THE POST OFFICES OF CARTER COUNTY

On February 9, 1838 the Kentucky legislature created the 550 square mile Carter County, Kentucky's eighty eighth, from Greenup and Lawrence Counties. It lost sixty square miles to the new Boyd County in 1860, gained ten square miles of the Grassy Creek valley from Greenup County two years later, and lost another eighty square miles toward the formation of Elliott County in 1869. With several minor gains and losses over subsequent years to accommodate local property owners, Carter has since reached its present 411 square mile area.

The county was named for William G. Carter, the state senator from that district, through whose efforts it was established. Its seat has always been Grayson, ninety seven road miles (via I-64) one of downtown Lexington, and twenty three miles (via I-64 and US 60) southwest of downtown Ashland. For eighty days in the spring of 1904 the western third of the county, along with adjacent sections of Lewis and Elliott Counties, were a part of a separate county called Beckham with its seat at Olive Hill. Several later attempts were made to shift Carter's seat to Olive Hill till, in 1929, voters authorized its permanent retention in Grayson.

Carter is drained by the main streams and tributaries of the Little Sandy River and Tygarts Creek which join the Ohio River several miles apart in Greenup County. The first more or less permanent settlements in the county were made in the 1790s near the future Olive Hill and at the salt deposits on the Little Sandy, a mile or so below the future Grayson. Carter's first major economic activity was salt mining (from the 1890s till the early 1850s). This
was followed by coal mining, iron smelting, and, more recently, lime-
stone quarrying and fire brick making from area clay deposits. The
1996 Census revision counted some 26,300 county residents.

This article will treat only the ninety four operating post
offices within Carter's present limits. These have been arbitrarily
arranged in the valleys of the county's main streams and their
branches, and will be located with reference to other offices in
their valleys, by road miles from the junction of US 60 (Main Street)
and Ky 7 (now called Carol Malone Blvd.) in downtown Grayson, or
from the post office in downtown Olive Hill.

POST OFFICES IN THE VALLEY OF THE MAIN STREAM OF THE LITTLE SANDY
RIVER

The fourth class city of Grayson, the county's largest town (with
a 1990 population of about 3,500), centers at the junction of US
60 and Ky 1/7, just west of the river. It was established in 1838
as the county's seat on land deeded by William Ward and William
G. Carter. It was named for Col. William Grayson (1736-1790), the
original owner of that site, part of a 70,000 acre grant he had
received in 1785 for Revolutionary War service.2

The county's first post office and the antecedent of the office
that has served Grayson was established in the winter of 1810-1811
as Little Sandy Salt Works. This aptly named office, with Amos Kibbey,
its first postmaster, was at the junction of two pioneer roads about
one hundred yards north of what was then called Barretts Ford (of
Barretts Creek), and was later called The Crossroads. This is about
where the old route of Ky 1/7 crossed Rt. 1947 before the construction
of I-64 in the late 1960s. Here John and Jane Plummer had their stagestop and tavern. In 1814 Benedict Bacon was running this office as Sandy Lick Salt Works though its location is not known. By January 1818 his successor Jacob Koons was maintaining the office as the Sandy Salt Works. In November 1821 the office became Little Sandy, and on May 22, 1840, it became Grayson when it was moved to the new town.

Grayson was first located in the vicinity of the court house at the western end of the present downtown area, roughly one mile south of The Crossroads. Incorporated on February 6, 1844, it prospered till the Civil War, then entered a period of stagnation from which it slowly recovered after the Eastern Kentucky (E.K.) Railroad was built through in 1871. With the railroad the town expanded east toward the Little Sandy which, for a long time, was its functional eastern limits. The railroad eventually brought new growth to the community as a shipping center for area timber, coal, iron, and farm products, and for some years served as a major employer when its maintenance shops were moved here from Hunnewell. In 1926 the railroad abandoned its trackage between Grayson and the Ohio River, and in early 1929 sold the 13.4 mile Grayson to Webbville section to a new company—the Eastern Kentucky Southern Railway. The latter too ceased operations in December 1932. Grayson now extends along a strip following US 60 east to its junction with old Old 60 (Rt. 3297), just east of the Fairgrounds.

On Ky 1, just north of the turnoff of Ky 7, and 2½ miles below (north of) downtown Grayson (but clearly within that city's retail and service ambit) is Pactolus [paek/toh/laɪs]. This was near the
site of Richard Deering's pioneer water mill and bloomery forge and the resultant small settlement that may have been called Deering's Mill. In 1824 David L. Ward, who had acquired the site, and Joseph McMurtry built there the first charcoal-fueled furnace in the county.

Both the furnace and the settlement were undoubtedly named for the Pactolus Torrent, a stream flowing through Sardis, the seat of the ancient kingdom of Lydia in Asia Minor, which, according to tradition, covered a bed of pure gold. In retrospect, it may be assumed that such a name, suggesting the potential of great wealth, was inspired by the faith of the furnace builders in the success of their efforts. But their hopes never materialized for the furnace was abandoned after less than a decade of operation.

It was not until April 7, 1882, however, that local storekeeper William Osenton opened the Pactolus post office mostly to serve the nearby Eastern Kentucky Railroad station. The rail line was discontinued in 1926 and the office closed at the end of 1956. Now only a store and church mark the site.

The name has long inspired folk etymological explanations. Some people claim that a Mr. Toll, who once lived there, owned a good pack mule or ass he called Pac—hence Pac, Toll's ass. According to another account, farmers would pack their grain to Deering's Mill and tell the miller "Here's my pack, toll it for us," which was easily corrupted to Pack-tol-us.5

On the 4 1/2 mile long Deer Creek, just before it joins the Little Sandy River from the southeast, was the Deer Creek post office. It served at least two stores and several mills between August 27, 1868 and September 1884, with storekeeper Charles Kitchen as its
first postmaster. The site, 7½ miles south of Grayson, is now in the waters of Grayson Lake.⁶

To serve the newly established Leon Station on the Elizabethtown Lexington and Big Sandy (later the C&O) Railroad, storekeeper James H. DeBarde established a post office on April 4, 1882 that he named for his family. Within a year or so the station was shipping lumber and farm products from Charles Kitchen's steam powered saw and grist mill, a stave factory, and area farms. In 1902 these local industries were joined by Charles Kitchen's keg factory, his son James' store, and several other wood products fabricators. By June 1892 James Kitchen had gotten the post office name changed to Leon. When the office ceased its independent operation in January 1958 it was 200 yards north of the river, just across from the mouth of Wolf Creek, just west of where Ky 7 crossed the tracks, and four miles south of Grayson. It continued as a rural station until 1963. No one knows who Leon was nor why the station and post office were given this name.

Rosedale was another Little Sandy post office whose several sites are now in the Grayson Lake. Capitola Hunt (later Mrs. John C. McDavid) established this office on May 23, 1888 on the east side of the river, opposite the mouth of Clifty Creek, where it served a community with two stores. Since Bailey, her first choice, was in use in Harlan County, she gave her office the inexplicable name Rosedale. In 1900 the office was moved half a mile or so down the river (north) and, on August 31, 1936, it was moved another mile and a half downstream to a point eight miles south of Grayson. Here it closed at the end of the following January.
The site or sites of the Lego [leh/goh] post office are not precisely known but it's believed that one or both may be under water. The first, to be called Kellam, but called Lego instead, was operated by its only postmaster Thomas S. Counts between May 31 and late December 1894. According to his Site Location Report, it would be two miles north of Rosedale, four miles southeast of Leon, one-fourth of a mile east of the river, and half a mile south of Deer Creek. In short, it might have been the replacement of the Deer Creek office. It was re-established on December 24, 1898, with Ephraim Boggs and Ephraim L. Saulsberry, its only postmasters, and closed in mid December 1901. When both Lego offices closed, their papers were sent to Rosedale, but on Hoeing's 1905 map for the Kentucky Geological Survey, a Lego post office was shown on the east side of Wolf Creek, several miles south of Leon and not at all near Deer Creek, Rosedale, or the river. Neither Lego nor Kellam have been name derived.

