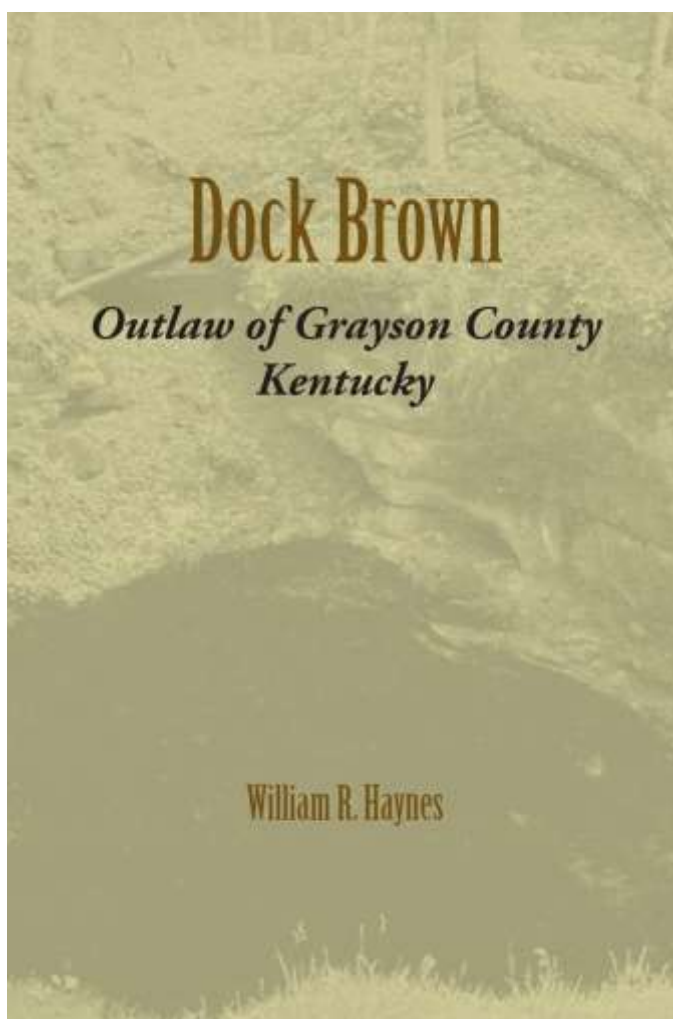


# Dock Brown

## Outlaw of Grayson County, Kentucky

By Jerry Long  
c.2025



Cover of 2017 edition published  
by Commonwealth Book Company, Inc.



Most of the names used in the account of Grayson County's notorious outlaw in the book, Dock Brown The Outlaw of Grayson County, Kentucky, written in 1876 by William R. Haynes, are those of persons who actually existed. Col. Haynes drew upon his imagination to fill in some events that are not actually known about the Browns. In the initial publication of the book 1,000 copies were made. The popularity of the book has required the publication of several subsequent editions. It has been reprinted as a serial in the Leitchfield, KY newspapers in 1902, 1928, 1950, 1955, 1970 and 1983. A play, Dock Brown - Legend of an Outlaw, written by Honus Shain, Jr., during 1987-2019 was an annual event on "Dock Brown Day" at the Pine Knob Outdoor Theatre, 2250 Pine Knob Rd., Caneyville, KY.

See also biography of the author, William Robert Haynes (1845-1923), on the website West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy (Biographies section):

<https://wckyhistory-genealogy.org/>



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 29 September 1875, p.3:**

Our Caneyville Letter – "THE DOCK BROWN STORY." Before many months shall roll by, Grayson county can boast of an author of a book of interest to every citizen of the county. The Grayson County Herald says: Will. R. Haynes, author of the celebrated "Dock Brown story," has perfected arrangements for the publication of the same in book form." The idea of a romance of the nature of the "Dock Brown story," founded on facts actually occurring in our midst, and that we have a young man able to expose all the hidden mysteries of the same, and hand them to us in the form of a nice book, is enough to buoy up the hearts of our citizens.



