

## THE POST OFFICES OF HART COUNTY

Although geographically speaking the 412 square mile Hart County is a part of Kentucky's Pennyroyal section and thus has much in common with other counties in the middle Green River system, we have arbitrarily included it in this volume. As with Meade County, this is justified by Hart's having been taken in part from Hardin County and by its close historical and economic connection with Hardin and neighboring LaRue.

Hart is drained by the tributaries and main stream of the meandering Green River which runs east to west through the middle of the county. Major Green River branches serving as reference points for many of the county's settlements are the Nolin River (which separates northwestern Hart from neighboring Grayson County), Cub Run, Lynn Camp Creek, and the Little Barren River. Main Nolin River tributaries draining the western and northwestern sections of the county are Dog Creek, Cane Run, and Bacon and Roundstone Creeks.

The county's earliest settlements were on Lynn Camp Creek in 1787, Bacon Creek the following year, and the south bank of Green River, the site of the future Woodsonville, around 1790. On January 28, 1819 the Kentucky legislature organized the state's sixty first county from Hardin and Barren Counties and named it for Capt. Nathaniel Gray Smith Hart (1784-1813), a Lexington lawyer and merchant who, as an officer in the War of 1812, was murdered by Indians after the Battle of the River Raisin. Only one other county, Edmonson, was taken, in part, from Hart in early 1825 when Hart assumed its present boundaries.

Until well into the twentieth century Hart was primarily an agricultural county. Some manufacturing (notably of lumber products and mobile homes) and tourism (with nearby Mammoth and other caves attracting thousands of visitors every year) have helped to diversify its economy. Munfordville, its somewhat centrally located seat, is seventy four road miles (via I-65) south of downtown Louisville. Nearly 49,000 residents were counted in the 1990 Census.

Most of Hart's fifty ~~four~~ post offices will be located by road miles from the junction of US 31W and Ky 357 in downtown Munfordville.

Hart County's first post office was established on April 16, 1820 as Munfordsville Court House to serve the new county seat on the north bank of the Green River. This was on Robert Vaughan's 2,500 acre Virginia grant, early and aptly called Big Buffalo Crossing, that was settled in 1801 by the brothers Richard and Thomas Munford. Its location about midway on the road between Louisville and Nashville soon made Thomas' home an attractive and convenient stopping place for travelers. In 1808 Richard (1776-1843) acquired the Vaughan grant on one hundred acres of which, in 1816, he founded and laid out the town that has since borne his name. It became the county's seat on its establishment and was incorporated in 1858. By then the town and its post office were known as Munfordsville. The medial "s" in the name was retained through the nineteenth century, but while it is no longer in official use, many people still follow the central Kentucky custom of sounding an "s" where it does not exist.<sup>1</sup>

Hart's earliest industries, powder making and iron smelting, gave rise to two of its earliest communities and their post offices. Some three miles up Lynn Camp Creek (and 13½ miles northeast of Munfordville), John Courts in 1811 established Kentucky's first commercial powder mill of any consequence which was soon to supply Jackson's troops at the Battle of New Orleans. By the time its post office began operation in January 1826 as Fountain Powder Mills (with Frederick Moss, postmaster), the community that had grown up around it had become the county's principal town with water-powered grist, saw, and carding mills, a store, and a tanyard. The post office closed in early January 1846, though the mills continued through the Civil War. The powder mill itself ceased operation shortly after the war with the death of its then owner Thomas Gibson. The post office was re-established on May 24, 1876 as Powder Mills to serve what remained of the community. In 1914 it was moved half a mile northwest where it continued to operate till it closed in 1940. Nothing remains at either site. Why the office was first called Fountain Powder Mills is not known.

Threemiles further up Lynn Camp Creek from the old Powder Mills was the Aetna Furnace. Built in 1816 to smelt local ore it soon became the center of a successful furnace and foundry operation over a 10,500 acre area in three counties. By the 1850s it had ceased operations.

