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A Romance Interrupted by the Civil War: The Letters of Susan T. Scroggin and Henry H. Haviland

Bill Penn

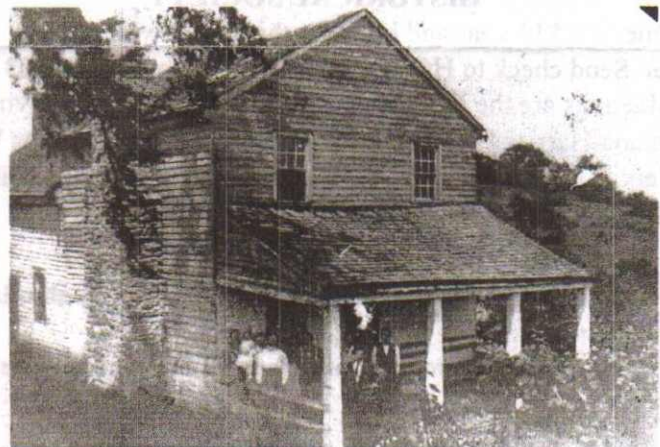
The Civil War in Kentucky has many stories of divided families whose members fought in the armies of either the Union or the Confederacy. Less encountered are accounts of couples who postponed their marriage because of opposite sectional allegiances. This is one of those stories, with Susan T. Scroggin living in Woodford County and Henry H. Haviland in Harrison County. It is also a story of a Confederate woman engaged to a farmer/slave owner who was loyal to the Union.

Susan Terrell Scroggin (24 February 1826–8 November 1897), lived on a farm on the north side of Leestown Pike at Moore's Mill Pike, about one mile east of Midway, Woodford County. According to the 1860 census, Sue, 30, was a housekeeper to her father, Robert C., 69, and uncle Samuel, 60, both farmers, with the help of an older sister, Sarah Anne "Sallie," 38, and Ebb, a 24 year old student. The family owned nine slaves, six being children.¹ At the outbreak of the war, her two brothers, Sidney Alvin and Robert Ebenezer "Ebb," joined the Confederate army. Sue became an ardent Southern sympathizer who despised Lincoln's policies regarding African Americans and his abolitionist supporters. Her thoughts on the sectional issues have been preserved at the Kentucky Historical Society in surviving correspondence between Sue and her fiancé, Henry Hutchins Haviland (16 March 1825–2 March 1910), a merchant and farmer at Havilandsville in northern Harrison County.² Henry was a brother of William Stewart Haviland (22 March 1823–01 June 1914), a Cynthiana attorney who processed many Civil War damage claims to the federal government. An irony to this love story was the fact that Haviland favored Kentucky remaining in the Union even though he, too, was a slave owner. The letters in general expressed the love affair between the two which was complicated by the fact Henry was a busy farmer and could visit Sue only several times a month.³

It seems Sue met Henry Haviland while the two were in Covington visiting friends in the summer of 1849 when she was 19. By 1857 Henry was visiting Sue, staying at Mrs. Cunningham's Midway Hotel or at Mrs. Thornton's hotel, both on Railroad Street. By December 1860 the Scroggin family was lamenting the

cold winter but could only afford to burn coal in one room of the house. "All talking of disunion and hard times. I think the Secession movement in the South is more talked of than anything else really; the pressure is being seriously felt here; everything perfectly still here; though all are in hopes that it will all soon blow off again, even before old Honest Abe takes his seat." She asked Henry, "Are you for Union or disunion, the ladies you know are all for Union especially as this is the close of Leap Year."⁴ By June 1861 Sue had definitely decided disunion would benefit Kentucky, referring to "Lincoln or his northern horde of tyrants... I think the whole country is ruined and there is no help for it now."⁵

Henry wrote Sue July 15, 1861, about Confederate recruiting in Harrison County: "There is lots of men who are full of adventure going to Tenn. from this county. They organize into a company for the Southern army at Clarksville Tn, 86 went from this county as private citizens last week. Well, I am not mad enough yet to go all the way to Virginian [by way of Tennessee] to be shot at, particularly when the prospect is so good for such fun nearer home." Although some secessionists held out for neutrality to give more



Haviland residence near Havilandsville, Kentucky. The building is no longer standing. Photo, c. 1930s, courtesy of Doug Harper.