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 6 October 1875, p.2:**

W. R. HAYNES, Esq., of Leitchfield, is getting up a history of the life and doings and daring deeds and criminal acts of DOCK BROWN, alias DOCK HOPPER. DOCK Brown's crimes were committed in this part of the world, and the work is written up in a very pleasant and entertaining style, and will sell well in the Green River country.



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 21 August 1878, p.1:**

Caneyville Letter – On last Sunday we visited old Pine Knob, the scene of so many romantic incidents connected with the Browns, of Grayson county, years ago. The old house in which old man Brown was killed, is still standing. The surrounding ruins all go to show that at some time in the past this was a favorite place, and a great resort for the Browns and their followers. We were startled at the hissing sound of a large rattlesnake as we approached the graves (which have been sadly neglected for the past twenty years). While standing around the graves every thing of which we were familiar connected with – their lives and tragic end – came vividly before us.

The lofty pine, sighing a mournful requiem, and every thing surrounding us with thoughts and reflections, of which we will speak more fully in our next. So-So.



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 12 May 1880, p.1:**

Litchfield, Ky – Hon Will Haynes new book, "Dock Brown," has made its appearance. It is a very neat volume, bound in paper cover, and is, I suppose, a very interesting story to readers of that character of literature.



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 19 May 1880, p.3:**

We have received from the author, W. R. Haynes, Esqr., of Litchfield, a copy of "Dock Brown, or the Outlaw of Grayson." Persons wanting this delightful story must apply at once, as they are going rapidly, and only 1,000 have been published. It will prove very interesting to the old citizens of both Ohio and Grayson counties. Price 75 cents.



**Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 9 June 1880, p.3:**

We have just finished reading "Dock Brown, The Out-law of Grayson" and find it to be written in a very interesting style and is, in the' main, entirely reliable, It will prove exceedingly interesting to persons in Grayson and all the adjoining counties where most of his outrages were perpetrated.



**Leitchfield Gazette, Leitchfield, KY, Friday, 20 January 1928, p.1:**

**Dock Brown, or The Outlaw of Grayson County**

Story of Grayson County Bandits  
Written by Col. William R. Haynes  
Starts In This Issue of Gazette

WRITTEN IN YEAR OF 1876

After the passing of 25 years and many requests, The Leitchfield Gazette is again publishing the of "Dock Brown, or the Outlaw story in Grayson," in serial form, beginning this issue. This story was last published during the year 1902 when Robert L. White was editor of The Gazette.

William R. Haynes is the author of the story, which he wrote in the year 1876. Col. Haynes was lawyer in Leitchfield at that time. He was born March 15, 1845, in Grayson county, and died October 10, 1923, at Anadarko, Oklahoma. Some of the old-times here now describe Mr. Haynes as having been a fair lawyer and an exceedingly good judge of drinking whiskey. He left Leitchfield some thirty or thirty five years ago.

Those who are not acquainted with the story will find it does not deal with Grayson county on the start, but goes back to the beginning family of the Hopper, alias Brown family in Tennessee. Mr. Haynes' description of Pine Knob and its inhabitants is very fitting and gives an idea of conditions here almost one hundred years ago.

Col. Haynes doubtless drew somewhat on his imagination in relating some of the details, but as to the character of these criminals and their crimes, there is no question, and in the following narrative is the authentic registry of their dastardly deeds from the time of the killing of Stockstill by the father in Tennessee, to the double homicide of the two brothers in the same state some years later which terminated their bloody career.



