THE POST OFFICES OF BOYD COUNTY

On February 16, 1860 Boyd County, Kentucky 107th, was organized from sections of Greenup, Carter, and Lawrence Counties and named for Linn Boyd (1800-1859). Boyd had represented western Kentucky in the U.S. Congress from 1835 to 1837 and 1839 to 1855, the last four years as Speaker of the House, and died just before he was to become Kentucky's lieutenant governor. The county's present 160 square mile area was secured on its inception.

Boyd is a part of a well dissected plateau at the northeastern end of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field. Its historic development as a major industrial and commercial area derived from ample supplies of exploitable coal and iron, but mostly from its strategic location at the confluence of the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers. The county is drained by these streams and their tributaries, notably the East Fork of the Little Sandy River, Hood and Little Hood Creeks, and Keyes and Catletts Creeks (in the Ohio system) and Chadwick, Whites, Lockwood, and Durbin (of the Big Sandy). These and the key East Fork branches of Williams, Shopes, Laurel, Ellington's Bear, Four Mile, and Bolts Fork Creeks figured significantly in Boyd's settlement history. Some 50,600 residents were counted in the 1995 Census revision, a decline of nearly 5,000 from 1980.

Boyd's seat has always been Catlettsburg, at the mouth of the Big Sandy, but the county's and eastern Kentucky's largest town is Ashland, 150 river miles above Cincinnati and 118 road miles east of downtown Lexington. Most of the thirty eight post offices described below will be located by road miles from Ashland's main post office at 12th Street and Carter Avenue.
The first eight of Boyd's offices were established before the county was created.

The first was Catlettsburg. This centered on the four hundred acres granted for French and Indian War service to Charles Smith which he surveyed and on which he built his home in 1774, dying there two years later. In 1798 title to this land was acquired by its first permanent settlers, the Virginians Alexander (Sawney) Catlett and his son Horatio. Horatio opened a tavern here in 1808 and established a post office, probably in the fall of 1810, which he named for his family. The community growing up around both were soon catering to Ohio and Big Sandy River travelers, and by the middle of the century had become northeastern Kentucky's major trade center, a timber and fossil fuel market, and an important steamboat landing. By then it was also known as The Mouth of Sandy and Big Sandy Landing, though its official name remained Catlettsburg.

By 1833 Horatio sold his land to James Wilson, and two years later it was acquired by Wilson's grandson James W. Fry. Part of Fry's holdings—the area between Catletts Creek and Division Street (now 26th Street)—was laid out by him in 1849, and on February 11, 1858 was incorporated as the city of Catlettsburg. It became the seat of Boyd on the county's establishment because, with a population of 1,300, it was then larger than its new neighbor Ashland. On recent topographic maps, this vicinity is identified as Big Sandy Junction.

Horatio's holdings from Division Street south to Peterman (now Ice Dam) Creek, were deeded in 1812 to Charles Riggs and till the 1850s was called the Riggs Tract. This was acquired in 1844 by the Rev. William Hampton who laid it out as a town in 1852 and had it
incorporated by the legislature in February 1870 as Hampton City.

Meanwhile, an area extending for about a mile along the Ohio River below Catletts Creek and also owned by Fry had been deeded to David D. Geiger. By 1860 this had come to be known as the Geiger Addition and, possibly, as Ferripolis for the local ferry landing. Sometime later the lower part of Geiger's land and a stretch of land below that was called Sandy City. It was not until the 1890s that Hampton City and Sandy City became a part of Catlettsburg.

Just north of Sandy City was a community of some 500 residents called Argo or Arigo City [ærəgh/oh] that actually had its own post office. This was established by John A. Bartram on August 6, 1892 as Argo (slightly altered that September to Arigo) and operated, a mile and a half north of the Catlettsburg office, through March 1902.

Catlettsburg's economic viability peaked around 1900 for by then it had become one of the largest hardwood timber markets in the country, receiving shipments from the farthest reaches of the navigable Big Sandy River. Its strategic location also made it a principal port for the transfer of goods between steamboats on the two rivers. In 1910 it had a population of some 5,000, which then began to steadily decline, down to 4,200 by 1910 and 3,400 by 1970. The 1990 Census counted only 2,230 for this fourth class city. In the 1920s, due mostly to neighboring Ashland's expansion up the Ohio, the two towns met at what's now Haney Branch (Ashland's 55th Street).

Several moves in the twentieth century to unite the two towns failed when Catlettsburg residents expressed their fear of losing their identity as well as representation in a combined city council.
If a 1922/3 merger attempt had succeeded, local wags predicted that equal recognition to the two towns might have led to such equally undesirable names as Ashcat or Catash. Similar attempts to combine Ashland and Boyd County (most recently in 1992) have also been unsuccessful.

