

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Campbell County Place Names

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undated

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CAMPBELL COUNTY HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Mr. Ries, members of the Campbell County Historical & Genealogical Society, and friends.

Names are very important.

Parents spend many hours in selecting names for their children.

Before a business enterprise became a reality, a proper name was selected.

The same is for selecting names for various cities, towns and communities.

I would like to share with you how some the names of the various cities and other communities were selected in the great County of Campbell.

I have not able to acquire the origin of all the communities in Campbell County, however some of the following names are very interesting.

Let me ask if anyone has visited any of these communities?		
Brooklyn	Jamestown	Coney Island Station
Oregon	Indian Springs	Clifton Heights
Guyville	Daly	Leitch's Station
Belmont	Finchtown	Oneonta (O NE ON TA)

How about Hayfield or Sloptown?

I sure most of you have visited these communities but were unaware of the name changes.

ALEXANDRIA

Settled by Frank Spillman.
He named the area after Alexandria, Va.
Alexandria, Va. was named after Alexandria, Egypt.

ASPEN GROVE

This community is located on U.S. 27 near A. J. Jolly Park. I don't have any information about this community.

BELLEVUE

Named by James Taylor, founder of Newport.
The rolling hills east of Newport reminded him of his home in Virginia, called Belleview.

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BRENT

Located on KY 8, just south of the I-275 Bridge.

There were two towns with conflicting names:
Coney Island, Ohio and
Coney Island Station, Kentucky.

The name was changed from Coney Island Station to Brent, in honor of Brent Spence.

Coney Island, Ohio was called Parker's Grove.

The citizens wanted the community in Kentucky to be known as South Parker's Grove.

The U. S. Post Office Department refused to give the name to the community because of the length and it being two names.

CALIFORNIA

Legend - named after the state of California celebrating the Gold Rush in 1849, the same year of the town's founding.

The city of California may have also been known as Oregon.

The city of Oregon was swept away by an Ohio River flood.

Oregon was chosen from the State of Oregon.

CAMP SPRINGS

Once known as Indian Springs or Four Mile.

There is a creek flowing in this area known as Four Mile Creek.

Settlers used field stones and rock from Four Mile Creek to build their homes.

CARTHAGE

This community is located in the southeastern part of the county near the city of California.

I do not have any information about this community.

COLD SPRING

The city was named after the perennial spring of clear cold water found in a natural spring located in the area.

The large spring was located in the grove of Walnut trees on the property of the Walnut Hills Academy (site now occupied by the Cold Spring Grade school).

I live in the Springhouse Subdivision and that spring continues to flow through the area.

The spring is about 100 yards from my Landominium.

COTE BRILLIANT

Located near Grand Ave. and Carothers Road.

The St. Francis de Sales Church is located in this area.

Named because of the beauty of the scenery in this area.

This community became part of Newport on March 26, 1888.

CLARYVILLE

Name - William Clary, one of the early settlers, who operated a store in the community for many years.

Located on the old KY 9 (Licking Pike) between Alexandria and A. J. Jolly Park.

CLIFTON

Name - after a suburb of Cincinnati which was similar to the Kentucky community as it is situated high above the Ohio and Licking Rivers.

Later - this community became part of the City of Newport.

CRESTVIEW

First developed for World War II veterans and was referred to as VETS VILLAGE.

Name - was selected from a local contest for a new city name.

Chosen because city was located on the "crest of a hill".

DAYTON

The origin of the city of Dayton is unique. The city was once composed of two cities.

Jamestown.....incorporated in 1848
 Brooklyn.....incorporated in 1849
 Dayton.....incorporated in 1867

JAMESTOWN:

Two of the founders of Jamestown:
 James T. Berry and
 James M. McArthur.

It is believed the name came from either of these men.

The name could have been made reference to Jamestown, Va.

The city of Jamestown could not get a Post Office as another city in Kentucky, near Cumberland Lake had the same name, therefore, Jamestown joined with Brooklyn and became known as Dayton.

BROOKLYN:

Legend - some of Brooklyn's early settlers had come from Brooklyn, New York.

