HENRY COUNTY in north-central Kentucky is bounded on the N. by Carroll, on the E. by Owen, on the S. by Shelby and on the W. by Oldham and Trimble counties; irregular pyramid in shape; 30 m. to Frankfort, 36 m. to Louisville, 287 m. to Paducah, 206 m. to Middlesboro from New Castle; area 303 sq. m. (193,920 acres); in size; population 12,564, density 41.5 per sq. m., shows a decrease of 2,056 from 1900 to 1930. Negro decrease was 784 during this period, present Negro population 1,181, or 9.4 percent of the total population, decreases are due to migration to industrial centers, population is all rural, 8,297 being rural farm and 4,267 are rural non-farm; 13 foreign born whites; 1,080 persons over 65 years of age.

NEW CASTLE (825 alt. 447 pop.), the county seat and a city of the 6th class is located in the south-central part of the county. It is located in magisterial district #4 where the population decrease has been proportionate to that of the county. Major highways of the County radiate from the city. New Castle residents depend on wells and cisterns for their water supply. Traffic is well regulated, with traffic lights at all principle intersections. Police and fire protection is ample for the ordinary needs of the community.

STATISTICS: The assessed valuation of all taxable property was $____ in year of ______, of which $____ was land values. Tax rates are County 70¢ and school ______ per $100. There is a total county debt of $340,500 of which $340,000 is bonded, and the balance is in floating debt warrants.

In 1936 Henry County licensed ______ automobiles, of which ______ were new cars.

Banks of the county have total deposits of $_______ and $_______ are on deposit in savings and loan associations.

Permanent county buildings and institutions, other than schools, in-
clude the courthouse and jail at New Castle and the poorfarm. The poor
farm is located at Drennon Springs. Its buildings are three cottages in
good repair.

TOPOGRAPHY: Henry County lies in the outer Bluegrass rim. Its area, for
the most part, is an undulating upland plateau that shows pronouncedly en-
trenched drainage along the Kentucky River and its major tributaries on the
East. Along the Kentucky River bluffs rise to as much as 375 feet above low
water. Henry County has the Eden shale that prevails in other counties that
lie between the Bluegrass and the Knobs. A narrow strip along the Kentucky
River is subject to little or no erosion. A narrow strip just west of the
river strip is subject to severe sheet erosion with frequent gullies.

Another small section along the Western boundary, a strip across the NE part,
and across the SE tip of the County is subject to severe sheet erosion with
occasional gullies. The rest of the county is subject to moderate sheet
erosion with occasional gullies.

NATURAL RESOURCES, other than good farm lands and an abundant water supply,
is
are limited to marl which frequently/used in the county as a soil conditioner.
Natural gas production possibilities are promising, for several wells drill-
ed in the county bore evidence of the presence of clays, sand and gravel
along and in the Kentucky River are suitable for industrial use.

AGRICULTURE engages 69 percent of all persons gainfully employed in Henry
County. A census report of 1935 gives the county 2,152 of the 893 were
operated by full owners, 146 by part owners, 674 by cash-rent tenants and
349 by sharecroppers. The number of tenants decreased 13.3 percent from
1920 to 1935. In 1925 farms operated by tenants were 45.2 percent of the
total, 46.7 percent in 1930 and 47.3 percent in 1935.

Farm land decreased in value from $71.53 per acre in 1930 to $48.05 in
1935, a decrease of 35.4 percent. In 1934 land in farms totaled 177,516
or 91.5 percent of the entire area of the county. There were 109,556 acres of pasturage and 129,016 acres were available for crops in 1934.

Corn is the principal crop of Henry County, with 16,074 acres devoted to its cultivation in 1934. Its production is gradually decreasing both in acreage and yield because of loss of fertility and on account of the retirement of eroded lands. Wheat acreage increased from 1,292 in 1930 to 4,356 in 1934 due to the increased planting of lespedeza. Lespedeza seed for the market has recently become an important cash crop. In 1930 the county produced 50,000 pounds of seed and in 1934, 700,000 pounds. In 1930 tobacco grown on 5,183 acres produced 6,318,679 pounds, but drop reduction resulted in a decrease in planting tobacco by 1935, to 5,477 acres which yielded 4,809,220 pounds.

Henry County ranked 17th in the production of tobacco in 1930. Since 1930 livestock raising has increased considerably in importance. The county ranks 25th in number of cattle and 24th in sheep among the counties.

In 1935 the County had 6,955 dairy cows and ranked 12th in dairy products. Poultry raising has also increased rapidly in the past few years. Pure bred flocks are plentiful and the hatching industry is nearly as important as the production of eggs for the market.

