THE POST OFFICES OF CLARK COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Clark County, with its 255 square miles and 29,500 residents, is located where Kentucky's Inner and Outer Bluegrass sections meet. Winchester, its somewhat centrally situated seat and principal industrial and commercial center, is but nineteen miles east of downtown Lexington.

The county is primarily drained by the tributaries and main stream of the perennially navigable Kentucky River which forms most of its southern boundary for some thirty miles from the mouth of Red River west to the mouth of Boones Creek. The rest of Clark's southern boundary and the line dividing it from Estill County follows Red River. The latter's main lower tributary, Lulbegrud Creek, separates Clark from Powell County. Boones Creek divides Clark from Fayette County. Clark's northern and northeastern sections are drained by Licking River's Stoner Creek and its branches. As is generally true of Kentucky, most of Clark's early settlements and much of its rural history are significantly associated with these streams.

Clark was Kentucky's fifteenth county when, by legislative act of December 6, 1792, it was taken from parts of Fayette and Bourbon Counties and named for Kentucky's military hero, General George Rogers Clark (1752-1818). From 1797 till May 1852, when it assumed its present boundaries, Clark lost territory to thirteen other counties. This article will deal only with the forty six post offices contained within the county's present boundaries.

The first post office established in Clark County--and the only one that survives--is that of its seat and only city, Winchester. This third class city with a 1990 population of some 15,580 is on US 60, just south of I-64 and near the western terminus of the Bert T. Combs or Mountain
Parkway. Its location also at the junction of the Chesapeake and Ohio and Louisville and Nashville Railroads and other major eastern Kentucky highways earned it the nickname of "The Gateway to the Mountains" and made it a diversified industrial city. Its longtime fertilizer, garment, and lumber products factories were joined, within the past twenty years, by Rockwell International and Sylvania plants. It is also a major tobacco and livestock market and retail trade center for the eastern Bluegrass.

The town was established in December 1793 on sixty-six acres of John Baker's 319 acre tract that may early have been called simply John Baker's Spring. The town itself was formally named for Baker's hometown in Virginia. It was chosen the seat of the new county over several other sites, including John Strode's station, three miles west, at which the county's first governmental proceedings were held. The Winchester post office was established on January 6, 1803 with Edmund Calloway, the first postmaster.

The county's second post office may have been located just outside Winchester's eastern limits, on the present Ecton Rd. This was established on March 27, 1829 with Thomas Edmonson (Edmonson-?), postmaster 1, and was first called Lampton's for its possible location at the second of James Lampton's taverns. In February 1833, when Arthur L. Parks was appointed postmaster, it became Park's Store, though it is not known if it remained at the tavern site.

The third post office, Newburgh, operated probably from March 1832 to May 1834 with James Harracks (?) its only postmaster. Nothing else, including its location, is known of it. We are not even sure of the identity of its postmaster.
In 1822 Colby Taylor (1780-1852) opened a tavern on Todds Rd, then the main thoroughfare between Lexington and Winchester. This was to rival Richard Chiles' Fayette County tavern several miles west as the two favorite stage stops between these two towns. On December 11, 1826 Taylor and Chiles both opened post offices at their taverns. With the rerouting of the road to Lexington in the 1830s, Taylor's tavern business declined, and by 1850 it had closed. In October 1852 the Colbyville post office was renamed Fishback, and its postmaster, George Taylor Fishback (1812-1888) may have moved it to or near his home, several miles west on Boones Creek, where it closed in 1856. From August 1890 to July 1894, some years after the C&O Railroad established a flag station just west of the old tavern and post office site, a Colby Station post office was in operation. The since abandoned station, where the present Colby Road (Rt. 1927) crosses the C&O tracks, 5½ miles west of Winchester, is identified on contemporary maps simply as Colby.

