brick building, constructed between 1848 and 1850. It was topped by a domed observatory . The dome could be moved by a man turning a large crank so that any part of the heavens could be observed through a sliding door in the dome. The dome contained an astronomical telescope imported from Munich, Germany at a cost of \$3,200. At the time it was installed, it was the fourth largest telescope in the entire United States. The observatory also contained a smaller transit telescope and a sidereal clock. To pay for these three expensive instruments, citizens paid \$20 for subscriptions to the observatory. A subscriber was entitled to unlimited lifetime visitation privileges at the observatory on thursday and Friday nights. The observatory with its fine telescope was so well known that eminent astronomers from Harvard University came to Shelbyville to view the solar eclipse of 1869.

## **Lincoln Memorial Institute**

Lincoln Memorial Institute, located near Simpsonville, was for many years the foremost institution for higher learning for black students in the state of Kentucky. It could also be known, however, as the school that almost wasn't built.

The need for a school such as Lincoln Institute arose in 1904 when State Representative Carl Day visited Berea College in Berea, Kentucky. At that time, Berea was the only college accepting both black and white students. Representative Day did not approve of students of both races attending classes together, and he introduced a bill in the Kentucky Legislature to stop the practice. The bill which became the Day Law, prohibited the education of black and white students together in the same schools. Because of the Day law, Berea's black students could no longer attend the college.

Berea College President W. G. Frost and two of Berea's black graduates began a campaign to raise enough money to build a private school for black students. Around 900 white citizens and 4,000 black citizens pledged money to the fund, but philanthropist Andrew Carnegie's gift of \$200,000 was the largest.

The original plan was to build Lincoln Institute in Jefferson County because Louisville had the largest black population in the state. When residents protested, trustees began to buy options on land in the Simpsonville area instead. Some white residents in the Simpsonville area were not ready for the idea of a school for black students in their neighborhood. They held public meetings, circulated petitions, and wrote letters to the newspaper to voice their opposition to the new school. In the Kentucky Legislature, John Holland of Shelbyville introduced a bill to prohibit the construction of any school in a county without the approval of 75% of the county's voters. When the Holland Bill became law on March 14, 1910, it seemed that Lincoln Institute would either have to be built in another county or be built as a strictly academic institution. However, an appeals court declared the law unconstitutional on June 6, 1910. Berea College could not proceed with plans for the new school.

The campus of Lincoln Institute was attractively designed by the same architects who planned Cherokee Park and many private residences in Louisville. The main buildings were arranged in a crescent shape. The large classroom building, Berea Hall, was located in the center of the crescent with a dormitory for girls on the right and one for the boys on the left. The manual training building was near the boy's dormitory. A model dairy was located on the farm, with a dairy barn and a dairy room where butter was made. All buildings were furnished with the most modern equipment available.

Lincoln Institute began its first term of classes on October 1, 1912. Although only about forty students began the fall term, others were added quickly until there were 77 students at the end of the first year. The school was equipped to serve 150 students, who were accepted as young as fifteen years of age and as low as fifth grade level. Boarding students from all over Kentucky came to live at Lincoln Institute, but day students from Shelby and Jefferson Counties also attended.

Students at Lincoln Institute had to work hard. In addition to attending classes and doing homework, students were required to do two hours of manual work each day. Boys worked on the farm, built roads and walks, or cleared land. Girls had to work in dormitories, dining room or kitchen. Some students even chose to stay at the Institute and work during the summer to help pay their expenses for the coming school year.

Lincoln Institute became an asset to the community and to the state of Kentucky. Graduates of Lincoln Institute became teachers, farmers, dairymen, mechanics, and other tradespeople. Many went on to receive higher degrees. These career choices had not been open to many black people before, because the necessary education had not been available to them. Lincoln Institute continued to educate black students until it closed in 1970. Today its campus is used by Whitney M. Young Job Corps Training Center.

the birthplace of Whitney M. Young, which is located on the campus of the old Lincoln Institute, has recently been declared a national landmark. Young was born at Lincoln Institute in 1921 when his father was teaching there. He was internationally known for his work in the Urban League and as Dean of the School of Social Work at Atlanta University in Georgia.



