✓ OAK GROVE (Christian Co.): [Ohk Ghrohv] (Oak Grove). A loosely
integrated community extending for about 2 miles from the Tennessee
state line along US 41A and the eastern fringe of the Ft. Campbell
Military Reservation to a point n of KY 911 and e to at least KY
115 at Hensleytown, centering on a prosperous 5th class city with
a population of over 2300. The active post office of Oak Grove,
whose original location in this area has not been precisely deter-
mined, was established in 1828 or earlier by Samuel Gordon, a
pioneer settler. After an intermittent existence, the office was
probably moved to the present site of Hensleytown (at the junction
of KY 115 and 911) in 1887 and so named (though it was spelled
Hinsleytown). Some 2 weeks later another Oak Grove post office was
established, probably at or near its present site. With the
completion in 1903 of the Tennessee Central (now Illinois Central
Gulf) Railroad, less than ½ mile e of the present US 41A, the post
office, retaining the Oak Grove name, was moved to the station
which was then called Thompsonville. Within the past few years,
the office returned to US 41A, to a point near Gate 6, some 12 air
miles s of Hopkinsville. The Oak Grove name was derived from a
grove of oak trees, some of which are still standing on the reser-
vation near Gate 6. [Wm. T. Turner, interview, 8/7/1977] 1403

✓ <u>OAK GROVE</u> (Trigg Co.): <u>Ohk</u> <u>Ghrohv</u> (Cadiz). This/rural settle-
ment, focused on the Oak Grove Church at the head of Burge
Creek, 4 air miles s of Cadiz, was settled by the family of
Starkie Thomas whose descendants still own much of the land
in that vicinity. The community, named for a local grove of
oak trees, was one of the 3 unsuccessful contenders for the
county's seat. It never had a post office, but is on a Cadiz
rural route. There is nothing there now but the
Baptist church.]HIST. RECORD OF TRIGG CO. 1820-1970, c1970,
n.p.] 98

OAK HILL (Pulaski Co.): [Ohk Hihl] (Delmer). This rural settlement, a mile e of Lake Cumberland's Fishing Creek embayment and 1¼ air miles w. of Somerset was allegedly named for an old Baptist church on a slight rise in the midst of a grove of oak trees. The trees are all but gone now and the church has since been replaced by another building. Residents never had their own post office and are now on a Somerset rural route. ["Name Places" by Jas. L. Tarter, LOCAL HIST'L. RES. issued by Somerset C.C. of U.K. 1966, n.p] 978

OAKLAND (Warren Co.): [Ohk/lənd] (Smiths Grove, Bristow).
A 6th class city and railroad station with an active post
office and some 150 residents, ½ mile nw of an I 65 inter-
change and 8½ air miles ene of Bowling Green. William
Radford, the first storekeeper, is said to have named the
L&N Railroad station there in 1859 for the many large oak
trees in the vicinity. He established the local post office
as Oakland Station on April 13, 1860 and became its first
postmaster. The name was shortened to Oakland in 1887.
[Jennie B. Cole "Some Place Names of Warren Co., Ky." ms.
in the Ky. Libr., WKU] 872

✓ OAK LEVEL (Marshall Co.): [Ohk Lehv/ə l] (Oak Level). This hamlet ⸢with extinct post office⸣ on KY 1949, a mile from the Graves Co. line and 5 air miles w   of Benton, is believed to have been first settled before 1850 by Allen Nance who built a store there.   The post office, in operation from 1876 to 1907, was named for the thick oak forest on a fairly level stretch of land that has locally been referred to as The Flat Woods. The vicinity is now on a Benton rural route. ⌐(1) Freeman & Olds, HIST. OF MARSHALL CO., KY. 1933, P. 95; (2) Ray Mofield, interview, 8/4/1977⌐ 76, 1337

OAKS (McCracken Co.): [Ohx] (Symsonia). A rural settlement
and station on the L&N Railroad's Paducah and Memphis Sub-
division, where the tracks cross KY 450, just w of the West
Fork of Clarks River, 2 miles from the Graves Co. line and
6 air miles sse of Paducah. It was named for the many oak
trees in the area. It never had its own post office but has
been on a Paducah rural route.

