

**Monroe County, Birth and Death Announcements
in the *Harrodsburg Review*, 1886**

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One of the most interesting ways to begin genealogical research is in reading newspapers from the times and places in which your ancestors lived. For example, information in nineteenth-century newspapers ranges from birth and death announcements to business contracts to social events and various other human-interest notices—not just run-of-the-mill news stories.

The following listings are birth announcements and obituaries taken from the *Harrodsburg Review*.¹ In 1886 the notices served to spread information for the residents of the small town of Harrodsburg, slightly south of Bloomington. Today they help us look into the lives of area residents, the challenges they had, and the world they lived in. In some cases, notices from other parts of the state were published, generally because the people involved had some tie to the area or because the news was considered interesting or sensational.

The *Harrodsburg Review* is housed on microfilm at the Indiana State Library; however, there are only thirteen issues, and they do not span an entire year. According to the Indiana State Library's catalog record for the newspaper, the *Harrodsburg Review* may have started and ended in 1886. Since nineteenth-century newspapers were organized differently than today's newspapers, entries are not only dated but also include the page number on which they appeared.

Notes

1. *Harrodsburg Review*, 1886, Indiana State Library.

Births from the *Harrodsburg Review* (1886)

24 April, p. 4

SMITHVILLE ITEMS

R.P. Trisler is happy, but he would rather it had been a boy.

1 May, p. 4

Jim Graves is the happiest man in the town. Its [*sic*] a fine boy.

Deaths from the *Harrodsburg Review* (1886)

17 April, p. 2

INDIANA STATE NEWS

Robert Phillips, colored, wife murderer, was hanged at Indianapolis Tuesday at noon.

The mother of Mrs. Senator Voorhees died Sunday at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. A. D. Raub, at Earl Park, aged about eighty years.

Jarvis Jeffries, a farmer of Richland township, Fulton county, fainted and fell into a ditch, in which there was only six inches of water. He was drowned before being discovered.

17 April, p. 3

Hon. Patrick Shannon, Terre Haute, died Saturday. He was well known all over the State.

1 May, p. 1

Jeremiah Collier, aged ninety-one years, died at his home in Washington tp. on Tuesday of last week.

Ellettsville Citizen: Last Sunday Jacob Wampler, aged about 65 years, died at his home three miles east of this place, of hemorrhage of the lungs.

1 May, p. 2

INDIANA STATE NEWS.

George A. McCord, who has been serving an eighteen-year sentence, and Richard Cox, a two-year man, both died in the Southern prison Wednesday night.

Ann Parkinson, who killed Endress at the saloon of the latter at Evansville, has been sent to the penitentiary for fifteen years. The whiskey that enabled Parkinson to kill Endress was sold by the latter on Sunday.

Thomas Heslin, an Irishman who has been renting a farm south of Logansport for several years, has received word from Dublin, Ireland, that his only brother has died and bequeathed to him his estate, valued at ten thousand pounds. Heslin is a poor man, and has hitherto been singularly unfortunate. He will leave in a short time to claim his fortune.

10 July, p. 4

A sad accident occurred last Friday which should be a serious warning to parents. An infant child of Wm. Finn's was seated in a high chair when the chair tipped over backward, throwing the child violently on the floor, causing concussion of the brain, from the effects of which it died. It was a fine, strong infant and its death in such a manner was a terrible blow to the parents.

25 September, p. 1

The little child of Robert McConnel was buried here last Tuesday. Mr. McConnel lost his wife only a few months ago.

2 October, p. 1

Robert McConnel buried his baby at Harrodsburg last week. Robert is left entirely alone, losing his wife a few weeks ago, and now his little child. We extend to him in his bereavement, our heartfelt sympathies.

2 October, p. 4

Henry B. Richardson, one of the most prominent businessmen of Bedford, committed suicide last week, by an overdose of morphine.

Courier. John K. Whisnand died at his home nine miles north-west Bloomington, on last Saturday. He was in his 82nd year. Another pioneer, George Richardson, of Benton township has passed away. He was 94 years of age, the oldest man in the county.