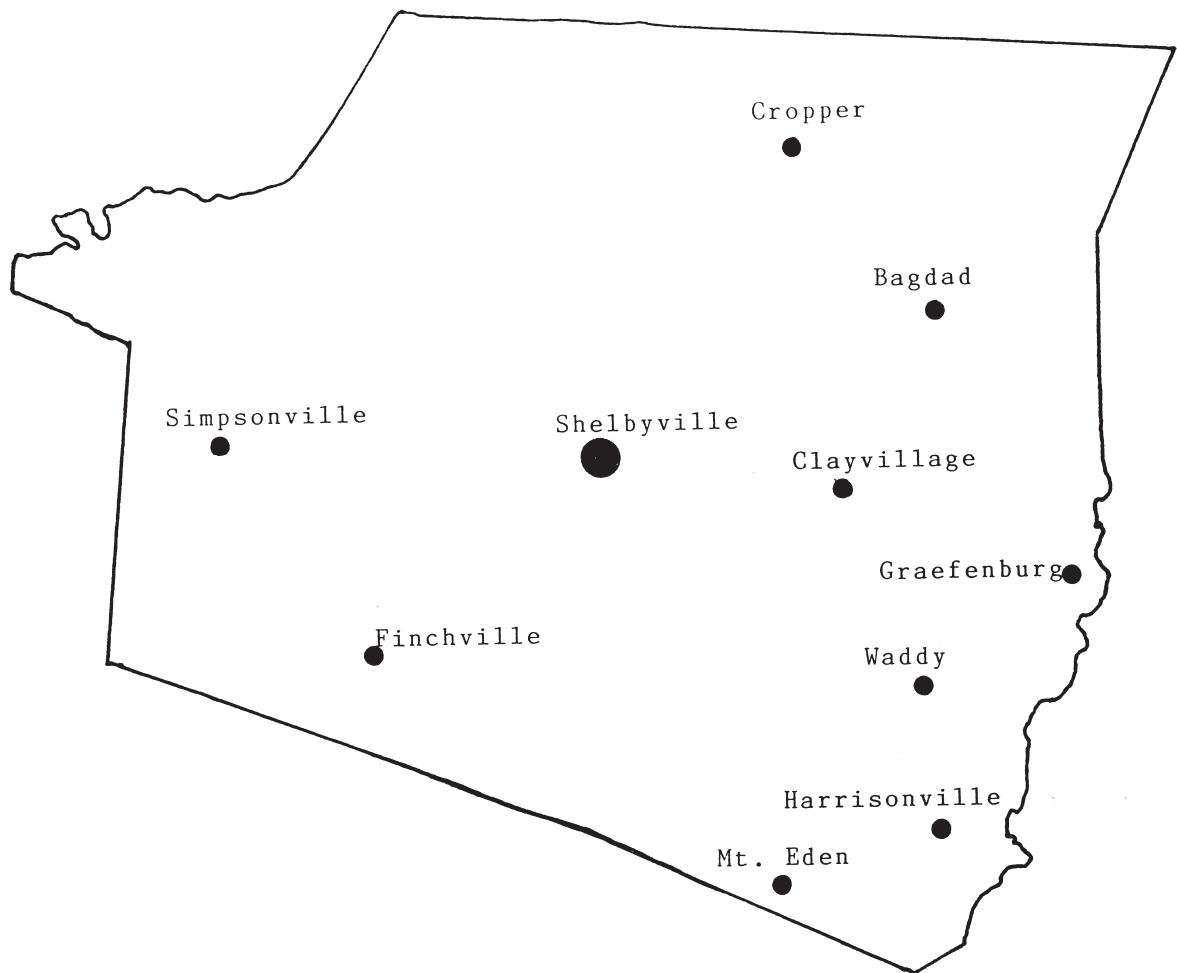
# Community Match-Up

Many of the communities now existing in Shelby County were settled during Shelby County's pioneer days. Can you match each community with the information describing it?

