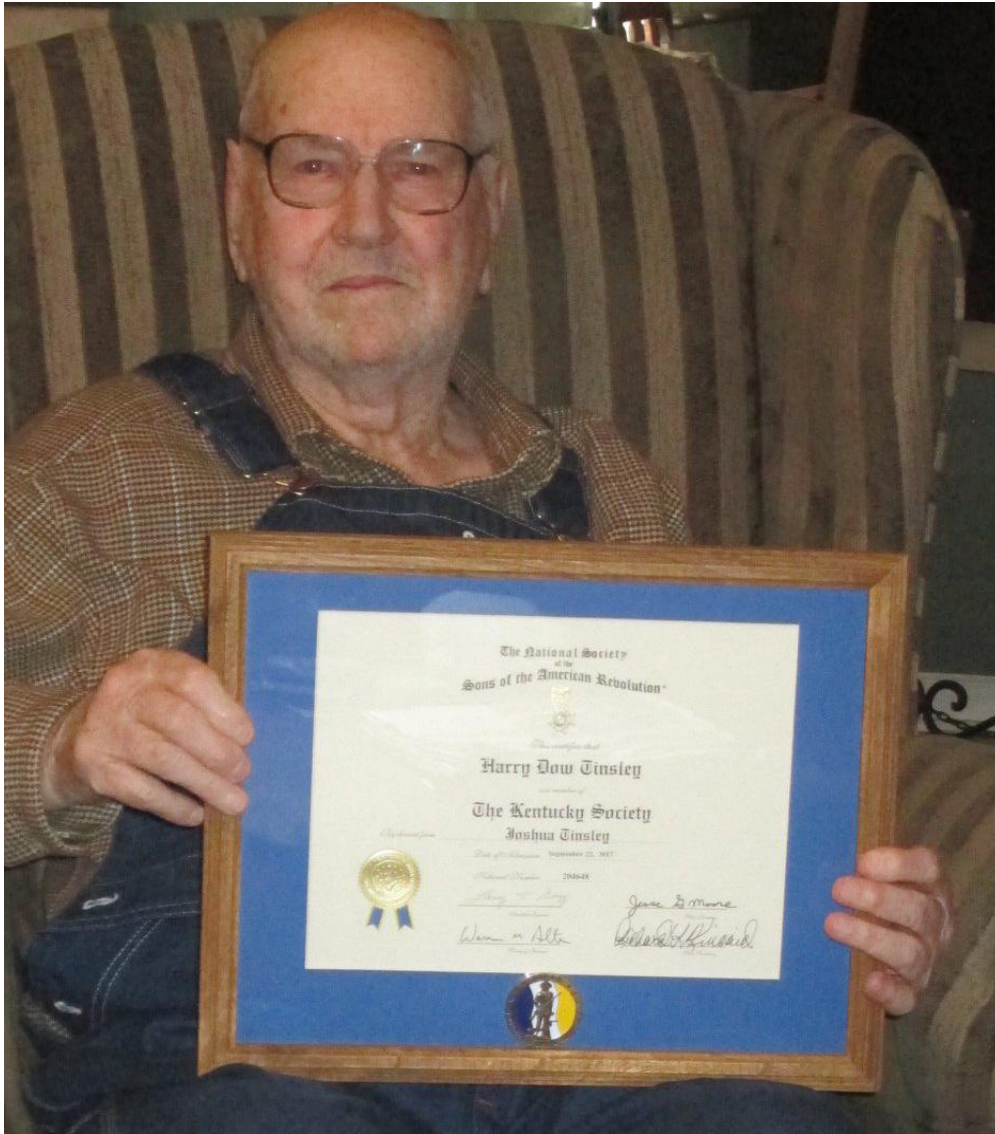


# Harry D. Tinsley

(18 August 1923 – 25 March 2020)

By Jerry Long

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 29 March 2020, p2B:



Harry D. sadly passed away Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at Ohio County Healthcare, at the age of 96.

