RABBIT HASH (Boone Co.): [Raeih/ət Haash] (Rising Sun).

A settlement primarily of weekend vacation homes around Stephens' General Store, where KY 536 joins the Lower (Ohio) River Road, 8½ air miles sw of Burlington, this was a busy 19th century steamboat landing across the Ohio by ferry from Rising Sun, Indiana. Simply stated, its colorful name is derived from the monotony of its early enforced diet of rabbit. The story is told that in 1816, two travelers proceeding in opposite directions met at Rising Sun. One asked the other if he could get anything to eat at Meek's Ferry Landing on the Kentucky shore. The other said "Yes, plenty of rabbit hash." The river was receding from flood stage and rabbits by the thousands had been driven to the hillsides where they were killed and used as food. On Jan. 3, 1879 the local post office was established as Carlton for a local family. Yet in two months it was changed to Rabbit Hash to avoid confusion with nearby Carrollton. It closed in 1912 and mail is now secured from the [Am. Yealey, Hist. of Boone Co., Ky., 1960, p. 17]
RABBIT TOWN (Clark Co.): [Raeb/town] (Hedges). This rural settlement on the present KY 974, 10 air miles se of Winchester, was allegedly named by an itinerant school teacher for the many wild rabbits on which he had to rely for sustenance while teaching there. For years local residents have been served by the Right-angle post office, over a mile sw, and, more recently, by the office at Winchester. [Kingsbury-Stuart ms. on Clark Co. place names] 975
RACCOON (Pike Co.): [Rae/kun] (Millard). A hamlet with an active post office on KY 1441 and Raccoon Creek, 3/4 mile below the mouth of Fiftyeight Branch and 3 air miles e of Pikeville. The creek, community, and post office, established Jan. 16, 1919 with Carolyn Coleman, postmaster, were named for the large number of raccoons observed and trapped there. [Eva Powell, interview, 8/16/1977]
RACELAND (Greenup Co.): [Rəsˈlənd] (Ironton). The third in a string of suburban communities along US 23, nw of Ashland, separated from the Ohio River by the C&O Railroad yards and the city of Worthington, and 4½ air miles ese of Greenup. This site and adjacent land were part of a 5000 acre Revolutionary War grant to Abraham Buford which his son and heir, Charles had divided and sold in farm tracts. One of these was acquired by the widow of Benjamin Mead and later laid out and sold in town lots by her grandson, Benjamin Chinn who named the new community Chinnville. By this name a post office was established March 7, 1910 with Mollie Schroppe, postmaster. In 1924 J.C. Keene and others of Lexington racing fame opened a race track about a mile below town to which a rail spur line was laid and a station there was called Raceland Junction. On Aug. 1, 1925 Raceland replaced Chinnville as the name of the local post office. Until it closed 3 years later, the 1¼ mile track was considered one of the best for thoroughbred horse racing in the country, well deserving the nickname "The Million Dollar Oval" given it by its owners. For a brief period after the track was abandoned, the post office returned to the Chinnville name, but on April 1, 1930 it again assumed the Raceland name which it retained until it was discontinued in 1958. With the closing of the track the site reverted briefly to farmsteads and then, with the expansion of Ashland area industries, track and town land alike saw the building of new homes and businesses. Today the 5th class city of Raceland with its 1950 residents is served by a branch of the Russell post office, 1 mile e. (1) Biggs, SUPPLEMENT, 1962, Pp. 113-4; (2) RUSSELL TIMES, 9/25/1942, Sec. 2, P. 6:1-2; (3) The Savages, interview, 8/18/1977; (4) David Reed, "27,000 Saw Bob Tail Win Raceland Derby" ADI BiCent. Ed., 7/4/1976, P. 35.
RADCLIFF (Hardin Co.): [Raed\klihf\] (Vine Grove). A sprawling community this 4th class city of some 15,000 residents, contiguous on the west the with/Fort Knox Military Reservation and 6 air miles nnnw of Elizabethtown, continues to be one of the fastest growing cities in Kentucky. As the home of many off-base military and civilian personnel as well as a number of retired US Army officers and others, it is totally dependent on Fort Knox. It is said to have been established around 1919 by H.E. McCollum who named it for his friend, a Maj. Radcliffe (sic), then the Commander of the Quartermaster Corps at Camp (later Fort) Knox, and a very popular officer. The place was originally spelled with a terminal "e", as was the major's name, but for some reason this has since been dropped. The town was incorporated in 1956 and the post office was established Sept. 14, 1962 with Jerry W. Davis the first and, thus far, only postmaster. [(1) ELIZ. NEWS, 10/27/1964; (2) Mrs. T.D. Winstead, interview, 8/23/1978] 149/1420
RAGLAND (McCracken Co.): [Raeğ/len(d)] (Bandana). An extinct post office at the junction of KY 358 and the Crawford Lake Rd., less than a mile from the Ballard Co. line and 13 1/2 air miles wnw of Paducah. The post office was established May 18, 1888 and named for its first postmaster, William N. Ragland or his family. It closed in 1908 and mail is now secured from the Kevil post office in Ballard Co., 7.3 road miles s.
RAINS (Whitley Co.): [Rainz] (Frakes). An extinct post office just yards from the Knox Co. line, on Goldens Creek, an e bank branch of Poplar Creek (tributary of the Cumberland River), 11½ air miles e of Williamsburg. It was established in Knox Co. as Rain on Feb. 16, 1906 with William F. Davis, postmaster, and shifted to Whitley Co. shortly before the First World War. Though still shown on records and maps as Rain, it is locally spelled with a terminal "s" for it was named for the Rains family. Postal services are now provided by the Carpenter post office, 1½ road miles w. \[John L. Crawford, interview, 6/22/78\]
RALPH (Ohio Co.): [Raelf] (Dundee). This extinct post office on KY 1414 and the South Fork of Panther Creek, 11½ air miles n of Hartford, was established April 5, 1899 on land owned by H.W. Ralph and named for him. It was discontinued in 1910 and mail service is now provided from the Whitesville post office, over 6½ road miles nnw. The Ralphs, who still live in the area, are descendants of John L. Ralph, Sr. who had brought his family to this site in 1827. (1) Musker L. Heavrin, ms. on the Place Names of Ohio Co., 3/20/1925; (2) Ferrin, 2nd ed. 1885, P. 993
RANDOLPH (Metcalfe Co.): Randol[ph] (Summer Shade). A hamlet at the
junction of KY 640 and 861, 2 1/2 miles s. of the Cumberland Parkway,
2 miles from the Barren Co. line and 4 1/2 air miles w. of Edmonton.
On Aug. 12, 1873 the Randolph post office that had been established
in 1846 at the present site of Wisdom, 2 1/2 miles n. was moved to
this location with Samuel J. Oldham, postmaster. The name Randolph
was retained though the place has often been referred to as New
Randolph to distinguish it from Old Randolph or Wisdom (q.v.) It is
said that the original post office had been named for "the
Virginia statesman" though it has never been clear which member of
that illustrious family was intended. (1) Jos. Martin A BRIEF HIST.
Wm. G. Steel, 4/20/1925
RANSOM (Pike Co.): [Ransom]/s, m (Matewan). A hamlet with an active post office 4½ miles up Blackburn Creek from its confluence with the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River above McCarr, and 17 air miles ene of Pikeville. The post office was established May 16, 1898 with William J. Hatfield, postmaster, and named for Ransom Hatfield, a local resident. [T.M. Kiddle, ass't pm., Pikeville P.O., in letter to Wm. G. Steel, 4/19/1930]
RAVENNA, Estill Co., is a former headquarters town of the L&N Railroad's Eastern Kentucky Division, separated from Irvine by narrow Chamberlin Branch, a north bank tributary of the Kentucky River. When the L&N decided to extend its tracks to the eastern Kentucky coal fields, the logical choice for its switching yard and maintenance shops was Irvine, but local objections sent the company a mile south of town to the farms owned by the Cockrell and Park families. The land was purchased and the shops and yard were completed in 1915. In that year the Ravenna Realty Company was organized by John D. Sawyer to dispose of the company's land by sales of lots to its employees for homes and businesses. A town was founded and named for the realty firm which presumably had been named by its secretary, Kate H. Sawyer, for a city in Ohio. (The latter is said to have been named around 1808 by its proprietor for the Italian city he had visited and admired.) The Ravenna post office was established May 12, 1916 with Mrs. Hallie T. Vaughn, postmaster. Many families were attracted to this place and it enjoyed a rapid growth reaching an estimated 1000 population by Jan. 18, 1921 when it was incorporated as a 6th class city. By 1924, when it was re-incorporated as a 5th class city, it had reached 1245, probably its maximum population. By 1950 the railroad was still the community's main economic base, but with the replacement of steam with diesel engines in 1954 and the removal of the L&N shops to Louisville, the town's economic importance declined. The post office was discontinued in 1972 and Ravenna's 760 residents are now served by a branch of the Irvine post office. In other ways the two cities seem to be so physically and economically related that they are often referred to as the Twin Cities, and this is the name used by several businesses in both cities. (1) Kathryn Carter, PNS OF E. CO. unpub. ms. 1978; (2) Ibid., interview, 2/11/78; (3) W.T. Williams, HIST. OF RAVENNA, KY. pub. in installments by the Irvine TIMES, 1/20 thru 3/2/1956, bound as pamphlet by Ky. Dept. of Libraries.
RAYWICK (Marion Co.): A village with an active post office and some 200 residents on Prather Creek, a branch of the Rolling Fork River, at the junction of KY 84 and 527, 9 1/2 air miles W of Lebanon. The site was first settled by James and John Ray and Henry Prather in 1778 and named for the pioneer Ray and Wickliffe families whose association was solemnized with the marriage in 1811 of Loyd Ray and Nancy Wickliffe. The post office was established Jan. 28, 1833 with John S. Ray, postmaster, and the community was incorporated in 1838. [W.T. Knott, HIST. OF MARION CO. KY, 1880, p. 4]
RECTORVILLE (Mason Co.): [Rehk/ter/vihl] (Orangeburg). A growing community with new homes and several stores, extending for about a mile along KY 10, ½ mile from the Lewis Co. line and 6 air miles SE of Maysville. The post office, in operation from 1873 to 1915, was named either for Rector Marshall, who may have been a descendant of Col. Thomas Marshall (father of Supreme Court Justice John Marshall) or for the cousins Albert Rector Glascock and Wm. Rector Glascock, descendants of the Rector family that had settled in Orange Co., Va. before 1714. The community is now on a Maysville rural route. (1) Jean Calvert, interview, 6/25/1977; (2) L. Alberta Brand "Place Names of Mason Co." DAR ms, 1941, P. 9.
REDBIRD (Whitley Co.): ~ehd/brid~ (Wofford). A settlement with extinct post office on the s bank of the Cumberland River, at the junction of KY 204 and 478, less than 3 air miles wnw of Williamsburg. Like the Red Bird River in Bell and Clay Counties, it was probably named for the Cherokee sub-chief Red Bird who had settled on that stream, at the mouth of the present Jacks Creek in Clay Co., to hunt and trap and was later murdered by white hunters. He and his companion, Crippled Willie, are said to have frequently traveled through the present Whitley Co. on their way to market their furs. His name had been applied to the community before the established of the Redbird post office on Jan. 5, 1898 with Simon C. Steely, postmaster. One of the 3 oldest churches in the county is extant here. The vicinity is now on a Williamsburg rural route. [(1) Eugene Siler, interview, 6/23/1978; (2) John L. Crawford, interview, 6/22/1978] 1267/13 20
REDBUSH (Johnson Co.): (Redbush). A hamlet with an active post office on Upper Laurel Creek, at the junction of KY 172 and 469, less than 1 1/2 miles from the Morgan Co. line and 10 1/2 air miles nw of Paintsville. The post office was established May 2, 1890 with William A. Williams, postmaster, and named for the profusion there of small pin oak trees whose leaves turn red in the fall. [Arthur Pope, interview, 3/28/1971]
REDHOUSE (Madison Co.): [Red/hows] (Richmond North). Little remains of a once thriving post office, L&N Railroad station, and trade center at the junction of Ky. 388 and Otter Creek, 4 air miles nNE of Richmond. Since no one really knows how the place was named, the suggested theories are legion. It may have been named for the Red House Tavern which catered to Kentucky River loggers in the 19th century. Or it may have been named for someone's ancestral home in England. Historians now doubt the tradition that it was named for a big red house in the projected route of the then Kentucky Central Railroad that was being built through that area in the 1880s since references to the Red House (sic) community there precede the coming of the railroad by at least a decade. Most likely the name was derived from some old large red brick building that housed a pioneer family in the mid 19th century. The late French Tipton claimed the community was established in the 1840s and John Manley had built a horse mill there in 1859. In any case, a post office called Sturgel, established Aug. 31, 1883 with Jonathan F. Sturgel, postmaster, was moved to and/or renamed Red House two months later and officially respelled Redhouse in 1894. It has since closed and the community is now on a Richmond rural route. [(1) R.N. Grise, interview, 4/28/1978; (2) "Some Old Places" by Fred Allen Engle, RICH. DAILY REG. 8/8/1974; (3) French Tipton papers, EKU Libr.]
REDWINE (Morgan Co.): [Rehd\weyen] (Sandy Hook). A hamlet with extinct post office on KY 711, at the head of the North Fork of the Licking River, 1 mile from the Elliott Co. line and 6 air miles n of West Liberty. The office was established somewhere in that vicinity on Jan. 15, 1883 and named for the family of the first postmaster, William B. Redwine. In 1908 the Morehead & North Fork Railroad was extended to this vicinity and the local station was also called Redwine. In 1914 the post office was discontinued and its papers transferred to Wrigley, 3 miles w. In 1909 a post office had been established nearby called Loveland with Mary Collins, postmaster. Its relative inaccessibility led to its relocation at the site of the station and it was given the Redwine name. This was a fairly prosperous coal and timber producing community for a period around the First World War with a peak population of some 300. The Redwine post office closed for good in 1976. [Arthur C. Johnson, EARLY MORGAN CO., 1974, Pp. 42-3]
REED (Henderson Co.): A hamlet and active post office on US 60 and the L&N Railroad, 2 miles from the Daviess Co. line and 10.5 air miles E of Henderson. The post office was established Oct. 3, 1891 with George Kerrick, postmaster, and named for Dr. W.H. Reed, the owner of much of the land in that vicinity. Spalding Trafton, in letter to Wm. G. Steel, 4/20/1922 [17-16].
Reedyville (Butler Co.): [Ree/dee/vihl] (Reedyville). This hamlet with extinct post office on KY 185, 1 1/4 miles from the Edmonson Co. line and 13 1/2 air miles e of Morgantown, was named for its location on a branch of Big Reedy Creek, a n bank tributary of the Green River. The post office was established March 14, 1860 with Wiley Prewitt, postmaster. The community was shown on a 1923 topographic map as 1 mile n of its present site.

