Elliott County is located on the headwaters of Little Sandy River, and is furnished with a number of cool mountain springs. The River and its tributaries are enclosed by canyon walls, which add a picturesque beauty. Within these canyon walls there are many natural formations.

One mile North of the village of Sandy Hook on the main waters of Little Sandy River are the Indian Caves. One of these caves has a hewn or a natural formed pipe of enormous size on the face of the canyon wall. If a fire is built in the bowl of the pipe, the smoke flows through the stem as though being smoked by someone. Nearby are a cool spring and a Hemlock tree, which add much to the scenic beauty.

Three miles North, North-east of the same village is located the N. Y. A. Park with its beautiful picnic grounds and cool springs; also small caves and many trees. The park runs alongside the Little Sandy River. It's clean swimming pools and fishing ponds make this an ideal spot. Both the park and caves are on the State Highway known as the Morehead - Sandy Hook Pike. We people of Elliott County owe our thanks to the N. Y. A. Youth.

Eight miles North, North-East of Sandy Hook, on the Little Sandy River are the partial legendary silver mines, known as the Swift Silver Mines. On the face of the canyon walls, that enclose
the River are markings and pointers which go to make the map for Treasure Seekers. There are many excavations that have been made by prospectors hunting for this silver. It is claimed by old settlers that the mine was found by a man by the name of Swift, who used this metal to mold bullets for his rifle and ornamental fixtures for hunting.

Twelve miles East of Sandy Hook on The Little Fork of Little Sandy, are the well known diamond fields. These diamond formations have caused much excitement. Diamond experts from the South African Diamond fields were there with elaborate machines. They found some formations of diamonds, but they were not of much value. There are hundreds of different colored stones.

Eight miles North of Sandy Hook one the Big Caney Creek of Little Sandy was the home of an old tribe of Indians. Indian relics of all descriptions are to be found there.

These are only a few of the many landscapes, painted by Mother Nature in Elliott County.

Joseph W. Conley.
ELLIOIT COUNTY

Name: Incorporated as Martinsburg, Postoffice known as Sandy Hook, Kentucky, Elliott County.

Elliott County was named in honor of Capt. John Lisle Elliott, who came to Kentucky from Scott County, Virginia, with his wife and children and located in what is now known as Elliott County on a large farm to which he gave the name "Highland Forest".

Martinsburg, named for John Martin, grandfather of former U. S. Senator George B. Martin of Catlettsburg, Kentucky is the name of the town which is the county seat, but it is generally known by the name of Sandy Hook, which is the name of the post office.

The population of Sandy Hook, Kentucky is about 175.

Its altitude is 743 feet.

Location: Sandy Hook is located 28 miles south east of Morehead (Rowan County), Kentucky, the nearest railroad station to the county.

Elliott County does not have a railroad in it. It has a crushed stone highway into the county (Kentucky Highway No. 49 A) by way of Ordinary, Dewdrop, Newfoundland. There is a road from Rowan County, via Wyett. The Ridge, and Lytten Postoffice that also has a crushed stone top. Connections are made with the C & O Railway at Morehead. There are two other roads under construction in the county.
POST-OFFICES IN 1874
(Spelling of names follows that used in 1874)

Bruin
Newfoundland
SANDY HOOK

(COUNTY SEAT LISTED IN 1874 IN CAPITALS)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOWN</th>
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<td>Ibex</td>
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<td>Albert</td>
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<td>Isonville</td>
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<td>Lucile</td>
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<td>Burke</td>
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<td>Sansilk</td>
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<td>Sarah</td>
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<td>The Ridge</td>
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ELLIOOT COUNTY
(The 114th in order, was formed in 1869, out of parts of Morgan, 
Carter, and Lawrence counties)

SANDY HOOK is the county seat. 

( Lewis Collins History of Kentucky, 
Vol. II - p. 163 - 1877)

WATER SUPPLY. Little Sandy River flows northward through the 
center of the county, and along with numerous tributaries, drains 
and waters the western half of the district in particular. 

" (Kentucky Resources and Industries," p. 179, 
State Journal Co, Frankfort, Ky.) 

(County maps, Louisville & Nashville R.R.)
Redwine Hotel, A., rates $20. to $30 per month, garage $2.00 per
month, eight rooms. There is only one hotel in the county at this time.
It is a two story dwelling home, turned into a hotel. One can get meals
and room very reasonable, depending on work.
One of the most outstanding personalities at the time on the Rebel side was Col. John T. Williams who organized a company of southern soldiers largely from Morgan County. Col. Williams and his men were with the famous cavalry leader John Morgan when he made his daring dash across the Ohio River. A part of John Morgan's army came through West Liberty after the battle at Mr. Sterling and Cynthiana. They were pursued by General George Morgan, a Union leader and cousin of the famous Confederate Morgan. John Morgan and his soldiers went through West Liberty, crossed the hill then up Laurel Fork and down Newcomb in what is now Elliott County, and camped on the Billy Kitchen farm. George Morgan was after him. He and his men came through West Liberty in the afternoon of the same day, they went up the Long Branch and across on the Elk Fork then up Straight Creek and down Sandy Creek in Elliott County. They camped three miles from John Morgan's men on what is the Bud Prichard farm. John Morgan's scouts learned of the camp of George Morgan's men and sent a company who fired on them just at daybreak from the top of the hill. The armies then went on to the Big Sandy.

Some men in John T. Williams' company, Will Cassity, who joined at 15 years of age, was buried on Straight Creek where he lived after the war. He was a brother of R. B. Cassity of West Liberty, who was thirteen years of age at the time and remembers many of the incidents which occurred. Harve McGuire, Dave Cook, Sid Cook, Joel Adkins and Will Perry were in Morgan's famous cavalry and were buried in Lexington, Kentucky. Lillie Perry, daughter of Will Perry, lives in West Liberty. Louis Henry is buried at Index. His son Jim Henry has been County Judge. Neal McClanahan was killed on Devil's Fork by a Union soldier, Chambers Adams. Wess Cox, father of Henry Cox was U. S. Marshal. He is buried at West Liberty. George Phillips, father of John Phillips, of Paintsville, Kentucky has been Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge of Kentucky. Mose Turner was surveyor for twenty-five years before he
died. John W. Hazelrigg died in Mt. Sterling in 1873. Dr. Will Gevedon died a year ago at the age of ninety-three. He studied and became a doctor after the war. His son Curt Gevedon has been standing doctor in this county for years. Howard Lewis, Rebel Bill Lewis, Devil Joe Adkins, Green Sexton and Chambers Adams were also in the Company.

Jimmie Davis was the first man killed close West Liberty. He lived in the Gap where Clifford Elam now lives. Humphrey Marshal and his men were coming down the road when Davis, an old grey haired man, who was a strong southern sympathizer, walked out in the yard with his rifle and fired upon them. They returned the fire, killing him instantly. They came on into West Liberty and John Hazelrigg went up on the hill opposite Long Branch, and began firing from a tree. Marshall and his men returned the fire and a splinter put out one of John's eyes. The Rebels scouted out and left the Unions in control of West Liberty. At this time it was late in the Fall of 1862 when the court house and records were burned. The soldiers had brought wheat straw into the court house and used it for beds. Whether it was accidentally or intentionally burned is not known. The court house which replaced it was an old brick building which was replaced by the present one.

There are only three buildings in West Liberty today which were here during the Civil War.

In one skirmish near West Liberty at the Gordon Fork, Tom Caskey and Bob Branham were killed. George Mayberry was killed in West Liberty by Col. John T. Williams as he ran down the street which now leads from W. W. McGuire's property toward the river. Green Sexton was also killed and is buried in the Neal Valley.

In one family here there were four brothers, three of them in the Union army and one in the Southern army.

B. E. Whitt
Maximum temperature for Elliott County is 98 degrees. The minimum is 20 degrees below. The normal rainfall is about 45 inches, but this year it has been about 50 inches.
There are three religious sects, Methodist, Missionary Baptist, and Nazarene.

Science, Institutes, etc. -- none

Art, museums, etc. -- none

There is one music organization in the county. Mrs. H. W. Mobley has that class. It consists of about 11 members and meets twice a week. This is the only class of its kind in Elliott County, therefore much interest is taken.

