THE POST OFFICES OF ADAIR COUNTY, KENTUCKY

On its organization on December 11, 1801, Adair, Kentucky's forty-fourth county, acquired 780 square miles from its sole parent Green County. It proceeded to lose thirty square miles to Wayne County in March 1804, gain ten square miles from Cumberland County in December of that year, lose 200 hundred square miles toward the creation of Russell County in April 1826 and another fifty square miles to Casey County in December 1827. In 1843 it gained a small area from Barren County to accommodate a local landowner, lost a negligible amount to Casey in 1844 and eighty square miles toward the creation of Metcalfe County in May 1860. It lost another ten square miles to Metcalfe in 1861. The population of its current 407 square miles peaked at 18,566 in 1940. By 1970, however, it had dropped to 13,000 but rose slightly to 15,360 in 1990 and 15,575 in 2004.

The county was named for General John Adair (1757-1840) who commanded Kentucky troops in the Battle of New Orleans (1815) and later became Kentucky's eighth governor (1820-24). He then served his state in the U.S. Senate (1825-31) and the U.S. House of Representatives (1831-33).

Adair is at the eastern edge of Kentucky's Mississippi Plateau or Pennyroyal region and the western flank of the Appalachians. Most of it is heavily dissected with some large flat ridgetops in its central and southeastern sections. It's drained by the Green River and its main area branches: Russell(s), White Oak, Casey's, Glenn's, Pettus, Sulphur, Harrods, Crocus, Butler's, and Big Creeks which figure prominently in the county's long history.

Adair's earliest settlers included the Virginia-born Col. William Casey (1756-1816) who arrived in Kentucky in 1779. He and his party
established Casey's Station in 1789, a fort some four to five miles north of Russell Creek, and another station in 1792, with blockhouse and stock­
cade, on a 1,530 acre tract on the south side of Russell, on (the present) Ky 80 (near the later Bliss) and three miles from the future Columbia where he maintained his home.

As was the case with most of its neighbors, Adair's lack of rail and highway penetration impeded its economic development till the First World War. Only in 1973, with the completion of the Cumberland Parkway, did it begin to enjoy a direct link with its eastern and western neighbors. A minor oil boom in the early 1960s helped somewhat, while the 8,200 acre Green River Lake, completed in 1969, has since attracted tourists to a state park shared with neighboring Taylor County. Adair's economic base now includes clothing factories and a plant making hydraulic pumps.

The county's more or less centrally located seat, Columbia, is ninety two road miles ssw of downtown Lexington and 106 road miles sse of downtown Louisville.

Adair's seventy post offices will be described below by their sites in the several Green River valleys and along the county's main highways. Precise locations will be by road miles from the court house in downtown Columbia or from neighboring offices.

The fourth class city of Columbia, with roughly 4,000 residents, centers at the junction of Ky 66 and 80, just south and west of Russell Creek and just north of the new Cumberland Parkway. A settlement by this name is said to have existed here by 1802 when James Walker deeded land for the new county's seat. The town itself was laid off in the fall of '02 by Daniel Trabue, an early justice and county sheriff, and others on land acquired from Blackmore Hughes two years before. John Field, the vicinity's first storekeeper, was named postmaster of Adair Court House.
on May 7, 1804. By 1825 the post office was known as Columbia Court House or simply Columbia. No one is sure how it got its name. Some believe it was to honor America's "discoverer" who'd been denied the honor when our hemisphere became America.

POST OFFICES ON (OR IN THE VICINITY OF) THE MAIN CHANNEL OF ADAIR COUNTY'S GREEN RIVER

At the site of a Green River ford crossed by (the present) Ky 206, about 12½ miles northeast of Columbia, was the flourishing town of Neatsville. Settled before 1810 by the family of North Carolina-born Randolph Neat, Jr. (ca. 1754-1821), it was to have two mills, several stores, a hotel, saloons, a distillery, church, school, saltworks, a flatboat factory, and other businesses before the end of the century.

Its first post office may have been established in May 1836 as Nuttsville (probably a Post Office Department recording error) with Thomas W. Hardwick, postmaster. It became Neatsville in 1840 (with John Upton, postmaster), but the name was inexplicably spelled Neetsville by then postmaster Otto M. Kelsay from August 28, 1876 till it closed in mid July 1886.3

From June 30, 1900 through August 1916 postal services were provided at two north-of-the-river sites by the Edith post office established by storekeeper Zach(ary) T. Campbell. Just before the First World War a destructive flood forced the relocation of the Neatsville community from the north bank of the river to its south bank, just south of the junction of (the present) Ky 76 and 206. A second relocation came in 1964 with the U.S. Corps of Engineers site condemnation for the Green River Reservoir. Neatsville is now situated around Leland Grant's grocery on 206, half a mile south of the river, and just north of the relocated Tabernacle Christian Church.
A post office serving Neatsville's current site, but before the second relocation, was Eunice. On (the present) Ky 531 (old 76), just east of 206, and three fourths of a mile south of the river, it was maintained from June 3, 1896 by a succession of postmasters beginning with storekeeper Robert Allen. Its name (and Edith's too) remain un-derived.