**Abstract of book, Dock Brown Outlaw of Grayson County, Kentucky,  
by William R. Haynes, on Amazon.com:**

In 1842 Gillium Hopper, Jr., alias "Dock Brown," arrived in Pine Knob, Grayson County, Kentucky, along with his brother Pinkney and his father Gillium Hopper, Sr., alias "John Brown." Another brother, Moses, joined them from Indiana. For the next nine years, these fugitive criminals continued their murderous ways. Dock Brown married Emily Ross, in the process killing her brother and eventually killing his own father to cover up the crime. The "Browns" robbed travelers, murdering them and depositing their bodies in nearby Big Mouth Cave. In the end, the remaining "Brown" brothers killed each other and the Kentucky saga came to a violent end.



**Family Tree of John (Hopper) Brown,  
WiKi Tree ( <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hopper-139> ):**

Gillum Hopper, aka John Brown, was born about October 17, 1776 in Amherst County, Virginia, United States. He is the son of Thomas Hopper and June Elizabeth. Gillum is living with his uncle, Charles Gilley, in Guilford County, North Carolina when his half-brother Moses Edwards came from Pittsylvania County, Virginia in 1781, per the Revolutionary War Pension application of Moses Edwards (aka Hopper). John Brown made a statement in regards to the pension of his half-brother Moses [Edwards] on May 23, 1845. He stated that he was seventy-five at the time, which would mean he was born about 1770, rather than 1776. John Brown (Gillum Hopper), father of Dock Brown, died on May 27, 1848 in Grayson County, Kentucky. He is buried at the Brown Cemetery in Pine Knob, Grayson County, KY. He married to Nancy Campbell about 1799. She was born about 1782 in North Carolina and died 1862 in Adams County, IL Children of John & Nancy were:

1. Gillum (Dock Brown) HOPPER b: WFT Est 1798-1828

[Note by Jerry Long – Dock Brown is listed in the 1850 Grayson County, KY Federal census as Doctor G. Brown, age 25, farmer, born Virginia; he was the only person listed at his residence.]

2. Samuel B. HOPPER b: 1 JAN 1800 in Pulaski, KY
3. Moses HOPPER b: 1802 in Pulaski, KY
4. William M(ayfield?) HOPPER b: 1804 in Pulaski, KY
5. James Townsend HOPPER b: 20 JUN 1806 in Christian, KY
6. Absalom C. HOPPER b: ABT 1808 in KY
7. Mary (Polly) HOPPER b: 24 MAR 1812 in Pulaski, KY
8. Pickney HOPPER b: 18 NOV 1816
9. Anna HOPPER b: 1820

Sources included: Descendants of Gillum Hopper (1776-1848) of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky, 1990, compiled by Helen Curry Deveny; and Dock Brown , The Outlaw of Grayson County (Kentucky), written in 1876 by William R. Haynes. Reprinted in 1950 by The Leitchfield (Ky.) Gazette.



### **Find A Grave:**

Dock Brown Cemetery At Pine Knob, Grayson County, Ky



There are two engraved monuments in the cemetery: Left: John Brown born 17 October 1776, VA, departed this life 27 May 1848; on 7 June 1986 this monument replaced the original stone that had disappeared. Right: P. H. (Pinkney Hopper) Brown born 18 November 1816 KY, departed this life 1 February 1848.

[Note – John & Pinkney Brown's surname was originally Hopper. John was the father and Pinkney the brother of the outlaw, Dock Brown (whose name was originally Guiliam Hopper, Jr.)]