Literature -- none

Theatre -- none

Movies -- none

Radio -- none

One auditorium in the W. P. A. Building near completion.
In the summer of 1889 John Baykin, from Cripple Creek, Colorado, a very picturesque figure, about 58 years of age arrived in Morehead. He registered at the Powers House.

Curiosity, a dominant trait in the mountains of Kentucky, especially during the time of a feud, caused all of the people to be interested in his business.

He told them that he was on his way to Elliott County to prospect for silver.

He "caught a ride" with a teamster, driving an old hickory jolt wagon, going to Sandy Hook and walked the rest of the way to Devil's Creek Valley.

Baykin was an old gold miner and he had learned from an Indian Chief that there was a silver mine somewhere in Elliott County.

In December Baykin again came to Morehead with a coffee sack of mineral specimens from Devil's Creek, which he sent to the assayer's office in Philadelphia. While waiting for an answer he held the attention of the town. His room was the most active place on Railroad Street. He had been one of the original California "Forty-Niners". He was an excellent entertainer.

Most good postmasters in the mountains of Kentucky possess the uncanny faculty of learning the history and whereabouts of all their recipients of mail. As soon as Baykins letter arrived word was sent to him.

It was found that the ore was worth $80. per ton in silver deposit. Silver was selling for 90¢ per ounce.

For a few years Baykins hauled the ore from the mines to the railroad by mule teams. As silver dropped in price the ore wagons became farther and farther apart until finally they were stopped altogether. No one knows what became of John Baykins.
Devil's Creek Valley, which is not long, but very rich in mineral deposit according to Baykins, yields lead and pebbles of the color of rubies, emeralds, topaz, sapphires, garnets, and diamonds. He made a living selling these after he had quit mining.

Elliott County has fire clay, potters clay, oil and gas deposits, and a certain blue mass which works well with oil in making enduring paint for barns and fences.

Due to the publicity, which was given to these mineral resources in Elliott County, the Kentucky Kimberlite Diamond Mining Company, Inc. came into existence. Capital Stock (all common) $100,000. Treasury stock $50,000.

It is said that many large boxes of colored stones were hauled out in ox wagons and shipped, presumably to New York, for sale.

Much publicity was given Elliott County. It was said that it contained Kimberlite the only other such occurrence outside of South Africa.

All of the men interested in this mineral deposit were wealthy and it was soon abandoned. They planned to sell it to a French and English diamond syndicate, but were interrupted by the rumblings of war in Europe.

Dr. Powers' Recalls Early History of Elliott County.
Ashland Daily Independent, Ashland, Ky.
April 19, 1936.
Oct. 18, 1905
When the Health Unit was first established in the county in 1929, the people were under the impression that it was something that was to be given to the people so they wouldn't have to call a doctor.

This unit has done much to stamp out epidemics, having given during the past two years 4600 typhoid serums and 425 for diphtheria. More difficulty is encountered in getting the people to be vaccinated for smallpox as two children died as a result of such vaccination.

Very little prenatal work is done. The women are very reticent and conceal the condition as long as possible. It is not deemed wise for the doctor to suggest an examination.

Elliott County is considered one of the extreme pauper counties of the state. There are no water nor sanitary toilet facilities. The schools are located four or five miles apart. The roads are poor, there being only two gravelled ones in the county. These conditions have made the preventive work done by the Health Unit very difficult. Doctors who are sent in to carry on this work seldom stay but a few months.

Dr. R. E. Wehr, now Health Doctor of Johnson County has the largest record of service, having worked there for eighteen months.

Dr. R.E. Wehr--etc. Paintsville, Kentucky
The women ride astride. They roll their dresses up around the waist and put on a pair of men's pants. Side saddles have not been used for ten years.

One will find three classes of houses in Elliott County; the log cabin, the box house of undressed lumber and a few houses of conventional design in Sandy Hook.

Running water, gas and electricity are improvements which have not as yet made their appearance in this county. Two delco lighting plants were installed in Sandy Hook in 1936. Ice is not shipped in nor manufactured here. Mortons Salt is used to a great extent.

Pork, corn bread, potatoes and navy beans serve as the principal articles of diet. The potatoes and beans are always swimming in grease. Coffee, eggs, jam and home made pickles are also generally served.

When a stranger goes in to eat he is not permitted to pay for his meal. The men sit at the meals. Children about the age of fifteen or over are allowed to eat with them. Strangers are shown every courtesy and are always given the best.

Men, women and children all go bare footed. Sometimes they are seen carrying their shoes while walking along the highway. This applies to all the country folk. Several of the people in the county seat wear shoes at all times.

The men wear overalls and jackets, the women and children, either print dresses, or ones made from sugar or flour sacks.

No industries are found in Elliott County. Farming is the main means of livelihood. The county has some timber resources. The best farming land is found in the western part. The rest is marked by rugged cliffs and deep ravines. In this section there is little tillable land.
The people of Elliott County are very prone to law suits. One will be started on the slightest provocation.

Nazarines and Baptists are the prevailing churches. There are no Catholics in the county. Elliott is a strong Democratic county.

The families, chiefly of Anglo-Saxon and German descent, have intermarried until every one seems related to every one else. There are many signs of inbreeding as cross eyes, etc. No new blood comes into the county.

Two doctors live in the county, and there are twenty-three midwives. Normally about 300 births occur here annually. About 40 of these are taken care of by the doctors and the rest by midwives.

Some trouble existed between the doctors and midwives because the latter thought because they could deliver a baby they could also make examinations and diagnose cases. The doctors have stopped this as much as possible. One of the doctors is leaving the county because he has developed T.B.

Embalming the dead is rarely done. No undertaker resides in the county. Occasionally one is brought in from Rowan, Carter, Morgan or Lawrence County. The minister usually acts in the capacity of undertaker.

Home made caskets are much used; "Boughten Coffins," occasionally. The dead are kept for a day or two. Sometimes the funeral service lasts for five hours. It is customary to have prolonged mourning over the casket. A church funeral is rare.

On the Fourth of July there is always a "speakin'" at the courthouse. Very few people have Christmas trees. The sugar and sorghum harvests are made much of. The people are too religious to have dances or music.
will not only bring good luck, but will cure hemorrhoids.

**GHOSTS**

A young couple residing on route #60 in an old ancestral home declare they were awakened at the same time one night by the noise as of a door opening (it was locked) they saw the figure of the young man's grandmother (long dead) walking toward the dresser. The figure apparently faded away and after recovering their astonishment, they examined the door, it remained locked. These 2 declare they were fully awake and this was no dream whatever.

Immediately after the killing of "Big and Little Harpe" the bloodthirsty brothers who terrorized this community in 1799, their wives, Susana and Sally, were confined in the little log jail, near the present location of the L.& N. bridge on the river bank. It will be remembered that Big Harpe was dismounted from his horse and beheaded. Long after this incident, and for many years, superstitious people living in the vicinity of the old jail, and particularly one well know colored woman, declared that every night at a certain time they could distinctly hear the tramp of horses hoofs and could see a headless rider about the building.

Today, in St. Louis Catholic Cemetery, a peculiar glow sheds its light over a certain marker, and no one has been able to explain the strange phenomenon.

The old Adams residence on the Zion Pike, for many, many years was considered a haunted house. A bridge on the Knoblick Road is considered haunted. People driving at night over this bridge declare they hear ominous rattling of chains, when in fact, there are no chains attached to it.
FORTUNE TELLING

There are a number of persons who claim to be possessed of supernatural powers in this community. Lizzie Hamilton, a colored woman, is fairly noted in reviewing past incidents in your life as well as predicting the future. Her method is palmistry. An illiterate white woman resident of "Fishtown" uses the coffee grain method and has quite a clientele. One or 2 of our prominent ladies (for past time) are really quite successful in telling your fortune with cards.

MAGIC

Nothing available about old time "black magic." A young man of this town has entertained with "stage magic" at different functions, and quite successfully, but he has disposed of his paraphernalia and does not wish to divulge his secret. In an interview recently, a young woman declared her sister to have been cured of a horrible burn in this wise: an old gentleman spit in his hand, then patted the spit gently over the burn. During this process he was murmuring some sort of intonation known only to himself. This procedure actually drew the fire from the burn and the place healed rapidly.