1. Bagdad                              a. 1841 – Named after an early settler named Ludwell Finch
2. Cropper                              b. 1851 – (Incorporated in 1890). Named for James Cropper, a Low Dutch Settler. It was called Cropper's Depot until 1882, when the name was shortened.
3. Clayvillage                      c. 1817 – Historians are not sure where the town's present name originated . When first established. It was called Hardinsville (sometimes Hardinsburg) after Wesley Hardin, the landowner who first filed to have the community incorporated.
4. Finchville                          d. 1861 – There are several traditional stories explaining the name of this town, but all of the stories have been challenged. The most common explanation is that the owner of a grain mill in this community had a son who had difficulty speaking clearly. Because of his problem, whenever a customer needed assistance he would simply yell, "Bag, Dad!". A variation of this story says that the boy called his grandfather "Bag-dad" because of his speech problem.
5. Graefenburg                      e. 1846 – Named to describe the beauty of the woods and rolling hills surrounding it, which reminded early settlers of the Biblical Garden of Eden.
6. Harrisonville                      f. Laid off in 1830 (incorporated in 1839) – Named for the famous Kentucky statesman Henry Clay, who visited Shelby County during his career and even participated in a political debate near Shelbyville in or around 1840.
7. Mt. Eden                            g. 1825 (Incorporated in 1847) The source of this Community's name is uncertain. It was originally called Connorsville, but the name was changed wen a post office was established there. Sources think it was probably named after General William Henry Harrison.

8. Shelbyville h. 1888 – Named in honor of Major Thomas Waddy, a prominent farmer who donated land for the right of way for the construction of a railroad through the area.
9. Simpsonville i. 1792 – named for Isaac Shelby, the first governor of Kentucky.
10. Waddy j. Laid out in 1816, Incorporated in 1832 – Named for Captain John Simpson, a well-known lawyer and former representative to the Kentucky Legislature. He was elected to Congress in 1812, but during the War of 1812 he was killed at the battle of the River Raisin before he could take office.

See if you can find each of these communities on the map below.





# Agriculture and Industry

Agriculture has been the mainstay of Shelby County's economy since pioneer times. As soon as their settlements were built and their defenses were secure, farmers began to clear trees, till the soil, and plant their crops. In the beginning, many farmers raised flax for their wives to spin into yarn for clothing. They also grew small plots of buckwheat, sage, millet, and sorghum cane. **Hemp** was the primary cash crop, much as tobacco is for many of today's farmers. From 1840-1846, Kentucky produced more hemp than any other state in the nation, and Shelby county was one of Kentucky's top hemp producers. The hemp flourished in the rich soil and produced a high quality fiber used for bagging and ropes. corn and wheat were important grain crops. the main agricultural exports from Kentucky were livestock (horses, mules, sheep, cattle, and hogs) and hemp products, particularly bagging material and baling rope for use by hay farmers. In 1846, Shelby County exported agricultural products worth a total of \$630,750.

In the late 1800's, farmers in Shelby County gradually began to abandon hemp as a cash crop. Like tobacco, it depleted the soil quickly due to high nutrient requirements. It was a labor intensive crop which became more difficult to raise after the Civil War put an end to slavery. Also, imported fibers such as jute, which were not subject to tariffs, made it increasingly difficult for the more costly Kentucky hemp to compete in the marketplace. Farmers looking for a cash crop to replace hemp began to turn to tobacco.

The growth of the tobacco industry, although it gave a needed boost to the county's economy, created some social problems which had not existed before. For a brief period during the 1880's, some tobacco farmers and tenants took part in "night riding". They raided the plant beds of other farmers to steal tobacco plants for transplanting, and often stole crops and equipment as well. Eventually this illegal activity was stopped, and tobacco has continued to be a profitable cash crop.