The gravestone of Absolom Clark Hopper in the Hopper family cemetery at Dyer in Gibson County, Tennessee, records that he died on 15 September 1851. It is written in the book "Rutherford Revisited" in an article entitled "The Hopper Chair" and submitted by Mr. Joe Bone, that Absolom's outlaw brother, Gillum/Gilliam Hopper Jr., alias Dock Brown was buried in the Hopper family burial plot [at Dyer in Gibson County, TN]. According to the above mentioned article and the book "Dock Brown The Outlaw of Grayson County (Kentucky), 1876 by Colonel Wm. R. Haynes, Absolom and his brother, Guiliam died on the same day in a gun battle with each other. As quoted from "The Hopper Chair", "He (Guiliam Hopper) had been suspected of robbing and killing several people in Kentucky, including his own father and brother." Gilliam had been jailed. The article goes on to say that Gilliam's slaves had been sold to Absolom to help pay for court costs. Somehow Gilliam had gotten out of jail and Absolom had found his brother hiding outside of his farm in an attempt to steal back his slaves. A few hours after the gunbattle that had left Gilliam Hopper dead, Absolom died of his wounds in his home. An account of the battle, "The Gibson Tragedy", was published in the Tennessean, Nashville, TN on 30 September 1851 According to the account the combat took place on 18 September 1851 between A. C. Hopper, of Gibson County, TN and his brother, of Kentucky.



**Republican Banner, Nashville, TN, Tuesday, 30 September 1851, p.2:**

### **The Gibson Tragedy.**

The Trenton *Banner* gives the following particulars of the awful tragedy in Gibson county, spoken of by us several days since.

A mortal combat occurred a few miles from this, on the 18th instant between A. C. Hopper, a citizen of this county, and his brother, a resident of Kentucky. We will narrate the circumstances which led to this fatal difficulty, as they have been reported to us.

It seems that an elder brother of the Hoppers died in Kentucky, a few years since, a bachelor. He had some property, which a younger brother desired to keep, without making any division with his other brothers. The other brothers, including A. C. Hopper, insisted on a division, and had the property administered upon and sold. This greatly enraged their younger brother, who was a desperate character. – At the sale, A. C. Hopper purchased a negro woman and children, and brought them home. So things went on, this younger brother having threatened to kill or burn up those of his brothers who interfered in the property affairs of his deceased brother. A day or two previous to the 18th inst., A. C. Hopper learned that his younger brother was in ambush, – secreting himself in the woods, around about his plantation, and was armed as he suspected for the purpose of assassinating him, the first opportunity.



He procured one or two of his neighbors – armed himself, and with one of his sons proceeded to ascertain the whereabouts of his brother, and drive him from his lurking place. The company finally discovered him by the popping of a cap, snugly camped in the woods, with implements of death, one or two horses, & c. Immediately after popping the cap, he seized his rifle and fired upon A. C. Hopper. the contents taking effect. A. C. Hopper recovering somewhat from the effects of the shot – fired on his brother – having a doublebarrelled shot gun, he discharged the contents of both barrels , which took mortal effect. Both mortally wounded, now closed in on each other. – A. C. Hopper breaking his gun over the head of the other – cutting with knives, & c. The younger brother expired instantly – A. C. Hopper only living a few hours after he was carried to his residence.

Thus ended the most tragical and desperate affair. If accounts be true, society lost nothing by the death of the one from Kentucky; – but A. C. Hopper was one of our most industrious, estimable and good citizens. He leaves a wife and large family to mourn his premature and untimely.

[Note – this article was syndicated and was published in newspapers across the United States and also appeared in newspapers in England, Ireland and Scotland.]



A. C., husband of O. B. Hopper, born 22 October 1808, died 15 September 1851. Grave in Hopper Cemetery in Gibson County, TN. A brother of

Dock Brown, who is reportedly buried in an unmarked grave in the same cemetery.



**Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 9 July 1987, p.10A:**

## New outdoor theatre

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is reprinted from the Breckinridge County Herald-News, June 24, 1987.

By Betty Morris

If you enjoy true Kentucky history, pure Kentucky music, and the live entertainment of an outdoor theater, then Pine Knob is the place for you.

Here, one can travel back into the mid 1800s, and enjoy the production of "The Dock Brown Show" at the same time.

This show is based on a true story about a colorful outlaw from Grayson County, whose legend has proved as rugged and durable as the settlement itself.

### Setting

Pine Knob, a small hamlet, is hidden in a Grayson County hollow and surrounded by high, lush-green knolls. It is located a few miles off Highway 79, between Rough River Dam State Park and Caneyville.