✓OAKTON (Hickman Co.): [Ohk/tuhn] (Oakton). A hamlet with an
active post office extending for about ½ mile along KY 123
from the Illinois Central Gulf tracks, 3½ air miles w of Clinton.
It grew up around the Mobile and Ohio Railroad station estab-
lished around 1860 as Clinton Station to serve the county seat.
When, by 1870, plans for the Illinois Central Railroad to come
through Clinton itself precluded the further need for a station
here to serve it, the community was renamed Oakville. The post
office was established as South Oak on Nov. 23, 1874 with John B.
Cave, postmaster, and became Oakton in 1882. The large oak tree
for which it was named was blown down sometime after 1940. [(1)
Lucille Bryars Owings 150 YEARS--HICKMAN CO. SESQUI.: HIST. PROG.
BOOK, 1971, P. 30; (2) Ibid. letter to me, 3/16/1979] 162, 1118

✓ OAKVILLE (Logan Co.): [Ohk/vihl] (Adairville, Dot). A country store and
post office on KY 739, .8 of a mile w of its junction with US 431
and 5½ air miles s of Russellville. This site once in a dense
forest of red oak trees suggested the name Red Oak to early settlers
Henry Barker and Charles H. Johnson and by this name the community was
known though the post office which served it was called Escipion. This
office, in operation from 1856 to 1863, was re-established by Johnson
in early 1884. He renamed it Oakville on May 16 of that year when
learning that the preferred Red Oak name was already in use. Yet the
                                                          Railroad
Red Oak name continued to be borne by the Owensboro and Nashville
                                                          ᴧ
station there until it closed in 1933. Now the name survives only in
the Red Oak Church on KY 96, 2 miles nw of the Oakville store and post
office. [Stratton, PLACE NAMES OF LOGAN CO. 2nd ed. 1947, n.p.] 2-06

O'BANNON (Jefferson Co.): [Oh/baen/ən] (Anchorage). A hamlet
with an extinct post office and L&N Railroad station centering
where Factory and Collins Lanes joins LaGrange Rd. (KY 146), a
little over a mile from the Oldham Co. line and 13 air miles e
of the court house in downtown Louisville. The post office was
established as Williamson on Feb. 12, 1850 with John B.
O'Bannon, postmaster, and named, as was the railroad station,
for the family of pioneer John Williamson, owner of several
thousand acres in that area. In 1859 the name was changed to
O'Bannon for John B. or his family. John B., son of Virginian
Isham O'Bannon (1767-1845) was a Jefferson Co. farmer and busi-
nessman who had built his home on LaGrange Rd. around 1830. In
the early decades of the 20th century O'Bannon's station was
the rail shipping point for an important potato producing area.
The post office closed in 1964 and mail is now secured from the
office in Anchorage, 3½ road miles sw. [(1) HIST. OF OHIO FALLS
CITIES, 1882, Pp.   (2) Ward Sinclair & Harold Browning,
"King Potato Ruled O'Bannon, Worthington at Peak of their Hey-
day" LOU. TIMES, 11/12/1965] 100, 720

ODDVILLE (Harrison Co.): [Ahd/vihl] (Shady Nook). The first settlers of the site of this hamlet on US 62, 4½ air miles nne of Cynthiana, were the family of Josiah Whitaker, a Methodist preacher, who arrived in 1799. In 1851, Hezekiah Whitaker, the local storekeeper, applied for the post office and forwarded the Rev. J.C. Crow's request that it be named Mt. Washington. When informed that there were already too many Washingtons in the country and that a unique name should be selected instead, Crow suggested Oddville. The office was in operation from June 5, 1851 to 1903. The community, now served by Whitaker's Market and a church, is on a Cynthiana rural route. ["Whitakers Settled Oddville Community" in Celebration Ed. of CYNTH. DEM. 8/7/1969] ⌀⌀⌀

√ OFFUTT (Johnson Co.): [Ahf/ət] (Offutt). Only a few homes, a
tipple, and an active post office remain of a once prosperous
rail shipping point for area timber and cannel coal, on the e
bank of the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River, just above the
mouth of Greasy Creek, and 4 air miles ne of Paintsville. It
was first called Ward City [Wåhrd Siht/ee] for several local
families, with a post office in this name from 1876 to 1897
that was re-established in 1908 as Lower Greasy [Loh/ər Ghreez/
ee]. About this time the community was renamed for James Offutt,
the president and general manager of the Rockcastle Lumber Co.,
and came to serve as the terminus of narrow gauge railroads from
the company's mills on Greasy and the cannel coal mines on nearby
Two Mile Creek. The post office was renamed Offutt in 1914. At
its peak around 1920 the community was home to over 700 lumber
and railroad company employees and their dependents. [(1) Arthur
Pope, interview, 1/10/1971; (2) Mitchell Hall, HIST. OF JOHNSON
CO. KY. 1928, Vol. 1, P. 266; (3) Kozee, 1961, P. 815] 89,128,1353

OHIO [Oh/hah/yoh, Oh/hah/yə]. 596 sq. miles Pop. 21,900.
Seat: Hartford. Established in 1798 from part of Hardin Co.
and named for the Ohio River which originally formed its
northern boundary.

