EXPLANATORY NOTES: The following entries include data on a sample of 125 of the 500+ known named places and features in Elliott Co. I regret that space and cost considerations precluded the inclusion of other places and apologize to readers who will miss a favorite place that had to be omitted. I will also welcome corrections of errors and alternative explanations for the names I included.

Post office locations, unless otherwise noted, were the last known (or current) site of the office. Until the mid 20th century, when post offices began to occupy permanent sites, these offices would move with nearly every change in postmaster for they were usually in that person’s home or store. In the lifetime of some offices, the shifts covered several square miles. Thus, few of the offices, when they closed, were at the sites on which they were established.

Many Elliott Countians were more than generous with their time and information in my behalf and I would like to express my appreciation by listing those who were particularly helpful: Sue Brickey, Kathleen Cole, Joseph and Elaine Conley, Curt Davis, Leona Evans, Roscoe and Carrie Evans, Delphia Gillum, Hope Hutchinson, Dorothy Ison, Owen Damien Ison, Martyne Mason, the late Harve Mobley, Cassie Oliver, Ernest Parsons, M&M Gomez Porter, Larry Rogers, John Stegall, Lucy and the late Bert White, and Flo Whitley. Other data sources included the late J.M. Catron (Ault postmaster)’s April 20, 1925 letter to William Gladstone Steel with information on several Elliott Co. post offices; the 1985 History of Elliott Co. (compiled and edited by Zanetta Ison); and George Wolfford’s Carter County: A Pictorial History (1985). Examination was also made on W.R. Jillson’s two volumes on Kentucky land records; Morgan, Carter, Elliott, and Lawrence Counties Censuses and Vital Statistics; and the late 19th and early 20th century Geological Survey and other published and manuscript maps.
ACCESS: A po est. on Sept. 15, 1921 on or near Big Gimlet Creek and close to the Carter Co. line, with Minnie DeBord, its first pm. The name probably refers to its then being at an approach between two areas. In April 1943, when Pearl Dickerson was pm, it was moved into Carter Co. to a site some 2 mi up Little Gimlet, and 500 yards from the Elliott Co. line. It closed in May 1966.

ALBERT; A po imprecisely located on the Right Fk. of Newcombe Cr., below the mouth of Jim Oliver Branch. It was est. on May 25, 1909 with Wm. H. Atkins, first pm, and may have been named for Albert, the 2 yr. old son of Bill and Martha Oliver. It closed in Nov. 1932.

ANDERSON BRANCH OF NEWCOMBE CREEK: Extends for 1 3/4 mi sw, then w to Newcombe Cr., 1 mi below (n of) the Isonville po. It was named for a resident, Anderson Ison. It is identified as Gilliam Branch on several 1880s Geol. Survey maps.

AULT: A po on Mauk Ridge and Ky. 504, 1.4 mi e of the Carter Co. line. It was est. on Dec. 23, 1914 by John M. Catron and named for John Ault, a respected Grayson grocery salesman. It closed in July 1975.

BACKBONE: A po on Ky. 486 and Little Fk. of the Little Sandy R., 1 mi below (ne of) Stephens. It was est. on Dec. 24, 1877 by John C. Porter just above the mouth of Brier Branch and named for its site w of a rock projection called Backbone Hill. It was disc. in Sept. 1913.

BANDY BRANCH OF MIDDLE FORK: Heads less than a mi e of S.H. and extends for 1.4 mi ne to Middle Fk., 2 1/2 mi above the Little Sandy R. It was probably named for Wm. H. Bandy, a late 19 cent. Middle Fk. resident.

BASCOM: A po est. on Sept. 9, 1899 by David Davis in his store at the forks of Wells Cr., 3 mi above the Little Sandy R. It was to have been called Ward for Davis' father-in-law, Electious Bascom Ward (1856-1904),
a prominent S.H. merchant and pm, but was given his middle name instead. In 1916 Emma Wells had the office moved 3/4 mi down the creek to her store at the mouth of Wells Br. where it remained until it closed in Feb. 1944.

BEARTOWN: A rural settlement at the head of Little Caney Creek, 2 mi w of Stark, that was named for the large family of Bears (also spelled Bair, Bare, and Beare) that have lived there since the mid 19 cent. They are the descendants of Maryland-born Henry (1785-1865) and Devina Bear of Big Caney. The area was served by the Leadingham po (Dec. 1881 through Oct. 1919) that was named for the family of its first pm, Reece D. Leadingham (1854-1904). Actually the first name proposed for the po was Bear Hill.

BELL CITY: The lower section of S.H., on both sides of Ky. 7/32, centering on the market and the Meth. Church. It was once owned in large part by Judge Matthew M. Redwine who named it for his wife Sarah Isabelle (Belle) (1860-1952), daughter of Wm. Wellington Green, Jr. The orig. spelling, Belle, has since been corrupted to Bell on published maps.

BENTLEY BR. OF NEWCOMBE CREEK: Extends for 1.2 mi e to Newcombe Cr. just below Isonville and may have been named for the local Preston Bentley family. It was shown as Kendall Branch on the 1880s Geol. Survey maps (for one or more of the county's pion. Kendall families) and identified in the 1910 Census as Gibson Branch (for Geo. W. Gibson, a resident.)

BENYAN CREEK: So identified on govt. maps but obviously named for the family of 19 cent. resident Wm. Binion. (Benyan is said to have been an early variant spelling of his name). The stream
heads less than ½ mi from the Carter Co. line and extends s for 1.7 mi to Big Gimlet Cr., below the Gimlet po.

**BIG GIMLET CREEK:** Heads near the po-hamlet of Gimlet and extends for ca. 7½ mi se of the Little Sandy R. at the Carter Co. line. The narrow winding creek resembles the tool for which it was named before 1830 when Richard P. Whitt acquired land on its banks. 

**BIG SINKING CREEK:** A 15 mi long w bank/of the Little Sandy R. mostly in Carter Co. but heading at its 2 forks, Clay and Arabs, less than 2 mi within Elliott Co., 1½ mi n of Gimlet. Historically the name has also been applied to the 2 head forks. Sinking describes the stream's tendency to sink into the ground at various points only to re-emerge later.