Harry D. retired as a farmer and had formerly served as a magistrate in Ohio County. He was an expert and well-known historian, having dedicated thousands of hours researching and documenting the history of the county. He authored the book "History of No Creek" and a weekly column in an Ohio County newspaper titled "Lineage Lines." He was a member of the

Mt. Hermon Methodist Church and member of the Lt. Robert Moseley Chapter Sons of the American Revolution. Above all, he was very proud to have lived all of his life in and near the No Creek community of Ohio County.

In addition to his parents, Harry D. was preceded in death by two brothers Charles Tinsley and Lester Tinsley, a sister Grace Tinsley Minor and a great-great nephew Phoenix Howard.

Harry D. is survived by his niece Edna May (Phillip) Nantz of Beaver Dam; great niece Natalie (Jason) Howard and great-great nephew Xavier "Oz" Howard of Hartford.

A private family burial for Harry D. will be conducted at Mount Hermon Cemetery in Ohio County, due to current circumstances. A compatriot grave marking ceremony will be held at a later date, at his grave site.

With Harry D. being a trustee for the Mt. Hermon Cemetery, expressions of sympathy could be sent to Mt. Hermon Cemetery Trust; P.O. Box 61, Hartford, KY 42347

Miller Schapmire Funeral Home is both honored and privileged to be entrusted with the care of Mr. Tinsley. Share your messages of condolence with the family of Harry Tinsley at [www.millerschapmire.com](http://www.millerschapmire.com)

**Phone call: From Gary Tunget, Owensboro, KY, to Jerry Long, 26 March 2020:**

Gary called to tell me that Harry D. Tinsley, Ohio County historian, died last night. When I began researching local family history in 1979 I contacted Mr. Tinsley. He was a unique character. A farmer he published a book, "History of No Creek, Ohio County, Kentucky" in 1953, and wrote a genealogy column, "Lineage Lines", for the "Ohio County Times" newspaper for over 20 years. He had a vast knowledge of the history of Ohio County and its families. He had an interest in history since a young boy. In 1937 he gave a talk at the dedication of a memorial marker for Revolutionary War soldier, Jesse Ashby, at Centertown. He transcribed many of the counties cemeteries and had access to the old newspapers of Ohio County. He visited the county courthouse frequently and assisted whoever was there. Many sought him out to learn about their families or the history of the county. He remembered many family stories and with his death a tremendous wealth of knowledge is lost. In 1978 Robert M. Rennick, author of "Kentucky Place Names" (1984) interviewed Mr. Tinsley for his book. Several hours of his interview can be found as part of the Robert M. Rennick Oral History Collection at the Morehead State University (on the internet at <https://scholarworks.moreheadstate.edu/>, in 6 parts).

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**e-mail: To Gary Tunget, Owensboro, KY, from Jerry Long, 28 March 2020:**

Gary,

Robert M. Rennick, author of "Kentucky Place Names" (1984) interviewed Harry D. for his book on 25 August 1978. The interview was conducted at Harry D.'s home. I downloaded the files from the Morehead State University's Web site where Rennick's oral history tapes are stored:

[https://scholarworks.moreheadstate.edu/do/search/?q=corporate\\_author%3A%22Ohio%20County%2C%20Kentucky%22&start=0&context=7186373](https://scholarworks.moreheadstate.edu/do/search/?q=corporate_author%3A%22Ohio%20County%2C%20Kentucky%22&start=0&context=7186373)

The interview is approximately four hours long. It is divided into 6 separate files. I first planned to e-mail each of the 6 files to you by attaching each to a separate e-mail. However, when I tried this my e-mail program (Yahoo) said the attachment exceeded the size limit. At this point to hear the files you will have to go to the above Web page and hit the download button for each of the 6 files. Each download will take several minutes (about 10 on my computer). The downloads will be stored in the "Downloads" folder on your computer. After downloading you can move them to another folder or save them to a jump drive. If it were not for the current virus situation I would get a jump external drive, save the files to it and bring it to you.

On the downloaded files when you double click on each of the files your computer should give you an option of what program on your computer that you want to open the file with. On my computer I selected VLC Media Player. If your computer does not have this program it should have Windows Media Player. If your computer does not open it automatically after double clicking on it I would right click once on the file and look for "open with" and select a media player program.