The only creatures in this community that inhabit the dark are bats, screechowls, whippoorwills and the like. Coons are active at night and also moles, yet the latter are sometimes seen in the day seeking a place to drink.

'Tis said that coming events "cast their shadows before." All of us have noticed our own shadows, and 'tis said by old timers we should never look "back" at our own shadows, its bad luck as witness Lot's wife.
An act of the Kentucky Legislature approved January 26, 1869 created Elliott County, Kentucky, from a portion of Morgan, Lawrence and Carter Counties. On April 5, 1869, the county was divided into Justices Districts by a committee composed of W. H. Vansant, J. K. Howard, G. W. Stamper, and Travis Horton. (A. Ison had been appointed on the committee, but failed to act.) On the same date a committee composed of W. W. Cox, Wm. Mynheir, W. L. Holbrook and D. D. Sublett selected the site for the county seat.

The records disclose the fact that the first county court was held on May 24, 1869, presided over by Hon. James K. Hunter who produced his commission from his excellency, John W. Stephenson, governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; with the endorsement on the back showing that he had previously taken the oath of office administrated. At the first County Court the following county officers were sworn in: J. G. Whitt, County Clerk, who was a scholarly gentleman with many fine traits of character and who was honored and respected citizen of the county until his removal to the town of Morehead, Kentucky in the early nineties. James W. Hannah, who served his county as County Attorney, was one of Elliott County's most respected citizens and was the father of Judge J. B. Hannah, who also served his county as Attorney, Circuit Judge and was later Judge of the Court of the Appeals of Kentucky. For School Commissioner Daniel G. DeKart, served his county with honor and distinction. He has many relatives in the county at the present time, but no direct descendents. The first Circuit Court Clerk was Houston King, a member of a prominent family. Henry D. Porter, a maternal grandfather of Perry L. Foster the present County Court Clerk was the first sheriff of the county. He was a member of a prominent family and served his county well.

The first Jailer of the county was Joel Kegley, a man of fine character and one of the oldest families in Virginia, from which state he came to Kentucky when yet a very young man. Alfred Spanks was the first coroner and
A. J. Crisp was first assessor. The following were the magistrates of the county, John Hood, Milton L. Carter, Odom Cox, M. P. Adkins; Nelson Sparks, Martin Whitt, Ruebon C. Sparks, Ison Wagoner, Pleasant Gillum, Charles W. Carter. The first constables were Samuel Ison, Jacob Horton, A. D. Jarrel, and James M. Greene.

John Lisle Elliott (Capt.) came to Kentucky from Scott Virginia, with his wife and children, and located in the central part of Elliott County on a large farm to which he gave the name of "Highland Forest". He was a leading man in Elliott County during his life time and was one of most respected citizens. Elliott County was named in honor of Capt. John Lisle Elliott. He was the first representative of Elliott County. He also served a term as Senator. His mother was Hannah Scott, who was a cousin of General Winfred Scott and also Charles Scott one of the early Governors of Kentucky. Capt. John Lisle Elliott was the father of nine children viz; Samuel P. Elliott, who served as commander of the Confederate Army; John Milton Elliott, who served his state as Circuit Judge, member of Congress, member of the Congress of the Confederate States of America, Judge of the Court of Appeals of Kentucky, when he was assassinated on the year 1879; James Winfield Scott Elliott, who died young; Leondias Hamilton who served as Captain of the Confederate Army and was killed in battle at Jeffersonville, Virginia; Ephriam Blaine who was one of Kentucky's most talented citizens; William Kinkead who served in the Civil War; and Benjamin the youngest entered the Confederate Army and served until the close. His two daughters Amanda married Jerry Richards of Carter County and many of her descendants live there now. Mary Jane married Littleton Harris and moved to one of the southern states where she died several years ago.

Mobleys are direct descendents of Samuel R. Elliott and the Vansants of Benjamin Elliott.
called such. It is a two story dwelling home, turned into a hotel. One can get meals and room very reasonable, depending on work. Prices range from $20.00 to $36.00 per month. There are 8 rooms to the hotel. Care can be taken care of in this place with out any worry from $2.00 a month up. The name of this hotel is Redwine Hotel.

CULTURE. 660.

661. There are three religious sects, Methodist, Missionary Baptist, and Nazarene.

662. None - Library - Institute, etc.

663. None - Art etc

664. There is one music organization in the county. Mrs. H. W. Mobley has that class. It consists of about 11 members and meets twice a week. This is the only class of its kind in Elliott County, therefore much interest is taken.

665. None - Literature, Libraries

666. None - Theater

667. None - Movies

668. None - Radio

669. One auditorium in the W.P.A. Building near completion
INDUSTRY

ELLIOTT COUNTY

Elliott County is a farming county. There are few public works. Coal mining is in its infancy, but the coal is a very high grade, which commands a good price.

Poultry is one of the leading industries of the county. Out of 10 people reporting their egg production to the state, Elliott County had six of those persons. (Month of December.)

Thousands of dollars worth of coal is trucked out each year. There have been several wells drilled for oil and gas within the last 20 years and some are still producing, although it is not used locally.
NOTED PERSONALITIES

ELLIOTT COUNTY

Mary Elliott Flannery, who was the first woman representative in Kentucky. There is now a brass plate on the desk she occupied at Frankfort.

Dr. W. C. Greene, the only dentist in the county graduated from Louisville Dental School, Louisville, Kentucky

J. N. White, Major in the U. S. Army at El Paso Texas.

Jobe Greene, Assistant County Attorney in Pike County.

W. E. Mobley, Assistant Attorney in Comptroller General Office, Washington, D. C.

Estille Sparks, Vice President of Clark Dredging Company at Florida.

Dr. C. R. Hunter, (deceased) Coroner of Boyd County at one time and Elliott County Health Director at death. Buried at Sandy Hook, Kentucky.

M. L. Pennington (deceased) Principal of Louisville Male High School at the time of his death.

M. C. Redwine, Attorney at Winchester, Kentucky

Lester Sparks, registered Pharmacist.

John Crisp, Superintendent of Elliott County Schools

Harve W. Mobley, Statistician for U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

Hobson Mays, Principal of Bourbon County High School.

H. H. Greene, Veterans Bureau, South Dakota.

Joseph V. Mobley, Storekeeper and Gauger in Internal Revenue.

L. Y. Redwine, Attorney at Fort Myers Florida.

Rev. John Vansant, Evangelist.


Dr. A. M. Lyon, Former Supt. of F. M. I. at Frankfort, Kentucky.

Dr. O. M. Lyon, Dentist at Olive Hill, Kentucky.

Jake Flannery, oldest College graduate from Elliott County.

W. W. Brown, one of the oldest college graduates from Elliott County who is now engaged in farming.

Will Davis, Foreman of I. C. C. Railway.
NOTED PERSONALITIES

ELLIOTT COUNTY

V. H. Redwine, assistant State Auditor and Inspector

J. T. Redwine, Govt. Attorney

J. B. Hannah, attorney at Ashland, Kentucky and former Judge of the Co. Court of Appeals

Davis M. Howerton, Attorney at Law, was formerly Assistant Attorney General of Kentucky and served as a member of Workmen's Compensation Board under former Governor LaFoon.

Dr. M. H. Skaggs, who has been in the Public Health Service for years and who is now taking a course at John Hopkins.

M. M. Redwine, Twice county attorney, and one of the oldest inhabitants in the county.

P. H. Ison

261. Racial Groups:

The entire population of Elliott County is Anglo-Saxon, and a well cultured people.

INDUSTRY. Elliott County is a farming county. There are no public works nor have there ever been. Coal mining is in its infancy, but the coal is a very high grade, which commands a good price.

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CLIMATE. Maximum temperature for Elliott County is 98 degrees. The minimum is 20 degrees below. The normal rainfall is about 45 inches, but this year it has been about 50 inches.