The Cresco post office occupied at least four sites on the east side of the Little Sandy near the Elliott County line. It was established on June 3, 1901, one mile south of Greenbrier Creek, with Loueasy Johnson, its first postmaster. In 1902 it was moved to Greenbrier Creek, but sometime before 1909 it was 400 feet east of Bruin Creek and a one-fourth of a mile south of the river. When it closed in late October 1933 it was on the east bank of Bruin and a half a mile south of the river. All of its sites are now in Grayson Lake. Its name source is not known. According to George R. Stewart, Cresco, derived from the Latin "I know", is a commendatory name in Pennsylvania and Iowa.
The Anglin Curve gave its name to the Curve post office serving the EK Railroad's Anglin Station, two miles north of Pactolus. Here, just below the mouth of Scott Branch, the rail line, following the river, made a ninety degree curve before it curved again a mile below as it crossed the Greenup County line. The post office, with James B. Anglin, its only postmaster, operated from April 25, 1910 through February 1934.

POST OFFICES ON WILLIAMS CREEK OF THE EAST FORK OF THE LITTLE SANDY

The Little Sandy's East Fork joins the main stream one mile north of Argillite in Greenup County. Williams Creek, named for a pioneer family, heads two miles northeast of Denton, and joins the East Fork in northwestern Boyd County, one mile above Naples.

Five Carter County post offices operated in the Williams Creek valley.

The earliest was the inexplicable Metcalfe Furnace which Samuel P. Williams established somewhere on Rachel Branch (of Williams) on January 24, 1848. Later that year, A. McCullough and the Lampton Brothers of Ohio opened the stone-coal blast Star Furnace about midway up the three mile long branch that was soon renamed Star Branch. In May 1850 Williams' office was also renamed Star Furnace which operated till March 1865 when it was moved some two miles northeast to Coalton in the new Boyd County. On February 5, 1856 another Star Furnace post office opened to serve the furnace and the stores and homes of that area, but it closed after only two years. The furnace ceased operation in 1874 and was sold to the Norton Iron Works which
mined the valley's coal as Star Mines for rail shipment to its new factory in Ashland.

The furnace is said to have been named in the hope that it would be the best or "star" of all the region's furnaces. But contemporary historians remain stumped by Metcalfe; they're not aware of any area furnace being called that or of the Star Furnace ever having that name.

Today, a small community called Star (Furnace has not been a part of its name for years) centers at its store, church, and a consolidated elementary school on US 60, nine miles east of Grayson, but it is really considered a part of Kilgore, a mile east.

Where Williams Creek meets US 60 coming in from the west, ten miles east of Grayson, has been the village of Kilgore. Extending south for a little over a mile, the creek follows Ky 854, the C&O Railroad tracks, and the Boyd County line. Where the creek and the tracks veer to the west is the community of Rush. At this site James B. Castner and others ran the Geigerville post office on both sides of the county line from August 7, 1874 till Joe Barrett had it moved one mile north to Kilgore in 1886 where it took that name. For a brief period (May 1887 to August 1889) Barrett ran the office in Boyd County. It was discontinued in June 1895 but re-established on May 26, 1899 (with Robert Tackett, postmaster), and closed for good at the end of May 1923. Meanwhile, Boyd County's Rush post office, at the mouth of Rush Creek, its name source, has operated from July 25, 1890 till the present, though between March 1893 and January 1899 it was on the Carter County side of the line. Kilgore was probably named for the family of James Kilgore, that area's
magistrate (1861-1864) and the county's state representative (1870-1871).

Some 3½ miles up Williams Creek and the C&O tracks from Rush was the once village, flag stop, and post office of Music. The C&O's forerunner in that section, the Ashland Coal and Iron Railroad, had reached Rush in 1870 and extended its tracks to the Music site to ship coal from the mines of the local Lexington-Carter County Mining Company. When the Music post office was opened on July 25, 1890, with Curton R. Coleman, postmaster, the town serving the miners had over 300 residents. Though the company failed and the mines closed in 1896, and a Williams Creek flood the following year took away most of what was left, the post office survived till November 1928. Nothing but a church and homes now mark the site. While Music is a family name in much of northeastern Kentucky, there were no known members living in this vicinity in the 1880s or 90s. Perhaps some mining or railroad official gave the town and post office his name.

In 1872 Col. E.M. Norton and his brothers F.D. and George from Wheeling, West Virginia started the Norton Furnace in Ashland. To supply its coal several mines were opened in the Rachel (Star) Valley and on the main Williams Creek. The latter was centered on what became Norton Branch of Williams, 2½ miles below (northeast of) Music. At the mouth of this stream was the community of this name and its post office, operated by William H. Moore from January 12, 1910 through June 1912.
Near the head of the 5½ mile long Wilson Creek, which joins the Little Sandy half a mile from the Greenup County line, George Carraway established a post office on January 12, 1899. Though Carraway was his first name choice, the office operated through 1921 as Seney [sihn/ee]. This vicinity on US 60, 5½ miles east of Grayson and four miles west of Kilgore, has two stores and a church and has been called the Upper Wilson Creek Neighborhood. It is only half a mile east of the famed Cribbs Hill, noted as a stopping point for drovers on the old Midland Trail and for oxteams hauling pigiron from Mount Savage Furnace several miles south. The creek and neighborhood were named for its first settler, but Seney's name origin is unknown.

TWO POST OFFICES ON EVERMAN CREEK (OF THE LITTLE SANDY)

This stream, which joins the river just above Pactolus, was named for the pioneer family of Jacob and Moses Everman who lived on it. The post office of Everman and the small hamlet it served from July 13, 1897 through October 1948, were centered on the extant Everman Church on Ky 7 and the Righthand Fork of Everman Creek, 2½ miles from the main stream, and five miles northwest of Grayson. If he’d had his druthers and another office, in Johnson County, hadn’t already been called Myrtle, first postmaster John Christian would probably have given that name to his office.

Everman’s other post office, operating from March 3, 1905 through November 1922, was Adkins, named for its only postmaster George C.
Adkins. This was on the main stream, four road miles west of the river, and also five miles northwest of Grayson. Local people at both post office sites now refer to their homes simply as "on Everman."

GREGORYVILLE ON BARRETT CREEK

On Barrett Creek, in a circle of trees near US 60, 4 1/2 miles west of Grayson, was the perennial Bullseye Spring. A settlement grew up around a sawmill, Hiram B. Smith's store, and John B. Gregory's rock quarry on holdings acquired by Smith and Gregory in 1858. The settlement may have been called Bullseye for the spring and a branch of Barrett now called Davis.

On May 28, 1890 at the mouth of Smith (earlier called Everman) Branch, just to the east of Bullseye (Davis) Branch, Smith or a namesake established a post office he called Fontana, possibly for the poetic Spanish word for bubbling springs which is essentially what Bullseye was. In 1905 the Rev. Robert Gee had the office moved nearly a mile up Barrett to a point above Bullseye (Davis) Branch. In March 1920, at the request of Gregory's daughter Harriet Barney, the office was renamed Gregoryville for him. It closed in January 1954. The local store, school, and the homes on the south side of US 60 were removed in the mid 1960s for the I-64 right-of-way. Little is left of the place but a few homes, a store, and an American Legion hall on the north side of US 60.
Carter County has two Stinson Creeks and it's not known for whom or what they were named. The 3½ mile long Lower Stinson Creek heads a mile west of Seney and joins the Little Sandy 1½ miles below Grayson. It may have been settled in the mid 1830s and became noted for the cutting of cordwood used in iron ore smelting and for its deposit of cannel coal. The five mile long Upper Sinson Creek joins the Lower Stinson a mile and a half above the latter's Little Sandy confluence.

The earliest of the two Stinson Creek offices was Stinson that, from January 25, 1894 through September 1933, served a community of at least 500 residents at two nearby sites four to 4½ miles up Upper Stinson. George W. Clark was its first postmaster.

The second, on Lower Stinson and US 60, three miles east of Grayson, was established as Boghead [bohgh/hehd] on September 15, 1897 with Hezekiah Ash, postmaster. It was named for the old cannel coal mine there, to reach which a 3½ mile spur was built from the EK's main line near Grayson. In April 1906 the post office (though not the community of several hundred residents) was renamed Afton by then postmaster William Harris. By 1914 the community, still Boghead, was also being called Lower Stinson. The post office closed two years later.
Fourteen post offices served rural settlements and several villages on the main stream and several branches of the Little Fork, a key Little Sandy tributary. The main stream heads one mile east of Isonville in Elliott County and joins the river three miles south of Grayson.

