

THE POST OFFICES OF CAMPBELL COUNTY

Campbell was the mother county for ^{part of} what is now called Northern Kentucky. The state's nineteenth county in order of establishment, it was organized by legislative act on December 17, 1794 from parts of Mason, Scott, and Harrison Counties. Almost from the outset it lost most of its original territory, first with the formation of Bracken County in December 1796, followed by Pendleton and Boone in December 1798. Grant was formed from Pendleton in 1820, and Kenton was taken on April 30, 1840 from what remained of Campbell County west of the Licking River. At that time Campbell assumed its present 152 square mile territory. This is located just above the mouth of the Licking River, across the Ohio from Cincinnati to which it has long been considered suburban.

According to the 1990 Census, Campbell is the state's sixth largest county in population with some ⁷¹ 84,990 residents. Over eighty percent of them live in fifteen incorporated cities ranging from Newport with nearly 19,000 residents opposite downtown Cincinnati to the sixth class cities of Mentor and California with fewer than 200.

The county was named for John Campbell (ca. 1735-1799), who arrived in America from his native Ireland around 1755. After Revolutionary War service he became a land speculator and frontier trader, ultimately acquiring much of the territory that became downtown Louisville. He later represented Jefferson County in Kentucky's first Constitutional Convention and Kentucky's first Senate.

Campbell County's first court session was held on June 11, 1795 at the home of pioneer John Grant in the newly established town of Wilmington on the west side of the Licking River, just above the mouth of Cruises Creek. Two years later the seat was moved some twenty two miles north to Newport, at the mouth of the Licking, where court sessions were held in the home of Jacob Fowler. In 1823 the seat was moved again to the small settlement of Visalia, back on the west bank of the Licking; but though this was in the center of the county it was too far from its population center and was thus returned to Newport the following year. With the organization of Kenton County the court was again moved to the more centrally located Alexandria where it more or less officially remains. Actually, Campbell is one of the two counties in the state (Kenton is the other) that has two official county seats, with governmental operations divided between a centrally located smaller city and the county's largest town on the Ohio River.

This chapter will describe each of the thirty three independent post offices within Campbell County's present boundaries, locating them by road miles from the court house in downtown Alexandria. Several of Campbell's incorporated communities, particularly those adjacent to Newport, are served by branches of the latter's post office. Those post offices in operation before 1840 in the area that became Kenton County will be discussed in that chapter.

Newport, Campbell's largest and oldest city and its co-county seat, is a second class city centering at its post office on Fifth Street, some eighty five road miles north of downtown Lexington. Its population peaked at 31,000 in the 1950s and has steadily declined since.

Newport's site was part of the area first acquired by Col. George Muse for French and Indian War service. He later traded it to the elder James Taylor whose son, Hubbard, acting as his agent, laid it off for a town in the winter of 1791-2 and named it for Capt. Christopher Newport (1565?-1617) who had commanded the ships bringing the first colonists to Jamestown. Among Newport's earliest settlers were the surveyor Jacob Fowler (ca. 1789) and Hubbard's brother, James, who had acquired his father's holdings and was instrumental in establishing the county. By mid December 1795, when Newport received its town charter, John Bartle and James McClure had opened the first stores, Fowler was maintaining a tavern, and Bartle and Lowe were providing ferry service to Cincinnati. Within a short time the new county's seat was moved here from Wilmington.

The local post office was established on October 6, 1800 as Campbell (or Newport) Court House with Daniel Mayo as its first postmaster.¹ Sometime after 1800 the post office became simply Newport. Branches of this office now serve the communities of Dayton, Bellevue, Fort Thomas, Cold Spring, Highland Heights, and Southgate.

The post office established by Samuel Bryan as Grant's Lick on January 1, 1806 was named for a deer lick and salt works on Phillips Creek. The salt works was developed in the mid 1790s by its then owner and name source John Grant (1754-1826), a North Carolina native and member of a prominent northern Kentucky pioneer family. By 1804, when Grant entered into partnership with the younger James Taylor of Newport and John Breckinridge to formally exploit the salt deposits, a community of sorts had begun to grow up around the lick. Grant's brother Squire and William Dickerson had opened a store there

and Samuel Bryan was licensed to keep a tavern in his home. In 1805 or 6 Bryan assumed the management of the salt works which by then was supplying much of northern Kentucky and the Bluegrass. By December 1874 when Grant's Lick was laid out as a town the community had several businesses, including a tobacco warehouse, grain cradle factory, sawmill, stores, and a hotel. After an intermittent existence the local post office closed in ⁽¹⁸⁵⁰⁾ 1850. Little remains but the local elementary school on Clay Ridge Road, less than half a mile west of US 27 and 6½ miles south of Alexandria.

Then there was the Grant's Mill post office that operated for less than a year from January 23, 1817. Its location is not known but it obviously served one of the several mills owned by and named for members of the Grant family. Its only known postmaster was a John Grant, Jr. but his relationship to others of that family is not known. Neither John, the developer and owner of the salt works, nor his brother Squire (1764-1833), who owned the mill on the Licking River, had a son named John. Squire Grant's mill was established in or before 1807 opposite the future Visalia and was the eastern terminus of Nathaniel Vise's ferry.²

Campbell's smallest incorporated place, California, occupies the flood plain between the present Ky 8 and the Ohio River, 8½ miles southeast of Alexandria. Sometime in the late 1780s William Kennedy, a surveyor, settled some two miles upriver at what later became Belmont (see below). Here, by 1801, his son, James, had begun ferry service to Point Pleasant on the Ohio shore.