Hotel. There is only one hotel in the county at this time if it can be called a hotel.
Masonry in Elliott County dates back to October 20, 1876, when Hepburn Lodge No. 576 A. F. and A. M. was chartered at Sandy Hook, the county seat. The officers appointed by the grand lodge were Isaac Caudill, Master; D. L. Sparks, Senior Warden; D. C. DeHart, Junior Warden, and the first meetings were held in the court house at the time the only building in Sandy Hook available for such purpose. At the first election of officers the members appointed to temporary officers were elected to the same positions with the exceptions of D. C. DeHart, who became secretary and J. G. Whitt who made Junior Warden. The lodge grew in membership and at one time there was an enrolled membership of 160 members. The present membership is 61. The present petitions were those received by the new lodge were those of W. W. Curnutte, John Flannery and H. B. Wedding. A cyclone in May 1927, partially destroyed the original charter. The new charter that was issued now replaces the old in the same prescribed position. The present hall is now located on Main Street, in a brick building, which is reached by a circular stairway. The present officers are W. K. Carter Master; L. M. Ward Secretary, who has held this office for 20 consecutive years, Sam King-Senior Warden and Sam Ison, Junior Warden.

Mrs. J. W. Conley
Elliot County's lack of material wealth is largely reimbursed by the gift of nature's handiwork. In fact nature has been exceedingly generous in giving Elliott County low rolling hills, broken at intervals by shallow, but beautiful canyons. Along the bed of the canyons run creeks which teem with fish, and furnish exceedingly rare sport for the fisherman. The banks of the rivers are lined with large and gorgeous ferns, but occasionally a clear spot is found where large water maples and willows furnish the desired shade. Often high cliffs constitute the walls of the canyons, an excellent example of these cliffs are the Laurel Cliffs, so called from the abundance of mountain Laurel, or the rhododendron that grows on their summits and slopes. The Laurel Cliffs are situated on the main gravelled highway and are easily accessible to the tourist. From the first cold winter weather until spring time the cliffs are covered with a glistening sheet of ice and in summer they are made beautiful by the laurel and magnificent ferns.

(The above is a beautiful picture of the Laurel Cliffs, told in words)
(Below will follow a picture in words of the Natural Bridge)

The Natural Bridge is about a mile and a half from the County Seat, Sandy Hook, and is situated on the main highway into the County Seat Highway No. 49. Underneath the bridge is a small cave in which there is a petrified tree. This is the favorite spot for campers and picknickers, as there is an abundance of clear, cool spring water. Not far from this scenic spot there is an ideal fishing and "swimming pool".

Indian Caves: But a short distance from the Natural Bridge, are the famous Indian Caves, supposedly the Ancient Home of the Indians. In fact, at the entrance to one of these caves which in reality long rock houses, an Indian Peace Pipe is carved in the rock. Many people think Indians are buried inside the caves, probably with their various relics, but no excavations are ever made. There are many fields and hills which have never been cultivated.
because they are known as Indian graveyards. These hills were once strewn
with arrows and tomahawks but part of them have been picked up the peoples
in time.

**Diamond Fields:** The Diamond Fields are of much interest to everyone who
has heard of them. Evidently some time in the dim past there has been a great
upheaval of the earth, for an entire hillside is covered with ashes and stones
of all colors, red, green, purple, yellow etc. Some believe that if this spot
was fully developed diamonds and other precious jewels could be found. Many
mining engineers have visited the scene and some companies have worked there
for some time, but evidently have found nothing of much interest.

**Legend of Swify's Silver Mines.** Most counties have a legend of some
sort, usually concerning lost gold mines, etc. Elliott County's legend is
about the "Swift Silver Mines". It was supposed to have been found by an old
man who died leaving maps of the mine. The map shows the silver to be some­
where along the Little Sandy River. In spite of many searches, nothing much
of value has ever been found.

Mrs. J. W. Conley
1. Elliott County produces Black Pole, Guernsey and Registered Hereford cattle.
2. Elliott County does not produce any individual domestic animal.
3. Elliott County does not produce any particular strain or breed of domestic plant.
4. The county is not famous for production of one or more kinds of livestock.
5. The county does not produce a large quantity of one or more kinds of plant products.
6. Elliott County maintains a county fair held annually at the only High School house in the county. It is sponsored by the merchants, county agent, teachers and High School pupils. Exhibits come from all the parts of the county. This is looked forward to from year to year with great interest.
7. The county does not produce any fresh or cured meats or vegetable products for export.
8. We have a taxidermist in our county, J. W. Conley, who has birds and animals for sale with a fair price. He has a fox (red), all kinds of birds, and a few wild animals for sale now. There is also to be had some beautiful hand made quilts, chairs and baskets. These are all for sale at very moderate prices.
9. The county does not produce any unique or useful thing for sale or export.
10. The county has not produced any literary work, invention, novelty, design, etc. that has found acceptance in the outside world.
11. Native stone is being used extensively for building purposes. A courthouse and school building of stone are now under construction.
12. The public records are being kept in the temporary rooms until completion of the court house. So far as can be learned they are in very good shape, with no record of any being lost.

13. A history of Elliott County was written by R. T. Parsons, deceased, but we can not find it, it is believed that it has been destroyed. At one time it was published in the county newspaper, but that cannot be found.

14. Out county does not afford a local newspaper, the nearest paper is the Morehead Independent, which runs an Elliott County Section. Lately Grayson runs a Elliott County page. (Some years ago Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Parsons had a local paper in Sandy Hook.

15. There are no markers nor monuments in the county to commemorate any people, events, sites, etc.

16. There are records of Indian mounds in Elliott County; it is said that at one time folks dug in the graves and found Indian relics. Grave mounds are found at Little Sandy, Kentucky and Isomville, Kentucky, but there is no record of saving any relics. There are Civil War grave mounds at Bruin, Kentucky. It is said that these graves are of Morgan's men who were killed in a battle and buried here when they burned the bridge at Greenbrier, Kentucky. There is also a bullet found there in the creek, which the inhabitants have in their possession.

17. There is a book of poems written about Ruin, Kentucky and its scenic beauty by Rev. Rufus H. Click. Mrs. Golda H. Johnson has also written some poetry. The former has been published by God's Bible School in Cincinnati in book form.

18. Our county has a history that connects it with the Civil War. When John Morgan and George Morgan, cousins, and one on the Confederate side raided in 1863, at Greenbrier and Bruin Kentucky. John Morgan burned all bridges as he went. The dead are buried at Bruin, Kentucky.
19. There is no history of things done in peace times that attracted state-wide or national attention.

20. The county has no interesting folklore, stories, traditions, dialects, methods of living, queer industries, etc. ?

21. At the present time we have a gravelled road into the county from Morehead. Highway #49A, a distance of 28 miles. A road is under construction to Louisa, also one from West Liberty, the two latter roads are only travelled in dry weather. There are well beaten paths for hiking as well as horse back to many interesting parts in the county. We have a natural bridge, Swifts Silver Mines, The Diamond Mines, the Indian Caves. These will be described in a latter paragraph which will follow soon.

22. There are several athletic fields in the county which tourists might use as camping grounds and would enjoy.

23. No manufacturing nor mining is carried on in Elliott County other than handicrafts and mines not engaged in commerce.

24. One High School, the only one in the county, Sandy Hook High; there are 56 one room school houses in the county.

25. School Library was burned on January 26, 1936. We had 2500 volumes at that time. We have now organized a "Elliott County Progressive Educational League" which league has a membership of 199 persons. The purpose of this league is replacing the Library and Science Equipment recently destroyed. We have already approximately 600 volumes in the new library.

26. There are no paintings by famous artists nor famous people in the county.

27. There are no museums, private collections of note nor places where fossils, plants, minerals, and animals can be found in the county.

28. We have Indian Caves. Canyons are plentiful as the Little Sandy River winds its way in and around Elliott County. We have a natural bridge about \( \frac{1}{2} \) mile from the County Seat. Forests are to be seen throughout the county.
The Greathouse Knob, near Ibex, Kentucky is a noted mountain.

29. There are no game preserves, fish hatcheries, large stock farms, experiment stations, shipping points for local products in the county.

30. Sandy Hook is the only incorporated town in the county. (This topic has been reported upon.)

Information supplied by
Dr. W.C. Greene, T.T. Mobley and Mary Vansant.

Written by Mrs. H. W. Mobley.
RACIAL GROUPS
ELLIOTT COUNTY

The entire population of Elliott County is of Anglo-Saxon descent, and a well cultured people.

In 1930 the distribution of negro population was from 0 to 1%. 