Harrison County Historical Society

President's Corner

Bob Owen

Bob Owen, Acting President
Vacant, Vice President
Marilynn Bell, Secretary
Dorothy Slade, Treasurer
Bill Penn, editor: pennwma@aol.com

June Meeting:

A brief discussion on the Handy House resulted in authorizing Bob Owen to hire a worker from the Falmouth area to reseal the whole house for the sum of \$1600.00. Special security screws will be used to deter easy entry by vandals. A new door will be built to replace the one destroyed.

A small gathering was treated to a very interesting program on Pleasant Hill Shaker Village and the Civil War experience presented by Susan Hughes. The two Shaker communities in Kentucky, Pleasant Hill and South Union, were the only two Shaker communities to experience the war first hand. Pleasant Hill, being situated near main routes north and south, the Kentucky river and only fifteen miles from Perryville was particularly vulnerable to both the Union and Confederate armies.

Ms. Hughes used a diary kept by Elder Ben Dunlevy from 1857 through 1871. Elder Dunlevy eloquently described the stress and grief felt by the Shakers and their efforts to feed the passing troops while protecting their resources. Numbering approximately 400, they had horses, cattle, swine and poultry as well as garden produce. On occasion, they fed as many troops as their own number. The Shakers were emancipationists, and pacifists, yet strongly in favor of the Union. However, they treated both armies with equal care. Elder Dunlevy recorded the manners, good or otherwise, of their military "guests".

Following the program Harold Slade moved that the Handy House be returned to the care of city and county due to the diminishing number of members of the Historic Society, the lack of monies to support rehabilitation and the tremendous effort required to raise the funds needed. The motion carried and Bob Owen will so notify the authorities.

JOIN THE HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Dues are \$12/year and includes this monthly newsletter. Send check to HCHS, PO 411, Cynthiana, Ky. 41031. Meetings are the third Thursday every month at the Cynthiana-Harrison County Public Library Annex (Charles W. Feix Room) on Pleasant Street behind Biancke's Restaurant, starting at 7 pm. The public is invited.

Historical Society Program and History Calendar

July 19 - (Penn program cancelled - will be at a later date).

In last month's Corner, I discussed the plan to re-secure the building. This has been accomplished. All first floor openings have been covered with heavy plywood and a plywood door with barn hinges secures the back door. It would help to have a couple of security lights installed in the yard around the building. The Cynthiana Police Department is making periodic patrols of the property. The only long range solution would be to install an alarm system to ensure prompt response to anyone entering the facility.

As I mentioned last month, Marilyn Bell has made some progress in creating a committee to oversee the building. I have received several calls from parties who want to help. One is a relative of Colonel Brown the builder of the house. They suggest the Historical Society transfer the lease to another group. This of course requires the approval of the City of Cynthiana and the Fiscal Court. We will have to see. I will try to work with the group to ensure the safety of the house.

As a side note, Col. Brown's extended family moved to Illinois around 1840 and became acquainted with the Lincoln family. Appears Abe worked for Col. Brown on his farm in the early days. Later as Mr. Lincoln got into politics, the Brown family supported him and one of the extended family was in President Lincoln's administration.

I talked with James Swinford and he informed me the old piano that is in the house belongs to his family and was stored in the house as there was no other location to put it at the time. He indicated he had covered it to protect it. I informed him that the cover was gone and it needed to be moved to a more secure environment. Personal property cannot be stored on city/county property.