Brooklyn was able to secured a Post Office.

The War Memorial now stands at the original division of the two towns.

Jamestown....eastern section of what is now Dayton;
 Brooklyn.....western section of what is now Dayton.

The road currently leading from Ft. Thomas to Dayton was once known as Jamestown Pike.

DAYTON:

In 1867 the towns of Jamestown and Brooklyn became known as Dayton.

There are a couple of legends indicating the origin of the city's name:

- 1) Dayton, Ohio, (this is not accepted);
- 2) after the Old Mill located in the eastern section of the city, know as the Dayton Mill;
- 3) after a pioneer family with the name of Dayton.

FLAGG SPRING

This community is located on Route 10 and was developed around the Flagg Spring Baptist Church which was constructed December 7, 1833.

The name of the Flagg Spring Baptist Church probably was named due to the flowers, iris or flags growing near a spring in the area.

This community had a post office at one time.

The city was settled in 1794 by William Kennedy, who came to Kentucky at the early period of the state's history.

Kennedy was a famous fiddler and is said to have played noted Scottish songs in company with Robert Burns.

Near the Flagg Springs Baptist Church, the Beech grove Sunday School Union was located.

One of the unusual features of this church reflects the social customs on the time.

The church features separate entrances for the male and female congregation.

Buried in the church's cemetery are several Civil War soldiers.

FORT THOMAS

The Newport Barracks, a military installation was located in the north-western part of the city, at the confluence of the Ohio and Licking Rivers.

After flooding, the military barracks were relocated to higher ground.

The new fort was named Ft. Thomas after a Civil War Union General George Thomas.

The military fort constructed in the late 1800s.

Some of the residents living in the area feared a Confederate invasion during the Civil War in 1862, created the District of the Highlands.

The name District of the Highlands was named by the early Scottish settlers.

The District of the Highlands had three different areas:
 Guyville.....the northern residential district,
 Daly.....the southern residential district,
 Fort Thomas...the army post and the first business district.

Early 1900s - the three areas incorporate and chose the name Fort Thomas as the city's name, after the military base.

General Thomas was "dubbed" the named of Rock of Chick-a-mauga for his steadfastness in one of the battles of the Civil War. The battle was fought south of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

GRANT'S LICK

In 1793, salt springs was first discovered by Samuel Bryan, Daniel Boone's nephew.

The town was founded in 1800.

John Grant, another of Boone's nephews, drilled the salt well and was known as Grant's Lick.

Three individuals; James Taylor, John Breckinridge and John Grant formed the "Grant and Company Salt Works" which gave the town its name.

This community is located off of U.S. 27, south of Alexandria.

GUBSER MILL

Name - John Adreas Gubser, a Switzerland native, founded the city and operated a mill during the mid 1880s.

The name of the community derived its name from the early grist mill.

The community is near the intersection of California Cross Roads and Wesley Chapel Road, southern part of the county.

This town was the center of activity in southern Campbell County.

It had a wagon shop, blacksmith, shoe shop, general store, post office and law office.

HAYFIELD

This community was about five (5) miles south of Alexandria, an area around Persimmon Grove Pike.

This community once had a Post Office.

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS

Name - from the Highland Baby Farms, the company that originally developed the city.

The Highlands Real Estate and Investment Co. began to sell land in this area.

Since the city was located on a relatively high elevation, it was called The Highlands.

KOHLER

A Post Office established August 16, 1900 and discontinued August 1, 1909.

The community was located in the southern section of the County.

LEITCH'S STATION

Name - Major David Leitch, a Scotsman and a Revolutionary War officer built the first white settlement in Campbell County in 1789.

Located - about six miles south of Newport on the Licking River.

There is a historical marker located just south of I-275 and the AA Highway on right side of the road, in Wilder, Ky.

MENTOR

Mentor once was called Belmont.

The Post Office Department changed the name to Mentor after the residents requested the change.

Origin of the name is not clear.

(possibly, another town also had that name)
(the Post Office did not state where the name originated).

Mentor was settled in 1800s and incorporated in 1957.