To serve the thickly settled Plum Point neighborhood just above the Casey Creek-Green River confluence Johnson Watson established a post office on June 7, 1880. Advised by the postal authorities to select another name he chose Watson for the area descendants of John and Jesse Watson, early nineteenth century Green River settlers. The Plum Point name long survived the closing of the post office at the end of 1913 as that of a school less than a mile up the road paralleling Casey Creek and a church just off Ky 551, a mile south of the river. The post office and school sites are now in the Green River Lake.

William B. Dulworth's family gave its name to a post office operating at two sites between the river and its Butler Creek branch, a mile from the Taylor County line. It opened on February 15, 1901 near the site of the old Mount Carmel School with Francis M. Hubbard, its first postmaster. Dulworth himself (ne February 1871) was the postmaster from 1914 to 1918. From 1927 till it closed in 1936 the Dulworth post office was on Butler Creek, near the mouth of its Sandy Creek branch, about 8½ miles north of Columbia, a site now in Butler's Green River embayment.

On June 1, 1905 John M. Riall established the Holmes post office just west of the mouth of the Green River's Jones Branch, and a mile east of Butler Creek, and probably named it for his neighbors Ebancasso (ne May 1861) and Malinda Holmes. It too closed in 1936.
POST OFFICES ON THE GREEN RIVER’S RUSSELL CREEK BRANCH

Russell Creek (sometimes identified with a terminal "s" in the nineteenth century) heads in the Beckham Ridge, two miles northwest of Russell Springs (in Russell County) and joins the river 1½ miles southwest of Greensburg (in Green County). It’s said to have been named for an old nearly blind hunter encountered by early travelers on that stream.

The first Russell Creek post office was Milltown, established on October 28, 1853, with Chapman Dohoney, postmaster, which served a developing village around a water-powered grist and sawmill on the west side of the creek built in 1821 by William Townsend’s family. The community was thus first called Townsend’s Mill, but after the mill was acquired by N.S. Mercer it became simply Milltown. Into the twentieth century Mercer family members continued to provide custom milling for the surrounding area which was also served by several stores, a cotton gin, a carding operation, and other businesses. After several early twentieth-century vicinal moves, the post office, then on (the present) Ky 768, some eight miles west of Columbia (via Ky 61), was suspended on November 3, 1995 and is now a Columbia CPO.

Another Russell Creek mill to give its name to a post office was built in the 1880s by Christopher Columbus Gentry. On January 22, 1890 Gentry opened the Gentry’s Mill post office just east of the stream, 1½ miles from the Russell County line, and 9½ miles east of Columbia. Little survived its closing in 1940.

From January 17 through December 1894 Ulysses G. Rexroat, a probable descendant of early nineteenth century Greasy Creek landowner John Rexroat, operated the Rexroat post office half a mile south of Russells Creek (sic). And that’s all that’s known of it.
The family of Robert W. Kemp who, in the late 1840s, had acquired land on Sulphur Fork, which joins Russell Creek half a mile within Green County, gave its name to a post office at the county line, on the south side of Russell. Established on July 20, 1901 it would serve first postmaster George W. Pickett's mill, fifteen miles wnw of Columbia (via Rtes. 1802, 768, and 80). The office closed in 1952.

Other Pickett family members had their own post office just north of Sulphur Fork, 1½ miles southwest of Kemp and a mile from Green County. Pickett, serving a school and a church with that name operated between January 31, 1904 and early October 1964 with Rufus J. Howard, its first postmaster.

Little, including its name source, seems to be known of the Portland post office. It was likely operated at two (or more) sites in the Russell Creek valley in its two separate tenures. According to first postmaster Nina Davis's Site Location Report it would be on the north side of the creek when it opened on August 5, 1907. In her 1909 Site Location Report, however, she located it 400 yards south of the creek. It closed in February 1911 and was re-established by Herbert O. Whitlock (with Mattie Whitlock as postmaster) on April 14, 1915 one mile south of the creek and 2½ miles southeast of Kemp. Paul Kyle's 1939 Report located it 2½ miles southwest of the creek and two miles south of Kemp. It closed in 1958 but contemporary maps show it on Rte. 1702, half a mile west of the creek, 1½ miles south of Kemp, and a mile north of New Tarters Chapel, at the junction of Rtes. 1702 and 768.