The first of the two post offices to serve the furnace was Etna Furnace (sic) from February 1826 to 1828 (with Levi Y. Millspaugh, postmaster). It was not re-established till 1887 to serve a store and flour mill one-fourth of a mile from the old furnace site. Since

an Aetnaville post office had just opened in Ohio County, another name was sought. According to the late Judge Cann, the county's leading modern historian, three names were submitted for the new office: Rattlesnake, Smokey Hollow, and Fairthorn. As the latter the post office operated from August 16, 1887 (with William F. Scott, the first postmaster) through February 1913, while the community continued as Old Aetna Furnace. Whence Fairthorn, wrote Judge Cann in his manuscript history of the county: "The day was bright and sunshiny, the ground covered with snow, and a large thorn tree was in view."<sup>2</sup>

Hart had two communities, about a mile apart, called Monroe. The first, a now extinct settlement historically known as Old Monroe, was established in 1819 by Thomas Monroe, its name source, and William I. Adair, as a contender for the new county's seat. It failed to develop when the seat was located at Munfordville. Sometime before 1826, however, its strategic location on another important road between Louisville and Nashville attracted Joshua Brent who acquired the land and opened there a tavern for travelers. On January 30, 1826 he established the Monroe post office which served the community till January 1864 when it was moved to the east bank of the Little Barren River in Green County. Here, as Oceola, it operated almost to the close of the century.

Shortly after the Civil War, Thomas C. Young founded a community, a mile south of the Old Monroe site and a mile and a half west of Oceola, which he called Young Town. Here, on September 16, 1878, he re-established the Monroe post office. The small community now with several businesses, two churches, and a dozen homes, at the

junction of the present Ky 88 and 677, thirteen miles east of Munfordville, survived the closing of the office in January 1919.

Glen Brook, which may have been the name of the Green River branch across from the present Figett Bend,<sup>3</sup> was given to a post office on the old road between the river and Powder Mills. This was probably where the Knox School is shown on the 1930 Hart County Oil and Gas map, half a mile north of the river. The office was established on February 3, 1832 with Oliver G. Waggoner, postmaster, and closed in May 1844. It was re-established on February 10, 1846 at the same site and maintained by John B. Cobb till it closed in March 1863. On a mid nineteenth century Hart County map sent by the Post Office Department to confirm locations of county post offices, the Munfordville postmaster Miss B. Connolly crossed out Glen Brook and pencilled in Catalpa Grove.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, several miles down the Green River where it used to be crossed by the Jackson Highway until it was rerouted as US 31E, another post office was established, on November 7, 1865, (with John T. Gardner, postmaster), as Rio [reye/oh]. This name, the Spanish word for river, may have come from its location and early significance as a river port. By the mid 1870s it had also become the site of a spring water-powered grist, saw, and planing mill run by Lane and Weller and locally known as the Glen Brook Mills. The local community was also called Glenbrook, according to then postmaster Otho Naylor's Site Location Report. The office closed in February 1908. Some 300 hundred yards north of the river, on the banks of what is now known as Rocky Hollow, was a late nineteenth century spa called Rio Springs with its Glenbrook Hotel. Though the spa is gone, the spring

is still the water source for much of southern Hart County.

Sometime in the late 1790s George Hardy acquired land and settled at the head of Blue Springs Creek. He later sold several hundred acres to a Mr. Taylor. On this land, from March 8, 1832 through September 1835, Uriah G. Taylor operated the Taylor's Cross Roads post office. On or near this site, on the present Ky 218, a quarter of a mile from the Barren County line and 9½ miles sse of Munfordville, another Taylor, Abraham J., re-established the post office as Seymour. This was on November 17, 1868, just after New York's Governor Horatio Seymour's unsuccessful run for the U.S. presidency. I should not imply that he was the name source, however. Some have attributed the name to one or more Seymour (Seymore) families in the nearby Rowletts Station Precinct. Though Seymour was incorporated as a town in April 1880 it seldom had more than a couple of stores at any time. The post office closed in August 1906 and now only some homes remain.

The inexplicably named Melrose post office was operated on Bacon Creek by William and Andrew Mudd from September 10, 1834 to November 1837. This was re-established, on March 16, 1843 as Bacon Creek, for the stream, with George P. Morris, postmaster, but closed the following year. Ten years later it was reopened, again as Bacon Creek. In the 1850s then County Judge Kendrick Jameson, having acquired some 1,100 acres at that site, donated the local right-of-way for the L&N Railroad's main north-south line and soon became its first agent there. He also became the local postmaster in 1864. In 1880 he or his son William, who had succeeded him as station agent and postmaster, petitioned the legislature for a change-in-

name. Bacon Creek, it was felt, was not a suitable name for a growing town, so it became Bonnieville. The post office assumed this name in March 1880 and the town was incorporated as such two months later.

Whence the names Bacon Creek and Bonnieville have never been definitely established. There were no known Bacon families in the county. But there was the local tale of "the man who stole some bacon and was about to be caught...when he threw it in the stream."<sup>5</sup> Bonnie, is said by some, to have been someone's wife. Others suggest it was named for one or more Jefferson or Bullitt County families of Bonnie who may have had some association with the railroad. Judge Cann thought it was named for the Scottish folk heroine "Bonnie Annie Laurie" of whom the Kendricks may have been fond.<sup>6</sup> Bonnieville is today a sixth class city with a 1990 population of 300 centering where US 31W and the railroad tracks cross Bacon Creek, half a mile west of I-65 and 7½ miles north of Munfordville.