The post office at Richard Chiles' (1785-1853) tavern, like the village that grew up around it, some 2½ miles west of the Fayette-Clark County line, was called Chilesburg. The office closed in 1830 but is said to have reopened in January 1850 as Pine Grove (with Richard Savary, postmaster). The original site of this new office is not known, but by the time it closed in April 1863 it was most likely in the aptly named village of Pine Grove on the new Lexington Pike that, in the 1830s, had replaced Todds Road as the main route to Lexington. (This is shown on contemporary maps as Old Pine Grove, at the junction of US 60 and Ky. 1678, one mile from the Fayette County line and six miles wnw of Winchester.2
In September 1868 the Pine Grove post office was re-established (with William J. Berry, postmaster) probably at or near the "Old" Pine Grove site. With the arrival, around 1872, of what was to become the C&O Railroad, some three miles south, a Pine Grove Station was opened in the vicinity of Old Colbyville. But it is not known if the Pine Grove post office was moved to this site. Sometime before 1884, the Pine Grove Station was moved some three miles west, up the tracks to what, till then, was called Combs Ferry Station (where the tracks crossed the Combs Ferry Road), about ½ mile east of Boones Creek. Here it was joined by the Pine Grove post office which continued to serve this vicinity until it closed for good in August 1964.³

From July 16, 1842 through June 1844, Robert J. Didlake operated the Haynieville post office at an unknown site but possibly somewhere in the vicinity of the pioneer Stoner settlement, a mile or so south of I-64, in the eastern part of the county. It was undoubtedly named for the Haynie (or Hainey) family, descendants of pioneer Richard Hainey whose 1786 mill on Stoner Creek (1½ mile nne of the Goshen Church) may have been the first in the county.

The once thriving mill town and trading center of Kiddville centered at the junction of the present Ky 974 and 1960, half a mile west of Lulbegrud Creek and the Montgomery County line (and some 13½ miles east of Winchester). It was named for the family of Virginia-born William Burgess Kidd which had settled in this vicinity in the early nineteenth century. As early as 1808 reference was made in the County Order Book to another Kiddville that may have been on Lulbegrud, at or near the mouth of Combs Branch. The Kidds may have owned a distillery here in the 1820s.⁴
But the town generally known as Kiddville centered on a post office of that name that was established on July 16, 1842 with Stephen Adams, postmaster. It was laid off by the Goff brothers in the early 1850s in anticipation of its becoming the seat of a proposed new county to be created from parts of Clark, Montgomery, and several other counties that would be named for Samuel G. Stuart, the area's leading citizen. Though the effort failed when the host counties understandably objected to losing their territories, the town of Kiddville, which was incorporated in 1852, grew to become a major economic force in that area through the Civil War. But for some reason it was bypassed by the railroad and had declined to hamlet status by the turn of the century. The post office closed in July 1906 and only Hisle's Grocery remains to serve local families.

Two unlocated mid nineteenth century post offices, probably in the southern part of the county, were Oil Mills and Goode's Precinct. The first was established by John C. Harrison on February 5, 1847 possibly in the Pinchem community since Harrison is said to have then lived in the vicinity of Owen's Chapel. There is no clue to the derivation or significance of the Oil Mills name. The other post office, which only John Hughes operated from December 4, 1849 to June 1866, was obviously in Goode's Precinct that then included the southeastern section of the county. The precinct was probably named for the family of pioneer and Revolutionary War veteran William Goode.

Another famed antebellum tavern was built in 1830 on the road between Winchester and Mt. Sterling (the Montgomery County seat) and was aptly called the Halfway House. It may also have been known as Blue Ball Tavern, the name given to another of Clark's early precincts. The community
that grew up around the tavern may have been called Centerville for this name is known to have been applied to the local school which opened in 1834. However, the post office which served the area from January 24, 1850 to September 1853 and was in the tavern was called Fryville for the family of pioneer George Fry who had acquired some 400 acres on Stoner Creek in 1808. His son, George, Jr., was the co-owner of the local store and represented Clark County for awhile in the State Legislature. The community failed to survive the shifting of the Mt. Sterling Road to a route approximating the present US 60, and today is not even locatable. It may have been where the Ecton Road crosses Stoner Creek, some six miles east of Winchester.