OIL SPRINGS (Clark Co.): [Oy/əl Sprihŋz] (Levee). A 19th century
resort developed around several mineral springs on the w bank of
Lulbegrud Creek, 1 mile e of Indian Old Fields, 3/4 mile nnw of
the junction of Powell, Clark, and Montgomery Co's, and 11 air
miles ese of Winchester. The medicinal waters of these springs
and the rock oil that seeped from at least one of them were used
by Indians and pioneers alike to treat wounds, rheumatism, and
other ailments. The saline content of the springs that attracted
large numbers of game animals also made the area one of Daniel
Boone's favorite hunting spots. The crude oil seepage that gave
the community its name generated some exploitation in the latter
part of the 19th century but with insignificant results. The
community never had its own post office and little remains to
mark the site. [Don Edwards, "Building of Girl Scout Camp Puts
Life into Dead Old Town" LOU. TIMES, 3/25/1965] 404

✓ OIL SPRINGS (Johnson Co.): [Awl Sprihŋz] (Oil Springs). A community extending for nearly 1½ miles along KY 40 (old US 460) from a point less than ¼ mile e of the Magoffin Co. line e to the consolidated school, 7 air miles w of Paintsville. It was named for its proximity to the first recorded natural oil spring in the county, said to have been discovered by the Indians who used it for medicinal purposes. Wells were bored here by early settlers, and it was the center of a short-lived oil boom in the late 1860s. The still active Oil Springs post office was established Jan. 29, 1868 with Hamilton Litteral, postmaster. The community may also have been known for a while as Medina [Mə/dah/nə] for the (relatively short-lived) Medina Seminary, a boarding school established there in the 1870s by John Riggs Long, an instructor at Ohio's Rio Grande College. [J.K. Wells, interview, 8/30/1980] 1411

OKOLONA (Jefferson Co.): [Ohk/ə/lohn/ə] (Louisville E., Brooks).
A sprawling, unincorporated working class suburb with a 1970
population of over 17,000, roughly contained between Fern Valley
Road (on the n), I 65 (on the w), the Bullitt Co. line (on the
s), and the Shepherdsville Rd. and Smyrna Rd. extended due south
(on the e), but centering at the junction of Preston Highway (KY
61) and Outer Loop, 9¼ air miles sse of the court house in down-
town Louisville. In the 19th century the area w and n of this
junction was called The Wet Woods and was described as a "for-
bidding section of marshes and dense forest"/[SS]   a refuge for
                                                          and
undesirables and outlaws. In time the land was drained/ cleared
and the first permanent homes and businesses were established.
The greater Okolona area was first served by a post office
called Cross Roads, in operation from 1850 to 1879 at the junc-
tion of the present Preston Highway and Cooper Chapel Rd., 2.8
miles s of Okolona's present business center. The Okolona post
office itself was established Aug. 16, 1889 with George B. Kyser,
postmaster, and discontinued in 1902. Patrons wanted to call it
Lone Oak for the large tree that, till recently, stood near the
business center, but another post office of this name in McCracken
Co. led to a reversal of the words and a slight change in the
spelling. The community, named for the post office, got its
first spurt of growth following the completion of the electric
interurban line s   ·from Louisville in 1905. Since 1902, the
community has been served by a branch of the Louisville post
office. [(1) HIST. OF THE OKOLONA AREA compiled by the Okolona
Woman's Club, 1956; (2) Clay Ryce, "The South: Will it Ever Rise?"
LOU. TIMES, 6/7/1974, P. 1:1-5; (3) "Death of its Namesake an
Irony for Okolona" LOU. TIMES, 11/27/1972, P. B1:5-6 / 155, 375, 692

OLATON (Ohio Co.): [Oh/lā/tǝn] (Olaton). A hamlet with an active
post office on Caney Creek, at the junction of KY 878 and the
Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, 12 air miles ene of Hartford.
The first post office to serve that vicinity was established as
Sheaffer's Mill on July 16, 1842 with Anthony Scheaffer (sic),
postmaster. In 1851, several years after Benjamin R. Briggs, the
owner of a nearby water-powered grist mill, became postmaster,
the office was moved to and/or renamed Briggs Mills (sic). This
office closed in 1866. On the hill several hundred yards w of
Caney Creek, Joel Payton established another post office on July
18, 1883. Learning from the postal authorities that his preferred
name--believed to have been Viola--was already in use, he then
submitted a combination of the name of his niece, Ola Wilson--the
daughter of John Wilson--and the last syllable of his own surname
and came up with Olaton. [(1) Elva Payton Royal, letters to me,
12/26/1978, 1/7/1979; (2) Musker Heavrin, Place Names of Ohio Co.
ms. 3/20/1925] 905,1140

OLDHAM [Ohl/dəm]. 184 sq. miles. Pop. 27,712. Seat: La Grange. Established in 1823 from parts of Jefferson, Shelby, and Henry Co's. and named for Col. William Oldham, Revolutionary War veteran, who, as the commander of a Kentucky militia regiment, was killed by Indians in the so-called Battle of St. Clair's Defeat, 1791.

