

THE POST OFFICES OF BOONE COUNTY

The first county taken from Campbell was Boone. It was either Kentucky's twenty eighth, twenty ninth, or thirtieth in order of formation for two other counties--Pendleton and Livingston--were created by an act of the General Assembly on the same day, December 13, 1798. Four more counties were authorized on the following day of this busy legislative session. Kentucky's famed frontiersman, Daniel Boone, was this county's name source. In December 1820 a section of Gallatin County was added to Boone's southwestern territory, and in February 1837 a very small part of Boone, between the mouth of Big Bone Creek and the mouth of its first branch, South Fork, was returned to Gallatin. Apparently some more losses or gains of Boone County land were made till March 1870 when the county's present boundaries were assumed.

The first permanent settlement in what became Boone County was made around 1789 when the Rev. John Tanner acquired some Ohio River land and built a blockhouse on the site of the future Petersburg. Until recently Boone was primarily an agricultural county but now has a fairly diversified economy with industrial activities concentrated in the Florence area, while a large segment of its working population commutes to jobs in Cincinnati and Kenton County. Boone's 246 square miles are drained by the Ohio River (which bounds the county on the north and west) and its tributaries, notably Elijah, Sand Run, Taylor, Woolper, Gunpowder, Landing, and Big Bone Creeks. The 1990 Census counted some 57,600 Boone County residents.

Boone now has three incorporated towns, each with its own post office. Burlington, its seat, is not one of them. It is one of only two Kentucky counties (McCreary County's Whitley City is the other) that are presently unincorporated. By road miles from the court house at the junction of Ky 18 and 338 (seventy one air miles northeast of downtown Louisville and seventy seven air miles north of downtown Lexington), most of Boone's post offices described below will be located.

When the first Boone County court met on June 17, 1799, Robert Johnson and John H. Craig offered a site called Craig's Camp for the new county's seat. It was accepted and the local settlement was soon named Wilmington. The county's first post office was established here as Boon Court House (sic) on July 1, 1807 with John Love, postmaster. In 1816 the town became Burlington and this name was given to the post office in 1820. The town was incorporated in December 1824 and re-incorporated in 1910, but this status in each case was later allowed to lapse. The origins of Wilmington and Burlington have never been learned; it is merely assumed that these names were derived from those of older cities back east. Since the town is not now incorporated its present population can only be approximated, at about 600, and it is thus one of Kentucky's smallest county seats.

Boone's second post office may have been the shortlived Touseytown [tow/see/town] which for only a few months in 1811 served an Ohio River landing just below the mouth of Second Creek, across from Lawrenceburg, Indiana. This landing was the Kentucky terminus of a ferry service begun by Jacob Piatt shortly after 1800 and operated

some twenty years later by Moses Tousey (1778-1834) whose large and important family then owned much of the land in that area. Van-Vechter Tousey is listed as this office's only postmaster. Any hopes of a community developing here never materialized.

In October 1797 Cave Johnson (who was to become Boone County's first court clerk) applied to the Campbell County court to establish a town on one hundred acres of his land at the mouth of Sand Run Creek. This was the lower end of the North Bend of the Ohio River, an area then known as Bullitts Bottom. Johnson's settlement was named Bulletsburg (sic) for the bottom which most likely had been named for Capt. Thomas Bullitt (1730-1778), the leader of the first systematic survey (in 1773) of Ohio River land for French and Indian War veterans.

Bulletsburg apparently was never much of a town though Johnson, in January 1798, was licensed to operate a ferry from here across the river to the Ohio shore, and in September of that year John Conner and John Hall were appointed tobacco inspectors at this place. The post office of Bullittsburg, maintained by Lot Worth and John Huser from May 12, 1813 till late the following year, may have been located in the bottom or in the vicinity of the Bullittsburg Baptist Church, built in 1797 several miles south.

The fifth class city of Walton centers at the junction of US 25 and Ky 14/16, just east of an I-75 interchange, and $15\frac{1}{4}$ miles sse of Burlington. The site was acquired in 1813 by Virginia-born Abner Gaines, an early Boone County magistrate, who, realizing its strategic location on the new road between Lexington and Cincinnati, built here a large brick tavern for a scheduled stop on his newly

acquired stage coach line. Here the Gaines post office was established on July 4, 1815 with Abner's son, James M. Gaines, postmaster. The settlement growing up around the tavern and post office was soon called Gaines Cross Roads, and the post office took this name in 1823. In 1840 the office and the town were renamed Walton, it is said, for a local carpenter who had helped Gaines build his first home. The highway and later two rail lines (the L&N and the Cincinnati Southern) led to the community's development as a city. It was incorporated in 1854 and was the county's largest town for the first half of the twentieth century. It now has at least 2,000 residents served by its active post office.

Curiously, no record of an early carpenter named Walton has ever been found. Some say his given name was John and he was a neighbor of Gaines'. Less likely is Boone County historian A.M. Yealey's account of a noted steamboat captain who, in 1791 (sic), financed Gaines' construction of the brick building that later housed his tavern and stage stop.¹ A Boone County sheriff Robert Walton and a William Walton are listed in Boone's 1830 Census and many of their descendants and others bearing this family name still live in the county. The Gaines name survived the adoption of Walton in 1840 but only as the name of an L&N station one mile north of its Walton Station.¹

The early nineteenth century river port-of-entry for the Big Bone Lick Salt Works, two miles east, was Hamilton's Landing. This was probably established by and named for Isham G. Hamilton and was located just below the mouth of Landing Creek. Here, on January 19, 1817, the Hamilton post office opened with Peter Hance, postmaster.

