

Stanley Glenn Hodges

(1943-2015)

By Jerry Long



GLENN HODGES is secretary of the Hancock County Historical Society and editor of the Society's quarterly newsletter. He is a graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College and a former U.S Navy journalist, was a staff writer for seven years at the **Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer** and served in Kentucky state government as a public information officer. He has written several articles on Hancock County history that have been published in the **Hancock Clarion's** weekly column "So It's Been Told." Though Hodges is a native of Daviess County, his family roots are in Hancock County. His parents, Stanley Hodges and the late Helen Hatfield Hodges, were both reared in the River Road and New Chapel Methodist Church communities east of Lewisport.

From book, Fearful Times: A History of the Civil War Years in Hancock County, KY (Owensboro, KY: Progress Printing Company, 1986)

Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 14 August 1986:

Hancock's Civil War story in Hodges' book

The first history ever written about events in Hancock County during the American Civil War has been published by the Hancock County Historical Society and will be available to the public this week.

Historical Society President Horace Temple announced that the history can be ordered by mail from the Historical Society in Hawesville and will be on sale at the Society's booth at the Hancock County Fair today through Saturday.

The 90-page booklet, titled *Fearful Times: A History of the Civil War Years in Hancock County*, was written by Glenn Hodges, secretary of the Historical Society. It contains a reconstruction of events in Hancock County and the Green River region during the Civil War as they were reported by eyewitnesses and correspondents of newspapers in Cannelton and Evansville, Ind., and Owensboro and Louisville, Ky.

Produced in cooperation with Donn Wimmer, editor-publisher of *The Hancock Clarion*, the history includes four pages of photographs, and an index with more than 200 names of participants in the events covered, a majority of whom resided in Hancock County.

According to Hodges, the booklet reveals how Hancock Countians were violently split by the politics of the war, tolerated Union Army occupation, endured the social upheaval caused by the Federal government's enlistment of slaves, and survived the daily danger of being attacked and robbed by guerrillas.

Portions of the history include:

A detailed account of the murder of Thomas Hale at the hands of nightriders near Weberstown in 1863.

Memories of life in Hawesville during wartime provided by Anna Hawes, who as a child witnessed the shelling of the town by Union artillery and gunboats.

The exploits of Maj. Walker Taylor who, before coming to western Kentucky in 1864, had been a daring scout and secret service agent for the Confederate Army, and had schemed in 1862 to kidnap President Abraham Lincoln.

The history is climaxed by an examination of the final days and death of Bill Davison, the notorious Confederate guerrilla captain from Hawesville who was responsible for burning the Daviess County courthouse at Owensboro in January 1865.

Hodges has been secretary of the Historical Society and editor of its quarterly newsletter since April 1982. He is also chairman of the Society's historic site marker committee. He was a staff writer for seven years at the *Messenger-Inquirer* in

Owensboro, is a former U.S. Navy journalist and has served as a public information officer in Kentucky state government. Though a native of Daviess County, Hodges' family roots go deep into Hancock County. He is a descendant of the pioneer Lewis and Greathouse families who settled in the Lewisport area in the early 1800s. His parents, Stanley Hodges and the late Helen Hatfield Hodges, both grew up in the River Road and New Chapel Church communities northeast of Lewisport.



READY FOR RELEASE—Glenn Hodges examines one of the first issues of his newly published 90-page booklet entitled: "Fearful Times: A History of the Civil War Years in Hancock County." The book contains the first

ever history written about events in Hancock County during the American Civil War as reported through eye witnesses and correspondents of area newspapers.

—Garret Photo

Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 14 April 1988

"Fearful Times" author to receive Historian of the Year honor

"Fearful Times" author, Glenn Hodges, has been named the seventh Historian of the Year by the Hancock County Historical Society. He will be honored at a dinner April 18 at the Hancock County High School. Previous historians of the year are James H. Fallin, Donn Winmer, Mary Robertson, Rose Pelt Henderson, Eli Gregory, and Dorothy Rees. This annual recognition is given to "one who has contributed toward the preserving of the history of Hancock County or whose efforts have made the history of the county richer."