The extant village of Hitchins centers at the junction of Ky 1 and 773, 4½ miles south of Grayson. By 1873 the E.K. Railroad had been built to this point to be joined in December 1881 by the Elizabethtown Lexington and Big Sandy (later the C&O) Railroad. The town that grew up here was then appropriately called E.K. Junction. Its post office was established on October 16, 1882 by the local grocer George D. Shepherd who was told by postal authorities to replace his preferred name Emma with another. It was then named Anglin for the first telegraph operator at the junction. In 1912 both the post office and the community were renamed for E.S. Hitchins, the Olive Hill-based manager of the General Refractories' fire brick plant that would open there in December. This plant was shortly to become the largest of its kind in the world. The plant was barely in operation by the early 1960s when most of the town's residents were employed in nearby strip mining operations or commuting to jobs elsewhere. Hitchins' status as a trade center has declined considerably due to its proximity to Grayson, but its post office, school, and several stores and other businesses continue to serve the area.

On December 13, 1882 the post office of Nobleton was established some 2½ miles south of Anglin (E.K. Junction) with Elihu Boggs, its
first postmaster. It was just west of the E.K.'s new Reedville Station which it served till it closed in mid September 1888. It was re-established by Charles Sexton on May 25, 1912, and took the Reedville name in October 1916. At that time the office was on the west side of Little Fork, just north of the mouth of Fields Branch. In November 1938 the office was moved north to a small store building up a hollow off Huffs Run where it closed at the end of 1940. Only the Reedville Church and some homes remain. Noble and Reed were Carter County families that are long gone.

The McDavid post office was established on June 22, 1905 by Samuel W. McDavid III (1864-1947), a Deer Creek lumberman, and named for his family, descendants of pioneer George McDavid (1790-1875) who had settled on upper Little Fork in 1829. The first name proposed for this office was Deer Creek reflecting its location. (By then the Deer Creek post office had been closed for twenty years.) The McDavid office closed in March 1912, but was re-established on August 1, 1921 by Fred E. McDavid, several miles east of its original site, more precisely three-fourths of a mile east of Little Fork and 3 1/2 miles west of Willard, where it lasted through September 1932.

McDavid's second location probably served the same area earlier (April 11, 1906 through March 1912) served by the Littlejohn post office. John E. McDavid, the first of Littlejohn's two postmasters, had originally opened that office one mile west of the later McDavid site. In 1909 Littlejohn was moved three-fourths of a mile west, possibly to the junction of the present Routes 1122 and 1496. This post office was named either for John D. Littlejohn (1868-1951), the postmaster of Grayson from 1905 to 1913 and the publisher of
its local newspaper, or his father G.W. Littlejohn (1833-1918), Grayson store and hotel keeper, and also postmaster (1889-1893). Or both.

Beetle was the name inexplicably applied to the post office serving the Antioch neighborhood between May 19, 1916 and 1975. Only two postmasters Mmes. Rose Sizemore and Belva Kitchen maintained this office at the mouth of Leadingham Branch, on the present Rt. 1122. This was in the vicinity of the Antioch (now Mount Chapel) Church, 1½ miles from the Elliott County line.

Johns Run is a 2½ mile long west side branch of Little Fork, midway between Reedville and Willard, and so identified on post Civil War government maps. It gave its name to a post office one mile up from Little Fork, that was established by Leetha Adams on February 2, 1921. In 1939 the office was moved half a mile northeast to a point on Ky 1, just west of Little Fork, and three miles north of Willard. Here it closed in November 1991. We have no idea for whom the run was named.

Two post offices were on the Straight Fork of Little Fork. One, Mount Savage, served a community that had grown up around one of the county's five iron furnaces. The other, the still active Denton, served an important station on the C&O Railroad.

The Mount Savage Furnace was built in 1848 by Robinson M. Biggs, et al. and named for Edward Savage, its site owner. The post office, established on October 25 of that year (with Kirk C. Valdenar, postmaster) survived the last blast in 1885 and closed in November 1916. Before the Civil War this was a rather sizeable community with a population of some 500, a school, church, stores, and grist mill,
and was later a regular station on the EL & BS. On January 17, 1890 it was incorporated. With the closing of the office, however, the community all but disappeared, and only the furnace ruins, on the north side of Ky 773, remain. The furnace is now a tourist attraction and the grounds surrounding it, owned by the nearby Davys Run Community Development group, are used as a roadside park for picnics.

The arrival in 1880 of the Ashland Coal and Iron Railroad (which later became a part of the C&O) at a site two miles east of Mount Savage led to the opening of area coal, and later clay, mines. To serve them as a shipping point the Denton Station was soon opened and, on December 14, 1881, Frank J. Hood established the local post office. The two preferred names for this office, Denton (for the station) and Calvin (for a local family) gave way to Heflin for another old Carter family. On February 1, 1883, though, it was changed to Denton. Denton had been named for Fanny J. Denton, the Tennessee-born wife of local landowner Charles N. Stewart, who ran the local hotel. By the time the town of Denton was incorporated in April 1890 it had at least 500 residents and five stores.

The 3½ mile long Davys Run which joins Little Fork two-thirds of a mile north of Reedville's last site, had a post office called Gollihue [ghahl/ʒ/hyuː]. It was located some 2½ miles up the Run (and 7½ miles SSE of Grayson), and named for the family-by-marriage of its only postmaster Mrs. Lizzie Gollihue. But the rural neighborhood it served between March 28, 1923 and mid March 1937 has always been known as Davys Run for the stream. In fact, Mrs. Gollihue's first name choice was Davy Mines. From this site a narrow gauge railroad was built in the 1880s to haul coal to Denton, a mile and a half
For thirty-four years one Davy Lunsford was the railroad's engineer, and thus it's been thought that he was the name's source. But the stream (identified as Davie's Run on turn-of-the-century maps) was given as Davey's Run on the Schenck and Mitchell 1876 map for the Kentucky Geological Survey, several years before Lunsford's tenure.

The aptly named Dry Fork of Little Fork, which heads some 4½ miles above Webbville (in Lawrence County) had several post offices. The first, maintained by Andrew Kitchen between August 18, 1840 and January 24, 1843, was simply Dry Fork and is believed to have been at or just above the mouth of this stream, thus the forerunner of Willard.

The village of Willard, which now extends for nearly a mile along Ky 1 and Dry Fork, 7½ miles south of Grayson, was founded in 1873 by and named for, a Mr. Willard, the president of the Etna Iron Company of Ohio which had mining interests in that area. With the arrival of the EK Railroad in the early spring of the following year, the new community became an important assembly and shipping point for area coal, iron, timber, and livestock. The local post office was established on October 19, 1874 with George H. Jacobs, postmaster, and the town was incorporated on April 2, 1890. By 1930 the area's once apparently unlimited resources were no longer exploitable; the EK tracks were removed, and the bed was soon converted to a roadway (Ky 1). Yet, according to some, while much of the original site has since returned to farmland, a large acreage of undeveloped mineral wealth in the area may yet revive the town which still has its post office, school, several stores, churches, and a branch bank.
Bells Trace Creek, the five mile long stream heading in Lawrence County and serving as the Lawrence-Carter line for part of its course, had three post offices. The first, at an unknown site, but in Carter County, operated as Bell's Trace between September 6, 1855 and mid April 1863. Its first postmaster was William Watson. In 1883 his successor Lewis P. Watson, a storekeeper and sawmill operator, established another post office, on the Lawrence County side of the stream, at the mouth of Beetree Fork, and called it Ratcliff.

The third office, also called Bells Trace, was established on February 16, 1918, with Charles C. Planery, postmaster, to serve the EK's Bells Trace Station across Dry Fork from the mouth of Bells Trace Creek, a little over 1½ miles above Willard, and 100 yards from the county line. It barely survived the abandonment of the railroad and closed in February 1935.

Lost Creek, which joins Dry Fork half a mile above Willard, had two post offices. Partlow, probably named for the family of Willard storekeeper William Wesley Partlow (1841-1921), was established on May 13, 1903 with Doctor Franklin Webb, postmaster. It served EK Mines and a community of some 200 residents at the end of an EK spur line, one-fourth of a mile up Bays (now EK) Branch, the Lost Creek tributary two-thirds of a mile from Dry Fork. The office closed in June 1933 following the closing of the mines and rail line.

