The Post Offices of Caldwell County, Kentucky

Caldwell County's 347 square miles (with an estimated 13,500 residents) are located in the western part of Kentucky, halfway between the city of Hopkinsville and the Ohio River. Its more or less centrally located seat, Princeton, is on US 62 and the Western Kentucky Parkway, 130 air miles sw of downtown Louisville and roughly fifty miles due east of Paducah. The county is drained by the branches of the Tradewater River, which forms over half of its eastern boundary, and those of Livingston and Eddy Creeks in the Cumberland River system to the west.

The fifty first of Kentucky's 120 counties, Caldwell was created by the state legislature in 1809 from the southern part of Livingston County. It was named for John Caldwell, a veteran of George Rogers Clark's Indian campaign of 1786, who later figured prominently in the Kentucky statehood conventions at Danville (1787-8), served in the State Senate from 1792-96, and was for a few months until his death in 1804, Kentucky's lieutenant governor.

As with that of many of Kentucky's older counties, Caldwell's territory was much larger than it is now. It once included, with the so-called "Jackson Purchase of 1818", its present area plus all the land between the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers. From its original area and sections of adjacent Livingston and Christian Counties, ten additional counties were taken, including Trigg in 1820, Hickman in 1821, and Lyon in 1854. From Hickman County, which comprised all of the "Jackson Purchase" territory, seven other counties were created between 1822 and 1886.
This article will consider only the thirty-five post offices located within Caldwell County's present boundaries.

The first post office in what was to become Caldwell County may have been established in 1803 as Big Eddy Grove. As Eddy Grove it was certainly in operation by Oct. of 1805 with Elisha Prince as postmaster. Though its precise location is not known, the name suggests that it was in that rather sizeable, thickly wooded section of the barrens north of Eddy Creek for which it was named. By 1812 the office had removed to Elijah Galusha's store at or near the source of Eddy Creek in a natural limestone spring where South Carolina-born, Revolutionary War veteran William Prince (1752-1810) had built his home in 1797/8. In 1817 Capt. Prince's heirs donated forty acres of his 1,700 acre war service grant for the relocation of the county's seat from Eddyville, a dozen miles downstream. A town was laid off and called Princetown, probably for the family. By the end of 1817 the name had been shortened to Princeton, and in December the post office too took this name. Princeton, now a fourth class city of some 7,000 residents, has only one of the two extant post offices in the county.

The county's second post office was on Eddy Creek, less than a mile from the Lyon County line, and some 6½ miles ssw of downtown Princeton. On Nov. 24, 1828, Asbury Harpending's Millville post office was established to serve his 1,084 acre plantation and its saw and grist mill operation for which it was named. This office closed in March 1842.
On July 18, 1901 James F. Brown established a post office at the junction of the present Ky. 903 and 515, a short distance east of Harpending's plantation, and named it, inexplicably, Remit [R8/miht]. In March 1916 he removed it to a site close to the old Millville location where two springs of crystal clear water flow from a large limestone bluff into Eddy Creek. He aptly renamed his office Twin Springs.

Caldwell's third post office, White's Mill, also served a mill, probably the first water-powered mill on the Tradewater River. It is believed to have been about where US 62 crosses the river, opposite the city of Dawson Springs (in Hopkins County). The mill, which may have been built in 1818, had several names and several owners until it was acquired by Benjamin White. Jabez White, a later owner, established the local post office on Jan. 28, 1832. The mill survived the office, which closed in Jan. 1841, assuming other names for still other owners until it passed into historical oblivion.

Caldwell County's only other incorporated town and active post office is Fredonia, at the junction of US 641 and Ky 70/90, 12½ miles NW of downtown Princeton. The town, with a current estimated population of 765, is said to have been laid out in 1836 by Harvey W. Bigham. In July of that year, Samuel Rorer, the local storekeeper, established the local post office. According to tradition, Bigham's wife had just given birth to the community's first child. He told the committee formed to find a name for the post office and town that if they were named Fredonia he would give that name to his child as well. This was done.
 Soon after the Ohio Valley (later Illinois Central) Railroad reached the vicinity in 1887, a nearby community, that may have then been known as South Fredonia, was laid out by S.H. Cassidy. It was formally named Kelsey for Capt. P.G. Kelsey, the railroad's president, and the local post office, established on Dec. 9, 1889 as Fredonia Depot, was renamed Kelsey the following February. Until 1906 the Fredonia and Kelsey post offices served these two communities, less than half a mile apart, until the Post Office Department closed Fredonia and gave its name to the Kelsey office. Over time, the communities merged, and now the Kelsey name is all but forgotten.3

On the Illinois Central Railroad and Ky. 91, seven miles nw of downtown Princeton, is the hamlet of Crider. It can be traced back to an 1830s settlement named Walnut Grove for the home of William D. Tinsley, a large land and slave owner. A post office in this name, established on August 4, 1841 (with William D. Miller as the first postmaster), operated intermittently until Dec. 1874. The community's development came with the Ohio Valley (Illinois Central) Railroad in the 1880s. The post office was re-established on Jan. 20, 1888 and named Crider for Z(achariah) J(ohnson) Crider who had purchased Tinsley's property in 1867 and set himself up in milling, tobacco, mercantile and other local businesses. By 1900 the community had become one of the county's main trade and processing centers. The post office closed in 1954.
The extinct hamlet, Ohio Valley (Illinois Central) Railroad station, and post office of Otter Pond, on Ky. 128, 7½ miles SE of downtown Princeton, was once known as Long Pond. Its name source was a twenty acre lake, ½ mile south, that was probably named for its earlier shape. The local Long Pond post office operated from 1846 to 1871. It was re-established on April 19, 1888 as Godwin (an inadvertent misspelling of the pioneer Goodwin family's name) but was renamed that June for the otters inhabiting the pond. It closed in 1941.

