AARON (Clinton Co.): [E] [H] (Wolf Creek Dam). On March 11, 1908 Addison R. Aaron established the Aaron post office at a point one mile north of its present site on US127, 7 miles nwnw of Albany. Rosie Conner's store occupies the old post office site which is still identified as Aaron on current maps. [Eva Conner, interview, 3/22/1979]
ABERDEEN (Butler Co.): [Aberdeen] (Flener, Morgantown). A village with an active post office and some 150 residents extending n for a mile along US 231 (KY 70, 79) from a point just across the Green River from Morgantown, the county seat. This was a thriving 19th century river port from which were shipped the products of area coal mines and lumber mills. The post office was established July 14, 1871 with Andrew Duncan, postmaster, and if the name did not precede the post office, it is probable that Duncan, a native of Ayrshire, Scotland, had seen fit to name it for the Scottish city.

(Betty Higgins "Aberdeen" PARK CITY DAILY NEWS, 12/17/1975, P1)
ABSHER (Adair Co.): (Aeb/sher) (Cane Valley). This extinct post office at the junction of KY 551 and the Snake Creek Rd., 4½ air miles nne of Columbia, was established June 20, 1884 with Samuel M. Humble, postmaster, and named for a local family. The vicinity is now on a Columbia rural route.

[Nancy Berley, interviewed by Henry Giles, 7/1972]
ACORN (Pulaski Co.): [A/kawrn, A/kern, Ak/ran] (Shopville). Several accounts have been offered for the name of this active post office on Ky. 1675, 1 mile south of Ky. 80 and 11 air miles east of Somerset. According to one, J.N. Mayfield, while considering some possible names to suggest to the Post Office Department, was hit on the head by a falling acorn. In a variant account, he was feeding acorns to his hogs when the idea for the name occurred to him. Or, a stranger noting the large number of acorns on the ground and the unusually large oak trees that had produced them, casually remarked to a resident that the place ought to be called Acorn; three years later, when the name for the post office was being sought, the resident recalled his suggestion submitted it, and it was accepted. In any event, Mayfield's wife, Mary became the first postmaster on March 20, 1896. (1) Mary Weaver, interview, 3/23/1979; (2) From the folklore coll'n. of Jeffrey Wheeldon, for Lyn Montell, Campbellsville Coll., 1967, in the WKU Folklore Arch. 1972-137
ADAIRVILLE (Logan Co.): [d/ə/ˈdәr/ˈvɔl] (Adairville). This 5th class city where US 431 crosses the South Fork of the Red River, a mile from the Tennessee line, was on the site of one of the first settlements in the county. Historians, however, disagree on which of two pioneer stations was located here. Some say it was Kilgore's Station; others that it was Dromgoole's Station [druh/goh/lə], said to have been established in 1788 by James Dromgoole. In either case, this site, 10½ air miles south of Russellville, was laid off on Nov. 10, 1818 by General Robert Ewing and Michael Traughber, who had deeded the land for the town, and named by Ewing for General John Adair, the commander of Kentucky forces at the Battle of New Orleans and later (1820-1824) Kentucky's 8th governor. The post office was established on April 20, 1832 with John Farmer, postmaster, and the town was incorporated in 1833. With a current population of 1,050, the community has long enjoyed considerable prominence as the farm trade center of South Logan County. [(1) Kerr, Vol. 2, P. 1102; (2) Stratton, P.N. of Logan Co. 2nd ed. 1947, n.p.; (3) Edward Coffman, THE STORY OF LOGAN CO. 1962, P. 260]
ADAMS (Lawrence Co.): [Adams] (Adams). An active post office at the junction of KY 32 and 1760, on the Right Fork of Little Blaine Creek, 6 air miles sw of Louisa. The office was established Aug. 17, 1888 and named for its first postmaster, James Adams or his family. [Louise Kingsmore, letter to me, 2/27/1979]
ADDISON (Breckinridge Co.): [Aed/\(\text{as/am}\)] (Rome). An extinct post office and L&N Railroad station in the upper end of Holt's Bottom of the Ohio River, 10 air miles nw of Hardinsburg. The office was established as Holt \([\text{Huhl}t]\) on June 3, 1880 with Christopher G. Monroe, postmaster. On March 6, 1889 Lloyd D. Addison, who had become postmaster in 1886, had the office renamed for him. On March 2, 1889 William H. Boltinghouse established another Holt post office, a mile below Addison, on the grounds of the 14 room Joseph Holt mansion, the birthplace of Joseph Holt (1807-1894), a member of President Buchanan's cabinet and Lincoln's Judge Advocate General. The Holt and Addison post offices closed in 1958 and 1965, respectively. [(1) Bill Thompson HIST. AND LEGEND OF BRECK. CO., KY., n.d., Pp. 115-16; (2) Chuck Poehlein, "Holt House at Cloverport" OWENSB. MESS-INQ. 11/17/1968]
ADELE (INSKO P.O.) (Morgan Co.): [Adel, Insko] (Cannel City). A hamlet with an active post office at the junction of KY 134 and 191, just off the Mountain Parkway, 3/4 mile n of the Wolfe County line and 11 air miles e of West Liberty. It was established as a station on the old Ohio and Kentucky Railroad and named for the daughter of the railroad's first president, W. Delancey Walbridge (See Helechawa). The post office, established Feb. 18, 1903 with John H. Stricklin, postmaster, is said to have been named for a post office inspector. The community is now locally called Adele, with the Insko name applying only to the post office. (1) Mrs. Dorothy Murphy, W. Liberty, Ky., in letter to me, 2/2/1970; (2) Everett Bach, Jackson, Ky., interview, 6/30/1978.
ADOLPHUS (Allen Co.) [æ/daʊlˈfəʊs] (Adolphus). A hamlet with an active post office on US 31E less than 3/4 mile from the Tenn. line and 6½ air miles ssw of Scottsville. The community may first have been called Alexander for Adolphus Alexander, a Scottsville attorney who is said to have represented the Chesapeake & Nashville Ry. (now I&N) when it built its line through this place to the county seat in 1886. When Elonzo P. Hinton established the post office here on March 20, 1888, he named it Adolphus since there already was an Alexander post office near Hopkinsville. A recent flood left little of this community but its store, post office, and community center. (1) Mildred & Jewell Eubank, interviews, 9/5/72 and 7/22/78; (2) J. Class, Scottsv. H.S. in CITIZEN TIMES 1/28/1965, from data supplied by Marjorie Miller & L.F. House; (3) Louise Horton, HILLS OF PENNYROYAL, P. 701, 488, 128.