The future Boyd County's second post office and one of the three that operated entirely before the formation of the county served the Clinton Iron Furnace. This steam-powered furnace was built on Shopes Creek of the Little Sandy River's East Fork for the Poage brothers in 1832 and is believed to have been named for DeWitt Clinton (1769-1828), New York State's progressive governor. It ceased operation sometime before 1867. The local post office, as Clinton Furnace, was established by George Poage on July 27, 1832 and closed in March 1839. Today the residential area in the vicinity of the furnace site a mile east of the junction of US 60 and Ky 538 (six miles ssw of Ashland), is known as Rockdale.

Logan, the second Boyd County office operating only before the county's establishment, began on February 13, 1837 with James and John B. Lampton as its first two postmasters. Its name derivation is not known; nor has it been precisely located. According to Burr's 1839 map, it was five miles southwest of Clinton Furnace, where East Fork was crossed by the road between Catlettsburg and the then community of Little Sandy (or Cross Roads), north of Grayson. But since it was in that part of Greenup County that became Carter County in 1838, and remained there till it closed in March 1846, it was probably just north of the future Mavity.
Sometime before 1830 John Colvin (or Calvin) acquired land on the East Fork just above the mouth of Marsh Run. From August 7, 1839 till December 1840 he operated here the first East Fork post office. On July 11, 1846 Abner Clough opened a second East Fork office on Marsh Run that, on May 27, 1850, was renamed Cannonsburg for another local landowner Jeremiah M. Cannon. Though the office closed in October 1932, the community of Cannonsburg is still a rather substantial suburban village and the site of the Boyd County High School, just south and east of the junction of US 60 and Ky 180, half a mile north of I-64, and eight miles ssw of Ashland.

For most of the nineteenth century the city of Ashland occupied the Ohio River bottom between Hoods and Keys Creeks, an area that is believed to have been settled in the late 1790s by the family of Virginian George Poage, Sr. (1754-1821), and first called Poage's Settlement. The first post office to serve what became the city of Ashland was established on December 23, 1847 in Henry Brown Pollard's store in the vicinity of his steam-powered mill on Hoods Creek. It was called Pollard's Mill and Pollard, George Poage's son-in-law (1810-1851), was its first postmaster.

Meanwhile, some of northeastern Kentucky's furnace operators and other business interests were recognizing the commercial potential of the Poage land. To develop it as a major shipping outlet for their operations they organized in 1853 the Kentucky Iron, Coal, and Manufacturing Company, and the following year acquired some 1500 acres from then proprietor Robert C. Poage. They also convinced the Lexington and Big Sandy Railroad to reroute its Lexington and Catlettsburg line to this site, and hired the L&BS's resident engineer
Martin Tobey Hilton to lay out a town. On April 7, 1854, at the
suggestion of a KIC&M Company official Levi Hampton, the town was
named Ashland for the Lexington estate of his friend and hero Henry
Clay. To some point in the new town, on December 20, 1854, the
Pollard’s Mill post office was moved and also renamed Ashland (with
John N. Richardson, postmaster), and by this name the town was
incorporated on February 23, 1856.

Seemingly unknown to most area historians, a month before the
relocation of the Pollard’s Mill office another post office opened
in the Ohio bottom in the area that had become Ashland. From November
11, 1854 through March 1858, John Means, the twenty three year old
son of Thomas Means, another official of the KIC&M Company, was the
postmaster of what was called LaBelle, on the river, probably at
the foot of the present Thirteenth Street.3 It may be assumed that
Means’ post office referred to the Ohio River’s nickname "LaBelle
Riviere" (the beautiful river) by which the stream was described
by early French explorers as well as mid nineteenth century English-
speaking travelers.

By the turn of the century the city of Ashland had begun to
expand south of the Ohio bottom, up the hill and onto the region
then known as The Flat Woods, including the Pollard, South Ashland,
and Oakview neighborhoods. By the mid 1920s the city had incorporated
this area as well as that section of the Ohio bottom that extended
to Haney Creek and the Catlettsburg line.

Two other once independent post offices served these suburban
neighborhoods before their annexation. About midway between the then
Catlettsburg and Ashland post offices, 200 feet east of Keys Creek
(roughly the present 45th Street), and half a mile south of the river, was the Normal post office. From March 17, 1887 to mid September 1925 it served the community of this name that had grown up around the Eastern Kentucky Normal School in the 4700 block of Winchester Avenue (the site of the present Holiday Inn Express motel.) The school was founded for teacher training in the mid 1870s by Penelope Williams but closed in 1890 after a fire had destroyed its classroom building. Miss Anne Gartrell was the first postmaster. 4

A post office called Unity occupied at least half a dozen sites along a mile stretch of 29th Street between Blackburn Avenue and what was once called Geigers Crossing (the junction of 29th and Belmont). From July 14, 1903 through August 1925, this office served the community of Oakview, now a part of the South Ashland neighborhood, in the vicinity of the Unity Baptist Church for which it was named. John T. Clark was its first postmaster. 5 The Oakview name survives with the elementary school on the corner of Blackburn and High Street.