The new 300-seat amphitheater is situated on tree-covered land that actually belonged to Dock Brown.

Peeking discreetly from behind the trees, the blue seats are the only sign of a theater. Surrounding the grassy, shaded area where the play actually takes place, one can find the old Pine Knob school and church; a rough-hewn log cabin; a private lake; picnic grounds; trails along the scenic Sinking Fork Creek, which winds its way between the Pine Knob Store and the knoll known as Pine Knob; two mysterious caverns known as Dick's Tobacco Barn and Big Mouth Cave, where Brown is said to have buried the men he murdered; and a unique diner with a look of the '50s.

Today's teenagers and folks of the '50s era would delight in the mementos within this diner. It is complete with red upholstered stools and booths, black and white checkered flooring, a fountain that serves sodas and cherry Cokes, and a Wurlitzer jukebox that plays '50s and '60s records.

This historical form of entertainment was created by Honus Shain Jr., a broadcasting executive, and his wife, Gabrielle, who has a master's degree in theater arts from the University of North Carolina.

Sham said, "This theater idea developed from our theatrical desires and my love for Pine Knob."

Shain, a Pine Knob native whose ancestors were among the first settlers in the area, wrote the two-act play, based on the book, *Dock Brown – The Outlaw of Grayson County*, written by Col. William R. Haynes in 1876. Shain also acts in and produces the play.

Shain, his wife, and friend Bob Gravel, a New Orleans native, built the theater and the Pine Knob Diner by their own labor – from bulldozing to concrete pouring.



Gravel is the director and plays the lead role, Dock Brown. Mrs. Shain acts in the play and assists in the production and direction. Both have acted professionally.

Jackie Shepherd, co-owner of the Pine Knob store, made most of the women's long dresses. The men's rustic, but classy costumes were acquired from various sources. Burl St. Clair, Falls of Rough, who plays the role of Breckinridge County's Judge Kincheloe, obtained his rich-looking costume from his daughter in California.

About 40 local amateurs around Grayson County also have roles in the show, which begins at 8:30 p.m. CDT and will continue each Saturday night through August. These local people, who act for free, come from all walks of life – there's a banker, lawyers, farmers, retired people, and the county historian.

"I think some folks are going to come expecting to see an outlaw and some blood. . . and there are two or three killings in it, but there's history, comedy, drama, and seven or eight songs in the show. Marion Higgs and the Grayson County Boys provide a wide variety of music – from slow, romantic ballads to lively, foot-stomping square dance tunes," said Shain.

The Pine Knob native said, "I want to see Pine Knob come back the way it was when I grew up in the '50s. Then the community was hospitable, charming, beautiful – it's still that – a place people respected, admired nature, where people romped over the hills and kids played in the creek."

Shain said he also wants to make the theater available to people in surrounding counties who wish to come there and perform their own plays.

"I don't think the addition of the amphitheater will change the community's atmosphere, except that it will bring the pride back to the community, as well as many fond memories. This is not only the story of Dock Brown, but the story of Pine Knob as well," stated Shain.

### **The Play**

Several of the actors are descendants of the play's characters, like Shain, who brings his great-great-great-great-grandfather, Mark Shain, back to life on stage.

The play opens to the strains of the hymn "Amazing Grace" being sung by the cast inside the now-vacant Pine Knob Primitive Church, which is the site of the amphitheater.

The cast emerges from the church, shaking hands with the preacher, and the scene shifts to a log cabin, whose sandstone steps once sat at the door of the real Dock Brown cabin in "Hoodoo Holler".

As the legend goes, Dock Brown, his brother Pinkney, and their father, John Brown, arrived in Pine Knob from Tennessee in 1842 to work as traders.

Wealthy and well-liked by the community, Dock often provided lodging for travelers. But, if he found out they had money, he'd take them fox hunting and kill them, then he'd bury them in Big Mouth Cave.