AFLEX (Pike Co.): [A/flehx] (Delbarton). A coal town with an active post office extending along KY 292 and up Cutler Hollow, on the south bank of the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River, just above Williamson, W.Va., and 17 air miles ne of Pikeville. The post office was established March 16, 1916 with Walter P. Beale and, like the town, was named for A.F. Leckie, the president of Leckie Collieries there. [E.W. Mellekan, asst. pm, Aflex, Ky. p.o., letter to Wm. G. Steel, 9/21/1923]
AGES and BROOKSIDE (Harlan Co.): [Ages, Brookside] (Evarts, Harlan). Two almost contiguous but still separate coal towns, now served by a single post office, on KY 38 and Clover Fork of the Cumberland River, 3½ air miles e of Harlan. In Feb. 1975 the 2 separate 4th class post offices of Ages and Brookside, only 1200 feet apart (thus the closest in the US) were combined into one called Ages-Brookside, located in the Eastover Mining Co. offices at Brookside. The Ages post office had been established June 8, 1892 with Loyd Ball, postmaster, and named for Ages Creek which joins Clover Fork at this point. (The creek is said to have been named for a Mr. Ages). In 1917 Harlan Collieries was established at what, in the following year, came to be called Brookside by Anne Keyes Whitfield for its location between 2 creeks or brooks. To serve the company more directly than the Ages post office apparently could do, the Brookside post office was established March 24, 1930 with John H. McKinley, postmaster. In 1970 the company was purchased by the Eastover Mining Co., an affiliate of Duke Power. [B.W. Whitfield, letter; 6/28/1980]
AGES and BROOKSIDE (Harlan Co.): [Adj/ez, Broök/sahd] (Evarts, Harlan). Two almost contiguous but still separate coal towns, now served by a single post office, on KY 38 and Clover Fork of the Cumberland River, 3½ air miles e of Harlan. In Feb. 1975, the 2 separate 4th class post offices of Ages and Brookside, only 1200 feet apart (thus the closest in the US) were combined into one called Ages-Brookside, located in the Eastover Mining Co. offices at Brookside. The Ages post office had been established June 8, 1892 with Loyd Ball, postmaster, and named for Ages Creek which joins Clover Fork at this point. (The creek is said to have been named for a Mr. Ages). In 1917 Harlan Collieries was established at what, in the following year, came to be called Brookside by Amme-Keyes Whitfield for its location between 2 creeks or brooks. To serve the company more directly than the Ages post office apparently could do, the Brookside post office was established March 24, 1930 with John H. McKinley, postmaster. In 1970 the company was purchased by the Eastover Mining Co., an affiliate of Duke Power. [B.W. Whitfield, letter, 6/28/1980]
AIRDRIE (Muhlenberg Co.): A long abandoned village on a bluff overlooking the Green River, 10 air miles east of Greenville, has long been locally referred to as "Old Airdrie." It was founded in 1855 by Sir Robert S.C.A. Alexander for the workers of his local iron furnace and named for the small city in Scotland that was home to the titled Alexanders of the House of Airdrie of which he was an American-born descendant. For a brief period, from 1856 to 1859, the post office at Paradise (q.v.), a mile up river, was relocated at Airdrie and by this name the community was incorporated in 1858 with a peak population of some 200. But the furnace failed in 1859 and nearly everyone moved away. A later attempt by Gen'l. Don Carlos Buell to develop the abundant coal resources of the area also failed, and with the destruction of his home in 1907 only the ruins of the furnace's old brick chimney have remained to mark the site. C. Hall Allen, "Old Airdrie, Wealthy in Coal and History" LCJ, 1/2/1927.
AKERSVILLE (Monroe Co.): [Āk/ərz/vihl] (Fountain Run). A hamlet with an extinct post office on Ky. 87, 1½ miles from the Tennessee line, less than 3/4 of a mile from the Allen Co. line, and 13 air miles wsw of Tompkinsville. According to tradition, when the postal inspector was told that local citizens were having a "slow go" of selecting a name for their new post office, he suggested that they name it slowgo [Sloʊghoʊ], and by this name the office was established on Oct. 10, 1882 with John N. Akers, postmaster. In 1885, apparently from the embarrassment of such a name, it was changed to Akersville for the family of a nearby storekeeper. The community has also been known as Highoaka or Highoakie [Hah/oh/kə, Hah/oh/kee], from the local Baptist church so named in 1881 for its site on a hill, in a grove of tall oaks. Oldtimers still refer to the place by this name though the church, in 1908, was renamed the Akersville Baptist Church. Since the post office closed in 1956, local people have been getting their mail from the Fountain Run post office, 6 road miles north. (1) R.D. Holder, "Akersville Church Has Had Three Names" 50th ann. ed. of the TOMP. NEWS, 10/28/1954, sec. 5, P. 4:1-3; (2) Mae Carter Taylor, interview, 6/29/1972
ALBANY (Clinton Co.): [Awl/ban/e] (Albany, Savage). A 5th class city of 1900 residents and the seat of Clinton Co., on US 127, 105 air miles sse of downtown Louisville. When the county was organized in 1835, its seat was located at Paoli, now an extinct village 2 miles south of the present courthouse. Here a post office was established on July 25, 1833. When an election was held in 1837 to find a permanent location for the seat, the contenders included Paoli, some place to the north, and, allegedly, the site of the popular Benny Dowell's tavern between the two. The tavern location was chosen and while it is now generally believed to have been named for the capital of New York State, for reasons unknown, it has been said as the voting began, some of the more mellowed citizens began shouting "all for Benny" which got slurred to "All Benny" [awl/behn/e], even yet a variant pronunciation. At any rate, the Paoli post office was moved to this site on Sept. 4, 1837 and renamed Albany with [the future Kentucky governor] Preston H. Leslie, as postmaster. It was incorporated the following year. While clothing, charcoal, and cheese factories contribute to its economic support, it is now basically a resort town due to its location between Lake Cumberland and Dale Hollow Lake.  

[1] Eva Conner, interview, 3/22/1979; (2) Opal Smith, WPA ms}
ALCALDE (Pulaski Co.): [aɛl/kaɛl/kaɬ/ˈdæ]/(Somerset). A hamlet whose active post office, on Ky. 769, just north of Pitman Creek and 2 air miles southeast of Somerset, was established May 22, 1907 by Benjamin F. Hamilton. Hamilton, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, had come across this Spanish word for mayor in Cuba, liked the sound of it, and applied it to his post office. [Mary Weaver, interview, 3/23/1979]
ALEXANDRIA (Campbell Co.): [Alex/ən/dree/ə] (Alexandria). A 5th class city of some 4400 residents and the centrally located seat of Campbell Co., on US 27 and KY 10, 7½ air miles sse of downtown Newport. It is said to have been settled sometime before 1793 by Frank Spilman and his family who probably came from King George Co., Va., and may have been named by them for Alexandria, Va. The (post office of) Alexandria, Ky., was established May 17, 1819 with William DeCoursey, postmaster. By September of that year Spilman had laid out the town and begun selling lots. The city was incorporated by the Kentucky Legislature in 1834. The seat (of government) of Campbell Co., after its formation in 1794, had several locations until it was permanently established here by the act that separated Kenton Co. in 1840. Since then, (Alexandria) has been little more than a county seat, its distance from a rail line or navigable waterway having precluded any commercial or industrial development of consequence. [Margaret S. Hartman CAMPBELL CO. HIST. & GENEAL. 12/15/1978 supplement to the PALMOUTH OUTLOOK, P. 30]
ALLEGRE (Todd Co.): [\text{iəl/ə/ɡriː] (Allegre). A still active trade center of a rural neighborhood extending several miles from the junction of Ky. 106 and 178, 8 air miles nw of Elkton. Two related historical derivations have been offered for its name along with a folk etymology. In 1884 when local residents requested a post office, Wm. B. Brewer, then postmaster of nearby Fairview, was asked by postal authorities to inspect the site and name the new office. He was accompanied by a Col. Allegree, a Fairview school teacher, and named it for him. Mrs. Ida Kranz, however, insists that the namesake was Wm. Allegree who taught a subscription school (in-the-vicinity-of-the-new-office) locally referred to as Allegree Schoolhouse, in the vicinity of the proposed office. The folk etymology, credited to a joke by an older resident, relates that citizens gathered to choose a name spent all day but couldn't agree. Anxious to go home, one suggested that "we all agree on something." This inspired another to say "That's it, let's all call her allegree." In any case, the post office was established Oct. 20, 1884 with J.A. Brasher, postmaster, and still serves the community of 150 persons. The Post Office Dept. later dropped allegree as the final "e". Though it's officially spelled Allegre, many local persons still use the original spelling. \[1\) "Old Timer" col. in TODD CO. STANDARD, 1/19/1950; \(2\) Ida Lacy Kranz, unpub. ms. hist. of Allegre May, 1971]
ALLEN (Floyd Co.): [Allen] (Harold). A 6th class city of some 800 residents, incorporated as Allen City, at the confluence of Beaver Creek and the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River, 3½ air miles S of Prestonsburg. The site was probably settled early in the 19th century and had a shortlived post office called Mouth of Beaver, established Aug. 21, 1854 with Thomas P. Johns, postmaster, and a store run by Andy Hatcher until it was destroyed by a flood in 1862. The town as such developed around the C&O Railroad station, which opened in 1904-5, and the post office, established as Allen on May 16, 1905, which may have been named for T.J. Allen, an early resident and storekeeper (c.1880s). The station and community were called Beaver Creek or Beaver Creek Junction until, in 1936, both adopted the post office name. Soon after the highway bridge across the river was opened to traffic in 1937, the population of Allen City, or what's now locally called Old Allen, began to spill across the river into what came to be called East Allen and is now known as New Allen. Most of the community's new businesses and homes and its active post office are located in New Allen. [(1) John I. Sturgill, WPA ms; (2) G.C. Ratliff "Big Sandy--Past & Present" ASH. DAILY IND. 7/6/1952]
This hamlet on Ky. 61, 8½ air miles nwn of Greensburg, may be traced back to the establishment of the Brush Creek post office on Feb. 17, 1841. This was named by George Ellmore, the first postmaster, for its location between Little and Big Brush Creeks, the latter a north bank tributary of the Green River. On July 24, 1846 it was moved to and/or renamed Allendale by postmaster Thomas J. Town and was discontinued in 1863. On Feb. 24, 1865, Town moved the early Summersville post office (q.v.) to the Allendale site and renamed it for his early office. The second Allendale office, in turn, closed in 1919, and the community (now one store and several homes) is served by the new Summersville post office almost 4 road miles se. It is assumed that Allendale was named for the local Allen family.
