

1.

Grant County.

John Forsee  
622

Name

Historic Old Homes.

3x5 ✓  
There is at least one old home in Grant county that has historical connections. In a house, now belonging to the Henderson Rouse estate, located on highway 25 near the southern limits of the town of Crittenden ( named after John J. Crittenden) the Marquis de Lafayette spent a night in the year 1824. He was at that time on a visit to the United States and was making the trip by stage from Cincinnati to Lexington, the county seat of the county that bears his name. This house is in a good state of preservation, situated directly on the highway (Federal Highway 25) and may be seen at any time.

Another old building (not a home) that has been of considerable to interest to local residents and strangers is a primitive Baptist Church well over a hundred years old on Fork Lick Creek, ten miles from Williamstown, the county seat. Water flows through this church with every freshet but services are still held one a month.

Scenic Views.

There are no outstanding scenic views in the county but the drive through the county on the Federal highway mentioned above, from Crittenden in the northern part to Corinth in the southern part shows the best farming land of the county. The country is rolling to level and rich in fertility and the farmers along its drive are prosperous.

A concrete bridge over Eagle Creek provides a beautiful creek bottom view of cultivated fields, Eagle creek approaching the size of a river at this point, and the surrounding

hills. This view point is very easily reached, the bridge being a part of the William Howard Taft Memorial Highway between Cincinnati and Frankfort.

#### Natural Wonders.

It has been said that the ridge extending through the county originally known as the dry ridge and from which the town of Dry Ridge gets its name is a part of the Cumberland Mountains. There is no disputing the fact that it is the dividing line between the Kentucky and the Licking River basins but, the land formation is entirely different from that found in the mountains. On the other hand, geographies show a natural divide from the mouths of the two rivers to their sources in the mountains and this accounts for the claim that the ridge extending through the county along which the highway runs, is a spur of the Cumberland Mountains. This claim is not established by any other source except local ones.

#### Sites of Pioneer Forts.

No forts located within the county as far as can be learned.

#### Graves of Prominent persons.

The graves of the following prominent people are in the cemetery at Williamstown: Anderson Simpson, shot by Union soldiers in 1862; A.G.DeJarnette, candidate for congress, M.D. Gray, prominent attorney; William Arnold, founder of Williamstown, owner of land on which town now stands, donated site for court house, home in which he lived in Williamstown now standing; John Zinn, early settler, house in which he lived yet in Williamstown; T.L.Clark, early settler; H.B.Smith, county clerk and circuit clerk; Edward Stroud, former jailer and politician, native of Pennsylvania, born 1800 died 1844.

## Bibliography.

Otto Smither, farmer and stock raiser, Chairman Owen County Board of Education, Monterey, Kentucky.

W.R. Payne, former county judge of Gallatin county and one of its oldest living citizens, Warsaw, Kentucky.

E.C. Threlkeld, dentist and student of antiques and ancient Kentucky life, Warsaw, Kentucky.

Pryor Perry, banker and farmer, Warsaw, Kentucky,

R.L. Westover, Editor Grant County News, Williamstown, Kentucky.

Dr. A.D. Webb, one of oldest citizens of Grant county, retired physician, excellent memory of dates and names, Williamstown, Kentucky.

Personal Observation.

HIGHEST  
MERIT

WPA

WEST  
BAPTIST

Guide to Grant County Map.

- ✓ 1. Campbell's Station, now Dry Ridge, three miles north of Williamstown on Federal Highway 25 and 33 miles south of Covington. Settled before 1792.
- ✓ 2. Littell's Station, now Williamstown, 37 miles south of Covington and located on highway ~~33~~ 25. Settled before 1792 and one of the stations of the stage coach line between Cincinnati, Ohio and Lexington, Kentucky.
3. Primitive Baptist Church, ten miles from Williamstown on Fork Lick, services held once a month, building more than 100 years old.
4. Historic Old Home on Highway 25, near the southern limits of the town of Crittenden, where the Marquis de Lafayette spent a night in 1824 while traveling by stage from Cincinnati to Lexington, Kentucky.
- ✓ 5. Grave of William Arnold, in cemetery at Williamstown on highway 25. Arnold was the founder of Williamstown and donated the property for the court house site, there.
6. Site of attempted murder in 1841 of stock trader by name of Utterback. Utterback had sold stock in Cincinnati and had deposited the money in a Covington bank. A man by the name of Crouch, boss of a Covington chain gang, and another man by the name of Maise who was a member of the gang, thinking that Utterback

had the money on his person, followed him to within about four miles of Williamstown. where they cut his throat and left him for dead after searching him and finding nothing. Utterback, thinking he was going to die, wrote the names of his assailants on a stone in his own blood. A peddler happening to pass, Utterback was rescued and recovered from the attack, living until 1887. The would be murderers, Crouch and Maise, were quickly caught and imprisoned in the jail at Williamstown. Two weeks afterward they were taken out by a mob and hanged. Citizens cut down and buried the bodies the next day, near the scene of the hanging. A few nights later Crouch's wife, under cover of darkness, came to claim the body of her husband and return it to near their home for interment. When disinterred, the body was discovered to be headless.. Further investigation revealed the fact that the body of Maise was also headless. At that time several young men in the neighborhood were studying medicine and it was always said that these young gentlemen had used the heads to further their medical study.

**Bibliography.**

R.L. Westover, Editor and publisher Grant County News,  
Williamstown, Kentucky.

Dr. A.D. Webb, retired physician 75 years of age, authority on  
local history, Williamstown, Kentucky.

Personal Observation.

Information furnished by Lexington office.