By the First World War Ashland had become the commercial and industrial center of northeastern Kentucky. But while it was one of Kentucky's fastest growing towns from the 1920s till the early 60s, when its population peaked at some 33,000, it has been on a steady decline ever since, reaching fewer than 24,000 residents in 1990. For the most part this reflected the city's failure to diversify its economy following the loss of jobs with the downsizing of Armco Steel and the decentralization of Ashland Oil, the area's two main industrial employers. In recent years a concerted effort has been made to improve the city's economic climate, and only time will
Another Boyd post office begun while the county was still a part of Greenup was at the Amanda Furnace. The latter was completed in the fall of 1829 on the hill one mile below the present Boyd County line and was named for the infant daughter of co-operator/builder William Lindsey Poage. Amanda Jane Poage (nee May 25, 1828), six months old when the construction of the furnace began, was to marry John Paull Jones of the family that later acquired the furnace from Poage and his partners.

On July 1, 1828 E.R. Hollingsworth opened the Amanda post office. Later Poage himself became postmaster, and in December 1852 that position was assumed by John Russell who, by then, had begun to manage the furnace. The office closed in November 1854 shortly before the transfer of the furnace operation to nearby Bellefonte. In October 1857 the property was acquired by John Paul Walker and others, and the post office was re-established at or near the junction of the present US 23 and Ky 5, in what was to become Boyd County, where it closed for good in August 1862. The Amanda name is preserved in that of a second furnace, built by the Armco Company on the county line, one mile east of the original furnace site.

Grassland was the last of the post offices established before Boyd became a county, but where its first postmaster John J. Kouns located it on August 23, 1858 is not known. It could not have been too far from the homes of his successors William Davis and Madison N. Hensley on the Little Sandy River's East Fork, just below the future Alley post office where, in fact, Volney O. Davis' 1885 Site Location Report located it. Two years later, though, it was moved
by Andrew H. Hogan onto Garner Creek, three-fourths of a mile west of the Fork, and 1 1/2 miles east of the Garner post office which had been established the year before. Here it closed in September 1890.6

Grassland's name source is not known.

The next of Boyd's iron furnaces to generate a post office in its own name was the Sandy Furnace. This shortlived affair was built in 1852-3 some four miles up Bolts Fork (and the present Ky 773) from the Little Sandy's East Fork, and lasted only one year. Its name may have been derived from its owner-operator William M. Patton's Sandy Iron Manufacturing Company which then owned the Pennsylvania Furnace in Greenup County. However, it wasn't for another seven years that the post office of this name was established, on February 12, 1861, with Pleasant Barber, its only postmaster. But it too was shortlived, closing in late February 1863.

This vicinity got a second post office on November 23, 1885 with the establishment, by William L. Green, of the inexplicably named Glendora. In March 1887 Green's successor James E. Leslie moved the office one-quarter of a mile west, but unable to call it either Slick Rock or Sandy Furnace, continued it as Glendora through July 1888. It was re-established, still as Glendora, on April 29, 1890, with John Sizemore, postmaster, and closed in early May 1893.

On December 11, 1893 plans to re-establish the office again, but this time as Ross, were put on hold when postmaster-designate Robert Leslie declined the assignment. It did not re-open till April 24, 1894 but as Mayhew with John D. Mayhew, the first of its two postmasters.7 It closed in January 1910.
Bolts Fork, for at least six miles, drains the southwestern corner of Boyd County and roughly parallels its border with Lawrence County before it joins the Little Sandy's East Fork. It was named for its first known settler, the pioneer Isaac Bolt (1789-1866). On December 14, 1858 Isaac's son Greenville (1814-1880) established a post office he called Bolton just over the Lawrence County line (probably in the vicinity of the Bolt Family Cemetery.) It closed in early November 1861. On April 23, 1863 it was re-opened, also as Bolton, by Greenville's brother John. It was then probably at the mouth of Bolts Fork, several hundred yards within Boyd County. But it lasted only three months.

On January 11, 1867 yet another of Isaac's sons Montraville T. (1816-1899) re-established the post office as Bolt's Fork, also at the mouth of Fork (at the junction of the present Ky 3 and 773, 18½ miles south of Ashland). By the 1890s, when the office became Boltsfork, Greenville's son William D. (1841-1919) was operating grist and saw mills here and running the local store and blacksmith shop while other family members had successful livestock and other businesses. Little survived the closing of the post office in October 1914 and the fire that destroyed the store two years later.8

The brothers John (1836-1899) and David (1840-1923) Lockwood acquired, through their father William (1805-1853), land on the Big Sandy River once owned by their grandfathers Jacob Lockwood and William White. Thereon they built their homes. Somewhere on this land, between Savage Branch and Buchanan, their uncle Jacob Lockwood, Jr. operated the first Lockwood post office from July 20, 1860 to November 1865. When, in 1881, the new Chatteroi Railroad arrived in this area a
station was built on John's holdings, a mile south of the mouth of Lockwood Creek (and thirteen miles south of Ashland), and it too was called Lockwood. On July 15 of that year another post office was established, in the depot, but instead of postmaster-designate John's preference for Lockwood, it was given the inexplicable name Staley. Finally, in May 1892, John was able to use his own name for the post office. Lockwood was discontinued in mid November 1933.