ALLEN SPRINGS (Allen Co.) \[Allen Springs\] (Allen Springs). In 1836, Jas. T. Harney had a boarding house at this site near the Warren Co. line, midway between Bowling Green and Scottsville, for those who "came to drink the curative sulphur water." On Nov. 16 of that year, Carpenter Mill post office was established by H.L. Mitchell on nearby Trammel Fk. (of Drakes Creek) and may have been named for the mill owned by Fred (or Frederick) Carpenter on the Warren Co. line. Then, on Feb. 18, 1837, Harney saw fit to establish an Allen Springs p.o. at his boarding house but this was discontinued 7 months later when the Post Office Dept. realized its mistake in permitting two post offices so close together. On Jan. 14, 1848, the Carpenters Mill office was moved to Allen Springs and adopted the latter name with John Shanks, postmaster. A thriving place in the 1870s, Allen Springs, on US231, 0.3 mile from the Warren Co. line and 8 air miles nw of Scottsville, now has only a store and its residents secure their mail from Alvaton, 3½ mile nw. [Louise Horton, HILLS OF PENNYROYAL, Pp. 18, 71-2]
ALLENSVILLE (Todd Co.): [æl/ənz/vl] (Allensville). A one time rail shipping center on the present Ky. 102, a mile from its junction with US79, about 100 yards from the Logan Co. line, and 7 air miles southeast of Elkton. It is believed to be one of the oldest settled areas of the county for the name was applied as early as 1810 to a place near its present site probably to honor a pioneer Allen family. The Allensville post office was established at the original site on April 26, 1819 with William B. Scott, postmaster. When a branch of the L&N Railroad was completed to the present Allensville site in 1860 on land then owned by E.A. Anderson and E.W. Hughes, the town was moved to it, becoming known colloquially as New Allensville. It was incorporated as Allensville on Jan. 30, 1867. By the 1890s the town had become an important farm trading center and one of the main tobacco, livestock, and grain shipping points between Bowling Green and Memphis. When the station closed in 1947 and improved roads attracted local farmers to the larger area towns, its economic significance declined and now only the post office, feed and seed processing plants, a factory making labels for clothing, and two stores are left to serve the 270 or so local residents. [(1) Geo. Boone, interview, 7/23/1971; (2) Marion Williams, THE STORY OF TODD CO. KY. 1972, Pp. 97-112; (3) J.H. Battle, TODD CO. HIST. in Perrin & B. COUNTIES OF TODD AND CHRISTIAN, Chi., 1884]
ALLOCK (Perry Co.): [Ae]nk (Vicco). Now a residential community with an active post office on Stacy Branch of Carr Fork Creek, just north of the city of Vicco, 1/2 mile from the Knott Co. line and 5½ air miles east of Hazard. First called simply Stacy Branch, this was, for years, the camp for the Carrs Fork Coal Co. and was named for J.B. Allen and H.E. Bullock, the company's owners. The Allock post office was established July 14, 1920 with Edward H. Griffith, postmaster. [(1) W.E. Baker, letter to Wm. G. Steel, 4/21/ 1922; (2) Estill McIntyre, interview, 7/7/1977]
ALMO (Calloway Co.): [Ael/moh] (Dexter). Five air miles north of Murray is this L&N Railroad town of 100 persons probably built and named by the old Nashville Chattanooga and St. Louis RR (forerunner in those parts of the L&N) in the early 1890s. No one seems to know when or by whom the vicinity was first settled or why this name was applied to a post office that was first called Buena when established on Feb. 11, 1891 with Jas. W. Craig, postmaster. Acc. to Brown Tucker, a county historian, it may first have been called Buena Vista, for reasons unknown, though a beautiful view can be seen from the top of the nearby bluff. On Nov. 18, 1892, the post office was renamed Almo with Mr. Craig remaining as postmaster. The late Manning Stewart suggested that the name might have been a shortening of Alamo, of Texas independence fame, though he too (was-in-the-dark) was ignorant of the reason for its application. As a railroad shipping point, its prosperity peaked in the 1920s and '30s. With the coming of the present US641, 1½ miles west and the development there of the now thriving Almo Heights, whose name is self-explanatory, the old railroad town suffered an inevitable decline though its post office still serves the area's farmers, its Almo Heights neighbor, and Floyd Nixon's Ky. Candy Corp. factory in the old Almo Schoolhouse. (1) Brown Tucker, interview, 8/4/1977; (2) Manning Stewart papers, MSU Spec. Coll.; (3) Lochie B. Hart, "Origin of Names of the Towns in Calloway" HIST. OF CALLOWAY CO., 1931, n.p.; (4) Lowell Atehey, Leisure Scene Mag. Section of the BENTON TRIB-COURIER, 7/22/1977, P. 14.
ALONZO (Allen Co.). [ə/la:n/zɔ] (Adolphus). A hamlet with extinct post office centering on James Goodman's store on KY 100 near the Middle Fork of Drake's Creek, 8 air miles SW of Scottsville. It was probably named by and for Alonzo D. Brashear who established the local post office on April 9, 1886. When this was discontinued in 1995, its papers were transferred to Adolphus, 7¼ road miles SE. [1] The Eubanks, interview, 7/22/1978; [2] Louise Horton, HILLS OF PENNYROYAL, P. 74] 101:128]
ALPHA (Clinton Co.): [Ael'ts] (Cumberland City). An active post office which, until Dec. 6, 1975, was located on old Ky. 90, 1000 feet south of the new Ky. 90, .8 of a mile west of the Wayne Co. line and 7 air miles ne of Albany. It was established Jan. 28, 1852 and named by the first postmaster, John M. Davis, for Alpha Davis, a member of his family. Hers is said to have been one of the 3 names submitted to the Post Office Department. It is not known if she was the Alpha E. Davis who postal records indicate was the second postmaster. After an intermittent existence over the past 124 years, the office was moved from the late Marion Perdew's grocery to a point about midway between it and the old Zula post office in Wayne Co. (q.v.) and, while retaining the Alpha name, is thus now in Wayne Co. (1) Eva Conner, interview, 3/22/1977; (2) Jos. Conn, articles in Wayne Co. OUTLOOK, 12/25/1975 and 2/19/1976.
