

Bits and Pieces

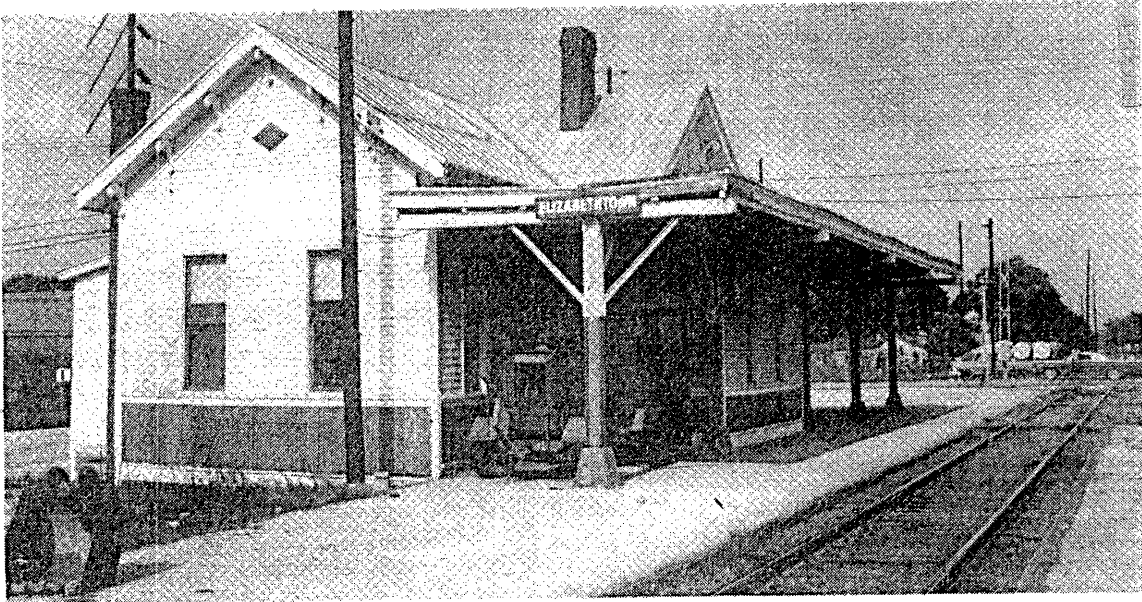
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Elizabethtown's L&N Railroad Depot

ELIZABETHTOWN'S L&N RAILROAD DEPOT

The railroad station pictured here is believed to have been the third such building erected by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in Elizabethtown. The first station was burned by John Hunt Morgan's Confederate raiders in December, 1862, when Elizabethtown was captured. Two years later, in December, 1864, Confederate General Lyons raided the town, captured the garrison of 45 soldiers, who were paroled. The station, stockade and two railroad bridges were burned at that time.

The above picture, taken from the south, shows the passenger waiting room. The water tower was located directly across the tracks from this station, and the freight station was located across the tracks about two hundred yards south of this site. The "baggage room" occupied space in the north end of the building shown. Here the agent "checked" trunks and other large pieces of baggage, which were hauled in the baggage cars attached to the passenger trains. Here also

were handled the Railroad Express packages which moved by way of Express cars, usually a part of the passenger trains. For many years a paved and covered walkway extended south from the station along the tracks for perhaps one hundred yards, in order that passengers boarding the rear cars on the train would be protected from the weather.

It is interesting to note that John L. Helm of Elizabethtown, who was the first president of the L&N Railroad, caused to be written into the charter that all regularly-run passenger trains should stop at Elizabethtown, and that covenant was observed as long as passenger trains passed through the town.

The station is gone, and it, as well as the passenger trains with their baggage and Express cars, are only memories.

M. J. J.

HOME REMEDIES

Local persons have through the years managed to concoct remedies for people's various ailments. Haycraft's *History of Elizabethtown* relates that Dr. Ambrose Geoghegan, who had a large and successful practice in and around Elizabethtown, produced a powerful medicine which he called "Hydropiper." It was composed of prickly ash, smart weed, walnut leaves, brandy and sugar, mixed so as to produce a pleasant-tasting medicine. Geoghegan, in partnership with other local practitioners Dr. B. R. Young and Dr. Harvey Slaughter, manufactured a large quantity. The venture was so successful that the initial supply of Hydropiper was not sufficient to meet the demands, as its fame spread far and wide.

Another local entrepreneur was Charles Horace Wintersmith. Following service in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, Wintersmith, a son of Elizabethtown merchant Horatio G. Wintersmith, returned to Hardin County and made his home on a farm near West Point. In 1868 he formed a partnership with Louisvillians Walter Haldeman and Arthur Peter, a wholesale druggist, and organized the Wintersmith Chemical Company. The firm created and began the manufacture of "Wintersmith's Chill Tonic." This tonic became a well-known home remedy that had wide acceptance, not only in this country but in many foreign lands. Its production and sale continued for many years.

(Sources: Samuel Haycraft, *History of Elizabethtown*; D.E. McClure, *Two Centuries in Elizabethtown and Hardin County*.)

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JOHN JAMES AUDUBON



Elizabethtown has counted among its citizens many famous persons, one of whom was John James Audubon, who once was a merchant here. This might be termed mere tradition except for the statement of Samuel Haycraft, Jr., in his *History of Elizabethtown*, who wrote as follows:

Audubon & Rozier were also merchants in town at an early date. Their clerk was James Hackley, who afterwards became an officer in the regular army, one of the most starchy and fine dressing men that ever lived in our town.

This is the same Mr. Audubon who has since been world renowned as the greatest ornithologist in the world, and has traveled through the United States, Central and South America, torrid, frigid and temperate zones, and has furnished the world the most complete specimens and descriptions of the feathered tribes, from the humming-bird and the sparrow up to the Condor, Ostrich, and Cassowary, with all the grave and splendid plumages that adorn or beautify the birds of creation.

It is not definitely known where the Audubon and Rozier store was located or the dates it was in Elizabethtown. However, as Audubon was in Louisville during the period from 1807 to 1810, it is likely that it was during that time. Some have speculated that the two young business men might have arrived in Elizabethtown with a Conestoga wagon filled with merchandise which they sold for a brief period, either from their store on wheels or from a building which they rented for a short time; and when their stock of goods was sold, moved on to a new field of exploitation.

Audubon in his writings tells of another visit to Hardin County. He wrote that in the autumn of 1813 he left his house in Henderson en route to Louisville. When he had passed Hardinsburg, he saw passenger pigeons flying in greater numbers than he had ever seen. He wrote, "I dismounted, seated myself on an eminence, and began to mark with my pencil, making a dot for every flock that passed. In a short time finding the task which I had undertaken impracticable, as the birds poured in in countless multitudes, I rose, and counting the dots then put down, found that 163 had been made in twenty-one minutes. I traveled on, and still met more the farther I proceeded. . . ."