Three miles north of Bacon Creek-Bonnieville were the two Leesville post offices. The first was established by and named for Silas Lee (ca. 1800-1864), the storekeeper-Methodist preacher son of pioneer John, a weaver, who had brought his family from New York. Silas and C.L. Cosby operated the post office from January 1, 1841 till, in 1856, it was moved several miles north to the Hart-LaRue county line where it became the Uptonville post office. The office enjoyed a short reprise, again as Leesville, from August 1, 1904 through October 1905. This was just west of the L&N tracks, at a point midway between Bonnieville and Uptonville (later Upton). Nothing now marks the site.

A mere one hundred yards from where Hart, Barren, and Metcalfe Counties come together (at the junction of Ky 218 and 677, 14½ miles southeast of Munfordville), is the viable hamlet of Three Springs. It was named for the local Three Springs Baptist Church organized in 1820 and, in turn, named for the three springs that emerge from and in a short distance re-enter the ground to feed a large area underground drainage network. The first Three Springs post office, established on February 11, 1841, with Allen W. Durham, postmaster, was later moved to Park, three miles southwest in Barren County. It was re-established, also as Three Springs, in 1853 at its original site where the town of Three Springs was incorporated in 1870. The office closed in 1919.

The now residential suburb of Woodsonville, just west of US 31W and across the Green River from Munfordville, was the south end of what the pioneers called The Big Buffalo Crossing. Here, at what was also called Amos Landing, James Amos operated a ferry and flatboat landing. He or Thomas Woodson, a large landowner and early magistrate, laid out the town in 1816 and named it for Woodson. It too contended unsuccessfully for the new county's seat. The Woodsonville post office operated between June 22, 1841 and mid October 1906.

The Chalk Ridge post office <sup>233</sup> operated from September 21, 1842 till July 1844 by John B. Cobb and Thomas Moore. It was at the head of Brushy Fork of Lynn Camp Creek, less than a mile east of the present US 31E and a mile south of the LaRue County line. The name, presumably derived from the nearby cliffs, was later applied to the local school. Nothing is there now.



Curiously, Hart County had two antebellum post offices called Clear Point operating at the same time. One, and it is not known which, served a community which continued to bear this name through the nineteenth century though for nearly twenty years its post office was called Uno. One of the Clear Points was established on May 22, 1843 by William H.L. Renfro and closed in late April 1856. The other, with John B. Cobb, its first postmaster, operated between February 10, 1846 and early March 1860.

The story is told that one of the Clear Points actually began as Clear Pint for a clear brand of corn whiskey that could be bought at the local grocery. Contemporary locals won't admit to this derivation but can't account for the name in any other way. Even in the old days residents tended to be discreet when telling their neighbors where they were going. When asked they'd simply say "Oh, you know." Hence, the story continues, when one of the Clear Point post offices was re-established, by John M. Perkins on October 24, 1887, it was called Uno. Contemporaries, who now used Uno exclusively for the crossroads hamlet at the junction of US 31E and Ky 571, 7½ miles southeast of Munfordville, believe that Uno, the Spanish for "number one", merely reflected earlier pride in their community. A couple of stores and three churches survived the post office's closing in October 1906. The site of the other Clear Point post office is not known.

Hart Countians can't agree for which family the Hardyville community and its still active post office were named. This village at the junction of US 31E and Ky 88, seven miles east of Munfordville, was founded in March 1861 on the site of William Renfro's ca. 1820s

stage relay station and tavern. A Green River post office served this vicinity, at a site not yet located, from June 28, 1847 to April 7, 1868 when postmaster Thomas A. Conyer moved it to or simply had it renamed Hardyville for the new community. Why Adin Coombs, Green River's first postmaster, had named it for a stream several miles north is not known.

According to Cyrus Edwards, newspaperman and early twentieth century area historian, the community was named for pioneer Isham Hardy's son James G., the late Kentucky House Speaker and Lieutenant Governor, to commemorate a victorious debate with some Whig opponents.<sup>7</sup> Another Hardy family, however, has claimed that the village was named for a Willie Hardy.<sup>8</sup>

According to tradition, sometime before 1800 a Dr. Hammon settled at what was early called The Three Forks of Bacon Creek where, in 1818, a church of that name was organized. In the 1840s a community called Hammonville was founded there, just south of where the present Ky 357 crosses Bacon Creek, twelve miles nne of Munfordville. Its post office operated as Hammonsville from March 2, 1848 till 1936. Among those who followed first postmaster Robert H. Compton was a William G. Hammon (in 1853-54). The town was incorporated as Hammonsville in February 1860, and its name has since generally been pronounced with the medial "s".