It most likely closed before late July 1834 when it is known to have been re-established by tavern keeper George McGlasson as Big Bone Landing. It again became Hamilton in February 1835, and simply Landing in July 1836 named for the newly founded town. When that town was officially chartered as Hamilton in early 1846 the post office took that name by which it continued to be known till it closed in 1944. Today this name is applied to a string of homes and a store below the mouth of Landing Creek and Ky 338, some fifteen miles ssw of Burlington.³

Landing, the name applied briefly to the Hamilton post office just below the mouth of Landing Creek, is not to be confused with the Landing post office that operated between March 13 and June 12, 1882 and from June 15, 1901 to mid December 1918 at what was then called Normansville. This settlement was centered on James M. Kennedy's store and a steampowered flour mill called Hamilton Mills on the east bank of Landing Creek, a mile northeast of Hamilton. Normansville, in fact, was Kennedy's preferred name when he established the first post office. Normansville may have been named for Connecticut-born Caleb Norman (1777-1848) who came to Boone County before 1800 and settled in the Petersburg area.⁴

The old Ohio River port of Petersburg, on the present Ky 20, is 10½ miles wnw of Burlington. It was laid out and named in 1817 by John J. Flournoy, then its proprietor, on the site of John Tanner's Station. Tanner (ca. 1732-1812), a North Carolina-born Baptist preacher, in partnership with the Rev. John Taylor, had acquired part or all of John David Woellper's 2,000 acre French and Indian War service grant⁵ and brought his family here at least by 1789.⁶

Though Tanner left shortly thereafter, to return to the Bluegrass region whence he had come (and eventually to Missouri where he died), the place continued to be called Tanner's Station till January 1818 when the legislature approved the establishment of the town of Petersburg.⁷ The still active Petersburg post office was opened in November 1819 with Flournoy as its first postmaster. No one knows why Petersburg was so named. None of its early settlers, whose identities are known to us, was a Peter.

For much of the nineteenth century Petersburg was Boone County's only important Ohio River port with a tannery, distillery, grist and saw mills, boat works, and other businesses. It was the county's largest town for the first half of the nineteenth century. Its decline came with the replacement of steamboat traffic by the railroad. Its population was down to only 430 when it was recently dis-incorporated.

In 1739 a Frenchman, Charles LeMoynes, Baron de Longueuil, was returning to Canada from a military expedition against the Chickasaw on the lower Mississippi.⁸ About 1½ miles east of the Ohio, on the banks of what later became Big Bone Creek, he discovered the bones of hundreds of pre-historic animals partially buried and well preserved in a ten acre spring-fed plantless bog. Later visitors confirmed his find, discovered a nearby lick and the springs that fed it, and named the vicinity Big Bone Lick. For years this lick which had attracted prehistoric and more recent animals alike to its salt deposits was used by bands of Indians and later by whites as a major source of salt. In the early nineteenth century the medicinal value of the saline springs was discovered and the spa

established there in 1815 soon became one of the most popular health resorts west of the Alleghenies.

Three post offices served the village that early evolved around the lick and resort. Little is known of the first two, each called Big Bone Lick. The first was established on June 7, 1820, with Thomas Edmonson, postmaster. The second was operated between January 12, 1829 and sometime in 1831 by Benjamin Finnell. The third office was established on January 21, 1890 in postmaster John Douglas Moore's store, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile northwest of Big Bone Creek. As Bigbone it served the village of this name, with its several stores, two hotels, wagonworks, and other businesses till 1941. Just across Ky 338 from what remains of the village (and thirteen miles south of Burlington) is the 250 acre Big Bone Lick State Park and museum which were dedicated in July 1960.

Though the still viable Ohio River village on Ky 18, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles wsw of Burlington, has been known since pioneer days as Belleview, the second of its two post offices was called Grant. But the community was actually laid out as the town of Mt. Vernon in 1815 by Col. Edward Weeks. Why its name was changed to Belleview only a few months after its founding is not known. Its first post office was established as Belleview in 1826 with Ohio (?) Bush, postmaster, and operated for only two years. When, later, another post office was sought for this community by Jesse Hewitt, the local grocer, it was learned that Belleview was then in use by a Christian County post office. So Hewitt named his new office, established on July 15, 1869, for his neighbor, William W. Grant, a twenty five year old carpenter who later became the village blacksmith. The office served this community till 1974.

Though Munsell's 1818 Kentucky map (and Lake's 1883 Atlas) gives the name as Bellevue, I'm fairly certain that Belleview was the original and intended spelling of this name. It probably refers to the attractive view of the Ohio River from the hill above this site. Yet at least one county historian, A.M. Yealey, has suggested a somewhat fanciful derivation from the warning bells said to have been used by pioneer lookouts on the hill to signal approaching Indians.

Bullittsburg, above, is not to be confused with Bullittsville, also probably named for the pioneer surveyor, Thomas Bullit, but some three miles east of the Bullittsville Church. More precisely, this hamlet is on Ky 20 and the north bank of Woolper Creek, four miles north of Burlington. The first post office to serve that area was Corneliusville, at an unknown site somewhat west of the present Bullittsville. It was established on January 24, 1827 and named for the family of Robert Cornelius (ne 1795), its first postmaster. In 1848 it was moved a short distance to another as yet unlocated site and renamed Mitchellsville for postmaster Benjamin Mitchell. It became Bullittsville when, in 1853, it was moved to the site indicated above where it remained till it closed in September 1918.

The third class city of Florence, Boone County's largest town, with a 1990 population of over 18,600, centers at its city hall. This is just south of US 42, and a few blocks west of the junction of the Dixie Highway (US 25) and Ky 18, the road to Burlington, some six miles wnw. At this intersection was an early nineteenth century settlement called Cross Roads. Here, in 1821, a young Covington attorney, David Madden, who had recently acquired some local property,

helped lay off a town that soon became known as Maddentown. In 1828, after Madden moved away and Lewis (some say Jacob) Conner, another landowner, had become the town's leading citizen, it was renamed Connersville. In this name the local post office was established on March 28 of that year with Pitman Clondas, postmaster. By legislative act (approved on January 27, 1830) the town was renamed Florence. Clondas was appointed one of its trustees and, by April 1830, had arranged for the post office too to take the new name.