The interview was conducted almost exactly one year prior to my beginning my family history odyssey and my first visit to the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library. After beginning my adventure I selected one contact persons from each of the three primary counties where my family was located to assist in my search. In Ohio County, KY I selected - Harry D. Tinsley; in Hancock County, KY - Dorothy Watkins; and in Perry County, IN - Doris Leistner. Over a quarter of a century I contacted Harry D. numerous times and we talked family history and compared notes for hours on end. He was my time machine into the past. He was truly a unique character.

Keep safe!

Jerry Long

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Owensboro, KY newspaper articles with references to Harry D. Tinsley: See also Owensboro Messenger – 1946 : 5/19 p.7B ("Reunion of Ragland Family Is Held", was held on Mother's Day at the Rosine Methodist Church, a sketch of the family's history was given by Harry D. Tinsley), Messenger-Inquirer - 1966: 3/20 p.5C ("Oldest Cemetery Markers", to be discussed by Harry D. Tinsley at a meeting of the Ohio County Historical Society at the Ohio County Courthouse on March 21; he has inspected most of the old burial grounds in Ohio County); Messenger-Inquirer - 2017: 11/8 Community p.4 (Spotlight", (members of the Lt. Robert Moseley Chapter Sons of the American Revolution Kentucky presented local Ohio County historian Harry D. Tinsley his membership certificate and pin on Oct. 1 at his home; in 1937, after attending a Daughter's of the American Revolution marker unveiling for Patriot Jess Ashby in 1937, Tinsley become interested in history and decided he wanted to become a member of the Sons of the American Revolution; eighty years later he did; Tinsley's membership was approved Sept. 22 after he traced his genealogy to prove he has 10 patriot ancestors who served in the American Revolution)

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The "Lineage Lines", a genealogy-history column by Harry D. Tinsley (1923-2020), was published in the Hartford, KY newspapers Ohio County News and Ohio County Times-News (3 August 1972 - 20 August 1998). The newspapers were published weekly. In some weeks his column did not appear.

In 2011 Jerry Long made copies of all of Mr. Tinsley's columns and compiled them into a 7-volume set that was placed in the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro, KY (catalog # KR 976.9835 Tins) and at the Ohio County Public Library in Hartford, KY.

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Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 21 January 1999, p1A:

#### Harry D. retires

For many years "Lineage Lines" appeared in the Ohio County News and more recently in the Ohio County Times-News under Harry D. Tinsley's byline.

That weekly column no longer will be part of The Times-News, at least not under Tinsley's name.

Several months ago, for reported health reasons, Tinsley decided he no longer could devote the time needed to properly prepare his genealogy report. And to date, the newspaper has been unable to find a suitable replacement.

"We know Mr. Tinsley's column was a popular feature in the Times-News, particularly for those interested in the importance of family histories," said Dave McBride, editor of the newspaper. However, Harry D. decided to call it quits but hopefully the void left by his departure will not be of a long duration.

McBride pointed out that true genealogy reporters are not easy to come by.

"It takes a special person with an exacting concern for genealogy to be able to produce the results supplied by Harry D.," McBride said. "We regret having lost Harry D.'s services and filling the void he leaves will not be easy."

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Ohio County Messenger, Beaver Dam, KY, Friday, 12 March 1954:

#### No Creek Writer Publishes Community History

And now for an interlude, which, I believe the family of today's Beaver Dam citizen subject, the readers of this column and its sponsor will all approve, especially in view of the fact that the young man to be introduced, Ohio County's newest author, Harry D. Tinsley, is a nephew of Thurman L. Ragland, head of the T. L Ragland & Son general store here and one of this city's leading citizens, and also because of the patent propriety of prompt announcement to Ohio countians and other students of county history of the availability of such a valuable volume as Mr. Tinsley has published.

Any research in the history of Ohio County or any of its component communities and the publication of the information and source material derived therefrom are necessarily of interest, in a degree, to all Ohio countians, but especially to those who are "history-minded". Therefore, the publication just recently of a "History of No Creek", by Harry D. Tinsley, a native and

resident of that community, is sure to prove of inestimable value in enabling a student of the general history of the county to understand the historical and geographical ramifications of the myriad No Creek families or individuals, whether still residing on their native heath or now living in adopted homes.