Mr. Hodges' book, "Fearful Times" was recently reviewed in the Filson Club History Quarterly by Ronald B. Alexander of West Virginia Institute of Technology. Hurace "Sonny" Temple, president of the Hancock County Historical Society pointed out that the review was indeed a very favorable one. The first printing of the book by the Society and "The Hancock Clarion" has sold out. A reprinting is now under consideration. Those interested in a copy should contact the Society or The Clarion.

Mr. Hodges has now completed a book on the pioneer Lewis family in Hancock County where he traces them from 1799 to 1886. Publication is scheduled for late 1988 or early 1989.

Steve Harmon, vice-president of the Society, said that reservations for the annual dinner honoring Mr. Hodges can be had by calling him at 296-3143 or Patry Young at 927-4721.



WORK EARNS HONORS—Glenn Hodges has been named the seventh Historian of the Year by the Hancock County Historical Society and will be honored at the annual dinner April 8. Hodges is the author of "Fearful Times", an account of Hancock County's involvement in the Civil War. Hodges is an avid researcher of Hancock County and area history.

Family tree branches into history book

By Steve Thomas
Messenger-Inquirer

The book and television miniseries "Roots" inspired many people, including Maceo's Glenn Hodges, to trace their family trees.

Little did Hodges know when he began his search in 1980 that it would lead him to the original settlers of the Lewisport area in Hancock County.

"I didn't start out to write a book," Hodges said. "I started out to trace the family tree."

But in doing so, Hodges found stories begging to be told, which he has related in a 175-page book, "Daybreak on Old Fortification Creek: A History of John Lewis, His Family



Glenn Hodges

and Descendants." The book is published by the Hancock County Historical Society, for which Hodges is secretary.

John Lewis is the father of Hodges' great-great-grandmother, Susan Rebecca Lewis Greathouse.

"Daybreak" covers a period between the 1780s and 1910, beginning with the lives and times of Lewis and his wife, Hannah. They were the first members of the family to come to Hancock County, settling on Old Fortification Creek in 1799. The stream is now known as Yellow Creek, and the site of the old settlement is on the Harold Wayne Newton farm two miles up river from Lewisport.

Hodges' principal research source was family letters. He describes in Hannah Lewis' words how she managed to survive and raise her seven children alone in the wilderness after her husband died in 1813.

"I fell in love with Hannah Lewis," said Hodges, 45.

When Lewisport was formed in 1839, it was named after the family. Publication of the book coincides with the 1989 celebration of Lewisport's sesquicentennial.

For Daviess County readers, John Lewis gives a description of the land at Yellow Banks, future site of Owensboro, which he explored in September 1799. There is also a story of a confrontation between Hannah Lewis and Amos Riley in Daviess Circuit Court in 1816 in a legal dispute over land in eastern Daviess County near Blackford Creek. Riley was later owner of the slave Josiah Henson, "Uncle Tom" in "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Also portrayed in the book is Dr. Francis Lewis, who began practicing medicine in the Troy Bend district in the 1830s. The author uses quotations to recount Dr. Lewis' study of a fever epidemic in Lewis Bottom in 1835.

See HISTORY/7B

MESSANGER-INQUIRER, Sunday, April 23, 1989

7B

HISTORY

Others in the book are William Berkeley Lewis, a cousin of John Lewis', and longtime friend and aide to President Andrew Jackson; and Joseph C. Lewis, who operated the family's country store at Adair in the early 1900s.

The book includes accounts of the flood of 1884 and the construction of the railroad through Hancock County in 1888.

It mentions many other first families who settled in the area, including the Chrislers, Greathouses, Emmicks, Thompsons, Lamars, Houses, Thrashers, Pates, Blincoes and Willians.

