

Sept. 12, 1990

Kay Lanham Johnson  
Director of Chamber Operations  
Lebanon/Marion County Chamber of Commerce  
107A West Main St.  
Lebanon, Ky. 40033

Dear Kay,

I do appreciate receiving your letter of August 30, 1990 in which you gave valuable information about the early days of Lebanon. Since arriving back in the Cleveland area, I've spent many hours going through old papers and photographs and have pieced a few more bits of the puzzle into place.

The following is from my father's notes. His name was Jacob George Heckelman, son of Philip Jacob Heckelman and Clara Alice Rowe Heckelman who are both buried in a cemetery in Lebanon, along with a sister named Mamie. —

"My father worked for a flour mill builder company named Pyne in Louisville where we lived until we moved to Lebanon, Ky. where Papa had taken a job where he was in charge of all milling of grain and care for machinery for the "Rolling Fork" distillery owned and operated by Mueller, Wathen and Kobert, all three living in Lebanon, Ky. We lived in a house that was owned and on property owned by the distillery. I understand his salary was \$4.00 per day plus free house rent. The house was located on the Main Street about one-half mile from the town. Lebanon was located on the main line of the L & N Railroad. (On a later visit to Lebanon my parents found that the house was no longer there and the space was occupied by a gasoline station.)

The public school in Lebanon was located about a block off Main Street about a mile from our house and we had to walk there and back in all kinds of weather. The first half of the term was free but a charge was made for each student for the last five months. Because of our lack of money we all attended only the first half. I attended only through the fourth grade and then had to find a job. My first job was working in the distillery barrel factory where I cleaned and oiled the machines and fired the boiler. I worked 8 hours a day 6 days a week. The bookkeeper would occasionally have some one take my place and have me run errands for him and the three owners. Later Wallace Cardwell, the bookkeeper said He would teach me bookkeeping and had me quit the factory and become his assistant.

The distillery owned a large heavy wagon for hauling about 6 or 8 barrels of whisky from warehouses to freight depot and had a large 3 story barn, the home of four Norman horses which were very large and strong.

Ryders Lem.  
b. 3-28-1855  
d. 10-20-1927  
b. 9-8-1857  
d. 6-28-1945

I first learned to swim in the pond at the distillery. There was a well at one end and it was about 40 ft. deep. The pond was said to be 15 ft. deep. We used to skate in the winter on this same pond. I remember when the Wathen kids went bare footed all winter. We used to go hunting snakes in the creek at the distillery and also over near Sterk's and Cawley's hill. We would go down to the bridge and poke bumble bees out of their nest (under the bridge) and when they tried to sting us, we would bat them away with paddles we had made. Sometimes they got us hot and heavy, and often would chase us to Jimtown, which was the Negro settlement on the hill beyond the bridge.

We used to go sleighing on Cawley's hill. We boys made our own sleighs which were just a wide board on two pieces of wood about one inch by four and nailed with 20 penny nails swiped from the distillery. I remember going blackberrying and being chased by a black snake. Stealing those luscious grapes from the back of the office and getting bawled out by Hans Mueller. Doing the split when trying to ride those Norman horses bareback. Nick Wathen cutting his finger nails on the big chipper in the barrel factory and nipping off the end of his finger. He was showing Pop how it happened and nipped off the end of another finger.

I also remember when I would stay all night with Mr. Kober when his wife was out of town. We would open bar at 9:00 P.M. sharp. He never drank a drop of anything until 9 P.M. He would then drink until midnight and then lock up the house. Note: I think this man wanted to adopt my father. I remember once he asked me to come in and look at a fine rocking chair in his room. He said his wife bought a carpet for her room as a Christmas gift for him so he bought the chair which he had wanted for some time, to give to her for her Xmas gift. I remember his animal heads and Indian relics. I will never forget the hash his cook would serve when I stayed there. When he found out how much I liked it, he would always ask me to stay with him by saying they were going to have hash for dinner and I seldom refused.

I remember how the boys and girls would sit on the fence in front of Wheatleys and discuss anything that came up. Johnny Martin used to be the chief discussioner. Also when we would form a gang of boys and girls and walk the railroad tracks to Calvary and return. Often we would get wild grapes or swipe fruit along the road. With Arthur Dahringer we used to walk out to the water pumping station and then go up on the knob to see the reservoir which was usually filled with all kinds of debris. It's a wonder everyone in Lebanon did not die of typhoid or something just as horrible. We sure must have been a hardy race. Almost as tough as Jack Johnson, fireman at the still house, better known as Big Six. Once Pop gave him a quart of whiskey to go down in the well in front of the still house which had a stuck valve. He had to dive down about 10 feet into water that had a half inch of ice on it. Also the well was 75 feet deep. He did it.