The other Lost Creek office, Jeriel [djehrˈal], operated at two or three sites further up the creek. It was established on April 29, 1920 by James H. Williams whose first name preference was Wilson. Why it was called Jeriel instead, and the source of that name, are not known. Its first site was at the mouth of Cook (shown on some
maps as Crooks) Creek, two miles east of Partlow. It may have moved one mile east in 1924, probably to the vicinity of Lost Creek School, but this is not certain. In 1943 it was moved two miles below Cook Creek to the mouth of Taylor Branch, half a mile east of EK Mines, where it closed in 1975.

The other Dry Fork watershed post office sites are in Lawrence County.

THE POST OFFICES OF LITTLE SINKING CREEK

The ten mile long Little Sinking Creek, identified on the Lloyds 1863 map as Lower Sinking, heads two miles east of Olive Hill and joins the Little Sandy eight miles south of Grayson. For all of its length it was paralleled by the C&O Railroad, and each of its post offices also served rail stations and communities of varying sizes. Above Grahn the stream forks. Until the 1880s the left hand fork was known as South Fork or Upper Little Sinking. Then it became Gorman Fork until the early twentieth century. Since the 1920s it has been Corey Branch (though just before the Second World War some local people were still referring to it as Gorman Branch.)

Sometime before 1850 several families settled on Little Sinking at some woodland springs that came to be called Aden, at or near the mouth of Dry Fork. They were soon joined by the Rev. William Saulsberry (or Salisbury) (1783-1860) from Floyd County. When the EL and BS (C&O) came through in 1881 they established a station just above the mouth of Dry Fork for the shipment of area tanbark, cross-ties, and other forest and, later, clay mine products. This they
called Aden for the springs, and by this name the station and local
community have been called since. The local post office, though,
was established, on January 3, 1881, as Saulsberry, with George W.
Saulsberry, postmaster, though his first preference was Aden. On
October 1, 1919 Ormond L. Kerns had the office renamed Aden. It
closed at the end of 1924 but was re-established on June 5, 1930,
again as Saulsberry, with Mrs. Charlotte Saulsberry Patton as post-
master. Till it closed ten years later it was in the Saulsberry family
store, ten miles southwest of Grayson. Whence Aden is not known.
The name applied to the springs was also that of Capt. J.M. Bent's
resort hotel that flourished there before the turn of the twentieth
century.

The second office on Little Sinking was established on December
13, 1882 to serve Corey Switch on the newly arrived railroad. It
was named McGlone for its first postmaster William P. McGlone, and
was two miles west of Grahn and 4½ miles east of Olive Hill. Within
a few years the station had been joined by a store, a hotel, a lumber
mill, a distillery, two shingle factories, and some 150 residents.
Though the post office remained McGlone till it closed in September
1955, the community it served has been called Corey (spelled Cory
on contemporary maps), for the railroad station, since the 1920s.

Since the turn of the twentieth century, the village on Ky 182
and the C&O Railroad, two miles east of McGlone and two miles west
of Aden, has been known as Grahn. It was named for Karl Berhard
Grahn (1845-1922), who arrived in the U.S. from his native Germany
in 1866. After brief careers in mining, publishing, and railroading,
he acquired some land in Carter County on which, in 1886, he
discovered large deposits of marketable flint and plastic fire clay used in the manufacture of firebricks. These he shipped from the local Gorman Station to outside plants, including one he set up in Louisville in 1889.

Around this time, the community that was to become Grahn was a mining, factory, rail shipping, and trading center called Gorman for the descendants of Robert and Jane Gorman, area pioneers. Its post office was established on July 30, 1888 by storekeeper Lewis Hunt James, but instead of his preferred Gorman it was called Firebrick, and on December 17, 1910, it was renamed Grahn. Three years later Mr. Grahn built the community's own brick making plant which, until recently, pretty much dominated the area's economy. Several stores and the post office still serve this community and its hinterland.

A mile west of the Little Sandy, the C&O named a siding for a Mr. Fultz who is said to have provided the railroad company its cross ties. The local post office, established on February 6, 1901, with storekeeper George W. Littleton, postmaster, also took the name Fultz and served the area, at the mouth of Big Run, till 1983. Mr. Fultz's family, still prominent in much of the county, are descendants of Obadiah Fultz (1728-1817), an Alsatian who came to America in 1775, just in time to fight in his adopted country's revolution. He later moved to Carter County's Tygarts valley where other descendants were involved with several other post offices.

The Kings Chapel church on Dixie Fork, near its Dry Fork confluence (2 1/2 miles northwest of Aden and 8 1/2 miles wsw of Grayson), gave its name to the county's shortest lived post office. Eliza
Maddix alone operated it between March 8 and July 15, 1922. Her first name preference was Dixie. This area may have been served by an earlier post office (March 8, 1904 till February 1905) inexplicably named Fay with Thomas S. Prater, its only postmaster. His first proposed name was Haley. The pioneer King family owned the land on which the church and later a school were built and bore their name. The Haleys later lived on the King family farm.

THE POST OFFICES OF BIG SINKING CREEK

Big Sinking Creek, identified as Upper Sinking on the Lloyds Civil War map, heads around two miles within Elliott County and joins the Little Sandy just below the Grayson Lake Dam. Three post offices served its valley.

The first was the shortlived Verdant operated by John P. Ross from August 19, 1880 through October 1881. This served his Ross Settlement (or Rossville) at the head of Ross Chapel Creek, a Big Sinking tributary just north of the Elliott County line. The vicinity has been better known in recent years for its Ross Chapel church and school on the present Ky 986, a mile north of the Olive Hill Airport, and four miles south of Olive Hill. The derivation of Verdant is unknown; it was given to the office when Ross' first preferences Hard Pan and Raccoon were disallowed.

The Ross Settlement may have had another post office called Ira from April 27, 1906 through 1913. According to the Site Location Report of its only postmaster, Hiram Holbrok, it was in the Sinking Creek valley, 4½ miles southwest of McGlone and four miles north
of Gimlet (in Elliott County). Holbrook's first name preference Boggs was already in use in Lewis County. Whence Ira is also unknown.

The third Big Sinking office was Maddox, operated by Lewis Maddox from October 8, 1909 through July of the following year. This was on the ridge half a mile south of the creek and about a mile north of the Little Sandy, in the vicinity of what was shown as Maddox School in the northeast corner of the Bruin 7½ minute topographic map (1950). Descendants of John B. Maddox also gave their name to the area's old voting precinct.

THE FOUR CLIFTY CREEK POST OFFICES

This 5½ mile long stream heads just short of the Elliott County line and joins the Little Sandy at Rosedale's 1930 site.

Its first post office Bet, whose name is also undervived, wandered around quite a bit during its fifty three year history. It was established on February 15, 1882 by Elijah Cox to serve his store, another store, saw and flour mills, and a wagonworks in the community known as Clifty, somewhere near the head of that stream. On November 1, 1897 then postmaster Linville S. Holbrook had the office moved to a site about one-eighth of a mile within Elliott County, but by August 1902 it was back in Carter, some two miles east of Holbrook's office. It may have moved once or twice more along upper Clifty until it closed in October 1935. State highway maps still show its location on Ky 986, at the head of Clifty, half a mile from the county line, and ten miles southeast of Olive Hill.
An even more migratory post office was what began as Riggs on September 1, 1900. This was named for the family of its first postmaster John Riggs. According to Riggs' Site Location Report it was on the south side of Clifty Creek, two miles west of the Little Sandy, three miles from Bet, and two miles north of Whitt. In early 1907 Lizzie Knipp petitioned for its move 1½ miles east (sic) to a site four miles south of Clifty Creek. It was soon named Lick Falls, undoubtedly for its location at or near these falls of Lick Branch (aka Lick Falls Creek) of Little Gimlet Creek, just north of the Little Sandy and the Elliott County line. Several more moves, as Lick Falls, may have occurred in 1910, 1913, and 1936. At least petitions for such moves were submitted by several postmasters (though it's likely that some or all were never actually consumated.) A 1930 Kentucky Geological Survey map shows the Lick Falls post office on the road between Bowling Branch (then identified as Knip Branch [sic]) and the river, about a mile west of Cresco. All of the possible Lick Falls post office sites are now in Grayson Lake State Park. Wherever it was, the office closed in February 1938.

