On March 12, 1912 the Kentucky legislature established McCreary, the state's last county, primarily to provide accessibility to the county seat. As stated succinctly by W.A. Kinne in The Gum Tree Story, his 1929 history of the Stearns Coal and Lumber Company, McCreary was organized to end "the indifference of its three mother counties--Wayne, Pulaski, and Whitley to the needs and problems of the Big South Fork country, engendered by the long distances from their respective county seats." The enabling act was introduced in the legislature by William E. Creekmore of Pine Knot but was opposed by the three counties who feared losing valuable tax revenues from the big extractive companies, and by the companies themselves, especially Stearns and the Cincinnati New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railway.

The county was named for James Bennett McCreary (1838-1918), a lawyer, Confederate officer, U.S. Congressman (1884-1896) and Senator (1902-1911), and twice governor of Kentucky (1875-1879 and 1911-1915.)

Till 1880 the area that became McCreary County centered on one of the Cumberland River's main branches, the Big South Fork. It was, for the most part, one of the most isolated areas in that section of the country, and thus among the least known. Then came the Cincinnati and Southern Railroad's line between that city and Chattanooga, Tennessee that, more than anything else, was to open this area to economic development by providing a fulltime viable outlet for its resources. The county's second rail line of note was established in 1903 by the Stearns Company as the Kentucky and Tennessee to ship coal from the company's satellite mines east to the Stearns connection with the Cincinnati Southern. The line was first built to the mouth of Rock Creek, crossed it, and proceeded up the creek ultimately to Pickett County, Tennessee. A feeder line was later extended to Bell Farm.
The well dissected and hilly McCreary County, in the southwest end of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field, has been characterized by McGrain and Currens of the Kentucky Geological Survey as one of "cliff-lined gorges and ridges, and resistant rock formations" with several chimney rocks, natural arches, and waterfalls. Over seventy per cent of its land area was acquired by the federal government for part of the Cumberland (now the Daniel Boone) National Forest and, later, for the South Fork River and Recreation Area. This led to a severe decline in the county's economic assets as a one time leading lumber and coal producer, and ultimately to its status as Kentucky's most impoverished county.3

By providing, early on, few tourist inducements, one of its major objectives, the Cumberland River's impoundment brought little economic benefit to the county. Neither McCreary, nor the federal government, initially provided "easy access" to the lake, and by the 1970s, according to L.E. Perry's McCreary's Conquest (1979) most of the lake's shoreline was still difficult to reach. Only with Congressional establishment, in March 1974, of the 103,000 acre Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, authorizing land acquisition and development in Kentucky and Tennessee by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and land management and utilization by the National Park Service did tourism in McCreary County profit.4

Economically, what became and is McCreary County was primarily dependent on timber and coal. By the 1830s the Big South Fork area had become the state's leading coal producer though, through the Civil War, mining and ore processing was but a seasonal activity. Manufacturing, like tourism, came only recently to the county, with textile fabrication by the McCreary County Manufacturing Company of Eastern Stearns.

The county's greatest accessibility to the rest of the region and the state, though, came with the development of its once virtually negligible roads and highways, primarily with the improvements to the north-south U.S. 27 and the east-west Ky 90 and 92.
While McCreary is Kentucky's newest county it's also its only county with no incorporated cities. Its three most populous settlements: Pine Knot, Stearns, and its (more or less) centrally located seat Whitley City are but Census Designated Places (CDP's) with fewer than 2,500 residents each.

Even before the county was established there was a rivalry between Pine Knot and Whitley City (then also known as Coolidge). Pine Knot was the older and better developed (it then had a bank) place and was chosen by the Governor's Board of Commissioners as the county's temporary seat. But in an election held on September 7, 1912 to determine the permanent seat, Whitley City won by 140 votes. It took almost a year, however, for the Pine Knot advocates to accept this. When, on 1913, the Pine Knot postmaster was asked by a U.S. Post Office clerk to name the county's seat she wrote Pine Knot.5

McCreary's 427 square mile area (including what's now in Lake Cumberland) had a 2005 Census estimated population of 17,233 (thirty seven per cent over its official 1970 count).

