

PARIS POST OFFICE ESTABLISHED IN 1795 - LIST OF POST MASTERS

The Paris postoffice was established in 1795. The letter below will throw some light on the early history of this place. While this letter says that Hopewell nowhere appears on the books at Washington and the postoffice was known as Bourbonton until 1826, we have to say that the name of Bourbonton appears on the records here, but Hopewell does from the beginning. The following is the official letter from the Auditor of the Treasury:

Washington, January 18, 1876.

Sir:- In compliance with your request of December 22, 1875, I enclose the following information from the books of this office:-

Bourbonton, Ky., -----THOMAS EADES, First P.M., appointed January 1, 1795; WILLIAM PATON, Second appointed July 1, 1800. Name changed from Bourbonton to Paris, April 28, 1826. JAMES PATON, Jr., third, appointed April 28, 1826; OTHO HUGHES, fourth, appointed March 14, 1837; JOSEPH H. HOLT, fifth, appointed March 10, 1848; H.H. Rankin, sixth, appointed October 24, 1849; JOHN V. LOVELY, seventh, appointed February 4, 1853; SELBY LILLESTON, EIGHTH, appointed June 5, 1861; WILL H. POLK, ninth, appointed July 25, 1868; ELLIOTT Kelly, tenth, appointed December 16, 1875.

The name of Hopewell does not appear on the books of this office.

Respectfully,

F.B. LALLY, Acting Auditor.

List of Post Masters Continued:

S.S. CLAY, Appointed February 28, 1882
J.V. LOVELY, Appointed March 17, 1886
S.S. Clay, Reappointed February 28, 1890
WILL HINTON DAVIS, Appointed March 29, 1894 Resigned, 1897.
C. DORSEY RAY, Appointed July 1, 1897 to fill out W.H. Davis' term.
J.D. McCLINTOCK, Appointed Listed as PM January 30, 1901
J.S. SWEENEY, Appointed February 28, 1901, J.L. Earlywine, Asst.)
J.L. EARLYWINE, Appointed April 15, 1905
N.A. MOORE, Appointed April 6, 1910, Assisted by C.O. Wilmoth

POST MASTERS LISTED FOR PARIS BOURBON COUNTY KENTUCKY

*Original By
Patty M. Biddle
1815 Clifton Ave
Paris Ky 987-3858*

PARIS POSTOFFICE

One of the most intriguing turn-of-the-century structures in Paris, this quaint building was designed and constructed as the Paris Post Office during a decade of considerable expansion of local facilities and services, according to the 1905 "History." It may have opened by February 1, 1905, when city delivery was established "with three carrier and 25 boxes," under post-master J.L. Earleywine and assistant Carl Wilmoth. Taken from Historic Architecture of Bourbon County, Kentucky, 1985. See my account dated February 28, 1890, stating: Paris Public Building: A special from Washington under date of April 12, 1890 says: (See next page) "Mr. Beck's bill for the erection of a \$100,000 building at Paris, Ky., was today reported favorably to the Senate without amendment." Kentuckian-Citizen newspaper dated April 12, 1890.

The Post Office was located at West 5th Street, Paris, Ky. With its tall narrow gabled domers, ogival trim, cusps and crockets on the pinnacles, and narrow openings, the building evokes a late Medieval French cityscape. The first floor is clad in sandstone, while a vivid golden "Roman" brick accentuates the second-story and surface of the gables. The facade is set directly on the sidewalk of this narrow street, and has a definitely urban quality.

In only a few years, however, this facility was replaced by the larger and less crowded one at 8th and Pleasant Streets. This building has since served a variety of uses, and now houses professional offices. Taken from "Historic Architecture of Bourbon County, Kentucky, 1985.

The Post Office located at 800 Pleasant Street, started construction in January 1910 and dedicated in 1912, Alben Barkley, speaker. This handsome building is an outstanding representation of the Beaux-Arts style in Paris. The facade exhibits round-headed bays and molded glazed tile classical details. Interior appointments reveal cross-vaulted ceilings, and classical details around the windows as well as the original post office compartments. It was sold to the city in 1967, and has since served as the Paris Municipal Building. Taken from Historic Architecture of Bourbon Bountty, Kentucky, 1985.

Compiled by Patty M. Biddle

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Respectfully,

F.B. LALLY, Acting Auditor.