In addition to cash crops, Shelby County is known for its fine dairy and beef cattle. The horse industry has continued to grow, with the emphasis in the twentieth century shifting from draft horses to saddle and harness horses.

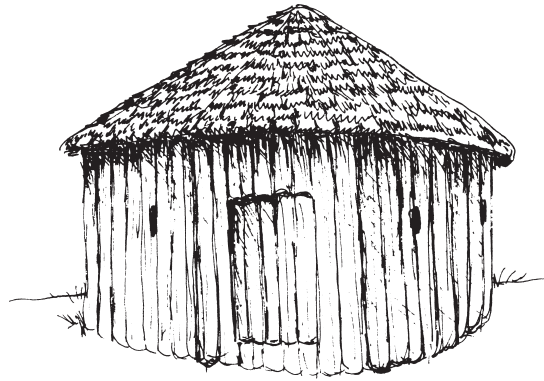
Until recently, industry has not been a major part of Shelby county's economy. Most of the early industries in the county were related to agriculture. The main industries which exported goods to other counties or states were the flour mills and the "rope walk" (a factory where hemp is spun into rope and twine). In the late 1800's, Shelbyville also had an ice factory which supplied ice to towns within a 25 mile radius. the company had the first absorption machine for ice-making in this country.

Today, industry is a growing part of Shelbyville's economy. The Shelby County Industrial and Development Foundation, which was formed in 1957, has developed three industrial parks housing over fifty industries which provide jobs for about 4,200 workers. They range from small companies with less than ten employees to **The Budd Company**, which employees around 450 people. With exports from these industries, Shelby County has become a part of a global economy.

to think about: How can Shelby County's communities plan their growth so that farm land is preserved?

# The Civil War Period

The Civil War was probably the most painful chapter in Shelby County history because it divided the community. Longtime friends, neighbors, and even family members found themselves at odds over the issues of states' rights and slavery. Because Shelby County Agriculture depended heavily upon slave labor, many citizens supported the institution of slavery. Others worked for its abolition. Like the rest of Kentucky, Shelby County had soldiers fighting for both the Union army and the Confederate army.



Much of Shelby County's involvement in the Civil War came in the form of guerrilla raids. The people of Shelbyville erected a blockhouse in 1864 or 1865 for protection against guerrillas. The blockhouse was a small round building about fourteen feet in diameter, with loophole on all sides. It was arranged that armed townsmen would man the blockhouse any time an alarm was given. For two years during and after the Civil War, guards were posted at the blockhouse every night to protect the town from raids by guerrillas. Two of the most famous guerrillas were "Black Dave" Martin and "Bad Ed" Terrill.

David Martin was born and reared in Shelby County as one of a large family. He was called "Black Dave" because of his dark complexion. When the Civil War broke out, he joined a company of scouts belonging to the Confederate army but functioning as guerrillas. Captain Martin and his men spent much of the war harassing Union soldiers who were passing through or camping in Shelby County. They are best known for a raid which took place in August 1864, when they attempted to capture a large stash of muskets stored in the Court House.

The raid began at about daybreak the August morning. Captain Martin and his men rode into town from the north, taking the townspeople by surprise. They galloped down Main Street accompanied by the shouts of alarmed citizens and the sound of gunfire from the front of the Court House. They ordered a bystander to hold their horses when they reached the Court House, expecting to break into the building and escape quickly with the guns. Two downtown merchants began firing on the guerrillas, and a fierce battle was fought. Three of the guerrillas were killed, and they were eventually forced to retreat without the guns they had come to take. One of the merchants was unharmed, and the other was only slightly wounded by gunfire.

Shelby County's other notorious guerrilla was Edwin Terrill (sometimes spelled

Terrill), also known as “Bad Ed”. Like Martin, Terrill was a Shelby County native. He was born in Harrisonville in 1845. His parents both died while he was still a child, so he was sent to live with his grandfather, a hog farmer named R. J. R. Baker.