The county's principal markets are Louisville, Eminence and Cincinnati.

INDUSTRY in Henry County is tributary to agriculture, being confined to flour and feed milling. The 1930 census lists 739 persons engaged in industrial pursuits, but most of these are employed outside of Henry County.

COMMERCE: the retail trade of the County centers in Eminence, to which point much retail trade comes from adjoining counties. The wholesale
purchases of the County are made chiefly in Louisville and Shelbyville. Eminence has a stockyard that handles an average of 750 head of livestock per week.

TRANSPORTATION: the Cincinnati division of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad passes through the northwestern section of the County. A line branches from this road E. to Lagrange and passes through the southeastern portion of Henry County touching Smithfield and Eminence. This branch line joins the Lexington branch of the L & N in Shelby County. Excellent railroad service is provided by these two lines for practically the entire county.

the Louisville / Carrollton bus line passes over State Road #65 through Eminence, New Castle and Campbellsburg. The Greyhound bus line from Louisville to Cincinnati over State Road #42 touches Henry County at Sligo.

HEALTH: Henry County has a part time health officer and sufficient practicing physicians and dentists for the county's need. However, during bad weather the adequacy of medical services in part of the county is difficult on account of bad roads.

Health conditions are better than the average for the State. The tuberculosis death rate for 1933 was 4.77 per 10,000 population; the typhoid fever rate was .79 and diseases resulting from unsanitary conditions caused deaths amounting to 2.38 per 10,000 population. The tuberculosis rate has been greatly reduced from 29.6 in 1912. The death rate from all causes in 1933 was 90 per unit of 10,000.

RECREATION: Besides the playgrounds maintained at the various schools in the County, there is a public park. This park was once the County Fair grounds. It was converted into a public park by the Odd Fellows of Henry County. Highway construction has been undertaken which will
Recently made the Drennon Springs area accessible. The conversion of the old hotel grounds into a public park is contemplated.

PUBLIC WORKS other than projects of the WPA cannot be undertaken by the County on account of its present large debt. WPA projects in operation and completed include road building and repairs, school construction and repairs and several projects for the employment of women.

PUBLICATIONS: A weekly newspaper, the Henry County Local, is published in New Castle. It has a circulation of 1,800 throughout the county and in the north portion of Shelby County.

HISTORY: Henry County was taken entirely from Shelby County in 1798 and named in tribute to Patrick Henry. Oldham County in 1823 and Trimble in 1836 were formed partly from Henry county. Act establishing the county of Henry was approved as follows: "----- all that part of Shelby----- beginning 10 miles due N. from the public square, on which the courthouse of said county of Shelby is now situated; thence W. to the Jefferson line, thence with said line to the Ohio river, thence up the Ohio with the meanders thereof, 6 miles above the mouth of Corn creek, on a straight line from the mouth, thereof, thence a straight line till it strikes the road leading from Shelbyville to the mouth of the Ky., 2 miles N. of Henry Dougherty's, thence a direct line to the Ky. river 2 1/2 miles above the mouth of Eagle Creek, thence up the Ky. river and the Franklin line so far till a W. course will strike the beginning -- shall be Henry county."

Act extending the Henry county line approved Feb. 21, 1837, as follows:

"----- that the Henry county line shall be extended to include the persons residing in the following boundary, to-wit: beginning where the Trimble and Henry line strikes the Ky. river; thence down the river to the mouth of Mill creek; thence up Mill creek to the Henry county line, shall hereafter constitute a part of the county of Henry."
the history of the area that became Henry County commences in the summer of 1773 when the Jacob Drennon and Matthew Bracken discovered the lick now known as Drennon Springs.

The location of the lick was disclosed by an old Delaware Indian to Drennon and Bracken.

During the same month the area was visited by the McAfee company from Botetourt County, Virginia. The party was composed of James, George and Robert McAfee, James McGoun, Jr. and Samuel Adams. After visiting Big Bone Lick the party proceeded up the Kentucky River to the stream later called Drennon's Lick Creek. Here on July 9th they left the river and proceeded to Drennon's Lick Springs, where they encountered large numbers of buffalo, elk and deer. For a week they remained at the Lick. During the sojourn Jas. McAfee and young Adams came on a large herd of buffalo. Adams yielded to the temptation to shoot into the herd, an act that stampeded the animals. The herd ran directly toward the two men. Adams instantly sprang up a leaning tree, but the less active McAfee was forced to seek shelter behind a tree barely large enough to shield his body from the mad herd, the horns of which in passing scraped the bark from the sheltering tree.