**BIGSTONE:** A po on Ky. 556, 2 mi up N. Ruin Cr. The first name proposed for this office, est. on May 27, 1907, was Click for the family of its first pm, Eliza Jane (Mrs. Greenville L.) Click. It was named instead for a huge flat rock that was partially destroyed in 1949 in the building of the road. The po, then in Frank Gillum's store, was disc. in May 1953.

**BILLS BRANCH OF BRUIN CREEK:** Heads just sw of Frazier Flats and extends along the Carter Co. line for 1.6 mi nw to Bruin Creek, ½ mi above the Little Sandy R. It was named for Va.-born Wm. Wellington Green (1817-1892), a resident.

**BIRCHFIELD CREEK:** Extends wnw for less than 2 mi to Bruin Cr., 1 mi below (n of) the present Bruin po. It marks the s border of the Grayson Lake Wildlife Management Area. It was probably named for James Birchfield who is known to have acquired land in this area in the early 1830s.
BLAINE TRACE: Heads just short of the Lawrence Co. line and extends for 5 mi n to Little Fk., 2 mi above the Carter Co. line. It refers to an old wagon rd. that extended along its e bank, crossed the mt., and followed Cains Cr. to Blaine.

BOGGS BRANCH OF NEWCOMBE CREEK: Extends for 1 mi sw to Newcombe Cr. at the Newcombe po site and was named for a local family.

BOOTH BRANCH OF LITTLE FORK: Heads ½ mi from the Lawrence Co. line and extends for ca. 1 mi wsw to Little Fk. at the Dobbins po. It was named for the descendants of James Booth, a resident.

BOWLING BRANCH OF BRUIN CREEK: Extends for 1½ mi wnw to Bruin Cr., ½ mi below the present Bruin po. It was named for a local family, probably Edward Bowling's. It is not known how this family relates to the Wells Creek Bowlings.

BOWLING BRANCH OF WELLS CREEK: Heads 250 yards from the Morgan Co. line, 1 mi ne of Redwine, and extends for 2 mi e to join Pruetts Fk. to form Wells Creek. It was probably named for Thos. Bowling, son of pion. Jarrett W. & Nancy Bowling. An 1886 Geol. Survey map identifies it as Adkins Branch for the several early Adkins families there.

BROKERS NECK RIDGE: A name loosely applied to several thousand acres of relatively isolated uplands betw. the lower sections of Middle Fk. and Newcombe Cr. No one knows how it got its name.

BROWN RIDGE: Extends for 7-8 mi betw. the Rowan Co. line and Newfoundland, along which Ky 32 extends. It was named for the family of Va.-born residents Stephen and Mary (Dehart) Brown, especially their son John (father of famed Dr. Wales Brown).
CREEK: Heads just e of Locust Knob and extends for nearly 6 mi due n to the Little Sandy R. at the Carter Co. line. It is divided roughly into the lower Bruin Community, long served by the Bruin po, and the upper Bruin Community, centering on the old Trench po. The origin of the Bruin name is not known for sure but local traditions refer to an early bear hunt or to Johnny Mullins' dog Bruin who had treed the only bear ever seen on that stream. The long association of Bruin (the Dutch word for brown) with bears derives from the brown bear, a principal character in the Medieval epic of Reynard the Fox.

BRUIN: An active po now at Dickerson's garage and store at the jct. of Ky 7 and 409, 2½ mi up Bruin Creek. It was named for the creek on or near which it has been located, at a number of different sites since it was est. by Thos. T. Thompson on April 15, 1850. It is thus the oldest po within the present boundaries of Elliott Co.

THE BRUSHY CREEKS: Probably aptly named streams in the ne sect. of the co., just s of the Carter Co. line. Main Brushy heads in the hills about a mi e of Bruin Cr. and extends for ca. 4 mi e to Little Fk. at the co. line. The 2.2 mi long Little Brushy joins it from the nw a mi above Little Fk. On the 1880s Geol. Survey maps these are identified, respectively, as the Left Fk. and Right Fk. of Brushy; on maps published in the early 20 cent. they were known as South and North Brushy.

BURKE: A hamlet & po 1½ mi up Rocky Br. of Newcombe Cr. (ca. 4 mi n of Isonville). It was est. by Wm. Ison on Nov. 18, 1898 and may have been named for a pop. 19 cent. song The Glendy Burk (sic) composed by Stephen Foster and published in 1860 about an actual Miss. R. steamboat built in 1851. It could have been named for Burke Co., NC whence some early Elliott Countians came (though none settled in the immediate area of this commu.) The po closed on Delphia Gillum's retirement in May 1984.
BURTON BRANCH OF NEWCOMBE CREEK: Heads in Brokers Neck Ridge and extends for ca. 1 mi e to Newcombe Cr., less than 2 mi above the latter's confluence with the Little Sandy R. It may have been named for Jesse Burton (nee 1835).

THE CANEY CREEKS: are reputed to have been named by Thos. Thompson, an early settler on lower Caney, for some Va. stream of this name. Big Caney heads 3/4 mi ne of Elliottsville and extends for ca. 14 mi (in part along the Rowan Co. line) ese to join Little Caney to form the main (or lower) Caney Creek, 1 3/4 mi above its west side confluence with the Little Sandy R. The 9 1/2 mi long Little Caney heads about a mi se of Ault.

CHARITY: A po est. on Sept. 25, 1905 by Joshua Cassall on Ison Cr., 3 1/2 mi above the Stephens po. Unable to call it Joshua, as he had originally intended, he named it instead for his wife, the former Charity Stapleton (nee 1877). After several moves up the cr., the office closed in Feb. 1933.

CLAY FORK OF BIG SINKING CREEK: Heads just short of the Carter Co. line in Henderson Ridge and extends for nearly 4 mi e to join Arabs Fk. to form Big Sinking Creek, ca. a mi nnw of Gimlet po. It was probably named for the family of Va.-born residents, James Clay & his mother Onos.

CLAYTON: po est. on Oct. 12, 1907 by John F. Skaggs on the n bank of Laurel Cr., just s of Mabry Ridge and nr. the Rowan Co. line to serve the nbsd. then known as Fannin Valley. The origin of the Clayton name is not known; it may have honored a little crippled boy of that name, of whom nothing seems to be known. The office closed in Aug. 1932.