An unlocated New Road post office operated from May 25, 1909 through March 1910, a mile from Clifty Creek. In the Site Location Report of its only postmaster Sarah M. Craig, it would be located 2½ miles west of the Little Sandy and five miles east of Bet. On Lewis Maddox's November 1909 S.L.R. map he located his proposed Maddox post office 2½ miles north of New Road which he showed was 3½ miles north of Opal (probably one of the Lick Falls sites.)

The Sophie post office was operated by Charles B. Wallace (only) from June 16, 1919 through October 1955. It began about 300 yards
south of Clifty and less than half a mile west of the Little Sandy. By 1939 it was moved one-fourth of a mile east to a site (since the impoundment) on Ky 7, just south of Grayson Lake. Neither Sophie nor Wallace's first name preference Troy have been derived.

THE POST OFFICES ON LITTLE GIMLET CREEK

Whitt's two or three sites have only been approximately located. This office, named for the family of its first two postmasters John P. and David C. Whitt, was established on August 17, 1881 to serve John's store, several mills, and a wagonworks. In 1897 it was moved half a mile to a site on the west side of Little Gimlet, one mile from the Little Sandy River, four miles southeast of Bet, and one fourth of a mile from the Elliott County line. In 1912 it may have been moved again, but closed in February 1914. It was never in the vicinity of the Pleasant Hill Church, at the juncton of the present Rts. 182 and 3295, as shown on contemporary state highway maps.

One of several Kentucky post offices that moved from one county to another was Access. It was established on September 15, 1921 in Elliott County at or near the site of the earlier Klein post office (1906-1918), 1½ miles up Open Fork of Big Gimlet Creek (a Little Sandy tributary), and about half a mile from the Carter County line. Actually, Open Fork was postmaster-designate Minnie DeBoard's first proposed name for this office. But she chose, instead, Access, possibly referring to its being at an approach between two areas. In April 1943 Pearl Dickerson had the office moved about 1½ air miles east to Little Gimlet, some 500 yards within Carter County, and two
miles from the Little Sandy at Lick Falls. There it closed in May 1966.

POST OFFICES IN THE VALLEY OF THE MAIN STREAM OF TYGARTS CREEK

Tygarts Creek, which joins the Ohio River just above South Shore in Greenup County, heads at its forks just below the recently closed Upper Tygart post office. The forks are Flat Fork, which heads at Pitch on the Lewis County line, and Upper Tygart Branch which heads just short of the Rowan County line, several hundred yards south of I-64. It was named for Kentucky pioneer Michael Tygart (or Tigart) who, in the 1770s, claimed its valley by tomahawk improvements near its mouth and is said to have drowned in the creek in 1785. At least thirty eight post offices served communities or rural neighborhoods in the Carter County section of this valley and its branches, twelve in the main valley itself.

The oldest community in the Carter County section of Tygarts was Olive Hill. A fourth class city with a 1990 population of 1,800 (down from 2,500 in 1980) and long the trade center for west Carter, it extends for about two miles along US 60 and Tygarts Creek. Its active post office is 14 1/2 miles west of Grayson's (via US 60). The first house in what is now known as Olive Hill was built by Robert Henderson around 1790 on the side of Blueberry Ridge on the town's east side. That area may early have been called Cold Springs.

The Olive Hill post office was established on April 3, 1838 by Capt. Elias P. Davis who is said to have named it for his friend Thomas Oliver. Neither this nor the rival contention that it was
named for a Mr. Oliver Hill has ever been confirmed, and both are considered unlikely. Nor is there much to recommend the idea that the name was first intended to be Oliver's Hill but got corrupted on the way to Post Office Department approval. Less likely still was it named for local olive trees as there never were any there. In short, the name's source remains a mystery. Perhaps it derives from the biblical Mount of Olives.

The town was founded as a trading center on the main road (built around 1804) between the Bluegrass and the eastern part of our country that later became the Midland Trail and then US 60. It was first incorporated in 1861. The Elizabethtown Lexington and Big Sandy (later C&O) Railroad reached the area from the west in 1882 and Olive Hill soon became an important shipping point for area sawmill products. The town, for all intents, was then moved from its hillside location to the tracks in the Tygarts Valley, leaving its earlier site as Old Olive Hill, still almost exclusively a residential area. Incorporated again on March 24, 1884, it long rivaled Grayson for economic and political dominance of the county, and became the seat of the shortlived Beckham County in the spring of 1904.

Timbering was this area's main industry in the second half of the nineteenth century, and Olive Hill had several sawmills. Fortuitously, when timbering went into decline, area fire clay deposits were discovered in the nearby hills and two large fire brick plants were built in town. The Olive Hill Fire Brick Company (later acquired by the General Refractories Company of Philadelphia) opened the first in 1894. The other, operated by the Harbison-Walker Refractories Company, was once the largest such plant in the world. With the
post World War II reduction in the national market for firebricks, the two plants were gone by the early 1970s.

On the very day the Olive Hill post office was established, John Thompson opened an office several miles up Tygarts Creek that was aptly called Upper Tygart. After an inexplicable seven year (1885-1892) sojourn at a site just over the Lewis County line, the office was returned to Carter County to a site just above the mouth of Flat Fork. Several moves up and down this fork in the 1930s and 40s brought it back to Upper Tygarts Branch and US 60, where, till it closed in 1889, it served the Upper Tygarts School, 6 3/4 miles west of the Olive Hill post office.

Though a community at the junction of US 60 and Ky 182, half a mile south of an I-64 interchange, and 3 1/2 miles east of Olive Hill, is unexplainably identified on nearly all current maps as Counts Crossroads, it has long been known as Pleasant Valley, the commenda-tory name by which it was incorporated on May 9, 1890. The community centered at a store operated from the 1850s by Philip Counts (1796-1881) and his five sons, and their name was borne by the Counts Cross Roads post office from its inception on September 24, 1873 till it closed in late April 1935. Another storekeeper Van Buren B. King was its first postmaster.

The shortlived Iron Hill Furnace [ah/ran hihl] was built on the Lambert Ore Banks on Tygarts Creek by the Riverton Iron and Manufacturing Company in 1873. It was re-organized in 1875 and renamed Charlotte Furnace [shahr/laht/ee or shahr/laht/ee] for the daughter of its new owner. Though by then the largest charcoal-fueled furnace in the Hanging Fork region, it too failed in only a few years. But
a community grew up here soon after the first blast and, on October 21, 1875, the Charlotte Furnace post office was established with Augustus C. Van Dyke, the furnace company's local agent, as its first postmaster. From then through 1951 the post office, at several sites, and some stores served a fairly large section of northern Carter County. Little remains of the settlement just off the Double A Highway (Ky 9), on the east bank of Tygarts, eight miles northwest of Grayson. Almost since its inception the settlement has locally been called Iron Hill; only the furnace and post office bore the Charlotte Furnace name.

The once problematic location of the Forks of Tygart post office is resolved when one considers that, for much of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Tygarts Creek name was applied to the lower Soldiers Fork and its Jacobs Fork tributary. According to sole postmaster Meredith Elam's Site Location Report and those of other 1880s area postmasters, his office, operating between September 12, 1876 and August 1882, was on Tygarts, eight miles southwest of Olive Hill. It served Offill's Mill which we know was on the present Jacobs Fork, just below the mouth of Mocabee Creek, and three miles south of Lawton. But what the Forks in its name applied to we don't know.

It looks now that Forks of Tygart might have been the predecessor of the Jacobs post office at the mouth of Greenbrier Branch of Jacobs Fork, which also served Offill's Mill, another mill, and at least three stores, three miles south of Lawton. Jacob's first postmaster, Lorenzo D. (Ran) O'Roark, one of the storekeepers, established this office on June 2, 1888 and named it for the family of his neighbor
Ira Jacobs. Other storekeepers and future postmasters George W., Charles L., and Robert W., were Ira's sons. In 1989 this office was converted to an Olive Hill branch or CPO.