Even as a child, Terrill was known as a daredevil and was frequently in trouble. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Terrill was sixteen years old. historians disagree about the beginning of his military career. According to Ed. D. Shinnick’s book, Some Old Time History of Shelbyville and Shelby County, Terrill ran away with a circus and killed a saloon-keeper while touring Baltimore, Maryland. After being tried for murder and acquitted, he returned to Kentucky and joined the Confederate army.

On one occasion, Terrill and another soldier were sent to arrest two Union soldiers reported to be hiding in a farmhouse. Terrill was shot by one of the soldiers, but still managed to gain entrance to the house and kill both soldiers. In a later incident, he deliberately shot and killed a superior Confederate officer for cursing and striking him. After a court martial, Terrill was sentenced to be shot. Before he could be executed, Terrill burrowed out of prison and escaped to Louisville. He then joined the union army to fight against the Confederates.

In his article, “Bad Ed”, historical writer Bob Watson disputes Shinnick’s account of Edwin Terrill’s early life. According to his research, there is no evidence to support stories of Terrill’s circus career, and stories of his exploits as a Confederate soldier may also be suspect. There are military records to confirm Terrill’s enlistment in the Union Army at the age of nineteen, on October 7, 1863. Terrill continued to be a troublemaker in the Union Army, and was under arrest from November 30, 1863, until March of 1864.

The Union Army soon decided that Ed Terrill would be most effective as a Federal guerrilla, free to roam with men of his own choosing and to do battle with Confederate rebels. Terrill was soon made captain of a band of guerrillas consisting of Shelby and Spencer County men. They operated over much of north-central Kentucky, fighting against Confederate ‘silent riders’.

Terrill was arrested again in January, this time for killing 20-year-old John Butts. Terrill believed the man to be a guerrilla, but others said that the young man was simply a Confederate soldier home on leave. Terrill was released later that month and continued to terrorize Confederate guerrillas in the area.

On January 30, 1865, Terrill’s band fought against the famous Confederate leader William Clarke Quantrill. Both men survived the battle. Terrill later claimed partial credit for the shooting, capture, and ultimate death of Quantrill in June of that year. Terrill is also credited with killing a Confederate guerrilla leader named bill Marion.

When “Terrill’s Scouts” disbanded on May 24, 1865, Ed Terrill went on a murdering spree. He reportedly killed as many as seventeen people after the Civil War was over. some of the men he killed had been personal enemies, but others were simply innocent victims. One such case was a young boy killed by Terrill later that year. As the story goes, Terrill asked the boy to draw him some water from a nearby well and then shot the boy as he was getting the water, just to show bystanders how well he could shoot. He spent much of the year in jail for his crimes, and attempted two jailbreaks.

Ed Terrill’s infamous career came to an end on May 26, 1866. He and two companions rode into Shelbyville, drinking and threatening those who tried to stop them. They stopped at the Armstrong Hotel on Main Street and created a disturbance there. Hearing that “Bad Ed” was in town, Marshall George W. Caplinger quickly and quietly organized a

posse to capture him. A gunfight followed and Terrill was shot in the spine. He and one of his companions were placed in the Jefferson County jail. Terrill was too badly wounded to stand trial. Finally on October 3, 1866, his grandfather paid the \$5,000 bail and returned Terrill to his farm in Harrisonville.

History is not clear on where or when Ed Terrill died of his wounds. Some sources say that he died in the yard of a house in Mount Eden. Others say that he died either on the way to Louisville or in a Louisville hospital, where he planned to have surgery on his wounded spine. In any case, Ed Terrill will long be remembered as one of Shelby County's most famous – or infamous – native sons.



# A Growing County

Shelby County has experienced two hundred years of growth since Squire Boone and the first settlers arrived. Below are some census figures showing how Shelby County's population has changed since the early settlements. Use the chart below and your math skills to answer the following questions.