In the last third of the nineteenth century Boyd County's major coal mining activities were centered at a settlement, rail station, and post office appropriately named Coalton. The settlement was established in 1864 around the mines recently acquired on Williams Creek (another branch of Little Sandy's East Fork) by the Means family. By 1867 these mines had begun to supply the family's Ashland furnaces, some twelve miles northeast, by way of the newly completed Lexington and Big Sandy (later the Ashland Coal and Iron Company and the C&O) Railroad. To this site, on March 30, 1865, was moved the post office that had been established some two miles south (in Carter County) as Metcalfe Furnace in 1848 (see above). Benjamin F. Waite was then postmaster, and his office became Coalton. After several vicinity changes in the 1920s the office closed in November 1928. Today, Coalton is a factory town centered at the junction of US 60 and Ky 966, just northeast of an I-64 interchange, and less than a mile from the Carter County line.

Probably at or close to the mouth of Ellington's Bear Creek, another branch of the Little Sandy's East Fork (11½ miles south of Ashland), was the shortlived (May 22, 1882 to June 1883) Cricket post office. Alfred Franklin White was its only postmaster. Whence
its name remains unknown.

This vicinity was served by a second post office between June 9, 1884 and November 1912 which storekeeper and postmaster Charles L. Williams named Mavity [maev/ə/tee] for his grandfather William Fletcher Mavity, an antebellum preacher.¹⁰

The shortlived (April 24 to June 7, 1883) Mock post office was about one mile up Williams Creek and served the rural neighborhood still known by that stream's name. The first name choice of its only postmaster Charles J. Mock was Princess.

On October 31, 1887 the Princess name was more appropriately applied to William Gibson's post office at the Princess Station on the C&O Railroad, 2 ½ miles up the creek from Mock, and just northeast of the junction of the present US 60 and Ky 5. This was named for a shortlived (1877-1878) iron furnace owned by the Means family that, in turn, had been named for a nearby coal mine. The furnace, essentially a transfer of the Buena Vista Furnace, 1 ½ miles west, failed to survive the death of its manager Kennedy R. Culbertson, and was dismantled in September 1883. Its equipment and name were soon moved to a site in Botetourt County, Virginia. The Princess post office, though, was more successful, serving till November 1924 the area between Coalton and Cannonsburg. Princess remains a viable community.

A third post office serving this general area, though briefly, from July 7, 1884 to June 1886, was named for its first postmaster Green Kimbler. It was on the East Fork, just above the mouth of Williams Creek, and may have been at or near the site of Alfred L. May's inexplicably named Whitby post office that operated between
October 8, 1888 and late January 1894. Both offices were about a mile from where the Naples post office would be established in April 1894.

Another post office on Ellington's Bear Creek, at the mouth of Brooks Creek, 15\frac{1}{2} miles south of Ashland, was Culbertson. It operated from June 12, 1883 through November 1916, and was probably named for the district's newly elected Congressman William Wirt Culbertson. Philip Fannin was its first postmaster.11

Jim Wood, another shortlived (January 13, 1885 through February 1888) and little recalled post office served a country store and mills somewhere on Durbin Creek. It may have been named by its only postmaster Ewell M.C.K. Hanley for the then postmaster of Catlettsburg James S. Woods.

A mile up Durbin Creek from the Big Sandy River, and 16\frac{1}{2} miles south of Ashland, was the Durbin post office. This was established on March 5, 1900 with Robert Strother, postmaster, and named, as was the creek, for Amos Durbin, an early settler. It closed in August 1917. It might have been at the site of the earlier Jim Wood post office, or at least served the same area.12

Boyd's shortest lived post office Durney operated for only one month (February 12 to March 11, 1886) at some unknown location in the extreme southern part of the county. W.L. Green was its only postmaster. It is not to be confused with the earlier Durney post office at the mouth of Blaine Creek in Lawrence County. Descendants of John Durney married into families on both sides of the Lawrence County line.13
The Garner post office was established 1 1/2 miles up Garner Creek (of Little Sandy's East Fork) on April 24, 1886 in postmaster Robert Allen Prichard's store. According to Prichard's Site Location Report, it would serve a community then known as Cloverdale. It closed in May 1905. The creek's name source has not been determined. It's thought to have antedated John E. Garner's involvement with Ashland in the 1880s, though no reference to this family name is found in the 1860 and 1870 Boyd County Censuses.