Another Russell Creek family, the Roys, was the name source of George R. Redman's Roy post office operating between November 7, 1907 and 1935 10½ miles ese of Columbia (via the Cumberland Parkway).
POST OFFICES ON THE BIG CREEK BRANCH OF RUSSELL CREEK

This 8½ mile long stream joins Russell Creek half a mile west of Milltown. The first of its three post offices, appropriately named for the stream, was established at an as yet unknown site by its only postmaster William F. Grady on February 15, 1840 to serve Joseph O. Nelson's store. It lasted but a few months.

On April 17, 1848 Grady (d. 1863), a local horsebreeder, established another post office on Big Creek which he named Gradyville for his pioneer family. By the mid 1890s the substantial village it served had several mills, stores, a hotel, tannery, and other businesses. But in 1967 a heavy rainfall caused a disastrous flood, destroying much property and taking many lives. Yet some of the homes were rebuilt and the post office still operates, just east of the creek, half a mile west of Ky 80, and eight miles wsw of Columbia.

When G.D. Vance learned that he’d have to find another name for his proposed post office on a Big Creek prong, four miles northwest of Gradyville, he chose Pyrus, probably for Pyrus Nelson, an early area settler. The office operated at an imprecisely located site from July 14, 1908 to 1940, with G.D.’s wife Minnie its first postmaster.

POST OFFICES ON SULPHUR CREEK OF RUSSELL

This stream named early for the many area sulphur wells heads a couple of miles within Russell County, one air mile northwest of Webbs Crossroads, and extends for about 18½ miles to Russell Creek just east of Columbia. It is, of course, not to be confused with the other Sulphur, the fork that joins Russell in Green County, half a mile below Kemp. A shortlived post office (from September 10, 1864 to late 1866), actually called Sulpher Fork may (or may not) have been on the latter
stream but nothing, other than the name of its only postmaster, Alexander Orr, is known of it.

The first post office known to have been in the valley of Russell's larger Sulphur Creek was Tarter. From December 17, 1897 through July 1924 it served a store and its rural customers on the north side of the creek, near the Russell County line (1¾ miles northeast of Sano and 3½ miles northwest of Webbs Cross Roads). Henry Tarter was the first of its two postmasters.

Just south of Sulphur Creek and half a mile west of the Grassy Springs Church at the western end of Camel Ridge was the McGaha post office. It was established on April 12, 1901 by Frank Burton to serve a small village and was probably named for the family of an 1890s Sulphur settler A.B. McGaha. The office closed in 1926 and its name apparently died with it.

James A. Kerns established the Kerns post office on June 5, 1906 near Butler Fork of Sulphur, some 3½ miles from the Russell County line and roughly the same distance southeast of McGaha. He was succeeded in mid October 1919 by George W. Burton who closed the office in mid July 1920.

POST OFFICES ON HARRODS FORK OF CROCUS CREEK

Four post offices served the fourteen mile long Harrods Fork which heads three fourths of a mile from the Metcalfe County line and joins Crocus Creek half a mile over the Cumberland County line. The fork is said to have been named for Col. James Harrod who, on one of his several hunting trips to central Kentucky, camped for a time at a large spring near the site of the Mount Pleasant Church on (the present) Butlers Branch, three miles north of Columbia.

When Joe M. Shive applied for a post office to serve his store on Harrods Fork, two miles northeast of Breeding and twelve miles southwest
of Columbia (on or near the present Ky 61), he submitted, in order, these names: Victor, Rugby, Pioneer, Coze, Waseon, Bellefonte, Harrods, Maize, and Careys. Rugby was chosen, but why it was offered in the first place, with any of the others, is not known. Mr. Shive alone operated the office from September 23, 1904 through October 1919.

Rugby, though, is not to be confused with the post office of Ruby, two miles southeast. And Adair County's Ruby is not to be confused with the earlier Green Co. post office of this name. Adair County's Ruby was operated by X.W. Scott between November 23, 1908 and mid March 1917. It’s not been precisely located but, according to Scott’s Site Location Report, it was 1 ½ miles south of Harrods Fork and two miles east of Breeding. His first name choice was Clifton and that’s all that seems to be known of it.

In 1905 John W. McClister submitted the name Waco (then, as now, in use in Madison County) for his proposed Harrods Fork post office. Instead, it opened on December 9 as Dirigo [deye/reye/gho]. Why this Latin (for "I direct") expression, the motto for the state of Maine, was applied is not known. After a short distance move in 1919 it ended in 1951, still on the Fork, some 13½ miles south of Columbia.

The inexplicably named Picnic post office was established on April 3, 1908 by Melvin Petty (Pettey) probably at the Rock Lick Creek-Harrods Fork confluence, 2½ miles southeast of Dirigo. In 1927 it may have moved west and closed in 1937 for on a 1928 map a distinction is made between Picnic at a site on Independence Ridge, a miles south of Dirigo, and Old Picnic where the post office was established.