Most of the letters Hodges incorporated into the book came from a collection at Duke University in Durham, N.C. He also drew from sources at other colleges, from county records, and from several private genealogical and historical collections.

Hodges began his research in 1980 after reading a letter by Dorothy Hodges Thrawley, published in the 1979 county sesquicentennial edition of The Hancock Clarion. Mrs. Thrawley was born in the Adair community and now lives in Black Mountain, N.C.

"Dorothy was really my inspiration for this project," Hodges said.

"She had researched the genealogies of the Lewis, Thrasher, Hodges and Chrisler families, and thought their story needed to be told."

In 1985-86, while working on the Lewis book, Hodges wrote "Fearful Times," the story of the Civil War years in Hancock County. Publication of that book led to his being named 1988 Historian of the Year in the county.

At the awards banquet last year, Thomas Emmick announced he would help the Historical Society publish "Daybreak on Old Fortification Creek," in memory of his mother, Elizabeth, who lived in Lewisport and was interviewed for the book. He provided the money to print the book. Mrs. Emmick was a descendant of the Lewis and House families.

"Without Tommy, it would have been difficult for us to produce this book," Hodges said. "I really appreciate what he did, because he enabled us to tell an important story."

■ The price of the book is \$15, according to Historical Society President Horace Temple. He said it can be ordered by mail for \$16 by writing the Hancock County Historical Society, P.O. Box 605, Hawesville, Ky. 42348.

State historical group honors two from area

Messenger-Inquirer

Two area residents were among historians honored Saturday at the annual awards program of the Historical Confederation of Kentucky in Frankfort.

Dorothy Gentry of Hartford, a founding member of the Ohio Coun-



Glenn Hodges

ty Historical Society, received the Award of Distinction, the highest individual honor the confederation gives for work in historical preservation.

Glenn Hodges of Maceo, secretary of the Hancock County Historical Society, received the local history publications award for his two books, "Fearful Times, A History of the Civil War Years in Hancock County" and "Daybreak on Old Fortification Creek, A History of John Lewis, His Family and Descendants."

Both of Hodges' books were pub-

lished by the Hancock County Historical Society. He was presented the award "for the best publication(s) produced by an organization with a budget of less than \$25,000."

Hodges' award is the fourth received by the Hancock County Historical Society in the past three years. In 1887 the Hawesville-based organization was awarded a national certificate of commendation by the American Association for State and Local History and also received the Kentucky Historical Society Award for outstanding efforts in preserving

and interpreting local history. Last year Jack Foster of Hancock County received the Award of Distinction.

The National Society of Colonial Dames won the other local history publications award for an organization with a budget of more than \$25,000. It received the honor for its booklet on Liberty Hall and the Orlando Brown House in Frankfort.

The Knox County Historical Museum won four awards in the overall competition, and the Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation and Archives received three.

Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 6 October 1994:

First highway marker in Hancock County in 1964

Kentucky historical highway markers do not "just appear." The marker program goes back to 1949 and continued to 1962 under the Kentucky Highway Marker Committee and the Kentucky Highway Department. The program was then turned over to the Kentucky Historical Society with the cooperation of the Kentucky Highway Department. During the period 1949 through 1962, 175 markers were approved and erected. Number one was erected at Henry Clay's home, "Ashland," in Lexington.

The "Guide to Kentucky Historical Markers" (second edition) came out in 1985. It was sold out and revised in 1989. That also has sold out. Due to tight budgets in Frankfort, there is no idea at this time when it will be published again. Diane Wells, who has charge of this program in Frankfort, said some use the guide to plan their vacations. One family, she reported, decided to visit all of them. She asked the family to report any vandalism, damage, or anything else that would detract from their value in preserving the Commonwealth's history. The family has issued her periodic reports as they travel about.

Miss Wells said the processing of a marker from the idea to plaque requires many people and much time. There is an advisory committee, a review committee, and an editing committee. That does not include 120 county highway marker chairmen through whom the local request must pass en route to Frankfort. That chairman is now James Fallin, who succeeded the late Judge Harry Black. These are the only two chairmen the county has ever had.

