

# Galbraith tells history of old Stone Tavern

Reprinted from Thursday, June 30, 1974  
by Harry D. Galbraith  
History of Old Stone Tavern  
The Old Stone Tavern was built in 1807 by James Ellis, a Revolutionary War veteran. The venerable building stands near the side of the road, which is now Route 68. Ellisville was the county seat of Nicholas County; the courthouse stood directly across the road from the tavern; the jail was up on the hill, behind the courthouse.

The tavern served as a way station for those who traveled; what was then Ellisville's Wagon Road. Many weary travelers, among them notables, who traveled by stagecoach and horseback, found haven and rest in the tavern. Kentucky, was then, in her tender years; and the people who stopped there were descendants of the frontiersmen who fought for the land and built the settlements.

The Old Tavern is two stories high, from 14 to 16 steps are required to reach the first floor from the front. The walls, built entirely of rock, are 28 inches thick, the ceilings of the ten rooms and two halls which it contains, are about eight feet high. The front porch is very attractive, even today. The woodwork, hand carved is something to behold, being at this time in good condition. The ceilings and partitions are pine and the floors are ash. The rafters, which are poles, plane down the upper side are held together with wooden pegs, as are the joints and window frames.

A log kitchen, later weatherboarded is connected to the main structure by what was then called, "a dog trot"; it too, being weatherboarded. The tavern, the first, and the corner-

house well served the people of the community during the antebellum days. Needless to say, the tavern has withstood the elements for 167 years. The Old Tavern possesses a tradition that is not excelled by any of its contemporaries, due to the fact that it was in the possession of the McClanahan family for well over 100 years. The Old Tavern was purchased by Charles McClanahan from the Ellis heirs sometime in the early 1800s.

John McClanahan, son of Charles, was born in the Old Tavern, March 2, 1929. He lived in the tavern, which was eventually called the Old Stone House for 81 years and died in it. He never lived any place else. John McClanahan and his wife, nee Susan Perry, had nine children and of course, the Old Stone House was the birthplace of all the children. Upon two occasions the Old Stone House was burned in the Old House namely: John McClanahan, Ida McClanahan, who married C.G. Galbraith and their son, Harry Galbraith. The other third generation born in the

Old Stone House was John McClanahan, Elizabeth McClanahan, who married Dan E. Walls and their daughter, Lucille, who married Robert Feasbach. Ida Galbraith, nee McClanahan also died in the Old Stone House; she only lived there about 30 years, having spent the rest of her life in Bourbon and Fayette counties. She and her husband and children moved back to the Old House in the spring of 1926. She expired June 29, 1930 and is buried, with her husband and three children, in Ellisville Cemetery.

I let my truant fancies wander to the memory of the Old Stone House. There are memories of happiness, and of sadness. The Old House was my home during my four-year tenure at Carlisle High School. My mother and father purchased the Old House and the farm, which consisted of about 160 acres. We moved from Fayette County to our new home in the spring of 1926.

The many stories, handed down by the forefathers are so numerous, it would be hard to remember them all. Undoubtedly, if one would want to compare the goodness of the Old House, he would have to think of the foundation as faith; the walls as hope and the roof as love. Could the Old House talk, it could tell stories that would reverberate against the hills of Nicholas County, and the echo of its voice could be heard all over the nation.

The Old House holds cherished memories for me; having heard my ancestors tell so many stories of happiness on its domain. It was while living in the Old House that I met my wife, nee Martha Ritchie. When I returned home from paying court, especially in the winter months, I knew I could find a huge fire of apple pie placed before the fire to keep warm, and a glass of milk in the window; also in the window my mother placed the coal-oil lamp, whose light was a beacon and welcome to me as I came home.

My brother and I slept upstairs there was never any heat. I would munch my pie and milk, and dress and head for the streets. Upon reaching the door to our room I would open it, slam it shut, then handspring into the bed in the middle of the soft featherbed, slide under the covers and then proceed to push him out of his good warm place and take over, I, being older and stronger, there was nothing he could do about it, except raise "Holy Cain", and he, after all these years, is still raising "Cain", and come to think of it, I can't blame him; it was a dirty trick.

The Old Stone House was, indeed, a haven of rest. In the cold winter it afforded protection from the icy winds; in the heat of scorching summer, its rooms were cool and refreshing to me, as I came home from school or from doing the chores.

One occasion marred the happiness I experienced in the four years I lived in the Old House; my mother's death. Shortly after her death, June 29, 1930, I married and left the place I loved so well. Occasionally I would go to see my

father; he left the Old House in 1926 and moved to Carlisle. The John Sopers' were kind enough to let me visit two or three times over a period of several years. My brother and I refreshed old memories by visiting; the Old House after it had been des. Ie. We walked from room to room and reminisced.

The first court convened in Carlisle to consider questions pertaining to the welfare of the county, assembled at the house of John Kincaid the old farm-house first named, on the 16th day of April, 1822, an order was issued by the trustees for the first paved sidewalk.

In 1830, Carlisle encompassed a brick jail, clerk's office, court house, bagging factory, 3 tan-yards, 2 hatshops, 3 cabinet shops, 3 tailor shops, 3 hotels, 2 carding factories, 2 saddle shops, 2 smith shops, 2 shoemaker shops and 12 or 15 stores and groceries. The population was over 600.

A turpentine from Carlisle to Forest Retreat was chartered in 1845 a distance of about three miles. About \$9,000 was subscribed by citizens, and in 1846 the work was begun. It was completed in 1848.

