

ELLIOTT COUNTY

An act of the Kentucky Legislature approved January 26, 1869 created Elliott County, Kentucky, from a portion of Morgan, Lawrence and Carter Counties. On April 5, 1869, the county was divided into Justices Districts by a committee composed of W. H. Vansant, J. K. Howard, G. W. Stamper, and Travis Horton. (A. Ison had been appointed on the committee, but failed to act.) On the same date a committee composed of W. W. Cox, Wm. Mynheir, W. L. Holbrook and D. D. Sublett selected the site for the county seat.

The records disclose the fact that the first county court was held on May 24, 1869, presided over by Hon. James K. Hunter who produced his commission from his excellency, John W. Stephenson, governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky with the endorsement on the back showing that he had previously taken the oath of office administrated. At the first County Court the following county officers were sworn in: J. G. Whitt, County Clerk; James W. Hannah, County Attorney; Daniel C. DeHart, School Commissioner; Houston King, Circuit Court Clerk; and Henry D. Porter, Sheriff; Joel Kegley, Jailer; Alfred Sparks, ^{Sparks} Coroner; and A. J. Crisp, assessor. The following were the magistrates of the county, John Hood, Milton L. Carter, Odom Cox, M. P. Adkins, Nelson Sparks, Martin Whitt, Ruebon C. Sparks, Ison Wagoner, Pleasant Gillum, Charles W. Carter. The first constables were Samuel Ison, Jacob Horton, A. D. Jarrell and James M. Greene.

3x5 ✓ John Lisle Elliott (Capt.) came to Kentucky from Scott Virginia with his wife and children, and located in the central part of Elliott County on a large farm to which he gave the name of "Highland Forest". He was a leading man in Elliott County during his life time and was one of its most respected citizens. Elliott County was named in honor of Capt. John Lisle Elliott. He was the first representative of Elliott County. He also served a term as Senator. His mother was Hannah Scott, who was a cousin of General Winfred Scott and also Charles Scott one of the early Governors of Kentucky.

ELLIOT COUNTY

(6)

ELLIOT COUNTY, was established in 1869 out of parts of Morgan, Carter and Lawrence and was named from Judge John M. Elliot. (b) Act approved to establish Elliot county out of parts of Morgan, Lawrence and Carter counties, Jan. 26th, as follows: "-----so much of the counties of Morgan, Carter and Lawrence as is included within the following boundary, to-wit: "-----Beginning on the county road where it crosses the dividing ridge between the open fork of Little Sandy and the North fork of Licking river, in Morgan county; thence due West to the county road leading from West Liberty to the head of Chusty Fork of Triplett creek; thence with the said road to the Rowan county line; thence with the Rowan county line; to the Carter county line; thence around the dividing ridge with the same between the waters of Triplett and Tygart creeks, to opposite the head of Big Gimblett; thence around with the ridge between said Big Gimblett and Tygart waters, to the ridge or point on the North side of said Gimblett, and down said ridge or point, including all the waters of said Big Gimblett, to Little Sandy river; thence down Little Sandy river, with the meanders of the same, to a point below the farm of Travis Hertton; thence a straight line so as to include said Hertton's farm; running to the mouth of a branch near the house of Wm. Stevens Huen as the "Squire Frazier" branch; thence up said branch to its head, on the dividing ridge between the waters of Little Sandy river and the waters of the Little Fork; thence with said dividing ridge to the head of the Brushy Fork of Little Fork of Little Sandy; thence down the point or ridge so as to include all the waters of said Brushy Fork, to the Little Fork; thence a straight line to the Lawrence county line, running to the top of the ridge on the Southeast side of said Little Fork; thence running up said ridge, including all the waters of said Little Fork, to the head of Blain; to where the Morgan and Lawrence county lines come together at the head of Newcomb's Fork, where the county

road leading from Sandy Hook to Louisa crosses the ridge; thence with the Morgan and Lawrence county lines to the top of the ridge at the head waters of Paint creek; thence around said ridge between said Paint creek and Newcomb's Fork, including all the waters of said Newcomb's Fork, to the head waters of Elk Fork; thence running with the dividing ridge between the waters of Elk Fork and the waters of Little Sandy, to the headwaters of the right-hand fork of the North Fork, Licking river; thence with dividing ridge between the waters of Little Sandy and the said right hand fork of the North Fork of Licking river to the beginning." (a)

PLACES OF SCENIC INTEREST

693

ELLIOTT COUNTY

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✓ Laurel Cliffs:

Elliott County's lack of material wealth is largely reimbursed by the gift of nature's handiwork. In fact nature has been exceedingly generous in giving Elliott County low rolling hills, broken at intervals by shallow, but beautiful canyons. Along the bed of the canyons run creeks which teem with fish, and furnish exceedingly rare sport for the fisherman. The banks of the rivers are lined with large and gorgeous ferns, but occasionally a clear spot is found where large water maples and willows furnish the desired shade. Often high cliffs constitute the walls of the canyons, an excellent example of these cliffs are the Laurel Cliffs, so called from the abundance of mountain Laurel, or the rhododendron that grows on their summits and slopes. The Laurel Cliffs are situated on the main graveled highway and are easily accessible to the tourist. Generally throughout the winter, the cliffs are covered with a glistening sheet of ice and in summer they are made beautiful by the laurel and magnificent ferns.

✓ The Natural Bridge:

It is about a mile and a half from the County Seat, Sandy Hook, and is situated on Highway No. 49, the main highway into the County Seat. Underneath the bridge is a small cave in which there is a petrified tree. This is the favorite spot for campers and picknicers, as there is an abundance of clear, cool spring water. Not far from this scenic spot there is an ideal fishing and swimming pool.

Indian Caves: But a short distance from the Natural Bridge, are the famous Indian Caves, supposedly the Ancient Home of the Indians. In fact, at the entrance to one of these caves, which are in reality long rock houses, an Indian Peace Pipe is carved on the rock. Many people think Indians are buried inside the caves, probably with their various relics, but no excavations have been made. There are many fields and hills which have never been cultivated

ELLIOTT COUNTY

because they are known as Indian graveyards. These hills were once strewn with arrows and tomahawks, but most of them have been picked up.

Diamond Fields: The Diamond Fields are of much interest to everyone who has heard of them. Evidently some time in the dim past there has been a great upheaval of the earth, for an entire hillside is covered with ashes and stones of all colors, red, green, purple, yellow, etc. Some believe that if this spot were fully developed diamonds and other precious jewels could be found. Many mining engineers have visited the scene and some companies have worked there for some time, but evidently have found nothing of much interest.

Legend of Swift's Silver Mines. Most counties have a legend of some sort, usually concerning lost gold mines, etc. Elliott County's legend is about the "Swift Silver Mines". It was supposed to have been found by an old man who died leaving maps of the mine. The map shows the silver to be somewhere along the Little Sandy River. In spite of many searches, nothing of much value has ever been found.

Mrs. J. W. Conley