In 1859 the L&N located a station  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Munfordville and named it for John W. Rowlett, its first station and express agent. John established the local post office as Rowletts Depot [raU/lats] on February 9, 1860. The community that grew up around it was incorporated in 1874 as Rowletts' Station which soon became a

prosperous trading and shipping point for area farmers just south of the Green River. In 1880, Depot was dropped from the post office name, and two years later the town was reincorporated as Rowletts. The depot is gone; the post office recently closed; and the small village that remains just south of the junction of US 31W and Ky 335 has two churches, a couple of stores, and the railroad siding.

Horse Cave, the county's largest town, is a fifth class city with some 2,300 residents. Centering at the junction of US 31W and Ky 218, 7½ miles south of Munfordville, it has long been the tourist and retail trade center for the southern half of Hart County and the eastern caves area. It may still have the fifth largest tobacco market in the state (if not the nation) and is home to factories making steel pipes and metal plating, cheese, and ready-to-wear clothing. The site was settled before 1800 but the town itself was laid out in the 1850s by Major Albert Anderson who, in 1858, donated the land for another L&N station with the stipulation that the station always be called Horse Cave.

Several explanations have been offered for the name of the large cave (later called Hidden River Cave)<sup>9</sup> in the town's center for which the community, station, and post office were named. Indians or a gang of horse thieves are said to have used the cave to hide their horses. A frightened horse fell off the cliff some fifty feet into a sink leading down into the cave. The cave's big entrance may have suggested the adjective, for anything unusually big was often, at that time, called "horse".

The Horse Cave post office was established on March 1, 1860 with William J. Burd, postmaster, and the town was incorporated in February 1874. Five years later local residents had the name of the town and post office changed to Caverna [kə/vɜrnə], but the problems arising from the railroad's inability to change the station's name led to the restoration of Horse Cave in 1879. Caverna has been preserved in the name of the local hospital and the independent school district shared with nearby Cave City.

The derivation of Canmer, the name applied to a village on the present US 31E, a mile south of Green River and eight miles east of Munfordville, has never been revealed. No one, in fact, has ever even ventured a guess. There was no famous person or any other place for which it could have been named. One can't help wondering if it could have combined two other names or words. That it was spelled Cranmer on several nineteenth century maps could be a clue, or simply an error.

Anyway, this stage stop on an old road between Louisville and Nashville acquired its post office on June 2, 1865 (with Judson C. Burch, postmaster) and was incorporated as Canmer in February 1871. From June 1870 till July 1880 the post office (only) was called Omega (equally inexplicable).<sup>10</sup> Toward the end of the century Canmer was home to at least five stores, saw and flour mills, a hotel and other businesses, including the old Canmer Wagon Works, half a mile south of town, a major central Kentucky industry. The Canmer post office still serves a half dozen businesses, including a bank, and at least two churches.

Green River's north bank tributary of Cub Run gave its name to the post office established at a crossroads settlement about half a mile above its head. The crossroads, today the junction of Ky 88 and 728, 12½ miles west of Munfordville, was settled shortly after the turn of the nineteenth century and soon became a popular meeting and camping place for travelers through central Kentucky who referred to it as The Crossroads.

The first post office to serve that general area was at what was then known as Logsdon's Tanyard on the present Ky 728, a mile north of the crossroads. This was operated by Josephus S. Logsdon as Reams' Chapel, referring to the local church of that name, from April 24, 1867 through January 1871. The church had been named for the family of South Carolina-born Robert Reams (1786-1872) who had settled in that area before 1820.

In the early 1870s the crossroads began to assume the identity of a trade center with Forman's grocery and Dawsey's general store. On January 7, 1874 Aaron Reams, a blacksmith, established another post office in his home just north of the crossroads. But since a Jefferson County post office had already taken the Crossroads name, the Hart County office became Cub Run, while the community remained Crossroads well into the twentieth century.