In Hancock County, Glenn Hodges has served as highway marker committee chairman for the Hancock County Historical Society for about 10 years. In fact, he is the committee. Either from his own research or from suggestions from within or



Glenn Hodges, chairman of the Hancock County Historical Society's Historical Highway Marker program. He, working with county chairman James Fallin, has been able to obtain six markers for this county since 1984.

So It's Been Told

Footnotes to Hancock County history

By Jack Foster



without the society, he develops the wording and consults the society and James Fallin prior to submission to Frankfort.

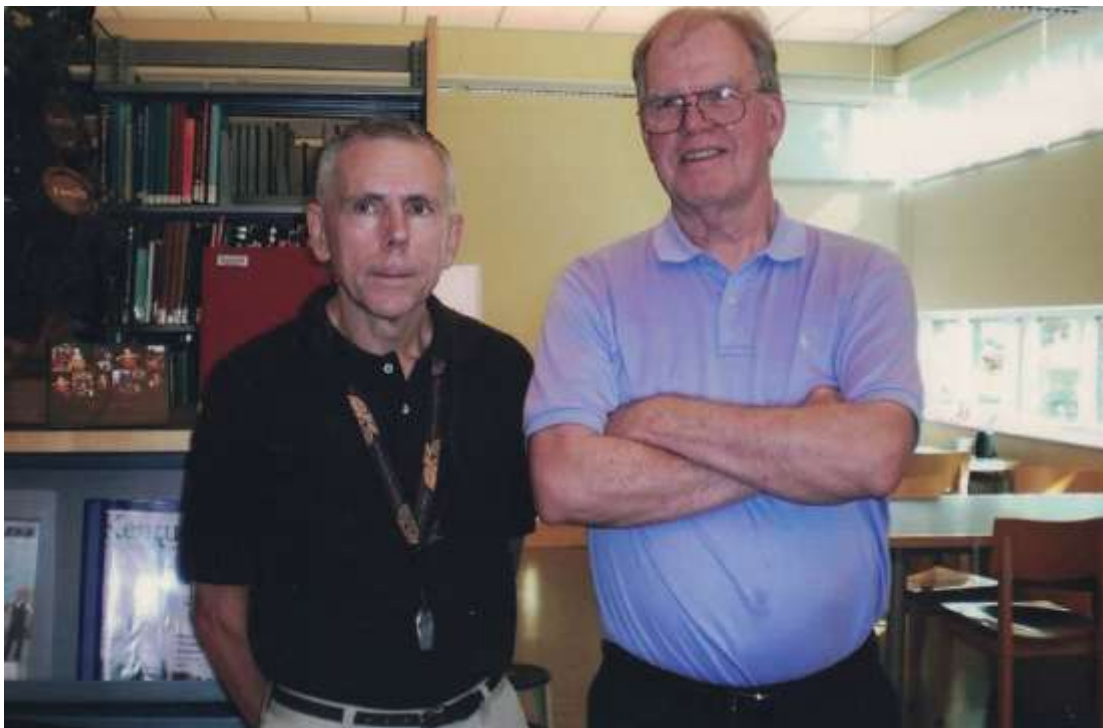
Now to back up a bit to the first three markers approved and erected prior to 1984. Miss Wells says her file information is sketchy, but the marker commemorating "Lincoln's Acquittal" at the Pate House began when the then state chairman, W.A. Wentworth, suggested it. Judge Black submitted it. Perhaps someone can fill in the details. The second one, about the county's name, and which appears on the courthouse square, was also approved by Judge Black. The third one honored the first court proceedings in Hancock County at Utility. The record shows that the late Verne Griffin either approached the fiscal court or wrote a letter to the "Clarion" suggesting such a marker. It was approved and erected in 1979.