ALPINE (Pulaski Co.): Alpine (Burnside). A settlement with extinct post office on US 27 (KY 90), 1 1/2 miles from the McCreary Co. line and 10 1/2 air miles SSE of Somerset. About 3/4 mile S, on the old route of the Cincinnati New Orleans & Texas Pacific (now Southern) Railway, a town called Happy Hollow grew up around a coal mine. The local post office, established in this name on Feb. 15, 1888 with Irvin Williams, postmaster, was renamed Alpine in 1892, a name apparently felt by the patrons as more suited to the area's high rugged terrain and many pine trees. As the coal was mined out, residents began moving to the highway n of the site, an exodus accelerated by a disastrous fire in 1911. The post office, which moved too, remained in operation until it closed in 1976 and its papers were transferred to the Burnside post office, 7 road miles NW. In 1934 the original site was acquired by the Federal Government and converted into a park. (1) Delta Mills, letters to me, 1/9,15,25/1980; (2) Mary Weaver, interview, 3/23/1979.
ALTON (Anderson Co.). (Lawrenceburg). A village strung out for about 1 1/2 miles along US 127, from just s of the Franklin Co. line, to a point 2 1/2 air miles n nw of Lawrenceburg. Alton was once officially called Rough and Ready for President Zachary Taylor in whose administration the post office of this name was established on Feb. 6, 1850. By this name also the place was incorporated in 1854. On May 22, 1876, the post office and community were renamed Alton but no one knows why or for what. It has been assumed by some that the name refers to the town's altitude, 839 feet above sea level, which is somewhat higher than the rest of the valley in which it is situated. The town enjoyed considerable prosperity as a trading center until the Southern Railway built Alton Station on its line less than a mile sw and established a post office by this name on April 22, 1890. Alton's businesses began drifting to the new community that sprang up around the station and much of what was left was later destroyed by a series of fires. The Alton post office closed in 1910, and now 160 or so residents secure their mail from Lawrenceburg. Alton Station is now considered a separate community strung out along Ky. 512, e of its junction with the railroad. [1] J.W. Gaines in Souv. Supple. to ANDERSON NEWS, 6/1906, p. 19, reproduced in Ibid., 1/31/1974, Sect. 3, p. 6:4-6; (2) Wyatt Shely, col. in Ibid., 7/16/1971.
ALTONA (Marshall Co.): [Altona] (Little Cypress). The history of this now virtually extinct town on the Tennessee River, some 3 road miles NW of Calvert City and 12½ air miles N of Benton, has never been accurately recorded and is, at best, confusing. It is known that the first settlements in Marshall Co. were made in this vicinity around 1820. A Mr. Patterson or a Mr. Covington ran a ferry across the Tennessee River in the 1820s to connect with the road from Smithland on the Ohio River, 6½ miles N. The community came to be known as Patterson's Ferry or Covington's Ferry. Sometime later, Mr. Autney Burradel or Anthony Birdwell opened a store at the ferry site. Steamboats began landing there and the place became known as Buradell's Landing or Birdwell's Landing. (Meanwhile, in the 1830s, a hotel had been built for early tourists attracted by the picturesque view of the river from this point). According to Post Office Department records, a Covington's Ferry post office was established Oct. 25, 1865 with William D. Covington, postmaster. A year later Anthony Birdwell became postmaster, and in the following March he secured a change of name to Birdwell. Newton J. Robertson renamed it Altona on April 27, 1870 but no one knows why. In 1872 the Paducah & Elizabethtown RR bypassed Altona and established its station for that area at what came to be known as Calvert City (q.v.). Meanwhile, the Altona post office was renamed Caldwell on June 4, 1873 with Conrad P. Cloud, postmaster, and closed the following year, ostensibly in deference to the increasing economic importance of the new town on the railroad. (Was this later what became known as Cloud Crossing on the Illinois Central RR?)
Another Altona post office, at the same site as the original, was in operation from 1894 to 1905 when its papers were transferred to Calvert City. George R. Stewart, in American Place Names, has implied that all the Altonas in the U.S. ultimately derive from the name of a city in Germany. (1) Freeman & Olds 1933, Pp. 13-4; (2) Rayburn Watkins, "Marshall Co. Will Celebrate Centennial..." PADUCAH SUN-DEMO. 5/31/1942; (3) Geo. R. Stewart, AM. P.N. P. 1176-2047-61.
ALTRO (Breathitt Co.), [Ael/troh] (Canoe). This hamlet with an active post office on the North Fork of the Kentucky River, just above the mouth of Bush Branch, 11 air miles s of Jackson, was for years the home of section gangs employed to maintain the tracks of the L&N Railroad which had a station, now closed, at this point. The first post office to serve this area was established Sept. 5, 1892 at Bush Branch, a small settlement on the branch that had been named for the pioneer Bush family. In 1916 the office was moved 1½ miles ne to the Altro station that the railroad had established, and for an unknown reason had so named, around 1912. [1] Woodrow Turner, letter to me, 4/28/80; (2) Mrs. Clara Jackson, interview, 6/30/1978
ALUMBAUGH (Estill Co.): [Alum'ba'gh] (Leighton). A settlement on Station Camp Creek, just below the mouth of Sparks Branch, [6]—air miles sse of Irvine. Its now extinct post office, established (1878-1875), May 14, 1891, was named for its first postmaster, John P. Alumbaugh. The office was discontinued in 1893, and re-established in 1927 with John's son, Daniel B., as postmaster. It closed for good in 1959 with its papers transferred to Wagersville, 2.8 road miles n. [Kathryn Carter, interview, 2/11/1978]
ALVATON (Warren Co.): [Ael/va/ton] (Allen Springs, Polkville). A hamlet with an active post office at the junction of US 231 and KY 872 (the Old Scottsville Rd.), 5 air miles se of Bowling Green. The post office was established June 18, 1883 with Samuel J. Witherspoon, postmaster, and named for Alva Dickerson Larmon, wife of John Larmon of nearby Larmon's Mill. [Malcolm H. Crump of Bowling Green, Ky., in a letter to Wm. G. Steel, 4/20/1922]
AMANDA FURNACE (Greenup Co.); [ˈamənda ˈfuːrnəs] (Ironton). A community by this name once existed around an early charcoal-fueled iron furnace on the banks of the Ohio River, just below the mouth of White Oak Creek and a little over a mile nw of the present Boyd Co. line (in short, within the limits of the present city of Russell, some 8 air miles ese of Greenup). According to Donald Rist, an historian of the Hanging Rock Iron Furnace Region, this furnace was built in 1829 by James E. McDowell and the Poage brothers and named for Amanda Jane, the infant daughter of co-owner William Lindsay Poage. (She later married John Paull Jones). It ceased operation in 1861. Curiously, though, a post office called simply Amanda was established by E.R. Hollingsworth on July 12, 1828 somewhere within the present limits of Boyd Co. and was discontinued in Aug. 1862. The remains of the original furnace were destroyed when US 23 was widened some years ago. The present day blast furnace of Amanda, one mile se of the original furnace site, was built in 1963 by Armco Steel and named for the older furnace. The hill between Ashland and Russell is still sometimes locally called Amanda Hill. [(1) Rist, KY. IRON FURNACES, 1974, Pp. 13-5; (2) The Savages, interview, 8/18/1977; (3) Kozee, P. 512; (4) Evelyn Jackson, letter, 10/7/1973]