I do not remember much about the toll house which became the home of the Grahams, nor do I remember much about Bill Dick Roberts or the Richards family who lived in the big house just across from the toll gate. Am I right in thinking that after the Richards family moved, it was said that part of the house was haunted.

I remember when I was office boy at the still house and I used to borrow Cardwells shot gun and hunt rabbits when he was away. The first one was sitting beside a pile of heading. I sneaked up real close and in my excitement pulled both triggers. I got Mr. Rabbit O.K. but when I tried to pick him up, he fell apart."

I hope you have this interesting reading. Perhaps some of the names or places mentioned will be remembered by the old-timers. You may want to xerox this letter and send a copy to Sam Boldrick and Terry Ward.

We certainly plan on visiting Lebanon again now that we know more about it and have a map. Would like to know where the cemetery is located or if there is more than one.

Once again, thank you for responding so promptly. I may very well write the two men you mentioned or they can write me.

*Shirley*

Shirley Heckelman Fisher

[REDACTED]

Oct. 28, 1927

between Lebanon and Springhill will be completed next week, it is stated. The contractor, Moore Construction Company, is here this week with their steam shovel, and next week will see the road promises to be one of the best in the State to which local people will be proud. Curves have been laid and much of the road will be an entirely new route. The man that made the survey has already done a fine piece of work. The route is now almost ~~between~~ between the two towns. Between the corporate limits of the towns has been cutters of a mile, and it is seven and a half miles between the places. The grading done under the direction of the resident engineer, is a splendid piece of work. Numerous fills and many in only one place is there steeper than five per cent. The old Clarkson place in Marion county, is between six and seven per cent. Bridges and culverts of concrete and of the proved design. One bridge, in's creek, a mile or so is ninety feet long. The bridge will be allowed to stand the winter and early next spring. It is expected that the State commission will let a contract for metaling and surfacing. The contract is awarded early in November. It is believed the road can be completed by fall. The kind of bridge will be built is not known, the commission has said that it will be of the highest type construction. The cost of the road, the State and the County a part, the latter's only about one-fourth of the cost.

The Cissick River is running nicely. It has been within the city limits of Lebanon and women are now getting to and from Chicago. The

water has been cut and the contractor is here to make arrangements to get the water out of the creek. The water is to be used in the instance of fire or in case of a

fire between Lebanon and Springhill. The contractors, community, as well as of their appreciation of the work done by the contractor, John Bellard, Gerard H. Edwards, B. Edwards, Doc McNeely, John Bricken, Sam Tatum, Sam Green, Roy Burdette, Herman Barnstorff, W. Raley, Chas. Myers, W. L. Clegg, well, B. J. Elder, Owen Coyle, Bob Clegg, George Clegg, Martin Spalding, Sam P. Cooper, W. T. Bass, R. P. Purdy, A. S. Dugan, M. H. Tatum, John B. Purdy, J. M. Huber, Arthur Whitfield, T. B. Mattingly.

### Former Resident Dies.

J. Phillip Heckelman, 72 years old, a former well known resident of this city, died at his home in Louisville, last Thursday night about 8 o'clock, voluntarily surrendered to the law. Death was due to cancer and Judge after twenty-four continuous service, followed an illness of nearly a year.

The body was brought here Saturday morning and taken to the Bar, hereby expressing our sympathy. Methodist church where funeral services were conducted by Rev. R. W. Raaf. Burial followed in Ryder's cemetery.

Mr. Heckelman was born in Harrison county, Indiana, and lived there until shortly after his marriage to Clara Rowe, who wear the judicial robes of the State; that we further request that the undersigned members of the Bar be spread a copy of the Order Book of the Court, a copy be furnished to the man."

### Rogers-Shreve

An announcement that came as a surprise to the many that of the marriage of Rogers and Lawrenceville place in New Albany, Ind., the day afternoon, the Rev. Terence O'Farrell.

After the ceremony Mr. Rogers went to Indianapolis to spend ten days with his son, Mr. Frank Rogers, who is a

### Back From South.

C. R. Harrison & Son have returned from Jackson, Miss., with the proceeds of their trip of April, 1927. The amount of the money is not known, but it is said to be \$10,000. The amount of the money is not known, but it is said to be \$10,000.