



FAMILY & LIFE TRADITIONS

What makes Hardin County feel like home? It's more than a place on a map, it's the families, traditions, stories, and shared experiences that have shaped our community for generations. Formed in 1776, we explored important pieces of the county's formation, family life and traditions. We learned how family, local traditions, and community connections have helped create the identity Hardin County carries today. These traditions continue to bring people together and provide a connection between the county's past and its future. We even got our own sourdough starter representing some of the family traditions and a challenge to keep them alive!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRY

Hardin County's economic success makes sense when you picture it as a place that consistently reinvented itself. So many chapters in this county's history that have helped create the book that we are continuing to read from and add to. From agriculture to railroads to manufacturing and small businesses, we explored those industries as well as organizations like the chamber and non-profits. Economic development isn't just about bringing companies to Hardin County. It's also about developing the people those companies need.

EDUCATION & SCHOOLS

Hardin County's educational story is one of growth, adaptation, and community investment. High schools in the county, Elizabethtown, North Hardin, Central Hardin, John Hardin and Ft. Knox together, tell a story. Hardin County has consistently adapted its educational system to meet changing community needs while investing in academic excellence, career preparation, leadership, and opportunity. From historic traditions to modern STEM, career and technical education, dual-credit programs, athletics, the arts, and military leadership, Hardin County's schools remain a vital part of developing the people and workforce that will shape the community's future.

MILITARY & CIVIC SERVICE

We explored the tremendous influence of Fort Knox and the military on Hardin County. For more than a century, the military presence in our region has contributed to the growth and culture of our communities while bringing military families from across the country and around the world to Hardin County. Together, the presentations showed that Hardin County's story is shaped both by families with generations of roots here and by military families who have made our community their home. It was a great reminder that while our backgrounds and traditions may be different, they all become part of the larger story of Hardin County.

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE

The HCCC Leadership team brought Hardin County's rich history to life through five unique presentations. From getting our steps in exploring downtown, to taking inspiration from a strong member of our community and even tapping into our agricultural roots by mixing sourdough starters, the day was filled with history, insight and collaboration.



CULTURAL & RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Hardin County's cultural identity has been shaped by a rich blend of faith, music, the arts, history, and community traditions. Churches have been part of the county's story since 1781, when John Gerrard and other settlers established Severn's Valley Baptist Church. Beyond faith, music and the arts have provided another powerful connection point—from Jenny Lind's 1851 performance in Elizabethtown and Fort Knox's history as a stage for nationally known musicians to the Vine Grove Bluegrass Festival, and local performing arts. Historic places and stories, including the Brown-Pusey House and the legends surrounding the old courthouse, further connect residents to the county's past. Today, institutions such as the Hardin County Playhouse, churches, and festivals continue that tradition, demonstrating how different voices, traditions, and experiences can come together to create a shared sense of place and a stronger Hardin County.

HIDDEN GEMS TO VISIT: THE DAVID MAY HOUSE- HOME OF ELIZABETHTOWN TOURISM & THE HARDIN COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

Did you know that Monday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm you can visit the David May House which was completed in 1886 as KY State Senator David Mays home and now serves as home of Elizabethtown Tourism?

As we walked across the original wood flooring and admired the character of the home,



To learn more, visit: <https://www.touretown.com/>

Executive Director Krysta Souleyrette & her team shared the property's history, highlighted the momentum building throughout our growing community and discussed upcoming events.

Not only does Elizabethtown Tourism serve as a source of information to welcome visitors, they also oversee operations indirectly for the Elizabethtown Sportspark and SteelGrove Amphitheater which is set to open Spring 2027.

The Hardin County History Museum offers locals and visitors a chance to step into regional history ranging from the 1700s to the present.



To learn more, visit: <https://hardlinkhistory.com/>

Open Tuesday-Saturday, the two-story museum displays artifacts, documents and memorabilia that tell the story of our community. Before our visit, an interactive trivia game with Tim Asher from the museum put our knowledge to the test proving our leadership group needed to brush up on local history!

ANGELS IN THE COMMUNITY

Jamie Disselkamp of Hosparus Health shared their inspiring mission: creating meaningful moments and lasting memories for individuals and families in need. Their comprehensive services include palliative care, hospice care, and grief counseling. As a non-profit organization, Hosparus Health truly centers its focus on the person. One key takeaway from Jamie was the vital role of volunteers—with opportunities ranging from direct patient interaction to administrative and community support. One thing was clear: this organization is staffed with true angels in our community.



To learn more, visit: <https://hosparushealth.org/>



We captured so many great moments throughout the day—and we don't want you to miss a single one! Click here to check out the full photo gallery on [Google Drive](#).