Population	Date	Population	Date
1790	-----	1900	18,340
1800	8,191	1910	18,041
1810	14,877	1920	18,532
1820	21,047	1930	18,340
1830	19,030	1940	17,679
1840	17,768	1950	17,759
1850	17,095	1960	17,899
1860	16,433	1970	18,493
1870	15,733	1980	19,999
1880	16,813	1990	23,328
1890	16,521	2000	-----

1. During which decade did Shelby County's population show the greatest growth?
2. In 1830, census figures show a population decline for Shelby county. For how long did this decline continue?
3. During which decade was the population decline greatest?
4. What could be some reasons for the population decline in the middle and late 1800's?
5. During which decade did Shelby County have the least population change?
6. During what year did Shelby County first achieve a population greater than it had in 1820?
7. Using the information in the chart above, make a bar graph showing how Shelby county's population has changed during the past 200 years.

# County Landmarks

**Blackwood Hall**, located on U.S. 60 about a mile west of Shelbyville, was the home of Colonel Harlan Sanders. Colonel Sanders, who was one of Shelby County's most famous citizens, founded the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant chain.

**The Block House** stands at Clear Creek Park. It is a replica of the one built in 1864 or 1865 in the middle of the intersection of Fifth and Main Streets. The present replica originally stood in the small park across from the Court house, where the War Memorial now stands.

**Chatham Station**, now located at North Seventh Street, was built by L&N Railroad in 1895 beside the railroad tracks just north of its present location. As rail traffic decreased, the station fell into disuse and was to be destroyed in 1972. It was bought by Dr. and Mrs. Chatham, who moved it, restored and changed its name. It now houses a gift shop.

**Churches** in Shelby County represent a variety of time periods and architectural styles. Many feature historic stained glass windows.

**The Court House**, located at Fifth and Main Streets, is the fourth building used to house Shelby courts and government offices. The first building, a log building constructed by settler William Shannon in 1793, was replaced by a new building commissioned in 1796 at a cost of 1,176 pounds. The second Court House was a two story brick building thirty-six by forty-two feet with a steeple and a bell spire. The third building, completed in 1847, was of red brick with a belfry tower and a clock on top. Construction of the present stone building was begun in 1913. The building was completed in 1914.

**The Fountain**, now located in the small park at the intersection of Fifth and Main Streets across from Centenary Methodist Church, has been a county landmark since its construction in 1895. It was purchased from J. L. Mott and Company in New York at a cost of \$785.00, plus \$28.69 in freight charges and \$250.00 for installation. It stood in the middle of the intersection of Fifth and Main and was used as a source of water for horses as well as citizens. It was moved to its present location in order to clear Main Street after completion of the new Court House in 1914. After a brief absence for a 1992 restoration by the Bright Foundry of Louisville, the fountain has been returned to its place of honor.

**Old Stone Inn** in Simpsonville is the second oldest residence in Shelby county. It was built by slave labor of stones quarried on the farm. At one time it was a resting station for stagecoaches, called Stone Tavern. The Inn is still in operation today as a restaurant, and is known for the fine meals served there.

**The Shelby County Public Library**, located at the corner of Eight and Washington Streets, was erected in 1903. It was originally funded by a \$10,000 grant from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Additions to the building in 1969 and 1980 have preserved its historic architecture.

**The Shelby County War Memorial** stands in the center of the small park across from the Court House at Fifth and main Streets. It was built to honor Shelby County soldiers who died during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. the memorial bears a list of those soldiers killed in each of the four wars.

**The St. James College Bell**, which now stands in the hall near the front entrance of Northside Elementary School, was cast in 1851. It was rung to summon students to classes until 1887, when it was moved to City Hall. It is now rung by graduating fifth graders at Northside on the last day of each school year.

**The Stanley House**, located at Third and Washington Streets, was built in the early 1800's and has recently been restored. It was the birthplace of A. O. Stanley, who was Governor of Kentucky from 1915 to 1919.