AMANDAVILLE (Cumberland Co.): [ə]/maen(d)/ə/vəl] (Amandaville). A rural settlement with extinct post office on KY 704 and the west bank of Crocus Creek, across from the mouth of Puncheon Camp Creek, 2 miles from the Adair Co. line and 7 air miles nne of Burkesville. On Dec. 17, 1856 Nathan Elliott established and named the post office Amandaville for his wife or daughter. It was discontinued in 1872 and re-established as Amanda on April 11, 1884 (in the same vicinity if not at the same site). Two months later, though, its then postmaster, Asa O. Baker had the name returned to its original Amandaville. This office was closed in 1957. Only a church remains to serve the local residents who get their mail from Bakerton, 5.3 miles s. [W.J. Wells, HIST. OF CUMB. CO. 1947, P. 184] 223
AMBA (Floyd Co.) [Aem/bee] (Harold). A hamlet with extinct post office and an estimated 125 residents (1971) extending for about a mile up KY 979/1426 in the Mud Creek valley from a point 1 mile (up Mud Creek from i.e.) sw of Harold (on the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River), 1½ miles from the Pike Co. line and 10½ air miles se of Prestonsburg. The post office was named for Amba Walters, the daughter of a Harold physician who had helped to get it established on June 7, 1902 with Andrew J. (Jack) Roberts as postmaster. The office closed in 1959 and the Harold post office now serves the community, popularly known as Ambytown. [Lois Tackett, Amba, Ky., interviews, 4/19/1971, 4/28/1971]
ANCHORAGE (Jefferson Co.), [Ank'rajdʒ] (Anchorage). A 5th class city and residential suburb (of some 17,400 residents) centering at the junction of Evergreen Ave. and LaGrange Rd. (KY 146), 12½ air miles e of the court house in downtown Louisville. It was founded by Edward Dorsey Hobbs (1810-1888), the President of the Louisville and Frankfort (now L&N) Railroad when the tracks were laid through the area in the 1840s, and was first called Hobbs Station. By this name the post office was established on Jan. 5, 1865 with William Henry Cox, postmaster. In 1872 the station, post office, and community were renamed Anchorage, allegedly at Hobbs' suggestion, for the home to which his friend, a riverboat Captain James W. Goslee, had retired in 1857. It is said that Goslee had taken the anchor from his last boat and placed it on his front lawn to signify that he had come to his final anchorage. Encircled in the rim of a locomotive wheel, the anchor now hangs as the town's symbol across the street from the Louisville branch post office that serves the community. The town was incorporated in 1878. [Leone W. Hallenberg, ANCHORAGE, Anch. Anch. Press, 1959, Pp. xi, 1-2, 6, 39, 52]
ANCO (Knott Co.): [Aen/koh] (Vicco, Carrie). A recently discontinued post office at the head of Yellow Creek, 2 miles from its confluence with Carr Fork Creek on the Perry-Knott Co. line, and 6 air miles ssw of Hazard. The post office was established Oct. 6, 1922 and named for its first postmaster, Anderson Combs. [Lucille Combs, interview, 3/9/1979]
ANNEtA (Grayson Co.): [Ae/nah/tg](Nolin Reservoir). A hamlet on Ky. 259 7 air miles ese of Leitchfield, whose businesses cater to Nolin Reser-voir tourists. Though the vicinity was first settled by Van Meters in the early 19th century, its post office was established until Nov. 28, 1882 when Peter Decker, the 1st postmaster, named it for his daughter. The office today is but a rural branch of the Leitchfield post office.

[Barry W. Downs, "Communities" section of the Bicen. Ed. of the LEITCH. GAZETTE, c1976, P. 8:1-3]
ANNVILLE (Jackson Co.): [Ann'val] (Tyner). Village with an active post office (and some 400 residents) extending for a mile along Ky. 30, 4 miles west of its junction with US 421 at Tyner, and 7 air miles south of McKee, the home of famed Annville Institute, a boarding school founded there in 1909 by the Reformed Church of America. The post office, established as Chinquapin Rough by Franklin P. Riley on July 17, 1878, was changed to Annville in 1886 for Nancy Ann, the wife of Edward W. ("Ned") Johnson, storekeeper. Numerous chinquapin [Chin'ap] or dwarf chestnut trees grew on the banks of the Pond Creek rough at that site. These have since largely been destroyed by blight. (1) Betty De Jong of Gray Hawk, Ky. in a letter to me, 4/10/1969; (2) Jess Wilson interview, 7/9/1977.
ANSEL (Pulaski Co.): [Ansel/Sel] (Science Hill). This extinct post office on the West bank of Fishing Creek, opposite the mouth of Buncombe Branch and 7 air miles nw of Somerset, was established June 18, 1886 and named for its first postmaster Ansel L. Wood (1835-1890). Mail is now secured from the Science Hill post office, 5 road miles ese. [Mary Weaver, letter to me, 9/1/1979]
ANTHOSTON (Henderson Co.): This residential settlement (of some 200 persons) on Ky. 136, between US41 and the Penny-rile Parkway, 3 1/2 air miles south of Henderson, was first called Bloomington. Since Kentucky already had a post office by this name, local landowner Dr. H.H. Farmer suggested a translation into the Greek word "anthos." Thus the office was established June 26, 1884, with Wm. Roll, postmaster, and discontinued in 1902. (The community is now on Henderson rural route.) [Maralea Arnett, ANNALS AND SCANDALS OF HENDERSON CO. KY. 1775-1975, 1976, P. 203]
ANTON (Hopkins Co.). [Aen/thahn] (Madisonville East). A (rural) settlement extending for almost a mile along Ky. 85 near the Madisonville Municipal Airport and 3 air miles east of that city. Several names had been rejected by the Post Office Dept. as already in use when Anton Brucken's given name was submitted for the post office on March 5, 1900. Brucken, who had moved there from Evansville in the late 19th century to establish a saw mill, was described as "a good natured Dutchman, always willing to lend a hand whenever he was needed."

The office closed in 1906 and the community is now on a Madisonville rural route. [ORIG. ATLAS AND HIST. DATA OF HOPKINS CO. KY. 1974, p. 47]
APEX (Christian Co.): [A/pehx] (Malsey Mill). This post office established by Robert W. Sharber and in operation from 1902 to 1915 was located some 2 miles east of what is now called Apex on Ky. 189, 16 air miles nne of Hopkinsville. I have not been able to find its original location but am assured that it was named for its being on the highest point of northeastern Christian County and that nothing marks that site today. Nor do I know when the store and post office were moved but, according to old maps, it was probably sometime before 1911. A store and church continue to serve this area. [WM T. Tynan, interview, 6/17/77]
ARGILLITE (Greenup Co.): [Ārghlˈəl/ət] (Argillite). This hamlet on the east bank of the Little Sandy River, at the jct of Ky. 1 and 207, 5 air miles s. of Greenup, was named for the first iron furnace built in the Hanging Rock Region of ne Kentucky and southern Ohio. The word refers to a slate consisting primarily of clay minerals discovered in the bluff into which the charcoal-burning furnace was built in 1818 by Richard Deering and the brothers Thomas and David Trimble. Deering, a Pennsylvanian who had settled here shortly after 1800, had discovered rich surface deposits of iron on his land and built the first rude smelter there in 1815. The furnace's last blast was in 1837. A nearby post office, established as Argyli te on June 14, 1860 with James Lampton, postmaster, discontinued in Oct. 1861, and re-established as Argillite on June 24, 1874 (with Creed Milstead). A lumber mill was built there in 1864 by the Eastern Kentucky Improvement Company, and over the next few decades crossties, telephone poles, lime, charcoal, and later coal were produced and shipped from there to the Ohio River on the Eastern Kentucky Ry. Now several stores, a post office, and a church serve some 40 residents and their neighbors, along with the consolidated Argillite School, 1½ miles below the post office. (1) Biggs & MacKoy, 1954 P. 103; (2) Evelyn Jackson, letter to me, 10/7/1973; (3) A HIST. OF ASHLAND, KY. 1786-1954, 1954, P. 67: 23, 1092.