<u>OLD LANDING</u> (Lee Co.): [Ohld <u>Laend</u>/ihŋ] (Cobhill). Horn's Store
and post office remain of a once prominent L&N Railroad flagstop
and coal barge landing on the Kentucky River, across from Estill
Co. and 6 air miles nw of Beattyville. It is said that the
community grew from an overnight lodginghouse for the loggers
who would tie up their rafts in the bottom across the river.
The local post office, established March 26, 1883 with Mrs.
Delina McGuire, postmaster, was first called <u>Whynot</u> allegedly
pronounced [Weye/<u>naht</u>] but renamed <u>Old Landing</u> in 1904 when
Ambrose Durbin took over the office. The story of the logger
who suggested that "we tie up here" and got the answer "why not?"
has been discounted, but no other explanation has been offered.
The <u>Old Landing</u> name may predate the <u>Whynot</u> post office for,
according to postal records, an <u>Old Landing</u> post office was in
operation from 1871 to 1874 and another post office called <u>Old</u>
<u>Landing Sinks</u> was in existence for nearly 9 months from April,
1878. It is not known where either office was located. [Nevyle
Shackelford, interview, 7/8/1978] 1372

OLDTOWN (Greenup Co.): [Ohld/town] (Oldtown). This hamlet on

KY 1, near the w bank of the Little Sandy River, 3 miles from

the Carter Co. line and $9\frac{1}{2}$ air miles ssw of Greenup, may have

been named for the early evidence of an old Indian town at that

site. Some have suggested that it was a way station for Indian

hunting parties attracted to a local spring or even the scene

of a battle among pre-historic Indians. Settled by Virginia

families before 1800, it became a trade and milling center for

the several area iron furnaces and tanneries. The Oldtown post

office, established March 15, 1836 by Samuel Osenton, and now

in Womack's store, still serves a large section of southern

Greenup Co. as does one of the county's consolidated elementery

schools, just above the store. [(1) Biggs & Mackoy, 1951, Pp.

108-09; (2) "Oldtown" RURAL KENTUCKIAN, Vol. 19, 9/1966, Pp.

14-5, 17; (3) Jillson, PIONEER KENTUCKY, P. 97] 23,109,636

✓ OLGA (Russell Co.): [Ahl/ghə] (Creelsboro). A crossroads
with extinct post office
hamlet/at the junction of KY 55 and 379, 4½ air miles sw
of Jamestown. On April 6, 1905 Joseph Barnes established
the post office in his store at the junction of the present
KY 379 and 1058 and named it for Olga Kimper, the daughter _Kimbler_
of a friend. In the 1920s, M.E. Antle moved the office to
                                        where
its present site, 2 miles n of Barnes' store∧it continued
as Olga until it closed in 1941. To this day the original
post office site has been locally known as Old Olga. The
vicinity is now on a Jamestown rural route. [W.E. Lacy,
letter to me, 3/7/1969] 1100

OLIVE HILL (Carter Co.): [Ahl/əv Hihl or Heel] (Olive Hill). A 4th class
with an active post office and an est. pop. of 2800
city ∧ some 2500 persons and the trade center of western Carter County
└ s hill
stretching for about 2 miles along US 60 and Tygarts Creek, 11 air miles
w   of Grayson. "A rural trade center was early established on land
settled by the Henderson brothers in the first decade of the 19th century
The origin of the name is not known.   There is no evidence for the popula:
contention that Elias P. Davis, when he established the post office on
In any case,
April 3, 1838, named the hillside town for his friend Thomas Oliver." it
∧
grew in response to attempts to develop the area's timber, and later its:
fire clay and limestone resources. "With the arrival in the Tygarts Valle:
of the Elizabethtown Lexington and Big Sandy (now C&O) Railroad in 1881,
the town was moved from its original hillside location to the more
accessible site by the tracks leaving the hillside, as Old Olive Hill,
an exclusively residential area." Incorporated in 1884, it has long
rivaled Grayson for economic and political dominance of the county. It
became the seat of the shortlived Beckham County, organized in 1904 from
parts of Carter, Elliott, and Lewis Counties and named for the then
Kentucky governor.   Though it closed in 1963, the local brick works of
the Harbison Walker Refractories was the largest fire brick plant in the
world employing at its peak some 600 persons. [(1) Fred E. Evans, HIST.
OF CARTER CO. 1838-1976, Pp. 29-32, 37; (2) Christine McGlone, interview,
11/18/1977; (3) "Olive Hill's Century of Progress Began 1861" CARTER CO.
HIST. ED. 9/4/1969, Pp. 6:1-4, 11:2-4] 36, 638, 1326

OLLIE (Edmonson Co.): [Ahl/ee] (Rhoda, Nolin Reservoir). This active post office on the Houchens Ferry Rd., at the n edge of the Mammoth Cave National Park, 5½ air miles ne of Brownsville, was established March 30, 1898 by Joseph L. Sanders, the first postmaster, and named by his wife, Nealie, for her mother, Ollie Easter.