Residents now get their mail from Roundhill on the Edmonson Co. line, 3 1/2 road miles n. [A. Thatcher, Morgantown, Ky., in a letter to Wm. G. Steel, 5/10/1922]
REGINA (Pike Co.): [Rɑ̃/dʒeɪvən/uh] (Hellier). A hamlet with an active post office centering at the junction of US 460 (KY 80) and KY 195 and the confluence of Marrowbone Creek and the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River, 9 air miles se of Pikeville. The local C&O Railroad station is called Marrowbone [Mɑr/ə/bohn, M-peer/ə/bohn, Maer/ə/bohn] for the creek which, some say, was named for a human bone found washed up on its bank. The post office was established March 13, 1895 with John E. Ratliff, postmaster, and allegedly named at the suggestion of a traveling salesman for his home town in Canada. This is supposed to account for its peculiarly British pronunciation for, in the US, the girl's name is characteristically pronounced Rɑ̃/dʒeɪnuh. (1) Eva Powell, interview, 8/16/1977; (2) Arthur Long, Pikeville, Col. student, for Leonard Roberts, 934/1357.
REIDLAND (McCracken Co.): Reedland (Paducah East). A village with a 1970 population of 875 centering at the junction of US 68 and KY 284, just e of Clarks River and 3 air miles se of Paducah. It was named for John Barton Reid who brought his family here from Charlotte, N.C. in 1855 and purchased 640 acres of the site of the future village. His son, Milt later donated the land for the local school. The post office that served this community was at Epperson, a short distance n on the present US 68. Both communities are now served by a branch of the Paducah post office. [WPA ms, McCracken Co.]
RELIEF (Morgan Co.): [Red Bush] (Redbush). The post office serving this community was located on KY 172, just above the mouth of Brown's Branch of the Open Fork of Paint Creek, a mile from the Johnson Co. line and 13 1/2 air miles E of West Liberty. It was established June 29, 1859 with Wallace W. Brown, postmaster, and allegedly named by patrons who thought it would be a relief "not to have to go so far for their mail." Or else early travelers between Paintsville and West Liberty felt it was a relief to reach this point, roughly halfway in their arduous trip. The post office closed June 27, 1980 when its site and that of much of the community it served was appropriated for the Paintsville Reservoir. (1) Arthur C. Johnson, EARLY MORGAN CO., 1974, p. 21; (2) Letter to me from former postmaster, 8/22/1980.
RENFO VALLEY (Rockcastle Co.): [Rehn/froh Vael/e] (Wildie).