Post offices will be described below, first by their pre-1912 establishments in each of the mother counties, followed by those established in McCreary after its formation. Each office will be located by current road miles from the court house in downtown Whitley City or from a larger or older office in its own area.

SEVENTEEN KNOWN POST OFFICES ESTABLISHED IN PULASKI COUNTY BEFORE McCREARY'S FORMATION

The earliest of McCreary's Pulaski County post offices and one of the three that failed to survive its formation was Telico. William Hyden alone operated it from November 13, 1855 to September 20, 1859, probably on the
Tellico Trail (later the Jacksboro Road) between Smith Shoals and (the present) Kingston, Tennessee. Nothing is known of it, including its precise location.

Flat Rock, aptly named for a nearby ridge of flat rocks, was at the site of a prehistoric Indian campground on the Tellico Trail, just south of Indian Creek (a 10½ mile long westside branch of the Cumberland River). Though its post office was established on June 19, 1874, with James Coffy (sic), postmaster, to serve several area coal and lumber companies, its development as a town awaited the 1880 coming of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad where it provided homes and other conveniences for its workers. By the turn of the century it had become the shipping point for the Barren Fork Coal Company by way of a two mile spur from that firm's tipple to the main line just south of the railroad station. For all intents, the town's significance ended with the mine's closing in 1935, though the post office continued on US 27, five miles north of Whitley City, till May 1963.

Another post office preceding the arrival of the railroad was Greenwood, five miles north of Flat Rock. It was established on May 15, 1876 by Henry C. Farris, the local apianist, and was soon serving the nearby J.C. Crooke and Company coal mine. By the early 1880s the railroad had reached the top of a grade just south of the post office site and a work camp called The Summit was built here for its construction and maintenance crews. In 1885 the Beaver Coal Company built a spur from the new Greenwood Station several miles to its mines on Lick Fork (of Beaver Creek), and within ten years Greenwood was home to several more coal and lumber companies. It soon became one of the larger timber products shipping points in the entire Cumberland valley. In 1906 the post office was moved nearly half a mile southeast, and by the time it closed in 1975 was on US 27, just east of the tracks, and ten miles north of Whitley City.
What became Whitley City is believed to have been settled sometime before 1835 in the vicinity of the all-weather and free-flowing springs at the head of Jennies Creek. This land was early patented by George Smith and later sold at public auction to Thomas Morrow and Middleton B. Holloway. It was soon acquired by Captain John Ambrose Geary, a Lexington businessman and Confederate officer, who began here a lumber business and founded a town inexplicably called Coolidge. The Coolidge post office was established on May 12, 1880 with Holloway as postmaster. After the arrival of the Cincinnati Southern that year Geary opened the station he called Whitley (probably for famed Kentucky pioneer William Whitley) to ship his products. Soon the community growing up around the station also took the Whitley name. For a brief time around the turn of the century it was incorporated, but local pressure to reduce taxes ended this and discouraged later re-incorporation efforts. When the county was created in 1912 its seat was located here as Whitley City and, on July 20, the post office too took this name.

The town now centers just north of the junction of Ky 478 and 1651 (old 27), just west of US 27’s new route, thirty one miles south of Somerset and 106 road miles south of downtown Lexington (via US 27). Its official 2000 population is only 1,111, a decline of some 570 from 1980.

Three miles south of Greenwood, on the new rail line, was its Cumberland Falls Station, the gateway via (the present) Ky 90, to the Falls, twelve miles east. On February 21, 1889 Joe Caldwell Parker, a land speculator who helped attract the railroad through that section, established the local post office as Parkers Lake for the pond recently made by the railroad to supply its locomotives with water. By the mid 1890s the station, post office, and village around them had at least 150 residents and one or more stores to serve several area coal companies. Parker and local storekeeper and tieyard operator Pleasant Patrick ("P.P." or "Tobe") Walker (who was also postmaster from June 1905 through March 1917)
helped to build that stretch of what became Ky. 90 to the Falls. The Parkers Lake post office still serves this area at the junction of Ky 90 and US 27.