**Wakefield-Scarce Galleries**, located in the historic Science Hill School building, may be Shelby County's greatest tourist attraction. Shoppers from all over the state and beyond come in search of fine antiques, art, and silver. Other shops in the building specialize in clothing, linens, books, and other items. The building also houses Science Hill Inn, a fine restaurant.

# Building Logic

Six students have chosen to create models of historic Shelby County buildings instead of taking a test on Shelby County history. Each student made a replica of only one building, and each used materials similar in appearance to those used in the real building. Using the clues below, can you figure out who built each building?

(Hint for those who have never before used a chart to solve a logic problem: Fill in a “no” in any space representing a combination that you know is impossible. For example, the chart below already has a “no” at the intersection of “Mikako” and “Court House” because Clue #1 tells you that Mikako did not build a replica of the first court house. When you find a combination that works, fill that space in with a “Yes” or an “X”.)

	First Court House	First Jail	St. James' College	Old Stone	Public Library	Science Hill
Amy						
Andre						
Miguel						
Mikako						
Natasha						
Todd						

Clues:

1. Mikako received an “A+” on her project, which was not a replica of the first court house.
2. Miguel was proud that he chose to copy the most recently built of the six buildings.
3. None of the girls built a replica of a building which is still standing today.
4. Natasha used sugar cubes dyed red to build her replica.
5. The building that Andre copied is located in Shelbyville.
6. The model of the first jail was displayed between Todd’s project and Andre’s project.



# Shelby County Word Search

Hidden below are 32 names, places, and other words associated with Shelby County history. They may be written vertically, horizontally, or diagonally, and a few may be backwards. Can you find them all?



Words to Find:

## People

Bland Ballard  
 Squire Boone  
 Simon Girty  
 Evan Hinton  
 Dave Martin  
 Brackett Owen  
 William Shannon  
 Colonel Harlan Sanders  
 Isaac Shelby  
 Bad Ed Terrill  
 Julia Tevis

## Places

Bagdad  
 Blockhouse  
 Court House  
 Cropper  
 Finchville  
 Fountain  
 Harrisonville  
 Old Stone Inn  
 Painted Stone  
 Shelbyville  
 Science Hill School

St. James College  
 Waddy

## Crops/Products

Corn  
 Dairy  
 Hay  
 Hemp  
 Horses  
 Tobacco

## Answer Key

Page 3      Answers will vary. An answer is valid if it shows sound reasoning and creative thinking. For example, “The stones in the creek could be used for building, grinding grain, or making tools and weapons. They also make a natural bridge for crossing the creek. The deer could be used. . .”

- Page 4
- Used as a spear point for hunting large game or as a weapon
  - Used to stun or knock down small game
  - Used for hunting or as a weapon
  - Used for drilling holes
  - Used for shooting birds
  - Used as an axe head
  - Used as a tomahawk head
  - Knife – Used to skin animals and to cut hides or meat

Page 8	Electric Lamp	Bottle of Cola
	Electrical outlet	Bananas (couldn't have been shipped fresh)
	Box of matches	Car
	Family Photo	Paved highway
	Telephone	Stop Sign
	Wristwatch	Bunny Slippers
	Glass window	Band-Aid
	Mini-blinds	High top sneakers
	Comic book	

Page 17      1. \$34      2. \$186      3. \$102

Page 20

- D
- B
- F
- A
- C
- G
- H
- I
- J
- H

Page 26

- Between 1800 and 1810
- Through 1870
- From 1820 to 1830
- Answers will vary
- From 1880 to 1890
- 1980
- Graphs will vary

Page 29	Amy – First Court House	Andre – Science Hill
	Miguel – Public Library	Mikako – First Jail
	Natasha – St. James College	Todd – Old Stone Inn

# Resource List

Here are the sources used to find information for this book. If you are interested in learning more about the rich heritage of Shelby County, try reading some of these materials.

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