Pioneer settler (ca. 1810) Frederick Farmer's name was given to the crossroads hamlet of Farmersville several years before the establishment of its post office on May 1, 1850 by William W. Throckmorton, the local storekeeper and the community's probable founder. The office operated intermittently through Nov. 1910. Only a grocery and the old Donaldson Baptist Church (established in 1823) remain on Ky. 139, 7½ miles north of downtown Princeton.

Nothing remains of the antebellum settlement and post office of Pollards Tanyard, imprecisely located just east of the present Ky. 672, about midway between Cobb and Ky. 91, and about 10½ miles SE of Princeton. It was named for the many local Pollards, descendants of Reuben Pollard, or specifically for his son, Wilson L. (1803-1889) who had the tanyard. The post office, established by Azariah Rice, operated from Dec. 17, 1852 to August 18, 1864.

Another extinct hamlet with a shortlived post office in southern Caldwell County was Burnsville, ¾ of a mile west of the junction of Ky. 672 and 126, and 10½ miles SE of Princeton. This was just west of Burns Creek, for which it was named, but the name of this
4½ mile long stream which joins Millwood Creek near here to form Kenady Creek, remains a mystery. It was undoubtedly imported for no Burns families are mentioned in early county censuses. The post office operated from Sept. 29, 1857 to April 15, 1863 with only one postmaster, the local storekeeper William G. Groom. 4

Friendship was the inexplicable but probably approbative name given to Elisha Williams' well stocked country store on or close to the present Ky. 91, 7½ miles se of Princeton. This was near the site of the locally celebrated Civil War Battle of Grubbs Crossroads (August 9, 1864) from which nearby Battle Creek derived its name. On Nov. 26, 1869 Williams opened a post office in his store and gave it the Friendship name. It closed in Dec. 1905.

One of the four late nineteenth century post offices serving the northern part of the county was Creswell. This post office was established less than ½ mile west of the junction of present Ky. 139 and 202 on July 14, 1871, with William Jones as the first postmaster, and operated until Sept. 1905. In recent years the hamlet that still bears this name has centered at a store and filling station at the crossroads, 12½ miles north of Princeton. Whence the Creswell name is unknown. No families of Creswell are mentioned in any county censuses.

The three other north Caldwell post offices were Rufus, Enon, and Quinn.

Rufus was about 1½ miles se of the junction of Ky. 70 and 139, 9½ miles north of Princeton. Some say it was named for residents Rufus Sigler or Rufus Baker; others attributed it to Rufus L. Harper, the first postmaster. The office operated from Feb. 28, 1881 to April 15, 1905.
The Enon post office served Caldwell County's other Walnut Grove community, less than 1½ miles from the Crittenden County line and 15½ miles nrm of Princeton. The post office was established on June 6, 1888 with William T. Perry, the first postmaster. For most or all of its existence, it was operated in the Browns' store during which time the community and its school were called Enon. With the closing of the post office in May, 1905, the community assumed the name Walnut Grove for the local Missionary Baptist church (which alone of the local institutions survives). The church, constituted in 1876, had been named for the many local walnut trees.

Enon is a popular American variant spelling of the Biblical Aenon (literally "full of springs"), the scene of the baptisms performed by John the Baptist. In the case of its application to the Caldwell County post office, it probably referred to the many springs in that area.

The Quinn post office's two sites were nearly three miles apart. This office was established on July 8, 1893 by, and named for, James B. (Buck) Quinn, its first postmaster. Quinn, said to have been a timberman from Henderson County, Ky., arrived in the Donaldson Creek section of Caldwell County and opened the post office and a store in his home ½ mile north of the creek. By 1900 the local school (now extinct) and church (active) had also taken his name. In 1909 postmaster Edward Barnes moved the post office to a store at the junction of the present Ky. 70 and 293 (twelve miles nme of Princeton) that he had bought the year before. The office retained the Quinn name until it closed in 1913.
For years the community at this second post office site has been called Fryer and, at time, (The) Hall. Fryer honored a large local landowning family whose progenitor may have been Reason Fryer (1784-1856). The Hall referred to a two story building called The Masonic Hall, which housed the local school and a Masonic Lodge.

The post office of Scottsburgh was established by Joseph H. Miller on July 22, 1872. It was close to a stage stop on the Ohio River-Hopkinsville run (now Ky. 91), a little over four miles of Princeton, that may also have borne the name of pioneer Stallard Scott (1790-1858) and his wife Nancy. In 1871 Stallard's sons, Aaron and Marquess LaFayette Scott, deeded to the Elizabethtown and Paducah (Illinois Central) Railroad land for its local station. The post office became Scottsburg in 1894. With the closing of the post office in 1917 and the relocation of the railroad tracks and depot several months later, the once thriving Scottsburg community declined, and today only a grocery store and leather shop serve the few remaining local families.

One of the oldest settlements in the county was the once incorporated town of Dulaney [Du/-læ/ni], 4 mile from the Lyon County line and less than a mile south of the Western Kentucky Parkway. On Dec. 2, 1872, when the Elizabethtown and Paducah (later Illinois Central) Railroad was built through to Princeton, 5½ (railroad) miles east, a passenger and freight depot was erected here and James W. McKinney established the Dulaney Post Office. It was probably named for Henry F. Delaney (the family's spelling), a Virginia-born attorney and Presbyterian minister, who served as Caldwell's first county clerk.
and later as its state representative. The town declined rapidly following the closing of the depot and post office in 1935 and only a few scattered homes remain.

From Dec. 26, 1876 to Oct. 1892 a post office called **Sims Store** operated on the present Ky. 126, just south of Otter Pond and 8½ miles sse of Princeton. The store may have been owned by Lawrence B(ryant) Sims (ne 1822) whose neighbor, Richard S. Pool, was the first postmaster.

On Feb. 12, 1885 Louis A. Hopson established the post office of **Hopson** at his family's store at the junction of Ky. 139 and 154, nine miles south of Princeton. He named it for his pioneer family, probably for its progenitor, North Carolina-born John Addison Hopson. It closed in 1907.

