

Bits and Pieces

of Hardin County History

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100 Years Ago

PROPERTY ASSESSED FOR TAXATION IN 1907

By March, 2007, the recapitulation of the County Tax Assessor's books had been finished and showed a total valuation of property in Hardin County of \$5,169,952. This included the \$336,779 raise of the County Board of Equalization and was a gain of \$576,949 over previous year's valuation, being by a large margin the highest assessment ever reached by the county.

The figures show that in 1906 the farmers of this county raised 554,324 bushels of corn on 25,710 acres; 207,144 bushels of wheat on 16,142 acres; 212,710 pounds of tobacco on 455 acres; and 4,196 tons of hay on 3,764 acres.

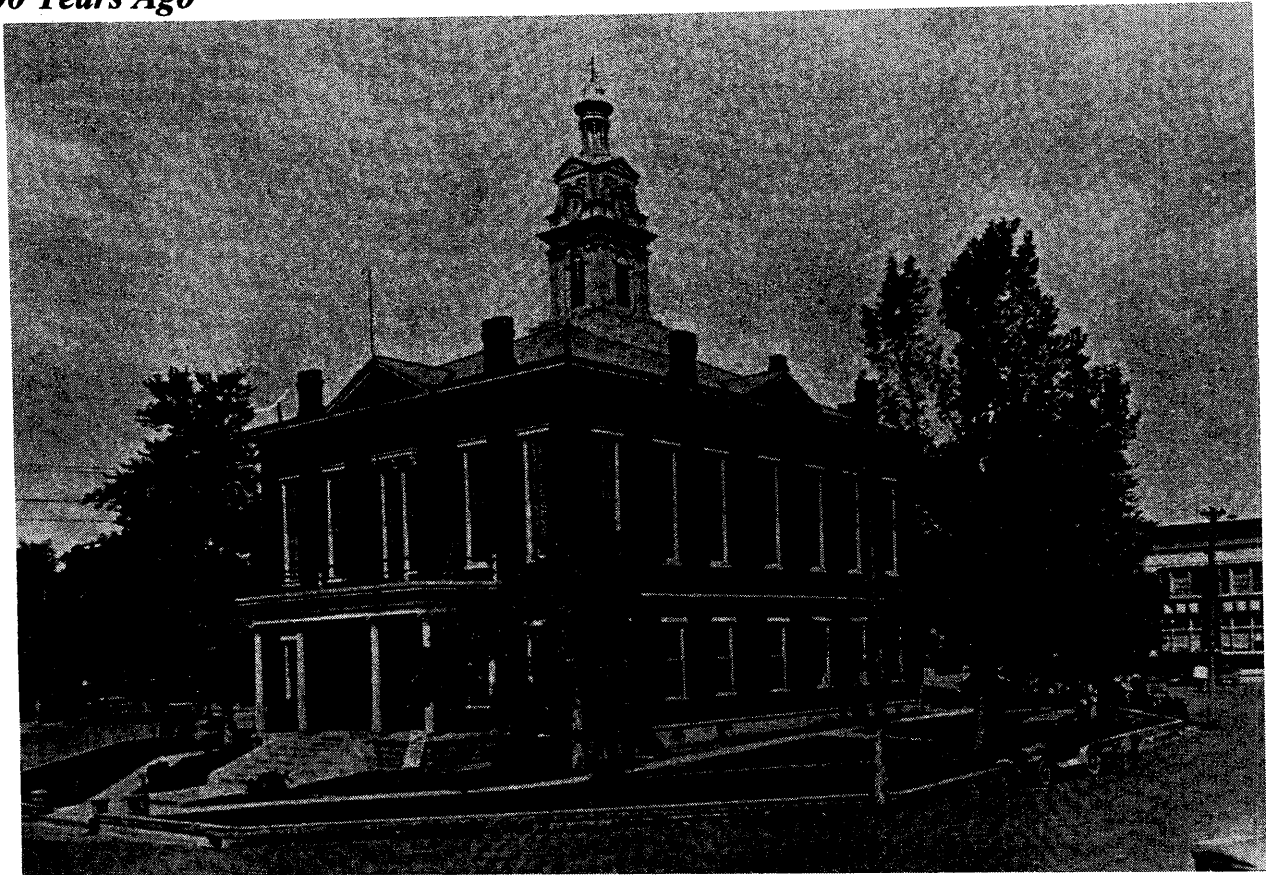
Other interesting statistics for the year just closed [1906] are as follows:

Male citizens over 21 years of age - 4,752
 Children 6 to 20 - 5,238
 Acres of land - 352,799, valued at \$2,932,613
 Town lots - 1,332, valued at \$761,784
 Bonds, cash and deposits, \$760,169
 Value of live stock, farm implements and household and kitchen furniture - \$1,457,042
 Thoroughbred and standard horses - 33, valued at \$6,185
 Common stock horses - 7495, valued at \$314,269
 Jacks and jennets - 118, valued at \$6,470
 Registered cattle - 193, valued at \$3,647
 Common stock cattle - 13,126, valued at \$177,616
 Sheep - 10,10,938, valued at \$31,461
 Hogs - 20,572, valued at \$69,242
 Stores - 90, with goods valued at \$191,538
 Pounds of hemp - 2,502
 Bushels of oats - 27,785
 Mules - 2,366, valued at \$135,620
 Libraries - 27, consisting of 5,869 volumes, valued at \$6,160

Taxable property in the City of Elizabethtown amounted to \$704,654. In 1906 the whole amount of taxable property was \$538,173. The total gain in 1907 is the sum of \$166,481, which is a little over thirty percent. It would seem that every \$3 invested in real estate one year ago has rolled around and found one other dollar to be added to it. This is a most remarkable increase and shows where to go to invest money. Of the increase, however, \$80,000 is due to an assessment of the city's two banks, which heretofore was not made.

(Source: *The Elizabethtown News*, various 1907 issues.)

M. J. J.



THE COURTHOUSE CLOCK

December 5, 1932, was a memorable day in downtown Elizabethtown. A few minutes past noon, the fire alarm on the roof of the City Hall sounded and volunteer firemen rushed to get the fire engine at the fire house at 111 West Dixie. They were shocked to learn that the Hardin County Courthouse in the center of the Public Square was afire. It started in the second story or perhaps in the cupola and badly damaged the building. Fortunately, all of the records were saved. The shell that remained was demolished and the present courthouse was built in the same location.

This is not a story of the courthouse fire, however, but rather of the clock located in the cupola. The building was erected in 1872. In 1907 a committee composed of representatives of the city and the county agreed to purchase a handsome large clock to be placed in the tower of the building. It was purchased from the E. Howard Clock Co. of New York at a cost of \$550, including complete apparatus of dial works, shafting and connections, and shipping charges. One-third of the cost was paid by the city and two-thirds by the county.

It was installed in July, 1907, and was a handsome addition to the town. It was the full capacity of the cupola, each of its four dials being four feet in diameter. The dials were of fine plate glass, with eight-inch hour figures. Behind these were arranged electric lights so that the time could be read all over town by night as well as by day. It was warranted against all original defects for a period of five years and was guaranteed not to vary more than thirty seconds per month. It struck the hours and struck one at each half-hour.

So far as I have been able to determine, it perished in the fire of 1932.
