

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Early days in
Campbell County,
Kentucky
1790-1850

By Helen Bradley Lindsey
Clifton, Newport, Ky.

c. 1928

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EARLY DAYS IN CAMPBELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, 1790-1850.

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"Campbell County, the nineteenth in order of formation, was erected in 1794 out of parts of Mason, Scott, and Harrison, and embraced so much territory, that Pendleton, Boone, Kenton, and part of Grant county have since been erected out of it. It was named in honor of Colonel John Campbell." (Collins' History of Kentucky.)

The following notes on Campbell County history, except where otherwise noted, have been gleaned from the private papers of the late John Brown Lindsey, the first mayor of Newport, Kentucky. He was also sheriff and Justice of the Peace for many years.

Leitch's Station in Campbell County was established in 1790 by David Leitch on a tract of land, a patent of 13,800 acres, on the east side of the Licking River, about six miles from its junction with the Ohio River. "In order to form a settlement thereon, and to have a farm opened for himself, he offered an hundred acres for clearing and fencing of each ten acre field, with the use of the cleared land for three years."

"The settlers consisted of four men with families and four of us single men. We first erected what was generally termed a station. Each family occupied a Block house & I am now uncertain whether we put up stockades or not. We were very industrious & progressed with our clearing for Corn until about the last of April when one of Mr. Fowlers sons was killed by an accident. He was a lad of about 16 years of age and the old

Gentlemen's main dependance & the family became discouraged & moved away." (Memoirs of Benjamin VanCleve Ohio Historical and Philosophical Society, Quarterly, vol. 19, 1922.)

"Major David Leitch was born in Glasgow, Scotland, September 11, 1753. He embarked with his elder brother, settled at Richmond, Virginia, then came to Lexington, Kentucky, in 1785, then to Leitch Station where he built a block house to protect himself and associates." He died November 7, 1794.

The above statement is on a monument erected to his memory, in Evergreen Cemetery, near Newport, Kentucky, by his widow, Keturah Moss Leitch (Taylor) born 1773, whom he married in 1790. She was left a widow at nineteen and in 1795 married General James Taylor, the founder of New Port, Ky.

Another early settlement, in Campbell County, was at Bank Lick, not far from Leitch Station, but on the west bank of the Licking River.

An act to establish the town of New Port by the General Assembly of Kentucky, was approved December 14, 1795, "to include one hundred and eighty acres of land to be laid off into convenient lots and streets"———"and it is judged expedient to vest the said lands in trustees." The land was re-surveyed by John Roberts, deputy surveyor of the County, and a plat recorded August 20, 1795.

The first trustees of Newport were: Thomas Kennedy, Washington Berry;

Henry Brasher, Thomas Lindsey, Nathan Kelly, James MacClure, Daniel Duggan. ("Digest of Laws and Ordinances of the town of Newport." Ira Root, 1846.)

The trustees were to be elected annually by the "house-keepers and owners of lots," on the first Monday in March; the election to be held before the Clerk of the trustees at the Court House in Campbell County.

The first Courts of Campbell County met by law at Wilmington, on the Licking River, 22 miles from Newport, but the county seat was afterwards located at Newport. In 1827 a law was passed fixing it at Visalia, a site supposed to be the center of the county. Quite a controversy arose and a site was proposed at Pond Creek, lower down on the Licking River, but Newport was finally decided upon in 1840. That same year Kenton County was erected out of that portion of land lying west of the Licking River, and the "center" idea again prevailing, Alexandria became the county seat of Campbell County, and so remains, but most of the courts are held at Newport.

Among the papers of the late John Brown Lindsey are the original contracts and receipts pertaining to the erection and construction of the first brick Court House in Newport, 1814. Previous to that time a log structure occupied the corner of the lot, designated as the Public Square, on the corner of what was then known as York and Bellevue streets.