THE CLIFTY CREEKS: Parallel streams, roughly two mi long, which head in Mauk Ridge, sw of Gimlet, and extends for ca 2 mi se to Little Caney Cr. Lower Clifty (identified as Big Clifty on an 1886 Geol. Survey map) is 1/4 mi below (e of) Upper (or Little) Clifty. They were named for the steep cliffs overlooking their banks. Another aptly named Clifty Creek heads ca. 400 yds. se of where Ky. 173 crosses the Rowan Co. line and extends for less than 2 mi sse to Laurel Creek.
COFFEE BRANCH OF LITTLE FORK: Heads less than ½ mi se of the jct. of Carter, Lawrence, and Elliott Co's. at Shingle Gap and extends for 1.2 mi sw and s to Little Fk. just 500 yards s of the Carter Co. line. It was named for a late 19 cent. family.

CONN: PO probably on the present Ky. 1620, about where Arabs and Clay Forks meet to form Big Sinking Creek, and less than 1½ mi from Ky. 504 at Gimlet. Its first proposed name, Parker, for a local family, was already in use in Ky. It was named instead for Andrew Jackson Conn, another resident, and was est on Dec. 16, 1907 in Chas. McMillion's store. McMillion was succeeded by Geo. W. Stone as pm in 1913 and the office closed at the end of 1915.

CULVER: PO est. on Dec. 23, 1899 by Robt. Fulton and recently closed was on Ky. 486 and Little Fk., ½ mi above Wallow Hole Cr. Neither this name nor Cutler, the name proposed for the office, have been explained. No families of either name are known to have lived in the county. Culver may have been corrupted from Cutler; po name corruptions were not uncommon in the late 19 cent. and seldom locally corrected.

DEVILS FORK OF THE NORTH FORK OF LICKING RIVER: Heads in Stamper Ridge, n of the Wyett po (on Ky. 173) and extends (in part as the Morgan Co. line) for nearly 5 mi s and w to the N. Fk., 3 mi nw of Wrigley. Acc. to an unconfirmed local acct., it was named for an early settler, Devil Joe Adkins. But it more likely referred to the area's rough terrain onto the devilish time one might have in negotiating the stream's swift currents. A shortlived po (Jan. 1863-Jan. 1864) called Devil Fork was operated by Geo. W. Stamper somewhere in the vic. of the future Wyett.
DEWDROP: PO at several sites on Ky. 32 (Brown Ridge), in the vic. of the Concord Sch. It was est. on Jan. 28, 1899 with Wm. Irvine Conn, first pm. Lucy White gave this trad. acct. of its name: "They were all trying to decide on a name, and one morning they were gathered around the breakfast table...discussing what the name of the po would be. And May Goodman (who became pm in 1903) looked out the window and the dew was dripping off the roof. And she said, 'Well, why not call it Dewdrop.'" The office was disc. at its last site, 1.3 mi e of the school, in Dec. 1963.

DICK(S) BRANCH: Heads ca. ½ mi nw of the jct. of Elliott, Morgan, and Lawrence Co's. and extends for 0.9 mi w of join Eldridge Br. to form the Right Fk. of Newcombe Cr. It was named for Richard (Dick) Watson, a former slave, who in the last half of the 19 cent. lived on 500 acres here that he purchased from Jesse Eldridge. An 1880 map identifies it as Watson Branch.

DOBBINS: PO on the East Fork (of the Little Sandy R.) bottoms, just below Booth Branch, less than 2 mi from the jct. of Elliott, Lawrence, and Carter Co's. The office was est. on July 9, 1912 with John C. McDavid, the first pm, and named for a family that had moved there from Lawrence Co. in the late 19 cent. On Gladys Booth's retirment in April 1970, the po closed.

DOCTORS BRANCH OF LITTLE SANDY RIVER: Extends for 2.6 mi ese to the river at Faye. It is said to have been named for an herb doctor named Logan from N.C. who may have been the only antebellum inhabitant. It is identified as Logan's Branch on the 1861 Jos. Leslie Map.

DURHAM FORK OF CLAY FORK (of Big Sinking Creek): Heads almost at the Carter Co. line, a little over a mi s of Limestone, and extends for 2.7 mi e, then se to Clay Fk., 3/4 mi above Big Sinking. It may have been named for a NC-born resident Wm. Durham.
EDSEL: A po est. on June 10, 1929 by Wade Blevins on Blaine Trace, about a mi from the Lawrence Co. line, and just below the first site of the Blevins po at the head of Blaine Trace. The latter had been est. on March 14, 1899 and named for its first pm Thos. W. Blevins, On Thomas' retirement in 1929 the office was moved 3 mi s to the Right Fk. of Cains Cr. (in Lawrence Co.) where it remained until it closed in 1956. Wade's po, which replaced the recently departed Blevins, was to have been named for his daughter Jewell but since a name similar to hers was already in use in Ky., the name of a cousin (or nephew?), Edsel Blevins, was submitted instead. In 1957 an attemp was made to trade on the identity of this name with that of the newly produced but ill-fated Edsel motor car. Plans to initiate an extensive ad campaign from the po failed when bad road conditions prevented one of these cars from being driven there. The Edsel po closed with Wade's retirement in Nov. 1960. The vic. is now generally known as Blaine Trace.

ELDRIDGE: PO est. at the head of the Right Fk. of Newcombe Cr. on July 31, 1905 by Enoch Lewis. In 1925 Jas. R. Branham moved it 1½ mi down the creek to his store at the mouth of Oliver Br., some 2 mi s of Isonville. Since the proposed names Barnett and Lewis were already in use, the po was named instead for a local family of Eldridges (perhaps Will Eldridge's). The office closed in Oct. 1953.

ELDRIDGE BRANCH OF RIGHT FORK (of Newcombe Creek): One of the 2 head branches of Right Fork (Dicks Branch is the other). Heads just short of the Morgan Co. line and extends for less than 1½ mi n, then ne to Right Fk. It may first have been called Ben Barker Branch, and was then renamed for Jesse Eldridge who lived at its mouth.
FANNIN: PO est. on Jan. 27, 1900 by Bryant B. Fannin (1865-1927) in his store on Middle Fork Creek (at the jct. of the present Ky. 32 and 719). It was disc. in Dec. 1958.