The community of Rush now extends for over a mile on Ky 854 and the east (or Boyd County) side of Williams Creek south from US 60 at Kilgore. Until the Rush post office was established at the mouth of Rush Creek on July 25, 1890, with Henry Artist, postmaster, this was the small village of Geigerville, named for the family of W.L. Geiger who ran the local Geigerville post office on the Carter County side of Rush Creek till its papers were transferred to Kilgore. From March 1893 probably till January 1899 the local post office was again on the Carter County side of the creek. The Rush name, derived from the 3 1/2 mile long Williams Creek branch, was first applied to the station, a few hundred yards north of the creek which, for several years after 1871, was the western terminus of the Lexington and Big Sandy Railroad's Eastern Division and had been established to ship coal from a mine then called Rush Number Five. The post office still serves the Boyd-Carter border country as well as the area around Coalton, nearly three miles northeast.

The popular tradition that the coal boom had brought a rush of people into the community to share in its anticipated prosperity and that's how it got its name is groundless. The stream was so
identified at least by the 1850s for it's mentioned as such in the January 1860 act creating Boyd County. But why the stream got this name is not known. The area had no Rush families in its earliest years.

Four post offices served C&O stations between Princess and Ashland. Two, Herd and McNeal, were established on February 1 and 2, 1900, respectively. Herd, with Albert Addington and William P. Ward, its only postmasters, served Summit Station, just north of the site of the federal prison, and 4 3/4 miles southwest of Ashland. Herd may have been named for a Boyd County family when first name preferences Carmen and Ray were disallowed. Summit identified the local station by the late 1870s and now applies to the suburban community along both sides of Ky 716 between the railroad tracks and US 60.

McNeal, named for the first of its two postmasters, Morris Lee McNeal, served Mead's Station, two miles southwest of Summit Station, through March 1918. The Meads were an early Boyd County family.

The station and post office of Winslow on the west bank of Little Woods Creek, 1 3/4 miles northeast of Summit Station, was probably named for A.S. Winslow of Cincinnati. Winslow, the Means brothers, and several others had bought the bankrupt Eastern Division of the Lexington and Big Sandy Railroad and adjacent coal properties, and organized several companies including the AC&L Railway Company which later became a part of the C&O system. The post office, established by Edward Curtis Jones, operated from August 31, 1901 through March 1905. Winslow now identifies the residential area centering on the Rose Hill Baptist Church and School just within Ashland's southwest city limits.
Hicarbon, the station and post office at the edge of the western Boyd County coal area, was only some 300 yards southwest of Little Sandy's East Fork and a little over one mile northeast of Princess. The post office, with John Foit and Chester R. Towley, postmasters, was the last to be established in Boyd County and operated from February 19, 1918 through March 1919.

Millard F. Alley gave his family's name to the post office he established on East Fork, about half a mile above the mouth of Garner Creek (the junction of the present Ky 3 and 854, 15½ miles south of Ashland), on June 20, 1900. It was discontinued at the end of January 1906.

When James P. Lewis found his preferred name Cherry in use for a Calloway County post office, he named his new office Potomac and set it up on the northwest bank of Whites Creek, some 2½ miles from the Big Sandy River and nine miles south of Catlettsburg. He alone operated it from October 3, 1900 through November 1906. Whence Potomac can only be guessed at.

To serve what, by the turn of the twentieth century, was called Wrights Station on the C&O Railroad, around eleven miles south of Catlettsburg, James P. Rankin opened a post office just south of Prichards Branch of the Big Sandy. Since Wrights was already in use in Letcher County, he called his office Kavanaugh for the nearby Methodist church. The church, in turn, had been named for Bishop Hubbard H. Kavanaugh who, as a young man, in the 1830s, had preached throughout the lower Big Sandy valley. The Kavanaugh post office operated between May 21, 1901 and June 1910. Now the post office and station site is the south end of the two mile long residential
and commercial neighborhood of Burnaugh [ban/aw] along US 23. Burnaugh's name is a combination of Kavanaugh and Burgess, the latter an old C&O station at the mouth of Durbin Creek that had been named for George Roberts Burgess (1813-1900), landowner and local justice of the peace.

Laura Gallion, who lived some two miles up Laurel Creek, another East Fork tributary, ran a post office between July 20, 1903 and June 15 of the following year. Instead of her preferred name Laurel, however, the office was called Sagantum [saeg/h/an/tam], and no one knows why.

Though Greenup County has a sixth class city called Bellefonte, a residential suburb for Ashland's business and professional elite, just over the county line, Boyd County had a post office called Belfonte. Established by Henry Allfonso Pennington, just short of the Greenup line and five miles from Ashland's post office, it closed after only five months. The city, laid out in 1918, and probably the post office were on the site of the old Bellefonte Furnace that was built in 1826 by George Poage and Archibald Paull, and operated till 1893.