An old subscription list reads: "We the undersigned do oblige our heirs, executors, etc., to pay unto such persons as

may be appointed commissioners for letting the same the sum of money set opposite our respective names to be applied toward building a Court House in the town of Newport, Campbell County, Ky., October 27th, 1814."

The list of subscribers follows:

James Taylor, William Caldwell, George Orr, James Trayner, Daniel Reed, Jonathan Huling, Joseph C. Woodward, George Williamson, James G. Lindsey, G. B. ———, William Marshall, John Tomlinson, John Griffy, Joel Hills, Thomas T. Palmer, William Turner, Rhs. S. Steele, Stacy Reeves, Jonathan Barrett, Joseph McPike, Jonathan Carmack, Samuel Perry, Geo. Perry, James Parker, John McCabe, Peter Lefever, Daniel Maxwell, John French, Alfred Sandford, John B. Lindsey, Elsmore Scott, David Perry, Frank Spillman, James T. Eubank, Robert Cones, Peter Abott, Uriah Edwards, Phillip Senior, Charles Daniel, John Riley, Jacob Youngman, Saml. D. Whisner. (Total of amounts \$1007.)

The contract with John B. Lindsey, William Caldwell, and Jonathan Huling, Commissioners, and Joel Hill and Elijah Pierce, called for a brick Court House to be erected on the Public Square in the town of New Port. The contract for the brick work to be done by Joel Hills and Elijah Pierce, was given 28th, January, 1815.

"The Court House was to be 40 feet square, foundation to be sunk in the ground $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft., $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. thick and eighteen inches above ground to be 2 ft. thick all of stone" — "The first story to be 14 feet high between the floors,

with 18 inch walls. The upper story to be 11 ft. between the floors and 13 inch walls."—"The brick work to be a Flemish Bond of the four outside walls with plain arches over the windows the arch over the door to be a half round."

"The building to have a handsome brick cornice two chimneys with 2 good large fireplaces in each one above and the other below." All to be completed by September, 1815. Joel Hills and Elijah Pierce to be paid \$1296 out of the money levied by the Court and subscribed by individuals.

The contract for lathe and plaster was with Joseph Dobbins and R. L. Mullins for \$500, to be finished 10th day of October 1815. They were also to "pave the lower floor with brick with the exception of that laid with plank."

The contract for the woodwork was with John Eversull and Samuel Perry for \$1500. They were also, "to build a Cupulo ten feet square 15 feet above the roof and to have an offset in it eight square in proportion to the height & to cover it and weatherboard it with venetian blinds and it is further understood the undertaker is to put a hip roof & to furnish rafters sheathing shingles nails etc to make a complete roof." The contract was awarded 30th day of January 1815. Signed by the Commissioners John B. Lindsey, Joel Hills, and Charles Thornton, elected 15th day June 1815.

December 28, 1803, an act was approved by the General Assembly, "giving exclusive jurisdiction, to the United States, of a tract of land in Campbell County, of five acres and 6 square poles,

in the town of Newport, for the purpose of erecting an arsenal and other public buildings thereon." The old Barracks with its band concerts were a regular Sunday attraction at the United States arsenal. After the erection of Fort Thomas in late years, the old Newport site became the property of the city, and is now, 1927, the City Park.

General James Taylor was the first Clerk of the Courts, and Washington Berry was the first Judge of the Campbell County Court.

1809-1810	James Taylor, Clerk F. T. Helm, Deputy Clerk
1812, '13, '15, '16, '17,	James Taylor, Clerk Geo. W. Gordon, Deputy Clerk
1817, '18, '19	James Taylor, Clerk Thos. W. Kavanaugh, Dp'y Cl'k
1820 to 1826	James Taylor, Clerk John N. Talliaferro, Deputy Clerk
1826, '27, '28, '29	James Taylor, Clerk Geo. Gordon, Jr., Deputy Clerk
1831	John N. Talliaferro, Clerk F. T. Helm, Deputy Clerk
1832	John N. Talliaferro, Clerk Geo. Berry, Deputy Clerk
1834	John N. Talliaferro, Clerk William A. Pendleton, Deputy Clerk
1835	John N. Talliaferro, Clerk
1836	John N. Talliaferro, Clerk W. H. Lacy, Deputy Clerk
1837	John N. Talliaferro, Clerk C. J. Helm, Deputy Clerk
1838	John N. Talliaferro, Clerk
1839, '40, '41	John N. Talliaferro, Clerk