Two post offices served **Claxton**, once a rather sizeable community on the Illinois Central Railroad between Princeton and Dawson City. The community was founded in the 1870s by the Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad (which later became a part of the Illinois Central System) close to the Standing Rock, a sixty foot high boulder nearly nine miles east of Princeton. Here the railroad built its station, the homes and stores for its section crews, and the post office it called **Claxton** for the family that owned the site (perhaps that of Tennessee-born Thomas, ne around 1849.) The office opened on May 26, 1886 with John P. Miller, the first postmaster.

In 1917/8, to avoid the constant flooding of nearby Montgomery Creek, the tracks were rerouted a short distance north and the community and its post office were moved about 1½ miles west, where the post office and store continued to operate until 1952. The track bed was converted to what's now a paved road between Scottsburg and the old site.
The second post office, inexplicably called Ruth, operated from Dec. 20, 1898 through May 1905 with only one postmaster, John T. Morgan, about where the road bed joins the rerouted tracks, very close to the original depot.

The hamlet of Cobb, on Ky. 672, 0.2 of a mile north of Ky. 128 and 11 ½ miles se of Princeton, is the site of a once prosperous tobacco and trade center, post office, and railroad station. The station was on the Ohio Valley (now Illinois Central) Railroad that had been built between Princeton and Clarksville, Tennessee in the late 1880s. It was named for either an influential Lyon Co. family or the railroad's superintendent. The post office was established on Dec. 12, 1887 by Lawrence B. Sims, the Sims Store proprietor, and was called Glen Allen, probably for a local family. Two months later the name was changed to Cebb, a clerical error that was shortly corrected. This office was the most recent in the county to close, in 1973.

The McGowan Post Office served the vicinity around McGowan's Station, a flag stop on the Ohio Valley Railroad, five miles se of Princeton. The office, established on May 19, 1890 (with R.A. Draper, the first postmaster) and the station were named for the McGowan family, perhaps specifically for William O. McGowan who had a nearby tobacco factory and ran the post office from 1896 until it closed in 1912.

From Oct. 31, 1893 to the end of April, 1923, Rebecha (sic) A. Davis maintained a post office called Curry, one mile east of Ky. 672 and ten miles ese of Princeton. It is said to have been named for Reubin Curry (ne ca. 1810), a prominent nineteenth century area farmer and stockman.
On March 11, 1901 Ed(ward) J.) Egbert, the local storekeeper, established a post office some six miles east of Princeton (between the present US 62 and the Western Kentucky Parkway) and named it for himself. The following September the Egbert Post Office was renamed Lewistown for pioneer John Lewis who had settled in that vicinity before 1800. The community grew up around an early church to which Lewis had donated some land. The post office was discontinued in Oct. 1906. Egbert was its only postmaster.

The community now called Cedar Bluff on Ky. 91, 2½ miles southeast of Princeton, once had a post office known as O'Hara. It was probably named for the famed nineteenth century O'Hara Tavern on the highway and for the family of L.C. O'Hara which once owned most of the land between Goose Creek and Princeton. The post office, which operated from June 20, 1902 to August 31, 1906 (with only one postmaster, Patton P. Lamb) served the Cedar Bluff Stone Co. which had been established in 1870 to mine the limestone deposits on the cedar-covered hill to the north. For over a century, under several ownerships and names, this quarry operation has been one of the chief suppliers of crushed stone for structural foundations and road pavements in the southeast. The community, called Cedar Bluff at least by the turn of the century, grew up around the quarry company store and the post office. The quarry is today owned and operated by the Koppers Corporation of Pittsburgh, Pa. and does business as the Kentucky Stone Company.

One of Kentucky's twenty Needmores was a post office established on Oct. 29, 1925 in the Nichols crossroads store on Ky. 293, eight miles north of Princeton. This office, since closed, was the last to
be started in the county. It served the neighborhood today loosely identified as Liberty Church for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (organized in 1853) on the highway, less than half a mile north of the crossroads.

Clausine Baker in his 1936 county history gave this account of the Needmore name's origin: "Mr. Bill Seeley was running a store and an old man came in and...asked 'what is the name of the store?' And the reply was: 'I havent named it.' The old man looked around and said, 'Needmore, and you need more in your store.' This is how the place got its name."

A short lived (July 31, 1905 to Dec. 31, 1909) post office called Peach with only one postmaster, James R. Kenneday, was located where the E.D. Jones Rd. joins Ky. 293, nearly two miles south of Needmore. The origin of this name is not known.

Five shortlived nineteenth century Caldwell County post offices have never been located.

Granger which William Ford (only) operated from June 14, 1832 to Jan. 15, 1834 and Tobacco Port, established on July 5, 1839 with postmaster, Archeleus W. Franklin, may have been in what became Lyon Co. in 1854. The origin of the Granger name remains a mystery for there are no records of a Granger or similarly named family in the county in its first forty years.

Tobacco Port may have been aptly named and may refer to a location on the Tradewater River or the Cumberland River (which would put it in the future Lyon Co.) On August 16, 1842 it was renamed Wythe, for reasons unknown, and closed in April 1847.
Withersville, established on August 21, 1860 by Laton W. Jones, was probably named for Littlebury Withers, then Princeton's postmaster. In June 1862 Thomas E. Young had it renamed Union Springs, and it closed at the end of July 1863.

The Letonia post office was established by Albert B. Conway, its only postmaster, on May 14, 1894 somewhere in the southwest part of the county for when it closed in Nov. 1895 its papers were transferred to the se Lyon County post office of Lamasco.

The post office of Maxwell (from Oct. 21, 1884 through Nov. 1885 with Peter O. Harralson, the only postmaster) honored an early Caldwell County family that had first settled on Livingston Creek in the nw section of the county but had later moved to the Fredonia Valley north of Crider. W.P. Maxwell was a prominent Princeton merchant in the 1880s.