Toria [taw/ree], another post office with an unknown name source, was established on July 9, 1909 by Nimrod Koach whose first name choice was then in use, as Roachville, in Green County. From a point on the
north side of Harrods Fork, one mile nne of the Chestnut Grove Church (less than half a mile from Metcalfe County) it was moved in 1933 half a mile north to a site near the head of Leatherwood Creek, where it closed in 1952.

POST OFFICES ON SEVERAL OTHER GREEN RIVER BRANCHES

Green River's Casey Creek branch heads in western Casey County and joins the river (in the present Green River Lake) just west of the site of Adair's Watson post office (see above). It was named by the late 1780s for the Virginia-born Kentucky pioneer Col. William Casey (1754-1816) who established a station and built his home near Columbia.6

Two post offices on that stream bore its name. The first, as Caseys Creek, operated for three years from January 4, 1833 by Thomas W. Hardwick at an as yet undetermined site. The second, as Casey Creek, was established by Robert B. Ferrell on March 4, 1852 and, till it was suspended in mid March 1992, served the small village of Roley just north of the Mill and Dry Creeks confluence, half a mile west of Casey Creek and just north of the north end of the lake (sixteen miles northeast of Columbia). Nobody's sure how the name Roley came to be applied to the village, a Christian church organized in 1875, and one or more local cemeteries. The late area historian Henry Giles recalls his mother telling him that folks there "were always rolling in and rolling out". Others think it may have referred to a once popular marble game called roley hole.

For many years the village of Knifley was centered at the junction of (the present) Ky 76 and 551, half a mile north of the Casey-Crooked Creeks confluence, and thirteen miles northeast of Columbia. It was named for local landowners whose progenitor, Pennsylvania-born Philip Knifley (1777-1862), arrived from the present Taylor County around 1814. On May 23, 1887, two years after he opened the vicinity's first store,
Thomas K. Stults established the Knifley [nihf/lee] post office. In several years the village boasted at least four stores, a grist mill, wagonworks, bank, school, other businesses and several churches. In the mid 1960s many families were forced to vacate their homes for the Green River impoundment leaving only a few businesses north of the junction and moving the post office two miles north on 76 to a site one third of a mile from the Taylor County line at Christie Chapel. Since December 1989 the office has been a Columbia CPO.

On the west side of Barnettts Creek, some five miles north of the Green River and 2½ miles from the Casey County line, storekeeper David C. May established a post office on August 2, 1909. His preferred name May gave way to Parson for local teacher George Parson, his son-in-law. The office closed in 1921.

The Neat family gave its name to another Adair County post office. Actually the office bore several names and occupied several sites in the Green River valley and on its Bryant Creek branch. Robert W. Allen, on November 13, 1890, established an office he inexplicably called Tyler on the north bank of the river. In July of the following year it moved a mile south to Bryant Creek and Allen had its name changed to Little Cake, allegedly for a local farm wife's small cakes made on the spur to feed unexpected guests, or, perhaps, for the local diet during a food shortage. In June 1895 postmaster Frank W. Miller had the name changed again to Neatsburg and he was shortly succeeded by Schuyler C. Neat. It closed in mid July 1901. John A. Curry re-established the office on October 31, 1902 with the choices of Neatsburg and Mayo (in use in Mercer County) and it operated, though intermittently, till mid January 1920 on (the present) Ky 531, 9½ miles northeast of Columbia.
The Little Cake name was, until recently, also applied to the local school across the creek from the post office site and close by the first site of the Little Cake Christian Church, about one mile up Bryants Creek from the river.

TWO POST OFFICES ON MELSON RIDGE

Extending some 4½ miles through the southeast corner of Adair County and into Russell County is what may earlier have been known as Barger Ridge and is now Melson Ridge. It was named for the descendants of a Revolutionary War veteran who had settled there before the Civil War. Sometime after the war members of the Cundiff family, Green River valley settlers, arrived and Restor C. Cundiff, son of John, established a post office in the middle of the ridge, about 1½ air miles northwest of the Cumberland-Russell-Adair Counties convergence (and 13½ miles sse of Columbia). His first proposed name Melson Ridge gave way to Cundiff and the office served a couple of stores and the Melson Ridge Church and School (half a mile east) from January 29, 1925 through June 1990.

The ridge’s other Adair post office was Cape. Established on October 3, 1930 by George Allen Cape on the Melson Ridge Road, one fourth of a mile from Russell County, it served George Washington Cape’s store, with Cape and his sister-in-law Mattie Morrison Cape as postmasters, till it closed in 1935.8

POST OFFICES ON KY 80

The Nell post office occupied three nearby sites between Ky 80 and Leatherwood Creek, roughly a mile from the Metcalfe County line and 13½ miles southwest of Columbia. It was established on August 26, 1891 by Edward Martin Nell, a descendant of Scots-born Revolutionary War veteran John Nell who had settled on Crocus Creek before 1800 and operated a tannery. The office closed in 1942.
For much of the second half of the nineteenth century, descendants of Noah Gleason Turk owned a considerable amount of Adair County land. From December 3, 1891 to February 5, 1892 they even had their own post office, operated by James Robertson, on Butler's Fork of Russells Creek, 4½ miles wsw of Columbia. On March 9, 1900 the office was re-established by storekeeper Milton Lu Grisson where (the present) Ky 80 crosses Butler Fork. It was not to be Turk, as intended, for the locale continued to be called that, but as Bliss for a respected local school teacher J.L. Bliss who had recently come from Louisville. The office closed in 1958.