The shortlived (January 31, 1891 to October 5, 1895), unlocated, and name underived Toledo post office was operated solely by James Littltown Jones. According to his Site Location Report it was 2½ miles southeast of the Big South Fork, 1½ miles southwest of Cooper Creek (which now joins the Big South Fork at the Pulaski-Wayne-McCreary Counties convergence) and 5½ miles southwest of Greenwood. It thus may have been the forerunner of Nevelsville.

Between May 7, 1898 and 1933 the Nevelsville post office was on (the present) Ky 927, less than five miles west of the railroad at Parker Lake, and one mile east of the Big South Fork. Its name source, the local storekeeper John W. Nevels (no ca. 1853), his wife Sarah A., and Mary Owens were its postmasters.

The aptly named Hillside post office, with John Hitchcock and Irving Bucklin, postmasters, operated between February 11, 1891 and January 8, 1892 at the mouth of the Lick Creek of Big South Fork, 1½ miles below (north of) the Whitley County line and 4½ miles west of (then) Coolidge.

Half an air mile south of Hillside was the post office of Hill Top, established by Louis Roberts on February 18, 1925 to serve a village of 200 residents on another hill overlooking the Big South Fork at Yamacraw (see below). Storekeeper John H. Bryant was its first postmaster. When it was suspended in mid September 1977 it was in Bill Winchester's store on Ky 92, five miles west of Whitley City.

The third Pulaski-McCreary County post office established in 1891 (on December 14 to be exact), was Thomas W. Sawyer's name sake. According to his imprecise Site Location Report, the Sawyer post office would be one fourth of a mile from Eagle Creek and two miles west of the
Cumberland River. In October 1899 his successor Willis H. Morgan had it moved two miles north to a point just within Whitley County, two miles east of Mill Creek (earlier called Morgans Creek.) In 1933 it was moved again, one fourth of a mile along (the present) Ky 896, where, some nineteen miles one of Whitley City, it was suspended in early September 1992.

Shortly after the arrival of the Cincinnati Southern, the Barren Fork Mining and Coal Company built a 1½ mile long spur line to its camp and mines above the head of the 6½ mile long Barren Fork of Indian Creek. On January 18, 1899, to serve this camp of then close to 500 residents and the company's offices, store, recreational facilities, tipple, and homes (two miles southeast of Flat Rock and four miles north of the Coolidge post office), the Barrenfork post office (sic) was established by Charles Ross, its first postmaster. In 1923 the company's office, store, and post office were moved some 300 yards north to a point on the ridge overlooking the original camp site and mines. The office closed on October 31, 1935 when, to avoid unionization, the company ended its operation. The camp closed, the miners left. the tracks were dismantled, and the owners later deeded the land to the Cumberland National Forest. Only a cemetery remains to mark the site.

On July 1, 1899 Francis Marion Kidd opened a post office just northwest of the head of Mill Creek (earlier known as Morgans Creek, a branch of the Cumberland River) to serve a locality then known as Green Pond. His first preference Dewey (probably for George Dewey whose Battle of Manila Bay had been fought only fourteen months before) was replaced by Funston (for one or more late nineteenth century Kentucky families). After several vicinity moves up and down (the present) Rte. 3256, it closed in December 1933.

William H. ("Billy") Bryant established the Buzzard post office on June 18, 1900 to serve a forest products business somewhere in the Indian Creek watershed.
Creek watershed, a couple of miles west of the river and six miles south of Cumberland Falls. It closed in mid July 1914.