To reach the Portsmouth (Ohio) Firebrick Company's clay mines at the head of Mocacoo Creek, 3 1/2 miles west of Jacobs Fork, the 6 1/4 mile long narrow gauge Portsmouth and Tygarts Valley Railroad was built in 1893 from Lawton Junction on the C&O. Here, from September 2, 1894 through October 1903, James W. Brinegar operated his Brinegar post office [brihn/brgh/br] to serve the station, mines, two stores, and a school. The rail line was discontinued in 1908 and the track was shortly removed. A church and some homes remain.

Carter County's leading tourist attraction has long been Carter Caves. Now a part of a 1,300 acre state resort park in the Tygarts Valley, off Ky 182, and eight miles northeast of Olive Hill, the caves were discovered in the very early nineteenth century and at least one was used before 1820 for the production of saltpeter. The first of at least five area post offices was established on September 27, 1857 by storekeeper Daniel H. Underwood, 7 1/2 miles northeast of Olive Hill, at a place that, until then, was called Swingle's Branch, probably for pioneer landowner John Swingle. The office was appropriately called Caves.

On April 22, 1861 William Carter, Underwood's successor, moved the office a short distance west to Buffalo Creek, in the vicinity of the later Bethel Church, and renamed it Estell (or Estill) Flats for a local family. After an intermittent existence the office was again moved, on April 24, 1882, down Buffalo to the mouth of McGlone Fork, ten miles north of Olive Hill. It was renamed Wesleyville.
for Wesley Fults, the local storekeeper. For a while it was nicknamed Jim's Town for Jim Fults, another storekeeper and the owner of one of the area's two mills. In October 1894 the Wesleyville post office was moved 2½ miles up Buffalo Creek. In 1919 James E. (Klondike) Underwood had it moved again, another mile and a half south, to serve his Klondike Junction. Storekeeper Underwood had earned his nickname as a prospector in the Klondike in the 1880s and loved to talk about his adventures there. When the Wesleyville post office closed in December 1951 it was on Buffalo Creek and Ky 2, a mile above (south of) the mouth of Jordan Fork.

Meanwhile, the relatively inaccessible caves area began to be developed as a private tourist attraction by several successive owners, including the Ratcliffs till 1902, and then the Lewis family. The state assumed ownership of the site in 1946 and soon turned it into a public park.

On June 26, 1882 Augustus Hall established the Resort post office a mile from Caves Branch and a mile from Tygarts Creek. His first name choice Warnock for the family of Taylor Warnock, had been disallowed by the Post Office Department. In 1907 the office was moved a mile west, and it closed in April 1918.

A second Caves post office served the Caves area from April 26, 1898 to mid May 1905, just north of the creek, at the edge of the present park boundary, and less than a mile south of Resort. Jacob Ratcliff was its first postmaster.

On the east side of Tygarts Creek, less than two miles above (south of) Iron Hill, and eight miles northwest of Grayson, was the Deevert post office. When Lorenzo D. O'Roark established it he
proposed two names Deevert and Overt for what may have been two separate though neighboring communities for, in his Site Location Report, he reported their populations—Deevert with 150 and Overt with 75-100. He did not explain either name, and no one else has to this day. The office operated from May 7, 1901 through January 1942. On a 1930 Kentucky Geological Survey map the name is spelled DeEvert but this offers no clue to its derivation.

Equally inexplicable was the name applied to the Globe post office on the north side of Tygarts and the present US 60, 4½ miles west of the Olive Hill post office. Though the office, established by William W. Perry on May 7, 1903, closed in October 1958, the community it served still has several stores, two churches, a community building, and Porter's Tire Store.

The Wolf post office occupied several sites just east of the present Carter Caves State Park, between one and 2½ miles north of Tygarts Creek, from June 17, 1906 to 1987. Most recently it was on Slate Lick Creek, about one mile northwest of Wolpen Creek of Tygarts. Charles J. Meenach was its first postmaster. It may have been named for the animals, but I can't rule out the possibility that it honored descendants of the German-born couple who operated an ironworkers boarding house at Boone Furnace in the 1870s.

The shortlived Sunset post office (January 3 to October 15, 1915) served the small neighborhood around the Fairview School, two hundred yards north of Tygarts and half a mile above Pearlie McGinnis' earlier Warren post office. Ida K. McClone was its only postmaster. Its name source remains unknown.
The 12\frac{1}{2} mile long Buffalo Creek is one of Tygart's main Carter County branches. Heading less than a mile above Wesleyville's last site, it joins Tygart's just over the Greenup line at Kehoe.

Briefly (February 1, 1883 to December 19, 1884) serving the area just south of the future Carter City was a post office maintained (solely) by George Washington Fults called Attention. In his Site Location Report he locates it 3\frac{1}{2} miles northeast of Wesleyville. Its name source is unknown.

In June 1893 the Kinniconick and Freestone Railroad was completed from Garrison on the Ohio River to the confluence of Smith and Buffalo Creeks in Carter County to haul area farm, livestock, and forest products. Here, local landowner M.K. Ratliff laid out a town he called Carter, a name that passengers on the first train runs had already given to the local station. To this site, in the summer of 1893, the post office of Goble, a mile or so east, was moved by its first postmaster, James M. Zornes. The Goble office had been established on April 9, 1886 by Lewis Sellards and named for the descendants of Ephriam and Hannah Goble. On January 24, 1895 Zornes, then also a storekeeper, had the office name changed to Carter, and the town was incorporated in this name in 1906.

In addition to its role as an important shipping and trade center, the town, also called Carter City, was early noted for its rock quarries and crushers. Though the five mile stretch of trackage beyond Poplar was abandoned in 1934, the town, thirteen miles north of Olive Hill, continues as a viable trade center whose school, store, post
office, and churches serve much of northwest Carter County.

Curiously, James M. Zornes (ne 1846), at the very time he was moving the Goble post office to the new Carter station, was also establishing a post office he called Americus for his seven year old son Americus V., the oldest of his children by Trinvilla Zornes. According to postal records the office operated from May 9 to October 25 1893, but nothing is said of its location nor to what office, if any, its papers were sent when it closed. There is the possibility that it never actually opened.

In 1927 the tracks of the Kinnicocnick and Freestone (by then a subdivision of the C&O) were extended nearly two miles east of Carter (down Buffalo Creek) to reach the fireclay deposits that had recently been acquired by the Louisville Fire Brick Works and North American Refractories. Here, at the junction of the present Ky 2 and 7, storekeeper Virgil L. Ramey established the Gesling post office on September 15, 1927. He alone served as postmaster till it closed in May 1957. It was most likely named for one or more of the three Gesling brothers--Fred W., Carl G., and Charles, Ashland engineers. Charles was a pattern maker for the Ashland Fire Brick Company which was shortly to become a division of North American Refractories.

Just up from the mouth of Grassy Creek which joins Buffalo Creek one mile southwest of Tygarts were the two proximate sites of Gartrell. These were just north of where the new Double A Highway (Ky 9) crosses Ky 2/7. The office was maintained by the Warnocks from June 30, 1892 through April 1916 and served the Lower Grassy neighborhood. The Gartrell family is said to have owned this land earlier in the nineteenth century.
About two miles up Buffalo from Gartrell and four miles east of Carter City (placing it around the mouth of Zornes Branch) was the shortlived Batman post office. William E. Gannon ran it from February 1, 1910 through July of the following year. This name also has not been derived.

The settlement of Boone Furnace is on that section of Grassy Creek that's locally been called Boone Grassy, just north of the Double A Highway (Ky 9), some four miles above its confluence with Tygarts Creek, and sixteen miles northwest of Grayson. It was here that a stone blast iron furnace was built in 1856 by Sebastian Eifort and others and presumably named for Daniel Boone whom Eifort is said to have much admired. On September 29, 1857 Oliver P. Kibbee established its post office which he had expected to call Crossing but, instead, (curiously since it's in a valley) gave the name Mount Pleasant. On June 20, 1860 Eifort renamed the office, which by then was in his store, for the furnace and the community that he had developed around it. This post office closed in November 1884, some thirteen years after the last blast. In the mid 1870s and for a while thereafter the community had two stores and several saw and grist mills.