FAYE: PO on Ky. 7, just below Doctors Branch of the Little Sandy R., 2½ mi sw of S.H. It was est. on Nov. 23, 1922 and named for its first pm Mrs. Faye G. Redwine, daughter of S.H. merchant John Will Green. It closed in Nov. 1947.

FIELDEN: PO at several sites on upper Little Fork. It was est. on Feb. 11, 1878 by storekeeper Wm. L. Pennington, probably a short distance below the mouth of Whites Cr. and named for the descendants of NC-born (ca. 1793) Jason Fields who had settled there before 1850. When the office closed in June 1963, it was ½ mi up Hurricane Cr., at the mouth of Gillium Branch. How the spelling Fielden derived from Fields is not known.

FRALEY BRANCH-OF-BRUIE CREEK: Extends for 1½ mi ne to Bruin Creek at the present Bruin po, paralleling Ky 7 on the east. Though it was shown as Right Fork on an 1886 Geol. Survey map (with the main Bruin Cr. continuing as Left Fk.), the stream is identified on old land grants by the Fraley name. It probably honors the family of 19 cent. residents Jesse and Barbara Fraley.

A different set of Fraleys (though they may share a common ancestor) from those who settled in the Bruin area gave their name to Fraley Flats, Fraley Chapel, and Fraley Chapel Branch on lower Newcombe. These Fraleys were descendants of Va-born pioneers Isaac and Catherine Fraley (or Fraily) who settled on Newcombe Cr. ca. 1812. The Fraley Chapel Meth. Church was on the w bank of Newcombe, at the mouth of the mi long branch that is named for it, about 3 mi below (n of) the Isonville po. It was built in 1906 on land deeded by Adam C. Fraley and named for his father Rev. James Elihu Fraley (1813-1893). The branch was identified on an 1886 map as Madden.
Branch. **Fraley Flats** is a fairly large level and treeless area at the mouth of Rocky Branch of Newcombe, 1½ mi below Fraley Chapel. It was named for its late 19 cent. owners, the 3 Fraley brothers John, George, and Leander.

Another set of Fraleys--perhaps Philip or James (or both) gave their name to the 3 mi long wooded ridge extending nne from Fulton Fk. to Ky. 173, just e of the Morgan Co. line.

**FULTON FORK OF DEVILS FORK**: Heads just s of Ky. 173 (w of Lytten) and extends roughly sw for nearly 5 mi to Devils Fk., s of Fraley Ridge. It is said to have been named for a family that lived briefly there but left no record. Perhaps it was named for the pion. family of James Fulton.

**GALION BRANCH OF BLAINE TRACE**: Extends for 1½ mi ne to Blaine Trace, ca. 2 mi above Little Fk. and may have been named for Jonathan Gallion, a resident. It is said to have also been known as Wolf Pen Branch for a rail pen built by residents to catch the wolves that had been harrassing their livestock.

**GILLIUM BRANCH OF HURRICANE CREEK**: Heads some 300 yards from the Lawrence Co. line, 2 mi ene of the 2nd Halcom po, and extends for 2 mi nw, then n to Hurricane Creek at the last Fielden po. It was named for an area family, perhaps John Gillum's.

**GIMLET**: A hamlet and po named for their location at the head of Big Gimlet Creek. Though the community, centered at Oscar Cox's store on Ky. 504, was settled before the Civil War by the family of Peter Mauk, the po was not est. until Aug. 10, 1880 with John Sparks, the first pm. It closed in July 1961.

**GREEN**: PO est. on Feb. 11, 1899 by Jas. R. Dickerson in his store, probably a mi up Hog Camp Cr. from the Little Sandy R. It is said to have been named for the family of Va.-born Robt. Kilgore Green (1811-1875) or his son David
Crockett Green (1843-1928). In June 1919 David’s son, Elijah O. moved the po to what was long known as White’s Store, at the jct. of Ky. 7 and 504, 350 yards sw of the river. Here it remained until it closed in Dec. 1958. The ngbd. served by this po at several locations may earlier have been called Cliffside, a name still applied to a schoolhouse and a sect. of nearby Ky. 706.

GREENS BRANCH OF LITTLE FORK: Extends ese for 1.6 mi to join Little Fk. just below the Wallowhole Church, 3/4 mi below (n of) the Culver po. It was named for one of the Green families there, probably for Robert Green for it was identified on the 1886 Geol. Survey map as Roberts Branch and on the 1910 Crandall coal map as Robert Green Branch.

GROCERY GAP ON GROCERY HILL: Early this cent. a Mr. Binion had a grocery store by the side of the present Ky. 1620, at the gap on top of the hill on the Carter Co. line that serves as the Tygarts Creek-Little Sandy divide. Elliott Co. storekeepers would haul their supplies from the rr sta. at Lawton, less than 2 mi nw, up this steep hill and through the gap. Mr. Binion met their needs. It is said that his store served as a blind tiger for the residents of both counties.

GUSS: From Oct. 31, 1901 to mid Sept, 1903, Lucy (Mrs. Jos.)Duvall maintained this po, 1½ mi up Doctors Branch, which she had named for her 12 year old son Guss.

HALCOM: PO est. on Mar. 30, 1893 by Nancy Jane Wells 1½ mi up Hurricane Cr. from Little Fk. and named for her neighbors Lindsey & Sarah Holcum (or Holcomb) who came from Letcher Co. After a long stay on Gillium Br., sw of its orig. location, the po was moved in 1931 to David N. Ross’ store, 1½ mi up Wallow Hole Cr. where it remained until it closed in Dec. 1958.
The community it served in its later years is now known as Wallowhole. Whence the spelling of the po name is not known; the family's name was also spelled "Halcom" in several late 19 cent. censuses.

**HAMILTON BRANCH OF LITTLE FORK:** Extends for 2 mi e to Little Fork, 1 mi above (s of) the Stephens po. It was named for the descendants of Va.-born residents John & Elizabeth Hamilton (or Hambleton). It was identified on the 1886 Geol. Survey map and the 1910 Crandall coal map as Creech Branch, named for Samuel Creech, antebellum neighbor of the Hamiltons. Earlier, it may have been called the John Perry Branch for another pioneer settler.

**HENDERSON RIDGE:** At the head of Clays Fk. of Big Sinking Creek, just e of the Carter Co. line in nw Elliott Co. It was named for the several related Henderson families there.