Ruckerville was a small village where the present Ky 89 crosses Dry Fork of Howards Upper Creek, 6 3/4 miles southeast of Winchester. It was named for Reuben Rucker (1805-1865), a pioneer settler from Culpeper County, Virginia who, on his arrival in Clark County in 1823, acquired twelve acres of local land. On at least two sites, some 3/4 mile apart, the Ruckerville post office operated from January 24, 1850 through April 1909. The second site, in the vicinity of the extant Pharis Hill Christian Church, may for awhile (in the late 1880s) have been called Pharis Store for the local store run by descendants of pioneer John Pharis. Clinton H. Pharis was the last postmaster.

In the 1830s, Griffin Fauntleroy Jones, the son of Virginia-born pioneer geologist, Thomas Jones, started the first commercial nursery in Kentucky. This was half a mile east of Germantown (now called Locust Grove), about where the present Jones Nursery Road joins Ky. 418, eleven miles southwest of Winchester. Here Jones operated the Jones Nursery post office from August 9, 1850 to September 1859.
A post office called Dunaways operated from May 27, 1852 (with Jesse Powell, the first postmaster) to November 1861 in the vicinity of the extant Dunaway (Methodist) Church on Ky 89, half a mile southwest of Trapp and 11½ miles southeast of Winchester. The church was probably named for John Dunaway, a Revolutionary War veteran who may have been a pioneer Methodist preacher and was the progenitor of another important Clark County family.

On January 21, 1854 Elijah Loyd (ne 1824) established the Loydsville post office somewhere in the vicinity of Stoner Creek. In July 1857 a successor, Orley Hardy, had the office renamed Stoner. From November 1861 till it closed in December 1874, Isaac C. Skinner operated it in his store less than half a mile east of the Stoner Creek crossing of the present US 60, eight miles east of Winchester. The creek, named for Daniel Boone's fellow explorer, Michael Stoner (1748-1812), was first called Gist's Creek for the sons of Christopher Gist whose 1775 land warrants for French and Indian War service were located on this stream.

Two more shortlived mid nineteenth century post offices which have not been located but are believed to have been in the southern part of the county were Walnut Valley and Shanklin. Both were operated by the same postmaster, David Meredith, Walnut Valley from June 7, 1855 to October 1861, and Shanklin from May 11, 1866 to January 1867. Walnut Valley may have been named for the local walnut trees, while Shanklin is believed to have honored George Sea Shanklin (1807-1883) of Jessamine County who was then representing that district in the U.S. Congress.

On Red River, on what, before the Civil War, was the main road between Winchester (now sixteen miles northwest) and Irvine (the Estill County seat), is the once thriving, but now virtually extinct, village of Vienna.
It grew up around a mill and ferry depot and is thought to have been named for the Austrian capital. The Vienna post office, which was established on March 3, 1863, with John Rucker, the first postmaster, operated till October 1874. The village was never rebuilt after a devastating flood in 1880. Though the name was Vienna on postal records and nineteenth century maps, it is now usually spelled Vianna, probably reflecting its popular pronunciation vee 'aen. On September 17, 1898 Jeptha D. Berryman re-established the post office as Puckett for a local family, perhaps Ezekiel and Martha Puckett. This office closed in March 1911.

Benjamin B. Groom, a shorthorn cattle breeder, operated a post office from August 1, 1871 through January 1874 which he named Vinewood for his estate on the present US 60, some four miles northeast of Winchester. He lost his fortune and the estate in the panic of 1873 and moved to Texas.

In 1872 Harrison P. Thomson, another stock breeder, was instrumental in securing a railroad station on his land, 3/4 mile from the Montgomery County line and 8 3/4 miles east of Winchester. Here, on June 19, 1872, he established the Thomson post office which he named for the new station and himself. The office closed in February 1926.

The Wades Mill post office was established on September 25, 1872 by local storekeeper William Wade and named for his family-operated grist mill on nearby Stoner Creek. This was just south of the junction of the present Stoner, Wades Mill, and White Turley Roads, 7½ miles northeast of Winchester. The mill was earlier called Judy's Mill for its first operators, descendants of a pioneer Judy family. The post office closed in April 1906.
In 1872 Preston Hedges (nee ca. 1807) gave land for the right of way and depot to the new Elizabethtown Lexington and Big Sandy (later C&O) Railroad, and the station and post office, some eight miles east of Winchester, were named for him. The Hedges post office (whose first postmaster was John L. Fry) operated in the depot from July 26, 1875 to June 1930 and also served the village of Schollsville, ¼ mile south.