From May 24, 1901 to 1938 John Clarence Montgomery's inexplicably named Ozark post office operated on Ky 80, 4½ miles east of Columbia.

POST OFFICES ON KY 768

Seven post offices (including Milltown and Portland, considered above) were on this thirty two mile long road winding through much of western Adair County.

The second to be established, four years after Milltown, was Glens Fork. It was named for its site on a Russell Creek branch that was probably named for an early hunter David Glenn (sic) who is said to have camped on its banks while securing provisions for George Rogers Clark's Illinois campaigns. While the post office was established as Glens Fork on September 2, 1857, with Robert Garnett, postmaster, the village it was to serve (with stores, mills, schools, churches, a tannery, wagon-works, distilleries, and other businesses) was incorporated in 1872 as Glennsville. The vicinity has also endured, till the present, the nickname Hardscratch, either given by Civil War soldiers for their limited fare of "hardtack" or, more likely, for the difficulties local people had making a living. Until it became a Columbia CPO in March 1992 the office occupied several sites in the vicinity of the junction of Ky 768 and 55, 7½ miles southeast of the county seat.
Centered at the junction of (the present) Ky 61 and 768, nine miles southwest of Columbia, is the hamlet (with store, two churches, and a recently closed school) of Sparksville. Its post office, established on August 11, 1884 by and named for Charles W. Sparks (ne January 1844), closed in 1966.

Some five miles northwest of Sparksville, at the junction of (the present) Ky 80 and 768, and 1 1/2 miles wsw of Columbia, was another post office established (on October 5, 1901) by Sparks who gave it his middle name Weed. It remained in his store building with other postmasters, including his son Charles, Jr., till it closed in 1942.

The honesty of the local storekeeper and carpenter Joseph S. Chapman gave the name to the Fair Play post office he established on August 8, 1890 seven miles south of Columbia. By April 1895 the office, with now a one word name, was serving two stores, a couple of flour mills, an axe handle factory, and other businesses. Still serving a local store, at the junction of Ky 704 and 768, it became a Columbia CPO in November 1992.

Serving an area now loosely called Morris Chapel were the two sites of the inexplicably named Basil post office. It was established on May 14, 1900 by Cager Carey Coomer whose family name was his first preference. In 1927 it was moved to a site near the Morris Chapel Church at the junction of 768 and the Bennett Ridge Road, 2.7 miles northwest of Weed and 1 1/2 miles wsw of Columbia. Here it closed in 1950.

POST OFFICES ON KY 55

On October 5, 1855 James A. Sublett established a post office in his store somewhere south of the Green River in Taylor County. As Sublette's Store it operated till, on January 29, 1857, it took the name Tampico (probably for the Mexican gulf port) and closed in February 1859.
On October 24, 1876 John W. Faulkner re-established it just over the Adair line. It returned to Taylor County in late December 1894 to serve the Turner Brothers Store, a mill, and a distillery, but moved back to Adair in February 1901 where, on March 10, 1903, it became Coburg. Here, it's said, the Alfred Cowherds had settled in 1875 and were joined shortly thereafter by John Cofer; the name may thus have been a combination of their names. Some area historians prefer to trace the name back to the northern Bavaria home of other settlers. Anyway, the office was moved in 1916 to a site one fourth of a mile north of Dry Fork (of Casey Creek) and 0.4 mile from the Taylor line (on the present Rte. 1913, just west of Ky 55, one mile northeast of the Adair-Green-Taylor Counties convergence, 7.3 miles north of Columbia) where it closed in 1960.

In the 1790s pioneer Thomas Massie settled on the Caney Fork of Russell Creek, early named for the profusion of wild cane on its banks. About a mile below (northeast of) its head, some 5 3/4 mile north of Columbia, Patrick Henry Bridgewater opened a store and a steam-powered saw and flour mill and, on August 6, 1855, established the Cane Valley post office. By May 1880 the local community was incorporated by the Legislature. The office, on the west side of old Ky 55, is still active, serving one remaining store and several area homes and churches.

POST OFFICES ON KY 206

In addition to Neatsville and Eunice (above), six Adair post offices served homes along Ky 206 extending between its junction with Ky 70 in Casey County and the northeast corner of Columbia.