Whence Florence has long been in dispute. Some say it was named for the wife of Jacob (or Lewis) Conner. Others favor one or more area families. By 1814 John Florence is known to have been living on the road between Crossroads and the future Walton. In 1834 Lewis Conner officiated at the wedding of James Florence (ne ca. 1796 in North Carolina). Even more puzzling is why the town and post office had to change their name at all. It was not to avoid confusion with another Connersville post office in the state. Kentucky's only other such named office (in Harrison County) was not established till 1849. And Connersville, in Shelby County, did not get its post office till 1839 and that was named Harrisonville.⁹

Florence's recent development as a commercial and industrial center and one of Kentucky's fastest growing cities was advanced by the opening of the nearby Greater Cincinnati International Airport in 1947 and a thirty plant industrial park in 1963, along with the completion of I-75 also in 1963, and the development of the Florence Mall in 1976. Local factories produce machine tools, copiers, water meters, furniture, and building materials.

A post office established as Bush's Cross Roads by Archibald R. Gaines on December 22, 1829 may have been in or near Mr. Gaines' home on the Covington-Lexington Pike (now US 25). In February 1832, still with Gaines as postmaster, it was inexplicably renamed New Lancaster. It closed in late August 1835 but was re-established on September 15, 1837 with Archibald's brother James M. Gaines, as postmaster.¹⁶ According to antebellum maps, New Lancaster was on the Covington-Lexington Pike, about five miles south of the Florence post office and four miles north of Gaines Cross Roads, just west of where the present Ky 536 crosses the Southern Railway tracks (about 11¼ miles southeast of Burlington).

From July 2, 1877 till May 1879 this vicinity (that may then have been called Marshall's for a local family) was served by the Grubb post office just north of the present Ky 536, between US 25 and the tracks. It was in a store operated by its only postmaster Herman F. Ficke. Another local family, probably descendants of James Grubbs who was in Boone County at least by 1810, was the likely source of this name.

Boone's third and smallest incorporated community, the sixth class city of Union, was settled before 1830, for in that year James Brown established its post office. The name may have derived from its site at the junction (or union) of the roads between Visalia and Big Bone and Covington and Louisville (today's Mt. Zion Road and US 42, respectively). It was chartered as a town on January 17, 1838 and reincorporated several times in later years until its charter was again reactivated in the 1970s. Today this place, eight miles sse of Burlington, still has its post office and at least 1,000 residents.

Two (possibly three) antebellum Boone County post offices operated for short periods at unknown locations. Bane's post office was established on January 19, 1830 and named for the first of its two postmasters, Reynolds Bane (1804-1873). It closed in May 1831. Elijah and Benjamin W. Grant maintained the Walnut Ridge post office between August 26, 1842 and mid February 1846. Pater^o and Gallagher, in their Checklist of Kentucky Post Offices,¹¹ list a Handysburg post office from 1828 to 1829, but I have found no other references to this place nor to any Boone County families named Handy.

The small nineteenth century village of Francisville was on the present North Bend Road (Ky 237), 6¼ miles north of Burlington. It may have been founded around 1819, about the time of the establishment of the local Sand Run Baptist Church. The first of its two post offices operated as Francisville from April 19, 1830 through June 1845 with Henry L. Kendall and John H. Crawford, its only postmasters. When an attempt to reopen it in this name failed, the office was called Sandrun for the creek a quarter mile west. With Adele Dimmick, its only postmaster, it served the community between May 27, 1903 and mid April 1908. For much of the late nineteenth century the place had a store, hotel, tobacco factory, school, and two churches. The Sand^o Run Church alone survives.

The origin of the Francisville name is not known. Two Francis families, Jesse's and William's, are listed in the 1830 Boone County Census but it is not known where they lived. The Sand Run Creek, which joins the Ohio at the lower end of the North Bend Bottom, may earlier have also been called Sandlick Creek for a lick near the river.¹²

The Upper East Bend Bottom of the Ohio River was part of a large area early owned by Humphrey Marshall. In 1808 it was sold to Thomas Carneal from whom, four years later, it was acquired by a New Jerseyman, Robert Piatt (ne 1769). Directly across the river from the mouth of Grant's Creek (some fourteen miles southwest of Burlington) he built Piatt's Landing [pa:/ʔts] and, nearby, his family's large home which he called Winnfield Cottage. The Piatt's Landing post office was established on January 19, 1833 with Robert's son, Daniel, as postmaster. It closed at the end of November 1848.

The Upper East Bend area was served by a second post office established on April 15, 1856 as East Bend with Hiram J. Calvert, postmaster. It lasted but three months. It was re-established on August 8, 1876 by Jesse Hewitt about a mile or so above Piatt's Landing, just north of the mouth of Dehart Creek, at what was then called Dolph Landing. This office lasted only six months. Today, much of the Upper East Bend, separated from the Lower East Bend by Lick Creek, is owned by the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company.

Verona, still a crossroads village nearly twenty one miles south of Burlington, has been the trade center for the southern end of the county. It was settled before 1830, strategically on a main route (including the present Ky 16) between Covington and Louisville, and became a station of the Louisville Cincinnati and Lexington (later L&N) Railroad when this was built through in the late 1860s. The Verona post office was established on March 26, 1834, with Alexander McPherson, postmaster, and has operated, albeit intermittently, ever since. The town was incorporated in 1909 but this was later dissolved. It is merely assumed, though with no good reason, to have been named

for the city in northern Italy, perhaps for the Congress of Verona (1822), which got only modest media attention in this country.