Although Dock Brown allegedly "hoodooed" people out of their money, killed some of his brothers and even his father, he was never tried for any crime.

Dock's neighbors never realized he was a murderer. "Only the audience knows he's an outlaw. It's an Alfred Hitchcock type thing," Shain said.

According to Shain, the show will be a success despite its remote location because, "People love the beauty of the country and want to get away from the towns."





**Back Home In Kentucky magazine, Shelbyville, KY, July / August 1988, p.16:**

### ***The Dock Brown Story***

Have you ever felt an urge to get away from the hectic hustle and bustle of modern day life and just float back in time for a day or a few hours? If you have, then Pine Knob, located in Grayson County between Caneyville and Falls of Rough State Resort Park, just off Highway 79, is the place to come this summer.

Located in what is truly one of the most beautiful spots in Kentucky, Pine Knob has all the earmarks of a community which time forgot. Here in a beautiful green valley with a 100-year-old church, an old four-room school house and a store which dates back to 1902, stands one of the most picturesque communities to be found anywhere.

The things you will see at Pine Knob are just in their natural state. They are not contrived. The local people have lived among these things all their lives. But just recently, something new has been added to share "how it was" with folks of today, who may not remember or who may just enjoy seeing it all over again.

Under the leadership of Honus and Gabrielle Shain, the people of this small community have put together a non-profit corporation to conduct community theatre and summer plays portraying the history of the area and taking the audience back and back and further back in time.

On Saturday nights beginning June 4 and running through August the group will present "The Dock Brown Show."



The cast of The Dock Brown Story at the Grayson County's Pine Knob Theatre

The show is based upon a book "Dock Brown, the Grayson County Outlaw" written by Col. William R. Haynes in 1876. The two-act play depicting the outlaw, Dock Brown, is filled with music, square dancing, comedy, tragedy and drama. The performance takes place on the ground owned by Dock Brown in the 1840s and 1850s.

On Friday nights beginning June 10 and running through August, the group will present "Down in Hoodoo Holler."

Hoodoo Holler is the name which years ago local residents tacked on this beautiful little valley of Pine Knob. The two-act comedy has its setting in 1931 and is based upon the actual history of the area. You will see the cast in costumes of the period actually doing and saying things just the way they did in Hoodoo Holler way back then.

There are many outdoor theatres throughout the State. One of the unusual things about Pine Knob Theatre is the fact that the people of this community have made personal commitments to share their story with the public by donating their time and talent to produce smooth moving, professional type shows, in an amphitheater which they built with their own hands. Many members of the cast are direct descendents of the people they portray. They take great pride in what they are accomplishing. You will be impressed as you too, get caught up in what may seem like a "time machine" taking you back to the days of Dock Brown and the activities of real people who lived out their never-dull lives in Hoodoo Holler, Kentucky.



**Kentucky Living magazine, Louisville, KY, May 1989, pp.16-19:**

# Dock Brown

BY HONIUS SHAIN JR.

*The bad guy has the lead in  
Kentucky's newest outdoor drama.  
The show is a genuine community  
affair that sold out during  
its first two seasons*

One of the best evenings that I have had since I've been governor," was Governor Wallace G. Wilkinson's conclusion following a performance of the "Dock Brown" outdoor drama last summer in Pine Knob.

The Pine Knob Outdoor Theatre, Kentucky's newest outdoor drama, will begin its third season Saturday, June 3, in the small, rural community located 14 miles south of Rough River State Park. and five miles north of Caneyville off Highway 79, in Grayson County.

"The show, which portrays a colorful chapter from the history of the nearby area, and the amphitheater in which it is performed, are a tribute to the determined efforts of dozens of community volunteers.

