

Northern Kentucky Views Presents

The Highways to Beech Grove

by

Wm. R. (Rus) Stevens

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The highways to Beech Grove began to be constructed by nature with the melting of the ice and the forming of the rivers. So the Mississippi and the Ohio and its tributaries became the highways to Beech Grove.

The earliest traversers of the highways were the Indians coming from their settlements in the north down the Miami and Sciota to their hunting grounds in what is now Kentucky.

Kentucky was visited by Marquette and Joliet in 1673 coming down the Mississippi. LaSalle made the trip in 1682.

In 1739, a Frenchman named Longueil coming down the Ohio discovered Big Bone Lick. Mary Inglis escaped from the Indians in 1755 at Big Bone and followed the Ohio thru Beech Grove to the Kanawa and New River back to Virginia.

Bullett, the Virginia official surveyor, in 1773 led a party down the Ohio. William Kennedy was with this party surveying and laying out towns around Vanceberg. Hancock Taylor visited his father's lands at the mouth of the Licking and went on up the Kentucky River to lay out the town of Frankfort for Robert McAfee.

The Hite Brothers, one leaving the party at Locust Creek and surveying across country toward Falmouth, the other going up the Licking surveying. The McAfee Brothers continued on up the Kentucky River surveying in Mercer County.

Captain Thomas Bullett continued down the Ohio and laid out the projected town of Louisville. Col. William Thompson and surveyors mark lands and discover upper and lower Blue Licks and call Licking Great Salt Creek.

Following the surveyors and land owners came the migration down the Alleghaney, Mongahalia, New River and Kanawa to the Ohio to Limestone (now Maysville) to the interior and then on down the Ohio to Beech Grove. In 1794 Captain John and Edward Waller and George Lewis of Virginia built the block house or station at Limestone.

The town of Washington was established in 1786 by an act of the Virginia Legislature in Bourbon County formed from Fayette County, Virginia in 1

In 1788 Mason County formed from Bourbon and Washington became the County Seat.

On November 18, 1788 Major Benjamin Stites landed with a boat load of settlers at the mouth of the Little Miami, built his station and established the town of Columbia. In 1790 the church of Columbia was established.

Mason County Court Order Book, page 16, July 28, 1789 - Spencer and Laban Records and Dennis Murphy are appointed to view and mark out a way for a road from Washington to the settlement at the mouth of the Little Miami. In Spencer Records Memoir of the Ohio Valley Frontier 1766-1795, you will find more details of his encounters with the Indians at Locust Creek and his experience in cutting out the Washington Road to Beech Grove.

There are more details of the Washington Road in this week's issue of the Falmouth Outlook.

William Kennedy first settled in Mercer County and the records do not indicate when he built his fortress or home, The Castels, south of Mentor or when his son James built his home on Kennedy Road. His will dated August 25, 1795 was probated June 10, 1799.

I am repeating here from the Falmouth Outlook June 8, 1979, where I list the acreage that William Kennedy acquired thru Treasury Warrants and surveying. Beech Grove is on his 1,000 acre Patent, his home was on his 1,400 acre patent south of the 1,000 acres.

April 27, 1821 James Kennedy testifies before the Campbell County Court that he was now living near the second large bottom above the mouth of the Little Miami on the south side of the Ohio and that Timothy and Jacob Rardon and John Stephens had settled, improved and raised crops as tenants under contract with his father. In April 1796 that Simon Campbell had seven acres cleared and John Miller had three acres cleared, a cabin built and living there with his family. Further testimony by John Stephens and Jacob Rardin confirms James Kennedy's testimony.

The Washington Road to Beech Grove substantially follows Route 10 into Pendleton County to Peach Grove where the Peach Grove Inn is located entering Campbell County at Wesley Chapel and down the hill later Baynum Hill to Kennedy Road.

William Thompson's home was here on the Washington Road when he settled

on his 1,000 acre Patent. Edward Morin's home was also here. The May 19, 1805 tax list shows him on 50 acres near William Thompson and as I indicated James Kennedy's home was here and the Kennedy road led off the Washington Road to William Kennedy's home on the Ohio River at Kennedy's Ferry. Here the road turned north along the branch of Well's Creek crossing what is now Smith Road or the road to Beech Grove.

As we leave the road to Beech Grove on the knob to the right was the Beal family cemetery and on the left the home of Benjamin and Jeanette Hamilton Kennedy Beal, the daughter of William Kennedy by his second wife Mary Lindsey and the sister of James Kennedy by his first wife. The Flag Spring is also just west of the Beal home on William Thompson's land but was probably the water supply for the Beal home.

Here the Washington Road leaves the Kennedy lands and follows the present Washington Trace into Carthage passing the Ball and Herdon settlements to the top of the ridge where John Stephens eventually settled down the hill. It crossed Well's Creek where Twelve Mile Road enters 10 now and up the hill where John and Elizabeth Stevens settled or where there probably when the road was cut thru, on up the hill to what is now Grandview to passing the county barn where John Wallers Road from Falmouth met the Washington Road. The Washington Road continued thru Alexandria on what is now Washington Avenue following the old State Road into Fort Thomas, down Miller's lane to Burnet Ridge and down the hill that was known as Hartweg Road (now Lester Road) and crossing the Ohio on Perry's Ferry to Columbia.

January 16, 1799, George Brown is licensed as a Methodist Preacher and his bond is signed by Benjamin Beal and Frank Spillman. This would indicate the first Methodist Church in the county was here at Beech Grove. On January 28, 1799 the Four Mile Baptist Church was constituted at the home of Beutel Riggs.

September 14, 1801, Zachariel Moore, Benjamin Beal, William Thompson and John Grant were appointed viewers to mark out the nearest and best way from James Kennedy's Ferry on the Ohio to Robert's Ferry on the Licking.

