

## **Corrections and Additions to Otto A. Rothert's "A History of Muhlenberg County"**

Transcriber's Notes: Rothert wrote these corrections and addenda to his book in 1950. The staff of Muhlenberg County Libraries Genealogy and Local History Annex, Greenville, Kentucky, added the document to the back of an original edition of the book in the library's collection.

A newspaper (possibly the Greenville Leader-News) published the addendum document circa 1970. The Muhlenberg County Libraries Genealogy and Local History Annex gave digital images of that article to Mike Moore, who submitted them to Muhlenberg County Kentucky History Group (Facebook) on 9 March 2014.

The newspaper article is here transcribed by Frances R. Nelson Salyers on 10 March 2014. Transcription is true to the original published article except for transcriber's notations made within brackets.

### **Transcription**

(Editor's note – Twenty years ago the late Otto A. Rothert made a list of errors and addenda for his "History of Muhlenberg County," which this newspaper finished serializing last week. The corrections were furnished us by Gayle Carver, Greenville native, who is now curator of the Kentucky Building Museum at Western Kentucky University at Bowling Green. We hope you have enjoyed reading the history as much as we have in publishing it.)

### **ERRORS in Rothert's History of Muhlenberg County**

The following is a list of the now-known, to me, errors in my History of Muhlenberg County, published in 1913. It is compiled from page notations made, during the course of many years, in my personal copy of the book. Some were discovered by me, some by other persons. Undoubtedly there are a number of other mistakes to which my attention has not been called. Those here listed and corrected may be helpful to anyone interested in them.

[signed] Otto A. Rothert (December, 1950)

Page 33 – This Henry Rhoads died in 1884, not "1864."

Pages 47, 48, 49, 52 – In 1937 Gayle R. Carver found court records showing that Muhlenberg's Second courthouse was a brick building completed in 1813 and occupied until 1836. This second building was erroneously omitted by me, and so the brick house erected in 1836 and occupied until 1907 was not the second, as stated by me, but the third. In turn, the 1907 or present building is not the third but the fourth courthouse. This

error is traceable to the late Richard T. Martin, local historian, whose newspaper story of the courthouses, published about 1910, was apparently never questioned by anyone and, as far as I am aware, his omission remained uncorrected until 1937. In justice to Mr. Martin it must be said that in his day he published a number of interesting articles in the Greenville newspapers, all on subjects bearing directly on the history of Muhlenberg County.

- Page 55 – “F.L.” Lewis should read F. H. Lewis.
- Page 55 – W. H. “Welsh” should read W. H. Welch.
- Page 57 – Year “1799” (October) should read 1798.
- Page 79 – “J. J.” Kahn should read I. J. Kahn.
- Page 90 – Clark’s Ferry Bridge erected 1895, not “1890.”
- Page 94 – Wm. C. McNary died 1875, not “1871.”
- Page 109 – Cumb. Pres. Bldg. torn down 1892, not “1902.”
- Page 128 – Hazel Creek Church organized 1797, not “1798.”
- Page 129 – Building not erected “1906.” In 1901?
- Page 196 – Calvin “Cotton” should read Calvin Colton.
- Page 236 – Was Mrs. Mason a “Turner” or a Hunter?
- Page 240 – Poem is by Phoebe Cary, not Gen. Buell.
- Page 277 – Eight not “four” miles below S. Carrollton.
- Page 328 – Grundy portrait page 330, not “230.”
- Page 349 – Poem is by Phoebe Cary, not Gen. Buell.
- Page 357 – Cumb. Pres. Bldg. torn down in 1892, not “1902.”
- Page 421 – Bremen P. O. omitted in 1860 and 1884 lists.

**ADDENDA: Page notations – inserted in Rothert’s copy of his History of Muhlenberg County – bearing on a few of the events that transpired after the publication of his book in 1913.**

[signed] Otto A. Rothert (December, 1950)

Page 12 – Caney Station: Gayle R. Carver, in The Filson Club History Quarterly, July, 1933, gives a two-page report on his recent work investigating Caney Station Burial Ground. After removing much underbrush and deep mats of vines he uncovered a number of tombstones, all fallen and many broken. Notwithstanding their condition he succeeded in compiling a line-for-line copy of 13 inscriptions. He published them in full. His report states that some stones evidently had been carried away and used for various purposes and that by digging deeper other inscribed markers might be found. As far as is known, this is the first and only attempt ever made toward recording the names of the people buried at Caney Station.

- Page 15 – Wm. A. Armstrong was born July 5, 1834.
- Page 35 – Prof. McHenry Rhoads died Jan. 15, 1943.
- Page 39 – Bat East Creek (on map). The name may have been derived from batiste, “a linen cambric or lawn.”
- Page 42 – A. Jack. Cornett died Jan. 19, 1931.