OLMSTEAD (Logan Co.): [Ahm/stəd] (Olmstead). The site of this former L&N Railroad station, where the tracks cross KY 775, 7 air miles sw of Russellville, may first have been known as Hogan's Station for Martin Hogan who had settled there shortly after 1800. Meanwhile, some 2 miles n, on the present US 79, Volney Walker's name was applied, as early as 1816, to a stage coach relay station and a school called Volney Institute. On Jan. 8, 1850 George A. Williams established the Volney post office at the Institute site, but after the L&N had completed its Memphis Branch through this section in 1860, the office was moved to the tracks and renamed Volney Station. Then, on July 15, 1862, the latter was renamed Olmstead by Jonathan Baker, the postmaster, for the popular railroad construction boss, perhaps, as has been suggested, to give the community a more independent identity. This it indeed came to have, at the expense of Volney which, by that time, had come to be known as Old Volney, which name it still bears. Serving as a trading center for one of the richest farming areas of Kentucky, Olmstead now has several stores, a post office, high school, and some 150 residents. [(1) May Belle Morton, interview, 11/6/1977; (2) Margaret Barnes Stratton, PLACE NAMES OF LOGAN CO., 2nd edit. 1947, n.p.; (3) Edward Coffman, THE STORY OF LOGAN CO., 1962, Pp. 264-65] 42, 206, 1344

OLYMPIA (Bath Co.): [Oh/lihm/pyə] (Olympia). This hamlet with an active post office serving some 300 persons centers on the junction of KY 36 and the C&O Railroad, 4 air miles se of Owingsville. From here, after the completion of the Elizabethtown Lexington & Big Sandy (now C&O) Railway in 1881, area mined iron and locally milled timber products were shipped to Ashland and Lexington markets. A town was laid off here sometime after 1876 and a post office named Puck, for reasons unknown, was established on Nov. 28, 1881 with Thomas J. Eubank, postmaster. By the following March, the office had been renamed Olympia for the Olympian Springs health resort, 2½ miles s (q.v.), and the town was incorporated as Olympia that April. With the depletion of the area's resources by the turn of the century, businesses closed and most of the town's residents moved away. Today homes are spread out for more than ½ mile along KY 36 and on a road parallel to the railroad tracks. [(1) Richards, 1961, Pp. 462-65; (2) BATH CO. MEMORIES 1811-1974, Hist'l. Booklet, 1974, P. 34] 15,186.

OLYMPIAN SPRINGS (Bath Co.): [Oh/lihm/pyən Sprihŋz] (Olympia).

The site of one of the most fashionable vacation and health resorts
of 19th century Kentucky, on KY 36, 7 air miles sw of Owingsville.
Little is known of its early history but it's been said that William
Ramsey, having discovered 8 different mineral springs here, which he
collectively called Mud Lick Springs, built a boarding house and
cabins. Around 1800 Col. Thomas Hart acquired the property, re-
named it Olympian Springs apparently for Mt. Olympus, a 1200 ft.
elevation a short distance to the se (which, in turn, undoubtedly
referred to the mythical home of the Greek gods). He built a hotel
and spread the word of the great healing value of the springs which
are said to have been the origin of Bath County's name when it was
created in 1811. On Dec. 13, 1811 the Olympian Springs post office
was established with William Bashaw, postmaster, and operated inter-
mittently until 1882 when its papers were transferred to Olympia, 2½
miles n. The springs and hotel had many owners including Col. Thomas
D. Owings, for whom the county seat was named. Its history as a
resort extended well into the 20th century. There is now nothing at
the site to mark its former estate; it is but farmland owned by J.M.
Richardson and once again called Mud Lick for the Mud Lick Creek on
which it is located. Curiously, most maps and atlases today spell
the name Olympia Springs. [(1) J. Winston Coleman, "Old Kentucky
Watering Places" THE FILSON CLUB Q. Vol. 16, 1942, Pp. 1-26; (2)
Richards, HIST. OF BATH CO., 1961, Pp. 101ff] 186, 332