ARGO (Pike Co.): [Ahr/ghoh] (Hurley). A hamlet with an active post office now on KY 194 and Knox Creek, at the mouth of Camp Creek, 3/4 mile from the Virginia state line and 23 air miles of Pikeville. The post office, established July 13, 1906, with Eli Hurley, postmaster, is said to have been named for Argo Starch. It was first located 1 1/2 miles down Knox Creek, a tributary of the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River, at the mouth of Middle Elk Creek, at what was then also known as Middle Elk Station of the Big Sandy and Cumberland (now Norfolk & Western) Railroad. This station is now called Bill Siding. The office was moved to its present site in 1936. [PM, letter to me, 12/1/80]
ARJAY (Bell Co.): [Ahr/djä] (Pineville). The name of this coal town extending along KY 66 and the Left Fork of Straight Creek from a point nearly 3 air miles ne of Pineville, was derived from the initials of R. J. Asher, a coal operator. Its active post office, established Feb. 23, 1911 with George W. Hairston, postmaster, serves an estimated 2000 persons in the vicinity. [Lucille Messer, letter to me, 3/31/1980]
ARLINGTON (Carlisle Co.,) [Ahr/lin/tahn] (Arlington). A 6th class city with an active post office (and some 540 residents) at the junction of US 51 and KY 80 (a little over) a mile from the Hickman Co. line and 5 air miles of Bardwell. In 1872 Robert Buckner Neville bought a 160 acre farm on the old Richard Taylor Military Survey that had first been settled in 1831 by Eli Porter and his family from Henry Co., Ky. In May 1873 the Mississippi Central (now Illinois Central Gulf) RR secured some of Neville's property for a depot and right-of-way and that summer a town was laid out and called Neville. According to some accounts, a faction in the developing community had preferred to call it Holtsville for Tom Holt who co-owned the local store. To avoid friction, railroad officials sought another name and accepted the suggestion of one of their number who had noted the resemblance of a small knoll some 3 miles n of town to his home in Arlington Heights, Va. On Feb. 11, 1874 the Mixville post office was moved to this site and renamed Arlington with Phillip Read, postmaster. By this name the town was incorporated on Feb. 5, 1876. Its selection as the seat of the newly established Carlisle Co. 10 years later was challenged by the city of Bardwell (q.v.). But when it was discovered that the latter was only 3 miles w of the center of the county and Arlington was in the extreme sou', a commission unanimously chose Bardwell instead.

ARNOLD (Ohio Co.) [Ahr/nauld] (Rosine). This settlement with an abandoned store building and extinct post office, 1 1/2 miles from the Butler Co. line and over 1 3/4 miles eae of Hartford, was first called Havens for Ancel Havens, an early storekeeper and grist mill owner. When the post office was established July 14, 1884 it was renamed for William Arnold on whose land it was located. The first postmaster was Vitula (Mrs. David) Arnold, the daughter of Dr. Duvall, MD. [Mail is now routed from the office at Horse Branch, 6 road miles north.] (1) "W.L. Evans Recollects about Arnold-Havens" OHIO CO. NEWS; Cent. Ed. 12/26/1974, III, Pp. 9-10; (2) Musker L. Heavrin, P.N. OF OHIO CO. ms. 3/20/1925 560 1905
ARTEMUS (Knox Co.): [Ah/teem/əs] (Artemus). A village with an active post office, L&N Railroad station, and some 600 residents on the n-bank of the Cumberland River, opposite the mouth of Brush Creek, 2½ air miles se of Barbourville. The station was named for Artemus Herndon who donated the right of way and depot site in 1888. On Sept. 8th of that year, James Durham established the local post office of Elon which was renamed Brush Creek in 1889 and Artemus 2 years later. Loading ramps for coal shipments trucked in from the area and a number of small businesses continue to provide the economic base for a thriving community, is nothing near what it had been when the coal industry was in boom early this century. [(1) Philip Fox, Sr., in letter to me, 6/27/1978; (2) K. Sol Warren, interview, 6/23/1978]
ARTHUR MABEL (Magoffin Co.): [Arthur/mæbəl] (David). An extinct post office on KY 7 and the e bank of the Licking River, 12 air miles se of Salyersville. It was established Jan. 5, 1925 by Burney Arnett at his home on KY 7, ½ mile above the mouth of Molly Branch (of Licking) and was named for his two oldest children. It was later moved 2½ miles down the road (north) to the site of the present John T. Arnett store (just below the present John T. Arnett School), where it remained until it closed in 1959 when Ella Arnett, the second postmaster, retired. Arthur recently died and Mabel is now Mrs. Irv Hopkins. The Fredville post office, over 1½ road miles n, now provides mail service to the homes in this vicinity. [Connie Wineham interview, 4/20/79]
ASHBROOK (Anderson Co.): [Ashbrook] (Ashbrook). A once thriving farm trade center, but now extinct, on Ky. 53, less than 2 miles north of the Blue Grass Parkway and 9½ air miles sw of Lawrenceburg. It was founded by Capt. John H. McBrayer around 1878 when he started a business there and named it for the many ash trees in the vicinity. The post office, established on June 6, 1890 by Thomas N. Calvert, a storekeeper, was discontinued in 1913 (and mail is now carried along a rural route from Lawrenceburg). (1) Mrs. Mary Hedger, Souv. Supplement to the ANDERSON NEWS, 6/1906, P. 19; (2) Wyatt Shely col. in Ibid., 9/16/1971, P. 12; 3) Philip Spencer, interview, 8/4/1978.
ASHBYBURG (Hopkins Co.), [AEsh/bi/ber/ger] (Calhoun). Little remains on Ky. 370, 13 air miles nne of Madisonville, of this early steamboat landing (with bank, hotel, mills, and tobacco warehouses) across the Green River from McLean Co. and about a mile below the mouth of Pond River. It was settled around 1808 by Stephen Ashby (1776-1841), a Virginian, and named for him. On Jan. 3, 1829, it became the first incorporated Hopkins town in this county. The post office was in operation from 1849 to 1969 and the area is now served by a rural route out of Slaughter, 9 road miles sw. [Nancy Carlisle Martin, "The Founding of Ashbyburg" in the Yearbook of the Hist. Soc. of H. Co., Ky. 7/1977, Pp. 41-3]
ASHCAMP (Pike Co.) \[Aesh\text{kampl} \] (Hellier). A hamlet with an active post office centering at the junction of KY 195 and 197, at the mouth of Ashcamp Branch of Elkhorn Creek, 14.5 air miles sse of Pikeville. The stream and the post office, established as Ash Camp on Sept. 13, 1870 with George Barclay, postmaster, were probably named for the ashes found there by early settlers who attributed them to an old Indian campsite, or possibly for the residue of a pioneer potash producing operation there. Area historians refer to the many local ash trees which, before the turn of the present century, attracted a fairly large scale logging operation there. (1) Lynn Tilford Johnson, Pike Co. student for Leonard Roberts; (2) John S. O'Quinn, Prestonsburg, Ky., formerly of Ashcamp, interview, 3/8/1971.