On June 6, 1813 a post office was established by the ferry and was called Kennedy's Ferry. John Read was the postmaster. In 1817 James G. Lindsey succeeded Read and moved the office about a mile west to what, for at least twenty years, had been called the Flagg Spring Tract, and gave this name to it. The tract had been named for a single spring (extant by the 1970s) around which some wild flowers of the iris (or flagg) family are known to have grown.³

Sometime in the late 1840s John H. Nelson and E.P. Dameron laid off a town on a ten acre site they had recently acquired from James M. Young. This they named California presumably for the western territory newly acquired by the United States in which gold had just been discovered. (About the same time, a short distance upriver, a small steamboat landing was given the name Oregon.) On December 10, 1852 Nelson established the California post office which operated till mid April 1863. Two weeks later, Thomas T. Tarvin moved the Flagg Spring post office to this site where it resumed the California name.

The town of California, which was incorporated on February 7, 1874, soon became an important river town with mills, stores, a cannery, and other businesses. The 1937 flood destroyed nearly all that had survived earlier floods, and by 1990 the community, with only 130 residents and an active post office, was mostly a cluster of mobile homes and a few ranch style houses.

Flagg Spring, though, regained its post office on May 20, 1870 when it was re-established in postmaster John A. Jolly's store. From this time till it closed in mid January 1907 the office occupied several sites. In December 1889 it was moved by postmaster James L. Rice to the C&O railroad tracks about half a mile from the river

and 1½ miles from the site then of the Mentor post office. How long it stayed there and when and if it returned to its original site is not yet known. In December 1895 postal authorities saw fit to make one word of the name. Today, Flagg Spring (again identified as two words) is a residential community at the junction of Ky 10 and 735, half a mile west of Mentor and three road miles south of California.

Mentor, as such, did not have its own post office until 1882. This sixth class city of some 170 residents now includes the old Ohio port of Beallmont, the western terminus of James Kennedy's ferry, and thus the site of the original Kennedy's Ferry post office. The early history of Beallmont is not known. It may have been named for the family of a Benjamin Beall of Campbell County,⁴ but by 1850 the name had been corrupted to Belmont probably reflecting its pronunciation.

The Mentor name was given to the post office by storekeeper Samuel H. Cooper on July 31, 1882 in anticipation of the completion of the C&O railroad tracks that followed the river up from Covington and would extend to Ashland. Campbell County historians won't venture a guess at the origin of Mentor, but I can't help wondering if there was any connection with either (or both?) August Menter of Dayton or F.N. Menter of Newport, listed in the 1870 Census. Mentor, incorporated in 1956, has had a meat processing plant and was the center of limestone mining, though today the half of its adult population that isn't retired commutes to city jobs in the Cincinnati area.

The fourth class city of Alexandria is Campbell's other county seat. It centers at its court house on Ky 10, several blocks east of US 27 and 12½ miles sse of the other court house in downtown Newport. The 1990 Census reported some 5,600 residents.

Among the townsite's earliest settlers were Frank Spilman and his family from King George County, Virginia who had acquired the 200 acre site from William Kennedy in January 1798. On May 17, 1819, four months before Spilman began to develop the area and sell its first lots, the Alexandria post office was established with William DeCoursey, Jr. as its first postmaster. Both the post office and the new town are said to have been named for the city in Virginia that was then a part of the District of Columbia. A legislative act approved on February 22, 1834 incorporated the city of Alexandria, Kentucky on land that had been heired by Spilman's children, and authorized a resurvey by William Grant.

With the formation of Kenton County in 1840, Campbell's seat was relocated to this more centrally located site. After a long challenge by Newport, an agreement was reached to divide governmental activities, with the fiscal court and judicial offices in Newport and other administrative functions in Alexandria. Otherwise Alexandria remains to this day a basicly residential community with some retail and service establishments and its post office.

In my Kentucky Place Names⁵ I pointed out that the fourth class city of Southgate on US 27, one mile sse of downtown Newport, never had an independent post office. But a shortlived Southgate post office did serve an earlier, shortlived Southgate community just above the mouth of Pond Creek. This was part of the 1,000 acre tract on the

Licking River that Squire Grant had acquired from William Kennedy in 1796. On sixteen acres of this land the Legislature, on December 22, 1806, authorized the establishment of the town of Salisbury. But when, by August 1808, it became apparent that this town would never get off the drawing board, Grant's 1,000 acre tract was sold to Richard Southgate (1773-1857), a New York-born lawyer, who had settled in Newport in 1795 and was then representing the county in the legislature.

Plans to return the Campbell seat to the geographic center of the county led to another attempt, in 1822/3, to establish a town at the mouth of Pond Creek. This and its post office were called Southgate. But when the seat was located in Visalia instead, the town of Southgate died in infancy and its post office closed in 1824. Now nothing marks the site, just off Indian Trace Road, 4½ miles southwest of Alexandria.

The hamlet of Carthage, centering at the junction of the Washington Trace and Carthage (now Rt. 1996) Roads, six miles east of Alexandria, was named for the ancient North African city destroyed by the Romans in the Third Punic War. No one knows why it was given this name but, according to a legislative act, it was so identified at least by January 1814. Its post office was established on May 22, 1828, with Alanson Gray, postmaster, and intermittently served the community through April 1907.