The nineteenth century Ohio River town of TaylorSPORT, just above the mouth of Elijahs Creek and directly across from the Delhi section of Cincinnati, is now but a small settlement of mobile homes on Ky 8, 8¼ miles nne of Burlington. In 1827 Thomas Foulks opened here a warehouse and ferry and was soon joined by some of the Newport Taylors who helped found the town they first called TaylorSVILLE. The local post office, though, was established as Elijahs Creek¹³ with John H. Crawford, its first postmaster, and operated till late July 1859. On February 12, 1849 by legislative act TaylorSVILLE became TaylorSPORT, and by this name the post office was re-established on May 15, 1909 with L.H. Sprague, postmaster. It closed in 1959 but continued to operate as a rural branch of Hebron till 1968.

Some four or five miles up Middle Creek (which joins the Ohio halfway between Belleview and Rabbit Hash) was Roberts Mill which may have been the site of the Middle Creek Mills post office. This office, established on June 2, 1846, with William McKie, postmaster, took the name Boone in March 1858, and closed in September 1869.

Berkshire, an extinct settlement in the southwest corner of the county, had three post offices. The first, inexplicably named Slusher, was on the South Fork of Big Bone Creek, 2½ miles from the Ohio River. Benjamin L. McGlasson alone operated this office from July 25, 1853 till early April of the following year.

The community served by that office continued to be called Slusher till, in 1881, Andrew J. Ross petitioned to re-establish the office

as Rossville. But it was named Berkshire instead and operated from August 17, 1881 through July of the following year. The Berkshires were several related Petersburg area families whose most prominent member, Bob, was then editor of the Boone County Recorder. On November 11, 1884 William Jasper Black established the Kite post office which, curiously, on his Site Location Report, he located just south of Mud Lick Creek, some four miles east of the river (at Hamilton), and thus some distance northeast of the Rossville-Slusher site. But, he said, it would serve the Berkshire community. It may have been named for the area descendants of John Kite (1798-1855), who is buried at the nearby South Fork Christian Church. This office closed in mid June 1886.

On January 24, 1888 the post office was again re-established, as Berkshire, with Merrideth C. Carroll, postmaster, but was back on the South Fork, close to its original site. Just before the First World War, it moved again, a short distance up the Fork, and closed for good at the end of October 1919. None of these sites are identified on contemporary maps.

Near the head of the aptly named Beaver Branch of Big Bone Creek was the junction of two roads to which pioneer trappers brought their catches to the agents of Ohio Valley fur companies. Here was the later village of Beaver Lick with its two stores, church, saloon, and wagonworks, and its post office which intermittently operated between November 28, 1853 and 1944. John W. Tucker was its first postmaster. Little now marks the site, a quarter of a mile east of US 42/127 and thirteen miles south of Burlington.

The village and active post office of Constance on the Ohio River, in the extreme northeast corner of the county, was founded sometime before 1850 just below George Anderson's ferry. The village's first settlers had come from southern Germany and are said to have named it for their home town of Konstanz at the west end of the lake of the same name near the present German-Swiss-Austrian border. The post office occupied at least four sites since its inception on December 22, 1853, with William Turner, the first postmaster.

Somewhere northwest of Walton was the post office that operated between January 9, 1858 and late March 1870 as Northcutt's Store. Thomas O.B. Northcutt, the store's probable proprietor, was the first and last postmaster.

The village of Hebron [hee/brən], centered just east of the junction of Ky 20 and the new 237, about four miles nne of Burlington, was named for the local Hebron Lutheran Church that was built in 1854. The church, in turn, was named for an older church, in Madison County, Virginia, that had financially aided in its construction.¹⁴ The community may also have been called Briar Thicket or Briar Patch and, possibly, Tailholt.¹⁵ The active Hebron post office was established on February 23, 1858 with Francis L. Gordon, postmaster.

Richwood, the name applied to a Presbyterian church established in 1834 and extant on the present Ky 338, was also given to a community and its Cincinnati Southern (later Cincinnati New Orleans and Texas Pacific) Railway station, two miles northeast. It is generally assumed that this was a geographically descriptive name, but one cannot completely rule out the families of Thomas and Joseph Rich, antebellum Boone County residents. The post office, established on

June 7, 1859 with Warren Shelden, postmaster, may first have been in the vicinity of the church, but, by the time the railroad had come through and its local station was built in the late 1870s, the office had moved to the tracks, just east of the Dixie Highway (US 25). Here, 10 3/4 miles sse of Burlington, it continued to operate till mid September 1918.

One of Kentucky's most colorful names, Rabbit Hash, was applied to a busy nineteenth century steamboat and ferry landing across the Ohio River from Rising Sun, Indiana. The name is traditionally believed to have derived from the monotony of an early enforced diet of rabbit. The story is told of two travelers meeting in Rising Sun, where one had just arrived by ferry from the Kentucky shore. He was asked by the other, who was making the return trip, if he could get anything to eat at Meek's Ferry Landing. "Yes," he was told, "if you like rabbit hash." The river was receding from flood stage and hundreds of rabbits had been driven to the hillsides where Meek's men hunted them down to replenish the table of his tavern.¹⁶

On January 3, 1879 the local post office was established as Carlton for some Boone County descendants of pioneer Isaac Carlton. But to avoid confusion with nearby Carrollton, postal authorities almost immediately advised postmaster Elizabeth C. Kenney to find another name. In less than 2½ months she returned to the community's old name of Rabbit Hash, and the post office stayed with this till it closed in October 1912.

Little of the community survived the 1937 flood. And what did, over the years and at present, has largely catered to the tourists attracted by the unusual name. The 3½ acre "downtown" Rabbit Hash,

centered on its local store, said to have been there since the early 1830s, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Lowell Scott, Rabbit Hash's present owner, has been hoping to preserve its pristine character and prevent its development as an extension of Rising Sun's commercial gambling operations.