In the winter of 1986, my cousin, Don Muncy, and I were taking one of our country hikes around Pine Knob on our way to Big Mouth Cave. We took the high ridge trail overlooking the valley. Near this trail are two neglected graves located in a group of old pine trees. The graves are not new to anyone who lives near Pine Knob; the story behind them has been told for well over a hundred years.

Inside the two sunken mounds are the remains of Gulliam Hopper Sr., alias John Brown, and Pinkney Hopper, alias Pinkney Brown. John and Pinkney were father and brother of the Kentucky outlaw, Dock Brown.

Dock Brown's notorious life sprang from a childhood event when, at an early age, he saw his father kill a man in McMinnville, Tennessee, over a land dispute. Escaping in the night with the family's finest horse, and leaving his wife, Nancy, with nine children to feed, John Brown made his way to Virginia and then to Catlettsburg, Kentucky.

Ten years after the tragedy, Dock, Pinkney, and another brother, James, while traveling the country as stock traders, accidentally came upon their father, who was fishing on the Ohio River. In fear of being discovered, they joined their father and moved to Mt. Sterling, where they swindled Thomas Grubbs out of \$7,000, with which they purchased the farm in Pine Knob and went there to live.

Dock moved to Pine Knob in 1847, built a log home, continued his trading, and married Emily Ross, the daughter of Major James Ross, who was the Mayor of Leitchfield. Dock was handsome and charming, made many friends, and was well respected in the community. His neighbors and friends didn't know he was actually a thief and a murderer, committing numerous crimes on his frequent long trips away from home. Many of his victims were travelers through the

area whom he would put up for the night. Dock and his brother would take them hunting, rob them, kill them, and bury them in Big Mouth Cave.

Over the love for Emily Ross, Dock poisoned his brother and later shot and killed his father. These are the two family members buried at Pine Knob.

Dock's own brother, Moses Hopper, finally brought him to trial, and during the trial, Dock shot Moses. The community still was not convinced of Dock's guilt, however, and bailed him out of jail. Dock left the state for Rutherford, Tennessee, where he and his brother, Absalom, killed one another in a shoot-out. This fascinating story was recorded by Col. William R. Haynes in his book, *Dock Brown, the Outlaw of Grayson County*, written in 1876.

As we stood by the snow-covered graves that day in 1986, in the exact spot where Col. Haynes had started his book, we began to tell one another about the story. The one thing that was missing that day, that had been there since 1848, was the headstone of John Brown. Someone had taken it, and we realized a part of local history was about to vanish. We had to do something about it.

The following June, with the help of neighbors, a new stone was made, and we invited the public to attend "Dock Brown Day" in Pine Knob to reinstate the monument. Calvin Hopper, a nuclear physicist from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and a descendant of John Brown, attended the event. The day began with music by Marion Higgs and the Kentucky Bluegrass Band, followed by a muzzleloader shoot, then a brief story of Dock Brown, acted out by a few locals. The climax of the day came when we hand carried the headstone up the ridge to the graves. More than 400 people attended the event, many in costumes. Some even came on horseback and in wagons.

Gathering a crowd in Pine Knob has always been easy. For 30 years, the Pine Knob Homecoming was an annual event attended by thousands. The last Homecoming was in 1957 when more than 10,000 came. Many still gather there today for picnics and family reunions. Pine Knob is a beautiful area, with its natural springs, creeks and caves. Many of the old buildings that still stand, including the 103-year-old Primitive Baptist Church, the 1938 country store and the 1925 schoolhouse.

Many who came to "Dock Brown Day" wanted to make it an annual event. We discussed the idea of building an outdoor theatre, though we knew it would take the help of many to pull it off. We seemed to have the right ingredients for a theatre: a beautiful setting, an interesting and true story that happened right there in Pine Knob, and a good location less than 100 miles from Louisville, Evansville, and Nashville.