Mr. Tinsley's history of his home neighborhood is, the writer believes, practically the last word on its subject. It is based on years of indefatigable and accurate research. Its value to his community and county. Its value will, undoubtedly, become more apparent as the years go by.

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Ohio County News, Hartford, KY, Friday, 26 February 1954:

Young Farmer Turns Historian  
And Publishes 310-Page Book

A Review  
By Lyman Gentry Barrett

On my desk before me at this moment lies a 310-page clothbound book, and, in gold letters on a background of red I see engraven the title, "History of No Creek, Ohio County, Kentucky." Underneath this is the name of the author, Harry D. Tinsley..

As I turn its pages, just before reaching the table of contents I observe a picture of an attractive woman and note the dedicatory lines; "To The Memory of My Mother, Eva M. (Ragland) Tinsley."

Continuing to thumb through the attractive, well printed volume, I find that it contains more than 30 chapters in addition to sections devoted to genealogy and to Biographical Sketches, and that a total of 19 pictures illustrate its pages.

I had read a great deal of the manuscript before the material was sent to Roberts Printing Company, Frankfort, for publication, but as I see the book in its completed form I cannot help but marvel at the wealth of information it contains.

Much Research Performed

Harry D., now only 30 years of age, and perhaps his communities most eligible bachelor, graduated from Hartford high school in 1941. His father is William Levega (Vigor) Tinsley. His mother, to whom he dedicated the history, died in 1951. She had for several years of her life been a school teacher. The author son has long been No Creek correspondent for The Ohio County News, and since boyhood has been gathering information about his section's past. He has devoted much time to research in recent years, in order to insure accuracy.

There is naturally a certain amount of amateurishness about the book and in some instances sentences and paragraphs wander away from the rules of strict rhetoric, but all in all the tome is no accomplishment of which the author may justly feel proud, and one for which Ohio countians and their kinsmen should always feel grateful. As the author says in his introduction: "That the records now rescued from oblivion and herein contained will be more and more prized by generations to come, there can no doubt,"

Family trees which have their roots embedded in the good earth of No Creek branch out in many directions. Numerous descendants of early settlers there have gone out into the world and have attained high places in many lines of endeavor.

The history of No Creek is so closely interwoven with the history of Ohio county that young Mr. Tinley's book is a "must" for every one of the school libraries in the county and is almost a "must" for every home, its bearing upon Kentucky history makes the volume a worthwhile edition to any library in the state.

#### Chapter Titles Listed

Although space here does not permit - discussion of the various phases of the community's history treated, one can readily see from the following chapter titles that there is much of interest contained within its pages:

Origin of the name of No Creek, No Creek M. E. Church, Old White Oak School, Old Water Mill, No Creek School, Wesley Chapel M. E. Church, No Creek Parsonages, Play Given Over Radio, No Creek Store, No Creek Post Office, West No Creek School, Old Mill Cemetery, Carson Cemetery, Alexander Cemetery, No Creek Family Plots, Cyclone of 1890, Marriages Performed by Rev. J. A Bennett, Tree Cut in 1866 Still Mighty Oak, Capt. William Earl Mack Bennett, Memorial Day Services at No Creek Reviewed, Civil War Letter, Tinsley Ancestral Home, Residence of Mrs. Una Lindley Believed to Be Oldest, History of Wardtown, Aunt Ellen Barnett Family Home, Death of Capt. A. M. Barnett, Hartford Herald Preserved, Odd Bits of History, The Stevens Family, The No Creek Bennetts, Joseph and Alexander Barnett and Barnett's Station, The Baird Family.

Genealogies and biographical sketches not listed above occupy the final 100 pages of the book. History of No Creek: By Harry D. Tinsley, Route 3, Hartford, Ky. 310 pages, \$3.50, Add 25c for mailing.

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The following is the Introduction by Harry D. Tinsley to his book, History of No Creek, Ohio County, Kentucky (1953):

#### INTRODUCTION

Several years ago—even when a school boy—the author commenced the collection of records relating to his native community, but not with a view of publication; not until just recently did it occur to him that the results of his researches might one day reach the printer and then only at the urgent request of those who were familiar with the data he had accumulated after an incredible amount of letters and labor.