The settlement and post office of Log Lick was on the ridge between Lulbegrud and Log Lick Creeks, some 13 ¼ miles southeast of Winchester. According to a 1796 deposition by Daniel Boone, the Red River tributary for which this place was named had derived its name from "the lick at or near which William and Major Beezley, in 1775, built a log trap or blind behind which they hid to shoot at game attracted to the nearby saline spring. They, or perhaps it was Boone thus called it The Log Lick. Some historians think it was Boone himself or Boone and John Finley who prepared the log blind." The post office, which John W. Elkin established in his store, operated from May 16, 1876 through August 1944.

On the level area drained by Lulbegrud and Howards Upper Creek, ½ mile north of the Mountain Parkway and 13 ¼ miles ese of Winchester, was the now extinct village and post office of Indian Fields. The office was established on August 27, 1878 by Levi Goff to serve the community then called Goff which may now be what is shown on contemporary maps as Goffs Corner, less than one mile south. Shortly thereafter, the Lexington and Eastern (later L&N) Railway arrived and a rather prosperous trading center grew up around the post office and station. For "brevity's sake" Goff had shortened his post office's name from Indian Old Fields for it was a part of the 3500 acre plain that had long gone by this name.
Eskippakithiki⁷, the only known historic Indian village in Kentucky, occupied a part of this plain from its establishment around 1718 until its abandonment by 1753. White settlers who began to arrive in the mid 1770s gave the name Indian Old Corn Fields to that section of the plain that was cultivated by the Shawnee villagers. This was later shortened to Indian Old Fields.

Nothing now marks the site of Sudduth, the shortest lived of Clark County’s post offices. It was named for the family of William L. Sudduth, its only postmaster, who operated it for seven weeks from July 14, 1882 on the road to Wades Mill, some three miles northeast of Winchester and one mile west of Vinewood.

The descendants of Jonathan Hunt gave their name to the Hunt post office established on February 15, 1883 at or near the mouth of Long Branch of Four Mile Creek, 6½ miles sse of Winchester. After only two months, its first postmaster, Robert Walden, was succeeded by store-keeper John W. Lochnane. It closed in April 1909.

A small settlement called Rightangle with mill, store, and post office was on the present Ky 974, less than one mile south of Howards Upper Creek and 12½ miles southeast of Winchester. A local Masonic Lodge is said to have given it its name. The post office, which Henry H. Forman established on July 9, 1883, closed in May 1931.

A community once nearly rivaling Winchester in population was the prosperous lumber town of Ford. Located where the L&N crosses the Kentucky River, 10½ miles ssw of the county seat, it was home to four large mills and a box factory and an early twentieth century population that may have exceeded 3500. The town and its post office, which was established by Henry Clay Long on October 4, 1883, are said to have
been named for Mitchell Ford who once owned the site. The town was incorporated in 1888. Fires in 1913 and 1932 and the depletion of forest resources in the upper Kentucky River watersheds brought about the town's decline. To a somewhat limited extent, this was reversed in 1954 with the location there by the Kentucky River RECC of the William C. Dale Power Plant. The post office, which had suspended operations at the end of 1989, was given community post office status in July 1991.

On the Combs Ferry Road, seven miles wsw of Winchester, was the nineteenth century community of Hayden's Corner whose post office, from September 22, 1884 to June 1904, was called Becknerville. It occupied part of the 128 acres purchased by Samuel Hayden (or Haydon), Sr. from David McGee's 1400 acre pre-emption. Joel H. Powell, the postmaster-designate, named the post office for William Morgan Beckner (1841-1910), a Winchester attorney, newspaperman, and county judge.

The post office of Dodge was established on August 20, 1885 by storekeeper Jesse T. Wade to serve a flag station and community at the junction of the Kentucky Union and C&O Railroads, seven miles east of Winchester. The station, first called Fairlie, probably by the C&O executives, soon became K.U. Junction. When the Kentucky Union was acquired by the Lexington and Eastern Railway in 1894, the station was renamed L&E Junction which name continues to identify it on published maps. (In 1913 the L&E became a part of the L&N system.) The post office which operated through August 1923, was named for A.G.T. Dodge of New York City who was then building the section of L&E track from this point to Clay City, some fifteen miles away.