Also close to the Greenup County line, probably on or near Strait Creek, was the shortlived (July 19 to October 16, 1911) Woodgrove post office. According to the Site Location Report of its only postmaster Thomas G. Creech it would serve a community then known as Woodland, three miles west of Coalton, four miles northwest of Kilgore, and four miles east of Hunniewell. Boyd County historians are not familiar with this place or its name.
Of Boyd's thirty eight post offices, three (Ashland, Catlettsburg, and Rush) are still in operation. The first two serve the county's only currently incorporated communities. Eight other offices were the center of once viable villages. Several extant suburban villages, west and southwest of Ashland (Westwood, Fairview, Millseat, Upper Milseat, and Ironville), have been served by Ashland's post office. Five once independent post offices were within the present corporate bounds of Catlettsburg (Arigo) and Ashland (Pollards Mill, LaBelle, Normal, and Unity.)

Fifteen Boyd post offices were named for local or county residents. One was named for a distant place, while to seven were transferred the names or nicknames of nearby features (four streams, two churches, and a school). Local industries (five iron furnaces and a coal mine) gave their names to six offices. Nine name derivations have not been learned. Two offices have not been precisely located.

At least six offices were not given the names that were first proposed for them. Eight served communities with other names. Three offices had name-changes during the course of their operation.

FOOTNOTES
1. Since Cannonsburg was applied to the post office in 1850 and may earlier have identified its local community, there is obviously nothing to the popular accounts tying the name to Civil War artillery.
2. The exact year of Ashland's settlement is not known; nor can we be certain of the identity of the particular Poages who settled
it. It is now generally accepted that by the late 1780s George Poage and his brother Robert and the latter's sons John and Alan built their homes on the river some four miles below the mouth of the Big Sandy (i.e. around the foot of the present 28th Street). But it was not until 1799, following the resolution of conflicting land claims, that they actually came to occupy them.

3. John Means (1831-1910) is said to have negotiated, for the KIC&M Company, the sale of the Poage land in 1854 while he was living in Catlettsburg. By 1856 he had completed and soon moved into his new home at what is now 1420 Bath Avenue, Ashland. From 1865 to 1890 he was president of the KIC&M Company, and was Ashland's mayor in 1881-82.

4. In the late 1860s and early 1870s the area that became Normal was part of the town called East Ashland.

5. The church had been organized as the Union Baptist Church in 1837 by John Young, etal. at the corner of Blackburn and Summit Street, in an area that may then have been called Rolling Green. In 1864 it was moved to the corner of Blackburn and Oakland Road, and was later rebuilt at its present location on 29th Street, near Blackburn.

6. It is doubtful that the Grassland post office was ever in the vicinity of the school or church of that name on Ellington's Bear Creek, between Mavity and Culbertson.

7. John D. Mayhew, ne 1856, was the son of William C. Mayhew (1832-1890), who lived near Grassland-Alley. Slick Rock and Ross were preserved in the names of a local school and church, respectively.
Belle W. Ross was Mayhew's second postmaster.

8. Yet another Bolts Fork post office operated for some years at an as yet unknown location in Lawrence County. This had been established by another Bolt, Alfred, in 1842 as Bolts', probably in that section of Carter County that later became Boyd. By November 1846, however, it had moved to Lawrence County, and was later moved again and/or renamed Riffe's Cross Roads and then Riffe before it closed for good in 1891.


10. Mavity, the son of John Mavity, a Virginian, was born in 1804 and, just before the Civil War, moved to Knox County, Indiana where he died in the late 1860s.

11. William Wirt Culbertson (1835-1911) and his brother Kennedy were partners of Thomas W. Means at the Buena Vista and Princess Furnaces. William served as Ashland's mayor in 1882-83 and was in the U.S. Congress from 1883 to 1885. Incidentally, the curiously named Ellington's Bear Creek probably honored one Pleasant Ellington, a famed bear hunter, who had come to this area from North Carolina around 1800.

12. Amos Durbin, like Jacob Lockwood, Sr., was a son-in-law of David White, the first known resident-proprietor of southeast Boyd County.

13. Nancy Margaret Durney was the wife of Montraville T. Bolt's son Isaac Marion.
REFERENCES

1. A History of Ashland, Kentucky, 1786 to 1954, published by the Ashland Centennial Committee for the Celebration of its Centennial, October 1954

2. Ely, William, The Big Sandy Valley, Catlettsburg, 1887

3. History and Program Commemorating the Founding of the City of Catlettsburg, Kentucky, Catlettsburg Centennial, 1949

4. Jackson, Evelyn S. of Ashland, Ky., letters to the writer, March 1 and September 19, 1972

5. Ibid. interviewed by the writer on March 1, 1972, October 7, 1973, and May 6 and 9, 1977


9. 'Poage's Landing' or 'Poage's Settlement', Now the City of Ashland, Boyd County, Kentucky, unsigned and undated manuscript in the vertical files, Winder Collection, Ashland Public Library


12. United States Post Office Department: Site Location Reports --Boyd Co. Kentucky Post Offices, National Archives (Washington, DC)

1. AMANDA- (in Greenup Co.)
   Est. 12/1/1810, Horatio Cattell; 4/23/1819, Peter Cattell; 6/1/20, Horatio Cattell

2. CATLETTSBURGH- (in Greenup Co.)
   1/12/1832, H. Catlett; 6/3/1839, Joseph Ewing;.... 9/9/1856, Morris Wellman,.... 7/10/1860, Wm. Knostman (by now in Boyd Co.); 10/8/1866, Thomas J. Ewing.... 9/19/1889, John A. Burns; name changed to Catlettsburg, on or before 6/19/1893, John J. Montague; 1/14/1898, John F. Jones....