**HOG CAMP CREEK:** Heads just nw of Locust Knob and extends for 2.2 mi n, then w to the Little Sandy R., 1 mi below Green. It is said to have been named for a layover for hog drovers from Va. It was given as Branham Branch (for local families) /on the 1886 Geol. Survey map.

**HOPKINS CAVE BRANCH OF LAUREL CREEK:** Heads in Brown Ridge, 3/4 mi w of the Concord Sch., and extends for 1¾ mi se to Laurel Cr. It may refer to a rockhouse where a Mr. Hopkins (of whom nothing else is known) once briefly prospected for saltpeter. The stream is identified as Widow Branch on the 1886 Geol. Survey map.

**HOWARDS CREEK:** Extends for 2½ mi nne to the Little Sandy R. at S.H. It was named for Howard Adkins (1797-1871) who acquired land in there in the early 19 cent. For some reason it is identified on current published maps as Redwine Creek, probably to honor Judge Matthew M. Redwine (1853-1946).
HURRICANE CREEK: Heads near the Lawrence Co. line and extends for 2.4 mi wnw to Little Fk., 2½ mi above (s of) the Stephens po. It is assumed to have been named for a heavy wind storm.

IBEX: PO est. on Aug. 19, 1880 on Powder Mill Br. of the Little Sandy R. by Martin Wood Green who named it, inexplicably, for the wild mt. goat of the Alps. In early 1935 it was moved 1½ mi se to a point just n of Skaggs Branch, 2 mi below the mouth of Caney Cr., and ½ mi w of the river, where it closed in Sept. 1963.

IRA ISON BRANCH OF WELLS CREEK: Extends for 1 mi nnw to Wells Creek, nearly 1 mi below (n of) the Bascom po. It was named for one or both of the 19 cent. Ira Isons who lived there.

ISON CREEK: Heads in the hills 1½ mi e of the Burke po and extends ne to Little Fk. at the Stephens po. It was probably named for the family of Joshua (1833-1882) and Mary Ison. Their son, Isom (1872-1940) lived above the Charity po and ran a grist mill there.

ISONVILLE: A hamlet with an active po centering at the forks of Newcombe Creek (the jct. of Ky. 32 and 706). The po was est. on May 13, 1886 with Arch Ison, the first pm, and probably named for his grandfather Archibald (ca. 1780-1871), the Va.-born Ison progenitor in Elliott Co.

JAKE: A po in operation from April 1916 to . Since it was est. by John M. Hillman (who never served as pm), it may have been on Rose Creek, e of the Green po. Nerva Lewis was the first pm. Its name source is not known.

JOHNSON CREEK: Heads ½ mi e of Locust Knob at the head of Bruin Cr. and extends roughly e for 2 3/4 mi to Ison Creek, 1.3 mi above the Stephens po. It was named for the several local Johnson families who probably descended from the elder Jesse Johnson (ne ca. 1798).
KLEIN: PO est. on April 26, 1906 on Open Fk. of Big Gimlet Cr., probably at or just above its mouth. It may also have been located in the vic. of the Open Fork Sch., 1 mi up the fork, and could thus have been at or near the site of the later Access po. It is believed to have been named for one or more of the Cline families of that area and that the use of the original German spelling of that family's name was based on the prior adoption of Cline for a po in Floyd Co. Klein had only 2 pm's, Elihu Barker and his wife Clercy before it closed in July 1918.

LAUREL BRANCH OF NEWCOMBE CREEK: Heads just se of Locust Knob and extends for 2 3/4 mi sw, then w to Newcombe Cr. a mi below Fraley Flat. It was named for the profusion of my. laurel along its banks.

LAUREL CREEK: Heads just s of the jct. of Ky. 32 and 173 in e Rowan Co. and extends due e for 14.7 mi to the Little Sandy R., 2½ mi below S.H. It was named for the very dense growth of mt. laurel on both banks and along the slopes above the banks.

LEWIS BRANCH OF DEVILS FORK: Extends nw for 1½ mi along the Morgan Co. line to Devils Fk. It was probably named for Wm. Henry Harrison Lewis or John P. Lewis who had acquired land in the area in the 1840s or for Wm's. son, Wm. H. who obtained holdings on the stream itself in the late 1860s.

LITTLE SANDY RIVER: The principal stream coursing through Elliott, Carter, and Greenup Co's which heads just n of the Morgan Co. line, 1½ mi s of Spanglin po., and joins the Ohio R. at Greenup (City). The stream has been identified as such as early as 1755 on the John Mitchell map. Acc. to the Geol. Survey maps of the late 19 cent. and the pre World War I coal maps, that section of the river above the mouth of Middle Fk., 2½ mi below S.H., also was known as Open Fork. This name is also mentioned on land grants going back to the mid 1830s though it is not known to what it applies.
LITTLE SANDY PO: Est. on May 4, 1876 by Mrs. Lettie Weddington and named for its sites on the Little Sandy River, notably at the mouth of Neal Howard Cr. It closed in 1957. An earlier Little Sandy po operated somewhere in the upper half of the co. from Jan. 1847 to Jan. 1864 with Daniel Horton and Wm. B. Wheeler, pm's.

LOCUST KNOB: The highest pt. in ne. Elliott Co. (with a peak elev. of 1316 ft.) at the head of Bruin Cr. It was named for the locust trees, most of which have been crowded out by new growths of oak and other hardwood trees.

LOVELACE FORK OF LAUREL CREEK: Heads in Rowan Co., just e of Ky. 173, and extends partly along the Rowan Co. line for 2 mi se, then e to Laurel Cr., ½ mi w of the Clayton po site. It was named for Alex' r. Lovelace, a mid 19 cent. resident.

LUCILE: PO est. on Feb. 28, 1905 with Jas. H. Lewis, pm, serving the Right Fk. of Middle Fk. Cr. at several sites, most recently at the jct. of Ky. 719 and the Howards Creek Rd. Neither Lucile (the spelling on all postal records) nor the originally intended name Lowell have been explained. It closed in Aug. 1960.