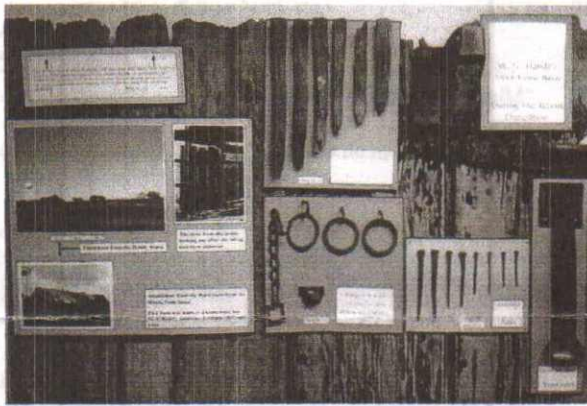
Officially my term as President ended on 30 June. I will continue to support the Historical Society until a new President can be sworn in. I am hoping someone will be willing to step forward and guide the organization through the coming year. I do not want to see the organization die.

Thanks for your support.

Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum

Martha Barnes, President

www.cynthiana-harrisoncountymuseum.org



Antique barn hardware display.

This museum display includes wooden pins, hinges, nails, and other 19th Century hardware found on one of the old barns on the Handy Farm.

Visit the museum to see many other displays of 19th Century relics from our Harrison County heritage.

Rattling Spurs

Notes on the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War in Harrison County

Bill Penn

JUNE 1862 - Federal commanders took command of Home Guards in June 1862 for special operations against guerrillas. Col. John J. Landram, 18th Kentucky Infantry headquartered at Camp Frazer in Cynthiana, took command of the Harrison County Home Guards and three Owen County Home Guard companies, to round up guerrillas in Owen County who had attacked Home Guards there.

Union commanders set up camps in other areas around Cynthiana during the war. The 7th Kentucky Cavalry camped "for some time before the fight [of July 17, 1862]..." south of Cynthiana near the covered bridge on land owned by Lucius Desha. According to regimental reports, the regiment, raised by Col. Leonidas Metcalfe, "went into encampment at Cynthiana, Kentucky, about June 20, 1862." The Desha farm extended generally from the covered bridge south along Grays Run and the Leesburg Pike to about the present-day Ladish Road, then east to the Licking River and followed the river back to the covered bridge. This farm was to become part of the battlefields in both of Morgan's Cynthiana raids.

In June 1862, the Federal commander in Kentucky, General Jeremiah T. Boyle, threatened citizens who would

not take the loyalty oath with arrest and imprisonment.

In June 1862, one of Lucius Desha's slaves fled to join a Union camp on the Frazer farm. There was other trouble when Desha's "servants" took all the hams, bacon and shoulders from the smoke house, and then passed with the goods through the toll gates that night. Although the theft may have been connected with an escape attempt, the Desha correspondence did not mention runaway slaves except those joining the Union army. From June to October 1862, Mrs. Desha wrote her husband about the farming activities carried out by the slaves, including plowing, sewing Hungarian grass and clover, cutting grass, building fences, cutting weeds, stacking hay, building a stone fence, harvesting hemp with a machine, threshing and ricking red and white wheat, planting and weeding corn, hauling gravel from the river for farm roads, and tending cattle, sheep, and hogs.

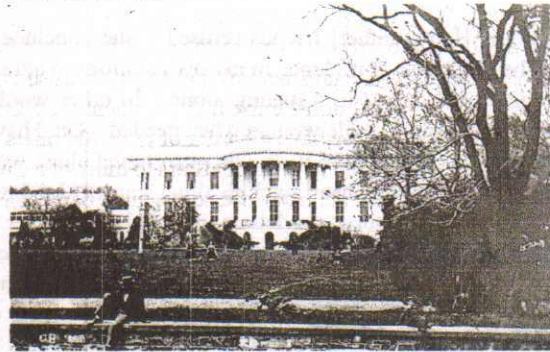
Source: Draft of the second edition of *Rattling Spurs and Broad-Brimmed Hats: The Civil War in Harrison Co., KY*, by Wm. A. Penn, not yet published

excused: "the Lincolnites oh how many excuses they use offering to get out of their own fight; the Rebs stand up to the point much better than they, oh what a war." She thought Henry would be turned down even if he was drafted because of health exemptions. The enthusiasm of black enlistments in Harrison County was mentioned in his letter when in mid-October 1864, Henry wrote that "the negroes have all enlisted; our last one has got to be a soldier, in fact there is only one negro man or boy left within 5 miles of [Havilandsville]. I have just returned from [the district provost marshal in] Covington where I have been to get receipt for ours."¹²

