

"Reflections of Vine Grove"

VOL 1 NO.4

Vine Grove, Kentucky

Fall 2024

SIDE NOTES

All programs are open to the public.

Public Meetings
6:00 @Vine Grove City Hall

3rd Tuesdays of:

Jan
Mar
May
Jul
Sep
Nov

Donations and membership are available at each meeting or you may submit a request to info@vghist.org

The Vine Grove Historical Society is a non-profit organization created in 2023 whose mission is to preserve, exhibit, and promote the history of Vine Grove, Kentucky.

Board Members

Mary Dunn
Chris Mayhew
Tina Gray
Eric Yates

CONTACT US AT
INFO@VGHIST.ORG

"Of Vines and Creeks"

(Compiled by: Tina Gray – Part 1 of 2)

In 1750 Dr. Thomas Walker, along with members of the Loyal Land Company, emerged through a gap in the Appalachian Mountains located near the intersection of Kentucky, Virginia & Tennessee. They viewed what would later be known as "Kentucke."

Nothing could have prepared them for the immense beauty with expansive forests, its plentiful game and long, navigable rivers. Through Dr. Walker's personal journal writings, others, such as Daniel Boone (19 years after Walker), would lead groups of people into the "west" looking for land to settle and raise a family.

By 1792, Kentucky officially becomes a state and their legislative action allows Hardin County to be formed (from Nelson County).

(Kentucky Historical Society; history.ky.gov, 2024).

Elizabethtown had been previously settled in 1780 and becomes the county seat.

Small communities of people settled within the large county.

One such community – "Vine Grove" – was written about by its first historian, Eliza Leonard. Her reasoning for people first settling & starting businesses was "...the attraction was plentiful water supplied by Otter Creek at the junction of Brushy Fork Creek... big timber such as Oak, Beech, and Chestnut... saw mills set in strategic spots gave much needed employment to many people." (Eliza Leonard; as quoted in Urbahns, 2018, page 4).

With the extensive use of livestock in fields and for transportation, blacksmiths were in great demand and soon a general store, as well as a post office, was set up in 1856.

The naming of the post office as "Vine Grove" (1856) provides the documentation as the first use of that name. "...numerous wild grape vines in the area..." (Urbahns, page 5) cemented the name into history.

As news spread of a railroad line being constructed nearby, the push to relocate the town eastward came into play. Seeing the prosperous economic benefit of being located near a railroad line, the community packed itself up and headed east.



Early History of Vine Grove, Kentucky" Paul Urbahns, 2018; page 1



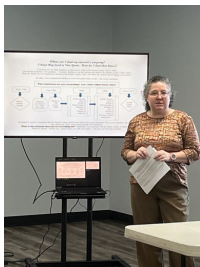
(Urbahns, page 5)

Meeting Memories

Pam Marrelli was our July guest speaker. She walked us down memory lane explaining her involvement in the caboose, the vine Grove song and how the largest US Flag cake came to be part of the veteran's Day celebration in 2001



Meranda Caswell was our September guest speaker. She shared her presentation on how to maximize the extensive free reserach resources you can find on the hardin County Clerk's page, [@hccoky.org/esearch](http://hccoky.org/esearch)



Special Visitors

On September 20th we hosted the Class of 1964 Reunion. They were especially engaged with the laminated newspaper copies of the 1965 Centennial Celebration.

Thanks goes to **Margie Atcher** for coordinating the visit



Upcoming Meetings

November 19th -
Michael Worthington

January 21st - TBD

By January of 1876 the Louisville, Paducah, and South-Western R.R. had trains stopping in Vine Grove five times a day. (Six days a week ; not on Sunday)

Economically, Vine Grove was booming with a variety of businesses serving the community. Essential wares, supplies and services included druggist, general store, blacksmith, shoe maker, hotel & undertaker.

By 1892, Farmers Bank had a prominent location downtown and was frequented regularly in conducting banking transactions as well as a hub for citizens to meet and share neighborly news.

As the last decade of the 1800s approached, Vine Grove seemed even more connected to surrounding communities. Additional railroad branch lines extended southwest to Grayson County, down to Upton (near Hart County line) and eastward to the county seat of Elizabethtown and over to the Nelson County border.

From its humble beginnings out in the countryside among the "Vines and Creeks" the community of Vine Grove had noticeably made its mark (in Hardin County). The future was shining bright as the dawn of the new century was quickly approaching.

Girls in Horse and buggy in downtown Vine Grove "Do Remember Vine Grove" as submitted by W. L. McCoy, Jan. 2, 2013



Downtown Vine Grove – Muddy street looking East going uphill "Do Remember Vine Grove" Steve Rafferty, May 6, 2019

Louisville, Paducah & South-Western R. R.

—FOOT—

Elizabethtown, Owensboro, Henderson,
 Evansville, Paducah, South and
 Southwestern Points.

CONDENSED TIME TABLE, IN EFFECT JANUARY 24, 1876.

Direction	Station	Time	Direction	Station	Time
West	Louisville	8:00 a. m.	East	Louisville	4:30 p. m.
West	Paducah	8:15 a. m.	East	Paducah	5:00 p. m.
West	Elizabethtown	8:30 a. m.	East	Elizabethtown	5:15 p. m.
West	Owensboro	8:45 a. m.	East	Owensboro	5:30 p. m.
West	Henderson	9:00 a. m.	East	Henderson	5:45 p. m.
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