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POST OFFICE

1790 John Bradford, the Printer, Kentucky Gazette, announces that two hundred subscribers are necessary to assure that Mr. Hitt (the Post rider) will ride every week. "Gentlemen who have subscriptions in their hands for the news by Post "are asked to forward subscribers names to the Gazette, or to Mr. Curd on the Kentucky, Mr. Stein at Harrodsburg, Mr. West at Bourbon Court House."

Mr. Bradford will endeavor to remedy the great disadvantage the inhabitants of this country labor under for want of a Post Office and a regular Post."

He proposes a letter box at the Gazette office for letters to be forwarded by Mr. Hitt on the roads he rides, and to publish in the Gazette a list of the names and addresses on the letters remaining in the office each month.

Letters at the Gazette Office: Col. John Edwards, Bourbon Co. Lewis Van Buskirk, Bo.Co.; Nicholas Lewis, Nancy Lockhart, Thomas M'Farland, Duncan M. Ruker, Francis Williams Murray, William McClelland, Bo. Co., Nathen Nisbitt and Henry O'Nail, Bo. Co.

1791 Letter to George Brackenridge, Bourbon County. Paymaster of Militia will pay those who were with Brigadier General Hammar's recent expedition against the Indians at the Court House in Bourbon County.

Letter to Augustine Eastin, Bo.Co., (a noted pioneer Baptist minister.)

Letters at Gazette Post: Matthew and Mary Caldwell, Bo.Co. Capt. James Kenny, Bourbon County..

1792 Congress has passed an act to establish Post Offices and Post Roads, February 1792. A Post Office has been designated at Danville and commence June 1, 1792.

The first Post Office: Thomas Barbee, Post Master advises that the Post Office is now open. Mail will arrive Saturday November 3d and on that day and every two weeks thereafter. The mail was carried by way of Danville and Richmond, Va., by way of the Wilderness Road.

1793 Mr. Edward Evans now rides post for the printer, John Bradford.

Letters at Gazette Post: Nicholas Foose, Bourbon, 3 miles from Ruddell's Station; James Howard, Stoner's Creek, near Hornback's Mill; John Hamilton, 1 mile from Bourbon Court House; and Margaret Hamilton, address same as above; Lawrence Hall, living at James Purtea's Hinkston Creek, Bourbon County; William Reed, Forks of Hinkston, care of John Miller.

POST OFFICE

- 1794 There are now three post offices in the state; at Danville, at Lexington and at Frankfort..
Thomas Barbee, First Post Master was at Danville with Walter E. Strong, his assistant.
Innis B. Brent, who was also keeper of the public jail was postmaster at Lexington.
Daniel Weisiger's name appears April 1, 1795 as the Post Master at Frankfort with Isaac E. Gano .
- 1795 Peter G. Voorhies is now assistant to Isaac Gano, Postmaster at Frankfort..
- 1818 Congress has passed an act authorizing the Post Office General to contract for carrying the mail by Steam Boats between New Pleasant and Louisville.

BOURBONTOWN, Ky. First Post Master, Thomas Eades, appointed after Thomas Reeder declined to serve, January 1, 1795.
Thomas Eades, Aug. 2, 1797
John W. Hunt, 1799
William Patton, 1810 , 1817
James Paton, 1826
Joseph H. Hall, March 10, 1848, 1849
H.H. Rankin, October 1849
John V. Lovely, 1853
Lilly Lilleston, 1861
Wm. H. Polk, 1868
John K. Polk, 1875
Elliott Kelly, 1881
S.S. Clay, 1884
J.V. Lovely, 1886

POST OFFICE

Some early moves of the Post Office on Main Street removed to the west corner of Main and Church, April 26, 1861.

Later that year removed to Hotel building next door to E.P. Harrison's Shoe Store, July 10, 1861.

Later removed to Church Street, between N.B. Rion's and the Paris Hotel, May 10, 1866.

Moved to new quarters in the rear of the new Deposit Bank building, September 28, 1884.

Moved into new Post Office building, sometime in 1890-91.

Moved into next Post Office building at 800 Pleasant St. in 1910.

Compiled by Patty M. Biddle

The present Post Office is located on Eighth street and the building was started in 1965. and finished in August 1966.

Mr. Darrell Sanford, Post Master

Mr. Calvin Greenup, Assistant Post Master. He has been associated with the Post Office for over thirty years.