3. CANNONSBURG- started as East Fork in Greenup Co. 7/11/1846, Abner Clough; 5/1/1848, Silas Woodward; name changed to Cannonsburg, 5/27/1850, Wm. L. Geiger; Disc. 12/5/1865; Re-est. 1/11/1867, James Marks; (into Boyd Co.); 9/6/1867, Alexander Johnson; 7/14/1873, Henry A. Geiger.... 6/20, 1841
   (An East Fork p.o. was est. in Greenup Co. in 8/7/1839 with John Colvin as postmaster; Disc. 12/11/1840?; The East-Fork-Cannonsburg p.o. may have been a re-establishment of this?


5. METCALFE FURNACE- (in Carter Co.) 1/24/1848, Samuel P. Williams; changed to Star Furnace, 7/24/1850, Samuel P. Williams; 8/23/1859, Robert W. Lampton; changed to Coalton, 3/30/1865, Benjamin F. Waite; 5/28/1867, Thomas Meredith (by this time it was in Boyd Co.); 1/25/1859, Gaylord B. Norton.... 4/6/1906, James A. Fitch; Disc. 12/6/1906 (mail to Princess), order rescinded, 1/2/1907; 1/29/1910, Frank H. Cleere.... 4/13/1928, Voyl L. Adkins, acting; Disc. 10/19/1928, effective 11/15/1928 (mail to Rush);
BOYD COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (2)

6. GRASS LAND— (in Carter Co.) 8/23/1858, John J. Kouns; (shortly thereafter "moved" to Boyd Co.); 8/15/1861, Wm. Davis; Disc. 1/30/1862; Re-est. 8/28/1862, Madison M. Hensley; Disc. 2/28/1863; Re-est. 6/11/1875, M.M. Hensley; 11/9/1875, Aaron Davis. 5/14/1890, Wyatt L. Clay; Disc. 9/19/1890 (papers to Garner);

7. DUNDEY FURNACE— 2/12/1861, Pleasant Barber; Disc. 7/16/1861; Re-est. 9/11/1861, Pleasant Barber; Disc. 2/28/1863;

8. BOLTON— 4/22/1863, John W. Bolt; Disc. 7/21/1863;

9. BOLTS FORK— 1/11/1867, Monteville L. Bolt; Disc. 2/14/1871; Re-est. 9/19/1871, Charles N. Prichard; 3/1/1875, Wm. G. Bolt... (other Bolts were postmasters...); 12/5/1892, Henry J. Riffe; changed to Boltfork, 2/8/1895 (on or before this date), J. Allen Prichard; 10/25/1900, Wm. Ross... 2/7/1908, Wm. N. Burton; Disc. 10/31/1914 (mail to Rush);

10. STALEY— 7/15/1881, John Lockwood; changed to Lockwood, 5/21/1892, John Lockwood; 4/20/1899, Frank Lockwood; 8/1/1916, James L. Clay; Disc. 2/15/1921 (mail to Catlettsburg); Re-est. 5/26/1925, Wm. E. Van Horn; 12/8/1927, Thomas G. Clay.

11. CRICKET— 5/22/1882, Alfred F. White; Disc. 6/11/1883 (papers to Cannonsburgh);

12. MOCK— 4/24/1883, Charles J. Nock; Disc. 6/7/1887 (papers to Coalton);

13. CULBERTSON— 6/12/1883, Philip G. Fannin; 6/19/1883, Phillip (sic) S. Fannin... 12/28/1888, Phillip S. Fannin... 7/12/1911, Wm. H. Miller... 11/23/1915, Belva D. Fannin; Disc. 11/30/1916 (mail to Rush);

14. MAVITY— 6/9/1884, Charles L. Williams; 11/20/1889, George W. Ross... 12/13/1911, Roscoe G. Brown; Disc. 11/15/1912 (mail to Catlettsburg)
BOYD COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (3)

15. KIMBLER- 7/7/1884, Green Kimbler; 8/1/1994, Andrew J. May; 10/1/1884, O.W. Steete (sic); Disc. (no papers sent) 6/19/1886;