Tax Collectors of Newport under an act of January 12, 1830. ("Digest of Laws and Ordinances" Ira Root, 1846.):

1831, A. Boyd. 1832, Isaac Cooper. 1835, Charles Daniels and G. H. Winston. 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, Charles Daniels. 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, A. Boyd. 1842, School tax Collector, Henry Digby. 1842, Thomas Spelman. 1843, 1847, Charles Elricker. 1843,

James Perry. 1837 to 1841, Road tax overseer, Daniel Cost.

1842, Charles Stricker, Special Commissioner to sell property for taxes.

1840 to 1843, C. Daniels, Master Commissioner.

1846, 1847, Charles Stricker, Marshall of the town of Newport.

Nathan Kelly, first Sheriff of Campbell County.

1809 Taylor Berry Deputy Sheriff.

1815.....Frank Spilman, Sheriff

1816.....Benjamin Graves, Sheriff

A. W. Sanford, Deputy Sheriff

1817.....Bartlett Graves, Sheriff

1821-1822.....Jonathan Huling, Sheriff

Samuel Carlisle, Deputy Sheriff

1822.....John Lawrence, Sheriff

Joseph Wood, Deputy Sheriff

1823.....Squire Grant, Sheriff

Jonathan Huling, Deputy Sheriff

1824-1825.....Benj. D. Fowler, Sheriff

P. M. Reddick, Deputy Sheriff

1825-1826.....James G. Lindsey, Sheriff

Jacob Fowler, Deputy Sheriff

1827-1828.....John B. Lindsey, Sheriff

P. M. Reddick, William Reddick and Fred Klutz, Deputy Sheriffs, under a \$5,000 bond.

1827, January 10th, a certificate signed by Governor Jos. Desha, and Secretary of State J. O. Pickett, appoints John B. Lindsey Sheriff of Campbell County, because one William Anderson failed to qualify.

1828.....James G. Lindsey, Sheriff

John B. Lindsey, Deputy Sheriff

1833.....O. R. Powell, Sheriff

George Carmack, Deputy Sheriff

1839.....Tarvin Baker, Deputy Sheriff

1841-1848.....O. M. DeCourcy, Sheriff

1849.....L. C. Buskett, Sheriff

February 6, 1816, an act was approved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, giving the trustees of the town of Newport, power to levy a tax for repairing streets and alleys and maintaining and improving the police force.

January 29, 1818, power was given the trustees to appoint a tax collector of whom a bond was required with security.

February 24, 1834, "The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky incorporated the town of Newport; the government and control thereof to be vested in a Mayor, and six persons to be called Trustees, who together with the Mayor, shall form a board, to be denominated the board of Mayor and Trustees; all of whom (Mayor and Trustees), shall be elected for the first time on the first Monday in March next, by a majority of the free white male inhabitants of said town, being of lawful age, and residents for six months prior to the election, and citizens of the United States, each voter giving his vote viva voce; but in every other respect the said first election to be governed by the laws now in force in said town in relation to the election of Trustees; and the Trustees elected under this act shall hold their offices for one year, from the date of their election, and until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified; and the Mayor shall hold his office for one year, and until his successor shall be so duly elected and qualified; all of whom, (Mayor and Trustees) shall have resided in said town, and owned real estate therein for one year next preceding the election, and be citizens of the State of Kentucky."