In place of holding a big audition, for fear of scaring folks away, we asked people to play various parts in the show. Carl Sarver, postmaster at Falls of Rough, would be John Brown. David Williams, an attorney in Leitchfield, would be Dock's lawyer. Burl St. Clair, the county historian, would be Judge Kincheloe. Mona Quiggins, a medical assistant, would be Dock's mother. Gary Baxter, with the Army Corps of Engineers at Rough River, would be Pinkney Brown. Robert Gravel, the only professional actor, would be Dock, and so on. The cast finally totalled 45, including children, students, school teachers, farmers, bank directors, telephone employees and businessmen. Many members of the cast were direct descendents of people from the true life story. Music would be provided by Marion Higgs and the Kentucky Bluegrass Band.

As the theatre was being constructed on the Dock Brown farm, several things seemed to fall in place. Tom and Terry Flener from Louisville, distributors of Hearthstone Log Homes, donated a log cabin for the set. We were able to locate outdoor theatre seating from Greer Baseball Stadium in Nashville. In just 10 months the theatre was completed with the set, seating, lighting, costumes, rest rooms, concessions, craft shops, and a parking lot.



Opening night was June 6, 1987. We performed on Saturday nights in June, July, and August that year to sell-out crowds. Hundreds were unable to attend the performance due to lack of seating. In August, descendants of James Hopper, one of Dock's brothers, came from Illinois, Missouri, California, Nebraska, Kansas and Tennessee to see the show.

Dock's wealth was never found after his death in 1851. Many locals believed there must be gold buried somewhere in Pine Knob, and with the success of our first season, this became the basis for a second show. Seating was expanded and "Down in Hoodoo Holler" was added on Friday nights during the second season. "Down in Hoodoo Holler" is a comedy set in 1931, when a city slicker from Louisville comes to Pine Knob in search of Dock's gold, only to learn that there is more to life than money. The show is complete with Model-A Ford, horse and buggy, local folklore, square dancing, music, and an old-fashion pie supper.

By the time the second season opened, we had built a blacksmith shop, expanded our parking, and moved a Civil War home to the theatre to be used as another craft shop. This year we are adding a picnic-style dinner prior to the show.

If you plan to visit Pine Knob Theatre this year, be sure to come early and visit. Also be sure to phone for tickets so we will know to save you a seat.

What inspired Col. Haynes to write his book in 1876, continues to inspire the community. Our theatre group now totals 97.

The author is the third great-grandson of Mark Shain, a favorite neighbor of Dock Brown and the character Honus Shain portrays in the outdoor production. For information and reservations, call (502) 879-8190.



### Grayson County, KY tourism brochure:

## *The Villian Has the Lead In Ky's Newest Outdoor Drama*

### "DOCK BROWN - KENTUCKY OUTLAW"

**D**ock Brown - Kentucky Outlaw is Kentucky's newest shining summer star! The infamous Kentucky outlaw who lived in Pine Knob in the mid 1800s was a charming and well respected neighbor. The Browns, consisting of Dock, his brother Pinkney, and their father John, moved to Pine Knob in 1842. Here they made their hide-out and managed to gain the respect of their neighbors. However, after the death of all three Browns, the county finally learned the true story of their lives. This story is portrayed in the charming community of Pine Knob on the actual farm once owned by Dock Brown. The production is filled with music, provided by the "Kentucky Bluegrass Band", dancing, drama, and comedy.

**C**ome early to the performances and enjoy the beautiful peaceful valley in which is nestled the small rural community of Pine Knob. Here you will not only find the theatre, but you can also enjoy the picnic area with many springs and creeks, the pine covered knob where Pine Knob got its name from the Indians, the old "Country Store" where all the locals hang out, the Pine Knob "Diner", a replica of a 50s diner, the old School House, and the old Pine Knob Primitive Baptist Church. We welcome you with our best hospitality and suggest you bring your church and other groups to attend our performances. "Dock Brown" is performed on Saturday nights June thru August and we suggest you call ahead for reservations at (502) 879-8190.