The Pricetown post office, established on Feb. 4, 1925 with Rupert C. Neddle, the first postmaster, and since closed, has also not been located. It was named for a local family, perhaps that of Edgar Price who served as postmaster from April 1926 through 1928.

Of Caldwell County's thirty five operational post offices, only thirteen were focal points of settlements with definable boundaries and concentrated populations. Two of these--Princeton and Fredonia, the only two offices that are extant--still serve incorporated communities. Twenty post offices, associated with local stores and/or railroad stations, served the farm families of their areas. Most of the offices were discontinued when local business no longer justified the expense of maintaining them.
Twenty two offices were named for local persons or families, five referred to geographic or manmade features or conditions in their vicinity, and one had a Biblical origin. The derivations of seven others have not yet been determined. Six have never been precisely located.

Two post offices--Flinns Fork and Rogers--were established but never in operation. The first was authorized in Sept. 1816 with J.B. Pemberton, postmaster-designate, and named for its site on Flynns Fork, a major Tradewater tributary. The other was established in June 1899 at an as yet undetermined location, but the order for William A. Rogers, probably its name source, to assume charge was rescinded shortly thereafter.

[Note: The distances given for the post offices in this article are road miles from Princeton's court house in the center of town. Through recent annexations that are likely to continue, the city's boundaries have changed too much to justify determining distance from them.]

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Footnotes

1. The traditional pronunciation of this name "Ka/wehl" by many of the county's oldtimers has surprised and confused others in the state and nation expecting it to be compatible with the spelling.

2. The Jackson Purchase is the name collectively applied to Kentucky's westernmost region, an area of roughly 2,400 square miles in the eight counties lying between the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers. It
derives from the 1818 treaty by which General Andrew Jackson and Kentucky’s former Governor Isaac Shelby secured this territory from the Chickasaw Indians for a payment of $300,000. The treaty also added some 6,100 square miles and twenty counties to the state of Tennessee.

3. For another interpretation of the name Freddonia as applied to other places in the United States, see Robert M. Rennick, Kentucky Place Names, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984, P. 109

4. Burns Creek, believed to have been the older of two names applied to this stream, was recently designated by the United States Board on Geographic Names to replace Dry Creek, the descriptive name which for years had identified the stream on government maps.

5. This name has long been spelled variously Fryer, Frier, Fryar, Fryer, and Fryers. Fryer is probably correct.

6. Clausine R. Baker, First History of Caldwell County, Ky., 1936, P. 24. The name Needmore has been jokingly or maliciously applied to scores of communities in the American south and midwest that were said to be deficient in economic sustenance or promise. In Kentucky these places usually grew up around country stores which were seldom stocked sufficiently to meet the basic needs of their customers. They needed more of everything.

References

1. Clausine R. Baker, First History of Caldwell County, Ky., 1936
4. Olive S. Eldred and Nancy Beck, Place Names of Caldwell Co., manuscript for the Kentucky Place Name Survey, Sept. 1977
5. Mrs. Katie G. Howard, Cobb, Ky., data on a number of Caldwell Co. post offices and communities in a letter to William G. Steel, Medford, Oreg., May 18, 1925
6. Interview with Mary Grace Pettit, Librarian, George A. Coons Library, Princeton, Ky., August 2, 1977
8. Series of articles on the major Caldwell Co. communities which appeared in the Caldwell County Times, ca. 1960s and early 1970s
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The Enon post office served Caldwell County's other Walnut Grove community, less than 1½ miles from the Crittenden County line and 15½ miles nw of Princeton. The post office was established on June 6, 1888 with William T. Perry, the first postmaster. For most or all of its existence, it was operated in the Browns' store during which time the community and its school were called Enon. With the closing of the post office in May, 1905, the community assumed the name Walnut Grove for the local Missionary Baptist church (which alone of the local institutions survives). The church, constituted in 1876, had been named for the many local walnut trees.

Enon is a popular American variant spelling of the Biblical Aenon (literally "full of springs"), the scene of the baptisms performed by John the Baptist. In the case of its application to the Caldwell County post office, it probably referred to the many springs in that area.

The Quinn post office's two sites were nearly three miles apart. This office was established on July 8, 1893 by, and named for, James B. (Buck) Quinn, its first postmaster. Quinn, said to have been a timberman from Henderson County, Ky., arrived in the Donaldson Creek section of Caldwell County and opened the post office and a store in his home ½ mile north of the creek. By 1900 the local school (now extinct) and church (active) had also taken his name. In 1909 postmaster Edward Barnes moved the post office to a store at the junction of the present Ky. 70 and 293 (twelve miles nw of Princeton) that he had bought the year before. The office retained the Quinn name until it closed in 1913.
For years the community at this second post office site has been called Fryer and, at time, (The) Hall. Fryer honored a large local landowning family whose progenitor may have been Reason Fryer (1784-1856).5 The Hall referred to a two story building called The Masonic Hall, which housed the local school and a Masonic Lodge.

The post office of Scottsburgh was established by Joseph H. Miller on July 22, 1872. It was close to a stage stop on the Ohio River-Hopkinsville run (now Ky. 91), a little over four miles of Princeton, that may also have borne the name of pioneer Stallard Scott (1790-1858) and his wife Nancy. In 1871 Stallard's sons, Aaron and Marquess LaFayette Scott, deeded to the Elizabethtown and Paducah (Illinois Central) Railroad land for its local station. The post office became Scottsburg in 1894. With the closing of the post office in 1917 and the relocation of the railroad tracks and depot several months later, the once thriving Scottsburg community declined, and today only a grocery store and leather shop serve the few remaining local families.

One of the oldest settlements in the county was the once incorporated town of Dulaney [Da/lan/é or Dú/lan/é], ½ mile from the Lyon County line and less than a mile south of the Western Kentucky Parkway. On Dec. 2, 1872, when the Elizabethtown and Paducah (later Illinois Central) Railroad was built through to Princeton, 5½ (railroad) miles east, a passenger and freight depot was erected here and James W. McKinney established the Dulaney Post Office. It was probably named for Henry F. Delaney (the family's spelling), a Virginia-born attorney and Presbyterian minister, who served as Caldwell's first county clerk.
and later as its state representative. The town declined rapidly following the closing of the depot and post office in 1935 and only a few scattered homes remain.