Since Daviess County already had a post office called Pleasant Ridge, the community of this name on the South Fork of Gunpowder Creek had to find another name for its new post office. From July 9, 1883 through September 1907 the post office operated as Gunpowder. It is not known how that stream got its name; there is no evidence that gunpowder was ever made on or near its banks. The name has been traced back to the late eighteenth century. No matter, since this community at the junction of US 42 and Ky 237, at the western edge of Florence and 5½ miles southeast of Burlington, is shown on contemporary maps as Sugartit. This name is even more problematic. It is obviously derived from Sugar Teat by which name, according to postmaster-designate Martin L. Tanner's Site Location Report, the Pleasant Ridge community was also known.

Just below the head of main Gunpowder Creek was the old mill village of Limaburg [la:/mɔ̃/birgh]. Until its post office was established in this name on February 17, 1885, the community was known as Florence Cross Roads, and before that it was sometimes called Needmore. By 1849 Jeremiah Beemon had built a water-powered grist mill on Gunpowder, and sometime later a store was opened across the creek. A larger store was built by the Rouse brothers in 1870, and in this store Silas Joshua Rouse located his post office.

Since neither of that community's names was acceptable for the post office (Needmore was then in use in Floyd County, and the town of Florence was only a few miles southeast of the crossroads), Lima was suggested. But to avoid confusion with the community of that name in Ohio, burgh was added. In 1894 the "h" was dropped, and on September 30, 1907 the office was discontinued. Some years later the mill was washed away in a flood and the store closed. Nothing remains at the Linaburg site on Ky 18, 2½ miles ese of Burlington, but a farm machinery outlet.

On November 20, 1886 Daniel ~~Hathaway~~ Ryle gave his maternal family name to the post office he established to serve the store and sawmill community of Riddles Run. This was on the Gunpowder Creek branch of that name on or near the present Ky 536, over 4½ miles west of Union and 8½ miles south of Burlington. The name Ryle first proposed for that office was Conly (or Conley) for another local family. After a 300 yard move in 1901, the Hathaway post office closed on September 30, 1907 (the very day the Linaburg and Gunpowder offices closed). Nothing marks the site now. Riddles Run, so known at least by 1800, was probably named for William Riddle, that family's Boone County progenitor.

In the late nineteenth century the community at the junction of the present Ky 20 and 338, six miles northwest of Burlington, was called Gainesville for the local descendants of George Gaines, a Virginia-born Boone County pioneer. Since this name and Enterprise, another name proposed for the new post office, were already in use (Gainesville in Allen County and Enterprise in Carter County), the office was called Utzinger [yütziŋ/ər] probably for the family of

Jacob Utzinger (1822-1901). Local storekeeper Frank P. Walton was its first postmaster, from December 4, 1886. In September 1900 then postmaster William D. Cropper had the name changed to Idlewild. It closed in mid June 1910. The origin of Idlewild is not known.

Just south of Florence and just short of the Kenton County line, some eight miles southeast of Burlington, was the Dixon Station on the CNO and TP Railway. It may have been named for William Dixon, the landowner. On January 20, 1888 Julius M. Utz established the local post office as Crescent (Crescent Valley was disallowed by the Post Office Department). This probably referred to the rail line's nickname "The Queen and Crescent Route" because it linked the cities of Cincinnati and New Orleans, then called the Queen and the Crescent cities, respectively. In December 1907 Henry P. Dixon, who had become postmaster ten years before, had the office's name changed to Devon [də/vahn]. The office closed in late August 1909. This name, which now identifies an area on the Dixie Highway (US 25), just west of the tracks, is also as yet un-derived. The name of an English county, it is also that of several nineteenth century Kentucky families, though none are known to have lived in Boone County.

On October 3, 1891 John Sleet Hume established the Hume Store post office on the south bank of Mud Lick Creek on the old Louisville and Covington Road (now US 42), 16¼ miles south of Burlington. The two word name became one word in 1895, and the office closed in September 1897. It was re-established as Hume in October 1899, with Everett Willeford, postmaster, and closed for good in September 1916. Mr. Hume and other members of his large Boone County family were descendants of George Hume, a Marylander, who, in the 1790s, settled

in what later became Kenton County and was one of mother Campbell County's first Justices of the Peace.

Since Crawford was already in use in Clay County and Raymond had just been authorized for a new post office in Breckinridge County, another name, the inexplicable Weneeda, was selected for an office to serve Boone County's North Bend area. It was established on April 18, 1901, half a mile south of the Ohio River and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Sand Run, probably on the present Ky 8. Mary Riley was the first of its two postmasters. In March 1904 her successor, William P. Cropper, had the office moved one mile south to a point some three miles northwest of the Sandrun post office at Francisville. It closed in mid March 1908.

Eight of Boone's thirty six post offices are active. Florence, Walton, and Union serve the county's only incorporated cities, while Burlington, Hebron, Constance, Verona, and Petersburg provide for the postal needs of currently unincorporated communities. At least half of the discontinued offices served viable villages which now get their mail from one of the extant offices.

Twelve offices were named for local or area persons or their families. Two were named for non-local persons. Three bore descriptive names. One was named for the county. A distant place gave its name to one office, while five others had names derived from nearby features (two streams, a lick, a landing, and a church). One office was named for a local event or situation. Two possible name derivations may account for another name. Ten names have not yet been derived. Five offices are still not precisely located.

The names of nine post offices were not those first proposed for them. Ten offices served communities with other names. Nine offices had name-changes.

FOOTNOTES

1. Yealey's fifty years of newspaper articles on county history were compiled in 1960 as the privately printed History of Boone County, Kentucky. His Walton account appeared on P. 33.
2. Gaines as an L&N station name, however, was not listed in time tables after the 1880s.
3. That Landing Creek was so-called at least by 1783, according to an 1802 deposition by Capt. Arthur Connelly, suggests that it may have been serving as a landing for the Big Bone Salt Works by that early date. According to the Acts of the Kentucky General Assembly (1845/6, P. 208), this town, officially established on February 17, 1846, was named for Joel Hamilton, one of its former proprietors.
4. According to a letter from Norma Ward Woodruff of Myrtle Beach, S.C. to Charles D. King of the Kenton County Public Library, Covington, November 9, 1987.
5. Contrary to traditional belief, Woellper, a Pennsylvanian (whose name has also been spelled Woollper, Wolper, Woolper, Wolpert, Woolpert, and several other ways), did not receive his grant in 1788 from Virginia's Governor Edmund Randolph for Revolutionary War service. According to Kentucky land records, these 2,000 acres were surveyed for him in June 1775.