For much of the nineteenth century the Cold Spring name identified a neighborhood extending along the Alexandria Pike (now US 27) that included the present cities of Highland Heights and Cold Spring. It was named, probably before 1800, for one (or more?) of several

perennial springs of clear, cold water about where the East Alexandria Pike joins the Alexandria Pike, which, for years, supplied the drinking water for the neighborhood's farm families. More specifically the name identified the community that grew up around the old Licking Baptist Church, just south of the site of the later St. Joseph's Orphanage. This is believed to have been the site of the pioneer (Thomas) Reese's Settlement.

The Cold Spring post office was established by Oliver DeCoursey on June 13, 1832 and was then six miles northwest of Alexandria. The city of Cold Spring was incorporated in March 1941 to avoid annexation by its northern neighbor, Highland Heights, which had become a city in 1927. In 1958 the post office ceased operation as an independent office, having merged with Highland Heights to form the Newport branch called Cold Spring-Highland Heights. Today the fifth class city of Cold Spring, still centering at the junction of US 27 and East Alexandria Pike, 5¼ miles northwest of Alexandria, has a population of 2,900.

The post office of Tibbatts Cross Roads, operating intermittently at several sites between April 11, 1840 and mid March 1875, is believed to have been located first in postmaster Henry Thomas' home, which may have been at the junction of the present Ky 154 and Burns Road, 9¼ miles south of Alexandria. The family for which it was named included John W. Tibbatts, a Newport attorney who later led a Kentucky regiment in the Mexican War, and Leo Tibbatts who served as a postmaster in the late 1840s and early 1860s.

Hayfield, said to be the name of one of the Taylor family's farms, and later applied to a precinct north of Alexandria, was also given

to a shortlived post office on Four Mile Creek, some three miles
nne of the court house. This was operated by John Maines and John
Applegate between December 29, 1845 and late May 1847.

Sometime in the late 1840s the Hayfield vicinity was settled
by several German-Catholic families whose small community around
their St. Joseph Catholic Church was called Camp Springs. There
are springs in that area but it's not known to what the Camp may
have referred. The Camp Spring House, a tavern on the old Four Mile
Pike (now Ky 547), between the Lower and Upper Eightmile Roads, may
have been its source. From July 10, 1871 through January 1907 William
Uthe and his family operated the Camp Springs post office just south
of the tavern and a mile north of the church.

On March 9, 1867 the two independent but adjacent towns of
Jamestown and Brooklyn combined to form the present fourth class
city of Dayton. This area on the Ohio River was first settled around
1796 by the Washington Berry family. Jamestown was laid out and
chartered in early 1848 on 170 acres then owned by James Taylor Berry,
James M. McArthur, and Henry Walker. Brooklyn was laid out in November
1848 (though it was not chartered till the following February) on
land owned by shipbuilder and realtor Burton Hazen. A post office,
probably to serve both communities, was established as Brooklyn on
November 12, 1849 (with Samuel Bassett, postmaster). It is not known
if an attempt was ever made to locate an office at Jamestown, but
since that name was already in use in Kentucky it would have had
to be called something else.

The union of the two towns was considered inevitable as they
had much in common. Both had sawmills, rope walks, steamboat landings,

and hotels, but neither had a post office since Brooklyn's had closed in April 1856. To obtain the one new office the government would approve for this area the two towns would need to come together. They did officially in March 1867 as Dayton, and that name was given to the new post office on May 12, 1868 (with Charles McArthur, postmaster). But in June 1896 that office became a branch of Newport.

Why any of these names was applied remains a matter of conjecture. It is merely assumed that some of Brooklyn's early settlers had come from that east coast city. Jamestown could have referred to the Virginia colony since Newport, only a mile down the river, had been named for the English sea captain who had brought the first settlers to Virginia. Or it could have honored two of the Campbell town's founders, Berry and McArthur, and/or the younger James Taylor of Newport, Berry's maternal grandfather.

In the first week of July 1866 citizens of both towns agreed to the merger and accepted Dayton for their new city. According to an account in the July 4, 1866 issue of the Cincinnati Daily Enquirer it was named for the city in Ohio that had been founded in 1803. Some county historians, though, claim the name refers to a local mill that had been built and operated by an early family of Daytons. A Luther Dayton was listed in Campbell County's 1850 Census.

On April 26, 1866 the same Cincinnati paper listed the names that had been suggested for the new town: Stanbery, Skillbeck, Hallam and Berryville (for prominent Campbell Countians), Crescent, Bendville, Lookout, and North Point (geographically descriptive), Campbleton (sic), and Buchanan.⁶

Due to its site on the Ohio River bottom, Dayton fell victim to frequent flooding. It sustained population losses for much of the present century when many of its residents, instead of rebuilding, chose to relocate in hilly Fort Thomas to the east and south. Fewer than ~~6,600~~ residents were counted in the ~~1990~~ Census.

Somewhere in the vicinity of the present Aspen Grove is the probable site of the shortlived Bird Woods (July 6, 1852 to April 13, 1854) post office. It was likely named for its only postmaster Foster Byrd.

The post office serving the community of Persimmon Grove had three names. Centered at the junction of the present Routes 824 and 1121, $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles sse of Alexandria, it was probably named for a local grove of persimmon trees. The post office, established in this name on March 11, 1856, with Jacob White, postmaster, closed in mid December of the following year. It was re-established by Isaiah T. Hayman on January 18, 1860 but was called Kane possibly for T.G. Kane then living in that vicinity. In February 1903 postmaster David S. Brown had the name changed to Schoolfield which the office bore till it closed at the end of November 1909. My guess is that the third name honored Charles B. Schoolfield, a Bracken County-born, Dayton, Ky. physician (ne 1837), but I've not yet learned why.