LYTTER: PO est. on June 17 1898 in John W. Wells' store at the head of Fultons (Glady) Fk. of Devils Fk. to serve the community then, as now, called Devils Fork. It was named by Wells, the first pm, for the family of his Va.-born neighbor, Franklin Lytten. (Over the years the family's name has variously been spelled Litton, Litten, Lytten, and Lytton). In 1959, following the death of then pm Mary Click, the office was moved 1½ mi n to Ky. 173. It closed with the closing of Watson's store in 1987.

MABRY RIDGE: Extends ca. 2½ mi betw. Ky. 32 and Laurel Cr, just e of the Rowan Co. line and named for the families of the 3 Mabry bros. Levi, Calvin, and Andrew Jackson, who are said to have walked from their Patrick Co., Va. home to Laurel Creek ca. 1850.
MART WHITT FORK OF LAUREL CREEK: Heads $\frac{1}{2}$ mi w of the Lytten po and extends for 2.2 mi ne to Laurel Cr., 1\frac{1}{2} mi e of the Rowan Co. line. It was named for Martin Whitt, a resident and one of the county's first magistrates, who had acquired land on Ruin and Laurel Creeks in the 1830s-1840s. It was identified as Left Fork of Laurel Creek on the 1886 Geol. Survey map.

MASON BRANCH OF LICK FORK: Heads nearly 1 mi nw of the jct. of Elliott, Morgan, and Lawrence Co's. and extends for 1 mi nne to the Lick (or Left) Fk. of Newcombe Cr. It was named for one or more of the related 19 cent. Mason families on Newcombe (perhaps for Wm. J., ne 1841, and/or his son Logan who may have given his name to nearby Logan Branch.)

MAUK RIDGE: Six or more mi long, an east-west elev. betw. Little Caney Cr. and the forks of Sinking Cr. It was named for Peter Mauk, Sr. (1781-1859) who had settled in the area by the 1820s and acquired large land holdings on the ridge and adjacent creeks in the 1830s and '40s.

MINK: From Mar. 28, 1892 to June 1895, David M. Miller operated a po by this name at some as yet/known site near Clay Fk. of Big Sinking. It might have been named for "Mink" Porter, a late 19 cent. trapper of the animal that gave him his nickname, or for the animals that are still found in the county (or both).

NEAL HOWARDS CREEK: Heads just short of the Morgan Co. line, 1 mi n of Redwine, and extends for nearly 3\frac{1}{2} mi ne to the Little Sandy R. below the site of the Little Sandy po. It was named for Neal Howard, an early owner-resident of the creek and the county's only major slaveholder. It is identified as Howard Branch on the 1861 Jos. Leslie map.
NEWCOMBE: PO on Newcombe Cr. for which it was named. Alfred G. Rice est. it on Feb. 11, 1878 at some pt. below Fraley Chapel. In 1942 it was moved up the creek to Ky. 706, at a pt. just below Boggs Branch, where it closed in Nov. 1965.

NEWCOMBE CREEK: Heads at the confluence of its two major forks at Isonville and extends for 6½ mi n to the Little Sandy R., 6 stream mi below S.H. Its name source is not known; there's the story of an old man who once lived there and is buried somewhere on its banks, but no record tells of him. The Right Fork of Newcombe heads just short of the Morgan Co. line and extends n for 5½ mi. The Left Fork, which is now inexplicably identified on published maps as Lick Fork, heads over 500 yards nw of the jct. of Elliott, Morgan, and Lawrence Co's. and extends ly for near/5½ mi n, then w.

NEWFOUNDLAND: One of the earliest Elliott Co. settlements and a contender, in 1869, for the county's seat. Acc. to tradition, it was called by its first residents a "new found land," meaning one that had been recently settled. The community, which now extends along Ky 7 for roughly 1 mi in each direction from its jct. with Ky 32, has also been known as Crackers Neck. Though seemingly a nickname for the community, and allegedly referring to the instructions offered by the spectators at a local fight for one of the participants to "crack the neck" of his opponent, the name was officially applied around 1900 to the area's voting and Census precincts. The local po, est. on July 15, 1869 with John A. Davis, pm, closed in the summer of 1989.

OLIVER BRANCH OF RIGHT FORK (of Newcombe Creek): Extends for 1½ mi ne to Right Fk. at the last Eldridge po site. It was named for several related Oliver families descended from pion. Daniel O. Oliver (ne ca. 1815) that lived there. Perhaps it referred specifically to resident John P. Oliver, a son of Daniel's, whose brother Jim gave his name to the Jim Oliver Branch, less than ½ mi below.
ORDINARY: PO on Brown Ridge (Ky 32), about 1½ mi from the Rowan Co. line. It was to have been called Antic (for reasons unknown. Or could this have been corrupted from Antioch?) but was called Ordinary instead when it was est. by Geo. W. Carter on Aug. 11, 1884. The local trad. deriving the name from such an ordinary place may have some basis, but it seems more likely that it referred to someone's home where, for a modest fee, a traveler could obtain a room and meal for the night. In early settlement times such accommodations were known as ordinaries. In Sept. 1932 Huston H. Johnson moved the po to his store where it operated till it closed in July 1953.

PERCAL: PO that operated from Sept. 29, 1884 to July 1888 probably on Fraley Ridge, about 1 mi e of Devils Fk. and the Morgan Co. line. Annie E. Wilson, the first pm, was succeeded by John R. and Orlena Toliver. No one I've talked to in the co. has heard of this po nor could account for its name, or for Viola, the first name proposed for it. (Could Percal have been a combination of two family names, say Perry, the name of a local family, and something else?)

PETERS HILL: (elev. 1203 ft.) Just s of Wheeler Br. of Lick (or Left) Fk. of Newcombe, 1½ mi se of Isonville. It was probably named for Thos. Peters, a Scott Co., Va. native who came to Elliott Co. with his brother James after the Civil War.

POWDER MILL BRANCH OF LITTLE CANEY CREEK: Extends for nearly 2 mi se, then s to Little Caney, just above its confluence with Big Caney. It was named for an old Civil War powder mill on top of the cliff, less than 200 ft. w of the Grundy Church.