On US 25, just e of I 75 and 2 air miles n of Mount Vernon, is the home of the famed Renfro Valley Barn Dance, begun by John Lair in 1939, and the Pioneer Museum, considered the largest log structure in Ky., which exhibits many handmade artifacts of pioneer life. The valley formed by Renfro Creek, a w. bank tributary of Roundstone Creek, was probably named for James Renfrö, the owner of considerable land in this area, whose nephew, John, is said to have been the first settler in 1789. The Renfro Valley post office, established in 1939 still serves the vicinity of homes, stores, a motel, and other tourist attractions, as well as the county's only radio station WRVK. [John Lair, interview, 8/13/1971]
RENFROW (Ohio Co.): [Rehn/froh] (Rosine). This extinct post office, 11 air miles e. of Hartford, was established May 13, 1886 and named by and for its first postmaster, John T. Renfrow. All that remains to serve the local farm families are a Church of Christ at the site and the nearest store at Windy Hill, .8 mile w. of KY 505. Mail is routed from Horse Branch, 4 road miles n. [Musker L. Heavrin, P.N. of Ohio Co., ms. 3/20/1925]
REVELO (McCreary Co.): [Rehv/ə/loʊ, Rehv/loʊ] (Whitley City). A village and railroad station with an active post office and a 1970 population of some 500, on KY 92, a mile s of downtown Stearns and 2½ air miles s of Whitley City. The post office was established June 29, 1928 with William B. White, postmaster, and named for a Mr. Oliver, the engineer in charge of the construction of the Cincinnati & Southern (now Southern) Railway line through this section. It is not known why it was seen fit to reverse the spelling of his name or when, and why the "i" was corrupted to an "e". For some time, though, it was spelled Revilo. According to George R. Stewart, there's a Revilo in South Dakota that was probably named for J.S. Oliver, a local railroad man. [(1) Mrs. Hattie C. Hume, interview, 10/16/1971; (2) Dr. Frank C. Thomas, letter to me, 1/29/1979; (3) Geo. R. Stewart, AM. PLACE NAMES, P. 404]
REYNOLDS STATION (Ohio Co.): [Rehn/ældz Stæ/shan] (Whitesville). On April 22, 1890 the post office of Reynolds Station was established at a newly located depot on what became the Illinois Central (and now Illinois Central Gulf) Railroad. Both the post office and the depot were named for J.S. Reynolds from whom the site had been acquired. The post office was later moved to the location it still occupies 2½ miles w, on KY 54, just s of the railroad and 14½ air miles nne of Hartford. Little remains at the original station site. Just n of the present post office is the ICG Railroad station of Deanefield [Deen/feeld] which name had been applied to a coal town incorporated there in 1890 and allegedly named for Guy Deane of Owensboro and a Mr. Field who owned the local mine. A post office established as Aetnaville July 21, 1887 was renamed Deanefield in 1910 and closed in 1922. The 2 names—Reynolds Station and Deanefield also identify a community of homes and businesses centering on the station and the post office. [Musker L. Heavrin, ms. on the Place Names of Ohio Co., 3/20/1925]
RHODA (Edmonson Co.): [Rhoh/da] (Rhoda). This hamlet with extinct post office centering at the junction of KY 101 and 259, 2½ air miles se of Brownsville, was named for the wife of the first postmaster, William W. Buford when he established the office on Dec. 5, 1891. Since the post office closed in 1904, the area's postal needs have been served by the Smith Grove post office, 8½ road miles s. [Mrs. Bertha Skaggs, letter to me, 5/13/1979]
RHODELIA (Meade Co.): [Roh/deel/yə] (Alton). A hamlet with an active post office on KY 144, 3/4 mile from the Breckinridge Co. line and 13 air miles w of Brandenburg. The site was first called Vessells Woods (sic) for its owners, Thomas and Sarah Vessels, and was settled around 1876 by their grandson, Samuel Joseph Manning. In 1878 Stephen K. Vessels and his brother opened a general store, and on Sept. 4, 1879 Vessels established the post office which he named, at the suggestion of (future governor) J. Proctor Knott, for Elias Rhodes (1781-1868), a leading citizen of neighboring Breckinridge Co. [Fr. John A. Lyons in a ms. hist. of St. Theresa's Church, c1950, p. 47]
RIBOLT (Lewis Co.): [Ribo/ohl] (Tollesboro). This hamlet just off KY 10, 10 air miles w of Vanceburg, was originally called Neadmore but was renamed, when the post office was established July 14, 1898, for the local storekeeper, Ribolt Harrison. The office closed in 1936 and the community is now on a Vanceburg rural route. [Mavity letter to Wm. G. Steel, 5/19/1922]
RICE STATION (Estill Co.) [Rahs Sta\'shan] (Panola). This station on the old Richmond Nicholasville Irvine & Beattyville (later L&N) Railroad was named for Charlie Rice who gave the land for the tracks and depot 3 air miles w of Irvine. The railroad was completed to this site in 1890, and on Dec. 16, 1891 the Rice Station post office was established with John M. Kerby (sic), postmaster. After the turn of the century, this had become the center of business activity in the west central section of the county. William L. Rice and Jonah Wagers shipped tanbark and railroad ties and ran a large general store here. Though the tracks and station are gone and the post office was recently discontinued, the store on KY 52 still serves the 175 or so local residents. [Kathryn Carter, PNS OF ESTILL CO., unpub. ms, 1978]
RICETOWN (INDIAN CREEK) (Owsley Co.): [Indian Creek]

The active post office of Ricetown, at the mouth of Stringtown Branch of Indian Creek, 5½ air miles SE of Booneville, was established as Floyd on Sept. 13, 1901. It was named by Joseph Baker, its first postmaster for his son. In 1905 Harvey Rice, the local storekeeper, renamed the office Ricetown for himself and got his wife, Mary appointed postmaster. The community served by this office is now locally called Indian Creek for the stream which flows into the South Fork of the Kentucky River some 5 miles NW. [Fred Gabbard, interview, 7/8/1977]
RICEVILLE (Johnson Co.): [Rhgs/vihl] (Ivyton). A hamlet with an active post office at the forks of Jennys Creek, 7 air miles sw of Paintsville, serving a community strung out along KY 1867 and the C&O Railroad tracks from KY 825 to a point about 1 1/2 miles ne of the junction of Johnson, Floyd, and Magoffin Counties. The post office was established Oct. 17, 1891 with George D. Rice, postmaster, and may have been named for Sherman Rice, prominent area farmer and merchant. Shortly thereafter the Dawkins Log and Mill Co. extended its Big Sandy & Kentucky River (now C&O) Railroad up Jennys Creek and opened a mill here. The town developed around the mill and the rail shipping operation. Its decline came with the transfer of the mill to Royalton (q.v.) and the further extension of the railway to reach a new timber supply in the Licking Valley. (1) Gary E. Blair, PCC t.p. Spring, 1972; (2) Arthur Pope, interview, 3/28/1971; (3) Mitchell Hall, HIST. OF JOHN. CO., KY., 1928, Vol. 1, P. 273
RICHARDSON (Lawrence Co.): [Rich-ən, Rich-ərd-sən], (Richardson). An active post office and C&O Railroad station on the e bank of Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River, just below the mouth of Nats Creek and 11 1/2 air miles s of Louisa. It was named for George S. Richardson, the Massachusetts-born manager of the Peach Orchard Coal Co. and a prime mover in the organization of the Chatteroi Railway Co. (forerunner of the C&O) to ship coal down the river to the Ohio. The railroad reached this point by May 1, 1883 and for some years it was its southern terminus; from here passengers and freight would continue up the river by boat. After 1900 the line was extended up the valley to Elkhorn City. The Richardson post office was established May 25, 1883 with Patrick H. Vaughn, postmaster. [Mary Lucile Chapman, THE INFL. OF COAL IN THE BIG SANDY VAL. UK Diss. 1945, P. 63] #67
RICHARDSVILLE (Warren Co.): [Rihezh/ərdz/viil] (Bowling Green N.)
A hamlet with an active post office extending for about 3/4 mile along KY 263 from a point 51⁄2 air miles N of Bowling Green. The post office was established July 10, 1872 by Granville E. Speck, the first postmaster, who named it for Thomas Richards (1812–1896), an English-born wagon maker who had settled in the area in the late 1840s. [Irene Sumpter, interview, 9/1/1978]
RICHMOND (Madison Co.): [Rich/mand] (Richmond North, Richmond South). A 3rd class city of some 21,700 persons and the seat of Madison Co. and Eastern Kentucky University, on US 25/421, just e of I 75 and 78 air miles ese of downtown Louisville. It is believed to have been settled in 1785 by Col. John Miller, a Virginia-born Revolutionary War veteran, who donated 50 acres for the transfer of the county's seat from Milford, 4½ miles sw, to a location more accessible to the county's other population centers. The town was created by Legislative act on July 4, 1798 and named by Miller for his birthplace in Virginia. The post office was established July 1, 1802(?) with William Miller, postmaster, and the town was incorporated in 1809. (1) David Greene, "Hist. of Richmond, Ky." GUIDE TO MADISON CO. publ. by Mad. Co. NEWSWEEK, Spring-summer, 1971, P. 9; (2) Dorris, GLIMPSES OF HIST. MAD. CO. KY. 1955, Pp. 37-8.
RIDGEWAY (Harlan Co.): [Ri/highwa] (Louellen, Nolansburg).
One of a number of coal towns and stations on the L&N Railroad's Clover Fork Branch, this is located on the n bank of Clover Fork of the Cumberland River, 10½ air miles ene of Harlan, and was named for the Ridgeway Coal Co. which opened a mine there around 1921. The post office, since closed, was established Oct. 6, 1925 with James A. Evans, postmaster. [B.W. Whitfield, letter to me, 5/11/1979]
RIGHTANGLE (Clark Co.): [Revet/aeg/æl] (Hedges). A rural settlement on KY 974, 10 air miles SE of Winchester, whose name is said to have derived from that of a local Masonic lodge. The post office of Rightangle was in service from July 9, 1883, when it was established by Henry H. Forman, until it closed in May 1931. The vicinity is now on a Winchester mail route. [Kathryn Owen, interview, 6/1/1977]
RINEYVILLE (Hardin Co.): [Rye/nee/vihl] (Cecilia, Vine Grove).
A village with an active post office and some 350 residents centering
at the junction of KY 220 and the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, 4½
air miles wnw of Elizabethtown. The area was probably settled by
John Wesley Pawley and his family and the village itself grew up
around Riney Station of the Illinois Central which was built through
there in 1874. Like the station, the post office, established June
23, 1874 with Mancil G. Riney, postmaster, was named for the Riney
family which had donated the land to the railroad. The family's
progenitor, Zachariah Riney, a Virginia-born Nelson Co., Ky. pioneer,
is said to have been Abraham Lincoln's first school teacher. The
village's economy was first tied to the area's extensive timbering
operations and later to its location in one of the major apple-
producing sections in Kentucky. It is now economically dependent
on nearby Fort Knox which employs most of its working population.