From Dec. 26, 1876 to Oct. 1892 a post office called Sims Store operated on the present Ky. 126, just south of Otter Pond and 8½ miles sse of Princeton. The store may have been owned by Lawrence B(ryant) Sims (ne 1822) whose neighbor, Richard S. Pool, was the first postmaster.

On Feb. 12, 1885 Louis A. Hopson established the post office of Hopson at his family's store at the junction of Ky. 139 and 154, nine miles south of Princeton. He named it for his pioneer family, probably for its progenitor, North Carolina-born John Addison Hopson. It closed in 1907.

Two post offices served Claxton, once a rather sizeable community on the Illinois Central Railroad between Princeton and Dawson City. The community was founded in the 1870s by the Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad (which later became a part of the Illinois Central System) close to the Standing Rock, a sixty foot high boulder nearly nine miles east of Princeton. Here the railroad built its station, the homes and stores for its section crews, and the post office it called Claxton for the family that owned the site (perhaps that of Tennessee-borne Thomas, ne around 1849.) The office opened on May 26, 1886 with John P. Miller, the first postmaster.

In 1917/8, to avoid the constant flooding of nearby Montgomery Creek, the tracks were rerouted a short distance north and the community and its post office were moved about 1½ miles west, where the post office and store continued to operate until 1952. The track bed was converted to what's now a paved road between Scottsburg and the old site.
The second post office, inexplicably called Ruth, operated from Dec. 20, 1898 through May 1905 with only one postmaster, John T. Morgan, about where the road bed joins the rerouted tracks, very close to the original depot.

The hamlet of Cobb, on Ky. 672, 0.2 of a mile north of Ky. 128 and 11½ miles se of Princeton, is the site of a once prosperous tobacco and trade center, post office, and railroad station. The station was on the Ohio Valley (now Illinois Central) Railroad that had been built between Princeton and Clarksville, Tennessee in the late 1880s. It was named for either an influential Lyon Co. family or the railroad's superintendent. The post office was established on Dec. 12, 1887 by Lawrence B. Sims, the Sims Store proprietor, and was called Glen Allen, probably for a local family. Two months later the name was changed to Cebb, a clerical error that was shortly corrected. This office was the most recent in the county to close, in 1973.

The McGowan Post Office served the vicinity around McGowan's Station, a flag stop on the Ohio Valley Railroad, five miles se of Princeton. The office, established on May 19, 1890 (with R.A. Draper, the first postmaster) and the station were named for the McGowan family, perhaps specifically for William O. McGowan who had a nearby tobacco factory and ran the post office from 1896 until it closed in 1912.

From Oct. 31, 1893 to the end of April, 1923, Rebecha (sic) A. Davis maintained a post office called Curry, one mile east of Ky. 672 and ten miles ese of Princeton. It is said to have been named for Reubin Curry (ne ca. 1810), a prominent nineteenth century area farmer and stockman.
On March 11, 1901 Ed(ward) J.) Egbert, the local storekeeper, established a post office some six miles ene of Princeton (between the present US 62 and the Western Kentucky Parkway) and named it for himself. The following September the Egbert Post Office was renamed Lewistown for pioneer John Lewis who had settled in that vicinity before 1800. The community grew up around an early church to which Lewis had donated some land. The post office was discontinued in Oct. 1906. Egbert was its only postmaster.

The community now called Cedar Bluff on Ky. 91, 2½ miles se of Princeton, once had a post office known as O'Hara. It was probably named for the famed nineteenth century O'Hara Tavern on the highway and for the family of L.C. O'Hara which once owned most of the land between Goose Creek and Princeton. The post office, which operated from June 20, 1902 to August 31, 1906 (with only one postmaster, Patton P. Lamb) served the Cedar Bluff Stone Co. which had been established in 1870 to mine the limestone deposits on the cedar-covered hill to the north. For over a century, under several ownerships and names, this quarry operation has been one of the chief suppliers of crushed stone for structural foundations and road pavements in the southeast. The community, called Cedar Bluff at least by the turn of the century, grew up around the quarry company store and the post office. The quarry is today owned and operated by the Koppers Corporation of Pittsburgh, Pa. and does business as the Kentucky Stone Company.

One of Kentucky's twenty Needmores was a post office established on Oct. 29, 1925 in the Nichols crossroads store on Ky. 293, eight miles north of Princeton. This office, since closed, was the last to
be started in the county. It served the neighborhood today loosely identified as Liberty Church for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (organized in 1853) on the highway, less than half a mile north of the crossroads.

Clausine Baker in his 1936 county history gave this account of the Needmore name's origin: "Mr. Bill Seeley was running a store and an old man came in and... asked 'what is the name of the store?' And the reply was: 'I havent named it.' The old man looked around and said, 'Needmore, and you need more in your store.' This is how the place got its name." 116

A short lived (July 31, 1905 to Dec. 31, 1909) post office called Peach with only one postmaster, James R. Kenneday, was located where the E.D. Jones Rd. joins Ky. 293, nearly two miles south of Needmore. The origin of this name is not known.

Five shortlived nineteenth century Caldwell County post offices have never been located.

Granger which William Ford (only) operated from June 14, 1832 to Jan. 15, 1834 and Tobacco Port, established on July 5, 1839 with postmaster, Archeleus W. Franklin, may have been in what became Lyon Co. in 1854. The origin of the Granger name remains a mystery for there are no records of a Granger or similarly named family in the county in its first forty years.

Tobacco Port may have been aptly named and may refer to a location on the Tradewater River or the Cumberland River (which would put it in the future Lyon Co.) On August 16, 1842 it was renamed Wythe, for reasons unknown, and closed in April 1847.
Withersville, established on August 21, 1860 by Lotan W. Jones, was probably named for Littlebury Withers, then Princeton's postmaster. In June 1862 Thomas E. Young had it renamed Union Springs, and it closed at the end of July 1863.