Evidence that the Henry County area was the habitat of mammoth fauna, was discovered when a cut was made for the L & N, R.R. at Eminence. At shallow depth many mammoth bones and teeth were uncovered, but these were so decayed that it was impossible to remove and preserve them.

In January 1872 an ore was discovered on the farm of Dr. D.B. Bell, along the Ky. River, which was said to contain 64 percent of silver. Lead ore was found at about the same time along the river between Marion and Spring port.
POINTS OF INTEREST: Drennon Springs was, for a brief period, one of the most popular resorts in Kentucky. Shortly after the Civil War the hotel was destroyed by fire. Until a highway was built to the Springs during 1936, its inaccessible made a trip to this point practically impossible.

On December 23, 1779, George Rogers Clark entered a claim in the land office of Virginia for 400 acres of land to include Drennon Springs, on which Patrick Henry then Governor of Virginia, issued a patent to Clark in 1785.

Drennon's Springs occupy the center of a series of hills which form a kind of amphitheatre, bisected by Drennon's Creek. These hills, caused partly on the east and on the west by the deep cutting down of the creek into the earth, are both grand and beautiful. The scene must have been enchanting a hundred years ago when broad roads, made by the buffalo, came from every direction and centered at the Springs.

Along one of these great buffalo roads leading from the Falls of the Ohio by Drennon's Springs, to the mouth of the Licking, Gen. Clark marched his soldiers in 1780 and again in 1782, when he invaded the Indian Territory north of the Ohio and dealt death and desolation to the towns of Chillicothe, Piqua, and Lemons Store.

In the closing years of the last century, salt was made in large quantities from the waters of the springs. The water was boiled in iron kettles over wood fires, and although the process was crude, slow and expensive, the price at which salt was sold justified it. The common price was twenty shillings (33.33) per bushel and it was often sold for more.
The pioneers learned from friendly Indians the use they had made of the sulphur water water at one of Drennon's Springs. They could give no definite idea of the length of time they had used this water as a medicine, but indicated that their forefathers had used it for moons as uncounted as the stars in the sky.

When the white man first began to use the waters of the springs, the inconvenience of getting to them through the primeval forests, at first confined their use as a medicine to the neighborhood. In the early part of the 19th Century, however, one or two log cabins were built near the springs in which crude accommodations were given to the invalids. In the thirties these accommodations were increased by the building of more and better cabins.

It was not until the forties however, when Dr. Robert Hunter got control of the springs that they can be said to have afforded suitable accommodations for the afflicted. He soon made the springs popular not only to seekers after health but also to those in search of enjoyment.

Drennon's Springs did not become a fashionable watering place until A.C. Smith purchased the property and built additional cottages and erected a grand hotel. The first successful season was in 1849 when more than a thousand guests came from all parts of the south and west.

Early in the fifties the Western Military Academy was established at the springs and ran each year during the fall, winter and spring months. The Hon. James G. Blaine who subsequently became so great a factor in American politics was chief instructor in this school. The war came on and the buildings were used as a recruiting station for the Union Army.
Many skirmishes between Confederate and Union Soldiers took place around the springs. About the close of the war, a disastrous fire swept the main hotel and many of the cottages.

The Odd Fellows Home, just beyond the corporate limits of Eminence on State Road #53, has a pleasing site with several attractively designed buildings.

At Lockport is the U.S. Government's Kentucky River Lock #2. The J.B. Chilton farm about one mile east of Lockport is an archaeological site of importance. Here, W.S. Webb, Department of Archaeology, University of Kentucky, discovered the first cairn (stone mound) Indian burial found in Kentucky. The site is on a high ridge around which cluster over-topping spurs. There is no evidence that earth mounds ever existed in the vicinity, yet it is believed that these were here present but have been obliterated through time and cultivation of the land. So far, four burials have been uncovered. Among them was that of a male body about 40 years of age, at whose feet a headdress was found which contained stone implements, deer antlers and bird bones. In each instance burial was made with the head towards the east. Pottery was strikingly absent and leads to the belief that the burials were of the Woodford Culture period that was at its zenith about 1300 A.D.

Some metal remains and artifacts obtained from the open graves are in the possession of J.D. Chilton family and on display in the archaeological museum of the University of Kentucky.

PROMINENT PERSONS resident at sometime or native of Henry County include Zack F. Smith, 1827-1911, educator and historian. Mr. Smith served as president of Henry Female College, New Castle, was State superintendent
of public instruction from 1867 to 1871 and Curator of Transylvania University for over 50 years. He is buried in Eminence. Leigh Gordon Giltner was born in Eminence 1875 - short story writer and poetess was born in Eminence. Reuben T. Durrett, 1824 - 1915, was born near Eminence. He graduated from Brown University in 1849, practiced law for 50 years in Louisville, editor of the Courier-Journal 1857 - 1859, was the founder of the Louisville Public Library and of the Filson Club.
Henry county was formed in 1798 out of Shelby county and named in honor of Patrick Henry, noted orator and Governor of Virginia. It was the thirty-first county formed in Kentucky and one of the oldest in the state.