From 1860 to 1860 was a period of extraordinary prosperity. In three years of 1857-1859, one dry goods and grocery firm cleared \$6,000 each year.

No manufactures until 1948. It was always the misfortune of Carlisle, until 1948, that no manufactures to amount to anything were ever established since the burning of the hemp factory in 1832. Blue Grass Industries, then Giffin Manufacturing was established in Carlisle in 1948. Other factories have since been established here: Clay Sled, Carlisle Manufacturing, Waggoner & Wilson, Walton & Vice, and Blue Grass Knitting. These add greatly to the economy of the city and county.

Until 1880, the village of Carlisle was vested in a board of trustees. Then, the village form was changed, and the city was laid off into three wards-called the east and west wards with two councilmen each, and the middle ward with three councilmen. Charles W. Munger was the first Mayor elected. Presently, six councilmen-at-large are elected for two-year terms.

Carlisle has suffered from fire. During its history, Carlisle has suffered considerably from fires. In 1832 the large hemp factory and rope-work of Samuel Smith and Co. was burned; in 1840, the Stables and granary attached to Maj. Summers' hotel. On the Sunday morning, January 5, 1873, at terrible fire destroyed the large three-story brick building known as Masonic Hall, Carlisle. 139 lots were laid out, lots sold and Carlisle remains today the only incorporated town within Nicholas County.

Nicholas County was originally divided into six election precincts under the new Kentucky Constitution. There were: 1. Lower Blue Licks; 2. Headquarters; 3. Ellisville; 4. Carlisle; 5. Union; and 6. Upper Blue Licks. There were general stores, post office, trading stations, schools and churches in each of these precincts, up to recent years. Most of the county stores have now disappeared-only a very few remain. There are still churches in all of the original precincts. All schools have been consolidated into Nicholas County High School at the corner of South and Second streets. This large structure was completely destroyed, and the fire crossed the street and reduced to ashes a row of three or four other frame houses.

Another great fire occurred on March 14, 1875. It originated on Front street in a one-story frame house used as a livery stable, a fire spread to the Kimbrough Hotel, on the southeast corner of Broadway and Main, was destroyed by fire. In later years, in the downtown area has remained its building-most of them inside and outside. The completely destroyed by another fire.

Carlisle-briving today The population of the city at the 1970 census was 1579. However, the city is much larger than this in reality because subdivisions have been sprung up all around it which have not been assessed as yet. Downtown Carlisle has improved considerably during the last six of seven years along. Almost every business in the downtown area has remained its building-most of them inside and outside. The completely destroyed by another fire.

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## Historic stretch

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new, and for those days, elegant brick court house, built in the center of the public square, under the supervision of Gen. Thomas Metcalfe and Gen. Thomas Metcalfe.

People pour into Carlisle  
From the very first sale of lots people began to pour into Carlisle from all quarters. Hotels, stores, offices and dwellings were rapidly and speedily erected.

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## A look back

Continued from Page 1  
donated to the county for public buildings. Bedinger also agreed to set apart 30 acres on the opposite side of the river for town lots and further agreed to ferry, free of charge, on court and other public buildings, all parties of the county at all the inhabitants of the county who should be invited across the river to stay overnight with his friends.

Two acres were set apart on Clay's place for a jail and "Strat Pen", but there is no record of a court house being built. A jail was built according to specifications recorded in Ferrick's History.

The State Legislature passed an act in 1804 to remove the county seat to the farm of James Ellis at Ellisville. The Commission met February 11, 1805 and laid off

the Carlisle Memory Subdivision. Photos by W.B. Goffin  
The Carlisle High School basketball team of 1924-25. Pictured from left to right: Teddy Post, Eldon Hutchings, Willie Wood Cook, Alford Cook, and Keller Hughes. Mazoni R.L. Tebert.

We're Celebrating 125 Years Of Serving Nicholas County

The Spirit of '99

We pay tribute to our Forefathers whose foresight and hard work enabled Nicholas County to grow and prosper.

Crockett's Foodtown  
Market St., Carlisle  
289-5433

## Committed To Progress

"In 1908 George Washington Flora began building the first bridge across the Licking River in Myers Station. Mr. Flora finished the project in 1910. His grandson, Ray Flora, still owns the land where this bridge stands."

Kentucky & Its People Are Still Committed To Progress Today. We Salute All Kentuckians Everywhere On This The 200th Anniversary Of Our State.

Ray Flora Real Estate  
111 West Main 289-5824

We Salute Our Forefathers

Happy 200th Kentucky! Woody's Auto Repair  
Mark Hughes, Owner  
Upper Jackstown Rd., Carlisle 289-7226

We Congratulate Kentucky In This 200th Year

Nicholas County Ambulance Service  
Ronald & Joyce McDonald  
East Main St. 289-7573

Congratulations Kentucky!

We Salute You On This Special Occasion  
Johnson-Mathers Health Care, Inc.



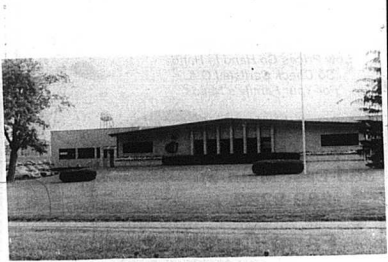
A cross street view just above the Carlisle Depot of the former Farmer's Stockyard Co. and Slaughtering Rink was a common and popular visiting place for many Nicholas County residents looking for some diversion from the everyday work week.

We Join in Celebrating Our State's 200 Year Heritage  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Hopkins

### We Are Proud To Be Growing With Kentucky In This 200th Anniversary Year



1966 - 1992



1948 - 1992

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