Campbell's second largest town (with a ~~1990~~ population of some ~~16,000~~) is the fourth class city of Fort Thomas. For much of the nineteenth century the area within the town's present boundaries was divided into two distinct areas. The north centered around what was sometimes referred to as Rossford or Mount Pleasant (the latter derived from the ancestral home of the Taliaferro family in the

vicinity of the present St. Catherine of Siena Church and School.) This was served by the Newport post office, some 2½ air miles west. Later this area became known (inexplicably) as Guyville.

The southern part, centered roughly around the site of the future fort (and present V.A. Hospital) were served by the Dale post office. This office, established by John Lilley on July 25, 1856, operated intermittently at several locations. The first is believed to have been at the junction of the present South Fort Thomas Avenue and River road. Its name source is not known. One might question if it could have been named for one William W, Dale who is mentioned in Campbell County's 1850 Census.

In 1867 the two areas informally merged to form the District of Highlands, so-called for its hilly location above the Ohio bottoms and, possibly, for the Scottish home of many of its early settlers. In 1887 the U.S. Congress authorized the replacement of the flood-prone Newport Barracks by an army post in the vicinity of the Dale post office. This it named for Union General George Henry Thomas (1816-1870). The Dale post office closed in June 1899, and another office to serve the fort was opened as a branch of the Newport office. First called merely Station A, Newport, it was later renamed Fort Thomas, but remains to this day a Newport branch.

To avoid annexation by Newport, an ongoing effort for a number of years, the citizens of the Highlands District agreed in 1914 to formally incorporate. The new city took the name of the fort. Since 1941 the Fort Thomas branch post office has been at the centrally located junction of Fort Thomas and Highland Avenues.

A trailer park, some summer cottages, and several eating places is what remains of the Ohio bottom community long known as Indian Spring and now is called Ross. Its Indian Spring post office was established on October 8, 1858, with Theodore Stillwell, postmaster, less than half a mile above the mouth of Eight Mile Creek, about six miles northeast of Alexandria. It closed in November 1880 and re-opened the following month as Ross, with Henry H. Berry, postmaster.

Until the 1880s, when the Cincinnati Southeastern (later the C&O) Railroad came through, there was little in that vicinity but the post office. By the end of the century, however, the community served by the station and post office had at least a hundred residents who supported several stores, a wagon factory, and Jacob B. Martz' hotel. Also here, after the First World War, was Jacob F. (Jake) Martz' baseball diamond, amusement park, and picnic grounds.

The derivations of the Indian Spring and Ross names are not known. It is believed that the railroad was responsible for the latter. Another Ross post office may have operated somewhere in the county for a couple of years after August 1821, but nothing is known of it or its two postmasters, Lucius and John Ross.

The Ten Mile post office was at the Ten Mile House, a tavern operated by the first postmaster and local storekeeper, Balthaser Ziegler, on the early main road between Newport and Alexandria, some 2½ miles north of the latter. This road later became US 27 and is now the East Alexandria Pike (US 27 having been diverted through Low Gap, half a mile west). For much of the time that this post office was in operation, between April 6, 1867 and mid December 1910, it

served two stores and a wagon shop. It is believed to have been named for its site ten miles from the Ohio River at Newport. It is not, however, to be confused with Ten Mile Station, established in 1792 in the Ohio bottom below the mouth of Ten Mile Creek.

Claryville, on the present Ky 9 (Licking Pike), $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles south of Alexandria, was a thriving village in the late nineteenth century. Its post office was established on September 3, 1868 as Pond Creek, for the local stream, a Licking River tributary. It was renamed for and by its storekeeper and first postmaster, William T. Clary, in October 1876, and operated till October 1919.

Swiss-born John Andreas Gubser (1830-1897) arrived in the newly settled Twelve Mile Creek neighborhood in the mid 1840s. Some twenty five years later he acquired from William DeMoss a steam-powered saw and grist mill and it and the community that began to develop around it soon came to be known as Gubser's Mill [ghoob/səvz mihl]. On May 16, 1870 Gubser's storekeeper brother-in-law, John Nicholas Chalk, started the local post office. Rather than Gubser's Mill, Chalk's intended name, the office was established as Guber's Mill, an obvious error. The office closed in July 1872 but was re-established by Chalk in April 1881 as Gubser. With Chalk its only postmaster, the office operated till mid October 1906. Though the mill itself burned in 1922, the community where Rt. 1121 crosses Twelvemile Creek, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of Alexandria, is still identified on published maps as Gubser Mill.

One of the ten Kentucky post offices named for the Licking River was operated by Henry Neyer from October 31, 1879 through April 1882 on the present Ky 9, overlooking the river, just north of the mouth

of Pools Creek, and 7½ miles northwest of Alexandria.

The 320 mile long Licking River heads in Magoffin County and joins the Ohio just below Newport. It was first called by the Shawnee their equivalent of Salt River (Nepepimmasepe). The explorer Thomas Walker on his first discovery of the upper reaches of the river in 1750 named it Frederick's River, probably for the Prince of Wales, George II's oldest son. For awhile it was known as The Great Salt Lick Creek for the many licks in the low-lying grassy areas along its lower banks. The river assumed its present name before the end of the eighteenth century.