Fourteen towns and villages ranging in population from fifty to one thousand, three hundred and twenty-three inhabitants have developed since the formation of the county one hundred and thirty-eight years ago. There are also many community settlements containing stores, churches and dwelling houses which help to serve the more remote rural districts. Eminence is the largest, leading in population and industries. It is situated on the Lexington branch of the L & N railroad, the Lexington branch being the first railroad established in Henry county. Eminence is forty miles east of Louisville.

New Castle is the county seat with a population of five hundred. It is an inland town being four miles from Eminence which has the nearest railroad.

Campbellsburg, Turner's Station, Pendleton and Sulphur are located on the L & N railroad between Cincinnati and Louisville.

Smithfield, Jericho and Pleasureville are on the L & N railroad between Lexington and Louisville.

Bethlehem and Franklinton are small inland villages, while Lockport and Gestville are on the Kentucky river. Port Royal situated in the norther part of the county is only one mile from the Kentucky river.
In the past fifty years the population of Henry county has decreased one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight persons. The 1880 census showed fourteen thousand, four hundred and ninety-two inhabitants while the 1930 census gave an estimate of twelve thousand five hundred and sixty-four.

Henry county has an area of one hundred and sixty-seven thousand acres or two hundred and sixty-one square miles and lies in the north central part of the state between Louisville and Frankfort. It is bounded on the north by Carroll county, on the east by Owen county, on the south by Franklin and Shelby counties and on the west by Oldham and Trimble counties which were at one time a part of Henry county.

It is drained by the Kentucky river which forms the boundary line between it and Owen county. The Kentucky river flows along the northeastern border more than thirty miles.

The Little Kentucky river which finally empties into the Ohio, runs through the western side of the county and Drennon through the central portion emptying into the Kentucky near Drennon Springs.

The drainage of the eastern side of the county flows into and forms big Six Mile Creek which empties into the Kentucky river at Lock No. 2. Some of the streams empty into Floyd's Fork, flowing in the southwest direction. The L & N railroad marks the dividing line between the streams flowing into Salt river and those flowing into the Kentucky river.

Substantial bridges have been built on nearly every stream where important roads cross.

The altitude of New Castle is eight hundred and twenty-five feet, the highest point in the county being four miles north of New Castle on the farm of Price Barnett, formerly owned by William Cravens.
Eminence claims the highest altitude on the L & N railroad between Louisville and Lexington, while Campbellsburg is the highest point between Louisville and Cincinnati.

The famous "East End" of the county has a rough and hilly surface with very few acres of tillable land, having many hills towering along the Kentucky river as high as three hundred feet and in the south and west the land is undulating while in the central part it is inclined to be level and slightly rolling.

The eastern half of the county which has a much rougher surface, does however, have among the hills and in the valleys many excellent farms and a strong soil is characteristic of the county. Especially is this true of the fine bottom lands along the Kentucky river, upon which stream the county has a frontage of thirty-five miles. The rough hilly land in this section also produces some timber which consists of oak, walnut, hickory, beech, sugar tree, etc. Comparatively little timber remains, it having been cleared to make tobacco fields.

The land in the central and southern parts of Henry county is a region of remarkable fertility and beauty. It is gently undulating and in a high state of cultivation ranking in many respects with the more famous Blue Grass sections in the more central portion of the state.
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HISTORICAL HOMES IN HENRY COUNTY

I. Eminence

A. Coleman Herndon Home.

Mr. Coleman Herndon is the present owner of this lovely old red brick home - it was originally built by the Pollard family in seventeen hundred, and is located between New Castle and Pleasureville, Kentucky on Road No. 22 and Road No. 37. This route originally known as the Frankfort Post Road - from Milton, Kentucky to the State Capitol during Stage coach days this home served as an Inn at that time and at the present time is unusually well preserved.

B. Frank Karr Cabin

On the residential property of Mr. Frank Karr in Eminence, Kentucky is a log cabin now covered with paper that stood before the town was founded - 1847 (See L & N Railroad, History) It was built by Buck Harris before Eminence was settled and was located on the Louisville and Frankfort Post Road. Consequently a back building after Eminence was established on the Railroad - This was the home of one of Eminence Pioneer families.