Compiled by Patty M. Biddle

POST OFFICE

Our Postmaster KELLY has tendered, his resignation to accept the position of book-keeper, resigned by S.M. RICHARDSON in the Citizens Bank of Paris. Mr. Kelly has made an excellent official during the six years he has been Postmaster, and if his successor discharges his duties as faithfully as Mr. Kelly has, the public will be satisfied. Aspirants for the position are looming up, among whom are S.S. CLAY, JOHN B. MILLER, and others. December 20, 1881

ROUTE AGENT.-BILLY WOOD, one of the cleverest and jolliest JEHUS that ever cracked a whip over a horse, and who made so many friends while stage driver between Paris and Mt. Sterling, has been appointed Route Agent between Lexington and Louisville.

April 1, 1882

DAILY MAIL.-MR. THOMPSON, who drives the mail wagon between Paris and Frankfort, making tri-weekly trips from this place, commenced daily through runs yesterday morning. The mail service has been daily between Georgetown and Frankfort for some time, and Mr. Thompson says the service will be doubled between Paris and our State Capital this week. This arrangement will give great satisfaction to persons at the intermediate points.

April 1, 1882

Many persons are wrongly impressed that a reduction of postage took place at the beginning of the year. The President, in his message, made recommendations to that end, and many influential newspapers have favored it, but Congress has as yet taken no action on the subject.

January 17, 1883

Our Post office is draped in mourning, and will be closed from 2 till 5 today, out of respect to the memory of TIMOTHY O. HOWE, late Postmaster General

April 1, 1883

POSTAL MONEY ORDERS.-On and after July 1st, postal money orders for five dollars and under may be obtained for three cents; they will be payable to bearer, and much of the annoyance of the present system thus dispensed with.

June 30, 1883

The two cent letter stamp will be ripe on the 1st of October.

September 28, 1883

The law does not permit a Postmaster to open and read a paper which comes to his office; neither does it permit him to allow anyone else to do so. If he does he lays himself liable to prosecution. We hope all Postmasters will bear this in mind.

September 26, 1883

POST OFFICE

Among the recent changes in the salaries of Kentucky Postmasters we notice that the salaries of the Postmasters at Paris and Cynthiana have each been reduced \$100 per year. The former now gets \$1,980 and the latter \$1,500 per year.

October 3, 1883

JOHN K. POLK, formerly clerk in the Postoffice at Paris, charged with killing MARTIN OWENS, in Rockcastle county, being unable to get an immediate hearing, waived examination and executed bond for his appearance before circuit court, which will convene in less than a month. This proposition was acceded to by the County Attorney, and Polk then executed bond in \$2,500. E.J. POLK, W.H. POLK, W.T. BROWN, and DR. M. TABLER, AS HIS SECURITIES were discharged.

December 16, 1883

GRIGSBY & GILL, of Mt Sterling, have been awarded the contract to carry the mail from Mt. Sterling to Paris for the next twelve months. They took charge of the route Tuesday, and will run via Grassy Lick. A Post Office will probably be established at the latter place.

June 26, 1884

THE NEW POST-OFFICE.—Our efficient postmaster, S.S. CLAY, will move the post-office into its new quarters in the rear of the new Deposit Bank building today. The room is beautifully furnished and contains 100 call boxes, 301 No. 3 lock boxes with plate glass, 1/8 of an inch thick, 8 No. 2 lock boxes and 4 No. 1 lock drawers. There is also a neatly furnished room in which to transact money order and register letter business. The boxes are all beautifully numbered and the office is one of the finest in the United States, according to size. There are now plenty of boxes for all who desire one and we would here suggest that if you have not a box, rent one by all means; then you will not have the postmaster or his assistants looking over a large stack of letters and papers, and grumble because they cannot find it sooner. Mr. Clay and his accommodating assistants, FRANK CLAY and JAMES LAYTON, are justly proud of their new office, and they can now transact business more expeditiously and every body can get their mail "on time," "without fault or defalcation."

September 28, 1884

Candidates for the post-office at this place are so numerous that you could not throw a stone on Main street without striking one.