6. Some forty acres of the Tanner's Station site, that may have been an ancient burial ground, are said to have been cleared as early as 1785 by a party of Pennsylvanians who soon moved to Ohio.
7. It is unlikely that Petersburg was ever known as Caledonia as was suggested in B.N. Carter's "Sketch of a Kentucky Town" in the Covington Journal, January 25, 1873, P. 1:2-3). According to early Boone County court records, Caledonia was the name approved on September 15, 1806 for a town to be established on John Grant's land in Woolper's bottom, just above the mouth of Woolper's Creek, and thus several miles below the Tanners Station-Petersburg site. Flournoy, Jacob Piatt of North Bend, and Absalom Gaines were among its appointed trustees. But this town never materialized. What was then called Woolper's Bottom, though, is said to have extended for some five miles above the mouth of Woolper's Creek and thus may have included the site of Tanner's Station. Flournoy is said to have owned some land in the bottom, perhaps by then the site of Tanner's Station, from which, in 1807, he was authorized to operate a ferry to the Indiana shore.
8. Historians have disagreed on the year of Longueuil's discovery of the big bones. Some, like W.R. Jillson, say it was 1729. But if we are certain that it was Longueuil who made the discovery we will have to go with 1739. Another Frenchman, Chausegros de Lery, is known to have explored the Ohio Valley ten years earlier.
9. Robert M. Rennick, Kentucky's Bluegrass: A Survey of the Post Offices, Vol. 2, Lake Grove, Or: The Depot, 1994, Pp. 53, 64.

10. The Gaines brothers were sons of Abner Gaines of Walton, and James had been the Gaines Cross Roads postmaster.
11. Lake Grove, Or: The Depot, 1989, P. 35.
12. Sandlick Creek was shown on a map used in the Humphrey Marshall-Abraham Buford suit in the Fayette Circuit Court, June 20, 1804, copies of which were made by William Fitzgerald and H. Wendling and deposited in the Boone County and Kentucky Historical Society libraries.
13. The derivation of the Elijahs Creek name is not known. According to the Civil War era Lloyd's map of Kentucky, it was then called Stoner Creek, probably for Daniel Boone's fellow explorer Michael Stoner.
14. Virginia's Hebron Church, the oldest Lutheran church in the south, was built around 1740, eight miles north of Madison, and is still active.
15. Briar Thicket and Tailholt were mentioned in a paper on the Hebron community presented to the Boone County Historical Society by John E. Crigler of Burlington on May 19, 1950. William Conrad in his Boone County--The Top of Kentucky, P. 8, recalled the authorization by an early Campbell County court of the construction of a road between Briar Patch and the mouth of the Licking River. I'll go with Briar Patch, for this name identifies that site, just west of Stoner (later Elijahs) Creek, on Luke Munsell 1818 Kentucky map.
16. According to an equally probable variant, four local farmers, gathered at Meek's tavern, were comparing their prospects for Christmas dinner. A bad harvest had left little to look forward

to. One man had managed to catch a few fish. Another had killed a wild possum and hoped it would be enough for his large family. A lucky shot had brought down the last of the migrating ducks. And all the fourth could be assured of was rabbit hash.

REFERENCES

1. Boone County 175th Anniversay Historical Book, 1789-1973, Burlington, 1973
2. Carter, B.N. "Sketch of a Kentucky Town--Petersburg" Covington Journal, January 25, 1873, P. 1:2-3.
3. Conrad, William, Editor, Boone County--The Top of Kentucky, 1792-1992, A Project of Kentucky's 200th Anniversary, Ft. Mitchell, 1992.
4. Fitzgerald, Anna, Burlington, Ky., interviewed by the writer on May 21, 1979.
5. Fitzgerald, William, Origin of Place Names in Boone County, an unpublished manuscript, ca. 1962
6. Hartman, Margaret A. "Court Order Book A--Campbell County, Kentucky" Kentucky Ancestors, Vol's. 11 and 12, 1975-76, passim.
7. Kentucky Heritage Commission, in Conjunction with the Boone County Extension Homemakers and the Boone County Fiscal Court, Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky--Boone County, 1979.
8. "Limaburg Community Flourishes in Early Days" Boone County Recorder, August 10, 1978, P. 10.
9. Rennick, Robert M. Kentucky Place Names, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984.

10. United States Post Office Department: Site Location Reports-
-Boone County Post Offices, National Archives (Washington, D.C.)
11. Wilson, Prentice Day, Broken Bits of Fact and History on Boone
County, Kentucky, November 18, 1955, manuscript in the Boone County
Vertical Files, Kentucky Historical Society Library
12. Yealey, A.M. History of Boone County, Florence, 1960.