In a work of this kind, containing so much data and names, and with reliance for the facts relating thereto and to some extent based upon information received from such a number of sources, it must of necessity, be impossible not to fall into some errors, but wherever possible, every effort was made to verify and secure accuracy where possible.

Not one in ten thousand—only such as have had experience in historical inquiries—understands or appreciates the immense labor, the personal research, and extensive correspondence required to collate a history, materials relating to the early settlers, and their widely scattered and numerous descendants through a period of so many years. When this small edition of this book is exhausted it will be impossible to secure a copy at any price.

The compiler, in closing his work of love, would feel a deep regret did he send it forth without expressing his unbounded gratitude to the many correspondents—to the thoughtful assistance of friends—who have aided him with valuable facts. This inadequate expression of thanks it is hoped will be accepted by all.

That the records now rescued from oblivion and herein contained will be more and more prized by generations to come, there can be no doubt. So there is indeed pleasurable satisfaction, on the part of the author of these annals, in thus having done something, in grateful reverence, to help enshrine, in a permanent memorial, the lives and virtues of his ancestors and kindred.

No Creek, Kentucky, May 21, 1953.

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History of No Creek, Ohio County, Kentucky, by Harry D. Tinsley (1953, Roberts Printing Company, Frankfort, KY, 310 pages, indexed, reprinted in 2001):

First published in 1953, this is a high quality reprint of the history of the area just north of Hartford, Ky. In addition to area history, there are genealogical sketches of the founding families of the community, and several photographs. These are chapter headings.

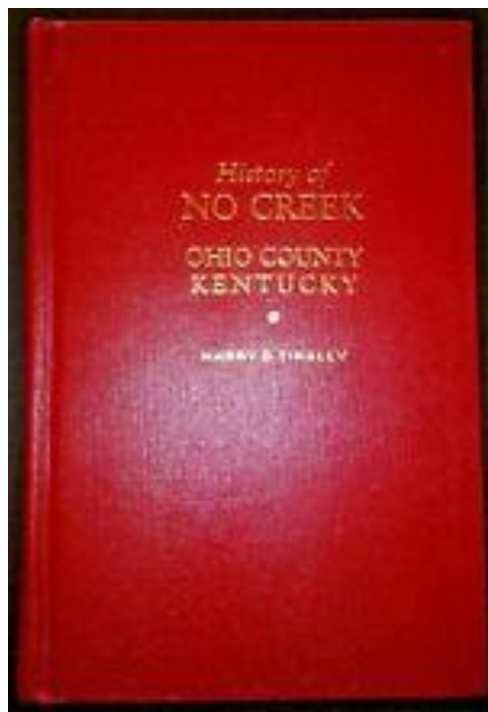
- Origin of the Name No Creek
- The No Creek Bennetts
- The Stevens Family
- Joseph and Alexander Barnett and Barnett's Station
- The Baird Family
- No Creek Methodist Episcopal Church
- Old White Oak School
- Old Water Mill
- No Creek School
- Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church
- No Creek Parsonages
- Play Given Over Radio
- No Creek Store
- No Creek Post Office
- West No Creek Store
- Old Mill Cemetery
- Carson Cemetery
- Alexander Cemetery
- No Creek Family Plots
- The Cyclone of 1890
- Marriages Performed by Rev. J. A. Bennett
- Tree Cut in 1865 Is Still Agt Might Oak
- Captain William Earl Mack Bennett
- Memorial Day Services at No Creek Reviewed
- Civil War Letter Written in 1863 Quoted
- The Tinsley Ancestral Home
- Residence of Mrs. Una Lindley Believed to Be Oldest in Area
- History of Wardtown
- Aunt Ellen Barnett Family Home
- Death of Capt. A. M. Barnett
- Hartford Herald Is Preserved

- Odd Bits of History
- Genealogy Section
- Biographical Sketches

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In 2001 Jerry Long posted the following notice in the periodicals, Kentucky Explorer, Kentucky Ancestors (Kentucky Historical Society) and The Bulletin (West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association) and on several Internet genealogy message boards:

“One of the leading source books on Ohio County, KY is once again available. The book, History of No Creek, Ohio County, Kentucky, after being out of print for several years has recently been reprinted by its author, Harry D. Tinsley. The 310-page book was first printed in 1953. It contains a wealth of historical information about this section of Ohio County a short distance northwest of Hartford. It includes a genealogy and biographical section as well as 19 pictures. Among the genealogies are the families of Baird, Barnett, Bennett, Benton, Carson, Chapman, Craig, Ellis, Foster, Greer, Hipsley, McCormick, Sanderfur, Shown, Stevens, Tinsley, Wallace, Ward and Westerfield. Mr. Tinsley is possibly the premier Ohio County historian. For the Ohio County News he wrote the No Creek community column for many years and the genealogy column, "Lineage Lines", which appeared weekly for over twenty years. He has visited practically every known cemetery in the county and has copied many of them. An almost daily visitor to the Ohio County Courthouse he has given freely of his time and knowledge in assisting genealogists. A copy of Mr. Tinsley's book can be obtained by writing to him at 2450 Livermore Road, Hartford, KY 42347. He is requesting \$33.95 (plus \$2.50 postage if mailed).”





History of No Creek, Ohio County, Kentucky, by Harry D. Tinsley (1953, Roberts Printing Company, Frankfort, KY, pp156-159):

### THE TINSLEY ANCESTRAL HOME

(A reprint from The Ohio County News, April 29, 1949)

One of the oldest landmarks of this section of Ohio County, now fast falling into decay, is the ancestral home of the Tinsleys in this county, located on a 50-acre tract of land between No Creek and Beda. Before it came into the possession of the Tinsley family in 1839, it belonged in succession to the Bennetts, Wards and Carsons, also leading pioneer families of that community. Though now owned by heirs of Mrs. Martha Ward, it is known as "the Aunt Ann Kerns place." The exact date of the erection of this dwelling is not known, but it was certainly as far back as 1828 and it probably dates from an even earlier period. Facing the South, on a hill from which one can see much of the surrounding country, it originally consisted of one main log room and shedroom. From time to time there were added, in the order named, another frame room and a front porch, with a bedroom on one end. The stone chimney, unlike most chimneys, is set to one side of the center of the room, thus making one large corner and one small one.

It is my understanding that the original dwelling was built by Nathan Bennett, grandfather of the present Nathan Bennett, of Beda, the former married one Martha Ward. My uncle, W. R. Carson, Sr., of near Beds, relates that his grandfather, Lindsey R. Carson, planted corn on this farm the day he was married that night. His marriage to Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Warfield) Stevens, took place in 1826. Where they spent the first two years of their married life is not known, but a deed recorded in the county clerk's office shows that in 1828 Lindsey Carson purchased the property, under consideration, then consisting of 162 acres, from Hezekiah Ward and his wife, Eleanor. It was in this house that eight of the thirteen children of Lindsey and Elizabeth Carson were born. These children were the direct lineal forbears of all the Carsons now residing in Hartford and Ohio County. Mr. and Mrs. Carson continued to live in this house until 1839, when upon the death of the latter's father, she and her husband bought the interest of her only sister, Charlotte, wife of Joseph B. Barnett, in their father's farm, located just East of the Carson Cemetery, and removed their family to it. On December 11, of the same year, the Carsons conveyed the 162-acre tract to Mildred Tinsley for \$850.



The Tinsley Home

Widow of Banister Tinsley, Mrs. Mildred Tinsley had emigrated from near Bedford, Virginia. Her three married sons, Joseph, Joshua, father of the late Woodbury Tinsley, once Hartford postmaster; Absalom, my great grandfather, and her daughter, Martha, who married Washington Duke, settled elsewhere in the vicinity. In 1850 Mrs. Tinsley purchased an additional 50 acres from the heirs of Basil Ward. She owned a number of slaves, having had 26 grown ones at one time. Their quarters were located West of the home of their mistress one of their cabins being still standing, my father recalls, when he was a boy. The number of slaves she owned when they were freed is not known. Boss of her slaves was "old Louis," who was still with her when emancipation came. He then settled in the Washington community where he died February 11, 1899 and was buried the next day on "Gibson's place." My father attended the burial. The next morning he recalls that the unofficial temperature at Beaver Dam was 42 degrees below zero with similar low readings elsewhere in this and other parts of Kentucky.