MELBOURNE

Name - Melbourne is the name of the hometown of two brothers, Frank and Hubbard Helm who came from Melbourne, Australia, and settled in the area in 1890.

NEWPORT

Name - in honor of Captain Christopher Newport, who had commanded the ships bringing the first English colonist to Jamestown in 1607.

The city was established on December 14, 1795 and incorporated on February 13, 1837.

ONEONTA (O-NE-ON-TA)

There are two views as how this community received it name:

- 1) The Huntington family named the area for Oneonta, N. Y.
- 2) This town derived its name from an Indian Chief of about 1660.
There was a famous Indian battle fought in this area between two tribes and chief Oneonta was killed in the battle.

The community of Oneonta is/was located near the mouth of Twelve Mile Creek on Route 8.

Early native people from the Fort Ancient group (1000 AD - 1400 AD) settled in this area.

The people living here were believed to be ancestors of the Historic Shawnee Indians.

OREGON LANDING

Part of the community known as Oregon.

Oregon landing was located between California and Mentor on the Ohio River.

This was a popular steamboat boarding location used by many southern Campbell County residents in the 1800s.

Families traveled several miles on foot and wagon following the buffalo traces and cross roads to arrive at this location.

Wood to fuel the boat's boilers were available and readily loaded.

Before the completion of the railroad and Route 8, river travel provided the easiest access to Cincinnati.

PERSIMMONS GROVE

Name - possibly a grove of Persimmons trees were located here.

This community was located at the junction of Persimmons Grove Pike and Race Track Road.

ROSS

Also known as Indian Springs.

When the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad entered this area, the name of the community was changed to Ross.

Semi-professional baseball once flourished at the old Martz Playgrounds.

This city is located on Route 8.

Does anyone remember swimming in the pool there? How was the water? (COLD, VERY COLD)

SILVER GROVE

Name - the large grove of silver maple trees in the area.

In 1911 the C & O Railroad developed this town on the Ohio River.

The local C&O Railroad called this station - Stevens.

This community was inhabited almost solely by railroad employees until 1940s when most of the C&O Railroad operations ceased.

SOUTHGATE

There are two different versions as to how this city was named....

- 1) a pioneer landowner Richard Southgate or
- 2) in honor of Mr. William W. Southgate of the Southgate Family.

Southgate was established on 44/09/1907.

The Southgate family derived their family name because their forefathers were "keepers of the south gate at London."

The Evergreen Cemetery situated in the City of Southgate, Campbell County, Kentucky is the largest cemetery in the Northern Kentucky area.

It was founded in 1850 beginning with 17 acres of ground and was then known as the Newport Cemetery.

SUN VALLEY

Name - was changed from Sloptown to Sun Valley.

This area is south of Claryville on the old Licking Pike.

Evidently, this area was predominately hog farmers.

Due to the embarrassment of new generation, the residents asked the name be changed.

About 40 years ago, the name was changed to Sun Valley for that stretch of the highway.

WESLEY CHAPEL

Name - derived its name from a Methodist Chapel establish there in 1856 and named in honor of the famous Methodist preacher, John Wesley.

WILDER

This area was once called Finchtown.

Name - the city adopted the name of a local L&N Railroad station that had been named for William Hamlin Wilder (1860-1931), a Covington born ophthalmologist.

The city was established in 1935 around the Andrews (now Interlake) Steel Co. plant, which had been located in the 1890's.

WOODLAWN

Name - comes from the Woodlawn Home Co.

The company purchased the old Odd Fellows Grove in 1905 and divided the site into town lots.

This community is nestled between Newport, Bellevue and Ft. Thomas and is bounded on one side by Interstate 471.

The Odd Fellows operated a picnic grove in what was then considered the county.

There are other communities that are being researched, names are:

Dry Ridge, Pleasant Ridge, Brayville,
John's Hill, Pool's Creek.

The town of Salisberry was located along the Licking River in the southern section of the county, but lost in history.

In conclusion, I'm a Kentuckian by birth and by choice.

I'm glad to be a Kentuckian.

Mr. Ries.

This speech was present to the member of the Campbell County Historical Society by:

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