In a letter to Henry written June 1, 1864, Sue had received the tragic news her brother Ebb died May 22, 1864, at Camp Douglas following a fight when he was stabbed in the lungs and Alvin was severely wounded in an attempt to come to his aid. Later that month, Sue and her sister Sallie obtained a military pass and traveled to Camp Douglas to retrieve the body. After three days she only was permitted to talk with Alvin for a few hours. "Alvin is a perfect skeleton almost." After an emotional visit, she traveled back to Midway. The body was shipped by United States Express Company to Covington while waiting for the railroad to Lexington to be repaired following the Second Battle of Cynthiana. The body, in a metallic coffin, was temporarily misplaced in the Covington dump but was found and shipped to Woodford County and buried in the burial ground of the Pisgah Presbyterian Church. The grave today is unmarked.¹³

As Sue worried about her brother Alvin recovering from the serious stab wound while imprisoned at Camp Douglas, she decided to travel to Washington, D. C. to personally petition President Lincoln for his pardon. She wrote Henry Haviland January 11, 1865, asking him to accompany her "to see your President," thus letting him know Jeff Davis was her preferred president. For whatever reason, he did not go, and she wrote him January 20 describing her trip by train by way of Cincinnati, Columbus, and Pittsburgh, in "intense cold" changing trains six times. She was seated with an adjutant general from Ohio who she boasted "has been quite smitten with your humble Sue" but said "oh, he is such an abolitionist I told him he stole my negroes and his face turned might red," which probably ended his flirting. Sue arrived in Washington, which she termed "the capital of all meanness," late Thursday afternoon and checked into the National Hotel. Visiting the White House at two o'clock Friday January 19, while hoping to see Lincoln "but could not get an interview; there was just throngs of ladies there to see him on business. He receives them from 11 to 5." She then found a Kentucky representative, probably Brutus J. Clay, who she said was staying at the National Hotel too, to handle the request "as they have preference of an interview over the ladies. Monday is set for my day." While in the White House she was ushered into the first floor public parlors, including the Reception room, the Green Room and the East Room. Sue was surprised that politics were openly discussed at the White House. "They have 5 times the privilege of speech there that we have in Ky." A Southern cotton dealer at the White House told her that he expressed in front of General Stephen Burbridge that he would give \$5,000 for one more Rebel victory. "I told him if he had said that in Ky. He would have had him arrested."¹⁴

While in Washington Sue was "determined" to see all the sights she had heard and read about. Visiting the Capitol, she commented on the panoramic view from the hill, and inside sat in the visitor's gallery while the senate was in session, visited the house



Sue Scroggin toured the White House, "the capital of all meanness," while in Washington to petition President Lincoln to release her sick Confederate brother from prison. National Archives.

of representative's chamber, saw "the President's Room and sat in the Executive Chair," then went in the Library of Congress. Another trip took her to the Patent Office, Smithsonian, and Navy Yard. Due to bad weather, she missed seeing Arlington and Mount Vernon. Finally, a pardon was secured from someone in Lincoln's staff, but Sue must not have met Lincoln for she would have bragged about it in her letter. "We had no difficulty in getting Alvin's release." After leaving Washington, Sue spent a day shopping in Baltimore, traveled to Harrisburg, staying overnight, then continued through Ft. Wayne to Chicago to Camp Douglas where she had a surprise waiting for her. "When we arrived at Chicago and went in the prison, Alvin had been released by an order from Mrs. Lincoln the week before. He reached Lexington the same evening we got to Washington; and there was 2 releases for him the morning we got to the prison but he was at home." Perhaps Sue had written for his release before making the trip and the release was honored before her arrival in Washington. The release was more likely requested by Mrs. Lincoln and actually ordered by President Lincoln or the war department.¹⁵