On May 4, 1886 Robert Link established the Elkins post office to serve a Kentucky Central (L&N) station 6½ rail miles ssw of downtown Winchester. It was named for the descendants of pioneer Baptist preacher Robert Elkin (1745-1822). It closed in May 1926.
When, in January 1888, Benjamin Harrison Jones established a post office to serve Renick's Station on the Kentucky Central Railway, 5½ miles north of Winchester, his proposed name Renick was replaced by Sycamore, the name of a nearby stock farm, probably then owned by the Vanmeters. Renick's Station was named for Abra(ha)m Renick, a major landowner and shorthorn cattle dealer in northwest Clark County. The Sycamore post office closed in October 1907.

A community extending for a mile down Four Mile Creek, some four or five miles south of Winchester, has long been called Pinchem. Clark County historian Kathryn Owen, a descendant of the community's pioneer settlers, has offered three popular explanations for this curious name: (1) the cattle raised on the area's farms were once so undernourished they had a pinched appearance; once could pinch a calf and find nothing between his sides; (2) when the county was dry, people would pinch the proprietor of the local store in a subtle or sly fashion to signal their wish for a quart of whiskey; and Miss Owen's preferred account (3) an early storekeeper was so cheap that his customers would leave the store feeling they had been pinched in the trade. They got to calling his the Pinchem Store and the community came to be known simply as Pinchem.

When William Perry Owen requested a post office for this community he found the Pinchem name already in use in Todd County and suggested Tulip instead. This was the name of a village that had impressed him on a recent visit to Missouri. The Tulip post office operated in the Owens' family store, about 1½ miles north of Hunt post office, from March 13, 1888 through July 1908. All six of its postmasters were Owens.
The post office of Flanagan was established by John C. Kirby on April 16, 1888 to serve what was then called Rankins Station on the Kentucky Central Railway and Two Mile Creek, some 4½ miles south of Winchester. It was named for Circuit Judge James Flanagan (1810-1906) who was later to represent that district in the Kentucky Legislature.10

Henry Merritt's name was given to a post office at the mouth of Red River, about where the Madison, Estill, and Carter County lines converge, and 14½ miles sse of Winchester. Merritt was established on August 22, 1888 (with Henry A. Epperson, the first postmaster, who was succeeded by the name source himself in December 1891) and closed in September 1901.

On December 26, 1888 Charles B. Todd established a post office called Arlen, ½ mile east of Howards Upper Creek and one road mile from the Kentucky River. This may have been just west of where Red River Road (Ky. 974) joins Cotton Creek and less than two miles southeast of the later post office of Bloomingdale. Todd's proposed name Lisleville (not to be confused with Lisletown whose post office, Sanger, was established several years later) was replaced inexplicably by Arlen. The office closed in June 1896 but was re-established in February 1907 by Todd who closed it for good in September of that year.

To serve the newly opened Wyandotte Station on the Kentucky Union Railway, 7½ miles northwest of Winchester, the post office of Jasper was established on November 27, 1891 with George W. Dawson as the first postmaster. It may have been named for Jasper McDonald who was postmaster from 1896 to 1911. The office closed in June 1918.
The post office of Pilot View, which operated from July 31, 1893 to August 1904, served a small village of this name at the junction of the Schollsville Road and the present Ky. 15, 7½ miles east of Winchester. The village is said to have been founded and named in 1868 when the two roads were built to this site. According to tradition, the first name suggested for it was Scholl-Goff for the roads led to the two communities of Schollsville, two miles northeast, and Goffs Corner, five miles southeast. This was less well received than Maj. John N. Conkwright's remark "Is not this a grand view?" when he noted the impressive Pilot Knob some fifteen miles southeast. Storekeeper Franklin H. Ramsey then suggested Pilot View and this it became. The knob in northwest Powell County is said to have been named by Daniel Boone who may first have viewed the bluegrass area from its summit and used it as a reference point in his early explorations of the area.