✓<u>ONEIDA</u> (Clay Co.): [Oh/<u>need</u>/ə or Oh/<u>need</u>/ee] (Oneida). A village of some 600 residents on Ky. 11 where the Red Bird River, Goose Creek and Bull-skin Creek come together to form the South Fork of the Kentucky River, 9½ air miles ne of Manchester. The home of the famed Oneida Bapt. Institute, a settlement school established in 1898 by James Anderson Burns (~~ostensibly-to-it-is-said~~) to halt the bloodshed of Clay Co. feud-ing. He thought that an educated citizenry would be a peaceful one. It is said by some (though disputed by others) that Prof. Burns had named the school and community for the Indian tribe on the suggestion of a New York State resident. It's more likely that the community and this name preceded the school. In fact, the post office was established as <u>Onedia</u>, an obvious error, on June 25, 1892, with Wm. Lunsford, post-master. The error was corrected to <u>Oneida</u> in 1906. No one today can account for the unusual pronunciation. The settlement school, a public elementary school, clinic (formerly hospital), and post office are still in operation. [(1) Glada Cobb, interview, 6/29/1977; (2) Kelly Morgan, interview, 3/24/1979] 1259, 1340

ONO (Russell Co.): [Oh/noh] (Jabez). A hamlet on KY 1611, 4½ air
miles e of Jamestown, whose now extinct post office was established
May 5, 1899 with William T. Wilson, postmaster, and undoubtedly
named, though for reasons unknown, for the Biblical town of Ono
(mentioned in 1st Chron. 8:12). The obvious folk etymology offered
for the several other Onos in the U.S. has also been suggested for
this one: A public meeting was held to choose the name of the new .
post office. To every suggestion made there would be an "Oh, no!"
from the group assembled. Finally, in desperation, it was decided
to name it Ono because that seemed to be the only thing people
could agree on. The office closed in 1948 and the Russell Springs
post office, some 12 road miles nw, now serves the community.
[Richard Blair, interview, 11/27/1971] 1233

ONTON (Webster Co.): [Ahn/tən] (Beech Grove). A hamlet with a
recently discontinued post office centering at the junction of
KY 147 and 370, 1¼ miles from the Hopkins Co. line and 13 air
miles e of Dixon. The community was first called Orton for an early
family but another Orton in Kentucky compelled the adoption of
Onton for the post office established Sept. 28, 1882 with
Franklin P. Tilford, postmaster. [Betty Williams, letter to me,
5/1/1979] 1174

OOLITE (Meade Co.): [Ū/leyet] (New Amsterdam). An extinct company town on the Ohio River, 1¼ miles e of KY 228 at Battletown, and 7 air miles nw of Brandenburg. The town was founded in the first decade of the 20th century with the establishment of a limestone quarry there and named for the oolitic nature of its rock. The post office opened June 9, 1910 with William H. Tompkins, post-master, and closed in 1958, as did the local school, reflecting the demise of the community with the encroachment of the quarry itself onto land once occupied by homes and businesses. The last homes were torn down only a few years ago. The local quarry still supplies the Kosmos Portland Cement Co. of Louisville. [(1) Marie Coleman, interview, 8/23/1978; (2) Bill Osinski, "Digging Up History" LCJ, 5/27/1979, P. B1:1-3] 641,1260

ORANGEBURG (Mason Co.): [Ahr/əndj/bergh] (Orangeburg). A hamlet
with extinct post office on Stone Lick Branch of the North Fork
of Licking River and the junction of KY 1234 and 1449, 5 air miles
se of Maysville. The site was that part of Francis McDermid's
1400 acre tract that he conveyed to his daughter, Catherine (Mrs.
Charles) Williams. Henry Parker and Charles' son, John formally
laid out the town in 1796, calling it Williamsburg for John
Williams. By this name the post office was established Jan. 1,
1814 with Elijah Thornberry, postmaster. A legislative act in
1836 authorized a name-change to Orangeburg to honor the local
tailor and a leading citizen, Providence Orange Pickering. The
post office was also renamed in 1850 but closed in 1906. The
community is now on a Maysville rural route. [(1) DAR Hist'l.
Sketch of Mason Co., Ky., undated leaflet (2) Bernard H. Pollitte
papers, as researched by Mrs. Wm. Weis] 51, 850

ORDINARY (Elliott Co.): [Awr/dən/ehr/ee] (Ault). This extinct post office on KY 32, 1½ miles from the Rowan Co. line and 5 air miles nw of Sandy Hook, was established by George W. Carter on Aug. 11, 1884. According to local tradition, while trying to think up a name for the new post office, someone (perhaps it was Nelson Eagen) said that this is such an ordinary place it would be hard to find a name for it. So they called it <u>Ordinary</u>. It may, however, have been named for a local tavern, for Ordinary was the generic name for taverns in early pioneer times. The post office closed in 1953. (1) The Whites, interview, 7/28/78; (2) Sam Piatt, "Just an Ordinary Christmas" ADI, 12/24/1976; (3) Wallace J. Williamson, interview, 3/6/1971 658, 1912, 1915