1. LOCATION:

2. AREA __________ sq. mi. (leave blank)

3. TOPOGRAPHY; GENERAL ELEVATION:

4. SOIL DESCRIPTION: Black Soils, some portions, and a clay sub-soil. Very FreeBSD.

5. TIMBER: (not too detailed)

6. STREAMS, if navigable:

7. MINERAL RESOURCES, and whether or not at present developed:

8. LEADING CROPS AND STOCK: Corn, wheat, oats, rice, swine and cattle.

9. NUMBER OF FARMS:

10. PERCENT OF AREA farmed:

11. INDUSTRIES, other than agriculture:

12. ROADS: (miles, kind of) No turn-piles. Community woods are generally good. No industrial shown.

13. RAILROADS: (miles, systems) No Railroads.

14. RIVER TRANSPORTATION: Little Sandy River, none fatinate.

15. SCHOOLS: (number and type)?

16. ORIGIN OF COUNTY NAME:

17. PRINCIPAL TOWNS: (pop. and history)?

18. ANY OTHER OUTSTANDING FACTS: (use a second sheet)
1. LOCATION: Northeastern - Miss.
2. AREA: 67% sq. mi. (leave blank) OK.
3. TOPOGRAPHY; GENERAL ELEVATION: Natively dissected plateau.
   Stream bottoms, but small remnants of flat
   land in bottoms of tributary stream valleys. Elevation - 785 to 1500 ft.
4. SOIL DESCRIPTION: Deep loam
5. TIMBER: (not too detailed) Large variety
6. STREAMS, if navigable: Tributaries of Little Sandy River
7. MINERAL RESOURCES, and whether or not at present developed:
   PETROLEUM, NATURAL GAS, & COAL.
8. LEADING CROPS AND STOCK: CORN (B) 24.6, 801 WHEAT (B) 72 TOB. (LBS) 906,356
   
   CATTLE 25, 56 SHEEP 1, 099
   
   MILK (GAL) 86,553
9. NUMBER OF FARMS: 1,324 AVG. SIZE 110.2
10. PERCENT OF AREA FARMED: 86.7
11. INDUSTRIES, other than agriculture:
   COAL, MINING, SAWYER, EMBALLING, OIL & GAS DRILLING.
12. ROADS: (miles, kind of)
   ONLY DIRT. SURVEY HAVE BEEN MADE FOR HIGHWAYS.
13. RAILROADS: (miles, systems) NONE.
14. RIVER TRANSPORTATION: NONE. Little Sandy River
15. SCHOOLS: (number and type) 57 ELEMENTARY.
16. ORIGIN OF COUNTY NAME:
   Judge John M. Elliott. Circuit Judge 13TH JUDICIAL DIST.
   Also Court of Appeals.
17. PRINCIPAL TOWNS: (pop. and history) SANDY HOOK, COUNTY SEAT.
   FOR 153 (1930) ONLY BANK IN CO.
18. ANY OTHER OUTSTANDING FACTS: (use a second sheet)
Remote, historic Elliott County, population 6,400, is making a bold new effort to turn the past into a stable future, as well as use the natural bounty and the colorful local culture to build a tourism industry, creating lasting employment.

The county's history is one of rising and falling fortunes. Most of the area's original settlers came from southeastern Virginia and from the North Carolina counties of Rowan, Surry, and Wilkes, resulting in a strong allegiance to the South when the Civil War erupted.

The seven unknown Civil War soldiers buried near Sandy Hook, casualties of Confederate raids on Union troops retreating from Cumberland Gap, are typical of the scant evidence of war action in the area, but the local turmoil lasted for years past 1865.

Elliott County probably owes its very existence to post-Civil War turbulence and political maneuvering; in April, 1869, the county was formed from parts of Morgan, Lawrence, and Carter, most likely a gerrymandering effort to consolidate strong Democratic Party voters into a more powerful unit.

By Garry Barker
Always, Elliott County has depended economically upon farming, timber, and mining, and by 1900 boasted a population of 10,387, with 300 residents in Sandy Hook, the county seat. The early 20th Century, though, brought the beginnings of an out-migration that has never really stopped. Many loggers left for the timber industry of the Pacific Northwest, but most Elliott Countians made the much shorter trip across the Ohio River to the industrialized Ohio communities that began growing during World War I. Another large outward wave followed World War II, and, in recent years, the county’s unemployment rate has hovered at around 20 percent. Unemployment has climbed as high as 32 percent, forcing residents to look elsewhere for work.

Over half the county’s current work force of 1,500 must commute, along twisting, narrow roadways, to jobs in other counties and even in other states.

There is no industry in Elliott County, but reforestation efforts, begun in 1955, have restored much of the native hardwood forest and the wildlife which finds refuge in such isolated timberlands. The 2,712-acre Grayson Lake State Park lies on the county’s northern edge, and the Grayson Reservoir covers 1,500 acres at normal pool.

Sparkling clear streams, sheer cliff faces and dramatic gorges, untainted fresh air, and abundant wild game are obvious advantages of the non-industrialized economy.

The people of Elliott County reflect much of the isolated independence and pioneer survival that is their heritage: the tradition of “making do” with whatever is available, of creating entertainment with nimble fingers and a sharp jackknife, of drawing creative inspiration from natural surroundings. These may explain the folk art community which has, for 10 years, drawn national attention and eager collectors from across the world.

The “mother” of the Elliott County folk art colony is Minnie Adkins, recipient of the 1994 Annual Award of Distinction from the Folk Art Society of America. It is she whose creativity, energy, and encouragement have drawn out the local artists and attracted the affluent marketplace.

Minnie and Garland Adkins moved back home from Ohio 20 years ago, to Peaceful Valley near Isonville, and soon Minnie’s lifelong affinity for creating uniquely personal art caught the attention of the folk art world. Other honors came Minnie’s way: in 1992 Centre College awarded her the Jane Morton Norton Award for Extraordinary Achievement in the Arts (the other winner was Barishnikoff), and in June Minnie will be named Morehead State University’s 1994 “Appalachian Treasure.”

For several years, in order to spread the word about other Elliott County folk artists, the Adkins sponsored an annual Peaceful Valley picnic, a gathering of artists and collectors, until over 200 people became yearly visitors and the couple ran out of room. More help came from Morehead State University, where Adrian Swain directs the Folk Art Museum and marketing program, and from private dealer Larry Hackley.

Other local folk artists have benefited from Minnie’s lead. Jimmy Lewis left his $12.50 per hour mining job to carve and paint full-time. Tim Lewis started out carving canes, but moved into sandstone sculpture; now a customer waits for every finished piece. In 1991 Lewis received a $5,000 Al Smith Fellowship from the Kentucky Arts Council.

Junior Lewis turned a lifetime of “fooling around with wood” into a collectors’ market for carved biblical tableaus. Leslie Stapleton taught himself to carve delicately feathered basswood replicas of local birds. Emerson Lewis loves his time in the woods alone, and there he finds the unusual pine knots that become whimsical animals.
Linvel and Lillian Barker work together—and with grandson Jay—to depict rural life in three dimensional carvings. Connie and Leroy Lewis both carve, and Leroy's traditional bark-bottomed chairs are best sellers.

Elliott County's artists are the backbone of Morehead State University's new Folk Art Museum, and in 1993 the artists first staged their own home-grown festival in Sandy Hook. The 2nd Annual Elliott County Folk Art Spring Festival, May 28-29, will again showcase local talent and invited artists.

Another sort of artist put Sandy Hook on the country music map. The late country superstar Keith Whitley was an Elliott County native who stayed close to his roots despite his success, and the legend still lives on in Sandy Hook.

The small Keith Whitley Museum draws thousands of visitors each year and also serves as headquarters to the active Keith Whitley Fan Club. A July 4 motorcycle run traces Whitley's rise to stardom from Sandy Hook to Nashville, a meteoric rise annually commemorated by fans and friends.

Today, the history, the rugged and dramatic landscape, the folk art community, and the legend of Keith Whitley are coming together to play major roles in a development triggered by plans for a new bridge across Laurel Gorge and a new highway into Sandy Hook. The bridge will connect the dramatic sheer cliffs that overlook the Little Sandy River just three miles north of Sandy Hook.

County Judge-Executive David Blair and the newly created Elliott County Tourism Development Council saw the announcement of the planned new bridge and bypass as an opportunity. They look for long term economic benefits and growth potential in the changes.