The Letonia post office was established by Albert B. Conway, its only postmaster, on May 14, 1894 somewhere in the southwest part of the county for when it closed in Nov. 1895 its papers were transferred to the se Lyon County post office of Lamasco.

The post office of Maxwell (from Oct. 21, 1884 through Nov. 1885 with Peter O. Harralson, the only postmaster) honored an early Caldwell County family that had first settled on Livingston Creek in the nw section of the county but had later moved to the Fredonia Valley north of Crider. W.P. Maxwell was a prominent Princeton merchant in the 1880s.

The Pricetown post office, established on Feb. 4, 1925 with Rupert C. Neddle, the first postmaster, and since closed, has also not been located. It was named for a local family, perhaps that of Edgar Price who served as postmaster from April 1926 through 1928.

Of Caldwell County's thirty five operational post offices, only thirteen were focal points of settlements with definable boundaries and concentrated populations. Two of these--Princeton and Fredonia, the only two offices that are extant--still serve incorporated communities. Twenty post offices, associated with local stores and/or railroad stations, served the farm families of their areas. Most of the offices were discontinued when local business no longer justified the expense of maintaining them.
Twenty two offices were named for local persons or families, five referred to geographic or manmade features or conditions in their vicinity, and one had a Biblical origin. The derivations of seven others have not yet been determined. Six have never been precisely located.

Two post offices—Flinns Fork and Rogers—were established but never in operation. The first was authorized in Sept. 1816 with J.B. Pemberton, postmaster-designate, and named for its site on Flynns Fork, a major Tradewater tributary. The other was established in June 1899 at an as yet undetermined location, but the order for William A. Rogers, probably its name source, to assume charge was rescinded shortly thereafter.

[Note: The distances given for the post offices in this article are road miles from Princeton's court house in the center of town. Through recent annexations that are likely to continue, the city's boundaries have changed too much to justify determining distance from them.]

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Footnotes

1. The traditional pronunciation of this name "K-uh-wahl" by many of the county's oldtimers has surprised and confused others in the state and nation expecting it to be compatible with the spelling.

2. The Jackson Purchase is the name collectively applied to Kentucky's westernmost region, an area of roughly 2,400 square miles in the eight counties lying between the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers. It
derives from the 1818 treaty by which General Andrew Jackson and Kentucky's former Governor Isaac Shelby secured this territory from the Chickasaw Indians for a payment of $300,000. The treaty also added some 6,100 square miles and twenty counties to the state of Tennessee.

3. For another interpretation of the name Fredonia as applied to other places in the United States, see Robert M. Rennick, Kentucky Place Names, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984, P. 109

4. Burns Creek, believed to have been the older of two names applied to this stream, was recently designated by the United States Board on Geographic Names to replace Dry Creek, the descriptive name which for years had identified the stream on government maps.

5. This name has long been spelled variously Friar, Frier, Fryar, Fryer, and Fryers. Fryer is probably correct.

6. Clausine R. Baker, First History of Caldwell County, Ky., 1936, P. 24. The name Needmore has been jokingly or maliciously applied to scores of communities in the American south and midwest that were said to be deficient in economic sustenance or promise. In Kentucky these places usually grew up around country stores which were seldom stocked sufficiently to meet the basic needs of their customers. They needed more of everything.

References

1. Clausine R. Baker, First History of Caldwell County, Ky., 1936

4. Olive S. Eldred and Nancy Beck, Place Names of Caldwell Co., manuscript for the Kentucky Place Name Survey, Sept. 1977
5. Mrs. Katie G. Howard, Cobb, Ky., data on a number of Caldwell Co. post offices and communities in a letter to William G. Steel, Medford, Oreg., May 18, 1925
6. Interview with Mary Grace Pettit, Librarian, George A. Coons Library, Princeton, Ky., August 2, 1977
8. Series of articles on the major Caldwell Co. communities which appeared in the Caldwell County Times, ca. 1960s and early 1970s
CALDWELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES


3. COLLIE'S MILL- 1/28/1830, Halloway Collie; Disc. 1/18/1843; Re-est. 5/1/1843, Larkin Collie.


5. GRANGER- 6/14/1832, Wm. Ford; Disc. 1/15/1834.

6. FREDONIA- 7/8/1832, Samuel Rorer; 2/13/1832, Hiram M. Witherspoon; 8/21/1869, Robert R. Morgan; Disc. 7/9/1874; Re-est. 8/22/1874, Charles N. Byrd; 1/15/1877, John A. Garner; 9/1/1894, John L. Wyatt; 8/6/1897, Grant Bugg; Disc. 6/26/1906, effective 6/30/1906, (mail to Kelsey).

7. TOBACCO PORT- 7/5/1839, Archelaus W. Franklin; 5/15/1840, John W. Davis; name changed to Wythe (?), 8/16/1842, Joseph Jones, Jr.; Disc. 11/15/1842; Re-est. 6/25/1846, Elihu P. Calvert; Disc. 4/28/1847.

8. WALNUT GROVE- 8/4/1841, Wm. D. Miller; Disc. 6/3/1846; Re-est. 1/27/1853, Wm. D. Tinsley; Disc. 6/29/1860; Re-est. 1/31/1866, John D. Mott; 3/14/1873, Wm. Riley Craig; Disc. 3/18/1874; Re-est. 6/24/1874, Wm. R. Craig; Disc. 12/21/1874; Disc. 1/18/1888; Re-est. 10/21/1889, Wm. R. Craig; Disc. 1/15/1890; Re-est. 6/24/1898, Wm. R. Craig; Disc. 1/15/1894.