PRUETTS FORK OF WELLS CREEK: Heads 250 yards from the Morgan Co. line and extends for 2 mi ne to join Bowling Branch to form Wells Cr. It was probably named for the descendants of Moses and Jane Pruett (Pruett) who lived there.
It was given as McGuire Branch on the 1880 Geol. Survey map. The name of another Pruett, James P. (Jim), grandson of Moses, was given to another fork of Wells Cr. This heads some 200 yards from the Morgan Co. line and extends for 1.8 mi n to Wells Cr., 3/4 mi above the 2nd site of the Bascom po. It may now be called Eldridge Branch for the Eldridge brothers, neighbors and sons-in-law of Jim Pruett.

**RICE HOLLOW:** Extends about 1½ mi ene to Newcombe Cr., 1½ mi below (n of) Isonville. It may have been named for pion. Hiram A. Rice. It was given as Ison Branch on the 1880s Geol. Survey maps probably for the family of Doctor Rice (ne 1816), residents. Another westside branch of Newcombe, nearly a mi below Rice Hol. and just w of the old Newcombe po, is the 3/4 mi long Zach Rice Hollow named for a resident Zachary Taylor Rice.

**RIDDLE:** PO at several sites on the Left (Lick) Fk. of Newcombe Cr., roughly midway betw. Isonville and Mazie, which Beverly R. Dickinson, on Aug. 15, 1882, named for his NC-born neighbor, John Riddle. It closed in Feb. 1916.

**ROCKHOUSE FORK OF BLAINE TRACE:** Heads 2/3 mi from the Lawrence Co. line and extends due n for 1½ mi to Blaine Trace, 2½ mi above Little Fork. A rockhouse near its head was used as a barn by a local farmer.

**ROCKY BRANCH OF NEWCOMBE CREEK:** Extends nw, then w for 2.2 mi to Newcombe Cr. just above Fraley Flat. For much of its route it flows over solid rock. Its Right Fork (so-named) was early known as Ison Branch; Left Fork, which joins the main stream at Burke po, was called Davis Hollow; and the main stream or middle fork used to be Gillum Branch. Another Rocky Creek, extending from a point 1 mi se of Ordinary po 2.3 mi se to Laurel Cr., was named for the many rocks in its bed.
ROSCOE: PO est. on July 11, 1895 at the head of Left Fk. of Middle Fk. Cr., ca. 1 mi from the Morgan Co. line. Charles G. Oliver, the first pm, named it for the 5 yr. old son of Meredith P. Skaggs, the local storekeeper. In 1899 Meredith became pm. In 1848 the po was moved to the mouth of Beech (Branham) Branch and Roscoe himself served as pm from Nov. 1953 till his death in Feb. 1960. The po closed in Aug. 1964.

ROSE CREEK: Heads ½ mi sse of Locust Knob and extends for 2½ mi wnw to the Little Sandy R., 1 mi below the mouth of Newcombe Cr. It is said to have been named for resident John Perry Rose (1836-1922), son of NC-born pions. Robert and Sarah Perry Rose, and may also have been known as Perry Rose Branch. It was given as Spruce Branch on the 1886 Geol. Survey map.

RUIN: PO est. in the summer of 1933 in pm Roscoe C. Pennington's store on N. Ruin Cr., for which it was named. In 1948 Gladys Pennington moved it ½ mi e to a site just below the Carter Schoolhouse, 1 3/4 mi e of Ky. 173, where it remained till it closed in the 1950s.

THE RUIN CREEKS: The North and South Forks head just e of Ky. 173, about a mile apart, and more or less parallel each other for some 5½ mi e till they join to form main Ruin Creek, 2/3 mi from the Little Sandy R. just below S.H. For some years N. Ruin has locally been known as Carter Creek for the family of Scott Co., Va.-born Milton L. Carter who settled there around 1850 and was later one of Elliott Co's first magistrates. The Ruin names, however, identified the streams as early as 1832, acc. to old land records. In the late 19 cent. South Ruin was also known as Left Fk. of Ruin and North Ruin was identified as Right Fork on Geol. Survey maps. The name's derivation is not known but it is assumed it referred to some historic incident or some geographic condition. Lucy White tells of the man who was lost for quite a while and was found sitting on a rock with his head in his hands, saying "I'm ruined, I'm ruined."
SALYERS BRANCH OF LITTLE FORK: Extends for 1/4 mi ene to Little Fk, 1 3/4 mi above the Stephens po. It was probably named for Thos. Salyers, a Va.-born mid 19 cent. settler.

SANDY HOOK: Fifth class city with an esti. 700 residents and the seat of Elliott Co. It may have been settled in the 1820s at what was then the head of navigation of the Little Sandy R. Chartered as Sandy Hook by the Ky. Leg. on Mar. 4, 1850, it was named for its location in a sharp bend of the river that resembled an oldfashioned fishhook. In 1869, with Jas. K. Hunter's generous offer of land, the site was selected for the new co. seat. The town was inc. as Martinsburg on Feb. 2, 1872 to honor John P. Martin (1811-1862), US Congressman and later state sen. from Floyd Co. However, since the po had been est. as Sandy Hook on Jan. 16, 1867 (with J.R. Hunter, first pm) and there was another Martinsburg in the state, the town officially readopted its Sandy Hook name in 1888. It has also been suggested that the Martinsburg name was derived from the large number of purple martins that once threatened to overrun the town until they were caught and disposed of. A predecessor po called Woodlawn, est. by Jas. P. Meek on Mar. 3, 1854, closed when the Sandy Hook office opened.

SANSILK: PO serving the Brushy Creek area from May 9, 1923 through Jan. 1939, 1 mi up Brushy from Little Fk. at the Carter Co. line. Miss Bertha Porter was its only pm. Acc. to area resident, Gomez Porter, Sansilk was one of 3 similar sounding names submitted to the Post Office Dept; the others--Sandlick and Sandcliff--were already in use. The significance of Sansilk is not known to him. Nor to others.

SARAH: PO near the head of Wallow Hole Cr., 3/4 mi from the Lawrence Co. line. It was est. on Dec. 22, 1899 and named for its first pm Sarah Emily (Mrs. Henry) Evans (1862-1953). Except for a brief period (1909-1913) when Nelson Ross moved the po 1 mi down the creek, it remained with the Evans family at or near the orig. site. Sarah's son, Roscoe maintained it in his store from Feb. 1940 till it closed in Nov. 1862.
SHEEPSKIN BRANCH OF MIDDLE FORK: Extends for 1½ mi nnw to Middle Fk. 2 mi below (n of) the old Fannin po. The story is told of stolen sheep whose skins alone were recovered, having been buried at the mouth of the creek. This acct. is problematic.