The proposed 1,200 foot bridge, with construction scheduled to begin in 1995, will itself be an engineering wonder and a breathtaking tourist attraction. But it's the water and land that will lie beneath the new bridge, and the soon-to-be-abandoned winding old roadway, that are crucial to Elliott County's bold new plan to develop tourism into a sustaining economic factor.

These sections of both the Little Sandy Gorge and the Laurel Creek Gorge belong to the U.S. Corps of Engineers, acquired when nearby Grayson Lake was constructed. This is the area Elliott County proposed to develop into a major new recreational area. Hiking and horseback trails, a primitive campground, scenic overlooks, picnic areas, historic points of interest, and an interpretative display are planned as parts of phase one, the beginning stages of which will showcase the natural splendor.
Phase two includes further developments to the recreational area—modern sewer systems, upgraded public facilities, etc.—and embraces Elliott County's cultural diversity as a major visitor attraction.

Bypassed Kentucky Highway 7, in addition to serving as the entrance to the recreational area, will become the hub for a celebration of the region's native culture. The anchor of this plan is the Laurel Appalachian Community Center to be constructed on county-owned land near Sandy Hook. It will include a huge local/regional conference facility, exhibition areas, gallery, and community activities areas.

At the core of the new structure will be the Keith Whitley Memorial Music Hall, a 2,000-seat, balconied performance arena that can also open out into a natural outdoor amphitheater.

The concert hall will be the only one of its size in the region, will attract both major performers and offer prime exposure for the area's emerging talent, and is expected to be the magnet attraction in a year-round tourism industry. A "folk art village" will be built along old Hwy. 7, providing studios and shops for the highly visible artists.

The third phase of the economic development project incorporates private enterprise, bringing on the anticipated entrepreneurial investment in restaurants, motels, and other tourism related services and attractions.

The ambitious project will be managed and overseen by a citizens' board. The managing body will function as an arm of the Elliott County Fiscal Court, ensuring adherence to guidelines, codes, environmental protection laws, and the overall integrity and quality of the development.

"We want as much local participation, employment, and investment as possible," says Gwenda Adkins, Elliott County's extension home economist and one of the project leaders: "Our goal is to build a better future for the county's young people, to make it possible for them to choose to stay here instead of having to leave to find work."

Allen Worms, a recreation and tourism specialist at the University of Kentucky, praised the Elliott County possibilities in a recent Lexington Herald-Leader interview. "That stream (Laurel Creek) is more pristine than most you will encounter in Eastern Kentucky or in this area of the eastern United States," said Worms. "The cliffs are beautiful, it's a fun area to hike, and it would be a great area to camp."

Worms pointed out that Laurel Creek is stocked with brown trout and might even become a spawning ground for that fish. He added that the nearby presence of a diamond shaft and old Indian cave add to visitor appeal, and that if Elliott County can weave the natural resources together with folk art and country music the attraction would draw tourists from afar.

Progress is contingent upon federal/state cooperation and funding, but community leaders are confident. "We know this is going to be a slow process," says David Blair. "I try to stress that we can't get disillusioned because this is one positive project for Elliott County. We have waited too long and tried too hard to get outside industry into our county," adds Blair. "It's time we began helping ourselves."

Continued on page 38
Although there are no more beautiful scenic drives in all of Appalachia than that found winding slowly along the meandering mountain roadway from Morehead to Sandy Hook, their shared joys, their quarrels with the outside world, and their distinctive dialect. Stone is also the author of the acclaimed What My Heart Wants to Tell and four other nonfiction books dedicated to preserving her Appalachian heritage.

The story of yet another strong woman becomes available again with the republication in June of Janet Holt Giles' Miss Willie (University Press of Kentucky, $30/cloth, $15 paperback). Originally released in 1951, the work is the second novel written by Giles. While the plot is fictional, the main character is based on Giles' mother and some of the episodes are taken from her life. Miss Willie is a dedicated teacher who moves to the hills of Kentucky to teach in a one-room schoolhouse at Piney Ridge. She zealously struggles to change the ways of the stubborn and proud Appalachian people, but to no avail. Ultimately Miss Willie realizes that the hill customs have a beauty of their own and that some of her efforts to reform them are ill conceived. Her warmth, generosity and humor help her bridge the gap and find fulfillment in Piney Ridge.

**GARDENING**

Continued from page 35

Specfic habitat requirements work well for various species as long as they are available or unless a new enemy turns them to its advantage. Animals, unlike man, adapt slowly to problems caused by environmental changes.

The amazing behavioral adaptations of the red-cockaded woodpecker, perfectly adapted to life a century ago, are unsuited to a rapidly changing world. Man and nature combine to endanger the bird. As clan numbers decrease, the species is increasingly vulnerable to such hazards as forest fires and hurricanes along southeastern coasts where the birds have long been most successful.

Forestry has reduced their viable habitat. While leaving blocks of suitable pinewoods may seem a simple solution, clearcutting destroys expansion-areas. Forest clearing and human encroachment on forest edges have also diminished not only expansion areas for the woodpeckers, but have destroyed existing colonies. In Kentucky, a few clans remain on short tenures, but I have seen for myself the loss of several clans within just a few years.

**PEOPLE**

Continued from page 36

Miss Willie is a dedicated teacher who moves to the hills of Kentucky to teach in a one-room schoolhouse at Piney Ridge. She zealously struggles to change the ways of the stubborn and proud Appalachian people, but to

**WILDLIFE**

Continued from page 35

the key to successful tomato gardening. Mulching with compost, dried manure, or some other organic material maintains moisture and may prevent the cracking and browning of the fruit caused by alternating wet and dry. Some gardening authorities believe leafier plants have more flavorful fruit and that overwatering can diminish flavor.

Most gardeners will find that Big Beef yields extra large offerings high upon the vine, unlike many other species that produce smaller tomatoes higher on their vines later in the growing season.

Big Beef is not only unusual because of its fruit size, but also because of its prolific production. Gardeners report double the number of fruits compared with older beefsteak varieties. Its deep oblate shape and bright red skin make this a tomato your family will enjoy. For seed packets, bedding plants, or more information, contact your local garden center.

—LH
Noted For Hospitality And Manly Habits

The people who make up the counties of Rowan and Elliott of which this publication is particularly interested in recording, are mostly native born Kentuckian stock—the best folks that anyone would ever want to know.

They (Rowan and Elliott folks) formed a part of the same tide of pioneers which crossed the mountains to people the newly found paradise, "Kentuckiana," but they chanced to turn aside from the main movement westward, and have since inhabited these mountain hollows.

Nearly a hundred and fifty years ago, eleven brothers of the Combs family, related to General Combs of the Revolutionary War, came over the mountains from North Carolina. Part of them settled along the North Fork of Kentucky river in the mountains of Perry county, some went further down the stream into the rough country of what is now Rowan, Elliott and Breathitt counties and one continued on his way until he came into the smiling country of the Bluegrass, and here became the progenitor of a family which represents the blue blood of the state, with all the aristocratic instincts of the old South; while their cousins in the mountains go barefoot. In the early migrations across the mountains and into the plains, many a pioneer no doubt was compelled to remain in the mountains because one of his wagons or cart wheels ran off, one of his family became sick, or some other little hindrance interfered; and there, attracted by the abundance of game, fish, and the natural scenery, he was content to remain and make his home. Does this severing of ties and relationships make the blood of the inhabitant of the refined and cultured Bluegrass any bluer than that of his less favored but virile and sturdy brother in the highlands. To live and mingle with these mountain folks is the only

requisition necessary for an answer in the negative.

The Kentucky mountaineer, as a member of the social fabric, is a striking figure. In personal appearance he is tall, angular and inclined to droop his shoulders. Government statistics show that he is the tallest soldier on an average in the world. A "fine-haired furriner" once attributed this tall stature to looking upward so often to see the sun and to climbing mountains! A saner, but yet incorrect view, attributes it to drinking of too many stimulants, and eating badly cooked food. This might account, to some extent, for the lack of a well-rounded, well-proportioned body. Mountaineer's eyes are set rather far back, with a frank, serious expression, and are often inscrutable. One doesn't always understand them at first, but he may be sure that behind them the mountaineer is doing some thinking.