The Hawthorne family owned land on Scaffold Creek which joins the Licking River across from Grants Bend. On October 25, 1880 James H. Rusk opened the Hawthorne post office in his store on the west bank of this creek, just up from the river. Two moves, in 1902 and 1907, brought the office to the banks of Ripple Creek, half a mile south of the Licking Baptist Church, and 3 3/4 miles northwest of Alexandria, where it closed in August 1914. Leroy Hawthorne, a power in Campbell County politics, represented the county in the state legislature from 1864 to 1868.

Taylor B. Wiley's family name was his first choice for the post office he would operate in his store, 1¼ miles up Twelvemile Creek (an Ohio River tributary), 4½ miles east of Alexandria. It was inexplicably called Marr instead, but lasted only five months from August 8, 1881.

Edwin and Fanny Bray were more fortunate. Brayville was applied to the post office they operated from April 10, 1886 through July 1903 on the present Ky 154, half a mile west of Twelvemile Creek, and eleven miles south of Alexandria.

Oneonta, with its curious pronunciation [ahn/ee/yeht/ə], was the name of the C&O station and post office just below the mouth of Twelvemile Creek. This was on or near the site of a Fort Ancient settlement and a possible prehistoric Indian battle. The name, though, was a more historic Iroquois term, meaning a "stony place", and was that of the town in upstate New York where the C&O's owner, Collis P. Huntington once owned a store and where his nephew, Henry Edwards Huntington, then general manager of this line, was born. The Oneonta, Kentucky post office was established on March 10, 1890 with Thomas L. Berry, its first postmaster, and closed in May 1926.

Johns Hill, an elevation between the present city of Highland Heights and the Licking River, is the probable name source of the Johns Hill Precinct and the Johns Hill post office. The latter was established on April 29, 1890 by George Seither who, according to the 1883 Lake Atlas, was living next door to something called The Johns Hill House, just south of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and the cemetery that is now called St. Joseph's. These were all on the east side of the Licking Pike (now a part of Ky 9) at its junction ^{with} ~~of~~ Rt. 1998 (the Johns Hill Road), some nine miles northwest of Alexandria. In the fall of 1907, the post office was moved half a mile north to a site just southeast of the mouth of Three Mile Creek where it operated through July 1913.

Both of the Johns Hill post office sites were within the present limits of the fifth class city of Wilder. This was named for the old Wilder's Station on the L&N Railroad that had honored one of that company's board members, James Wilder of Louisville.⁷

On the very day the Johns Hill post office was established, August Fleig was officially authorized to open his Pools Creek post office right where that stream joins the Licking River. This was less than a mile south of the Licking Post Office that had closed eight years before. In late 1904 postmaster Thomas W. Gosney moved the Pools Creek office half a mile east to about where the present Pools Creek Road Number Two joins Ky 9. Here it closed in mid November 1915.

The two mile long creek heading in Cold Spring was named for Samuel Pool, a tenant of Richard Southgate whose property included, or at least bordered on, this stream. It was earlier called Bartles Run for John Bartle (1745-1839), the Newport pioneer who, in July 1794, had acquired the stream as part of the 358 acres he had bought from David Leitch.⁸

There is no historic basis for the 1961 decision of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to change the creek's name to Pooles. It was identified as Pools on all historic maps.

Directly across the Ohio River from the Coney Island Amusement Park in the town of Parkers Grove (now the southeastern end of Cincinnati) was the community of Brent. According to the late Harlan Hubbard, who grew up there, this was first called Willison's Landing for a local family at whose log home Ohio River flatboatmen would often stop and visit.⁹ Since a ferry gave the amusement park access to the railroad on the Kentucky side of the river, the station established at Willison's in the late 1860s was also named Coney Island. But that name applied to the post office was considered too long and Newport's postmaster, Philip B. Spence, was asked to suggest another. He chose Brent for his fifteen year old son.

William Webster Willison opened the Brent post office on May 15, 1890 one quarter of a mile below the mouth of Fourmile Creek and 8½ miles northeast of Alexandria. Until the 1930s the town's economy was centered around a lumber and coal yard, a sawmill, and one or two stores. The post office closed the last day of 1914. The C&O station continued for a number of years as Brent though, curiously, timetables in the 1920s listed it as one mile below the Coney (sic) Station. Almost nothing remains of the community; I-275 crosses the river just below its old business district, and what's below that may now be a part of the city of Highland Heights. Brent Spence, the name source, later served his county in the State Senate and, from 1931 to 1963, was his district's U.S. Congressman.

Some four miles upriver from Brent is the sixth class city of Melbourne. This town, 6 3/4 miles north of Alexandria, was founded and laid out in 1890 on land mostly owned by Hubbard Helm and C.B. Anderson and named, inexplicably, for the city in Australia. Helm, who some have thought came from Australia, was actually a Kentucky native of Virginia descent. It is not even certain that he named the new town; some say that a Belle Anderson, who owned land on the hill at the south end of town, may have given it its name. The Melbourne post office was established on June 18, 1891 with Robert A. Carnes, postmaster. It was later moved one quarter of a mile south to the Twelvemile Pike (now Ky 8), the main road through the town, where it continues to serve its 660 residents and their rural neighbors. The city was incorporated on March 4, 1912 and re-incorporated in 1970.

When Henry Koeninger's preferred name Lindwood was disallowed by the Post Office Department, he succeeded in having his new office, on the west bank of Twelvemile, midway between Alexandria and the Ohio River, called Trace. He alone operated the office between September 24, 1891 and its closing in mid November 1913. Neither name has been derived, though Trace may refer to the nearby Alexandria-Flagg Spring Pike, a main route now identified as Ky 10.