✓ BULLETTTSBURG
(1813-1814)

✓ Belleview (1828-1828)
[P+S]
(see # 22)

BOONE COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES

- ✓ 1. BOON (sic) C.H.- 7/1/1807, John Love; 1/1/1814, Joshua Whittington.... (sometime before 1839 the name was changed to Burlington).... 2/12/1839, Nathan Hotoin(?);.... 6/23/1841, Richard B. Kirtley.....
1820. 11/21/1821, Chas. Chambers APO
11/18/19, John Flournoy; 4/12/22, Thos. G. P. (...)
- ✓ 2. PETERSBURG- 5/22/1826, H.M. Allen; 7/27/1839, Charles O. Alden.... (sometime after the Civil War, the name began to be spelled Petersburgh).... 11/8/1889, Sandford G. Cox; name changed to Petersburg, 5/24/1893, Nannie E. Berkshire; 7/22/1895, Nannie E. Gaines....
APO
- ✓ 3. CORNELIUSVILLE- 1/22/1827, Robert Cornelius; 11/5/1835, Edward Graves.... 6/24/1842, Benjamin Mitchell; name changed to Mitchellville, 1/24/1848, Benjamin Mitchell; 2/18/1852, Edward Gaines; 10/29/1852, Benjamin Mitchell; 1/15/1853, Henry F. James; name changed to Bullittsville, 7/21/1853, Albert G. Willis; 1/31/1855, Absalom Graves.... 3/16/1876, David Beall.... 6/7/1911, John W. Grant; Disc. 9/14/1918 (mail to Burlington);
- ✓ 4. FRANCISVILLE- 4/19/1830, Henry ~~K~~ Kendall; 2/18/1835, John H. Crawford; Disc. 6/26/1845;
→ # 36 Sandrun
- ✓ 5. FLORENCE- ^{Est. 1830} 10/8/1831, Ezra K. Fish; 2/8/1833, James H. Mackay....
↳ Connerville PO. (1828-1830) Est. before 1828 as?
APO
- ✓ 6. UNION- ^{Est. 1830, James Brown,} 1/26/1832, Abraham Standifer; 4/1/1837, Morris Lassing....
APO
- ✓ 7. GAINES' CROSS ROADS- ^{Est. 1823 1815 as Gaines →} 3/12/1832, A.W. Gaines; 5/24/1834, Gustavus Fisher.... ^{1823 as} 6/23/1840, John W. Daniel; 7/8/1840, name changed to Walton, Wm. B. Murphy; 7/27/1844, Oliver H.P. Ingram.... ^{x rd} APO

✓ BIG BONE LICK (1829-1831) or 1820 (6/7/1820, Thos. Edmonson)

✓ BANES (1830-1831)

✓ HANDYSBURG (1828-1829)

✓ Tourcytown (?) (1811-1811)

possibly est. as
Pusher's Rd

BOONE COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (2)

12/22/1829, Archibald R. Gaines; ch. to 2/18/32

- ✓ 8. NEW LANCASTER- 4/16/1832, Archibald K. Gaines; 11/14/1834, Jephtha J. Kendrick; Disc. 8/24/1835; Re-est. 9/15/1837, James M. Gaines; Disc. 5/29/1839;
- ✓ 9. PIATT'S LANDING- 1/19/1833, Daniel Piatt; 1/22/1836, Thomas Hough; 4/1/1837, Maltby Smith; Disc. 11/30/1848;
- ✓ 10. VERONA- 3/26/1834, Alexander McPherson; 10/26/1835, Samuel R. McPherson.... 10/20/1863, Thomas Roberts; Disc. 5/22/1866; Re-est. 6/20/1866, James B. Finnell; 6/29/1869, Wm. M. Aggers (?). 7/27/1874, B.L. Gaugh; Disc. 10/16/1874; Re-est. 3/23/1875, Wm. M. Rogers; 3/1/1879, Wm. P. Wolfe....

APO.

Est. as Hamilton 1/19/1817, Peter Hence (?) 7/18/1836

- ✓ 11. BIG BONE LANDING- 7/29/1834, George McGlasson; name changed to Hamilton, 2/19/1835, George McGlasson; name changed to Landing, George McGlasson; 5/10/1837, Marshall McNamara (?); 1/23/1839, John J. Miller; 7/23/1839, Benjamin E. Garnett; name changed to Hamilton, 1/14/1846, Benjamin E. Garnett; 4/16/1850, Colbert B. Johnson.... 10/6/1864, James W. Miller; Disc. 11/8/1865; Re-est. 12/20/1865, Colbert B. Johnson; 8/27/1872, Miss Mary S. Johnson....

Disc 1944

- ✓ 12. WALNUT RIDGE- 8/26/1842, Elijah Grant; 5/15/1844, Benjamin W. Grant; Disc. 2/16/1846;
- ✓ 13. ELIJAH'S CREEK- 3/17/1846, John H. Crawford; 8/6/1855(?), Albino C. Hedges; 10/13/1857, Wm. J. Sandford; Disc. 7/27/1859;

→ Taylor's part

- ✓ 14. MIDDLE CREEK MILLS- 6/2/1846, Wm. McKie; 6/29/1849-?, Ira M. Collier; 4/16/1850, Thomas Roberts; name changed to Boone, 3/23/1858, Thomas W. Cox; 12/1/1858, John H. Pope 11/5/1861, Benjamin F. Garnett; 4/8/1862, James Odell; Disc. 3/30/1863; Re-est. 2/5/1866, Archer D. Daniels; Disc. 9/20/1869;

Peterb. Dist. (1860)

all garnetts in union dist. (1860)

✓
BOONE COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (3)