The next marker was approved in 1984 and marks the beginning of the Hodges-Fallin era. Both Hodges and Fallin have an abiding interest in all sorts of history but local history and Civil War history top both their lists. The 10-year period 1984-1994 will show six markers researched, approved, and erected in the county. In addition, a marker (not a Kentucky Highway Marker) was written and approved by Hodges and paid for privately and erected at the site of the old Beech Grove one-room school house on Muddy Gut Road east of Lewisport. It was paid for by Franklin Banks, an alumnus of this school, who suggested such a marker be put up at the site of each one room school house. This would prove to be a monumental task, but the society will listen if anyone has a suggestion.

Next week will be Chapter II about these markers.

Have you memories, pictures, or documents of days gone by in Hancock County you will share? Write to the Hancock County Historical Society, P.O. Box 605, Hawesville, KY 42348.

6 Oct. 1994



Glenn Hodges, on right, and Jerry Long in the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro, KY. At reception for Shelia Heflin's retirement as director of the Kentucky Room on 23 October 2012.



Lewisport Cemetery, Hancock County, KY

OBITUARIES

Stanley Glenn Hodges

Stanley Glenn Hodges, 71, died Wednesday, May 20, 2015, in the care of Hospice of Western Kentucky. Born in Owensboro and raised in Maceo, Glenn was a published regional historian recognized for his account of the Civil War Years in Hancock and Daviess counties.

He was a journalist for more than 30 years. During his tenure at the Messenger-Inquirer, he reported on a wide range of stories relevant to major court decisions, the criminal justice system, economic development projects, the Kentucky State Legislature and prominent civic events.

He always spoke fondly of his two mentors at the Messenger-Inquirer. One was the late George Kerler, an editorial writer. The other was Herb Parker, a close friend and former managing editor of the newspaper.

Even when cancer made it increasingly hard for him to concentrate, Glenn maintained his interest in current affairs.

As a writer, Glenn had a self-imposed routine: He was determined to write at least several paragraphs of his memoirs each day. He began those memoirs with his childhood experiences on a Maceo farm and wrote feelingly of his relationships with his family. He also wrote with critical insight about contemporary America.

A graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College and a veteran of the United States Navy, Glenn enjoyed listening to the stories of his older Hodges and Hatfield cousins and uncles, each of whom served in the military during World War II.

Glenn was an authority



on the Civil War and toured many of its historic sites. He spoke with a historian's fervor of the day he stood on the artillery site at Oak Hill on the Gettysburg battlefield and imagined General George Pickett's anxiety just before his charge into the "159 guns that stretched in a long line from the Peach Orchard to Oak Hill."

A steadfast and faithful friend to all, Glenn always appreciated visits from his former co-workers Bob Bruck, Keith Lawrence, Suzi Bartholomy, Jim Pickens and Johnny Maglinger.

On a special occasion while bedridden at his home, Aloma Dew, co-chair of the Daviess County Bicentennial Committee presented Glenn with a numbered copy of "Daviess County: Celebrating Our Heritage." He and Mrs. Dew co-wrote a chapter in the book titled "The Civil War Years in Daviess County" and it was Glenn's

expressed wish to view a copy of the commemorative edition before he died.

Whether it touched on local, state or national history, journalism, politics or his favorite major league baseball team — the New York Yankees — Glenn was a reflective and engaging conversationalist as well as a fascinating storyteller. His memory will live through his written words.

During the final months of his illness, Glenn was supported and comforted by the devotion and care-giving talents of his sister Shirley Bivins. She worked tirelessly with his care.

In addition to his sister Shirley Hodges Bivins, Glenn is survived by his niece Tracy Lynn (Reggie) Helm; his great-niece and nephew Tatum N. Wendt and Thomas Wendt III; and his many cousins, among them Gary (Jan) Hatfield, Linda (Wayne) Jolliffe, Janet Clark and Roy Hodges Jr.