Nicholas C. Rouse (1863-1942), its only postmaster, gave his family's name to the Rouse post office. From February 20, 1900 till mid January 1907 this served the Wesley Chapel vicinity on the present Ky 10, a mere 500 yards from the Pendleton County line and 10 3/4 miles southeast of Alexandria.

From August 6, 1900 through July 1909 the Kohler post office operated in postmaster Frank Bezold's store on Twelvemile, two miles southwest of Gubser Mill and 7 3/4 miles sse of Alexandria. His preferred name St. Peter's, probably for the Saints Peter and Paul Church and School, a mile down the creek, was disallowed and Bezold's neighbor, Georg Kohler (1820-1907), was chosen as the name source.

Campbell County's newest post office is Silver Grove which serves the fifth class city of that name in the Ohio River bottom between Melbourne and Brent, and 6 1/2 miles north of Alexandria. The town was established by the C&O Railroad in 1912 to house the workers of its newly relocated yard and shops. Its name is believed to have been taken from a picnic grounds at its lower end, just above the mouth of Fourmile Creek, in which, apparently, a large grove of silver maples had stood. Though the post office was given the Silver Grove

name when it opened on July 17, 1913 (with Frank E. Neltner, postmaster), the local rail station and yards were called Stevens for George W. Stevens, the C&O's president from 1900 to 1917. In 1930 the town was opened up to non-C&O employees, and by 1940 it had ceased being a "company town" with its residents assuming ownership of their homes and supporting businesses. The city was incorporated in December 1950 and now has a population of over ~~1,400~~ 1,400.

Five of Campbell's thirty three post offices (Newport, Alexandria, Silver Grove, Melbourne, and California) are still in operation. Each serves an incorporated community. Another five currently incorporated places had independent offices that no longer exist. Several communities in the northern part of the county have been served by Newport Post Office branches. With only a few exceptions the rest of Campbell's post offices served one time villages.

Fourteen post offices bore the names of local or county persons or their families. One was named for an historic figure from outside the area. Another name was geographically descriptive. Six distant places gave their names to Campbell County offices, while to seven were transferred the names of nearby features (two streams, two springs, a hill, a tavern, and an amusement park). Four post office names (Ross, Marr, Dale, and Trace) have not been derived. One place (Grant's Mill) has not yet been located.

The names of five offices were not those originally proposed for them. Three served communities with names other than those borne by their offices. Six had name changes.

FOOTNOTES

1. Mayo was Cincinnati's third postmaster, from 1796 to late 1798 when he moved to Newport, acquiring several businesses there. Thus the Newport office was not established by him, or anyone else, as early as 1795 as suggested by Mary Keturah Jones' ~~1796~~ county history. Mayo served as Newport's postmaster till his death in December 1838.
2. Since John and Squire were the sons of William Grant, it's unlikely that the proprietor of the salt lick was the Grant's Mill postmaster.
3. The name Flagg Spring may have identified this vicinity at least by July 1800 when the county court was petitioned to locate a road between this site and the Licking River. Earlier yet, the spring itself was identified as Flag.
4. According to a Cincinnati newspaper account (March 26, 1800) Benjamin Beall then lived near the Stag Spring (sic) in Campbell County. (In those days the initial "s" in words was usually handwritten as "f". But in this case the copyreader or printer was apparently unaware that the initial "f" was indeed an "f").
5. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984, P. 276.
6. On May 23, 1867, after the merger had been officially approved, a writer for the Cincinnati Daily Enquirer wondered why a new name had to be adopted at all when either of the originals would have been equally acceptable. He assumed that the residents of each of the original towns would not accept the other's name. But he was especially concerned that the new town would be confused with the Ohio city, and thus he favored the return to one of the original names or the adoption of yet another name. But

Jamestown was still in use by the seat of Kentucky's Russell County, and on January 10, 1868 Brooklyn was given to a new post office in Butler County.

7. My error in attributing this name, in my Kentucky Place Names, to William Hamlin Wilder, a Covington-born ophthalmologist, was revealed by Jim Reis in an article in his excellent series Pieces of the Past, Vol. 3, Kentucky Post, 1994, Pp. 187-89. For his correction I am most grateful.
8. Bartles Run identified this stream as early as November 1796, according to a record in the Campbell County Court Order Book A` (November 7, 1796, P71). Bartle, a Revolutionary War veteran, had been a magistrate for this area when it was still a part of Mason County and would later become a Justice of the Peace and Sheriff of Campbell County.
9. "Introduction to the Journals" in The Journal of Kentucky Studies, 1985, Pp. 17-25.

REFERENCES

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2. Hartman, Margaret of Alexandria, Ky., interviewed by the writer on May 22, 1979
3. Ibid. A Tour Guide to Northern Kentucky, n.d.
4. Knapp, Paul T. Fort Thomas, Kentucky: Its History...Its Heritage, 1967
5. Reis, Jim, Pieces of the Past, Covington: The Kentucky Post,,

6. Rennick Robert M. Kentucky Place Names, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984
7. Stevens, William R. "Rus", in The Falmouth Outlook, March 18, 1983, P. 16 and March 25, 1983, P. 24
8. Ibid., "Tibbatts Cross Roads Post Office" in The Falmouth Outlook, May 1, 1981, P. 26
9. Stevens, William R. "Rus", etal., Campbell County Historical Supplement to The Falmouth Outlook, December 15, 1978
10. United States Post Office Department: Site Location Reports--
Campbell County Post Offices, National Archives (Washington,DC)

CAMPBELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES

or Campbell C.H.