On October 31, 1893, on the east bank of Howards Upper Creek (9½ miles southeast of Winchester), at or near the site of the older community of Allansville, Charles B. Todd established a post office he inexplicably called Bloomingdale. The Allansville community which may date back to the Civil War was named for a local landowner-magistrate (and later County Judge) Frank Symson Allen (or Allen) (1821-1882). The Bloomingdale post office closed in March 1917. Curiously, the 1877 Beers Atlas of Clark County identifies Allansville as a post office, but no record of such a post office in this county exists at that or any other other time.11

A community on Ky 974, between Rightangle and Goffs Corner (14½ miles southeast of Winchester) is still identified on maps as Rabbit Town. In 1894, to serve the several local sawmills and other businesses, storekeeper Lewis C. Pigg proposed a post office to be called Pleasant Home.
Since the name was already in use in Owen County, he chose instead the name Chilton, possibly for Chilton Allan (1786-1858), a Winchester attorney who, from 1831 to 1837, had served that section in the US Congress. The office closed in September 1896. The Rabbit Town name remains obscure; it is said to have been named by a local teacher for the diet of rabbits on which he had subsisted while educating the local youth.

The post office of Sanger served a community still called Lisletown on the Kentucky River at the site of the pioneer Combs Ferry, midway between the mouths of Jouetts and Howards Lower Creek (ten miles southeast of Winchester). Edwin R. Scott, whose proposed name Lyle was replaced by Sanger, operated the office from June 30, 1894 through June 1904. Lisletown was named for the family of pioneer John Lisle whose descendants distinguished themselves in government and the professions. The origin of Sanger, however, is not known.

The name Lisle was proposed for another post office that may have been on or near the present Ky 89, somewhere between Ruckerville and Winchester. It was called Locknane instead for the prominent area descendants of pioneer John Lochnane (sic). Robert Shelton Spillman was the first postmaster of this office which operated from September 6, 1895 to October 1904.

About one mile north and across the Kentucky River from the famed pioneer settlement of Boonesborough was the shortlived (February 2, 1898 to December 1903) Boonsboro post office. This was on or very near the present Ky 627, 8½ miles southwest of Winchester. Though postmaster-designate Hubbard L. Stevens requested that the name be spelled Boonesborough, the Post Office Department, probably reflecting its name simplification policy, approved the shorter spelling. From July 1914 to the following June, another Boonesboro (sic) post office operated on the hill overlooking the river from its Madison County side.
Another shortlived post office was Botts which was operated from August 21, 1900 to the following February by Millard F. Hinson. This served the long lived community of Sewell Shop, on the present US 60 and the Montgomery County line, ten miles east of Winchester. The shop was a blacksmith shop started by Joseph Sewell, a local Methodist preacher, whose family ran it for nearly a century. Sewell, probably rejected by the postal authorities to avoid confusion with Sewellton (in Russell County) was replaced by Botts, the name of another Clark County family, descended from Seth Botts, a Revolutionary War veteran.

Somewhere between Rightangle, Ruckerville, and Log Lick, and half a mile south of Howards Upper Creek, was the post office of Lorenco that Dudley Berryman and his sons operated from March 11, 1901 through February 1902. According to Berryman's Site Location Report, several names—Contrary (?), Roundtree, Little Rowen, and Grove—had been proposed for this office that would serve a community called Forrest Hill. But Lorenco was chosen, and while this name was corrupted from Lorenzia, there is not a clue to its origin or significance, nor that of any of the other names. A prominent Clark County family descended from pioneer John Roundtree, but they are not known to have lived in this area. And no known map shows any place called Forrest Hill.

The Lorenco post office may have been in the vicinity of the post office established on March 5, 1904 as Trap, for the latter is said to have operated in a store run by Thomas D. Berryman, Dudley's son, who was the last Lorenco postmaster. This store was serving a community at the junction of the present Ky 89 and 974 (eleven miles southeast of Winchester) that was then called Roundtree. According to local tradition, the post office was named for the animal traps hanging from the store's ceiling (or, in some
accounts, from the walls). Bill Williams was the first postmaster. Though the post office remained Trap till it closed in March 1908, the community it served has for years been identified inexplicably as Trapp.