On February 21, 1803, the report of the viewers to the court follows. The nearest and best way from James Kennedy's Ferry to John Robert's Ferry on the Licking. To follow the road that leads to the school house, it appears the school house was where the Flagg Spring Church now stands on William Thompson's land for he is in the records identified as the school teacher

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and also the church was identified as the Brick Meeting House before it was constituted as a church, thense by Benjamin Beal's to John Nelson's lick; thense by the mouth of what is called the lick branch, then on a dividing ridge between the waters of the South Fork of Well's Creek and Phillip's Creek crossing one of the heads of the south branch of Phillip's Creek, thense continuing the aforesaid dividing ridge about half mile south of John Grant's lick, thense passing Charles Daniel's to John Robert's Ferry. Here you have the highway from Beech Grove to the west side of the Licking so those settlers at Wilmington and beyond can bring their produce to the Ohio and across to market.

On February 1, 1802 Benjamin Beal, Joseph and Charles Dickens reported to the Court they had viewed and marked out the road from the Flagg Spring by Benjamin Beal's to Allen's Mill on the Licking from Flagg Spring to Nelson's Lick thence the marked way to intersect the old path on the dividing ridge between Well's and Phillip's Creek to the Bear Wallow then passing south of Charles Dickens' on a ridge about three quarters of a mile thence to said Allen's Mill. This road eventually became the Harrisburg Road from the Licking to the Ohio. It was also the road that Edna Jolly Corbin speaks of traveling to the Hickory Grove School.

On October 6, 1800 the Newport Court House Post Office was established with Daniel Mayo as post master. On January 1, 1806 the Grant's Lick post office with Samuel Bryan as post master. June 6, 1813 the third in the county the Kennedy Ferry with John Reed, post master, who was renting part of Benjamin or rather Jeanette Kennedy Beal's 800 acre farm.

On March 29, 1817, the name change to Flagg Spring Post Office with James G. Lindsey, post master, the son-in-law of Jeanette Kennedy Beal. On February 9, 1827 William Thompson, Jr. became post master, December 9, 1833 Edward Morin, December 11, 1862 J. C. DeMoss, April 28, 1863 Thomas F. Tarvin. The name was changed to California August 6, 1864, John L. Lawson, post master. December 10, 1852, the California Post Office was established with John H. Nelson as post master. August 29, 1854 James M. Young, October 5, 1855 James G. Kercheval and discontinued April 15, 1863.

On December 7, 1833 a group met at the Flagg Springs Meeting House and constituted the church with John Stephens as pastor. On December 23, 1833 William Thompson conveyed the Brick Meeting House to Con. Beagel, Fergus German and Wm. Morin as trustees.

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On November 17, 1847 Benjamin B. Beal sells 123 acres to Jeremiah Williams of Virginia. 1859 Jeremiah Williams conveys three quarters of an acre to J. C. DeMoss, Peter Daniel and T. M. Beagle, Trustees of Mayo Lodge 198 and Garrett Daniel, John Kenny and Dr. S. K. Mollyneux, Trustees of School District #12. April 2, 1914 Absolom Columbus (Lum) Dickens wrote Mayo Lodge #198 was organized and put to work April 28, 1850 by Col. Mayo, past master of Newport Lodge upstairs in James Young's store, Jarrell M. McCrone the first master, James Mollynaux, Sr. Warden, Gibson Simeons, Furree Warden and others. The lodge moved from Belmont, Kentucky to Beech Grove about 1855 meeting regularly until the last of the year of 1862.

November 23, 1865 Three Master Masons met in the hall - Wm. A. Morin, Peter Daniel and A. C. Dicken. Federal soldiers had made their quarters there. Our records partly destroyed, ballot box torn open, ballots used for playing marbles. We worked here until February 27, 1890. We then moved to California Campbell County, Kentucky where have a good and commodious hall and doing good work.

May 2, 1872 the heirs of Jeremiah Williams convey to Isaac Smith 121 acres excepting $\frac{3}{4}$ acres The Beech Grove Seminary and $23\frac{1}{2}$ acres lot 2 joining the Beech Grove on the east.

Eventually thru the purchases from David Pollock of 2 acres in 1881 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres from W. H. Kinney in 1891, the Beech Grove Sunday School Union acquired Lot 4 of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of Isaac Smith's Beech Grove estate.

Those of you who subscribe to the Falmouth Outlook and have read the articles published February 9, 1979 - Rev. N. C. Petit, April 27, 1979 - A page of Unwritten History - June 8, 1979 Beech Grove Sunday School Union, July 13, 1979 Hickory Grove, August 24, 1979, Flagg Springs Church and Post Office, November 23, 1979 Raleigh B. Tarvin, Arthur McArthur, A. C. Dicken have more details than I have had enough time to give you.

July 11, 1980 began the Diary of Lum Dickens from September 1, 1862 and will continue thru early 1865 when he returns to take an active part in the Beech Grove community.

This week's issue you will find the Washington Road to the Miami Settlement and the road from the mouth of Licking to Plum Creek toward Lexington. identifying some of the early settlers who were here in 1789.

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For those who do not subscribe to the Falmouth Outlook I have some copies of the last three issues you may have.

BY: Wm. R. (Rus) Stevens
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CREDITS TO:

Kentucky in Retrospect

Margaret Strebels Hartman's Library

The Lake Atlases of Campbell & Pendleton Counties

Glazier & Morledge Map of Campbell County 1922, revised 1935

Hon. Judge Lambert Hehl, County Clerks Robert Nau & Robert Kling
permitting the copying of the county records.

The Dickens, Corbin, Daniel and Jolly families permitting me to
copy their family records.