

Supplement to attached memornadum of Extracts of the
History of Campbell County--

While it is true that the beginnings of the history of Campbell County originated around the Newport city area still, Campbell County can be classed as a county of sections, and much history developed also in the rural areas of the county.

One of such areas can be referred to as the Mentor-California-Flagg Spring section, for this section, and notably several of its distinguished personages, attracted state and nation-wide attention.

On a high hill overlooking the town of Mentor and overlooking the picturesque Ohio River Valley for many miles both east and west, an historic house was erected shortly after the War Between the States; this house being erected by none other than the late Rev. and Prof. Nick Pettit, one of the most outstanding educators and builders that Campbell County ever produced.

After the Rev. Mr. Pettit had been called to the "Homeland" the property and historic house passed into the hands of Mr. W. T. H. Howe, a nationally known character, who served for many years as the President of the American Book Company of New York, Cincinnati and other cities.

Mr. Howe lived there mostly during the summer months, however, he remodeled the historic house and being interested in history, he established at the home an historic library as well as a museum in which he had on display many of the great works of art, as well as literature, and which was the showplace of all the local area, attracting distinguished visitors from many counties in the state, as well as states and countries.

However, regardless of the fact that he was a great business man and executive, he died suddenly a number of years ago intestate, leaving no will, and the historic home and great estate of his became involved in extensive litigation in the courts of the state, with most of it passing into the hands of his so-called common-law wife, which was the regret of all who knew him. However, the house and property was sold in settling the estate to Mr. Jack Thatcher of Alexandria, who is endeavoring to develop a sub-division of the property. However, the historic house still stands overlooking a vast area of beautiful and picturesque area for many miles both east and west as well as south in the county of Campbell.

Those living in this area have always been considered as a deeply religious people and during the latter part of the eighties organized a group and known as the Campbell County Sunday School Union, or rather the Beech Grove Sunday School Union, and through the sale of stock to Sunday School students from one cent to twenty five dollars purchased and erected a camp ground, amid many historic beech trees, on the site, where yearly programs were conducted each year, and which attracted speakers and musicians of state and nation-wide note. Several Governors during its long and honorable history have addressed the annual meetings, referred to as "celebrations" at the historic site.

An act was passed by the Kentucky General Assembly, sponsored by Representative John C. De Moss, chartering and incorporating the Beech Grove Sunday School Union, which, to this day, has never been abrogated or repealed by succeeding sessions of the General Assembly.

Officers of this Union serve without compensation and it is considered to be a high honor to serve as an officer of this Union.

Just east of Mentor on the State Road No. 8, or the Mary Ingles Highway. (Note that we have been spelling the name of this woman incorrectly for many years, and the correct spelling is not "Inglis" but "Ingles" as noted by all historians and by descendents of this famous woman, who was the first white woman to set foot on Kentucky soil, and in 1755 she escaped from Indian captivity at Big Bone Lick in Boone County and finally made her way on foot along the winding southern bank of the Ohio River and finally to safety with her people at Draper's Meadows in Virginia. The trailway used by Mrs. Ingles in making her escape is now a state highway and known as the "Mary Ingles Highway."

Probably the most distinguished personage that came from Mentor proper was none other than the late Professor A. J. Jolly of Mentor, who served as the Assistan State Superintendent of Public Instruction during the administration of Dr. V. O. Gilbert, and before serving as the Assistant State Superintendent of Public Instruction, he served as the Principal of the High Schools at Augusta and Bedford, Kentucky. He served one term as a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives from the district in Campbell County outside of the City of Newport, with much distinction and honor, however, after receiving the nomination two years hence without opposition and was well on his way to be re-elected, he died suddenly at his home in Mentor. His funeral services were attended by none other than the Honorable William J. Fields, distinguished Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He was laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery on top of the hill overlooking Mentor where he will sleep until the Resurrection Morn.

Yes, just east of Mentor on the Mary Ingles Highway is to be found the remnants of an historic house erected during and before the era before Kentucky joined the Union of States in 1792, and is still referred to as the Thomas Kennedy Fort, for this historic house served as a fort to repel the early sorays of the Indians in the local area, and for many years its port holes served as shooting areas for the rifles of the early pioneers. Thomas Kennedy was one of the early settlers in Campbell County and his descendents still live in Mentor. Efforts have been made to establish a pioneer museum and state park at the site, but to-date no actual work has been accomplished in the movement, however, it would make a very nistoric site for such a project, and snould attrack thousands of tourist from throughout the local and state wide area.

Probably the most outstanding Minister of the Gospel to come from the local area was none other than the late Rev. James Monroe Jolly, wuose forefathe came from Virginia and located in Campbell County at the birth of the county. The Rev. Mr. Jolly was of the Baptist faith and he conduted revivals and preached regularly at many of the rural churches in Campbell County for more than a generation. Besides being a Minister of the Gosepl he was also a builder of numerous house and especially school houses and church buildings, of all denominations, many of them standing in this day and age as a monument to his labors. His descendents still life in the Mentor and Flag Spring areas, all of them being faithful asherants of his early teachings and doctrine.

While Mentor, formerly oknown as Bellemont, was never a shipping center from an Ohio river point of view,#####, because of the \$%& sand bars protruding far out into the river at this point still, at near-by California formerly known as Oregon, was just such a shipping point and as one perior

in the history of Campbell County, Oregon, or early California, was well known as a shipping venter on the Ohio River, and ~~he~~ operated a dock or shipping facilities at this point, which later resulted in the community being chartered as incorporated as a town by the Kentucky General Assembly. This town has never to-date surrendered its charter and is still operating as a city of the sixth class. However, the great Ohio River floods of 1884 and 1937 virtually destroyed many of the houses and industries in the historic town.

These floods, and especially the one of 1937, worked havoc on the town, and diminished its population to a great extent, with the result that the once proud and thriving A. J. Jolly High School, located just ~~west of~~ east of the town proper, had to be abandoned and the high school pupils are now attending the consolidated Campbell County High School at Alexandria, however, the A. J. Jolly Trade School is still maintained in the community.

The local community or communities also boast that they maintain a Masonic Lodge at California, which serves the local areas of California, Mentor, Flag Spring, Carthage and adjoining communities. This lodge is known as the Mayo Lodge, named in honor of the first Postmaster of Newport, Mr. Daniel Mayo, and old Seventh Street in Newport was once known as Mayo Street.

Volumns could also be written of other distinguished personages and events that occurred in the local communities of Mentor, California, Flag Spring and Carthage; for instance, during the War Between the States, two of the prominent citizens of California were captured by the Union Army and shot as spies, however, everyone knows familiar with the families and the history of the communities that they were now spies, and should have been exchanged as prisoners of war.

For Mrs. Mary Jolly
For Miss Pharily Jolly.

December 31, 1957.

From C. B. Truesdell.