The two sites of the inexplicably named Purdy post office served Burton Ridge hamlets at the two junctions of Ky 206 and 531. The office
was established on March 11, 1886 by storekeeper Eli W. Burton at the
western edge of the ridge, 6 3/4 mile northeast of Columbia and was soon
serving his store, a flour mill, a distillery, and other businesses.11
In April 1923 the office was moved nearly 1 1/2 miles east on Burton Ridge
to another junction of 206 and 531 where it closed in 1933. In recent
years the Purdy community has been centered at Ed Burton's store and the
Purdy Church, a mile northeast of Columbia.

Purdy's first site had another post office from November 26, 1923
through 1954. Why its first postmaster Lena E. Wilkerson named it Christine
is also unknown.

To serve his store on (or near) the present Ky 206, some five miles
northeast of Columbia and three miles southwest of Purdy, Frank Floyd estab-
lished the Dillingham post office on February 28, 1881. Less than six
months later Arthur Burton had assumed charge, but the office closed in
November. It was re-established on June 30, 1886 by John W. Moore who
was succeeded as postmaster by John E. Burton in November 1894, and the
office closed for good in September 1896. The Dillingham family traces
back to William who acquired land on Crocus Creek in the very early 1840s.

On March 24, 1898 another Burton storekeeper Silvester C. (ne June 1871)
established the Vester post office at or near the site of Dillingham, 1.4
miles wsw of Christine. It closed in December 1907 but was re-established
by Alvin Burton on September 22, 1923. The office closed for good in April 1937.

Descendants of Hickman Pelly who, in the early 1850s, had settled on
Barnetts Creek, a mile north of its Green River confluence, requested a
post office to serve what may then have been the Lemonsville locale.
Instead of the preferred Barnett Creek, the office opened on September 1,
1887 as Pellyton [pehl's/tan] with James M. Perryman its first postmaster.
It was soon serving at least five stores, a couple of mills, a saloon,
and other businesses. When it closed in 1966 it was on Ky 206, 700 yards
east of the creek and 17.3 miles northeast of Columbia.
Garlin Leach (ne December 1855) gave his first name to the post office he established on January 9, 1903 on (the present) Ky 206, 3.2 miles east of Columbia. It closed at the end of 1913 but reopened, also as Garlin, on April 8, 1915, with Drury M. Moore, postmaster. It ceased operation in 1974.

Also on 206, but three miles east of Purdy, was the inexplicably named Ella. Established by Silas G. Tarter on September 23, 1904 it operated at a crossroads site just north of the Fairview Church till 1959. From 1961 to '68 it was a Columbia rural branch.

**POST OFFICES ON KY 704 (THE BURKESVILLE ROAD)**

Two years before the establishment of the Crocus post office (above) that stream would have given its name, as Crocusville, to James Allen Turner's office at the mouth of its Burns Creek branch, 12½ miles south of Columbia. But it opened on April 12, 1883 as Gifford. Three weeks later, though, Turner had the office name changed to Inroad. It closed in November 1886, was re-established by James N. Pettrey on September 7, 1900, closed again in January 1916, re-established again on September 23, 1923, with Albert W. Turner, postmaster, and closed for good in 1953. Neither Gifford nor Inroad has been name derived.

The hamlet of Butter Point, so called by the early 1870s, got its post office on September 24, 1884 when Finus Hurt established Gadberry in the local store. Named for the descendants of pioneer James Gadberry, it closed in April 1894 but was re-established to serve Butter Point on February 13, 1901 with Sanford H. White, postmaster. Though the community failed to survive the closing of its remaining store shortly after the Second World War, the office continued, with Mrs. Eva Gadberry as postmaster, till July 1, 1958. All that remains of the community, 4½ miles south of Columbia, is the Smith Chapel Church.
POST OFFICE ON KY. 92

George W. Miller's Montpelier [mahn(t)/peel/yer] post office, estab-
lished on July 22, 1847 to serve the Adair-Russell County line, was
probably named for the Orange County, Virginia home of President James
Madison. In July 1856 it was moved into Russell County as Mt. Airy and
there closed in April 1858. On June 2 of that year it was re-established
by Arthur Bradshaw as Mt. Airey but closed again a year later. On September
12, 1862 Albert M. Patterson brought it back to Adair County as Montpelier
where, for the rest of the century, it served an area mill, distillery,
store, and other businesses. When it closed for good at the end of 1987
it was but 200 yards within Adair County, nine miles southeast of Columbia.

Joppa, one of a number of small post offices of this name scattered
over the country, operated between June 8, 1894 and 1941 on Ky 92, half a
mile west of Cedar Creek (of Russell Creek), and six miles southeast of
Columbia. William B. Bell, its first postmaster, probably named it for
the Holy Land seaport (now called Jaffa), perhaps for the attractiveness
of its Adair County setting since Joppa is the Hebrew word for beauty.