OSCEOLA or OCEOLA (Green Co.): [Oh/see/oh/lə](Center). Nothing remains of a once prosperous mill town of some 500 persons located at the point where KY 88 now crosses the Little Barren River, the site of a well traveled ford called Oceola Ford (sic), just yards from the Hart Co. line and 9½ air miles w. of Greensburg. The town was founded in 1864, about the time the Hart Co. post office of Monroe (q.v.) was moved 1½ miles e. to the e. side of the Little Barren, and renamed for the ford. No one knows why the ford was so named but it's assumed someone wished to honor the famed Seminole chief (1804-1838). The town was incorporated as Osceola in 1868 on 100 platted acres. According to some accounts, after a series of heavy floods in the 1890s the residents abandoned the place. By 1914, though the old Gooch Mill was still in operation, the town itsel was gone. (1) Roy A. Cann, letter to me, 6/29/1971; (2) Clifton Jones in GREENSBURG RECORD-HERALD, 12/18/1975, P. 3:1-2; (3) Mrs. Brownie Thomas, "Higgasons and Sandidges Came from Va. to Donansburg" Ibid., 12/7/1972

J.20, 774, 1043

√ OTTENHEIM (Lincoln Co.): [Aht/ən/heyem] (Crab Orchard). A settlement of well maintained farms centering on 2 churches by the junction of KY 643 and 1948, 7 air miles sse of Stanford. According to county historians, Jacob Ottenheimer, a railroad and steamboat passenger agent in New York City, attracted by a brochure to promote investment and settlement in Kentucky, visited the state in 1873 and after investigating several ᵛᵃᵛⁱᵒᵘˢ places, chose Lincoln Co. He is said to have bought a considerable   amount of/Lincoln Co. land on
                                       poor quality
which he arranged for the settlement of some 90 families. The first settlers arrived in 1884 and built a Lutheran church in whose honor the settlement was first called Lutherheim. ‾‾‾‾‾‾‾‾ To this name the post office of Mirror (that had been established by James Oaks on March 22, 1881) was changed on Feb. 19, 1885 by its then postmaster Xover Stokeler. Ostensibly to meet the objections of the local Catholic population, the post office and community were renamed Ottenheim in 1886. Over the years, the descendants of these immigrant settlers developed their holdings into a highly productive farming community of self contained and resourceful citizens. The post office closed in 1907 and its papers were transferred to Waynesburg.

(1) LINC. CO. BICENT. 1775-1975, pub. by Interior Journal, 1975, n.p. (2) Shirley Dunn, HIST'C. HOMES AND OLD BUILDINGS OF LINCOLN CO., KY. n.d. Pp. 53-5; (3) article in the Interior Journal, 11/28/1884 and repro. in Will N. Craig, "Crab Orchard Springs" in EARLY LINCOLN CO. HIST. comp. & ed. by Mrs. M.H. M.H. Dunn, 1975, Pp. 80-3] 60,470

OTTER POND (Caldwell Co.): [Aht/ər Pahnd] (Princeton East).
An extinct hamlet, Illinois Central Gulf Railroad station, and
post office on KY 128, 5 air miles se of Princeton, that was
named for a clear water lake once likely inhabited by otters.
Now called Otter Pond, the lake, ¼ mile s of the station and
post office site, was once some 20 acres in size and may early
have been called Long Pond, perhaps suggestive of its shape
then. By the 1920s it had been reduced to about half this size.
The local post office was established as Long Pond Dec. 23, 1847
with George S. Massey, postmaster, and discontinued in 1871. It
was re-established as Godwin (a spelling error for it honored the
local Goodwin family) on April 19, 1888 but became Otter Pond
in June of that year. The office closed for good in 1941. [(1)
Nancy S. Beck & Olive S. Eldred, interview, 10/1/1977; (2) Mrs.
Katie G. Howard, letter to Wm. G. Steel, 5/18/1925] 1196, 1278

OVEN FORK (Letcher Co.): [Uhv/ən Fawrk] (Whitesburg). A community
of scattered homes extending some 2½ miles along US 119 on the
upper reaches of the Poor Fork of the Cumberland River, 3½ air
miles s of Whitesburg. One of the oldest settlements in the
county, its history may be traced to the Bach family and others
from Thuringia, Germany who arrived before the turn of the 18th
century. Two accounts of the name have been offered: that the
earliest German settlers produced bricks for local chimneys from
an open oven or, more likely, they baked their bread in such
ovens. In the typical pattern of pioneer settlements, the name
was probably first applied to the local stream, which is now
Franks Creek, a s bank branch of Poor Fork, and then transferred
to the still active post office established near its mouth on Feb.
6, 1879. The office now serves the nearby Scotia Mine and local
families employed by area coal companies. [Wm. T. Cornett, Whites-
burg, Ky., interview, 12/24/1977] 1265

COUNTY:

✓ OWEN [Oh/ə n]. 351 sq. miles. Pop. 8,713. ·Seat: Owenton.
Established in 1819 from parts of Scott, Franklin, and Gallatin
Co's. and named for Col. Abraham Owen (1769-1811), Indian
fighter and Kentucky legislator who was killed at the Battle of
Tippecanoe.