The first Mayor of the incorporated town of Newport, was John Brown Lindsey. A certificate issued by Lieutenant Governor James T. Morehead, bearing the date March 16, 1835, signed

by J. T. Morehead, and William Owsley Secretary of State, and bearing the state seal, is still in the possession of the family. J. B. Lindsey was again Mayor from 1845 to 1848 inclusive.

The town of Covington was incorporated February 8, 1815, by General John S. Gano, Richard M. Gano, and Thomas Davis Carneal. It was named in honor of General Leonard Covington, who was born October 30, 1768, at Agnasco, Maryland. General Gano gave the town this name out of respect to his comrade in the Indian wars. The trustees in 1816, were John O. Buckner, Joseph Kennedy, John Hudson, Alfred Sandford, and Uriel Sebree.

The site of Covington was at one time a corn field cultivated by the Kennedy family. Francis Kennedy operated the ferry between Covington and Cincinnati, and Thomas Kennedy between Covington and Newport. (Collins "History of Kentucky," Vol. 2, Kenton County.) James G. Lindsey owned and operated the ferry, in the upper end of Campbell County, over to New Richmond, Ohio, previous to 1828, when he leased it to George Tarvin, for the several years. The C. & O. Railroad now (1927) operates a ferry at this point.

Daniel Boone crossed into Kentucky through Cumberland Gap he says in 1769, with John Stewart, Joseph Holden, James Monay, and William Coole, under the guidance of John Findley. (See Collins' "History of Kentucky," Vol. 2, Josh Bell County.) The Stuarts (Stewarts) of Virginia and Kentucky were and are represented in Campbell County; also Findleys, Macdonalds,

Glenns and Drake's. For Halley and Stuart traditions, ("Notes and Queries," London 1902-1927.)

Captain James McPike, a Revolutionary soldier, under Washington, Lafayette and Wayne, made his home in Newport, with his eldest son, Joseph McPike, during his declining years. He was born about 1751, perhaps in Edinburgh, but possibly in London. He was of Scotch ancestry, at least maternal. One tradition says his mother was a direct descendant of the Stuarts (Stewarts) of Edinburgh; another that she was a grand-daughter, of Edmond Halley, the English astronomer. James McPike came to America about 1772, when quite young, and to Mason County, Kentucky, in 1796. He died at Newport, in May, 1825, and was buried in the old Eighth Street Cemetery, with military honors. ("Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography," January, 1918.)

Other soldiers of the Revolutionary war, in Campbell County, were Robert Kyle, Hezekiah Lindsey, and Isaac Ferguson. General Thomas Sandford was in Congress for four years, 1803-1807. Major Doughty was also a resident of Newport in the early 1800's. Major Martin was at the United States Post, in Newport, the first in command. 1847, Captain McCormack, of 11th., Infantry, and in 1848, Captain McCrae, of the 3rd., Infantry.

EARLY CHURCHES

The Methodist Church, at Newport, was established in 1806, by Rev. Jonathan Stamper, circuit rider. Among the

members of the Class were: Mrs. John B. Lindsey, Mrs. Berry, and Mrs. Bryson. Meetings were held in the old Court House, as well as in the homes of the members. Benjamin P. Hills, 87 years of age, in 1897, and at that time a resident of Newport, gave from memory the following members in 1820: Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Hinde, Mrs. Nancy Southgate, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. George Perry, Mrs. Rhoda Hills, Mrs. Esther Daniels, Mrs. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lindsey, Mrs. Mary T. McKinney, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Helm, Mr. Butler, Mrs. Elijah Pierce, Mrs. Alice Berry, Mrs. Alice Talliaferro, Mrs. Richard Mullin, Mrs. May Marshall, Mrs. Jane Fowler, Mrs. Sarah Downard, Mrs. Daniel Cost, Mrs. Huling, Mrs. Berry, Sen., and Mrs. Talliaferro, Sen.

