

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.

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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. Kobert 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 ^{found} 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
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Oct. 28, 1927

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between Lebanon and Springfield will be completed next week, it is stated. The contractor, More Construction Company, started this week with their steam roller, and next week will set out the road. This road promises to be of the best in the State, and to which local people will take pride. Curves have been laid out and much of the road will be an entirely new route. The survey that made the survey has already done a fine piece of work. The route is now almost straight between the two towns. The corporate limits between the towns has been cut down to less than a mile, and it is now seven and a half miles between the places. The grading has been done under the direction of the resident engineer, and is a splendid piece of work. There are numerous fills and many places in only one place is there a dipper than five per cent. The old Clarkson place in Harrison county, is between six and seven per cent. Bridges and culverts of concrete and of the improved design. One bridge, over the creek, a mile or so from Lebanon, is ninety feet long. The bridge will be allowed to stand over the winter and early next spring is expected that the State Highway Commission will let a contract for metaling and surfacing. The contract is awarded early in the fall. The kind of road is believed the road can be built is not known. The commission has said that it is the highest type construction. The State Government bears a large part of the cost, the State a part, and the county a part, the latter's share being only about one-fourth of the cost.

The Cleveland River pike is being laid out. It has been laid out from the city limits of Lebanon to the west and workmen are now grading it. The road between Lebanon and Springfield will be completed in about two weeks. The road will be a good one, and it is expected that it will be a great convenience to the people of the region. The road will be a great convenience to the people of the region. The road will be a great convenience to the people of the region.

Chas. S. Whitlock, W. B. Jarboe, Bernard Clement, Tom B. Jarboe, John Ballard, Grand Hay, B. Edwards, Dick Medley, Joe Bricken, Sam Tatum, Sam Cross, Roy Burdette, Herman Bamster, W. Raley, Chas. Myers, W. L. Caldwell, B. J. Elder, Owen Coyle, Bob Coppage, Martin Jarboe, 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. Death was due to cancer and followed an illness of nearly a year. The body was brought here Saturday morning and taken to the Methodist church where funeral services were conducted by Rev. R. W. Raaf. Burial followed in Ryder cemetery.

Mr. Heckelman was born in Harrison county, Indiana, and lived there until shortly after his marriage when he moved to Lebanon. He made his home here until about ten years ago when he and his wife moved to Akron, Ohio. Later they moved to Louisville where they had since resided. For thirty-four years Mr. Heckelman was connected with the Mueller-Wathen & Robert Distillery Co. He had many friends here who were grieved to learn of his death.

Surviving him are his wife, Mrs. Clara Rowe Heckelman; two daughters and four sons, as follows: Mrs. W. S. Hill and Mrs. C. M. Lutes of Akron, Ohio; Harry B. Heckelman, Lawrenceville, Ill.; Jacob Heckelman, Cleveland, Ohio, and Charles and A. V. Heckelman of Akron, Ohio. Three other children born to the union died many years ago.

Back From South.

C. R. Harmon & Son have returned from Jackson, Miss., with their prize-winning bird of Argos. The bird was captured at the Mississippi River, and it is a fine specimen. They will be on display at the city museum.

community, as well as of their appreciation. He has discharged his duty as a member of the bar, and he has done so with honor. He has been a member of the bar for many years, and he has been a member of the bar for many years. He has been a member of the bar for many years, and he has been a member of the bar for many years.

The tribute to him which the attorneys placed upon the Circuit Court follows:

"This being the last Marion Circuit Court to be presided over by Judge L. H. T. voluntarily surrenders Judge after twenty-four continuous services; undersigned members of Bar, hereby express our of his long and distinguished that we recognize him as a lawyer of first ability, in every sense worthy and facile principle, who wear the judicial robe of the State; that we further him a man, in addition to duties, who has rendered public service to his country to this Commonwealth request that this expression of our appreciation be placed in the Order Book of the Court, a copy be furnished to him."

Rogers-Shreve

An announcement was made to the surprise of their many friends that of the marriage of Rogers and Shreve. The ceremony took place in New Albany, Ind., last day afternoon, the Rev. Terhune officiating.

After the ceremony, Mr. Shreve went to Indiana and spent ten days with his mother, Mrs. T. Shreve, in Lebanon.

The bride, who is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Shreve, is a native of Lebanon. She is a fine specimen of a woman, and she is a fine specimen of a woman. She is a fine specimen of a woman, and she is a fine specimen of a woman.