(1) Mrs. T.D. Winstead, interview, 8/23/1978; (2) Ibid. "Railroad
Responsible for Rineyville Progress" Bicent. Ed. of ELIZ. NEWS, 5/21/
1974, Pp. 8D, 13D; (3) Dan'l. E. McClure, TWO CENT. IN ELIZ. AND
RINGGOLD (Pulaski Co.): [Rihn/ohld] (Delmer). Now just a crossroads settlement a mile n of the Cumberland Parkway and 1½ air miles nw of Somerset, this was once an incorporated town (1848) named for Maj. Samuel Ringgold, the first American officer killed in the Mexican War at the Battle of Palo Alto (May 8, 1846). Yet it was not until April 10, 1914 that the Ringgold post office was established with George R. McKinney (sic), postmaster. The office is closed and residents are now on a Somerset rural route. (1) Glenn Clift, KY. VII. P. 38; (2) Geo. R. Stewart, AM. P.N. P. 406
VIRPYVILLE (Anderson Co.): Rhp/ee/vihl (McBrayer). An extinct industrial hamlet just n of the junction of old or business Rte. 127 and the US 127 bypass, 2½ miles s of Lawrenceburg. It may have been settled in the 1830s but was unnamed until John Ripy, one of 2 brothers from County Tyrone, Ireland, opened a store there in 1855. On Feb. 17, 1858 the area around his store was incorporated as Ripyville and by this name a post office was established May 31, 1867 with Dickson G. McMichael, postmaster. It closed in 1905. Early industries included a tannery and cooperage. It is now the site of a residential subdivision few of whose residents recall the Ripyville name; if they identify the place at all they refer to their proximity to the Sand Springs Baptist Church to the n. [(1) W.D. Moore in Souvenir Supplement to the ANDERSON NEWS, 6/1906; (2) Philip Spencer, interview, 8/4/1978]
RISNER (Floyd Co.): [Rahz/nar] (Martin). An active post office some 2½ miles up KY 1215 and Caney Creek from the latter's confluence with the Left Fork of Middle Creek, and 6½ air miles ssw of Prestonsburg. The post office was established May 12, 1923 with Harris Bradley, postmaster, and named for one or more local families.
RITCHIE (Knott Co.): [Ritchie] (Carrie). A hamlet with a recently discontinued post office on Clear Creek of Troublesome Creek and KY 721, 5 air miles wsw of Hindman. The post office was established Jan. 12, 1900 with Abbie Ritchie, postmaster, and named for the large number of Ritchies, the descendants of pioneer Crockett Ritchie. [Wilma Gayhart, interview, 11/25/1978]
RIVALS (Spencer Co.): [Rah/val/ə] (Taylorsville). An extinct post office on KY 1169 and Brashears Creek, less than a mile from the Shelby Co. line and 4½ air miles nne of Taylorsville. A water-powered grist mill was built around 1790 at this site by the brothers, Elijah and James Van Dyke, and a Vandyke's Mill (sic) post office was in operation there from 1848 to 1872. On June 23, 1900 the Rivals post office was established with George W. Sloan, postmaster. Two accounts of its name have been offered. Charles L. Stout, then the mill's owner, is said to have submitted 3 names to the Post Office Department. One of these is not recalled. Another, Stout's preference, was Boneset [Bohn/seht], for an herb that, when brewed with whiskey, makes a good tonic and was used locally as a medicine. In his search for a third name, he spied on a shelf in the local store a box of shot gun shells with the name Rivals on the label. Rivals was accepted. Less likely is the explanation that the name was derived from the rivalry of the pioneer Van Dyke brothers which led to James' starting another mill further down the creek. Since the Rivals post office closed in 1915, the area has been on a Taylorsville rural route. 

Mary Frances Brown, interview, 7/15/1978; (2) Ibid., letter to me, 12/1/1980
RIVER (Johnson Co.); Offutt. A hamlet with an active post office named for its location on the w bank of the Big Sandy River's Levisa Fork, at the mouth of Wiley Creek, 4 1/2 air miles ne of Paintsville. At a natural ford here were a landing for the shipment of area resources downstream and, later, a ferry to reach the C&O Railroad tracks on the e bank. The post office was established Sept. 6, 1890 with Elbert J. Harris, postmaster. [Arthur Pope, interview, 3/28/1971]
RIVERSIDE (Warren Co.): [Rhiv/ør/seyd] (Riverside). As far as anyone knows, this hamlet and active post office--established July 26, 1888 by John A. Simmons--have always been over a mile s of the Green River, on the present KY 263, 10⅔ air miles nnw of Bowling Green. No one knows why it was thus called Riverside, other than for its proximity to the river, and it never had another name.

ROARING SPRING (Trigg Co.): Roaring Spring. A hamlet on KY 164, at the edge of Ft. Campbell, 1½ miles from the Christian Co. line and 11 air miles SE of Cadiz. It was named for the large spring that, at certain times of the year, still makes a roaring sound when it emerges from a nearby limestone cave. This area, one of the first settled in the county, may have had a post office called Burnett Spring, for a local family, as early as 1816, though nothing is known of it. But by 1849 the post office of Roaring Spring was in operation in Charles A. Bacon's store from which developed a thriving trade center that was incorporated in 1861. The post office closed in 1909 and the community is now on a Cadiz rural route. [(1) Perrin, COUNTIES OF CHRISTIAN AND TRIGG 1884, Pp. 146-8; (2) Roy McDonald, interview, 8/29/1978; (3) "Forgotten Towns" LCJ, 1/22/1933]
ROBARDS (Henderson Co.): Robards. A residential settlement with an active post office and some 400 persons, at the junction of the L&N Railroad and KY 416, a mile w of US 41, and 9 air miles s of Henderson. It was named for J.D. Robards who built the first home and store there in 1867. A successful businessman and landowner, he helped get the L&N station and the post office established there in 1868 and served as the first postmaster of Robard's Station. This was an obvious spelling error that, for some reason, was perpetuated in the official name change to Robard in 1883. It wasnt until a BGN decision in 1924 that the name became properly designated as Robards. The railroad spurred the local economy, especially influencing the opening of 3 area coal mines in the 1880s. Its proximity to the Anaconda Aluminum Co. plant built in 1971 may spur new growth. Over the years Robards has often been called "The Sanctified Town" referring to Lucy Furman's tales of a religious sect there in the late 19th century. (Maralea Arnett, ANNALS AND SCANDALS OF HENDERSON CO., KY. 1775-1975, 1976, Pp. 237-38) Lucy Furman, "Stories of a Sanctified Town"...
Robertson County. 101 sq. miles. Pop. 2,872.