For the entire trip, Sue continuously complained bitterly about Yankees and abolitionist talk. "I have not met one man woman or child this side of the Ohio River but what was a Black abolitionist; the Ky. Negro is their soul salvation; oh, how I do hate them." At the National Hotel dining room she would, "... get mighty mad listening at them old Abolish[ionist] Yanks at the table discussing Ky politics." She despised, too, the "host of Yankey members [of the House of Representatives] and their wives and daughters, and oh what an ugly set they are; there is not one pretty one among them; I think they are the most profane set I ever heard speak; you would laugh to see the ladies with their hair done up in French stile."¹⁶

On the portion of the return trip between Covington and Lexington the train derailed and her passenger car rolled down an embankment. Her forehead was cut when she was thrown to the ground: "My clothing was torn all to pieces, my fine cloak ruined." Despite this misfortune and her criticism of Northerners, Sue returned to her Midway farm feeling more confident with her new abilities to travel. "I had every attention on the route. I tell you Ky. Rebel Girls are at par in Washington." She chided her fiancé for not accompanying her and hoped to travel that summer to Boston, New York and Niagara. "You don't think it possible for a young lady to travel 1800 miles without any protector...I asked you to go with me but you most cruelly refused me your protection in my hour of trial," and again mentioned being "captivated" by the adjutant general on the train who was "willing to assist me; when

my sunshining [fair weather] friends refused." Sue concluded, "This trip has given me confidence in my own abilities to attract every attention one needs in traveling alone." In other words, gentlemen would help a single woman when needed. "Oh, I have learned to know human nature well; but I can travel alone with the privilege of captivating hearts as I go along, can't I? I did not lack for gallants."¹⁷ His surviving letters ignored her attempts to make him jealous about "gallants" protecting her in his absence.

The end of the Civil War and the end of slavery brought some unexpected consequences – a labor shortage in the summer of 1865. Although her brother Alvin had returned, he was still in poor health. Sue pondered the agricultural situation around Midway: "The farmers here are very backward... and what few negroes were left to help them is all enlisting; I don't think by harvest, which is only two weeks off, that there will be a half dozen negro men in our neighborhood. I don't know what they are to do, it seems impossible to procure help, and there is no stock to eat the grain up, it will have to remain uncut in the fields."¹⁸

Henry Haviland noticed a week after the Second Battle of Cynthiana, June 11-12, 1864, that "the country is now full of [Union] soldiers and it is with considerable difficulty that one can travel without being molested or stopped as there is quite (I am told) a number of Morgans men dodging about the country." That fall guerrillas remained in the area. Haviland and his neighbors "had a call paid us by a squad [on the October 14] night & relieved us of what green backs they could find; took from me \$280 from my bro. all he happened to have... from Mrs. West who lives at our house about \$150 in money & goods out of his store & 2 shotguns and then very politely bid us good bye; in fact there is hardly a night they are not at some house in the neighborhood."¹⁹

Quantrill's guerrillas, while terrorizing the neighborhood of Midway, harassed Sue at her farm. In a February 28, 1865, letter to Henry, she bragged of standing up to the guerrillas even though she was a pro-Confederate woman: "The Guerrillas 45 in number called on us the other week they had on the Lincoln Blues; they cursed me for everything they could think of and told me they would burn our house to the ground; I told them they were nothing but a pack of roughs; they stripped Midway of her watches and money and then burnt the depot and left."²⁰

