

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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# Limaburg

by

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Named by Postal Inspector—

## Early Days of Limaburg Described In Boone Historical Society Paper

Limaburg in Boone County was named by a U. S. postal inspector, when residents of the community known as "Needmore" and "Florence Crossroads" could not agree on what to call the place.

The history of the community was told by Mrs. J. P. Brothers, Mrs. Sadie Tanner and Mrs. Ora Tanner in a paper at a recent meeting of the Boone County Historical Society at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Brothers.

The meeting was presided over by Lucian Bradford, president, who said the next session will be held at the Florence town hall. Mrs. Oglia Braun, historian of the society, will deliver a paper on the early days of Florence and the town meeting house. The public is invited to attend.

### DEPRESSION DAYS

The paper read at the recent meeting recalled the prices of 1929 when depression struck the nation. Eggs were 8 cents a dozen, butter 22 cents, flour sold 25 pounds for 35 cents and chickens for 4 cents a pound. The paper in part read:

A grist mill was built and operated by Jeremiah Beemon, about 1849. Gunpowder Creek water was used to turn the stones. Somehow, we failed to find how the creek got its name. About the time of the Civil War a saw mill was added to the grist mill and a partnership was formed between Beemon and Israel and Robert Rouse for its operation. One of the considerations of this transaction was that Beemon was to receive two loads of sawdust each year and the grist mill must operate each Tuesday. The mill has changed hands only three times since then and is now operated by William Waters. It furnished lumber for barns to house the tobacco raised nearby.

We learned of John Welsh, who had come from Ireland with his family and who had lived on the creek near the mill. The house he built lasted until 1916.

Every community must have a blacksmith and on the northeast bank of Gunpowder Creek, George Baker set up his forge and anvil and with the help of his son served the needs of his neighbors for many years. One of the first public improvements was a road development and, to pay its cost, toll was demanded of all who used the road. The toll-house was first occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Morgan C. Crigler and is at present the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Waters. On the north side of the road and in the very center of the town was a general store operated by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Rouse. Dr. W. O. Rouse and Mrs. Ora Tanner are their children.

"The school house was located on a hill overlooking the village. It served as school, church, and meeting place for any community gathering. A short distance from the school house was the resting place of those who died of cholera when that disease threatened to destroy the town in 1849.

During the Civil War, the town suffered the fate of so many of the border line communities and the residents were divided in their sympathies; but it survived and in 1870 had grown to such extent that a larger store was needed. A two-story building was erected and a general store operated by J. W. and S. J. Rouse, who were also successful farmers.

"We asked about the name of the town, and learned it happened this way. Mail was delivered to Florence and to Burlington. Each of these towns were several miles away and often the roads were impassable. In 1884, an application was made for a postoffice, and when a government representative came to establish the office in the store he stated that the town must have a name. The name Needmore had been used and most people called the town Florence Crossroads. These did not seem suitable and the town was thrown into a dither in an effort to select a name that would satisfy the Post Office Department and the residents.

### ROUSE FIRST POSTMASTER

"Someone suggested Lima, but there was a Lima, Ohio, not too far away, and the similarity would cause confusion. The postal representative suggested Limaburg, and on the seventeenth day of February, 1885, the U. S. Postal Department issued a cancellation stamp and named Silas J. Rouse the first postmaster of Limaburg.

About this time factory-made articles were becoming popular and many homemade articles were no longer produced. Yard goods, boots, flour, spices, dried fruits, green coffee, sugar, crackers by the barrel, candies, oils, turpentine and many other articles were found in the general store. The Rouse family cared for the store themselves and never hired a clerk. Store hours were from before sun-up to way after dark. The store was the center of friendly and unfriendly discussions and many weighty problems were aired and decided around its stove.

"Limaburg had its quota of musicians and many homemade instruments were tried out with varying degrees of success in the moonlight in front of the general store and in other appropriate places. In 1891 W. O. Rouse entered medical school in Cincinnati and upon his graduation on April 4, 1895, opened his office in the old store building across the road. After several years he found that he could better serve the countryside by moving his office to Burlington. Upon his retirement many years later he moved to North Carolina. In 1901 Silas Rouse died and the following year his partner, J. W. Rouse, sold the general store to J. W. Quigley and Clark Beemon. Rouse then retired to his farm.

### PARTIES IN SCHOOLHOUSE

"The schoolhouse was a center for parties, plays, and other forms of entertainment. Debates were popular. One subject debated long

and loudly was "Which is the most destructive: fire or water?" Supporting one side of this argument was a flood which nearly destroyed the town. The bridge was washed out and the cellar of the store was filled with water. The blacksmith shop owned by Mrs. Mary E. Crigler was washed away and was never rebuilt. George Baker built a new shop on his own land. The mill was washed away. Water covered the floor of the Welsh house in which James Utz was living. At another time snow was so deep that the road through town was impassable. Limaburg is called the coldest place in winter and the coolest one in summer.

"In 1916 the log house of Mr. Utz was torn down and a small frame house was erected on the site by Mr. James Pettit. It was later sold to Mrs. Pettit's uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Utz, who were then residing in Erlanger.

"The Limaburg Schoolhouse was originally on land adjoining the store at the top of the hill on the Hebron road. About 1894 it was moved to one acre of land on the S. J. Rouse property. About 1923 it was consolidated with the Burlington School. William L. Aylor, Dr. W. O. Rouse, A. M. Yealey, Miss Sadie Beemon, who became Mrs. Chester L. Tanner, were teachers in the Limaburg School.

### QUIGLEY & BEEMON

"The firm of Quigley & Beemon modernized their business by establishing a delivery service offering merchandise to farmers' wives and often bartering for eggs, butter, lard, chickens and other items the family might wish to exchange for 'store-bought' merchandise. Hardware and farming implements were sold by the general store. Calico was 5 cents a yard; outing, 6 to 10 cents. Wire fencing, fertilizer, paint and feed were sold by the new merchants. Mr. J. W. Quigley had married Miss Eva Beemon, his partner's daughter.

"In 1907 the Postoffice Department instituted rural free delivery and abolished the Limaburg Postoffice. James P. Tanner was appointed the first rural mail carrier and mail boxes appeared on the roadside. The J. P. Utz gateway boasted a whole colony of boxes for people who lived on side roads. Alongside the mailbox was the hitching post and horse block. Hitching rails lined both sides of Limaburg's street."