Cub Run too had its share of stories accounting for the name. A bear cub passing some hunters seated on its banks prompted one to remark "look at that cub run." Or a Mr. Craddock, returning from a hunt, described how he had killed a mother bear but couldn't catch her cub because, he said, "the cub run." Or a hunter spotting a cub was raising his gun to shoot it when his companions shouted "Run,

cub, run!" Any of these stories could be true. Or others. Who knows. Several stores and churches, a consolidated elementary school, and the Cub Run post office now serve northwestern Hart County and its approach to the nearby Nolin Reservoir.

According to Judge Cann,<sup>11</sup> sometime before the Civil War Elisha Johns built a grist and saw mill on the south bank of the Green River, on the Edmonson County line, about a hundred yards below Dennisons Ferry. The mill was later acquired and operated by Henry Grinstead and took his name. As Grinstead's Mill the local post office was run by J.W.J. Mathews from June 29, 1868 till June 1876.

Two other post offices besides Cub Run's were established on January 7, 1874. One was Dog Creek on the east bank of the stream for which it was named. This stream which joins Nolin River at the junction of Hart, Edmonson, and Grayson Counties, may have been settled in the 1790s. Its name is attributed by local legend to a wholesale killing of early settlers' dogs by wolves. At a point some 2½ miles up the creek William J. Lush started a flour and saw mill (ca. 1864) and, later, the Dog Creek post office. By 1895, when the post office name began to be spelled as one word, the place had become a trading center and supply depot for Nolin area loggers and rafters. Lush's Mill was joined by two other mills, a pair of coopers, two wagonmakers, a store, and other businesses. When the office closed in 1958, it was on the present Rt. 1015, half a mile west of Ky 88, and 16½ miles wnw of Munfordville.

Wild Cat was the other post office established on January 7, 1874. But late that September postmaster Edward P. Johnson had the name changed to Forestville and it was called that till it closed

in 1956. By 1917, however, according to a Site Location Report, this store-centered community, 1½ miles south of what became Ky 88 and seven miles west of Munfordville, was still Wild Cat. Only the local Pleasant Grove Baptist Church survives. Neither post office name has been explained.

The once industrial town of Priceville was centered at the junction of the present Ky 728 and 1140, 9½ miles northwest of Munfordville. It was established by legislative act in January 1848 on land owned by James Corder and probably named for one of its initial trustees, Marida Price. Instructed by the Post Office Department to select another name, Postmaster-designate and local blacksmith Ideral Vanfleet (1846-1911) chose his own, and as Vanfleet the post office was established on April 4, 1882. In March 1886 his successor Thomas H. Bowles was able to rename the office for the town. By 1900 the community had broom and wagon factories, a rolling mill, two stores, and a school. All are gone.

The pioneer family of Kessinger (or Kissinger), whose Kentucky progenitor Solomon had come from the Lower Franconia region of Germany, acquired property and settled on Bacon Creek before Hart County was created. One member William, a Hardin County magistrate in 1814, continued in that position in the new county. At several locations between five and six miles northwest of Munfordville, in the vicinity of the present Ky 88, a Kessinger post office [kās/əŋ/ər], established by Jacob Kessinger, operated between July 12, 1887 and 1970, its final seven years as a rural branch of Munfordville. At present, the hamlet of Kessinger, extending for about half a mile along Ky 88, less than six miles northwest of the

county seat, has two stores and a church.

According to a 1929 Site Location Report, one of the Kessinger post office moves was to serve a community and the voting precinct of Euclid. But this name had been given to a post office that operated between June 30, 1892 and August 1895 two miles east of Kessinger and four miles northwest of Munfordville. Its first postmaster George Washington Manion had originally proposed his own family name for that office.

The curious pronunciation of Kessinger, given above, may have reflected the early nineteenth century spelling variants of the family's name, Casinger and Kasinger. Or vice versa. At least half a dozen other spellings of this name have been noted on nineteenth century records.<sup>12</sup>

The name of a variety of apple may have been given to a post office, operating between March 29, 1888 and 1934. At least this was the name it assumed in place of Rest, the name first offered by postmaster-designate Burrell Inman Jagers. These names have never been explained. The office, on the present Ky 88, four miles southwest of Kessinger, is not in a big apple-producing area and the few nearby orchards are not known for the commercial production of this variety. Before 1900 Winesap had two sawmills, a hoop factory, a store, and several shops. All are gone.

The southeastern Hart County crossroads post office of Pascal also has a unexplained name which was also not that originally intended for it. Its site on Ky 436, 11 3/4 miles east of Munfordville, was first settled before 1800 by the families of William Edgar and Job Trowbridge. Here George Taylor Hicks petitioned for



the Maxey post office that would honor area descendants of pioneer Ephraim Maxey of nearby Monroe. As Pascal, however, it operated from April 13, 1888 to December 1891 and from January 11, 1898 through January 1912, serving several stores and the large Pascal Rolling Mill. One store remains.

