

HOPEWELL MUSEUM POST

April-May 2020 Newsletter 859.987.7274

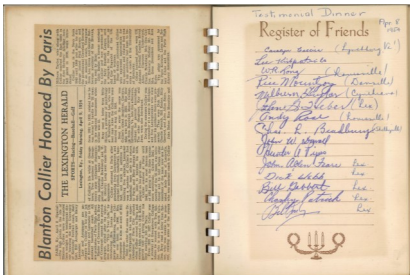
www.hopewellmuseum.org info@hopewellmuseum.org

Volume 25 No. 2

Tales from the Tomb: Blanton Collier

If you have followed us on social media or received our last email, you may likely already be aware of our new blog which expands our social media series—Tales from the Tomb. Sharing the history of Paris and Bourbon County is one part of our mission and these blogs are one way in which we can do this with you all, especially those who are far away or otherwise unable to visit the museum in person. These blogs can be used to simply learn more about a topic or by students looking for some introduction to a local history topic. The first official blog features Blanton Collier and you can read the full story at <https://www.hopewellmuseum.org/2020/03/31/a-gentle-man-and-a-gentleman-blanton-coller/>.

Inspiration for blog topics often comes from an interesting document or collection that is found while our volunteers are inventorying the collection or while we are researching for an exhibit. Such was the case with Blanton Collier. As the blog post reads, if you are from Paris and Bourbon County, are a UK/Cleveland Browns football fan, or general sports enthusiast, it is likely that you are familiar with who he was. But in many ways his contribution to football history is often overlooked for those who were perhaps more vocal, colorful, or even boisterous about themselves. As this was not Blanton Collier's personality, he has remained relatively unstudied when people talk about the "big" moments in football. The Hopewell Museum has a collection



that reveals just a small part of the man and his life, but these primary sources help bring him to life for those who did not know him. For example, this memory book, which was signed by more than 100 people who attended a celebration in his honor upon his return to Kentucky to coach UK in 1954, shows how respected he was by both locals, former players, and peers. Some of our blogs will feature specific collections and groups rather than individuals—we are working on one about women's clubs in Bourbon County, for example. They may focus on sharing how local people lived through and experienced a national event, such as World War II. If you have suggestions for future topics or questions about a particular post please feel free to email us at info@hopewellmuseum.org. We have collections that make connections

to equine history, medical history, military history, agriculture & industry, music history and more. Some of our collections from specific individuals include those about Harley Kiser, Rolla J. Nixon, Henry Prichard, Betty Denton Heick, Edna T. Whitley, and F.W. Houston/Grace Santen.

Family Fun Activity (At Home): Create your own jockey silk



coloring pages. Print out the template and create your own silk to display.

Volunteer Appreciation Week

It is National Volunteer Week (April 19-April 25) and we definitely want to make sure to recognize all of the volunteers who keep the Hopewell Museum running, whether as docents, tour guides, catalogers, family program wranglers, board members, and more! We miss being able to have our volunteers here each week or helping out at a public program, but look forward to their return.



There are few projects that volunteers may be able to help with from home, such as transcribing documents, researching, or writing blog posts. If you are interested in what that would look like please email info@hopewellmuseum.org.

Remembering Mary Louis Evans



We want to take a moment to recognize the passing of Mary Louis Evans a few weeks ago. Not only was Mary Louis one of our long-time members and supporters, but she was a former HPBC Board President. She was a diligent advocate for historic preservation within the community, working on such projects as the restoration of the old Brown Hotel in North Middletown (which unfortunately burned before that could come to its final fruition) and scouring North Middletown cemeteries searching for obscure graveyards for *God's Acres*. She served as a past docent at the Hopewell Museum and supported all of our events as long as she was able. We know that she will be missed by her family and a great many within our community.

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (HopewellMuseum) Instagram (@HopewellMuseum)

Regular Hours Wed-Sat 12-5 Sun 2-4 or by appointment

Admission \$5 adults; students, children and members free

Contact us if you would like information about including HPBC/HM in your estate planning.





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Letter from the Director

To say that living through these times is a bit weird, challenging, and often difficult is an understatement. Most of us are living and working in ways which we never imagined. Museums around the world are having conversations with each other, their staff, board, and volunteers about what their new normal looks like in a world where we cannot see you “in-person”. And the short answer is that no one has the “right” answer, and that we are all doing the best that we can. We, at the Hopewell Museum, feel incredibly lucky to be part of a community that values and supports our mission and efforts throughout the year, as it is because of you that we have the tools to work to meet these new challenges. We hope that some of our new or re-vamped digital efforts can provide a way for our audiences to connect with us and with each other as we share more of your history from our collections. We learn just as much about this history through your comments and questions as we do by sharing the information! And while we are uncertain when we will be able to have some of our kid and family programs again, we are planning and thinking of ways to offer alternative activities that you can do with your family for those times when you just need to put the screen down and get out of the house.

As we go forward we will be announcing plans for our Virtual Summer Photography Camp—we are lining up some great guest photographers for quick virtual lessons! We will also be asking you to share your experiences during this time—it has become apparent that the COVID-19 crisis is itself an historic phenomenon worth documenting for current and future display and we want to add your story of how you and your family are understanding and experiencing the current “new normal” to our collections.

We thank you for your continued support during this time—to echo Governor Beshear, we will get through this and we will get through this together.—Cheryl Caskey, Executive Director

Who, What, Where? Identifying the Varden Photograph Collection



One of our COVID-19 projects is to scan more of our photographic archives to share online now and for future researchers. As we go through this process we often find great photographs, but with very little identifying information on them (your descendants & museums everywhere will thank you for labeling your photos!). One such collection are four photo albums that came to us through the George Varden family. These albums are all dated between 1946 and 1951 and show us what life was like in Paris & Bourbon County in this post-WWII period for young teens and adults. They evoke the energy and happiness that many Americans experienced in the immediate aftermath of that long and difficult period. But, we don't know who most of these locals are! This is where our members come in—we believe that some of you will recognize the people in these photos as friends, family, coworkers, classmates, etc. and can

help us put names to faces. Your help at identifying these specifics of the photos allows us to create a more complete record for future projects, researchers, and family historians.

How will this work? We will create a Facebook photo album for each Varden album—the first album will go “live” as it were next week. You will be able to view the photos and comment with any information you may know about the people, places, or events shown. If you are not on Facebook but would still like to be involved, please email info@hopewellmuseum.org to learn how.