9. LONG POND- 12/23/1847, George S. Massey; 10/1/1853, Wm. O. Stokes; 7/24/1862, John L. Nabb; Disc. 3/2/1863; Re-est. 10/21/1865, John L. Nabb; Disc. 7/16/1868; Re-est. 8/29/1870, J.L. Nabb; Disc. 6/7/1871; Disc. 3/1/1874; Re-est. 12/21/1874, Wm. R. Craig; Disc. 1/15/1890; Re-est. 6/24/1898; Wm. R. Craig; Disc. 1/15/1894; Disc. 6/7/1897; Re-est. 12/21/1899, Wm. R. Craig; Disc. 1/15/1894; Disc. 6/7/1897; Re-est. 12/21/1899, Wm. R. Craig; Disc. 1/15/1894; Disc. 6/7/1897.
CALDWELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (2)

10. FARMERSVILLE— 5/1/1850, Wm. W. Throckmorton; 7/30/1852, Thomas D. Pinner; ... 7/26/1861, John C. Trayler; Disc. 11/30/1865; Re-est. 7/7/1871, Wm. C. McNeely; Disc. 3/18/1875; Re-est. 5/4/1875, Walter R. McChesney; 6/11/1875, Flavius Sullivan; ... 12/11/1878, Isaac Harper; Disc. 12/26/1878; Re-est. 4/2/1879, Flavius J. Sullivan; Disc. 12/23/1880; Re-est. 7/1/1893, Chesley B. Milligan; 11/27/1893, Thomas W. Atkins; 1/3/1901, James H. Brown; Disc. 11/30/1910 (mail to Princeton);

11. POLLARD'S TAN YARD— 12/17/1852, Azariah Rice; 1/7/1858, Jesse A. Jennings; ... 2/11/1859, Arariah Rice; Disc. 8/18/1864;

12. BURNSVILLE— 9/29/1857, Wm. G. Groom; Disc. 4/15/1863;

13. WITHERSVILLE— (could this have been Wythe—?, No. 7, above?) 8/21/1860, Loton (?) W. Jones; name changed to Union Springs, 6/18/1862, Thomas E. Young; Disc. 7/31/1863;

14. FRIENDSHIP— 11/26/1869, Elisha Williams; 11/5/1880, John G. Williams; ... 4/20/1904, Mary J. Newsom; Disc. 12/11/1905, effective 12/20/1905 (mail to Cobb);

15. CRESWELL— 7/14/1871, Wm. Jones; 3/12/1875, Jacob James; Disc. 2/13/1879; Re-est. 7/7/1879, Jacob James; 7/13/1888, James D. McConnell; ... 2/21/1905, Henry Wilson; Disc. 8/29/1905, effective 9/4/1905 (mail to Fredonia);

16. SCOTTSBURGH— 7/22/1872, Joseph H. Miller; 9/5/1873, Mark L. Scott; ... 4/8/1890, Nathan C. Hoover; name changed to Scottsburg, 10/24/1894, George C. Hunter; 4/27/1895, Joseph T. Ford; ... 1/9/1906, Harlan Hoover; Disc. 10/31/1917 (mail to Princeton);

17. DULANEY— 12/2/1872, James W. McKinney; 5/16/1879, Wm. H. Jones;


18. **SIMS STORE** - 12/26/1876, Richard S. Pool; 9/14/1883, Major T. Groom; ... 12/16/1890, Wm. B. Pool; Disc. 10/5/1892 (mail to Cobb);


20. **MAXWELL** - 10/21/1884, Peter O. Harralson; Disc. 11/30/1885 (mail to Princeton);

21. **HOPSON** - 2/12/1885, Louis A. Hopson; 5/2/1900, Wm. W. Childress; 6/4/1904, L.A. Hopson, rescinded 8/6/1904; Disc. 1/30/1907, effective 2/28/1907 (mail to Otter Pond);

22. **CLAXTON** - 5/26/1886, John P. Miller; 10/14/1889, George A. Glass....

23. **GLEN ALLEN** - 12/12/1887, Lawrence B. Sims; name changed to Cobb (?), 2/9/1888, Lawrence B. Sims; name changed to Cobb, 4/24/1888, Lawrence B. Sims; 1/11/1895, Thomas L. Amoss....

24. **CRIDER** - 1/20/1888, Simpson M. Welden; 7/13/1888, James E. Guess....

25. **GODWIN** - 4/19/1888, John Jones; name changed to Otter Pond, 6/14/1888, John Jones; 8/24/1888, John M. Lester; Disc. 4/27/1891 (papers to Sims Store); Re-est. 9/29/1892, George P. Goodwin; 7/14/1897, Edward L. Sinclair.... (was the p.o. originally called Godwin or Goodwin? It's given as Godwin in the P.O. Records)
Caldwell County, Ky. Post Offices (4)

26. Enon- 6/6/1888, Wm. T. Perry; 7/28/1892, ? ira E. Brown; 7/30/1902, Patrick (sic) H.C. Brown; Disc. 4/21/1905, effective 5/15/1905 (mail to Fredonia);

27. Predonia Depot- 12/9/1889, Davie B. Fergerson (sic); name changed to Kelsey, 2/25/1890, Davie B. Fergerson; 1/28/1892, John J. Bennett... 1/12/1905, David M. Maxwell; name changed to Fredonia, 7/9/1906, David M. Maxwell; 8/22/1906, Grant Bugg....