Another list prepared by Rev. Isaac Collard, for the years 1826, 1827, and 1828, includes besides the above, many more of the early settlers of both Covington and Newport; this Methodist church being the only northern Kentucky church at that time. The names on this list are: Ainsworth, Bennett, Braisier, Brotherton, Brown, Chandler, Collins, Cost, Coy, Darling, Davies, Doughty, Doxon, Dugan, Ellison, Fowler, Gaddis, Greene, Greennell, Gundecker, Hall, Harris, Harrison, Helm, Hickey, Hopkins, Jennes, Johnson, Kelly, Kennett, Knoblough, Lacy, Leonard, Losey, Louderback, Mahand, Massey, Mayo, Melford, Moore, Morse, Morton, McCarthy, McClure, McLaughlin, Parsons, Perine, Perry, Phelps, Porter, Reed, Revell, Richerson, Rugg, Busk, Shaw, Simmons, Sutton, Tarvin, Terrill, Thompson,

Timberlake, Todd, Wait, Weaver, Whann, White, Whitten, Wild, Williams, Wilson, Winston, Wright, Youngman.

"An agreement with Wm. Bryan," an old document yellow with age and clearly written with a goose quill, for the erection of a "Methodist Meeting House 30x40 feet constructed of brick, with side walls 11 feet high," is signed John B. Lindsey, Thomas S. Hinde, and Lemuel H. Wilson, Trustees. The name of Isaiah Hayman, the fourth trustee, does not appear at the end of this document, but in a prefatory statement. The date is May 17, 1827, and the time given for the completion of the building, "On or before August next." This was the first Methodist Episcopal Church in Newport, built on the lot where St. Paul's Episcopal Church now stands, Court Place, opposite the Court House.

For about ten years, in this temple of the Lord, his saints worshiped Him. The door of entrance was, on love feast and class meeting occasions, carefully guarded to keep those out who had no tickets and even those who had, in case the latter wore jewelery or hats too much bedecked, or neckties too "loud" "Some extravagant revivals were held there." The Church was lighted with home-dipped candles brought by the different worshipers. The services began at "Early candle light." In the front of the interior of the building there was a low gallery, without hand-rails, for the use of slaves, who came to meetings with their masters. Jack, a slave of John B. Lindsey, sat there one night and went to sleep and fell out of the gallery, taking the stove pipe with him in transitu to

the floor. The narrator, of the above, affirmed that Jack escaped without a broken bone, but the meeting was broken up.

In 1833, the walls of the present church, Taylor Street Methodist Church, South, were put up by the Presbyterians. In the deed to the lot appears the name of Henry Ward Beecher, who was then a student at Lane Theological Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio. The members of the Presbyterian Church, at that time, were a company of Yankees who had come to Newport to work in a bagging factory, on the river front. When the business failed, the employees moved away, and the Methodists purchased the Church. On July 28, 1840, James H. McClure, for \$5000 transferred, by deed, the property to Isaiah T. Hayman, John B. Lindsey, Geo. C. Tarvin, James Wall, and Edward Southgate, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Newport. The upper room of the building was not then finished. Where now are the vestibule and small rooms, was a large porch and immense plastered columns.

There were no public schools in those days and the basement room of the Church was rented between Sundays for a subscription school. Among the early tutors, in Newport, were Ira Root, Charles Thornton, and Professor Blinn. The A. and J. Pickett Academy, in Cincinnati, ranked high as a female school.

December 16, 1805, Thomas Lindsey and Rebecca, his wife, deeded to the Baptist Society of Licking a piece of land, 12x13 1/5 rods, in the north east corner of their farm, at Cold Springs, "being the ground on which the Meeting

House now stands," on Winters Lane. This was the first Baptist Church in Campbell County. No record has been found of an exchange of property, but the present Baptist Church is on the Alexandria Pike, on a part of the same farm once owned by Thomas Lindsey; the present location being acquired, perhaps, in 1845.

December 31, 1842, a deed was made by Samuel Winston to Asbury Methodist Church, of a part of the same farm.

