



The Cunningham Garden was established by Sallie Cunningham Pusey as a memorial to her family. A popular site for weddings, the garden is surrounded by giant oak, magnolia, ginkgo, and dogwood trees, creating an oasis in the middle of Elizabethtown. Sitting beneath the wisteria covered pergola one can take in the beauty of the terraced flower beds bursting with color from the fusion of floral plantings and decorative shrubbery.

The house and garden can also be rented for birthday parties, anniversaries, graduation parties, civic meetings, business meetings and luncheons. Call 270-765-2515 for rental details or email us at

brownpuseyhouse@windstream.net



Photo courtesy of Monika Moore

The Genealogy Library contains near complete collections of Hardin County tax lists, census records, marriages, wills, deeds, cemetery inscriptions, family files and other documents of interest to researchers. Many records from Breckinridge, Larue, Hart, Meade, and Grayson counties are also available as well as early tax lists from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Library fee is \$5.00 per person, per day.



The Pusey Room Museum contains many professional items and family memorabilia from Dr. William A. Pusey, a preeminent dermatologist of the early 1900s. Instruments used by his father, Dr. Robert Burns Pusey in the late 1870s are also on display. Other historically significant items include Civil War artifacts associated with General Ben Hardin Helm, Captain Martin Hardin Cofer and Lieutenant John Augustus Warfield.

Community Activities – The History Theatre with its colorful characters brings to life the story of the Hill House and other historical events. Students can interact with Aunt Beck, John Hill and General Custer during the presentation. This great teaching tool is offered each Wednesday during the month of March. Teachers should call to schedule a field trip. Other activities include a themed murder mystery and reception, pumpkin carving party, Santa's workshop, mini-Christmas tree auction, and genealogy workshops. You can visit our website to view the calendar of events for specific dates and times.

(www.touretown.com then click on attractions)



This brochure printed in cooperation with Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Bureau and The Kentucky Department of Tourism

The Brown-Pusey House Built in 1825



Photo courtesy of Monika Moore

*Doorway to the past,
present and future*

Community House
Open Tuesday-Saturday
10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
128 North Main Street
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
270-765-2515

A House for the Community of Elizabethtown



Photo courtesy of Monika Moore

The Brown-Pusey House, or the Hill House, as it was first called, has been a landmark in the community since 1825, serving as a home, a hotel, boarding house, library and community gathering place. The warmth and beauty of this regal house remind us of the many events and celebrations that have taken place year after year just as the Puseys envisioned when it was dedicated in 1922.

The builder of the house, John Y. Hill came to Kentucky about 1818 and opened a tailoring shop. Being a man of high energy, Hill soon became bored with tailoring and started building houses. By the time of his death in 1859, Hill had built a church, a college and many other structures in downtown Elizabethtown.



John Y. Hill
1799-1859

After the death of his first wife, Eliza, Mr. Hill married Rebecca Davis Stone in 1827.



Rebecca Stone
"Aunt Beck" Hill
1803-1882

About 1840 the couple made some additions to their home and converted it into a boarding house. The Hill House flourished as word of Aunt Beck's special coffee and hospitality spread across the Region. With the help of two servants, Aunt Beck continued to run the house until her death in 1882. Her stepson, James Hill, inherited the house and owned it until 1895. He leased it to the Middletons and they continued to operate it as the Hill House until 1890. It was then sold to A.D. McCann in 1895, to A.J. Bush in 1913, to J.M. Smith in 1919 and finally to the Pusey brothers in 1922. This was the first step toward realizing their dream of a community house for Elizabethtown.

The Pusey Legacy

Although most of their adult life was spent in Chicago, Drs. William A. Pusey and Alfred Brown Pusey never forgot their Elizabethtown roots and wanted to give back to the community they so loved. They purchased and restored the Hill House which had belonged to their aunt, Rebecca Hill and renamed it The Brown-Pusey House. It is a fitting memorial to the Pusey family and their commitment to education and civic responsibility.



1869-1953
Dr. Alfred Brown Pusey
Ophthalmologist



Dr. William A. Pusey
Noted Dermatologist
and Author



1868-1946
Sallie Cunningham Pusey
Gardener



Gen. George Armstrong Custer

Mrs. Custer sent this signed and dated photo of the General to Mrs. Hill after they left Elizabethtown. General Custer was killed at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876.

General Custer was assigned to the Elizabethtown, KY post from 1871-73. In a letter to his wife "Libby", he wrote the following with regard to the Hill House. "I enjoy this old-fashioned hotel, its quaint landlady is one and all. The meals are not so dreadful; applesauce and hot biscuits at each meal, and I have an appetite for both." During his stay in Elizabethtown, General Custer inspected and purchased horses for the army and raised hunting hounds. It is rumored that he had as many as 80 dogs at one time.



Example of inlaid detail made of holly wood.

The Lincoln Cabinet -This corner cabinet crafted by Thomas Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's father, dates back to the Early 1800s. The patterns in the inlaid wood are unique to Thomas Lincoln. It was made for the George Wesley Hoskinson family, relatives of the Lincolns. Mr. Hoskinson gave the cabinet to the Brown-Pusey House in 1998 where it could be permanently displayed for the enjoyment of the citizens of Hardin County and visitors from around the world.