November 15, 1884

October 8, 1884

THE NEW POST OFFICE

Our efficient postmaster, S.S. Clay, will move the post-office into its new quarters in the rear of the new Deposit Bank building to-day. The room is beautifully furnished and contains 400 call boxes, 301 No. 3 lock boxes with plate glass of an inch thick, 8 No. 2 lock boxes and 1 No. 1 lock drawers. There is also a neatly furnished room in which to transact money order and register letter business. The boxes are all beautifully numbered and the office is one of the finest in the United States, according to size. There are now plenty of boxes for all who desire one and we should here suggest that if you have not a box, rent one by all means; then you will not have the postmaster or his assistants looking over a large stack of letters and papers, and grumble because they cannot find it sooner. Mr. Clay and his accommodating assistants, Frank Clay and James Layton, are justly proud of their new office, and they can now transact business more expeditiously and every body can get their mail "on time," without fault or defalcation."

POST OFFICE

The following are candidates for the Paris Post office.

Mrs. Isaac Clay, F.L. McCHESNEY, J.V. Lovely, Hugh Henry, Dr. J.M. Woodford, and John McCarney.

November 15, 1884

POSTAL NOTES.-Books, pamphlets and music can be sent at third-class rates.

The postage on a pair of boots would be at the rate of 1 cent an ounce.

Tea, coffee, sugar and kindred articles can be mailed only at the rate of 1 cent an ounce

Wedding-cake can only be mailed when packed in a tin or wooden box. Confectioneries the same

A book presented for mailing, with a letter attached to it, would subject the entire package to letter rates.

An unclaimed postal-card is not returned to the writer, even though his address is given upon it, but is sent to the dead-letter box office.

Every business man should use return request envelopes in all his correspondence. If everybody used them the Dead-letter Office would soon wind up its business.

A newspaper is not forwarded in the mails unless postage is fully prepaid, so don't think you can beat Uncle Sam by attaching a 1 cent stamp when 2 cents are required.

Written visiting cards are regarded as first-class matter and subject to letter rates.

If printed they can be sent at the rate of 1 cent for each two ounces; that is if the card is of an embellished design.

January 15, 1885

MR. BEECHER, while here in Paris, heard the news of the appointment of his friend PEARSON to be continued as Postmaster of New York. Seeing it gratified him he was asked if he had not used his influence with MR. CLEVELAND to effect it? "No," said he, "I have never spoken to Mr. Cleveland about appointments, in fact, have not had two minutes conversation with him since his election." "Won't the appointment help to break up the Democratic party of New York City," he was asked.

"Its already broken up, you might as well mash a plate into many pieces and then have fear of its being broken. The appointment of Pearson was a relief from selecting any one of the different factions." He claims the Independent vote was very large and that Cleveland would have had large majority in New York had Tammany not thrown him over.

April 15, 1885

POST OFFICE

Kentucky gets a bunch of fourth-class Postmasters: W.H. Piper, Hutchison, Bourbon County; Amos D. McKindley, College Hill, Madison County, and half dozen others. May 10, 1885

A MAIL LINE running from Millersburg to Barefoot, in Nicholas county, passing through Headquarters, Salt Well, Barterville and Crayton has been established, beginning Wednesday. All mail for these points will have to go to Millersburg. Robt. Richie has been awarded the contract for carrying the mail, and he will leave Millersburg on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. July 18, 1885

POST OFFICE TALK.—A dispatch from Washington in the Enquirer yesterday says:

"There is a spirited contest over the Paris (Ky.) Postmastership. The term of the present incumbent expires on the 19th inst. Senator Beck and Representative Breckinridge have recommended J.V. LOVELY for the office, while Senator Blackburn is pressing CAPTAIN HUGH HENRY, the City Marshal of Paris. The President will make an appointment in a few days, and most probably in accordance with the recommendation of Senator Blackburn and Mr. Breckinridge, who represents the Congressional district of which Paris is a part."

January 8, 1886

THE LOVELYS, ANDY and JACK, have been through the Post office for some days past, familiarizing themselves with its details, and getting the run of things, preparatory to taking possession.

February 28, 1886

MR. L.V. LOVELY has received his Commission as POSTMASTER and will enter upon his duties today. March 13, 1886

SWORN IN.—J.V. LOVELY has been duly commissioned as Postmaster, took the oath of office and entered upon discharge of his duties, Monday morning. His sureties are C. Alexander, J.T. HINTON and G.G. White, the three being worth in the neighborhood of a million dollars. "It seems like old times," remarked our older compositor, as he set up "J.V. LOVELY, P.M." to the letter list in our paper to lay. "I have put lists to type for Lively under the administrations of FILMORE, PIERCE, BUCHANAN, LINCOLN, and now under CLEVELAND.