- ✓ 1. NEW PORT C.H. (sic)- 10/6/1800, Daniel Mayo.... 1/12/1839, Francis T. Helm; 10/1/1849, Louis Perry.... (given as Newport around the time of the Civil War.....)

- ✓ 2. GRANTS LICK- 1/1/1806, Samuel Bryan; 7/1/1810, John J. Flournoy; 8/5/1811, John McLaughlin; Disc. 4/5/1815-?; Re-est. but not known when.... 4/3/1832, Bazil Thomas; 1/19/1833, Peter Dawson; Disc. 3/11/1837; Re-est. 7/11/1844, Ginnethon Hopkins; Disc. 10/31/1851; Re-est. 4/3/1855, John H. Gosney; Disc. 12/14/1861; Re-est. 7/17/1866, Francis M. Clay....

*GRANTS LICK
(1895+) → Disc. 1950*

- ✓ 3. KENNEDY'S FERRY (?) - 6/6/1813, John Read; name changed to Flagg Springs, 3/29/1817, James G. Lindsey; (....-?) 2/9/1827, Wm. Thompson, Jr.; 12/9/1833, Edward Morin.... 12/11/1862, J.C. DeMoss; name changed to California, 4/28/1863, Thomas F. Tarvin; 8/6/1864, John L. Lawson....

garner

- ✓ 4. ALEXANDRIA- ^{5/17/1819, Wm. O. Coursey (...)} 12/13/1827, Benjamin D. Beall; 3/22/1834, John J. Thomas; 11/12/1834, Joshua H. Turnell (check spelling)....

AP0

5. CARTHAGE- 5/22/1828, Alanson Gray; 3/2/1835, Elisha Gilman; 1/29/1836, James Young; 3/22/1837, Thomas G. West; 12/11/1839, Joseph Tarvin; Disc. 1/8/1841-?; Re-est. 7/2/1841, John C. Tarvin; 6/29/184?, A.E. McArthur (given as McCarthur in the Register).... 7/8/1872, Thomas F. Tarvin; Disc. 10/7/1872; Re-est. 10/22/1872, Augustus E. McArthur 1/30/1901, Samuel H. White; Disc. 4/8/1907, effective 4/30/1907 (mail to California);

- ✓ 6. TIMBERLAKE'S- 10/24/1829, Thornton Timberlake; Disc. 7/20/1835; (*→ Erlanger in Kenton Co.*)

Ross's P.O. (1821-1823): 8/11/1821, Lucius Ross; 3/11/22,

ch. John Ross; Disc. 1823

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CAMPBELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (2)

- ✓ 7. CLOYD'S CROSS ROADS- ^{or 182?} 5/27/1830, James Cloyd; Disc. 10/28/
1835; 10/29/3?, T. W. Phelps
- ✓ 8. SAYERS'- 5/26/1832, Henry Sayers; Disc. 12/7/1835;
- ✓ 9. COLD SPRING- 6/13/1832, Oliver M. DeCoursey; 11/8/1837,
Joel H.L. DeCoursey (or DeCoursey)....
Disc 1958
- ✓ 10. BARRY- 9/7/1832, Thomas J. Hordern; 3/26/1834, Thomas
Stephens; 8/31/1838, Hiram Klette; 10/4/1850, John A.
Hall; Disc. 12/31/1850;
- ✓ 11. TIEBATT'S CROSS ROADS- 4/11/1840, Henry Thomas; Disc.
2/3/1842; Re-est. 4/20/1842, Hubbard D. Helm; Disc.
4/28/1843; Re-est. 12/14/1846, Leo Tibbatts; 12/14/
1848, Edmund H. Tarvin.... 10/12/1860, Leo Tibbatts;
11/5/1861, John A. Tarvin; Disc. 3/16/1875;
- ✓ 12. HAYFIELD- 12/29/1845, John Maines; 8/10/1846, John Applegate;
Disc. 5/24/1847; → Camp Springs
- ✓ 13. BROOKLYN- 11/12/1849, Samuel Bassett; 3/4/1852, Charles L.
Rorer(?); 12/3/1853, John Cooper; 9/29/1854, Sarah
Collins; Disc. 4/29/1856; Re-est. 5/12/1868 as Dayton,
Charles McArthur; 12/29/1868, Lewis P. Stone; 4/21/1873,
W.M. Simmons; Disc. 6/28/1873; Re-est. 7/9/1873,
Talcott M. Foster; 7/19/1879, Charles B. Hayward....
7/11/1895, Charles E. Tieman; Disc. and made a station of
the Newport P.O., 6/18/1896;
- ✓ 14. BIRD WOODS- 7/6/1852, Foster Byrd; Disc. 4/13/1854;
- ✓ 15. CALIFORNIA- 12/10/1852, John H. Nelson; 8/29/1854?, James
M. Young; 10/5/1855, James G. Kercheval; Disc. 4/15/1863;
- ✓ 16. PERSIMMON GROVE- 3/11/1856, Jacob White; 1/16/1857, Thomas
G. West; Disc. 12/15/1857;

CAMPBELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (3)