ASHER (Leslie Co.): [Asher/yr] (Hoskinston). A hamlet with an active post office centering at the junction of US 421 and KY 1780, and on the Middle Fork of the Kentucky River at the mouth of Beech Fork, 7½ air miles s' of Hyden. The post office was established May 22, 1900 with Henry M. Hensley, postmaster, and named for the prominent Asher family of se Kentucky. One of their number, the late John Asher, a Hyden attorney and wealthy landowner, had a sawmill here. The eastern Kentucky Ashers are descended from Dillion Asher (1777-1844), an English born Revolutionary War veteran who had settled on Red Bird River around 1810. [R.B. Campbell, interview, 5/27/1978]
ASHERS FORK (Clay Co.): [Ash/ers Fawrk] (Creekville). A recently discontinued post office serving a community of about 150 persons near the head of the Left Fork of Ashers Fork of Goose Creek, 2.7 miles from the latter, and 13 air miles se of Manchester. The community and the office, established July 25, 1940 with Mrs. Daisy H. Schaffer, postmaster, were named for the stream which had been named for the descendants of pioneer Dillion Asher (1777-1844) who, around 1810, claimed a large acreage at the head of Redbird Creek and other land on Goose Creek. (1) Kelly Morgan, P. 86; (2) Jess Wilson, interview, 3/24/1979
ASHLAND (Boyd Co.): [Ash/land] (Ashland). A 2nd class industrial city on the Ohio River, just nw of Catlettsburg, whose (estimated) 27,000 residents make it the largest community in eastern Kentucky. The site was part of a large tract between the Big and Little Sandy Rivers, was settled around 1790 by Virginia-born George Poage, Sr. (1754-1821) and his family, and called Poage's Settlement. To develop this site as a major shipping center for the area's resources, the Kentucky Iron, Coal and Manufacturing Co. was organized in 1853, secured 1500 acres there, laid out the town, and convinced the Lexington and Big Sandy (now C&O) Railroad to extend its line to this point. Poage's Settlement was considered unsuitable as the name of a developing city, and at the suggestion of Levi Hampton, an admirer and friend of the late Henry Clay, it was replaced by the name of Clay's Lexington estate. The post office at Pollard's Mill, established Dec. 23, 1847, was changed to Ashland on Dec. 20, 1854 and the town was as such in that year. Pollard's Mill had been named for the grist mill which Henry B. Pollard owned in the nw section of the present city. (Ashland is the home of the Ashland Oil Company.)

[(1) A HIST. OF ASHLAND, KY. 1786-to 1854, Cent. Souv. 1954, Pp. 4-13, 45, 57-9, 66-8, 96; (2) Kozee, P. 506]
ASHLOCK (Cumberland Co.): [Ash/laek] (Blacks Ferry). A hamlet (with an active store) on a high ridge in the extreme sw part of the county, several hundred yards from the Monroe Co. line and 11½ air miles ssw of Burkesville. The history of this community is unknown but it is believed to have been named for the Ashlock family, one Isaac Ashlock having been mentioned in the county deed book as a recipient of land in 1817. Until recently, to get to this place from other sections of the county, one had to go into Tennessee, less than ½ mile away, and back up, so it has long been (functionally) tied to Celina, from whence it still gets its mail, than to Burkesville. [R.N. Smith, interview, 9/22/1979]
ASPHALT (Edmonson Co.): [Aes/faith] (Brownsville). This post office, in operation about a mile n of the Green River and 4 air miles w of Brownsville from May 5, 1920 to Aug. 31, 1958, was named for the rock asphalt that has been quarried extensively throughout the area. [Lancie Meredith ms. on Edmonson Co. P.N., 1972] 9.12.
ATCHISON (Taylor Co.): [Ach/ə/son] (Campbellsville). This hamlet with extinct post office on KY 372, 2 1/2 air miles SE of Campbellsville, is now also known as Smith Ridge for its location on the elevation of this name. Both the post office, established June 21, 1899 with Jesse C. Atchley, postmaster, and the ridge were named for local families. It is not known why or how Atchley was corrupted to Atchison. The post office closed in 1918 and the place is now on a Campbellsville rural route. [(1) Betty Jane Gorin, interview, 10/18/1978; (2) Mrs. Mildred Barnett "Hist. of Atchinson--Part One" (sic) CENTRAL KY. NEWS, 6/28/1973, p. B6:1-2]
ATHENS (Fayette Co.): [Athens] (Ford). A village (of some 175 persons) at the junction of Ky. 418 and 1973, 6½ miles SE of Lexington’s New Circle Rd. First known as Cross Plains for its location at the crossing of 2 buffalo traces, it is said to have been established in or about 1783 and laid out as a village by Harvey Bledsoe in 1826 about which time he became the first postmaster of Athens. By this name also it was formally recognized by an act of the Kentucky Legislature on Dec. 14, 1825. No one really knows why it was called Athens (or why the name has such an unusual local pronunciation). According to one theory, as Cross Plains the community had a pretty unsavory reputation for lawlessness, and when the respectable folks of that vicinity decided to clean it up they thought its image could be considerably improved by changing its name. Perhaps "Athens" was suggested by Lexington’s nickname, "The Athens of the West" which, it is fairly certain, preceded the renaming of Cross Plains. In any event, Athens, with its hemp and woolen mills, distilleries, and stores and shops, became an early competitor of Lexington for economic dominance of the county, but due to its lack of sufficient water its dreams never materialized. Further, it never recovered from several disastrous fires in the 1840s and ’50s. The post office closed in 1909.

ATHERTONVILLE (LaRue Co.): [Aeth/er/tan/vi] (New Haven). (Nevitt's store, the Seagram's Distillery, and the homes of some 150 residents remain of this once prosperous distillery town on US31e, a mile from the Rolling Fork River (which forms the Nelson Co. line) and 8 air miles south of Hodgenville. A short distance away, at the confluence of Knob Creek and Rolling Fork, Wattie Boone is said to have opened, in 1790, what may have been the first commercial distillery in Kentucky. It was to this site (of the future Athertonville) that Peter Lee Atherton brought his family around 1790, and here his son, John McDougall built his distillery in 1867 and established a company town for his workers. The local post office was first called Medcalf, for another local family, when established April 10, 1884 but was renamed Athertonville the following month. (The community is now on a Hodgenville mail route.) Opinions differ on whether the place was named for Peter, John or the family as a whole. (1) "Distillery at Athertonville Since 1780" LaRUE CO. HER-NEWS, 8/29/1974, P. 7B:1-6; (2) Jim Larue, interview, 10/18/1978
ATHOL (Lee Co.), [Ath/əl] (Tallega). This L&N Railroad station (with Crawford's store) and post office is at the junction of KY 52 and 315, less than ½ mile from the Breathitt Co. line and 7½ air miles e of Beattyville. Bowman, the first post office in this vicinity, was established in Breathitt Co. June 20, 1890 with Stephen J. Crawford, postmaster, and renamed Athol in 1892 by a Scotsman for his home district in Scotland. In 1927 Thomas C. Spencer moved the office to its present Lee Co. location.