Nor does anyone seem to know why the two Linwood post offices were so named. The first, established by Robert E. Wade, operated from June 7, 1888 through March 1907 on what later became the Jackson Highway (now, roughly, US 31E), two miles north of the Green River at Rio. The office was re-established in 1934 on the road half a mile north (and about eleven miles northeast of ~~Munfordville~~) where, till 1957, it served what has since been called New Linwood. Several stores line the highway at these sites.

In 1887 Richard Piercefield Line (1841-1924) arrived at a point about two miles up Bacon Creek (just south of where the present Ky 728 crosses that stream, 13½ miles northwest of Munfordville) and opened a saw and grist mill, blacksmith shop, and store. On February 7, 1889 he also established the Line's Mill post office which operated through June 1912. The mill itself survived his departure in 1907 though with different owners, and the store lasted till the 1920s. There is nothing at the site now.

It is most likely that storekeeper Charles A. Cann named his Defries post office [də/frees] for his neighbor William A. Defries (ne December 1839), a drygoods salesman. This office operated from March 4, 1890 through October 1927 on the present Ky 677, one quarter mile from the Green County line and 13¼ miles east of Munfordville. This was less than a mile south of the confluence of the Little Barren

and Green Rivers at or near which may have been the antebellum landing of Port Royal.

There is probably an interesting story behind the naming of the Zero post office in the northeast corner of Hart County. But I've not heard it. This office occupied two sites in the Shioley Church neighborhood between July 10, 1890 and the end of February 1913. It was established by James J. Thompson whose first name preference San Joe is equally inexplicable. The second office site, a mile or so east, was at Peppers store, nearly on the Green County line.

Cat Fish was the first name proposed for the post office that became Denison when William W. Short opened it on August 26, 1890. In the spring of 1898 it was moved 2½ miles north of its original site, a mile from the Green River. It was moved several more times till, when it closed in 1938, it was at the edge of the Mammoth Cave National Park, half a mile east of Ugly Creek. Bennie S. Sturgeon ran the local store at the last site. The Denisons (or Dennisons, the spelling is interchangeable) have been, since the early nineteenth century, a prominent Hart County family.

The Shanty post office, established by William Allen Adair on October 18, 1890, was some 10½ miles southwest of Munfordville on the old road built in the 1840s between Rowletts Station and Mammoth Cave. In April 1898 it was renamed Northtown, an earlier name for the community that, before Hart County's formation, may have been the northernmost settlement in Barren County. Whence Shanty is not known. Its depreciator image probably prompted the change. The office closed in April 1914.

At the junction of Ky 936 and the old route of the Jackson Highway

(a mile east of the present US 31E at Jonesville, and twelve miles northeast of Munfordville), was the once village of Pike View. It and its first post office, established by storekeeper William W. Hines on February 12, 1891, were named for the picturesque view of the countryside enjoyed by travelers on this main route between Louisville and Nashville. The office, which closed in March 1908, was reopened in January 1910, but since Pike View was considered too similar to Pikeville, another name was required. Dowagiac [dow/djaek], a name spotted on someone's old wheat drill, was offered instead. While the community remained Pike View, the post office was Dowagiac until it again became Pike View in July 1938. It closed in 1974.

The drill is said to have been named for the Cass County, Michigan town where it was probably manufactured. According to Walter Romig, a Michigan place names authority, that town's name was derived from the Pottawattomi Indian term ndowagayuk meaning foraging ground.<sup>13</sup>

Nathan T. Hines was the first postmaster and probable name source of Hinesdale, a post office serving his family's small store and a few other businesses on the present Ky 569, 5 3/4 miles northeast of Munfordville from June 30, 1891 through April 1917.

The Roseburg post office operated from January 19, 1894 at several sites over a several square mile radius. It was started by Elijah T. Childress to serve the Roseburg church and school, but when it closed in 1940 it was just south of Cane Run, half a mile south of Nolin River, and twelve miles wnw of Munfordville. Its name origin remains unknown.

Who Elmer was and why a post office was named for him also remains

unknown. Mary A. Clopton was its first postmaster. The office operated between September 21, 1897 and mid October 1906 somewhere between Hinesdale, Linwood, and Friendship Church, probably at the head of Boiling Springs Hollow.

Seven Hart County post offices were established in 1898, two on January 11th alone. One of these was Lonoke [lohn/ohk], a short-lived office, on the present Ky 571, 2½ miles southeast of Munfordville. Sallie A. Owens ran it only till late June 1898. County historians merely assume it was named for a single local tree and account for its odd spelling by pointing out that McCracken County already had a Loneoak post office, The Lonoke name survives in that of the local church.