March 24, 1886

POST OFFICE

WANTS TO BE POSTMASTER.-O.J. WIGGINS, son-in-law of CHARLTON ALEXANDER, Cashier of Northern Bank is applicant for the Covington Postmastership, the term of the present incumbent expiring Monday next. His opponents are Mrs. H.C. Cleveland, H.J. GAUSEPONI, Mrs. L.C. Ford, C.G. Wallace, Joseph A.Gills, John Leathers and Henry DeGruyter. All here vote for O.J.

April 24, 1886

RESIGNED.-J.V. LOVELY has resigned the position of Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of Bourbon county. This course has been rendered necessary because Mr. Lovely's duties as Postmaster demands all his time and attention, and would conflict with his duties as Chairman. J.T. Hinton, his successor, is a good man for the place.

April 24, 1886

POST OFFICE

Kentuckian Citizen dated February 28, 1890

PUBLIC BUILDING FOR PARIS--A Washington special under date of Feb. 26, says:

"Mr. Beck introduced a bill in the Senate today authorizing the erection of a public building at Paris, Ky., not to exceed in cost for building and site \$100,000. He presented also a petition signed by several hundred of the leading citizens of Paris setting forth needs of a Government building there."

Senator Beck writes to us as follows in regard to the above:

Col J.G. Craddock: --Col. Breckinridge sent over the petition from Paris, which was addressed to him. Mr. Blackburn and myself, requesting us to introduce in the Senate a bill for a Postoffice building at Paris if we thought we could pass it. After consultation, we concluded that the chances were fair, so I had a bill carefully prepared according to a form which the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds have adopted and introduced it along with the petition on yesterday, as you will see by the Record which I enclose. Mr. Blackburn said he would see the different members of the committee personally, and I will also see them myself. We will do our best to pass it at the earliest possible moment. I will send you a copy of the bill prepared as soon as it is printed. We advised Mr. Breckinridge what we had done, and he will look out for it in the House.

Yours truly,

J.H. BECK.

NEW STAMPS--Persons calling at Post office for the purpose of buying stamps are surprised to find the colors changed. During the past week the Post office Department made a change in the color of stamps of nearly every denomination. The new two cent stamp is of a deep carmine, and the one-cent stamp remains a bright blue. 3/5/90

PARIS PUBLIC BUILDING--A special from Washington under date of April 12, 1890 says:

"Mr. Beck's bill for the erection of a \$100,000 building at Paris, Ky., was today reported favorably to the Senate without amendment."

Compiled by Patty M. Biddle

Kentuckain Citizen October 25, 1891

POST OFFICE

NEW POSTAL CARD--The odd postal card, which is so familiar, will soon be superceded by two cards of different size and design. The smaller of the two cards will be on cardboard, 2 1-5 by 4 5-8 in size. A vignette of General Grant as he appeared in younger days, is printed a shade of blue. The large card will be three-fourths of inch wider and an inch longer than the present card.

Kentuckian Citizen dated July 20, 1892

NEW POSTAL CARD The new double postal cards will soon be ready for distribution. They will constitute the only means yet provided for the payment of the international mail service of the return postage to the sender of the communication. They will be issued in the form of a folder, the two sides of which are alike. The sender writes on one side and folds the card, leaving the inside blank for the answer. The cost will be four cents.

PARIS POSTOFFICE MUDDLE.-The Paris Postoffice matter has not yet been settled. A great many protests are being made against Mosley by telegrams and letters. The principal protest is that he has not until recently become a citizen of the town, and that he should not be given the appointment over Republicans who have spent most of their lives here and worked for the party. A petition signed by over 400 citizens protesting against the appointment of Mosley has been forwarded to Washington.

February 12, 1898

CHANGE OF POSTOFFICE OFFICIALS.-Sunday morning Paris Postoffice was given up by retiracy of W.L. Davis, John L. Beasley and assistants taking charge of postal affairs, the assistants being Sherman Stivers, Henry Lilleston, Charley Wilmoth. The new Postmaster is an affable, courteous gentleman, his assistants intelligent and accomodating, and no doubt each of the force will give satisfaction to the public. Mr. Davis retired with a spotless record, and Messrs. Dorsey Ray, Will H. Davis, and Miss Mary Irvine Davis, his efficient assistants, made many friends during his incumbency.

April 18, 1898