- ✓ 15. SLUSHER- 7/25/1853, Benjamin L. McGlasson; Disc. 4/8/1854;
→ #25
- ✓ 16. BEAVER LICK- 11/28/1853, John W. Tucker; 12/30/1857?,
J.M. Osman; 3/4/1858, John W. Tucker; Disc. 10/13/
1864; Re-est. 2/14/1868, John G. Ellis, Jr.; 3/17/
1868, A.J. Baker; Disc. 8/4/1869; Re-est. 2/15/1877,
John H. Sleet; name changed to BEAVERLICK, 5/24/1895,
Thomas J. Hughes; 12/10/1897, Jerry O. Griffith....
Disc 1944
- ✓ 17. CONSTANCE- 12/22/1853, Wm. Turner; Disc. 1/12/1858?;
Re-est. 2/12/1858, Wm. Turner; 3/20/1871, Jasper
Stockwell....
A P O.
- ✓ 18. EAST BEND- 4/15/1856, Hiram J. Calvert; Disc. 7/8/1856;
Re-est. 8/10/1876, Jesse Hewitt; Disc. 2/5/1877;
- ✓ 19. NORTHCUTT'S STORE- 1/9/1858, Thomas O.B. Northcutt; 6/4/
1863, John A. McPherson; 2/14/1865, F. Ryland; 3/17/
1865, Thomas O.B. Northcutt; Disc. 3/25/1870;
- ✓ 20. HEBRON- 2/23/1858, Francis L. Gordon; 2/14/1863, Harrison
Clare; 3/17/1865, James A. Davis....
A P O.
- ✓ 21. RICHWOOD- 6/7/1859, Warren Sheldon; Disc. 1/5/1864;
Re-est. 7/5/1877, Charles T. Sowden; 3/18/1878, Frank
Bedinger; 5/16/1881, E.L. Northcutt.... 7/20/1914,
Leslie R. Barlow; Disc. 9/14/1918 (mail to Walton);
Bellevue, 12/30/1826, Ohio (?) Burh... Disc 1828 (P+9.)
- ✓ 22. GRANT- 7/15/1869, Jessee (sic) Hewitt; 1/16/1874, Jesse
H. Dolph;.... 1/7/1899, Otway (?) N. Grant....
Disc 1974
- ✓ 23. GRUBB (?) - 7/2/1877, Herman F. Ficke; Disc. 5/15/1879;

(1860) For. Thos. + Thos. M.
Rich (in union dist)
Henry Rich (Walton dist)

✓

BOONE COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (4)

- ✓ 24. CARLTON- 1/3/1879, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Kerner; name changed to Rabbit Hash, 3/12/1879, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Kenner; 11/10/1879, James H. Wilson.... 11/21/1882, Calvin G. Riddell; Disc. 10/31/1912 (mail to Grant);
- ✓ 25. BERKSHIRE- 8/17/1881, Andrew J. Ross; Disc. 8/2/1882; Re-est. 1/24/1888, Merrideth C. Carroll (sic); 2/6/1890, Charles C. Sleet.... 8/23/1909, Wm. B. Ambrose; Disc. 2/28/1914 (mail to Hume); Re-est. 3/19/1914, Ben O. Sutton; Disc. 10/31/1919 (mail to Verona);
- #15 →
(Murkey) 28 ↓
- ✓ 26. LANDING- 3/13/1882, James W. Kennedy; Disc. 6/12/1882 (papers to Hamilton); Re-est. 6/15/1901, John C. Miller; 12/8/1913, Lurel R. Miller; Disc. 12/14/1918 (mail to Hamilton);
- ✓ 27. GUNPOWDER- 7/9/1883, Martin L. Tanner; 3/4/1890, Ezra O. Rouse; 4/24/1893, Wm. N. Surface; Disc. 9/12/1907, effective 9/30/1907 (mail to Florence);
- ✓ 28. KITE- 11/11/1884, W.J. Black; Disc. 6/19/1886 (no papers sent);
- 5 → 25 → 28
- ✓ 29. LIMABURGH- 2/17/1885, Silas J. Rouse; 9/16/1901, Jacob W. Rouse; 12/17/1901, John W. Quigley; Disc. 1/22/1907, effective 2/15/1907 (mail to Florence); order rescinded; Disc. 9/12/1907, effective 9/30/1907 (mail to Florence);
- ✓ 30. HATHAWAY- 11/20/1886, David H. Ryle; 12/21/1900, James M. Rice; 3/21/1902, Robert R. Houston; 2/23/1905, Nicholas L. Moore; Disc. 9/12/1907, effective 9/30/1907 (mail to Burlington);
- ✓ 31. UTZINGER- 12/4/1886, Frank P. Walton; 3/30/1896, Wm. D. Cropper; name changed to Idlewild, 9/10/1900, Wm. D. Cropper; 5/28/1904, Luther C. Scothorn; Disc. 6/15/1910 (mail to Burlington);
- ✓ 32. CRESCENT- 1/20/1888, Julius M. Utz; 4/11/1890, Robert L. Pearson; 5/1/1893, Richard E. Rice; 12/10/1897, Henry P. Dixon; name changed to Devon, 12/19/1907, Henry P. Dixon; 4/21/1909, Benjamin C. Surface, declined; Disc. 8/12/1909, effective 8/31/1909 (mail to ~~Burlington~~);
- Burlington

✓
BOONE COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (5)

Big Bone Lick

6/7/20, Thos. Edmonson ...

- ✓ 33. BIGBONE- 1/21/1890, John D. Moore; 2/1/1890, Woodford R. Miller.....

Disc. 1941

- ✓ 34. HUME STORE- 10/3/1891, John S. Hume; Disc. 9/30/1897 (papers to Berkshire); Re-est. as Hume, 10/28/1899, Everett Willeford; 9/29/1900, Joseph L. Noell, rescinded 1/14/1901; 3/19/1902, Charles A. Slater; 4/16/1906, Charles L. Lisson; 2/8/1908, Jerry M. Jackson; Disc. 9/30/1916 (mail to Verona);

- ✓ 35. WANEEDA (sic)- 4/18/1901, Mary Riley; 3/7/1903, W.P. Cropper, declined; order rescinded, 1/11/1904; (on 5/27/1903, John Green was named postmaster but again the order was rescinded on 1/11/1904; Mary Riley was still serving as postmaster); 1/13/1904, Wm. P. Cropper; Disc. 2/15/1908, effective 3/15/1908 (mail to North Bend, Hamilton Co., Ohio);

- ✓ 36. SANDRUM (sic)- 5/27/1903, Adelia Dimmick; Disc. 3/23/1908, effective 4/15/1908 (mail to Bullittsville);
#4 (Francisville)

- ✓ 37. TAYLORSPORT- 5/15/1909, L.H. Sprague; 12/3/1913, Walter Sprague.....

Disc 1959

become an R.B. - till 1968.