Kentucky's smallest county in population and second smallest in size. Seat: Mt. Olivet. Established in 1867 from parts of Bracken, Harrison, Mason, and Nicholas Co's. and named for George Robertson (1790-1874), Kentucky Congressman (1817-21) and later Chief Justice of Kentucky's Court of Appeals.
**ROBINSON** (Harrison Co.): [Robinson](/hnn/sən) (Cynthiana). A hamlet with an active post office, store, garage, and church on the L&N Railroad, 7 air miles nnnw of Cynthiana. According to local tradition, the Covington and Lexington (later Kentucky Central and now L&N) Railroad intended to name its new station here for James Robertson but when his name was found to be a bit too long for the depot sign, it was shortened to Robinson. Yet a Robertson's Station post office, established June 2, 1855 by George W. Robertson, was to retain this name until 1882 when it dropped the "Station"; then it, too, became Robinson in 1892, and so it remains to this day. Robinson's second postmaster; incidentally, was John R. Robinson. And a Benjamin Robinson is known to have operated another Robinson post office somewhere in the county from May 22, 1832 to July 15, 1833. One is free to draw his own conclusions. [ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HARRISON CO. 1794-1969, 1969, P. 43]
A village extending for some distance along US 23/119 and the creek for which it was named. The creek, named for the family of Joseph Robinson, its pioneer settler, heads at the Floyd Co. line just e of Ligon, Ky. and flows roughly eastward to join Shelby Creek above the active post office, 5 air miles s of Pikeville. The first Robinson Creek post office was established May 27, 1848 with David May, postmaster. It was discontinued in Sept. 1888 and its papers transferred to the nearby Little Creek post office which operated from 1867 until it was moved to and renamed Robinson Creek in Nov. 1888. ("First Settlers on Robinson Creek" by Mrs. Jessie Horn)
ROCHESTER (Butler Co.): [Rah/cheh/series] (Rochester). A recently disincorporated Green River town with a 1970 population of some 250, on KY 70, just above the mouth of Mud River and 10 air miles w of Morgantown. Though the town per se was founded in the 1830s --its development greatly influenced by the building of Lock and Dam No. 3 in 1836--it was really an outgrowth of a large pioneer settlement that extended into 3 counties in the vicinity of the confluence of the Mud and Green Rivers. Early travelers are said to have called this settlement simply The Mouth for its location at the mouth of Mud River. Two other 19th century towns developing from this pioneer settlement were Skilesville (q.v.) in Muhlenburg Co. and the now extinct McCrarysville across the Green River in Ohio Co. Rochester was incorporated in 1839 and allegedly named by the descendants of John Rochester for his distinguished English family. John's brother, Nathaniel is considered the founder and namesake of Rochester, N.Y. The still active Rochester post office was established Sept. 8, 1843 with William McDowell, postmaster. By the late 19th century the town had become the county's principal river port with a population of 1000 but its potential for greatness was cut short by a cyclone and 3 devastating fires and its failure to compete successfully with towns on major roads and rail lines. (1) Howard Willis Vaughn THE HIST. OF ROCHESTER, 1976; (2) Edward Manley, "Rochester" GREEN R. REP. 1/4/1951, Pp. 1, 3; (3) Bennett F. Bratcher, HIST. OF BUTLER CO. 1960, n.p.
COUNTY:

ROCKCASTLE

311 sq. miles. Pop. 13,929.

Seat: Mt. Vernon. Established in 1810 from parts of Knox, Lincoln, Madison, and Pulaski Co's. and named for the Rockcastle River (a north bank tributary of the Cumberland River) which flows along its se border with Laurel Co. The river was first named Lawless River by Dr. Walker in 1750 for a member of his exploring party. It was renamed in 1767 by long hunter, Isaac Lindsey, for a huge rock with an overhang that could provide shelter for a large number of persons; these natural formations the pioneers often called rock castles while their smaller counterparts were merely rock houses. Historians have never agreed on the precise location of this rock. [John Lair, "Hist. of Mt. Vernon & Rockcastle Co." MT. VERNON SIGNAL, 11/28/1968, P. 12:1-8]
ROCKCASTLE (Trigg Co.): [Rahk/aes/əl, Rahk/aes/əl] (Lamasco). From a 19th-century shipping port with grist mill, wagon shop, cotton gin, hotel, and stores on the e. bank of the Cumberland River, a mile s. of the Lyon Co. line and 8 air miles wnw of Cadiz, this has developed into a community of retirement homes and accommodations for campers and fishermen on Lake Barkley. It was settled at least by the mid 1830s, when the first store opened, and named for Castle Rock in the limestone bluffs facing the river. The post office was established as Rock Castle on Oct. 12, 1852, with Washington L. Fuqua, postmaster, and was incorporated as Rockcastle in 1868 which spelling was applied to the post office in 1895. It is not known why the words were transposed. The rock is now partially covered by the lake. When the post office closed in 1915, the area's mail was routed to Cadiz. 

ROCKFIELD (Warren Co.): (Rockfield). A hamlet with an active post office along KY 242 from US 68/KY 80 s past the L&N Railroad tracks, and 5 1/2 air miles sw of Bowling Green. The community grew up around the L&N station and post office established in 1866 and named for the rock-strewn fields in the vicinity. The new Rockfield Elementary School is on US 68/KY 80, 1 1/2 miles ne of its junction with KY 242. (Irene Sumpter, interview, 9/5/1978)
ROCK HAVEN (Meade Co.): [Rahk Hav/An] (Rock Haven). In the early 19th century, John Nicholson initiated a plan to develop a large city on some 100,000 acres of Ohio River bottom land 30 miles below Louisville. One of these, on 73 acres just below the mouth of Otter Creek, which they would call Ohiopiomingo for the river and the highly respected chief of the Wingo Indians. The plan never materialized. However, on the proposed site, some 6.5 miles east of Brandenburg, was established a major 19th century steamship port and industrial town called Rock Haven. It is assumed that it was named for its location at a high bluff overlooking the river. The local post office was in operation, off and on, from 1848 to 1956. Little remains at the site at the wedge of Otter Creek Park but the ruins of an old cement kiln. (Incidentally, the Ohiopiomingo name appears at the approximate proposed site on Russell's 1794 map of Kentucky.)

RAMBLING REMARKS OF WM. MILLER BOWLING... (2) Marie Coleman, interview, 8/23/1978
ROCKHOLDS (Whitley Co.): [Rahk/hohldz] (Rockholds). This village with an active post office and L&N Railroad station, centering on the junction of KY 26 and 511, 5 air miles north of Williamsburg, was probably named for its first store-keeper and postmaster, Thomas Rockhold and was first called Rockhold's Store. The post office was established as Rockhold's on July 18, 1838. From a farm trade center by a large spring, it developed, with the coming of the railroad in 1882, into an important shipping point for area coal production which its presence encouraged. (1) Eugene Siler, interview, 6/23/1978; (2) John L. Crawford, interview, 6/22/1978
ROCKLAND (Warren Co.): (Hahk/land) (Hadley). This extinct post office at the junction of KY 626 and 1435, 8 air miles nw of Bowling Green, was established Jan. 29, 1875 with Commodore P. Burchfield, postmaster, and named for a large bluff at the point, ½ mile se, where the Gasper River flows into the Barren River. The bluff has since become known as Sally's Rock honoring Sally Beck who, between 1900 and 1915, would stand on the rock and call to the pilots of passing river boats. The community for years was known simply as The Mouth of Gasper and is now pretty much a part of the community of Hadley, 2½ road miles ssw. [Jane Morningstar, interview, 9/1/1978]
ROCKPORT (Ohio Co.): Rahk/pawrt (Paradise). A 6th class city with an active post office and some 330 residents now mostly on the bluff overlooking the Green River between US 62 and the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, just n of the Western Kentucky Parkway and 8½ air miles ssw of Hartford. The first settler may have been Lewis Kincheloe (q.v. South Carrollton) below whose cabin on the bluff the small settlement of Benton's Ferry was founded. With the establishment of the local post office on May 7, 1863, the community became known as Rock Port and then Rockport. It was probably named for the steamboat landing and the large rocks on the river bank which had appeared to early settlers as if they had been "torn loose from the hill above... by a mighty giant and rolled there." All that remains of the section of town on the river, now known as Old Rockport, are a coal loading operation, some abandoned business buildings, and several old homes. 