The hospitality of the people of Eastern Kentucky is as pure and undefiled as their brooks and waterfalls. When he says to you, "light and set, stranger; come in and stay all night if ye can put up with our fare," he means every word of it. And don't be surprised, if at the breakfast table he asks you to "wait on the table," for he is very reverent if he thinks you have a mind to return thanks. He will send one of his family to a neighbor's to sleep, or "make down a bed" in order to give you room. The mountaineer, in spite of his reticence, is a very sensitive being, and failure to converse with him after coming into his house is taken for ingratitude or something else. He is frank and outspoken, to extremes, and will give vent to his feelings or opinions regardless of the consequences. Conceit, vanity and hypocrisy are alien to his nature, and he often credits the outsider with these attributes because he misunderstands him.

The women of the mountains from Kentucky form an interesting study. It has been said they are sullen, grave, and of a retiring disposition. This is largely true, and is accounted for by the fact that their position is the social caste of the section is a hard one, and a deplorable one for the most part. First, race suicide is no question for the sociologist to struggle with in this section of Eastern Kentucky. Whether or nor it is
better to rear up a small family and do it well, or rear a large family badly is no concern. Most families in the section are large, some of them very large, ranging from a dozen to eighteen or twenty under one roof. It is not difficult, then to conceive of the multitudinous care that must befall the lot of these women, which condition prevents such mingling and intercourse with the world. Withal, the mountain mother is possessed of the genuine maternal instinct, is gentle with and passionately fond of her offspring, and hospitable to strangers.

The idealism of youth usually keeps the mountain girl pure, but when she marries and takes up the heavy burdens of life, she is plunged into gross materialism. The standard of morals is rated very high. In most instances the wife is true to her husband, more so perhaps, than among any other people on earth.

There are practically no social castes in this section of the state. "I'm as good as you are," or "I'm as good as he is," are stock expressions. A virile, sturdy manhood, in the midst of rugged environments, where the struggle for existence has been so difficult—all of these things have fostered within the mountaineer's breast an intense spirit of freedom and independence, common to the dwellers of all highland regions.

The ancestors of these people have stood shoulder to shoulder with princes and royal blood during civil wars in England; they have fought at Bunker Hill and Concord; they were with Jackson at New Orleans; they fought for the one flag and the Union in 61-65; they were with Teddy and Dewey in Cuba and the Philippines; with "Black Jack" Pershing in Mexico and their blood tingled through the veins of thousands that helped to make up the great army of sturdy Americans that fought, bled and died for democracy in the late World's War. Whenever the call was made for home and country you have found them giving a good account of themselves.

At the battle of New Orleans, in 1812, the story is told that a number of Mountaineer Kentuckins, wearing coon-skin caps, poured into General
Jackson's ranks, without guns. "Old Hickory" said to them, "Boys, where are your guns?" "Got none" came the reply. "Then what are you going to do?" A pause, and finally one of them answered, "I'll tell you what we'll do, General, we'll follow them those Tennesseans into battle, and ever time one of them falls we'll just inherit his gun."

It has been said that the mountaineer takes to law and politics "like a duck to water." He is a natural born orator. Until recent years have seen the development of the school and colleges in Eastern Kentucky mountains his principal books and source of knowledge has been the Bible, works of history and biography, but his natural ability has come forth and this section has produced some of the most capable men in public life in the entire state. It was among the early settlers of this section that the Lincolns, the Clays and the Breckenridges came.

The wit and philosophy of the early jurists have gone down as classics and it is said that one of the early judges in his instruction to the grand jury said something like this; "Gentlemen you have here a most beautiful piece of public property upon which rests this hall of justice. Its verdant, rolling grass, and majestic towering tree tops attest at once God's loving-kindness and infinite mercy. A lovely fence encircles this property and hall where justice is sent to be meted out. But, gentlemen, our people are hitching their horses to the fence. There is a class of people in this world, gentlemen, who would ride up to the garden of Eden, push aside its heavenly commissioned guardian, fling the gate wide open, loiter down its temple-like vales, hitch their horses to the Tree of Life and banter Moses for a horse swap. Fine these men, gentlemen, fine them." At another time he instructed them: "Gentlemen, whenever you see a great big, overgrown buck sitting at the mouth of some Holler, or at the forks of some road, with a big slouch hat on, a blue collar of celluloid, artificial rose on his coat lapel, and a banjo strung across his breast, and a pickin' of Sourwood Mountain, fine that man, gentlemen, fine him! For if he hasn't already done some-
thin' he's a-goin' to!

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OUR PIONEERS TRACE THEIR ANCESTRY TO OLD PILGRIM STOCK

NOTE: For Hospitality And Manly Habits

The people who make up the counties of Rowan and Elliott of which this publication is particularly interested in recording, are mostly native born Kentuckian stock--the best folks that anyone would even want to know.

They (Rowan and Elliott folks) formed a part of the same tide of pioneers which crossed the mountains to people the newly found paradise, "Kentuckiana," but they chanced to turn aside from the main movement westward, and have since inhabited these mountain hollows.

Nearly a hundred and fifty years ago, eleven brothers of the Combs family, related to General Combs of the Revolutionary War, came over the mountains from North Carolina. Part of them settled along the North Fork of Kentucky river in the mountains of Perry country, some went further down the stream into the rough country of what is now Rowan, Elliott and Breathitt counties and one continued on his way until he came into the smiling country of the Bluegrass, and here became the progenitor of a family which represents the blue blood of the state, with all the aristocratic instincts of the old South; while their cousins in the mountains go barefoot. In the early migrations across the mountains and into the plains, many a pioneer no doubt was compelled to remain in the mountains because one of his wagons or cart wheels ran off, one of his family became sick, or some other little hindrance interfered; and there, attracted by the abundance of game, fish, and the natural scenery, he was content to remain and make his home. Does this severing of ties and relationships make the blood of the inhabitant of the refined and cultured Bluegrass any bluer than that of his less favored but virile and sturdy brother in the highlands? To live and mingle with these mountain folks is the only

The Kentucky mountaineer, as a member of the social fabric, is a striking figure. In personal appearance he is tall, angular and inclined to droop his shoulders. Government statistics show that he is the tallest soldier on an average in the world. A "fine-haired furriner" once attributed this tall stature to looking upward so often to see the sun and to climbing mountains! A saner, but yet incorrect view, attributes it to drinking of too many stimulants, and eating badly cooked food. This might account, to some extent, for the lack of a well-rounded, well-proportioned body. Mountaineer's eyes are set rather far back, with a frank, serious expression, and are often inscrutable. One doesn't always understand them at first, but he may be sure that behind them the mountaineer is doing some thinking.

The hospitality of the people of Eastern Kentucky is as pure and undefiled as their brooks and waterfalls. When he says to you, "light and set, stranger; come in and stay all night if ye can put up with our fare," he means every word of it. And don't be surprised, if at the breakfast table he asks you to "wait on the table," for he is very reverent if he thinks you have a mind to return thanks. He will send one of his family to a neighbor's to sleep, or "make down a bed" in order to give you room. The mountaineer, in spite of his reticence, is a very sensitive being, and failure to converse with him after coming into his house is taken for ingratitude or something else. He is frank and outspoken, to extremes, and will give vent to his feelings or opinions regardless of the consequences. Conceit, vanity and hypocrisy are alien to his nature, and he often credits the outsider with these attributes because he misunderstands him.

The women of the mountains from Kentucky form an interesting study. It has been said they are sullen, grave, and of a retiring disposition. This is largely true, and is accounted for by the fact that their position is the social caste of the section is a hard one, and a deplorable one for the most part. First, race suicide is no question for the sociologist to struggle with in this section of Eastern Kentucky. Whether or nor it is
better to rear up a small family and do it well, or rear a large family badly is no concern. Most families in the section are large, some of them very large, ranging from a dozen to eighteen or twenty under one roof. It is not difficult, then to conceive of the multitudinous care that must befall the lot of these women, which condition prevents much mingling and intercourse with the world. Withal, the mountain mother is possessed of the genuine maternal instinct, is gentle with and passionately fond of her offspring, and hospitable to strangers.

The idealism of youth usually keeps the mountain girl pure, but when she marries and takes up the heavy burdens of life, she is plunged into gross materialism. The standard of morals is rated very high. In most instances the wife is true to her husband, more so, perhaps, than among any other people on earth.