SIDEWAY: PO est. on Sept. 12, 1912 in John Wesley Mabry's store ca. 1 mi s of Ky. 504 and a little over 1 mi e of the jct. of Carter, Rowan, and Elliott Co's. In 1917 Mabry was succeeded by his son Andrew Jackson Mabry who kept the office till it closed in Oct. 1958. Acc. to Kathleen Cole, Sideway was but the reversal of the proposed name Wayside, already in use in Ky. The shortlived (1916-17) po of Longway, a mi away in Rowan Co., may have been suggested by this name.

SPANGLIN: PO serving the Devils Fk. area of sw Elliott Co. It was ¾ mi up a branch of Fulton Fk. and 1½ mi from Ky. 7. The proposed name Adams, for one or more local families, was in use by a Lawrence Co.po when Santford Adkins est. the po on June 4, 1907 so he submitted Spanglin instead. No one knows the significance of this name; no families named Spanglin ever lived in Elliott Co. The po closed in July 1914 and was re-est. in Nov. 1930 by Willie Adams. It closed for good in July 1955.

STAFFORD CREEK: Extends se for 1.2 mi to the Little Sandy R. midway betw. Newfoundland and Green. It was named for the family of James & Huldah Stafford, 19 cent. settlers.

STAMPER RIDGE: Extends sw to ne for ca. 3 mi betw. Ky. 173 and Laurel Cr. It was named for the descendants of pion. Geo. W. Stamper (ca. 1810-1880) who lived there.

STARK: Though this po was only est. on June 30, 1890, with Jas. M. Porter, pm, the community it served, extending over 2 mi along Ky. 649 on the ridge between Big and Little Caney Creeks, is one of the oldest in the county.
Thos. Thompson, an early settler on the east end of the ridge, is said to have named it for the Rev. War Gen'l John Stark with whom his father had served. The name proposed for the po, **Elliott Home**, refers to another early settler, John L. Elliott's mansion, just across the road from the orig. po site (and just east of the Stark Meth. Church) which was built in 1823 and is still occupied. In 1859 the po was moved 2 1/2 mi up the ridge to Binion's store where it closed in the summer of 1889.

**STEPHENS**: PO whose proposed name Trace suggests its orig. location somewhere on Blaine Trace. It was est. on Sept. 13, 1888 and named for the family of its first pm Jas. M. Stephens. It moved to Little Fk., in the vic. of the mouth of Ison Cr., sometime before 1910. After at least a half dozen more site changes over the next 30 years, it returned to the mouth of Ison Cr. where it remains active.

**STINSON BRANCH OF RIGHT FORK** (of Newcombe Creek): Heads less than 1/2 mi from the Morgan Co. line and extends for 1 1/2 mi to Right Fk., 3 mi above (south of) Isonville. It was named for the family of Zach and Cora Stinson, residents. It was earlier called **Brack Adkins Branch** for another resident, Brackstone (or Braxton) Adkins.

**THE RIDGE**: PO est. on Apr. 18, 1878 with Andrew J. Landreth, the first pm, at some unknown site above the head of Fulton Fk. (of Devils Fk.). By 1917 it was on the upper end of S. Ruin Cr. (now Ky. 755), 1 1/2 mi from the Lytten PO. It closed in Oct. 1955.

**TRENCH**: PO at several sites on Bruin Creek's left fork, serving the Upper Bruin Ngbd. It was est. on Aug. 17, 1889 by Thos. W. Hudgins whose proposed name **Hudginsburg** was unacceptable. **Trench** may refer to the trenches said to have been dug by Civil War troops prospecting for iron ore.
in the hills on either side of the creek. When the office closed in June 1942, it was at a site ca. 2 mi above the present Bruin PO.

**WALLOW HOLE CREEK:** Heads ca. 300 yards from the Lawrence Co. line and extends ne, then nw for 3½ mi to Little Fk., about 1 mi below (ne of) the Culver PO. Bears are said to have come in there to wallow in the sand to get rid of troublesome insects. The name has also been applied to the rural ngbd. in its valley.

**WELLS CREEK:** Heading at the jct. of Pruets and Bowling Forks, nearly a mi above the first Bascom po, it extends for 3.8 mi nne to Little Sandy R., 1 3/4 mi above S.H. It was named for the family of Richard F. Wells who settled there ca. 1850. Until the turn of the century it was known as **Enoch Fork**, probably for one of the earlier Enoch Lewises, a pioneer settler. On an 1880 Geol. Survey map that section of the creek above the mouth of Pruets Fk. was given as **Adkins Branch** for other local families. Also, on this map, a **Wells Branch** identifies a 1.8 mi long e side trib. that joins the main stream at the 2nd Bascom po.

**WHEELER BRANCH OF LICK (LEFT) FORK (of Newcombe Creek):** Extends for 1 mi w to Lick Fk. just above (se of) the Isonville Sch. and n of Peters Hill. It was named for Henry W. Wheeler, a local storekeeper. It was identified as **Lick Branch** on an 1880 Geol. Survey map and may also have been known as **Peters Branch**.

**WHITE'S CREEK:** Extends ese for 2 mi to Little Fk., 2 mi below (ne of) the Culver po. It was named for the families that have lived there since the mid 19 cent. Ca. 1856, Va-born Nelson White (1831-1912) and Jas. M. Green acquired 300 acres on this creek which was identified as **Helton Branch** on their grant. It was given as **Helton**, **Hylton**, and even **Halton Branch** on several late 19 cent. and early 20 cent. maps.

**WINKLER:** PO at some as yet undetermined site at the head of Arabs Fk. of Sinking Cr., betw. Ault and Jacobs. It operated from Sept. 26, 1902 to Nov. 1913 with only 2 pm, Doctor M. Foster and his wife Mary.
No one seems to recall this po, much less can guess at its name. No Winkler families are known to have lived in the county.

**WYETT**: PO at the head of Devils Fk., on Ky. 173, 1 mi from the Rowan Co. line. It was est. on Aug. 16, 1889 with Wm. H.H. Lewis, the first pm, and named for Wyett Adkins, a local resident. It closed in Aug. 1941.