[Nevyle Shackelford, interview, 6/8/1978]
ATTERSON (Casey Co.); once a thriving farm trade center (whose store, school, church, and grist mill served) the Gum Lick Creek valley below Chicken Gizzard Ridge, a comparatively isolated section of the county 7½ air miles west of Liberty. The community was named for and probably by Atterson Belton when he established the post office there on Jan. 2, 1883. Since its close in 1944, mail service has been provided from Clementsville, 3½ miles south, and only farmsteads remain to mark the community. [Gladys Thomas, interview, 9/21/1978]
AUBURN (Logan Co.), [Auburn], a fifth class city on US68, 8 air miles east of Russellville, is believed to occupy the site of the Clark Brothers Virginia military grant at the head of Black Lick Creek. In the early 19th century, the Hayden and Blackey families, attracted by the economic possibilities of a grove of maple trees, settled here and called the place Federal Grove. Some say it was also called the Black Lick Settlement for the sluggish stream whose accumulation of leaves seemed to have given it a very dark appearance. By the Black Lick name the first post office was established on March 3, 1860 by John H. Wood. According to some historians, by 1860, when the Memphis Branch of the I& was being built through, the place was called Woodville for John or Harrison Wood who had arrived sometime before to establish a woman's academy. Wood and John H. Viers (or Veirs), a plowright, are said to have vied for the site of the station. Wood, who wanted it named for his little settlement, lost, and the station was built near Viers' foundry. Viers succeeded Wood as postmaster in June 1861. However, a year later, Harrison Woodward (the spelling given in the postal records) assumed this position, moved the office to its present site, ½ to 3/4 of a mile away, and renamed it Auburn. Historians seem to agree that the name was suggested by A.J. Carney, a surveyor and native of Auburn, N.Y. who had been hired by Wood (or Woodward) to teach at his academy and who may have either laid out the town or assisted in this. By this name it was incorporated in 1865. Though it's generally accepted that Carney had named the place for his hometown, some persons prefer a derivation from the oft-quoted lines in Goldsmith's The Deserted Village: "Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain", which, it may be noted, was the origin of the New York name, in 1805. The name has even inspired a local folk etymology, which is hardly taken seriously, about a (early) pioneer hunter who, unable to light his fire, was heard to exclaim, 'Aw burn, dam it, burn'.
AUGUSTA (Bracken Co.): [A'gw/zhuh/ta] (Felicity, Higginson). A 4th class city (of some 1450 residents) on the Ohio River floodplain, 6 air miles nne of Brooksville. It was part of a large Revolutionary War grant by Virginia to Capt. Philip Buckner who laid off 600 acres for a town which he placed on sale by public auction in 1795. The new property owners then petitioned the Kentucky Legislature for the establishment of a town to be called Augusta possibly for the large Virginia county formed in 1738 which once included all of Kentucky. (Actually no one knows why this name was selected.) The county's seat was established here from 1797 to 1800 and from 1802 to 1839 when it was removed to Brooksville, a more centrally located place. (qv). The post office was established as Augusta or Bracken Court House on Jan. 1, 1801 with Wm. Brooks, postmaster.

AULT (Elliott Co.): [Ault] (Ault). An extinct post office on Ky. 504, at the head of Sinking Creek, 1 mile from the Carter Co. line and 8 ai miles nw of Sandy Hook. The office was established Dec. 23, 1914 by Joh M. Catron who named it for John Ault, a highly respected grocery salesman from Grayson. (Actually Ault's name was suggested after four other names had been rejected by the Post Office Dept. as then in use in Ky.)

[(1) John M. Catron in a letter to Wm. G. Steel, 4/20/1925; (2) Lucy & Bert White, interview, 7/28/1978]
AUSTERLITZ (Bourbon Co.): [AUSTERLITZ (Paris)]. An extinct post office and railroad station at the junction of Thatchers Mill Rd. (KY 956) and the L&N Railroad's Cincinnati Division tracks, \( \frac{3}{4} \) mile from the Clark Co. line, and 7\( \frac{1}{2} \) air miles s of Paris. The station was on land taken from the Grimes family farm and its name is said to have been suggested by an early resident after he had visited the site in Moravia of Napoleon's 1805 victory over the combined Austrian and Russian armies. The post office was established April 23, 1881 with James M. Whaley, postmaster, (but the area is now on a Paris rural route.) (1) Edna Whitley, interview, 4/6/1977; (2) Blanche Lilleston, "Place Names of Bourbon Co." KENTUCKIAN-CITIZEN, 1/21/1924.
AUSTIN (Barren Co.): [Austin]. A settlement and active post office centering at the junction of KY 87 and the Jeff Hicks Rd., 11 air miles ssw of Glasgow. The post office was established May 23, 1887 by Hezekiah J. Kelley who is said to have named it for Austin, Texas and a Rev. Austin, a Baptist preacher. [Mrs. J. Wood Vance, "Barren Towns: What's in a Name?" anni. ed. of GLASGOW TIMES, 3/10/1968]
AUXIER (Floyd Co.): [Ahk/shoo] (Prestonsburg). A village with an active post office (and a 1970 population of 800) across the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River from US 23/460, 4 mile above the mouth of Johns Creek (an east bank branch of the Levisa, which, there, forms the Johnson Co. line), and 3 air miles n of Prestonsburg. It was founded around the turn of the present century to house the workers of the N.E. Coal Co. and was named for the shortlived post office established just over the Johnson Co. line on Dec. 1, 1897. The office was re-established in the same name on Feb. 18, 1902, and the C&O Railroad built the Auxier station of its Big Sandy Valley run the following year. Historians don't agree on which, if any particular, member of the pioneer Auxier family the post office, town, and station were named for. Some allege it was John B. Auxier, then an old man, who had earlier distinguished himself as a surveyor and had been responsible for marking the southern boundary of Johnson Co. when it was created in part out of Floyd Co. local in 1843. With the closing of the/mines and the departure of the NE Coal Co., the town has become a residential community for commuters to the larger towns and other mines in the Big Sandy Valley. A local sewing factory attracts mostly outside workers. (1) Glennora Montgomery "A Study of the Community of Auxier, Ky." t.p. PCC, spring, 1971; (2) Mitchell Hall, HIST. OF JOHNSON CO. 1928, Vol. 2, Pp. 40-
AWE (Lewis Co.): [Aw] (Head of Grassy). An extinct post office 6½ miles up Straight Fork of Kinniconick Creek and 11 air miles south of Vanceburg. The post office was established May 20, 1898 and named for and by its first postmaster, Anthony Wayne Everman. This unusual name, (which is now all but forgotten by Lewis Countians,) once inspired newspaperman J.S. Mavity to write: "Straight Fork... dashes its water against the rocks and crags down a narrow valley probably 50 yards wide from hill to hill, and he who has looked upward through the tops of the tall spruce, pine, and hemlock endeavoring to see the sun at any time except noonday may feel the solemn awe which probably gave this post office its name." The office closed in 1935. (1) Beulah Faye Lykins, interview, 6/20/1977; (2) Mavity to Steel, letter, 5/19/1922
AXTEL (Breckinridge Co.): Some 8? air miles south of Hardinsburg is a community that extends for about 1? miles along Ky. 79, whose businesses cater to summer campers on the nearby Rough River Reservoir. It may have first been called St. Anthony, which name still applies to the local Catholic church, and was near the site of an early tanyard owned by Billy Cannon. Soon after its settlement, Cannon is said to have applied for a post office and in his accompanying letter to the postal officials in Washington, he wrote "We have wrote to ax yo to tel us a name fo our post office" (sic). According to local tradition, his request was granted and the post office, when it opened on Oct. 3, 1891 with Samuel Bennett, postmaster, was named Axtel. It closed in the summer of 1977. (1) Bill Thompson, HIST. AND LEGEND OF BRECK. CO., KY., n.d. Pp. 58-9; (2) Ibid., interview, 9/28/1977; (3) Lin Bowling, "Hist. of Breck. Co. Postoffices" BRECK. CO. HER-NEWS, 7/24/1975