ROCKVILLE (Rowan Co.): [Rowan/vihi] (Morehead). An extinct C&O Railroad station and community on US 60 in the vicinity of Cincinnati Hollow of Triplett Creek, around 2½ air miles wsw of Morehead, that was named for the abundance of local freestone quarried in the area which, with locally produced lumber products, was shipped from here in the early years of this century. [(1) ROWAN CO. NEWS cent. ed. 5/10/1956, P. 38:6; (2) Bessie M. Birchfield "Towns and Villages of Rowan Co." WPA ms]
ROCKYBRANCH (Wayne Co.): [Rahk/ee/braench] (Bell Farm). An active post office now on the w side of Rocky Branch of Capadas Creek and KY 1756, 1½ miles sw of its junction with KY 92, and 8½ air miles se of Monticello. It was probably named for the wet weather stream that flows for roughly 3½ miles in a ne direction to join the creek near the Rocky Branch School. The branch, in turn, was named for the profusion of rocks lying about both in the stream and on the adjacent hillsides. The post office was established Oct. 3, 1908 by C.E. ("Charlie") Bell in his home about 100 yards s of, and across the road from, its present site to which it was moved in the 1930s. [(1) Lyle Chriswell, interview, 8/6/1974; (2) Garnet Walker, interview, 7/23/1973]
ROCKY HILL (Barren Co.): [Rahk/ee Hihi] (Lucas). A hamlet with extinct post office at the junction of KY 252 and 255, less than 3/4 mile nw of the Barren River Reservoir and 7 air miles sw of Glasgow. The vicinity was first settled around 1800 by the family of William Settle, 3 generations of which were to make the famed Settles Long Rifles valued by 19th century hunters and soldiers. Though the area is rocky, the post office, established Jan. 17, 1825 in Franklin Settle's store, is said to have been named for a place in Virginia from whence the first settlers had come. After a noncontinuous existence, the post office was renamed Game in 1911, a name of unknown derivation which was applied because, by then, the Rocky Hill name had been assumed by another post office, in Edmonson Co. (q.v.) The Game post office was discontinued in 1926 and the community, now called Rocky Hill, is on a Glasgow rural route. [1) Janet Johnson, Barren Co. Place Names, WKU Arch.; (2) Vivian Rousseau, interview, 8/11/1971]
ROCKY HILL (Edmonson Co.): [Rahk/ee Hihl] (Smiths Grove). A village with an active post office and the homes of some 130 residents extending for ½ mile along KY 259, merely yards from the Warren Co. line and 10 air miles se of Brownsville. When the L&N Railroad was completed through here in 1859, the Dripping Spring post office (established July 17, 1828) was moved from its site several miles nw, set up at the new depot, and renamed Rocky Hill Station with William Newman, postmaster. It is not known when the Rocky Hill name was first applied or even exactly why. Some say the rocky terrain impeded early efforts to farm it. Others refer to the limestone outcropping and deep sinkholes in the area. The arrival of the railroad ushered in an era of prosperity and the village became an important trade center. Rocky Hill was incorporated as such in 1876, and the "Station" was dropped from the post office name in 1923. (1) Lancie Meredith, ms. on Edmonson Co. place names, 1972; (2) Mrs. Bertha Skaggs, letter to me, 5/14/1972
RODBURN (Rowan Co.): [Rahd/bern] (Morehead). Several homes and businesses centering on the junction of US 60 and KY 32 at the ne fringe of the city of Morehead, occupy the site of the saw-mill and town established in 1873-4 by the New York State-based Hixson-Rodburn Lumber Co. to process the timber shipped by a spur line extending s from the vicinity of Cranston. A post office was established there as Rodbourn (sic) July 3, 1888 with Amos Hixson, postmaster. Several years later the company sold out to another New York firm, and just before the turn of the century, several fires, which may have been deliberately set, destroyed most of the original buildings. The post office closed in 1922 and the area is now served by the Morehead post office. (1) ROWAN CO. NEWS, Cent. Ed. 5/10/1956, Pp. 38:7-8, 75:3-4; (2) J.H. Powers, ms. hist. of Rowan Co., n.d., in MSU Ky. Coll.
ROGERS (Wolfe Co.): [Randjørz] (Zachariah). A hamlet on KY 715, 4 air miles w of Campton, whose still active post office was established Aug. 16, 1900 with Samuel P. Napier, postmaster, and named for Elihu Rogers, the local blacksmith. The community was settled by the Spencers on land acquired from a logging firm and first called Oklahoma, it's alleged, after some local men had returned, with fond recollections, from that western territory.

ROGERSVILLE (Hardin Co.): [Rahjorzh/vihl] (Vine Grove). A community of trailer parks and other residences accommodating primarily Ft. Knox personnel, extending s along US 31w and KY 447 from the city of Radcliff, which it joins and of which it is generally considered a functional part, to a point less than 4 air miles nw of Elizabethtown, the county seat. It was named for a local family, never had its own post office, and the 1970 Census gave its population as 800. [Mrs. T.D. Winstead, interview, 8/23/1978]
ROMINE (Taylor Co.): [Rohm/eyen] (Cane Valley). An extinct post office on old KY 55, at the foot of Green River Hill, just e of Tebbs Bend of the Green River (where a Civil War battle was fought in 1863), and 6½ air miles s of Campbellsville. The post office was established May 15, 1901 and named for the family of its first postmaster, Melvin Romine. It is now on a Campbellsville rural route. [Betty Jane Gorin, interview, 10/18/1978]
ROSE HILL (Mercer Co.): [Rohz Hïh] (Perryville). A hamlet on KY. 152, 3 air miles w· of Harrodsburg, whose post office was established Aug. 29, 1870 with Wm. Jackson, postmaster and closed in 1972 with its papers to Harrodsburg. It was named for its hilly location with an abundance of wild roses. [Marie Thompson Daviess, HIST OF MERCER AND BOYLE CO'S. 1924, P. 123]
ROSENE (Ohio Co.): [Roh/zeen] (Rosine). A village with an active post office and some 350 residents on US 62 and the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, 8 air miles east of Hartford. It was founded in 1872, with the coming of the then Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad, by Henry D McHenry (q.v.; McHenry) and named for his wife, Jenny Taylor McHenry. In 1867 Mrs. McHenry, a writer and the daughter of the Rev. James Taylor of Hardinsburg, had used "Rosine" as a pen name to publish a book of poems entitled "Forget Me Not." The post office was established on Jan. 16, 1872 as Pigeon Roost for the local creek, a branch of Muddy Creek. The creek is said to have been named in pioneer days for the hundreds of pigeons which had mysteriously come to roost in the large cedar trees on its banks; the pigeons were so numerous that they actually broke the limbs of the trees by their weight. The office was renamed Rosine in 1873 and the town was incorporated by this name in 1878. [1] Wendell Allen, "Rosine Post Office 103 Years Old Today" OHIO CO. NEWS, 1/16/1975, P. 9:1-4; (2) Nina Schroader, "One Hundred Years of Rosine Relived" OHIO CO. NEWS, 9/13/1973, P. 8; (3) FOGLE'S PAPERS; A HIST. OF OHIO CO., KY. by McDowell A. Fogle, P. 117.
ROSSLYN (Powell Co.):  [Rahz/lihn] (Stanton). A hamlet on Ky 15/11, just s. of the Mountain Parkway and just below the mouth of Cat Creek, a branch of Red River) and 1 mile e. of Stanton. In the very early 19th century there was a water mill at the mouth of Cat Creek called Kirkpatricks Mill. [Ker/naet/rae Mihl]. Later when Hugh Maxwell acquired the mill it became Maxwell's Mill. It then became Harrow's Mill when it came into the possession of D.P. Harrow in 1866. A post office called Harrahs Mills (sic) was in operation there from 1872 to Jan. 1874. By 1883 the mill had changed hands again and become the Mansfield Mill. In 1905, when George P. Burkes bought the mill, it became Burkes Mill. Over the years, until it was dismantled around 1930, it had seen service variously as a grist, saw, and carding mill. On Jan. 2, 1880 Nick D. Merrill, local storekeeper and Powell Co. court clerk, secured another post office at the site of the mill which he called Merrill. Reuben C. Mansfield, who also ran the mill, became postmaster. In 1886 he renamed the office Cat Creek for the stream which, in early land grants, was called Catamount Creek and later Cat and Owl Creek. Finally, in 1898, the Lexington & Eastern Railroad renamed the office and its station there Rosslyn allegedly for the many wild roses growing locally. By 1900 the community had also come to be identified by this name. The present store building which contains the active post office is some 200 yards from the mill site. [Larry Meadows, interview, 11/30/1977]
ROUNDHILL (Edmonson Co.): [Round Hihl] (Reedyville). A hamlet with an active post office on KY 70, several hundred yards e of KY 185 and the Butler Co. line and 8½ air miles wnw of Brownsville. The post office, established in Butler Co. on Oct. 14, 1893 with John Willis, Jr., postmaster, and named for the shape of a local hill, was moved in 1937 to its present site.
ROUND HILL (Madison Co.): [Round Hill] (Kirksville). A crossroads settlement on Ky. 595 (the Poosey Ridge Road), 6 air miles sw. of Richmond, named for a mound alleged to have been built by an early tribe of Indians. Some of the artifacts found therein by Col. Bennett Young, a Louisville financier and historian of the late 19th century, were deposited at Centre College and with the Filson Club. It never had its own post office and is now on a Richmond rural route. [Robt. N Grise, interview, 4/28/1978]
ROUNDSTONE (Rockcastle Co.): Rownd Stohn (Wildie). This hamlet with an extinct post office at the junction of US 25 and KY 1617 and 1786, 5½ air miles n of Mount Vernon, is also located on Roundstone Creek (a branch of Rockcastle River) which had been named for the round stones early found in its bed. The post office, established as Round Stone on March 18, 1856 with James Sayers, postmaster, was discontinued in 1896, and the vicinity is now on a Mount Vernon rural route. [Charley Carter, interview, 4/29/1978]
ROUSSEAU (Breathitt Co.): [Ru/soh] (Guage). A hamlet centering at its active post office on KY 30 and Quicksand Creek, just below the mouth of Hunting Creek and 7 air miles ene of Jackson. The post office was established Feb. 28, 1882 with Jeremiah McQuinn, postmaster, and named for the operator of a local windmill. Three mining operations and one of the county's consolidated elementary schools are now located here. [Letter to me from postmaster, 5/7/1980]
COUNTY:


Established in 1856 from parts of Fleming and Morgan Co's. and named for John Rowan (1773-1843), Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals and later U.S. Senator from Kentucky (1824-30).
ROWENA (Russell Co.): [Roh/ə/nə, Roh/ə/nee] (Jamestown). Now on US 127, 7 air miles's of Jamestown, this hamlet with extinct post office had been established as a town by the Kentucky Legislature on land owned by John Leveridge on the s bank of the Cumberland River on Feb. 10, 1845 and named for either the daughter of William D. Lair, a member of the pioneer Leveridge (Leverage) family, or Rowena Leffler (later Mrs. Wesley H. Owens) who is said to have been the first child born there of parents en route to the west. Rowena was across the river from a community established March 1, 1847 as Lairsville, named for William D. Lair, its founder, which was later destroyed by a flood. The local post office was established as Rowena on May 14, 1847 with Robert Tarpley, postmaster. After several changes in location, including a move to the Lairsville site on the n bank of the river and thence onto the ridge overlooking Lake Cumberland, it was discontinued in 1967 and the area is now on a Jamestown rural route. The community may also for a time have been called Wild Goose for its location near the Wild Goose Shoals of the Cumberland River. (1) R.P. Story, Rowena, Ky. in letter to me, 6/11/1969; (2) J.B. Stone’s hist. of Jamestown in the JAMESTOWN RECORD, 7/16/1891, repro. in the TIMES-JOURNAL, 11/23/1927; (3) Richard Blair, interview, 11/27/1971; (4) ACTS of the Gen'l. Ass. 1845, Pp. 76-7; (5) Byrd Douglass, STEAM-BOATIN' ON THE CUMBERLAND, Nashv: Tenn. Book Co., 1961, P. 67
ROWLAND (Lincoln Co.): [Roh/1n(d)] (Stanford). Now a residential community of some 250 persons on US 50, 3/4 air mile due east of Stanford, it was established by the L&N Railroad around 1868 to serve as a junction for its Knoxville (now Lebanon) Branch and the then just completed Richmond Branch lines. It was first called Richmond Junction for the Richmond Branch was built to connect with Kentucky Central's line at Richmond, Ky. The post office of Richmond Junction was established March 20, 1879 and discontinued in 1883. It was re-established as Rowland on June 4, 1886 and named for D.W.C. Rowland, then General Superintendent of the L&N. The company's shops were located here till they were removed to Livingston, in 1912 and the post office was discontinued in 1912. Mail is now routed from Stanford. ["Our Place Names are Personalized" by Ole Reliable, L&N MAG. 2/1956, P. 23]
ROWLETT'S (Hart Co.): [Row/le tts] (Horse Cave). A station on the L&N Railroad's main line between Louisville and Nashville was called Rowlett's Depot for the first station agent, John W. Rowlett. By this name Rowlett established the first post office on Feb. 9, 1860. A prosperous trade and shipping center soon developed which was incorporated in 1874 as Rowletts Station. In 1880 the Depot was dropped from the post office name and in 1882 the town was re-incorporated as Rowletts. Now this village of some 275 residents, just s of the junction of US 31w and KY 335, 1 air mile s of Munfordville, has churches, 2 stores, a post office, and a railroad siding, but no longer a depot. [Judge Roy A. Cann's ms. hist. of Hart Co., 1971, P. 10] 862
ROYALTON (Magoffin Co.); [Raw/əl/tən, Roi/əl/tən] (Salyersville South). A village on KY 7 and the mouth of Gun Creek, an e bank tributary of Licking River, 4 1/2 air miles sse of Salyersville. It developed as a company town around a large sawmill built before the First World War by the Dawkins Log and Mill Co., a Canadian firm financed by the Royal Bank of Canada for which it was named. Timber was hauled from nearby Breathitt Co. to Royalton where the company-owned Big Sandy & Kentucky River RR shipped lumber to Dawkins, a junction on the C&O Railroad 2 miles s of Paintsville. The Royalton post office was established Sept. 20, 1920 with Mary K. Stephens, postmaster. The mill was closed in 1928 and the C&O acquired the company's spur line. The post office still serves the village of some 300 persons, now a center of area coal operations. Despite the prosaic account of the name, above, some local credence has been given to the tale of the Kentucky governor who, on viewing the town that had just grown up around the mill, was heard to remark "Well boys, you have a royal little town here." The Licking bottoms just below (north of) the village have always been aptly called the Meadows of Licking. (1) 1860-1960—MAGOFFIN'S FIRST CENTURY by Albert K. Moore, 6/1960, Pp. 8, 25; (2) Connie A. Wireman, interview, 4/20/1979; (3) Sarah Shepherd, tp for Leonard Roberts, MSU, 1958.
ROYRADER (Jackson Co.): [Ro/rad/er] (Tyner). A settlement with post office on KY 578 and Lewis Branch of Terrell Creek, about a mile northwest of the junction of the Laurel, Clay, and Jackson County lines and 11½ air miles sse of McKee. The post office, established Aug. 30, 1927 with Etta McGee, postmaster, was named for the late Roy Rader, an executive of Bond-Foley Lumber Co., a major industry in the county at that time. Residents now get their mail from Annville 4½ road miles northeast. No reason has been given for the odd spelling of this name. [Maud and Vernon Wilson, interview, 7/9/1977]
ROYVILLE (Russell Co.): Royville (Russell Springs). A residential suburb on KY 80, 5 air miles nnw of Jamestown, that was chartered in 1951 to avoid incorporation by the city of Russell Springs, adjoining it on the se. It was named for John Roy, then local storekeeper. Postal needs have always been served by the Russell Springs post office. It is no longer incorporated. [Roberta Brown, letter to me, 8/25/77]
RUCKERVILLE (Clark Co.): [Ruhk/ər/vihl] (Hedges) a rural settlement on Ky. (1805-1865). 89.5 air miles SE of Winchester, that was named for Reuben Rucker, a pioneer settler from Culpeper Co., Va. who, on his arrival in Clark Co. in 1823, had purchased 12 acres on the site from Alexander Pitcher. Here the Ruckerville post office was established on Jan. 24, 1850 with Wm. Ritchie, postmaster. Since its close in 1906, postal and most other services have been provided from Winchester. [Kathryn Owen, interview, 6/1/1977]
RUDDELLS MILLS (Bourbon Co.): [Ruhd/əlz Mihləz] (Millersburg). A rural settlement at the point where Stoner and Hinkston Creeks join to form the South Fork of the Licking River, 5 air miles n° of Paris. It was named for the Ruddell family whose progenitor, Isaac, a Virginian, had built a cabin near the site in 1776. In 1779, the threat of Indian raids forced him to move his family 3 miles down river to an abandoned fort that was later captured by Col. Henry Byrd and his mixed band of British and Indians. After 4 years of captivity, the Ruddells returned to the Hinkston area and developed a large orchard. According to tradition, an effort to establish the new county's seat at this site was unsuccessful when Mrs. Ruddell objected that city life would disrupt the bucolic existence they had come to cherish. Meanwhile, Isaac's son, Abram operated a mill on the north side of Hinkston for which the community was named. The family is said to have spelled its name Ruddell but over time the spelling changed to conform to the local pronunciation: Ruhd/əl. Contemporary historians prefer the original spelling and are not pleased to see the name misspelled on most maps and legal documents.