II. Smithfield

A. Smithfield College.

Smithfield College was used partly for residential purposes erected in 1866. Rev. Richard Valentine, Presbyterian Minister, purchased the land from Isaac Davis, who is buried there, and had the school built by Grifton Drane Banta, son of H. G. Banta
Pleasureville. This school long since defunct, is still the site of the public school and is the same building. It produced many prominent men.

III. Pleasureville

A. Kephart Homestead

The Kephart home was sold the first of April 1936 - to Mr. Jimmie Robertson, Frankfort, Kentucky. The first time to have passed out of the Kephart name for over a hundred years. It is a beautiful red brick home, was owned originally by elder members. The house was built from lumber sawed and cured as well as brick kilned on the place. It was started in 1831 and completed in 1833. Constructed by H. G. Banta.

B. Meador Farm

One and three-quarter miles east of Pleasureville on first left hand lane off of Bethlehem Road known as the Pat Sweeney farm, has been in the family for over one hundred years.

IV. New Castle

A. Tom Smith

The Tom Smith home is an old red brick - was built in 1818 - is located in New Castle, Kentucky.

Present owner is Miss Nell Nuttall of New Castle, Kentucky. The house has a wide entrance hall with a winding stairway of cherry - the wood work and mantle pieces are hand carved.

Tom Smith was Kentucky's first millionaire, and was one of the largest stock holders of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad,
and was responsible for its coming through Henry county rather than the
out off route through Shelbyville, Kentucky, later constructed.

His estate was the largest ever settled through a Henry county court.

Smithfield was named for Tom Smith.

B. Col. Reuben Durrett

The home of Col. Reuben Durrett is located on the New Castle and
Sulphur Road. It is one of the oldest homes in Henry county and a historical
one.

It is owned now by the Brown's and tenants are now living there.

Col. Reuben Durrett was a native of Henry county, one of the founders of the
Filson Club of Louisville, Kentucky – he was a historian of note who had in
his possession at the time of death the greatest Kentuckian in existence.

Kentucky failed to purchase this and it was bought by the University
of Chicago, Illinois.

C. W. Jerden Graves

The home of W. Jerden Graves is in New Castle. It was built in 1834
His residence at the time of nationally known Graves-Silley duel (one of the
most famous fought on American soil) The present owner of the home is Mr.
Dick Wilson.

D. Isham Henderson:

Home in New Castle was built in 1820 of local stone still standing.
Mr. Henderson was the father-in-law of Mr. Graves and a very promi-
nent man – served as a member of the Legislature from Henry county
in 1822-23. (The present owner of this home and farm is Mrs. Leo.
Farquer of New Castle).
E. Judge William S. Pryor Home is located in New Castle, and is one of the most beautiful in the county (Colonial type). It was built in 1859. This home always attracts attention.

F. The Home of Gen. Berry is near Pendleton, Kentucky.

G. Marshall's Home is located at Marshall's Bottom above the mouth of Drennon. This was the home of Gen. Humphrey Marshall and brother Charles Marshall. This home is quite outstanding.

H. The Old Daniel Brannin Home located in New Castle. This home is one of the finest in the county. It is a beautiful large brick structure with many rooms, and is situated just outside the city limits, to the east. Br. Brannin was a prominent citizen of Henry county and merchant, and a very wealthy man.
The present owner of this home is James L. Stambaugh who purchased it from Judge Ben. F. Hill of New Castle (deceased).

I. Another beautiful old home in Henry county is the home called the "Foree Homestead."

This home is located on Raod No. 55 just two miles north of New Castle, Kentucky. It was formerly owned by P. G. Foree, great grandfather of the present owner Mr. Alfred P. Foree.
P. G. Foree was an prominent man of Henry county native of France. Owned over one thousand acres of splendid land near New Castle. This Foree Homestead is a beautiful red brick home with a large hall and a beautiful winding stairway where an old grandfather clock has stood for many years. Each room is lovely furnished with many antiques.
Bibliography

Mr. Richard Moody, Eminence, Kentucky, reporter of Henry county for Louisville Times

Judge A. Sid Morgan, New Castle, Kentucky (Judge of Henry county)

Mr. Joe Douthitt, New Castle, Kentucky, prominent citizen of Henry county.

Mr. A. P. Foree, New Castle, Kentucky, R. F. D., native of Henry county, (prominent farmer) owner of the "Foree Homestead."
Drennon's Springs, located on Drennon Creek in the eastern part of Henry County, one mile from the mouth of the Kentucky River, was once a famous watering resort famous for the medicinal quality of the water issuing from the several springs there. This water contains various combinations of sodium, magnesium and lime—acting as mild aperient, diuretic, and diaphoretic.