- ✓ 17. DALE- 7/25/1856, John Lilley; 3/30/1863, James Metcalfe; 4/7/1864, John Lilley; Disc. 2/26/1865; Re-est. 9/23/1865, John Lilley.... 3/19/1878, Lewis Meyer; Disc. 8/25/1879; Re-est. 9/5/1879, Lewis Meyer; 1/5/1880, Joseph A. Neri....9/27/1897, Louis Clos(?); Disc. 6/15/1899 (papers to Newport);
- ✓ 18. INDIAN SPRINGS- 10/8/1858, Theodore Stilwell; 8/22/1861, Lemuel T. Pyle; Disc. 1/18/1865; Re-est. 6/7/1865, Peter Ruckel; 7/26/1866, David J. Armstrong.... 11/7/1879, Peter Bucheit; Disc. 11/22/1880;
- ✓ 19. KANE- 1/18/1860, Isaiah T. Wayman; 12/1/1876, Jasper Wheeler; 6/19/1897, David S. Brown; name changed to Schoolfield, 2/6/1903, David S. Brown; 6/21/1907, Mary J. Brown; Disc. 11/30/1909 (mail to California);
- ✓ 20. TEN MILE- 4/6/1867, Balhazer (sic) Ziegler; 2/2/1870, Joseph Beck.... 8/30/1879, Balthaser (sic) Ziegler; Disc. 7/28/1879; Re-est. 9/4/1879, Balthaser Ziegler; 6/19/1900, Catharine Ziegler; 11/21/1907, Wm. Ziegler; Disc. 12/15/1910 (mail to Cold Spring);
21. POND CREEK- 9/3/1868, Wm. T. Clary; 12/11/1868, W.D. Bennett; Disc. 11/11/1870; Re-est. 8/30/1871, Wm. L. Clary; name changed to Claryville, 10/27/1876, Wm. L. Clary; 10/9/1880?, Hester Clary.... 12/8/1909, Dwight B. Phillips; Disc. 10/15/1919 (mail to Alexandria);
22. GUBER'S MILL (sic)- 5/16/1870, John M. Chalk; Disc. 7/8/1872; Re-est. as Gubser, 4/13/1881, John N. Chalk (~~sic~~); Disc. 6/27/1906, effective 10/15/1906 (mail to Mentor);
23. FLAGG SPRING- 5/20/1870, John A. Jolly; 5/19/1888, Jams (?) V. Jolly.... 3/20/1890, Wm. O. Tarvin; name changed to Flaggspring, 12/11/1895, Theodore P. Nelson; 1/27/1900, Wm. O. Tarvin; Disc. 12/21/1906, effective 1/15/1907 (mail to Mentor);
24. CAMP SPRINGS- 7/10/1871, Wm. Uthe; Disc. 2/16/1874; Re-est. 9/5/1879, Wm. Uthe; 9/13/1881, August W. Uthe; 3/9/1899, Lizzie C. Uthe; 6/27/1900, Wm. Uthe; Disc. 1/2/1907, effective 1/31/1907 (mail to Melbourne);

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CAMPBELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (4)

- ✓ 25. LICKING- 10/31/1879, Henry Myer; Disc. 4/30/1882 (papers to Cold Spring);
- ✓ 26. HAWTHORNE- 10/25/1880, James H. Rusk; 10/19/1893, Thomas Jenkins.... 11/8/1913, Theodore Shanks; Disc. 8/31/1914 (mail to Alexandria);
- ✓ 27. ROSS- 12/20/1880, Henry H. Berry; 8/11/1885, Wm. R. Miller.... 3/20/1914, Patrick O'Bryan; Disc. 1/15/1918 (mail to Melbourne);
- ✓ 28. MARR- 8/8/1881, Taylor B. Wiley; Disc. 1/11/1882?;
- ✓ 29. MENTOR- 7/31/1882, Samuel H. Cooper; 3/21/1884, James McCrone....
Disc. 1976
- ✓ 30. BRAYVILLE- 4/10/1886, Edwin Bray; 4/20/1898, Fanny Bray; 10/22/1902, Fanny B. Iler; Disc. 7/27/1903, effective 7/31/1903 (papers to Butler, Pendleton Co.);
- ✓ 31. ONEONTA- 3/10/1890, Thomas L. Berry; 1/5/1898, Wm. F. Shanks; 12/1/1925, John W. Shanks, acting; Disc. 5/25/1926 (mail to California);
- ✓ 32. POOL'S CREEK (sic)- 4/29/1890, August Flaig; 6/18/1891, Frank Zacharias.... 12/27/1906, Frederick Kenneweg; Disc. 11/15/1915 (mail to Newport);
- ✓ 33. JOHNS HILL- 4/29/1890, George Seither; 2/1/1893, John Brown; 12/18/1907, Harry Simms; 2/5/1912, Orville Jacob; Disc. 7/31/1913 (mail to Newport);
- ✓ 34. BRENT- 5/15/1890, Wm. W. Willison; 7/24/1909, George Sparks; 8/10/1911, George E. Ruschell; Disc. 12/31/1914 (mail to Cold Spring);

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CAMPBELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (5)

✓ 35. MELBOURNE- 6/18/1891, Robert A. Carnes; 12/16/1893,
James A. Hannah....

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✓ 36. TRACE- 9/24/1891, Henry Koenniger (?); Disc. 11/16/1913,
(mail to California);

✓ 37. ROUSE- 2/20/1900, Nicholas C. Rouse; Disc. 12/27/1906,
effective 1/15/1907 (mail to Mentor);

✓ 38. KOHLER- 8/16/1900, Frank Bezold; Disc. 8/1/1909 (mail
to California);

✓ 39. SILVER GROVE- 7/17/1913, Frank E. Neltner; 10/7/1913,
Jacob F. Neltner....

APO