On July 27, 1922 the Hikes post office was established by the site of the furnace, then as now in ruins, and named for George Hike (1872-1939), a Syrian pack peddler who had opened a store in this vicinity. Nella Wolfe was the first postmaster. The office closed in April 1942; the store is gone, and the community, though still officially called Boone Furnace, is locally referred to only as "on Grassy."
The Smiths Creek post office served another K&F station, less than a mile from the Lewis County line and four miles above Carter City. It had been established on July 7, 1887 by Dr. Hugh H. Williams who named it for its site at the head of the creek which was earlier named for a pioneer family. His first name preference, though, was Garnett. After several short distance moves the office lost its independent status in 1983 and became but a delivery address for the Olive Hill post office, 10½ miles south. In contrast to the usual Kentucky practice of adding a terminal "s" to a stream, community, or post office name, this office officially had the "s" while local people always referred to the community, stream, and post office without it.

On Stafford Hill, between the heads of the Buffalo branches of Brushy Creek and Long Fork of McGlone Creek, and some sixteen miles north of Olive Hill, was the Eby store and post office. Otis, first postmaster Sylvester Cooper's first name choice, was replaced by the inexplicable Eby and the office served its Lewis-Carter border area from May 4, 1901 through January 1954. Could it have been named for William H. H. Eba, an official of the Ashland Coal and Iron Company, who briefly (1883) served as Ashland's mayor?

Owen McGlone, the Irish-born progenitor of this important Carter County family, was the first settler (ca. 1802) of the Buffalo Branch that bears his name. The community of McGlone, some two miles up the creek, had a post office called Rooney, established on May 6, 1892 by George W.E. Wolford. It is said to have been named for "Little Annie Rooney", a popular song of its day. After several
short distance moves between 1916 and 1934, the office was discontinued in February 1957.

A probable forerunner of the Rooney post office may have operated from June 17, 1864 to May 1867 as Wadsworth. This office had been requested by then (1861-1865) U.S. Congressman William Henry Wadsworth (1821-1893), the Maysville attorney, whose name was later (1903-1905) given to another office, in Lewis County. In his petition Wadsworth recommended the appointment of James McGlone as postmaster and that the office be maintained in the latter's home "on the west side of the South Fork of Buffalo". Curiously, later historians misspelled the office name Wardsworth and Wordsworth.

Not to be confused with the New Road post office in the south central part of the county was the post office called simply Road. This may have been some 2½ miles up Jordan Fork of Buffalo, and was operated between August 7, 1907 and mid May 1914 by Nora Alexander. Her first name preference was Fay.

THREE POST OFFICES ON SMOKY CREEK

The eight mile long Smoky Creek valley which joins Tygart's Creek at the south end of Carters Cave Park was served by three post offices. The first, called Smoky Creek, operated between September 10, 1864 and February 1869 somewhere in the lower half of the valley. John B. and Thomas C. Lawhun were its first two postmasters. The creek's name source is not known.

The Smoky Valley post office, half a mile west of Ky 2 and 6½ miles nsw of Olive Hill's office, was established on November 12,
1877 with Ella McFaul its first postmaster. By the end of the century it was serving Qualls Mill, a store or two, several distilleries, and a community of at least 500 residents. It closed at the end of 1951.

Prater, the name of several prominent Carter County families (including that of the county attorney and former state representative Frank Prater [1845-1921], was given on August 30, 1900 to another Smoky Creek office, two miles below (east of) Smoky Valley. First postmaster Stephen Erwin's own family name was his first preference. Sometime before it closed in October 1938 the office may have moved up Smoky Ridge, a mile south of the creek, to the vicinity of the old James Chapel and school, 4\(\frac{1}{2}\) miles north of Olive Hill.

OTHER TYGARTS VALLEY OFFICES

About one mile east of Tygarts Creek, probably on the Midland Trail (now US 60) and two miles northeast of Pleasant Valley, was the Cox post office. It was named by and for its first postmaster John H. Cox when he found his first name preference King's already in use, and operated from March 17, 1898 through June 1911. In his Site Location Report Cox located it on James Creek, the small stream now called Box Canyon, that emanates from Cascade Cave, just south of Tygarts.

The Armstrong post office, established by and named for James H. Armstrong, operated between June 23, 1902 and mid July 1933 on Trough Camp Creek, at the foot of Armstrong Hill, just southeast of the Ky 2 Interchange on I-64, and 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) miles northwest of Olive.
Hill. The creek, which parallels I-64 for 3½ miles, joins Tygarts just below the eastern end of Olive Hill.

Reader, from April 29, 1902 through March 1919, was at the head of Smiths Run, which joins Tygarts one mile east of Globe. Its first postmaster Frank Rivers, who had been (1892-1893) the postmaster of Upper Tygart, three miles southwest, named it for the community it would serve, six miles west of Olive Hill. The latter was named for one or more related families, perhaps for George W. Roeder who (from 1896 to 1911) was also an Upper Tygart postmaster. Rivers first proposed the name Payne.

Blue Rock was another shortlived post office operating in two counties. It was established just over the Rowan County line on September 3, 1861 with William H.H. Garvin, postmaster, but closed in October 1863. Mr. Garvin re-established it on February 3, 1864 on the Carter County side of the line, just above the head of Tygarts Creek, and south of the present US 60. But it lasted only through November 1865. Its name too remains underived.15

On September 9, 1906, Charles H. Fitch gave his family's name to a post office on the Lewis side of the county line shared with Carter. Shortly thereafter the office was moved to the Carter County side, ten miles west of Olive Hill, and only 350 yards east of the Rowan County line. Here, at the head of Flat Fork which joins Tygarts Creek just east of the Upper Tygart Creek, it remained till it closed in 1976.
Four long-time post offices served villages and rail stations on this Tygarts tributary. One still bears the name of the stream whose derivation is not known. It was certainly not named for a railroad worker’s dog that is popularly believed to have been killed at the Soldier Station site, for the stream had this name at least by the 1850s, long before the railroad arrived in that section.

The first office to serve the Soldier valley was at a point six miles southwest of Olive Hill. It was established as Enterprise (probably a commendatory name) on July 23, 1873 with William L. Ragland, postmaster. It closed in July 1875 but, with the arrival there of the Elizabethtown Lexington and Big Sandy (later the C&O) Railroad, it was re-established by storekeeper William Jamison on February 28, 1882 as Wilcox (maybe for Francis Marion Wilcox, then county schools commissioner.)\textsuperscript{16} In February of the following year Jamison succeeded in having the office renamed for himself. Yet, in all this time, since its founding, the community had remained Enterprise and was incorporated as such on April 15, 1884. The station too took that name, and in March 1888 the post office also became Enterprise, though this was shortlived for in August 1890, with J.M. McBrayer, postmaster, it again became Jamison. It finally returned to Enterprise in September 1893 and retained that name till it closed at the end of 1957.

On May 17, 1880, to serve a community of some 200 residents, 2½ miles up the creek from Enterprise, and in anticipation of the completion of the EL&BS through that section, John W. Richards
established a post office he named for the creek. Within a short time the developing town of Soldier had become a timber and clay products processing and shipping center with several saw, shingle, planing and tanbark mills, two wagonworks, and several stores. The station too became Soldier. It is still a viable settlement with store and active post office, less than a mile from the Rowan County line.

Probably arriving with the railroad at a point two miles east of Enterprise was Warren L. Lawton who, on August 23, 1881, established the Lawton post office at what, years later, became Silica Station. Nothing further is known of Mr. Lawton who is said to have left Carter County shortly thereafter. By 1900 tanbark, staves, kegs, fireclay, and sand products from that section of Soldier valley and up Jacobs Fork were being shipped from the Lawton or Silica station. In 1916 Henry Watterson Hillman had the office moved one-third of a mile east to serve what was then called Tygarts Station. Though the post office closed in 1938, the Lawton community today, taking in both station sites, has one of the county's consolidated schools and Raybourn's big store which that family has operated continuously since 1883.

A mile east of the old Lawton post office, yet now essentially a part of the greater Lawton community, is what remains of the settlement of Limestone. This was the site of Dwight Leffingwell's nail keg factory and a limestone quarry for which Leffingwell named the local post office he established on February 28, 1883. From the local rail station crossties and other area timber products were shipped. The post office closed in August 1936, and the quarry,
because constant temperatures could be maintained around the clock, was used briefly in the early 1970s to raise mushrooms.