OWENSBORO (Daviess Co.): [Oh/ənz/buhr/ə] (Owensboro East, Owensboro West, Sutherland, Panther). Kentucky's third largest city and the seat of Daviess Co., with a population of some 51,000, this 2nd class city on the Ohio River, some 75 air miles sw of downtown Louisville, is the manufacturing and trading center of western Kentucky. The site was first called Yellow Banks as early as 1776 by river travelers, though the first recorded use of this name was in 1798. The name was applied for its yellow-ish appearance to the whole bank for some 4 miles though specifi-cally to the place where William Smeathers (aka Bill Smothers) (1762-1837), an Indian fighter and hunter, made the first permanent settlement in the area. Some historians have reported a frontier military post at the banks as early as 1795. The Yellow Banks name was given to the post office when it was estab-lished July 1, 1806 but this was changed to Owensborough on March 9, 1816. In that year the town was surveyed and platted by Col. James W. Johnston and the name Rossboro (or Rossborough) was proposed to the Kentucky Legislature. This was to have honored David Ross (who died 1817), one of the wealthiest Virginia merchants and landowners of his day and a friend of Thomas Jefferson. But the proposal was rejected by the Legislature for a name to honor one of its own, Col. Abraham Owen (1769-1811) who had fallen at Tippecanoe (q.v. Owenton and Owen Co.) The town thus officially became Owensborough in 1817 and Owensboro, by virtue of a change in Post Office Department policy, in 1893. (1) Potter, HIST. OF OWENS. & DAVIESS CO., 1974, Pp. 2-9, 19-20, 23, 26; (2) HIST. OF DAVIESS CO., KY. 1883, P. 321; (3) John Ed Pearce, "Daviess Co." LCJM, 11/6/1977, P. 10ff] 99, 104, 6 Y&

✓OWENTON (Owen Co.): [Oh/ən/tən] (Owenton). A 5th class city of some 1370 persons and the more or less centrally located seat of Owen Co., on US 127 and KY 22, 48 air miles ene of downtown Louisville. A tract of 50 acres on this site was surveyed in 1822 prior to its acquisition for the county's second seat. (see Hesler) Both town and county were named for Virginia-born Col. Abraham Owen (1769-1811), a Kentucky legislator and Indian fighter who had fallen at the battle of Tippecanoe. (q.v. Owensboro) The post office was established April 6, 1822. [(1) "Centrally Located Owenton..." Bicent. Ed. of OWENTON NEWS-HERALD, 7/4/1974, P. 4:1-8; (2) Alma Greene, interview, 5/20/1978] 3 24, 1292

<u>OWINGSVILLE</u> (Bath Co.): ⌈Oh/ihnz/vəl⌉ (Owingsville). A 4th class city o:
some 1400 residents and the seat of Bath County, located on a ^high plateau
one mile n___ of I/64 and 102 air miles e___ of downtown Louisville.
Harrison Conner is said to have built the first home at this site in
1803. According to tradition, the new county's seat was to be located
in Catletts Flat, 1 miles s,___ of the present site, but this was re-
jected in favor of the latter for several important families had
already established their homes there. Among these were Richard Menifee
and Thomas Deye Owings, each of whom donated land for the new seat and
the town was laid out in 1811. To determine for which the town would
be named, these two well established gentlemen agreed to a race to
build "the finest home in the shortest time." Owings won and his home,
completed in 1814 by Benjamin Latrobe, still stands on Main Street,
across from the court house and is occupied by the Owingsville Banking
Company. Owings, a Marylander, had come to Bath Co. around 1800,
distinguished himself as an ironmonger, and was to represent his
county in the War of 1812 and later in the State Legislature. The post
office, ᵇᵃᵗʰ ᶜᵒ'ʳ.ᵗʰᶦʳᵈ, was organized July 1, 1814 as <u>Bath Ct. House</u> or <u>Owingsville</u> with
Edward Stockton, postmaster, and the town was incorporated in 1829.⌈(1).
BATH CO. MEMORIES, 1974, Pp. 18, 65; (2) M&M Robt Lewis, interview,
6/24/1977; (3) "Pioneer Residents Staged Contest" LEX. LEADER, 6/30/
1938, Sec. 2, P. 36:1-4⌉ 15, 662, 1321

COUNTY:

OWSLEY [Owz/lee]. 197 sq. miles. Pop. 5,704. Seat: Booneville. Established in 1843 from parts of Clay, Estill, and Breathitt Co's. and named for William Owsley (1782-1862), Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals and 16th Governor of the state (1844-48).