The lick was discovered July 7, 1773, by Jacob Drennon and Matthew Bracken, in consequence of information given a few days before from an old Delaware Indian at Big Boone lick in Boone County.

At present there are no buildings as the hotel and cottages were destroyed many years ago by fire. The springs are now surrounded by fields which have been cultivated and are annually planted in corn and tobacco. The water, however, still contains the original properties and is drunk by many people of the county who bottle it and take it in large quantities to their homes.

The site of the old hotel has an ideal natural setting—containing beautiful grass and shade trees.

So far as we have learned from history and tradition, Drennon's Springs were not visited by any of the early explorers, who were in the part of the country. They were known to the Indians and probably to the mound-builders, who antedated him, but were unknown to the white man until a comparatively modern period. This seems strange when we consider that great roads made by the buffalo led from almost every part of the country to these springs. Some of the early explorers must have crossed these roads and gone along them in their wanderings. But, so far as has been known the hundred years of exploration between the time of Thomas Battis in 1671 and Simon Kenton in 1771, left these springs known only to the Indians and the buffalo and the deer and other wild animals that enjoyed them, unmolested by the white man.
They were destined, however, not to remain unknown forever. The good they had done the Indian and the Mound-builder before him was at last to be shared by the white man.

The animals, which for ages had come in immense herds to these springs, had in going and coming tramped down the earth and levelled it into broad roads. So striking were these roads, that they suggested to the explorer, the highways leading to a populous city. As might have been expected, it was by following one of these buffalo roads that the lick was discovered by the white man.

In 1773, James George and Robert McAfee with Hancock Taylor as surveyor, left their homes in Bottstourt County, Virginia, to locate lands in Kentucky. Near the mouth of the Kanawha, they met Captain Thomas Bullitt with another company on their way to Kentucky to survey lands. The two companies came down the Ohio together to the mouth of the Kentucky, where they separated, the company of Bullitt going on to the falls and the McAfees going on up the Kentucky River. They had spent several days at Big Bone Lick where a Delaware Indian, under the influence of a promised rifle, informed two of the company, named Joseph Drennen and Matthew Bracken, of the existence of another lick almost as wonderful as Big Bone.

Such information of the locality was given by the Indian as to induce Drennon and Bracken to set out to find it.

On a pretense of hunting through the country, they left the company and went through the woods along the buffalo road, which the old Indian assured them would lead to the lick. They succeeded in finding it on July 7, 1773, and claimed it as their property by right of discovery. When the McAfees and the rest of the company reached the place, Drennon and Bracken had been there two days.

The conduct of Drennon and Bracken was severely condemned by the rest of the company. They had taken advantage of their comrades and by bribing an Indian had found a
valuable piece of property which ought to have been open to discovery by all alike. The condemnation of their act was so strong that neither Drennon nor Bracken seems to have taken any steps to secure the title of the property they had found. They were the first white men, so far as is known, to see these springs but their greed to obtain them, defeated their purpose. Drennon gave his name to the Springs, and to the creek on which they are located, but he never acquired any valid right of the property in them.

On December 23, 1779, George Rogers Clark entered in the land office of Virginia 400 acres of land to include Drennon Springs, for which Patrick Henry then Governor of Virginia, issued a patent to Clark in 1785.

Upon acquiring Drennon's Spring's he secured a thing of beauty in the way of natural scenery.

Drennon's Springs occupy the center of a series of hills which form a kind of amphitheatre, bisected by Drennon's Creek. These hills, caused partly on the east and on the west by the deep cutting down of the creek into the earth, are both grand and beautiful. The scene must have been enchanting a hundred years ago when broad roads, made by the buffalo, came from every direction and centered at the Springs.

Along one of these great buffalo roads leading from the falls of the Ohio by Drennon's Springs, to the mouth of the Licking, Gen. Clark marched his soldiers in 1780 and again in 1782, when he invaded the Indian territory north of the Ohio and dealt death and desolation to the towns of Chillicothe, Piqua, and Laramies Store.

In the closing years of the last century, salt was made in large quantities from the waters of the springs. The water was boiled in iron kettles over wood fires, and although the process was crude, slow and expensive, the price at which salt was sold justified it. The common price was twenty shillings ($3.33) per bushel and it was often sold for more.
The pioneers learned from friendly Indians the use they had made of the sulphur water as it was called of one of Drennon's Springs. They could give no definite idea of the length of time they had used this water as a medicine, but indicated that their forefathers had used it for some moons as uncounted as the stars in the sky.

When the white man first began to use the waters of these springs, the inconvenience of getting to them through the primeval forests, at first confined their use as a medicine to the neighborhood. In the early part of the 19th Century, however, one or two log cabins were built near the springs in which crude accommodations were given to the invalids. In the thirties these accommodations were increased by the building of more and better cabins.