About 1849-1850, the Catholic Church acquired another portion of the same farm, of Thomas Lindsey, deeded in 1845 to Benjamin Smith by John B. Lindsey, upon which now stands the St. Joseph Orphan Asylum and School.

Flagg Springs Baptist Church was "Constructed Dec. 7, 1833." A more recent structure occupies the site, but contains the old fashioned mahogany pews with doors.

The earliest record of a school, in Newport, is that of the Newport Academy so designated in Copies of Surveys for Trustees of Newport Academy, for land in Barren County, Kentucky. The dates on said Copies of Surveys, being 1800 and 1801.

An old document, yellow with age, but clearly written with a goose quill, reads: "We and each of us do engage to pay unto such persons as may be appointed commissioners by majority of the subscribers the several sums set opposite our names for the purpose of erecting a brick school house on the Seminary lot in the town of Newport on the Lancaster portion given under our hand & etc., this

15th day of June 1815." The following names appear on the list of subscribers: James Taylor, John B. Lindsey, William Marshall, Saml. D. Whisler, Elijah Fowler, John Griffey, Charles Thornton, Wm. C. Baxter, Mary T. Taylor, Alice Berry, Ann Talliaferro, Jacob Turner, John Capas, Peter McArthur, Daniel Mayo, J. Trainer, James C. Woodard, Hezekiah Hayman, George Orr, Richard Southgate, Joel Hill, Joseph McPike, Jonathan Huling, Daniel Maxwell, Richard Mullins, John French, Thomas Harris, William Daniel, David Perry, Thomas Neel, Samuel Winston, Samuel Perry, David Downard, Jonathan Grey, Geo. Wm. Foss, Maria Eubank. The subscriptions amounted to \$337.

On the reverse side of this list we find "John B. Lindsey, Joel Hill, Charles Thornton are elected commissioners this 15th day of June 1815."

The first library opened in Newport, March 1832, was called "The Newport Lyceum," and in the list of donors are found the following names: M. W. Bateman, M. W. Wolf, James Harris, Horatio T. Harris, Dr. M. Wolf, Dr. J. Bennett, Wm. H. Lacy, J. W. Tibbatts, D. D. Mayo, Jno. N. Talliaferro, H. H. Southgate, Mrs. Maria Lindsey, Thomas N. Lindsey. In the list of expenses, "candles 121½ cents, for Bennetts lecture" (evidently Dr. Bennett). A letter filed with this record bears the signature of Richard M. Johnson, and is written to Thomas N. Lindsey, and bears the date "Philadelphia, 11 April 1832." He says, in part, "When I return to Washington, I will not forget your request for public documents." Present my best

respects to your public spirited associates, and let them know that I am much gratified to find that they have instituted a library."

January 27, 1830, the Newport and Covington Bridge Company was chartered. A sample of the Bonds issued is now in the possession of the writer, also several certificates of the "Newport Manufacturing Company" bearing the signatures of James Taylor, President 1833; John W. King, President 1835, 1836; John W. Tibbatts, Treasurer.

The first bank in Covington, private and temporary, established in 1821 by Benjamin W. Leathers, in connection with his store. (See Collins' "History of Kentucky," Vol. 2, Kenton County.) Some of the "Promises to Pay" issued by Mr. Leathers, in amounts ranging from 6¼ cents up to \$1, representing a judgment before Justice of the Peace, John B. Lindsey of Newport, are still in a good state of preservation, and bear dates 1818 and 1819.

The Newport Bank was organized in 1819, James Taylor President, Hubbard Berry Cashier, under \$30,000 bond. 1820, Thomas J. Palmer owned and operated a saw-mill. 1810-1827, Joseph McPike kept a hat store on Taylor Street (Third). Southgate and Eubank, kept a general store on the north side of Taylor Street, between Monmouth and York. Daniel D. Mayo was the first Post Master of Newport, and his home on Front Street, is still standing. The old desk which he used for the letters is now in the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. John O. Taylor, of Erlanger, Kentucky.