POST OFFICES ON KY. 551

Descendants of William H. Absher [aeb/shor] who acquired some Green
River land in the mid 1850s, gave their name to a post office nearly three
miles south of the river and 6½ miles nne of Columbia. Established on
June 22, 1884 by Samuel M. Humble, it was soon serving a store, a mill,
John D. Absher's distillery, and other businesses. Nothing survives the
closing of the office in 1954.

What would have been Kentucky's fifth Mount Pleasant post office
for the local neighborhood, its now closed school and extant church at
two vicinity sites below the head of Butler's Fork, 2½ miles southwest
of Absher and 3.3 miles north of Columbia, operated between December 14, 1915 and 1936 as the inexplicable Heraline with William and Henry H. Cundiff its first postmasters.

OTHER ADAIR COUNTY POST OFFICES

Just before 1800 one James Breeding acquired land somewhere on Harrods Fork (of Crocus). Within a few years George Breeding (1772-1857), a Virginian, and his wife Margaret (nee Cloyd) had settled on this stream. On March 30, 1830 a post office to serve this vicinity, about where (the present) Ky 61 crosses the Fork, and some twelve miles southwest of Columbia, was established, with Jesse Burnig (sic), postmaster, and named for the Breeding family. George became postmaster of Breedings in December 1832 and his son, the Reverend James, assumed that role in March 1837. The office closed in January 1862, was re-established there on November 16, 1864, and closed again in November 1892.

On February 9, 1885 William H. Hamilton established the Elroy post office at the head of Casey Fork of Harrods, two miles south of Breeding, to serve the Jamesville locale. In August 1889 Richard P. Breeding became postmaster and on February 1, 1894 then postmaster George W. Dillon had the office renamed Breeding. By the turn of the twenty first century this office was still serving a viable village on Ky 61, just north of its junction with Ky 553, half a mile from Metcalfe County. 13

Somewhere near where (the present) Ky 55 crosses the Russell County line was the chartered (by legislative act on February 19, 1840) community of Millersville. Probably named for local landowner John Miller, it had a post office in this name that was established on June 3, 1845 by Archelaus A. Strange. In the early 1860s the office was moved over the Russell County line and closed in 1879. Another area post office was established.
on August 10, 1885 by James P. Miller whose first proposed name, also
Millersville, was replaced by Crocus for the creek 1½ miles south which
was probably named for the wild crocuses on its banks. Though plans
for a town here never materialized, the Crocus post office survived on
(the present) Rte. 1313, half a mile south of Ky 55, just yards from
Russell County, and eleven miles southeast of Columbia, till it closed
at the end of 1957.

From August 18, 1867 to May 20, 1868 Samuel N. Davis operated
the Victoria post office named for the twenty two year old daughter
of his Columbia neighbors Josiah and Nancy J. Hunter. In his Site
Location Report he located this proposed office one fourth of a mile
north of Petits Fork (of Russell Creek) and four miles southwest of
Columbia, half a mile south of (the present) Cumberland Parkway.

About a mile and a half up the Petits Fork valley from Victoria
was the very shortlived (May 13, 1896 to November 13, 1896) post office
of Stotts. Petitioner John M. Roberts' proposed name Hunt was replaced
when William L. Stotts (ne November 1853), one of a large Russell County
family, became postmaster.

When furdealer Robert F. Walker was advised that Walkers was already
in use as Walkersville (for a Lewis County post office), he chose Matney
for his office just south of Russell's Big Creek, nine miles west of
Columbia. Probably named for local landowner John Matney (ne January
1840), the office served several area mills, a tannery, livestock and
other businesses from August 15, 1882 to August 1889. Matney's name was
also applied to an elevation at the mouth of Richard Branch of Big Creek,
2½ miles sse.

A family about which nothing is known may have given its name to the
Craycraft post office established by George J. Hunt and operating from
April 18, 1884 to 1941 at a crossroads site at the eastern end of Concord Ridge, seven miles east of Columbia.

A little over a mile southeast of the Adair-Green-Metcalfe Counties convergence and some fourteen miles west of Columbia was one of Adair's earliest settled areas. Here, on Pleasant Ridge, the Rev. William B. Moss, in 1782, organized the county's first church, the extant Pleasant Ridge Methodist Church. To serve George A. Keltner's store and C.D. Keltner's sawmill, William Porter Price, on April 2, 1887, opened the Keltner post office half a mile northeast of the church. It lasted till 1975.

From September 28, 1894 to August 20, 1898 storekeeper William S. Kexroat and Thomas W. Bryant maintained the Santo post office a mile south of Russell Creek and 11 1/2 miles east of Columbia. At or near this site William Luther Brockman re-established the post office on December 26, 1906 but as Sano. Sometime before 1924 it was moved just over the Russell County line where it operated through June 1966. Neither name has been derived.