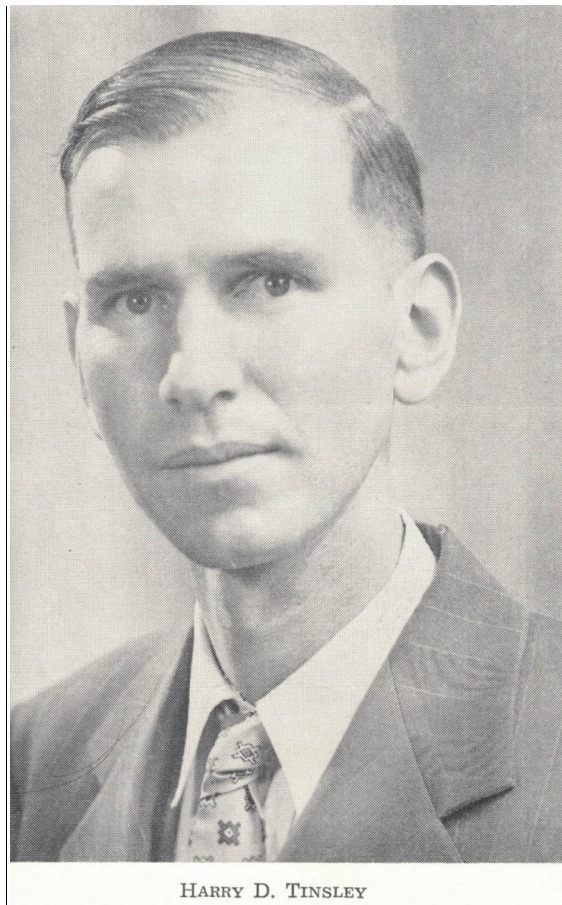
"Grandma" continued to reside at the old home until 7 her death December 8, 1866, at the age of 94, she having been born October 11, 1772. She was buried beside her son, Joseph, who had died in 1860, in the Tinsley family cemetery near the Jesse Hudson residence, near Beda. Her other sons, Joshua, who died in 1843, at the age of 32, and Absalom, who died in 1850, at the age of 41, are buried in the Alexander Cemetery. Her sons having preceded her in death and there being infant heirs, her farm was sold at a Master Commissioner's sale on April 5, 1871 for \$1,900, to her grandson and my grandfather, Joshua Tinsley, the heirs conveying by Sam K. Cox, Master Commissioner.

My grandfather, Joshua Tinsley had married Miriam Shaver in 1869 and they now settled on this ancestral farm which comprised the present farms of Mrs. Lizzie Tinsley, Allen Miller, "the Duke farm," five acres he later conveyed to Corvis Ward and the original 50 acres, now owned by 4 the Ward heirs. This home, was the birthplace of seven of the nine children of Joshua and Miriam Tinsley, including my father. Grandpa built a new home where Mrs. Lizzie Tinsley's residence now stands and moved it May 12, 1884, having sold the original 50 acres and residence to his uncle, James Kerns, who, with his wife, Aunt Ann, resided there until Uncle Jim's death in the early '90's. After the death of their daughter, Mrs. Sam Miles Hamilton, Aunt "Ann went to Louisville where she lived with her other daughter, Mrs. Emma Moreland, until her death in 1916 at an advanced age. Her body was returned and buried beside her husband and daughter in the Old Mill burying ground. The Kerns sold the old place to A. A. Sheffield in 1910 and he sold it the next year to Mrs. Martha Ward. During this period it was used as a tenant house for several years.

Of interest to students of Ohio County's pioneer days as well as to our family is the fact that a lunch basket which the family of Mildred Tinsley brought from Virginia is now in the possession of Mrs. Lonnie Hoover. It belonged to her grandmother, Mildred Tinsley Bennett Barnett, who was a daughter of Absalom Tinsley. A large wheat bin, which belonged to the latter, is now owned by Mrs. Lizzie Tinsley. His home was owned by his youngest son, James K. Polk Tinsley, until his death in 1933, but is now owned by the Wards.



Harry D. Tinsley, 13 February 1990



HARRY D. TINSLEY