The inexplicably named Rex was the other office established on January 11. Through May 1914 this served a crossroads store on the present Ky 570, 6½ miles southeast of Munfordville. Mrs. Blanche Larimore was its first postmaster.

Neither can we but assume the name origin of the Wabash post office four miles up Bacon Creek from Bonnieville. It was established by storekeeper James T. Turner on February 5, 1890 to serve the mill which George Highbaugh had built around 1860 and which had come to satisfy most of the milling needs of the northern half of the county. The office closed in mid November 1905.

The station between Bonnieville and Munfordville that the L&N, since at least 1883, has called Dividing Ridge was served at two locations by the Detroit post office. Few Hart Countians recall the post office and no one seems to know its name derivation. From June 20, 1898, with Katie C. Vanfleet, its first postmaster, till

1900 it served the station midway between Bonnieville and Munfordville. It was then moved one mile north on the tracks where it closed in February 1916. The Dividing Ridge name was in use for a Pendleton County post office between 1862 and 1896.

The county's shortest lived post office (from October 1, 1898 till mid February of the following year) was Mike on Cane Run, probably just southeast of the Cane Run Church. Charles T. Sullivan was its only postmaster. Mike's identity remains unknown.

Tallie Spring was the name proposed for the post office that would serve Joseph G. Sell's drygoods store somewhere within the Mammoth Cave Park's present boundaries and three miles south of the Green River. But it operated instead from October 29, 1898 through March 1904 as Sell, with Joseph's wife Sarah T. as its only postmaster.

One of the 1898 post offices was never actually in operation. On March 22 of that year Nathan T. Hines' authorization for the Olden post office (officially established on January 11) was rescinded. Its name derivation is not known. Nor is its location, though it probably would have been near Hinesdale since Nathan had established that office earlier in the decade. (see above)

Since James H. Hester's post office would serve the area around the Little Flock Church and School, 2½ miles northwest of Kessinger, he first submitted this name for it. But instead it operated from March 1, 1901 through February 1909 as the inexplicable Blanco.

Two miles west of Blanco was the last of several sites of the equally inexplicably named office of Macon. This office operated from March 17, 1904 till 1969. Clayborne Butler was its first postmaster. Several other Macons in the U.S. (counties in Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois and Missouri and towns in those counties as well as Mississippi, Nebraska, Ohio, and Louisiana) were all named for Nathaniel Macon (1753-1837) who represented North Carolina in both houses of the U.S. Congress from 1791 to 1828. Could any Hart Countians have come from any of these places?

From June 29, 1901 through September 1911 Isaac and James Wilson ran the Riders post office serving Riders Mill on Roundstone Creek, Here, where the present Rt. 1140 crosses the creek, some three miles from its confluence with Nolin River (and three miles north of Priceville), the brothers George E. and J. Miles Rider built a sawmill around 1866.

Storekeeper Samuel Griffin Renfro named his new post office for his wife Eudora [yū/dawr/ə] (nee 1853). This was on what is now called The Eudora Road, about 4½ miles south of Northtown, near the Shady Grove Church. The community it served may later have been called New Hope for another area church. Renfro was its only postmaster, from August 4, 1902 through March 1904.

Cosby, the name of some Hart County families and a nearby church, was that first proposed for the shortlived office at the junction of Ky 218, 436, and 570, 10 3/4 miles southeast of Munfordville. But it was named instead, by storekeeper and sole postmaster John Madison Russell, for Legrand McGee, a local farmer. The Legrand

post office operated only from March 5, 1904 through October 1908. With the establishment of the local school, since closed, the name of both the school and the hamlet that grew up around it was spelled LeGrande. A small country store, a feedmill, and some homes still comprise the community.

Since Cox, for some local families and a nearby store, was already in use by a Carter County post office, William T. McDowell opened his office on the present Rt. 1827 as Bee probably for the bee-raising of some area farmers. This he operated from August 4, 1906 till mid October 1912. On June 27, 1928 Jerry T. Whitlow re-established it to serve a country store a quarter of a mile west of the Cherry Springs Baptist Church and a little over half a mile from the Edmonson County line. It closed for good in 1958.

Nemo [nee/moh], the post office for Logsdon Valley, five miles west of Munfordville, was operated by Joseph H. Logsdon from April 23, 1909 through August 1910. No reason for this name has been offered. A Nemo post office established in Somerville County, Texas in 1893 is said to have derived its name from the Latin "no one". But can one rule out the hero of Jules Verne's ever popular "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea"?