28. McGowan- 5/19/1890, R.A. Draper; 6/27/1890, Tiberius M. Osborn; 2/28/1896, Joseph J. Boynton, declined; 3/7/1896, Wm. O. McGowan; Disc. 9/30/1912 (mail to Otter Pond);

29. Quinn- 7/8/1893, James B. Quinn; 9/27/1900, Azle M. Dunbar; 1/9/1909, Samuel G. Smith; 7/27/1909, Edward L. Barnes; Disc. 2/28/1913 (mail to Dalton);

30. Curry- 10/31/1893, Rebecha (sic-?) A. Davis; Disc. effective 4/30/1923 (mail to Cobb);

31. Letonia- 5/14/1894, Albert B. Conway; Disc. 11/14/1895 (mail to Lamasco);

32. Ruth- 12/20/1898, John T. Morgan; Disc. 5/8/1905, effective 5/31/1905 (mail to Fredonia);

33. Rogers- 6/21/1899, Wm. A. Rogers, rescinded 7/15/1899;

34. Egbert- 3/11/1901, Edward T. Egbert; name changed to Lewistown, 9/13/1901, Edward J. Egbert; Disc. 10/16/1906, effective 10/31/1906 (mail to Dawson Springs, Hopkins Co.);

35. Remit- 7/18/1901, James F. Brown; name change to Twin Springs, 3/6/1916, James F. Brown; 2/21/1920, Herman D. Brown; Disc. 12/29/1923, effective 1/15/1924 (mail to Princeton);
CALDWELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (5)

36. OHARA - 6/20/1902, Patton B. Lamb; Disc. 8/14/1906, effective 8/31/1906 (mail to Princeton);

37. PEACH - 7/31/1905, James R. Kennaday (sic); Disc. 12/31/1909 (mail to Princeton);


39. NEEDMORE - 10/29/1925, Frances Nichols;
Caldwell Co.

1. Princeton: confirm-named for Wm. Prince. When did he die? Where in Va. was he born?

2. Fredonia: (po est. 7/36, Sam'l. Rorer...Disc. 6/1906, mail to Kelsey; a Fredonia Depot po est. 12/89, Davie B. Fergerson (sic) n.ch. to Kelsey, 2/90, ibid...n.ch. to Fredonia, 7/06, David M. Maxwell....) When was town est? Who were 1st settlers and when? When laid out, 1825 or 1836? Could it have been named for a Miss Fredonia Bingham, local resident, 1825 or so?...Why and by whom so named and for whom or what? What's there now? How long has it had that name?....

3. Farmersville: (po est. 5/1850, Wm. J. Throckmorton) confirm: named for a Mr. Farmer who owned the country store there? More on him.... When and by whom 1st settled? Was it so-called before po est? What's there now?

4. Scottsburg: (po est. 7/1872, Jos. H. Miller) confirm: named for 2 farmers who owned the site on which this rr was built: Marcus & Aaron Scott? More about them...when did they arrive and from where or were they natives? When rr sta. est? When named: before po est? Named by rr or by the Scotts? What's there now? Still a rr sta?

6. Hopson: (po est. 2/12/35, Louis A. Hopson) confirmed named for Adison (ch. spelling) Hopson, prominent local farmer. His son, Jr. built country store where po was located? More on them... Who was Louis A. Hopson; was this Adison, Sr. or Jr?. Did name precede the est. of po? What's there now?

7. Cobb: (po est. as Glen Allen, 12/87, Lawrence B. Sims; n.ch. to Cobb, 2/9/1888, ibid. n.ch. to Cobb, 4/24/88, ibid. Why Cobb? Was that an error and should have been Cobb? Was this actually a ch. of name for the same place or a shift of po to a nearby community already so-named? Why Glen Allen? Why n.ch and/or shift? Precise location... (confirm: named for a Mr. Cobb who was super. of C.V. RR when being built) What's there now?

8. Crider: (po est. 1/20/88, Simpson W. Welden) confirmed named for Johnson & Jake Crider on whose farm the rr sta. was est? When was this? More on them? What's there now?

9. Twin Springs: (po est. as Remit, 7/1906, Jas. F. Brown; n.ch. to Twin Springs, 3/16, ibid.) Why named Remit? What was there? Why n.ch. to Twin Springs? Or was this is shift in location? Why called Twin Springs... (Aspberry Harpending?)... What's there now?


13. Creswell: (po est. 7/1871, Wm. Jones) When and by whom 1st settled/est? Why and by whom and for what/whom named? Was it so-called before the po was est? What's there now?


15. McGowan: (po est. 5/90, R.A. Draper) confirm: a flag sta. on the OVRR named for W.O. McGowan, a tobaccanist who had factory near there? When was rr est? More on him? What's there now?

17. **Gatesville**: When and by whom 1st settled, est? What kind of place was/is it? Why so named? When? Were there families of Gates living there? Who was J.T. Beck? What's there now?

18. **Flat Rock**: When and by whom settled? Est? What kind of place was/is it? Why so named and by whom? What's there now?

19. **Otter Pond**: (po est. as Godwin (ch. spelling), 4/1888, John Jones; n.ch. to Otter Pond, 6/88, ibid.) When and by whom 1st settled? Was this a town that was laid out? When and by whom? How long did it have the name Godwin? How long known as Otter Pond? Why name change or was it a change in the location of the po? Why Otter Pond? What's there now?

**Other places/names:**

1. Millville (dpo)
2. Collies Mill (dpo)
3. Whites Mill (dpo)
4. Granger (dpo)
5. Wythe (Tobacco Port) (dpo)
6. Walnut Grove (dpo)
7. Long Pond (dpo)
8. Pollards Tan Yard (dpo)
9. Burnsville (dpo)
Other Places (2)

10. Union Springs (Withersville) (dpo) [DPO (Union Co.)]
11. Friendship (dpo, com)
12. Sims Store (dpo)
13. Rufus (dpo, com)
14. Maxwell (dpo)
15. Ethon (dpo, com)
16. Quinn (dpo, com)
17. Curry (dpo, com) [you co. ?]
18. Letonia (dpo) [DR]
19. Ruth (dpo, com) [DR]
20. Lewiston (Egbert) (dpo, com)
21. Ohara (dpo)
22. Peach (dpo, com) [DR]
23. Pricetown (dpo) [DR]
24. Midway (com)
25. Lakeshore (com) [same outskirts of town]
26. Livingston (com)
27. Good Spring(s) (sic-?)
28. Charline (com)
29. Baker(s) (com, rr)
30. Flat Rock (com)
31. Hall (com) [Bourne St. & Frye]
32. Goodaker (com)
33. White Sulphur (com)
34. Bucksnort (com)
35. Stacey Rat