Though a busy industrial town in the 19th century with distilleries, tobacco and other factories, only a store, school, and two churches remain and 75 residents secure their mail from Paris. [(1) Perrin, 1882, Pp. 146, 149; (2) Edna Whitley, interview, 4/6/1977]
RUMSEY (McLean Co.); [Ruhm/zea] (Calhoun). A recently de-incorporated city of some 300 residents and an active post office on KY 81 ... on the south bank of Green River, just opposite Calhoun. This was a small settlement in 1834 when work was begun on Lock and Dam No. 2. On Nov. 12 of that year John M. Johnson established the post office which, according to tradition, was named for James Rumsey (1743-1792), the pioneer of steam navigation, at the request of his nephew, Edward Rumsey, a Greenville attorney who was later to represent the area in the US Congress. Some historians aver that Edward (1800-1868) had declined a suggestion that the place be named for him but accepted a compromise that attributed the name to his uncle. The town boomed with the completion of the Lock and Dam in 1837 and was incorporated in 1839. It was the largest town in the county before the Civil War with shipyards, woolen mills, and carriage and wagon factories. [1] Rothert, HIST. OF MUHL. CO., 1912, Pp. 408-9, 81-3; (2) "McLean Co. Was Settled by 1784" McLEAN CO. NEWS, Bicent. issue, 7/1/1976, P. 1:1-6
RUSH (Boyd Co.): [Rush] (Rush). A community extending for over 2 miles on KY 854 and along Rush Creek and its main stream, Williams Creek that forms the Carter Co. line in that section. It centers at the Rush post office just below the confluence, nearly a mile south of US 60, and 10 air miles southwest of Catlettsburg. Earlier known as Geigerville, for its pioneer family, this community rapidly grew up around a coal seam called Rush No. 5, developed by the Ashland Coal and Iron Railway Co. in 1870. The Rush post office was established July 25, 1890 with Henry Artist, postmaster. The derivation of the name is not known; no families called Rush lived in the area then. But there's a local tradition that the coal boom brought a rush of people into the community to share in its anticipated prosperity. [(1) A HIST. OF ASHLAND KY. 1786 to 1954, c1954, P. 87; (2) Evelyn Scypher Jackson, interview, 5/6/1977] 7,1311
COUNTY:
RUSSELL [Ruhs/əl]. 238 sq. miles. Pop. 12,911. Seat:
Jamestown. Established in 1825 from parts of Adair, Wayne, and Cumberland Co's. and named for Col. William Russell (1758-1825), veteran of the Revolutionary War, the Indian campaigns of the 1790s, and the Battle of Tippecanoe (1811), who succeeded William Henry Harrison as commander of American forces on the frontier. He later served in the Kentucky Legislature.
(Greenup Co.): [Ruhs/el] (Ironton). Directly across the Ohio River from Ironton, Ohio is Russell, the first of a string of industrial and residential communities along the river from the Boyd Co. line to the city of Greenup. This 4th class city with an active post office and an estimated 1980 population of 3800, 6½ air miles ese of Greenup, was founded in 1869 by John Russell (1821-1896) and his colleagues of the Means and Russell Iron Company on the site of the old Amanda Furnace Tract. In response to the interest of Ohioans for Kentucky land and in anticipation of an extension of the C&O Railroad w of Huntington to Cincinnati, Russell laid off the Amanda lands, which his company had earlier acquired from the Poages (q.v. Amanda Furnace), into 3 and 4 acre plots which were individually sold, and their new owners, in turn, developed their properties into town lots. For some years this area had been known as Riverview but in Nov. 1872, property owners gathering to select another name accepted Dr. Frederick A. Long's suggestion of Russell for its founder, and in this name Long's post office was established Jan. 3, 1873 and the town was incorporated Feb. 23, 1874. The town's real development came only after 1885 with the completion of the C&O tracks and the later location of its shops in that vicinity. Since 1957 the city has been expanding through annexations onto the hills of US 23 which, till then, had formed Russell's southern boundary and even yet distinguishes Old or Downtown Russell from its more suburban sections of Kenmore, Russell Heights, Crestmont, Bellefontaine, and others. [Alice Greene and Joyce Riggs, "Hist. of Russell" RUSSELL TIMES, Souvenir Ed. 9/15/1974, Pp. B2-3]
RUSSELL SPRINGS (Russell Co.): [Russell Springs] (Russell Springs).

This 5th class city with an active post office and some 1700 persons, on US 127 and the Cumberland Parkway, 2½ air miles n of Jamestown, had a long history as a health resort. Known as Big Boiling Springs by 1850, the resort is said to have been founded by pioneer settler, Sam Patterson around a chalybeate spring. The post office, established as Russell Springs on May 17, 1855 with Timoleon Bradshaw, postmaster, was discontinued in 1865 and re-established in 1888 as Kimble, honoring George Kimble, the town's leading businessman. In 1901 it was renamed Russell Springs to conform to the name the town had officially adopted shortly before. ["Famed Springs Result in Formation of Russell Springs, Ky. in 1899" THE TIMES-JOURNAL Bicent. issue, 7/4/74, Pp. 8-9]
Russellville (Logan Co.): [Ruhs/əl/vi:l, Ruhs/əl/vəl] (Russellville). A 4th class industrial city, the largest town in Logan Co. and its seat, with some 6800 residents, on US 68, 431, and 79, 105 air miles wsw of downtown Louisville. The date of its first settlement has been disputed. According to Logan County's noted historian, Alex C. Finley (in 1879), the first home on the site had been built by Gasper Butcher around 1780. W.R. Jillson has questioned this, finding no recorded evidence of a house there until Cook's Cabin or Station was built in 1790. In any case, its has been said that the name Big Boiling Spring had early been applied to the place, along with Gasper Butcher's Spring or Station (so he undoubtedly had something to do with its early history), and later Cook's Station until 1792 when, with the formation of the county, it became known as Logan Court House. Actually the first court house and thus the community that bore its name was located 1 mile e of the present court house site. The town that was laid off in 1795 and named for Gen'l. William Russell in 1798 centered on the second court house located on Russell's 2000 acre Revolutionary War military grant. (Russell, 1735-1793), the son of English immigrants, was a veteran of both French and Indian and Revolutionary War campaigns). The Russellville post office was established April 1, 1801 with Armestead (sic) Morehead, postmaster, but the town was not incorporated by Legislative act until Jan. 13, 1810. On Nov 20, 1861 Confederate sympathizers from 64 Kentucky counties met here and voted to secede from the Union. Now 8 industrial plants employ more than 3000 persons. Big Boiling Spring was descriptively apt; the spring boiled up out of the
ground before it ran off through the town. In the early 20th century, it became known as (the) Town Creek. [(1) Stratton, PLACE NAMES OF LOGAN CO., 2nd ed. 1947, n.p.; (2) May Belle Morton, interview, 11/6/1977; (3) Edw. Coffman, THE STORY OF LOGAN CO. 1962, P. 19; (4) Jillson, PIONEER KY. P. 100]
RUTH (Pulaski Co.): [Ruth] (Somerset). A hamlet with an active post office on KY 192 and Pitman Creek, 3 air miles e of Somerset. The first post office in this vicinity was established July 19, 1888 with Matthew Warren, postmaster, and called Juno for reasons now unknown. It was closed in 1896. In 1908 Rufe Ashurst, a local storekeeper, re-established the office which he named for his daughter, Ruth, and Warren again became postmaster. Ruth later married R.A. Peyton and was for many years a teacher in the Louisville city schools. [Eugene Allen, letters to me, 3/20/1969, 2/9/70]