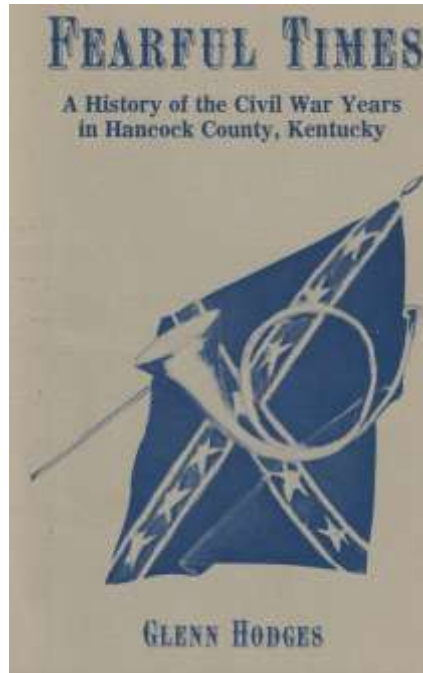
Glenn was preceded in death by his loving and supportive parents, Helen Hatfield Hodges in 1974 and Stanley O. Hodges in 1996, as well as his brother-in-law, whom he considered a true brother, William "Billy" Bivins in 1976.

The funeral service for Glenn will be at noon Wednesday at Glenn Funeral Home and Crematory, where visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday and after 10 a.m. Wednesday. Burial will be in Lewisport Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to St. Jude Children's Hospital or Wounded Warriors. Messages of condolence and memories of Glenn may be shared at www.glennfuneralhome.com.

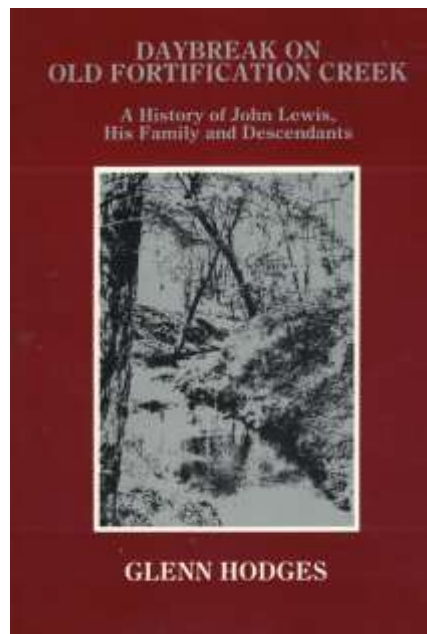
Bibliography of books and articles on local history by Glenn Hodges

Books

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Articles

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“Murderous Attempt With an Infernal Machine” [Dr. Hardin A. Davison], Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Kentucky Portrait, 1792-1992 (special edition), 30 May 1992, 27.

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As a member of the Daviess County (KY) Bicentennial Committee he was co-author of the book, Daviess County, Kentucky (1815-2015): Celebrating Our Heritage (Evansville, IN: M. T. Publishing Company, Inc., 2015); compiled article on Boston (p26), Buzzard's Roost (p26), Knottsville (p30), Livia (p30), Maceo (p30), Masonville (p31), Pettit (p34), Philpot (p34), Sutherland (p39), Thruston (p39) and "The Civil War Years in Daviess County" (p61).



Daviess County Bicentennial Committee, December 2014: Bottom row (left to right) – Sr. Amelia Stenger, Aloma Dew, Lee Dew, Wesley Acton, Jerry Long. Middle row – Kathy Olson, Nancy Bradshaw, Sarah Patterson, Shirley Trunnel, Isaac Settle, Shelia Heflin, Forrest Roberts. Back row – David Smith, Whaylon Coleman, Ed Allen, Jim Lambert, Glenn Hodges, David Zachary, Grady Ebelhar.



Glenn Hodges – The Maceo Kid

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY
20 May 2009, p1D:



Photo submitted by Glenn Hodges.

Glenn Hodges is pictured with his dog, Rusty, on the porch of his home in Maceo in the late 1940s.