SEVERAL MORE UPPER TYGARTS POST OFFICES

One (or more-?) persons named Joshua Knap (or Knapp, Nap, or Napp) is/are believed to have been a New York State-born (ca. 1774) upper Tygarts storekeeper who came to Kentucky sometime before 1827 and acquired, in the early 1840s, 330 acres in several tracts on upper Tygarts branches. A Greenup post office, believed to have been in what became Carter County, operated between 1829 and 1830 as Naps, about which nothing is known. From March 9, 1836 through March 1837 Joshua Napp operated the Tecumseh post office at an unknown site, and from November 28 1845 till early May 1859 Joshua Knaps operated the Knaps post office somewhere in the Tygarts watershed. The 1850 Census lists a New York-born seventy six year old farmer named Joshua Knap living with his sixty seven year old wife Mary somewhere in the county.

THREE OR FOUR UNLOCATED CARTER COUNTY POST OFFICES

Three offices have been identified on nineteenth century Carter County registers but their locations are unknown. Sylvan Dale was operated between August 19, 1843 and January 24, 1845 by Charles Stewart. Rice Cross Roads, probably named for its only postmaster Paris Rice, served an area some seven miles southeast of Olive Hill and eight miles southwest of Grayson from July 29 1862 through July
1863. And **Goodwill** opened on August 7, 1888 with Reuben F. Ross, its only postmaster, but when it closed, on August 28, 1890, no papers were sent to any other office as was customary at that time. This suggests that **Goodwill** may never have actually operated.

**Zula** was another established office that may not have operated. James Sizemore is listed as its only postmaster, and the office "opened" on June 3, 1889 and "closed" only twelve days later.

An office whose authorization is known to have been rescinded was **Roe** (a Carter County family name). James H. Tabor was appointed postmaster, effective September 14, 1907. It too has not been located.

Finally, an office is shown on the Kentucky Geological Survey's 1930 Structural Map of Carter County as the **Shanty Post Office** in the vicinity of the C&O's **Grant Station**, just above the mouth of Shanty Branch of Williams Creek, and three-fourths of a mile northeast of Music. But it is not mentioned as an operating or even authorized office on any post office lists.

Eight of the ninety four known operating post offices survive. Two--Grayson and Olive Hill--serve the county's only currently incorporated communities. The others (Hitchins, Willard, Grahn, Soldier, Carter, and Denton) are the foci of still active villages, while twenty three discontinued offices also served villages or smaller communities. Most of the rest were centered around a single store, furnace, mine, school, and/or church.

Local or area persons or families accounted for thirty six post office names while another was named for a famous non-local person. Five offices had locational, geographic, or descriptive name deriva-
tions. One was named for the county and another for a distant place, while to sixteen were transferred the names of local or nearby features (eleven streams, three furnaces, a church, and a falls.) A commendatory name was given to one office. Three were named for local activities. One was given the name of a popular song of the time. One had two possible name derivations—an area family or an animal. Twenty eight names have not yet been derived, while nine offices have not been precisely located.

The names of twenty nine post offices were not those originally proposed for them. Seventeen served communities, rural neighborhoods, furnaces or rail stations with other names. The names of fifteen offices were changed one or more times during their operation. Four (possibly five) were established but are not known to have actually operated.

FOOTNOTES
1. Beckham County, named for then Kentucky governor J.C.W. Beckham, comprised sections of Carter, Lewis, and Elliott Counties. It was created by the state legislature on February 9, 1904 and was abolished by court action after only eighty days. Eighteen Carter post offices were transferred to Beckham on March 11, 1904 though, curiously, they were not officially returned to Carter until October 26 of that year, nearly six months after Beckham was dissolved. For a brief discussion of Beckham and its post offices, see Robert M. Rennick, "The Post Offices of Beckham County, Kentucky" LaPosta, Vol. 19 (3), July 1988, Pp. 33-42)
2. William G. Carter, for whom the county was named, was the son of Robert Wormley Carter and Hebe Smallwood Grayson, Col. William Grayson's daughter. On the colonel's death, his 70,000 acre tract was divided equally among his four living children. Over time the land came into the possession of William Ward and William G. Carter. For some reason, several local historians have assumed that the town was named for Hebe though they've never made it clear why. To confuse matters even more, Hebe's mother was also Hebe (actually Eleanor Hebe Smallwood Grayson), and the younger Hebe had a daughter Hebe (Sen. William Carter's sister) who married Ambrose Dudley Mann. Several other Grayson-Carter descendants were also to bear this name, derived from William Grayson's father-in-law Capt. Heaberd Smallwood of Charles County, Maryland. According to William C. Kozee's Early Families of Eastern and Southeastern Kentucky, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1973, Pp. 273-74), the source of much of this information, a son of Col. William and Hebe Grayson was a Heaberd Smallwood Grayson of whom nothing is known, suggesting that he died young.

3. The site of the Crossroads was about where the present Rts. 1947 and 1959 meet, just north of I-64, a little north of Grayson's present city limits, and a little under a mile west of the relocated Ky 1/7.

4. Bacon's and later office sites may have been at the salt springs by the mouth of Barretts Creek or nearby Beckwith Branch, two miles east of the Crossroads, through John Plummer, while operating his stage stop and tavern, was a postmaster from 1830 to 1835.
5. Pactolus, a town in Pitt County, North Carolina, was also named for the river in Asia Minor; and the settlement of Pactola near Rapid City, South Dakota was in a gold bearing area.

6. Grayson Lake, an impoundment of the Little Sandy River, and first known as the Grayson Reservoir, was authorized by the Federal Flood Control Act of 1960. Its dam, half a mile above the mouth of Big Sinking Creek and seven miles south of Grayson, was completed in 1968 and dedicated on October 25 of that year. Several original post office sites are now under water.

7. According to the 1850 Carter County Census, James H. DeBard was the four year old son of fifty year old James DeBard, a Carter County physician. Though contemporary historians prefer to spell and pronounce the post office and family name as the more familiar DeBord, the name applied to the post office, community, and James' family, was actually DeBard [dee/bahrd]. This is confirmed by family records and James H.'s signature on his Site Location Report.


9. I wonder if there could be a connection here with bog iron which Charles M. Boland once described as "a type of iron...found on or (near) the surface...and (for this reason and) because of its low melting temperature was used extensively by colonials in North America." (They All Discovered America, New York: Pocket Books, 1963, Pp. 64-65)

10. John Calvin operated the Denton post office for several months in 1885.
11. Half a mile west of Denton was the station called Seaton where, in 1880, the AC&I and the EL & BS Railroads (both later taken over by the C&O) joined, creating a continuous rail run between Huntington, West Virginia and Lexington, Kentucky.

12. Even earlier, locally mined iron ore was hauled from Davys (or Daveys or Davies) Run to the Mount Savage Furnace, a couple of miles north.

13. "Little Annie Rooney" was written in 1889 by Michael Nolan. An English music hall favorite, it was introduced to America by Annie Hart as "The Bowery Girl" at New York City's London Theatre and was published in several of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century song books. It later became the title of a Mary Pickford movie. (Sigmund Spaeth, A History of Popular Music in America, New York: Random House, 1948, P. 251)

15. Several Blue Rocks in the U.S. are said to have been named for "the bluish cast of certain minerals such as Glaucophane." (George R. Stewart, American Place Names, New York: Oxford University Press, 1970, P. 50)

16. Postmaster Jamison's first two name preferences were Parsons, for the family of Thomas Parsons who had arrived in Carter County from Virginia before 1850, and Enterprise.

17. Richards' first name choice was Lightfoot Station.

REFERENCES

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2. #13. The Bella Trace Stream, named for an early landowning family, was so referred to in the act creating Carter Co. (1878)
2. Carlisle, G.E. editor and compiler, manuscript History of Pioneer Men and Plants in Southern Ohio, Kentucky, and Oak Hill Fire Brick Districts, Portsmouth, Ohio, 1948


9. Lusby, Lowell of Grayson, Ky. interviewed by the author on September 23, 1977

10. McGlone, Christine of Grayson, Ky. interviewed by the author of November 18, 1977


15. Sulzer, Elmer Ghost Railroads of Kentucky, Indianapolis, 1967


18. Wolfford, George, Carter County: A Pictorial History, Ashland, 1985

19. Ibid., "What's In a Name?" Ashland Daily Independent, April 30, 1972, P. 29:6-7