16. JIM WOOD- 1/13/1885, Ewell M.C.K. Handley; Disc. (papers to Staley), 2/29/18?

17. GLENDORA- 11/23/1885, Wm. L. Green; 3/4/1887, James E. Leslie; 7/6/1888, Robert C. Ross; Disc. (papers to Bolts Fork), 8/1/1888; Re-est. 4/29/1890, John Sizemore; 12/2/1891, George J. Justus; Disc. 5/5/1893 (no papers sent);

18. DURNEY- 2/12/1886, W.L. Green; Disc. (papers to Bolts Fork), 3/11/1886;

19. GARNER- 4/24/1886, Robert A. Prichard; 2/19/1887, Samantha M. Finley... 10/27/1893, Robert A. Prichard; Disc. 5/2/1905, effective 5/31/1905 (mail to Rush);

20. NORMAL- 3/17/1887, Miss Anna Gartrell; 1/28/1892, Isaac E. Francis... 3/17/1922, acting, 4/4/1922, Ernest H. Scott; Disc. effective 9/5/1925 (mail to Ashland);

21. PRINCESS- 10/31/1887, Wm. Gibson; 11/15/1887, Louis T. Hood... 5/5/1921, Norman M. Graber; Disc. 11/15/1924 (mail to Ashland);

22. WHITBY- 10/8/1888, Alfred L. May; 4/2/1890, James M. Robinson... 4/24/1891, Alfred L. May; Disc. 11/15/1893 (papers to Princess); Discontinuance rescednd 11/24/1893; Disc. 1/25/1894 (with papers to Princess);

23. RUSH- 7/25/1890, Henry Artist; 9/5/1893, Charles Lusk; (into Carter Co. 10/25/1893; soon afterwards, but date unknown, returned to Boyd Co.); 1/23/1899, Jacob F. Burton; 1/14/1903, Grant F. Castner;
BOYD COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (4)

24. ARGO- 8/6/1892, John A. Bartram (sic); order of establishment and appointment rescinded 8/26/1892; Re-est. as Arigo (sic-?), 9/22/1892, John A. Bartram; 2/8/1895, Fred C. Mitchell; 5/26/1898, Clifford Burns; Disc. 3/8/1902, effective 3/31/1902 (papers to Catlettsburg);

25. MAYHEW- 12/11/1893, Robert Leslie, declined; 4/24/1894, John D. Mayhew; 6/29/1895, Belle Ross; Disc. 1/15/1910 (mail to Rush);

26. NAPLES- 4/4/1894, Anderson Wilson; 12/26/1902, Wm. Miller... 9/14/1921, Charles L. Kirk; Disc. 1/21/1929, effective 1/31/1929 (mail to Ashland); Re-est. in Greenup co. Disc. 1957; rural std. to 1927

27. HERD- 2/1/1900, Albert U. Addington; 4/9/1902, James F. Hutchinson, order of appointment rescinded 9/5/1902; 4/27/1903, Wm. P. Ward; Disc. 4/23/1906, effective 6/15/1906 (mail to Ashland);

28. MCNEAL- 2/2/1900, Morris L. McNeal; 4/17/1901, Ella McPhillips; Disc. 3/30/1918 (mail to Princess);

29. DURBIN- 3/5/1900, Robert Strother; 2/21/1916, Joseph Ross; Disc. 8/31/1917 (mail to Buchanan);

30. ALLEY- 6/20/1900, Millard F. Alley; 4/7/1903, Wm. Morgan; Disc. 1/6/1906, effective 1/31/1906, (mail to Bolts Fork);

31. POTOMAC- 10/3/1900, James P. Lewis; Disc. 10/19/1906, eff. 11/30/1906 (mail to Catlettsburg);

32. KAVANAUGH- 5/21/1901, James P. Rankin; 7/12/1905, Martin V. Ward; 11/25/1905, Russel (sic) V. Thompson; Disc. 6/15/1910 (mail to Lockwood);

33. (LOCKWOOD) WINSLOW- 8/31/1901, Edward C. Jones; 8/20/1902, Sam T. Crawford, rescinded 10/3/1902; 4/25/1903, Emet (sic) L. Lambert; Disc. 2/27/1905 (mail to Ashland), effective 3/31/1905;
BOYD COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (5)

34. UNITY- 7/14/1903, John T. Clark; 6/19/1907, Wm. A. Cleve ... 10/31/1924, acting, 2/26/1925, Mrs. Fay P. Stewart; Disc. effective 8/31/1925 (mail to Ashland);

35. SAGANTUM- 7/20/1903, Laura Gallion; Disc. 7/7/1904, eff. 7/15/1904 (mail to Catlettsburg);

36. BELFONTE- 1/11/1904, Henry A. Pennington; Disc. 5/28/1904 effective 6/15/1904, (mail to Ashland);

37. WOODGROVE- 7/19/1911, Thomas G. Creech; Disc. 10/16/1911 (mail to Coalton);

38. HIGARBON- 2/19/1918, John Poit; 6/15/1918, Chester R. Towler; Disc. 3/31/1919 (mail to Princess);