It was not until the forties however, when Dr. Robert Hunter got control of the springs that they can be said to have afforded suitable accommodations for the afflicted. He soon made the springs popular not only to seekers after health but also to those in search of enjoyment.

Drennon's Springs did not become a fashionable watering place until A. O. Smith purchased the property and built additional cottages and erected a grand hotel. The first successful season was in 1849 when more than a thousand persons were guests who came from all parts of the south and west.

Early in the fifties the Western Military Academy was established at these springs and ran each year during the fall, winter, and spring months. The Hon. James G. Blaine who subsequently became so great a factor in American politics was chief instructor in this school. The war came on and the buildings were used as a recruiting station for the Union Army, and many skirmishes between Confederate and Union Soldiers took place around these springs. About the close of the war, a disastrous fire swept the main hotel and many of the cottages.
The fire, however, which made away with the structures and the implements of pleasure, did not destroy the fine scenery of the locality nor injure the medicinal properties of the water which time, out of mind, had ministered to the health and comfort of the mound-builder, Indian, mastodon, buffalo and deer.

For years there have been no suitable accommodations at these springs for persons in search for health and yet the invalids have continued to come and to live there as best they could almost without bed or board to secure the benefits of the healing waters.

These springs have now borne the test for medicinal qualities of more than a hundred years under the scrutiny and the practice of the white man and it is not likely that the time will ever come when they will cease to be a boon to the afflicted of the human race.
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Excerpts: Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, 1907, pages 87-90, by Col. R. T. Surratt.
An early settlement of Henry County, Kentucky, was that known as Robert London's Station. The only mention made of it in histories is that of Collins, who states that there was such a station 30 miles from the mouth of Kentucky River, in Henry County.

From the depositions of Joseph Erwin, Hannah Erwin, Benjamin Van Cleve and others, the probable time of settlement was February, 1789.

In a record (Henry Circuit Court, 1813-1814, Lewis Marshall vs Joseph Dupuy) Benjamin Van Cleve, then an old man of 73 years, deposed that "twenty or twenty-five years ago I was the marking of a trace from my house to Fox Run, where Hopkins Bright now lives (1814) and I think Mr. London and Mr. Erwin made from London's to meet us, etc"

Joseph Erwin deposed that London's Station was settled 20 or 25 years before (1814).

Bryant's Station was built for protection of the early settlers and was located a mile west of North Pleasureville.

Meek's Station, according to John Demaree, Defoe, Kentucky, was "from what I hear, the Meeks built a station above Drennon, near or in Marshall's Bottom, looking to the Main Fort at Drennon in case of a real attack for protection..."
References

From an account of the "early History of Henry County gathered from ancient records, old settlers and personal recollections of old citizens - published in the Henry County Local, May 9, 1902.
POINTS OF INTEREST IN HENRY COUNTY AS MARKED ON MAP

1. Drennon Springs located on Drennon Creek in Eastern part of Henry county about eleven miles from New Castle road. This road at present is being constructed on a W. P. A. project and will soon afford easy transportation for visitors to the springs.

2. I. O. O. F. Home located on Eminence and Shelbyville Road No. 55 about one-fourth mile from city limits of Eminence.

3. United States Government Lock No. 2, at Lockport, located on the Kentucky river in extreme eastern part of the county. The road leading to Lockport which passes through the towns of Pleasureville and Bethlehem is a hard surface one. After leaving this highway which leads on to Gratz, there are about three miles of pike, which is in fair condition.

4. Chilton Farm. Present site of Archaeological excavations, old Indian burial ground, just recently discovered, where six complete skeletons of Indians have been uncovered. The excavations are in charge of Drs. Webb and Funkhouser of the University of Kentucky.
Drennon's Springs, or Lick, on Drennon's Creek about a mile from its mouth at Kentucky River, was at one time, for a few years, one of the most popular watering-places in Kentucky. Since its destruction by fire, a few years ago, it has lost its importance.

.... "The lick was discovered on July 7, 1773, by Jacob Drennon (from whom it received its name) and Matthew Bracken - in consequence of information purchased by presents, a few days before, from an old Delaware Indian at Big Bone Lick, in Boone County."

Pub. Library
Hist. of Ky.
p. 339 65 words
FAMOUS OLD DRENNEN SPRINGS
(by Col. R.T.Durrett)

So far as we have learned from history and tradition Drennon's Springs, on Drennon's Creek, in Henry County, Kentucky, were not visited by any of the early explorers who were in this part of the country.