- Page 61 – The Harpes: Atkin’s Caskit, November, 1835, published “Kentucky in 1800 – Sketch of the Harpes by [of?] Old Kentuck.” This is credited as a reprint (with several indicated omissions) “From The Saturday Evening Post.” Evidently this is the short history of the Harpes said to have been written by Edward R. Weir, Sr. (This memorandum made October, 1936)
- Page 69 – Ephraim M. Brank. These two Brank graves are in the abandoned Greenville Cemetery east of the court house. They are about 10 feet east (?) of the Weir lot. Each is marked by a rectangular, weather-worn, white marble slab about four feet high, 15 inches wide and two inches thick. The two inscriptions (copied by me March 2, 1949) read, line-for-line:  
In Memory of / Ephraim McLean / Brank /  
Born / Aug. 1, 1791 / Died Aug. 5, 1875 /  
In / Memory of / Mary C. / Wife of / E. M. Brank /  
Born / March 27, 1791 / Died Dec. 4, 1850
- Page 80 – J. L. Rogers house burned Dec. 30, 1925.
- Page 86 – My attention was called (Feb. 1949) to this: Marriage Book No. 2, page 1235 records that on October 28, 1856, Michael Lovell married Salley E. Poag. (She probably was connected with the Reno family.) [The transcriber has been informed that this marriage is actually recorded in Marriage Book 2, Page 122, Marriage No. 1235.]
- Page 151 – Mrs. Wm. H. Yost (born June 16, 1822) died Feb. 26, 1921.
- Page 181 and 189 – “Stack House” changed to Forest Retreat, 1924.
- Page 190 – Alvin L. Taylor died Aug. 30, 1933.
- Page 190 – Mrs. Ike (Clara Taylor) Aders was born Oct. 23, 1859, died March 15, 1945.
- Page 196 – Bard’s Diary: The Greenville Leader, Feb. 5, 1937, under “Taverns,” says that the Isaac Bard Diary is in the archives of The Filson Club. Such is not the case. The Diary was never given to Rothert nor to the Club. The Diary and the Lecture were lent to me – Rothert – by a Bard kinsman, Mr. Larkins, who permitted me to quote anything I wanted but refused to sell or give these two documents to me. A few years after I had studied them his residence burnt and the documents were destroyed in the fire.
- Page 216 – A two-column account of “The Third Annual Reunion” (1941) of the former scholars of Prof Wayland Alexander is published in The Greenville Leader, October 17, 1941.
- Page 236 – Shelby J. Gish died Aug. 10, 1930.
- Page 241 – Miss Nannie Mason died in Louisville Nov. 19, 1912. On March 11, 1914, Mrs. J. Lively Johnson of Louisville informed me that Phoebe Cary, not Gen. Buell, wrote the poem “Thou and I.”
- Pages 244 and 248 – Bert (Albert) Wing killed his wife Mariam Eaves Wing in Louisville at 11 p.m. on Nov. 1, 1892. (Not Nov. 12.) A comprehensive account of this tragedy was intentionally excluded from this History of Muhlenberg (1913). I agreed with R. T. Martin, local historian, and many others who declared it would be an injustice to the kinsmen of the murderer and the murdered. Their kinsmen, without exception, were, and long had been, people of the highest standing in Muhlenberg. The subject, however, is briefly, but necessarily, mentioned in our history of the county, but it is intentionally not cited in the index.

The Louisville Courier-Journal, Wednesday, Nov. 2, 1892, devotes three columns to the tragedy, and the next day continued the subject with two more.

Notwithstanding the abundance of this and other printed and documentary material then available, I decided not to use it, hoping that thereby I might help pass on the story of the tragedy toward those things that are better forgotten – “gone and forgotten.”

Page 245 – William Crawford Jonson, Greenville, (son of Judge Jephtha Crawford Jonson) died May 15, 1948, aged 73.

Page 285 – Richard T. Martin died April 14, 1929.

Page 334 – Orien L. Roark died Oct. 10, 1945, aged 75.

Page 337 – Thomas J. Sparks died Oct. 27, 1946.

Page 443 and 461 – Lucium P. Little of Owensboro was born Feb. 13, 1839; died December 20, 1919. His manuscript “Old Stories of Green River and Its People” was lost about the time of his death. It seems it was then in the hands of a publisher for consideration. No memorandum, as far as I know, was found giving the names of publishers to whom it had been submitted. Apparently no carbon copy existed. His family made a long and thorough search. If a carbon was later found, I probably would have heard of it. I shall continue to hope it will be found and published.

Page 469 – The index is not a Complete Index, but it is far more than a General Index [sic]. For example, names of some persons (likewise their close kin of a different name) are not found in the index but may occur in one of the genealogical notations indexed under the name of a member of that pioneer family, if “family of” is cited.

Hi, Fran. In one of Rothert's addenda he talks about Michael Lovell and Sally Poag's marriage. He lists the source as Marriage Book 2 Page 1235. It is actually Page 122 Marriage No. 1235. I'm going to correct this; just wanted to give you a head's up.