Cash was one of several Kentucky post offices whose site changes placed it, for its duration, in two adjacent counties. On April 11, 1890 William R. Sullivan established the office several hundred yards within Hardin County to serve the farm families of Copelin Valley, some six miles west of Upton. In 1908 Thomas B. Evans had it moved three-fourths of a mile west to a point on the present Ky 224, just within Hart County, where it served a country store till

1955. Hart County historians cannot account for its name. There were no such area families. But Hardin Countians may recall the Baptist preacher Warren Cash who had founded and served several county churches from 1806 till his death in 1850.

The last post office established in Hart County was Blowing Springs. This was officially begun on March 8, 1922 by George T. Dennis on the south bank of Nolin River, one mile below the mouth of Cane Run, nearly fourteen miles wnw of Munfordville. The name probably refers to seasonal outrushes of air from local springs, a characteristic feature of much of the Mammoth Cave region. In 1938 Lurania Dennis had the office moved half a mile west where it continued to operate till 1957.



Of Hart County's fifty four post offices only six are still in operation. Three (Horse Cave, Munfordville, and Bonnieville) serve incorporated cities. Viable villages still justify the post offices of Cub Run, Cammer, and Hardyville. At least a dozen other offices served sometime viable villages, while a store, stage stop, or rail siding accounted for the rest.

At least fifteen post offices were named for local or area persons or families. Two more--Seymour and Cash--may also have been, though Seymour might have been named for a presidential candidate. Eight offices had local or nearby geographical references. Two were probably named for distant places, while to eight were transferred the names of area features (three streams, three mills, a cave, and a church). Three were named for local economic activities. One name probably reflected local community pride, while a variety of



possible sources accounted for another. Fourteen names still have not been accounted for. One office has not been located.

The names of twelve post offices were not those first proposed for them. Eleven offices served communities that had other names. Eleven offices had name-changes.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Robert M. Rennick, Kentucky Place Names Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984, P. 208
2. Judge Roy A. Cann's manuscript history of Hart County, ca. 1971, a copy of which is in the writer's possession.
3. According to Robert H. Shaver of Bloomington, Indiana, Figett Bend was earlier called DeFevers Bend for the family of Revolutionary War veteran John Defever who had settled there before 1800.
4. A Catalpa Grove post office operated between 1846 and 1876 but in Green County, apparently at a separate location. What, if any, connection there may have been between these two Catalpa Groves is not yet known.
5. Judge Cann's manuscript, P. 23
6. Ibid.
7. Cyrus Edwards, Stories of Early Days, edited by Florence Edwards Gardiner, Louisville, 1940, Pp. 197-98
8. Hart County News, September 18, 1975, reproduced in the Hart County Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. IX (3), July 1977, Pp. 14-16

9. Hidden River was only applied to the cave when it was opened to the public in 1916. The cave was closed as a tourist attraction in 1943 when contamination by untreated sewage made it a serious health hazard. It reopened in 1992 on the completion of the city's new sewage treatment plant.
10. Omega, a name borne by two later Kentucky post offices, in Scott and Pulaski Counties, is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. This suggests that places bearing such names were the last places in a series or on a route. That does not help us much with the name temporarily borne by Cann's post office.
11. Judge Cann's manuscript, Pp. 38-39
12. Lottie Amos in "Kissinger-Kessinger Family" in Hart County Historical Quarterly, Vol. 9 (1), January 1977, Pp. 13-14
13. Walter Romig, Michigan Place Names, Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1986, P. 162

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1. Cann, Judge Roy A. manuscript history of Hart County, ca. 1971
2. Cave Country Salute to Kentucky's '74 Bicentennial, A published by the Hart County News, Hart County Herald, and Cave City Progress, March 1974, passim
3. Edwards, Cyrus, Stories of Early Days, edited and compiled by Florence Edwards Gardiner, Louisville, 1940
4. Logsdon, Dollie and Prisilla Stith, "Cub Run, Hart County, Kentucky" Hart County Historical Quarterly, Vol. 4 (3), July 1972, Pp. 8-10
5. Matera, Ann, Horse Cave, Ky., interviewed by the writer on July 21, 1978

6. Rennick, Robert M. Kentucky Place Names, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984
7. United States Post Office Department: Site Location Reports--Hart County Post Offices, National Archives (Washington, D.C.)
8. Warf, Mrs. Inez Line, Hart County Historical Quarterly, Vol. 4 (3), July 1972, P. 13