The post office of Speck, also underived, operated from March 9, 1900 to 1927 on Speck Ridge, in the extreme northern part of the county, a mile west of the Adair-Taylor-Casey Counties convergence. First postmaster William Baldwin's name preference Parrots Crossroads, probably for its locale, was both too long to suit the federal post office standards and, as simply Parrot, already in use in Jackson County.

On Harvey Ridge, some 10 1/2 miles south of Columbia, Henry C. Bardin established a post office to serve the vicinity of the Emory Chapel (aka Harvey Ridge) Methodist Church. His proposed Bardin gave way to the inexplicable Chance and that office operated from June 11, 1904 through June 1911. On September 10, 1921 it was re-established, also as Chance, by Samuel H. Harney and continued till 1974.
On Hovious Ridge, a two mile long north-south elevation, was the Hovious post office, about one mile south of Taylor County and three miles west of (then) Knifley. The ridge and post office were named for the descendants of William Hovious, a late eighteenth century Green County pioneer. The office, operating between August 31, 1905 and April 1915, was maintained by Benjamin Vandiver Hovious, youngest son of John R. and Nancy (Martin) Hovious, and Marshall C. Burchett.

The probably aptly named Low Gap on the Charlie Morris Road, 3½ miles south of Chance and only one fourth of a mile from Cumberland County, had its own post office operated by Finis Barton Williams between October 16, 1930 and 1948.

AN UNLOCATED ADAIR COUNTY POST OFFICE

In 1928 T.B. Williams of Williams Store, 1½ miles south of Harrods Fork and one fourth of a mile from the Cumberland County line, applied for a post office to be called Hogard, probably for an area Methodist preacher. With Sallie A. Claywell, its first postmaster, it operated between June 22, 1928 and 1937.

Four, possibly five, shortlived post offices—Pettersons Mills (1825-26), Belmont (1839-41), Cherry Shade (1839-42), Coleman (1839-42), and Big Creek (1840) were in that section of Adair County that, in 1860, became a part of Metcalfe County, and will thus be discussed in that chapter.

Only four of Adair's seventy post offices (Columbia, Breeding, Cane Valley, and Gradyville) are active. Columbia's still serves the county's only incorporated place while at least fourteen ever served viable communities.
Dr. Waitsville Perryman's December 11, 1893 authorization for a post office in his home was rescinded the following May and never operated.

Thirty nine offices were named for local/area persons or families. Two were named for distant places while six were the names of local or nearby features (five streams and a mill). One received a geographically descriptive name. Another had two possible name sources (a local family and a distant place). One was named for a local economic activity, another for a Latin expression, and yet another for the local storekeeper's good character. Eighteen names, though, have not been derived and eight offices have still not been precisely located.

Nineteen names were not the first proposed for those offices while nine offices served communities, neighborhoods, or localities with other names, and six had name changes.
FOOTNOTES


3. Curiously, the community was incorporated by the Kentucky General Assembly on February 23, 1847 also as Neetsville (Accounts of the General Assembly, 1846-47, P. 196). And even more curiously, and inexplicably, county maps from 1839 through 1876 locate Nuttsville and, later, Neatsville at a site on Casey Creek, just south of its Crooked Creek confluence.

4. Actually, Pickett's first name choice was that of the Moss family of Clinton County.

5. Green County's Ruby was established on January 16, 1895 by John W. Hendricks on (the present) Ky 70 and the Green River, nne of Greensburg. It closed in mid May 1906.

6. Casey established his first station at Plum Point, about one mile north of Russells Creek, and later settled permanently on Butler's Fork of Russell, near the future Bliss.

7. George was probably descended from Aaron Parson, a late eighteenth century settler of Adams Creek. Barnett's Creek was named for the brothers James, Joseph, and William Barnett who also acquired land in the Green River valley in the 1780s.

8. Adair's Cape family progenitor John, Jr. acquired Cumberland River land in the late 1790s.

9. Sparks' other proposed name for Weed was Lewis but, for some reason, it was crossed out in his initial Site Location Report.

10. The Weed name was also applied to a ridge west of the post office site along which passes the Cumberland Parkway.

11. Vilas, the first name proposed for the Purdy post office, probably honored the then U.S. Postmaster General, Wisconsin's William Freeman Vilas (1840-1908). His name was later applied to a Letcher County office from 1901 to 1911.
12. The other Mount Pleasants were in Harlan, Ohio, Carter, and Trimble Counties, respectively.

13. The site of the original Breedings was later served by the later Rugby post office. (see above)

REFERENCES


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10. Giles, Henry of Spout Spring (Knifley), Ky., interviewed by the author on March 22, 1979

11. Ibid., letter to the author, July 12, 1980


15. Rennick, Robert M. Kentucky Place Names, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984

17. U.S. Post Office Department: Site Location Reports--Adair County, Ky. Post Offices, National Archives (Washington, D.C.)
16. Steele, John Avroe. "Adair County as a Political Division of the State" Jan. 29, 1919 (on file in the Adair County Public Library)