Ellettsville Citizen: Death of G. B. Moore. On Sunday morning, September 26th, George B. Moore died at his residence in this place. During the past two years the deceased suffered a great deal from disease of the bladder, and nearly a year he has been unable, the greater part of the time, to be out of his room. After funeral services Tuesday morning at the Baptist church by Eld. Beaman, the remains were interred at the M. E. cemetery, west of town.

In the death of Mr. Moore, Ellettsville loses one of its best citizens. He was an active business man here for a quarter of a century, and his success was extraordinary. He was a faithful member of the Baptist church, and he will not only be greatly missed by his family and friends, but church and community will miss him. The deepest sympathies are extended to his family. Of Mr. Moore, the History of Monroe county, says:

George B. Moore, merchant, is a native of Monroe county, was born March 1st, 1821, and is the third son of John and Jane (Dowell) Moore, both natives of North Carolina. John Moore was a farmer and wagon maker. He moved hither in 1820; soon after west back to the East, but came again to this state, made a home for his family and finished his course of life. George B. Moore was reared a farmer, and received but twelve months' schooling. When eighteen years of age he began working for himself as a farmer, but after about three years became a clerk at Mt. Tabor, and in 1850 commenced mercantile business at Spencer, from which point he moved to Santa Fe, where he continued in success for eight years. He then sold his property and removed his stock to Ellettsville, where he continues with a stock of \$5,000, a substantial and successful merchant. Mr. Moore has been married twice—first he wedded Mary Steffey, who died in 1865, leaving three out of five children—George B., Elvira J., and Oscar Franklin; he wedded, second, in 1867, Mrs. Nancy J. Steele, formerly of Owen county. Mr.

Moore has dealt much in grain, pork, wool, etc., is, in all, worth probably \$40,000. He is a Democrat and, with his wife, a member of the Baptist church.

16 October, p. 4

Uncle Nick Whisnand, well known to everybody here, died at his home in Iowa, a few days ago.

Charlie Bell, a classmate of ours, was killed by the train, near Crawfordsville, last Saturday night.

Rev. Oliphant preached the funeral of Solomon Morgan last Sunday week, at Union.

Old Mr. Matthews of the Big Springs, this township, died last Saturday week and was buried on Sunday; also the wife of Henry Koons, VanBuren township, was buried the same day.

Early Monday morning the dead body of Charles Bell, of Bloomington, was found about two miles south of Crawfordsville, on the L., N. A. & C. railway. The night passenger train had run over the body and cut his body in two at the hips. The deceased was a printer and had in his pockets some types, a composing rule and \$9 in money, besides papers from which it was ascertained who he was. The remains were sent to Bloomington where his parents reside.

23 October, p. 1

On the afternoon of the 24th ult., Joseph C. Huxley committed suicide by hanging to a joint in a former residence, in the northern part of Monroe county. Mr. Huxley had a few days previously deeded his farm of sixty acres to one Mr. Hammons, on condition that the latter should care for him the remainder of his life. On Saturday he ate his dinner, as usual, and started for his former residence, saying that he would be back soon. Evening came and Mr. Huxley did not return. Mr. Hammons started in search of him and found him hanging, as before stated. Cause for the deed is unknown, but it was gleaned from his conversation that he was greatly troubled on account of some outstanding notes with well to do men in the county, which these men had been totally negligent of paying. Mr. Huxley had always been a good, honest citizen, was a bachelor and 75 years of age.—Martinsville Republican.

23 October, p. 4

KIRKSVILLE. Peter Wright, who died in this tp. October 9th, was one of the oldest citizens in the county. He was said to be one hundred years old. He has been a citizen of this county nearly all that time, and was widely known as a good reliable citizen.

20 November, p. 1

A five-year old boy, named Surface, was burned to death while playing with matches at Lafayette last week.

20 November, p. 4

Mrs. Wes. Brown died last Thursday morning of paralysis of the heart. Mrs. Brown was a good woman, a friend to everybody and loved by all who knew her. She leaves a husband and son, who have the sympathies of the community.