In 1773, James, George and Robert McAfee, with Hancock Taylor as surveyor, left their homes in Botetourt County, Virginia, to locate lands in Kentucky. Near the mouth of the Kanawha they met Capt. Thomas Bullitt, with another company, on their way to Kentucky to survey lands. The two companies came down the Ohio together to the mouth of the Kentucky river where they separated.

From Big Bone Lick, an Indian, with the promise of a rifle, took Joseph Drennon and Matthew Bracken on a journey to another, and very large Lick. They were successful in finding it on the 7th of July, 1773, and claimed it as their property by right of discovery.

The conduct of Drennon and Bracken was severely condemned by the rest of the company.

Drennon gave his name to the springs, and to the Creek on which they were located, but he never "acquired any valid right of property in them".

On the 23 of December, 1779, George Rogers Clark went into the land office of Virginia and entered 400 acres of land to include Drennon's Springs. Drennon's Springs became a fashionable watering place, under A. O. Smith, who purchased the property and built additional cottages and erected a grand hotel. He is said to have had a thousand guests in 1849, when people came not only from Kentucky, but from Cincinnati and far away New Orleans. Early in the fifties the Western Military Academy was established at these springs. The Hon. James G. Blaine, the great politician, was chief instructor in this school.

In the closing years of the last century salt was made in large quantities from the waters of these springs.
The pioneers learned from friendly Indians the use they made of the sulphur water as it was called, of one of Drennon's Springs."

At the close of the War between the States fire destroyed the main hotel, which has never been replaced.

DRENNON'S LICK - "Drennon's" Lick as mapped by Filson on his plot of 1784 is located on the lower waters of Drennon's Creek, a stream flowing from the west into the Kentucky River just above Eagle Creek. This lick is located in Henry County about midway on the pioneer trail leading from Lees Town to Big Bone Lick."


DRENNON'S LICK - was discovered on July 7, 1773, by Jacob Drennon, from whom its name was derived.
Henry Co. communities

1. Campbellsburg (po and com) had been Benevola (?) and Chiltonsville
2. Brent's (dpo)
3. Hendrensville (dpo and com)
4. Jericho (dpo) (com)
5. New Castle (co. seat) (com)
6. Pleasureville (po and com) N. Pleasureville had once been called Bantatown (com)
7. South Pleasureville (com)
8. Wallaceville (dpo) - Sligo (dpo and com) - had been Mt. Hope (Trimble Co.)
9. South Pleasureville (com)
10. Callaways Cross Roads (dpo)
11. Lockport (dpo) had been Wallace's Warehouse and P.O. there=Wallaceville
12. Pendleton (po and com) had been Sligo; before that Mt. Hope (in Trimble Co.)
13. Franklinton (dpo and com) had been Drennon's ridge
14. Eminence (po and com)
15. Smithfield (po and com) had been Jerusalem
16. Midview (dpo) (com) had been Henrico and Mobley Stand
17. Bethlehem (po and com) had been Henrico and Mobley Stand
18. Springport (dpo) had been Drennon
19. Hill Spring (dpo) (com)
20. Sulphur Fork (dpo) had been Sulphur Station, before that Sulphur
21. Spring Hill Depot (dpo - dpe and rr) - Spring Hill Depot (as rr sta. and dpo)
22. Harpers Ferry (dpo) (com)
23. Lead Mines (dpo)
24. Defoe (po and com) had been Sweet Home
25. Turners Station (rr name for Turners (com. & po) had been Spring Hill Depot (as rr sta. and dpo)
26. Drennon Springs (dpo and com) had been Glenmary
27. Gest (dpo) Gestville (com)
28. Grubridge (dpo)
29. Blackwell (dpo) (com)
30. Orville (dpo) (com)
31. Sligo (dpo) (com)
32. Fallis (dpo) (com)
33. Lanes Landing (dpo)
34. Vance (dpo) ngbr.
35. Lacle (dpo) Lacie (com)
36. Bar (dpo) (com)
37. DELLville (dpo) (com)
38. Carroll (dpo)
39. Barnes (com) (Carroll com)
40. Tarascon (com)
41. Maddox Ridge ngbr.
42. Carrville ngbr.
43. Joes Branch ngbr.
44. Boiling Branch ngbr.
45. Cemetery Hill ngbr.
46. Happy Ridge ngbr.
47. Salem ngbr.
48. Six Mile ngbr.
49. Slab Town (com) (or Slabtown)
50. Clements Bottom ngbr.
51. Cox's Bottom ngbr.
52. Kelly Sch. ngbr.
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<td>Salt Water Ngbr</td>
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<td>Bellview (crossroads)</td>
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<td>Pollards Landing (ibid.)</td>
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