There are practically no social castes in this section of the state. "I'm as good as you are," or "I'm as good as he is," are stock expressions. A virile, sturdy manhood, in the midst of rugged environments, where the struggle for existence has been so difficult—all of these things have fostered within the mountaineer's breast an intense spirit of freedom and independence, common to the dwellers of all highland regions.

The ancestors of these people have stood shoulder to shoulder with princes and royal blood during civil wars in England; they have fought at Bunker Hill and Concord; they were with Jackson at New Orleans; they fought for the one flag and the Union in 61-65; they were with Teddy and Dewey in Cuba and the Philippines; with "Black Jack" Pershing in Mexico and their blood tingled through the veins of thousands that helped to make up the great army of sturdy Americans that fought, bled and died for democracy in the late World's War. Whenever the call was made for home and country you have found them giving a good account of themselves.

At the battle of New Orleans, in 1812, the story is told that a number of Mountaineer Kentuckins, wearing coon-skin caps, poured into General
Jackson's ranks, without guns. "Old Hickory" said to them, "Boys, where are your guns?" "Got none" came the reply. "Then what are you going to do"? A pause, and finally one of them answered, "I'll tell you what we'll do, General, we'll foller them there Tennesseans into battle, and ever time one of them falls we'll jist inherit his gun."

It has been said that the mountaineer takes to law and politics "like a duck to water." He is a natural born orator. Until recent years have seen the development of the school and colleges in Eastern Kentucky mountains his principal books and source of knowledge has been the Bible, works of history and biography, but his natural ability has come forth and this section has produced some of the most capable men in public life in the entire state. It was among the early settlers of this section that the Lincolns, the Clayes and the Breckenridges came.

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VIVID MEMORIES OF ELLIOTT AND ROWAN COUNTIES 75 YEAR AGO

The writer of this sketch arrived on April 2nd, 1859 to join an already large family in a one-room log cabin, in what is now Elliott county. The county of Elliott was not formed until 1859 and the present courthouse, which was the first brick building in the county was built in 1871.

In the cabin where I was born, our light was a pine knot lit and stuck in the jam of the big fireplace where all our meals were cooked. We had two large beds, whose ceiling high posts when draped with sheets afforded the only privacy in this backwoods home where the endless drama of birth, life and death was enacted. A trundle-bed fitted when they were pulled out at night there was not many open spaces on the "punchoon floor," whose worn surface and a beet stem furnished my first writing material. It was a proud day for me when I could write out my name so quickly that the first letter would still be visible when I had finished the final "y". Cooking stoves were unknown, all the cooking being done on the long log fireplace, which was from 4 to 7 feet wide. Our pots and skillets were made of heavy iron. The skillet with lid properly heated and covered with live coals made our oven to bake bread and pies. Matches were unknown. We could generally keep fire over night by pushing thick oak bark under the hot ashes at bed time. If our fire went out, we might be seen going to a neighbor to borrow fire. If we all lost fire, we had to resort to the flint and steel with which every family was equipped.

Most of our bread was made from corn. Every family had a "gritter."

This was made by taking a piece of tin punched full of nail holes and fastened on a board like an old fashioned wash board with the rough side up. We would then take the ear of corn, when in the roasting ear stage, and rub it up and down on the "gritter." This would make a batter ready to bake and as the corn got harder it would make meal. Dry corn was ground on a home

made hand mill. Our teas were made from spicewood, birch and sassafras and then boiled in sugar tree water it made a delicious tea. Our meat was furnished mostly by the "razor back hog" which fattened on the "maest," acorns and chestnuts being abundant in the woods. There was plenty of squirrels, pheasants, ground hogs, coons and opposums and rabbits all of which we used for meat. We would cook a ten gallon kettle of corn until it was done and called it hominy. We ground our cane on home made wooden mills and boiled the juice down in large iron kettles to make molasses. Our preserves were made by adding huckleberries or blackberries, wild plums or wild grapes to the molasses and boiling down to the proper consistency. We preserved our beans for winter use by pickling them in a long trough made from popular logs, dug out with a foot adze, we had no barrels or kegs. We also strung beans on flax thread and called "leather britches." We peeled pumpkins and cut them in rings one-inch wide and hung them on poles, whose ends rested on the joists above our heads to dry. Tomatoes were very small and full of seeds and were used but little for food. They were brought in and laid up to look at and were called "Love Apples."

Being a sandy soil we raised an abundance of sweet and Irish potatoes. Pheasants were so numerous that our hens often found and laid their eggs in the same nest. The wild cats and foxes destroyed lambs and pigs to such an extent that the state paid a bounty of $1.25 for foxes and "$2.50 for a wild cat." Some men made their living by hunting and trapping.

Our shoes were made of home tanned leather and at least one man in every neighborhood could make shoes. The strings were made from the dressed hides of the coon and the ground hog. Our mothers carded and spun wool from the sheep to make our socks and stockings and on a home loom wove a heavy fabric called "jeans" for men and a lighter one called "lincy" for women's clothing and this was also woven into "covers" of different patterns and blankets for our beds. We raised our own flax from which our summer clothes were made and towels, sheets and thread used in making our clothes and shoes.
Shoes were more of a luxury then and the boy that was not big enough to work, sometimes went through the winter without shoes and in order to hear a fox chase in the cold winter, would have to heat a board and run out in the snow and stand on it and listen.

Our playground was in the rock houses under the cliffs, where our little home was situated. Here we played marbles and pitched a flat rock at the stake, like horseshoes are played today. In the summer a great deal of our time was spent in the woods hunting ginseng, for which there was always a good market.

There was little encouragement for the people to raise more than they could consume as there was no roads to get it to the marker, therefore we were an easy going people that raised a little patch of cane, corn and vegetables and spent the rest of the time fishing and hunting.

All stock that ran on the "range"; cattle, sheep and hogs, had to be marked, so that its owner might be known. This was done by clipping the ear. These marks were known as "over bits," "under bits," "swallow forks," "crap of" and "split the ear." Every man had his individual mark which was registered at the clerk's office by which he could claim his stock, if they strayed.

In 1870 there was no school house in reach of us and there was a new district laid off in the southern end of Rowan county, bordering on the Elliott county line and called the Cornette district. It is now known as Send Gap. A large log house was built in the woods and covered with four foot boards without nails. On the south side of the house was an opening, one foot wide and ten feet long, four feet from the ground. This was used as a window, but there was no glass in the opening. Under this was placed a broad plank on two pins that served as a standing up writing desk for the children. The first year we had no floor or chimney, but made fire on the bare ground in the center of the house and sat in the circle around it on benches made of a split log with wooden legs and the flat side up. Our school term was three months and
our teachers had no more education than our twelve year old boys and girls of today. Our books were few and consisted of Webster's Blue Back Speller and Ray's arithmetic. The teachers were not required to pass any examination, the ability to read and write and "cipher" a little and the willingness to teach being the only requirements. The lessons were studied orally and the rabble of the children's voices could be heard a great distance. One treat, the last day of school was a big event. This was made by boiling down a large pot of "sorghum" on the big fire, in the middle of the house until it could be twisted out with a wooden paddle, with which every scholar was equipped long before the candy was ready.

In 1876 Morehead had two stores; one run by Warren Alderson and the other by Howard Logan. One hotel kept by Judge Carey and it stood where Battean's drug store now stands. The courthouse was a plain weather boarded building with a ventilator on the top. The jail was a wooden building which was later burned in March, 1880. Jim Pelfrey was the only inmate and he escaped. The same year the clerk's office was burned and all the records were lost.

In 1877 Morehead began to build. The C. & O. Railroad was assured and after being completed the first train was run in 1881. About this time Hogtown began also to grow and a post-office was established there and called Elliottville. Charley Ward was named the first postmaster and he had the town incorporated under the name of Bristo. Ward was also named town judge. I have attended his court and heard him try cases. Elliottville at that time boasted of three stores, Charley Ward, Sud Turner and a branch of the Warren Alderson store conducted by H. C. Turner. Jim Click ran a blacksmith shop.

A long about this time Alex Fletcher and his son, Jerry started the first steam mill in this part of the country. The mill did a good business and partly did away with the hand mills. These memories of Elliott and Rowan counties are a true statement of things experienced and seen by the writer and pictures how people lived in this section following the Civil War.