KIRKSVILLE. Rev. Wells preached the funeral of old Mrs. Brasfield last Sunday.

Samuel Kahn, a former well known citizen of Bloomington, and a brother of Isaac Kahn, died in Indianapolis on Saturday last, with dropsy of the heart, aged 67 years.

27 November, p. 1

KIRKSVILLE. An infant child of Harve Storm's died last week.

27 November, p. 4

Last week a child of Sheriff Hinkle died with whooping cough, and his other six children are afflicted with the same complaint.

4 December, p. 1

F. G. White, the old and well known actor, died at the Insane Asylum, Indianapolis, last week.

4 December, p. 4

Van Curry died at the residence of Wm. Curry, three miles south of this place on Friday morning at 2 o'clock. About a week previous he had a felon on one of his fingers, and was in great pain with it. He thought he might allay the pain by putting the finger in hot water, and did so. The pain did not leave, however, and he then placed the sore finger in cold water. It soon quit hurting, but the pain went to his brain. He suffered considerably, but ate about as common until Tuesday, when he became so bad that Dr. Whitted was called. Thursday night he completely lost the use of himself, and died as before stated.

KIRKSVILLE. Charley Ham, a young man raised by G.W. Kirk, died Nov. 21st of typhoid fever. We extend heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and friends.

25 December, p. 1

Benjamin Rockwell, son of A. J. Rockwell, of Cloverdale, out hunting with others, was killed by the discharge of his gun. As he was separated from the others, it is not known how the accident occurred. The bullet entered the back of his head. He was dead when found.

25 December, p. 4

FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT. Two Freight Trains Collide at the Woodyard With Fatal Results. Engineer Daniel Heaphy Killed—Loss over \$20,000.

A terrible wreck occurred at the Woodyard last Sunday morning at about two o'clock, resulting in the death of Engineer Daniel Heaphy, the destruction of nine freight cars, and totally wrecking an engine.

Two sections of a south bound freight were to pass a north bound freight at the Woodyard. The south bound trains reached the meeting point first, and were standing on the main track, awaiting the arrival of the other train, which was to go in on the switch, it being prepared for that purpose, by the switch being so set, not being of sufficient length to hold the two waiting trains, which filled the track alongside the switch and extended considerably beyond it.

The north bound train after coming over the grade this side of Bloomington broke apart near the middle, leaving the conductor and two of the brakemen on the broken off part, and as they were coming down grade at a high rate of speed, and being deprived of their brakes, the train could not stop, although every effort was made to do so, the engine being reversed and track sanded. On it came, dashing into the side trace and around it, to the other end, where part of the south bound train was standing across its way and in front of it, driving right into the train with fearful effect as described above.

The engineer, Daniel Heaphy, of Lafayette, seeing it would be impossible to escape, otherwise, jumped from his engine just before entering the side track, but by some mishap, was caught by the train and instantly killed, being mangled frightfully. The fireman jumped from the other side and escaped without serious injury. The front brakeman was also on the engine and escaped with but slight injury. The lost is estimated at over \$20,000. A large number of our town people visited the wreck Sunday.

Last week we failed to give an account of the deaths of Dr. Dodd and wife, and C. H. Showers, of Bloomington. Dr. J. F. Dodd, who was a well known and respected citizen, aged about 80 years, died on Tuesday, of pneumonia; and his wife, who was a daughter of Dr. Wylie, the first president of Indiana University, died on the following Thursday, of pneumonia also. She was not considered dangerous until after the death of her husband, when no doubt the effect of grief added to her illness caused her death. The funerals of both were held on Saturday afternoon. C. H. Showers, the youngest member of the firm of Showers Bros., died on Tuesday, of quinsy. Mr. Showers, about 26 years of age, hearty and robust, with every promise of a long and useful life, was an energetic business man, whose loss will be sadly felt. His funeral was held on Friday. Last week was noted for the number of its funerals at Bloomington, there being five, and all of the most prominent people of the place. They were Dr. Dodd and wife, W. W. Durand, "Tobe" Slocumb, and C. H. Showers.