The defeat of the Confederacy was accomplished by the Union army, but in central Kentucky, Southern supporters welcomed with fanfare former Confederate soldiers back from the war. "There was a large picknick given to the returned Rebels Saturday," Sue wrote Henry, "it was the largest crowd that I have seen assembled since the Fair times. Lexington and Georgetown was almost depopulated, they had a fine brass band of music and they danced all day." Despite these celebrations, she was down in spirit, and her thoughts were an indication of the widespread poor race relations to come: "There seems nothing in the picture for me but gloom; not one ray of hope is left, none; the Tyrants race will reign supreme in the United States now with the negro to enforce it. Oh but I wish that every Yankey Rogue was sunk so low down into perdition that even Gabriel's Trumpet would fail to resurrect them in Judgment." As to her "hatred that only a demon ought to possess" of Yankees, "I attribute to the compulsory association with the Yanks, for no one ever loathed the atmosphere polluted by them but what felt contaminated from it..."²¹ Henry appears to have wisely let Sue speak her mind, and in the interest of maintaining their relationship, did not challenge her strong



(left) Sidney Robert Haviland (1870-1953). No photos of her parents, Susan and Henry Haviland, have been found. Photo, c. 1900, courtesy of the First Methodist Church. Copied from a plaque in the Sidney R. Haviland Room by Sharon Fowler.

pro-Confederate views, although he disagreed. Through the years he often pleaded with her to marry him, but she always had excuses. After a wavering courtship lasting throughout the Civil War, Sue finally married Henry in Midway on May 19, 1868, and moved to Havilandsville in Harrison County, leaving her sister Sallie with the Scroggin farm. The couple had one child, Sidney Robert Haviland (1 March 1870 - 2 December 1953), for whom the Sidney R. Haviland Room was named at the First Methodist Church in Cynthiana. Miss Haviland never married.²²

Endnotes:

1. Arthur Evander Scroggins, *Scroggin, Scroggin, Scroggins*, 63, 66-68; Scroggin-Haviland Letters, Box 2204-M-01, Special Collections, Kentucky Historical Society, www.havilandsville.com, Henry H. Haviland family tree.
2. *ibid.*
3. *ibid.*
4. Susan T. Scroggin [STS] to Henry H. Haviland [HHH], December 6, 1860. Perhaps disunion would affect the supply of eligible men and there was a popular superstition that women could propose to men on February 29.
5. STS to HHH, June 5, 1861.
6. HHH to STS, July 15, 1861.
7. STS to HHH, December 7, 1861; Newspapers reported Secretary of War Simon Cameron had advocated freeing slaves as contraband of war and arming them. His statement was not cleared with Lincoln, so he was forced to retract it, and soon resigned. James M. McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, 357. General Felix Zollicoffer entered Kentucky through Cumberland Gap December 3.
8. STS to HHH, November 15, 1862.
9. HHH to STS, November 3, 1862.
10. STS to HHH, April 4, 1863.
11. STS to HHH, July 20, October 24, September 1, 1863; Marion B. Lucas, *A History of Blacks in Kentucky*, 152.
12. STS to HHH, December 1, 1863; HHH to STS, October 20, 1864; William A. Penn, *Rattling Spurs and Broad-Brimmed Hats*, 12.
13. STS to HHH, July 7, 1864; Scroggins, *Scroggin, Scroggin, Scroggins*, 65-66, has transcriptions of period invoices and affidavits indicating the body was delivered to Pisgah cemetery; Pisgah Presbyterian Church, *Pisgah 1784-1984* (1984) 272. There are no Scroggin burials listed, however, between 1827 and 1836 these persons were members: Robert E. Scroggin, Harriot Scroggin Minerva Scroggin, Luther and Elizabeth Scroggin, and Salley Scroggin.
14. STS to HHH, January 11, 20, 1865.
15. STS to HHH, January 11, 20, 1865.
16. *ibid.*
17. *ibid.*
18. STS to HHH, June 5, 1865.
19. HHH to STS, June 19, 1864, October 20, 1864.
20. STS to HHH, February 28, 1865.
21. STS to HHH, June 5, 1865.
22. www.havilandsville.com, and Scroggin, *Scroggin, Scroggins*, 49. Sidney was apparently named for Sidney Terrell Scroggin, her grandmother.