The last post office established in Clark County was Legibson which served the L&N's Mina Station where Ky 89 crosses the tracks, two miles ssw of Trapp. When Mina was rejected as too similar in sound to the Morgan County post office of Mima, the petitioner, Leander Claude Gibson, suggested a combination of his own names. His brother, Henry, the Mina Station agent, was the only postmaster from January 17, 1918 through March 1920. Mina may have been named for Mrs. Mina Crow, whose husband is said to have helped to establish the station. Nothing else is known of the Crows.

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Nearly all of Clark County's forty six post offices served definable communities or rail stations at one time. Of these at least fourteen were identified by names other than their post offices, though in four cases the communities later took their post office names. The names of ten post offices were not those originally intended for them. Three post offices (possibly four if Lorenzo-Trap is included) had name-changes. Only one independent post office--Winchester's--survives. Another, Ford, is now a "community post office."

Twenty three offices bore the names of area persons or families; one honored a person from another area; three were descriptively named; to nine were transferred the names of nearby (geographic or manmade) features; two were named for distant places; one may have been named for a product in the local store; and one may have had more than one possible derivation. The origin of six names are not yet known. Nine post offices have never been precisely located.
(Note: The distances given for the post offices are road miles from Winchester's downtown post office.)

Footnotes

1. Though given as Edmonson in the Post Office Registers, the postmaster's name may have been Edmisson. In November 1826, according to County Deed Book 22 (P. 15), James Lampton (1790-1864) deeded some property to Thomas Edmisson, et al., which included a tavern, distillery, and horse mill. Then Lampton moved his family to Greenup County, Ky., where they went into the iron business. (Robert K. Lampton, A History of the Lampton Family in America from 1664, c. 1984, P. 178)

2. Another Chilesburg post office was to operate at two Fayette County sites between 1863 and 1954, the second on the C&O Railroad, two miles from the Clark County line.

3. Inexplicably, the 1877 Beers map of Clark County shows a depot and the Pine Grove post office at the Combs Ferry Station while a store and post office are also located at the Old Pine Grove site.

4. Goff M. Bedford, The Proud Land (Vol. two of his History of Clark County), 1983, Pp. 2, 12, 147. There is no evidence that this earlier Kiddville was named for, or had been settled by, William's family. A James Kidd is mentioned on Clark County's first tax roll in 1792. But no Kidds are listed in the 1810 Clark County Census.


6. Through most of the nineteenth century, the two main Kentucky River tributaries that watered much of the southern two-thirds of Clark County were referred to on maps and documents as Howards Upper and Howards Lower Creeks. They were named for pioneer landowner Col. John Howard.
7. A Shawnee word meaning "place of blue licks" for a salt lick near the present Oil Springs, on the Lulbegrud, about a mile east. (See my account of Eskippakithiki in the Kentucky Encyclopedia, June 1992).

8. Small clearings in forested areas were generally referred to by Kentucky pioneers as Indian Old Fields. Some historians, though, have limited the use of this term to an area once cleared for cultivation that later returned to its natural state. cf Rennick, Ky. Place Names, Pp. 148-9.

9. Miss Owen's second or "Pinchem Slyly" story is said to have accounted for the Todd County name.

10. The station that later became known as Flanagan Station may have been moved a mile southeast because, on L&N timetables (ca. 1921) it's given as one mile from Elkin Station and six miles from Winchester.

11. An Allensville post office has operated in Todd County, Ky. since 1819.

REFERENCES


2. Ibid., The Proud Land (History of Clark Co., Ky., Vol. 2) privately printed, 1983

3. Chronicles of Clark County, series of articles published in the Winchester Sun, ca. 1922-1926, passim.

4. Owen, Kathryn, Winchester, Ky., interviewed by the writer, Oct. 17, 1971, June 1, 1977

5. Ibid., letter to the writer, July 6, 1977

6. Ibid., Old Homes and Landmarks, privately printed, 1967

8. Tucker, Mrs. Gladys, Winchester, Ky., interviewed by the writer, May 7, 1972

9. US Post Office Department: *Site Location Reports--Clark County Post Offices*, Washington: National Archives