To serve what was then the small village of Williams Siding on the Cincinnati Southern, about a mile south of Parkers Lake, Joseph Williams, on March 28, 1902, established the McGuffey post office. It may have been named for Meridy McGuffey (b. June 1864), an area lumber inspector. On July 21, 1906 then postmaster Hiram Silvers had its name changed to Indian Head for its site near the head of Indian Creek's Cogur (sic) Fork (which heads just south of the Day Ridge, nearly one mile west of the railroad tracks). By the time it closed in mid April 1927 the area between Parkers Lake and Flat Rock was also being served by the Wiborg post office, about a mile south of Indian Head. (see below).

The little recalled and shortlived Noxubee [nahx/yə/bee] post office has not been precisely located. Another in what was to become McCreary but which had closed before the county's organization, it was established in Whitley County on April 14, 1902 by Harry George Spangler who located it, in his Site Location Report, three miles west of the Cumberland River, half a mile north of Eagle Creek and 3½ miles south of Sawyer. In June 1904 it was moved by John S. Richardson an unrevealed distance to a point some sixty six yards within Pulaski County, one mile north of Eagle Creek, two miles south of Sawyer, and four miles north of Honeybee. Here it closed in mid October 1911. Whence its name? Could it have been named for the eighty mile long Mississippi-Alabama stream that joins the Tombigbee River near Gainesville, Alabama? According to William A. Read's Indian Place Names in Alabama, 1937, this was so named before the American Revolution for the Choctaw "strong smelling water".

When storekeeper Jasper M. Harp found his name in use in Franklin County, he opened his office, on September 21, 1905 as Honeybee for the
wild swarm observed in a nearby woods. Till it closed in 1977 the office had been at two locations on (the present) Ky 90, seven to eight miles east of Parkers Lake and about four miles west of the river at Cumberland Falls.

From 1885 coal was being shipped to the Cincinnati Southern at Greenwood from a site on Beaver Creek's Lick Fork by way of the Beaver Coal Company's newly built Beaver Creek and Cumberland River Railroad. In 1891 the line was renamed the Greenwood Railway, and, on November 21, 1907, the company opened a post office in its camp commissary, less than a mile northwest of the rail head. The office was called Bauer [bəuər, locally bear] for James A. Bauer, recently arrived from Indiana. Gavin L. Dudley, the commissary manager and the first postmaster, was succeeded on June 4, 1909 by Bauer himself. After the mining operation ended in 1910 the vicinity was acquired by the Bauer Cooperage Company of Indiana which made barrel staves of locally cut white oak timber. The office closed on August 15, 1924, and in 1933 the site's then owner W.H. O'Brien sold it to the federal government and it's now a part of the Beaver Creek Wildlife Management Area. Nothing marks the site.

In addition to the above at least four other Pulaski County post offices (Guyon, Flynn, Harvest, and Frisco) may have either operated within what became McCreary County or at least been authorized to do so.

**NINE KNOWN POST OFFICES ESTABLISHED IN WAYNE COUNTY BEFORE MccREARY'S FORMATION**

The earliest of McCreary's Wayne County offices was Rock Creek, somewhere on the twenty seven mile long stream that extends between Pickett County, Tennessee and the Big South Fork near Yamacraw. The stream, so identified in Wayne County's enabling act of December 13, 1800, was named for the many rocks on its banks. The office was established on March 17, 1865 with John
Lewellen, postmaster, but closed on July 23, 1869. It was re-established on March 27, 1872, with Marcus Foster, postmaster, and closed again in mid December 1873. It was again re-established on October 17, 1892 with Lenora F. Bell, postmaster, some eleven miles up Rock Creek. In 1912 William S. Gregory had it moved three fourths of a mile down the creek to a point four miles west of the Kentucky and Tennessee Railway's then western terminus at Exodus (see below). Here it closed on April 30, 1914.

The office was again re-established, on February 17, 1925, a short distance downstream, as Bell Farm. Here, at the site of the pioneer Rock Creek Bell family's farm, was one of the coal towns established by the Stearns Coal and Lumber Company, and, by 1921, the western terminus of the company's twenty mile long Kentucky and Tennessee Railway. James C. Anderson, its first postmaster, was succeeded in 1931 by Oren Spradlin who maintained it till it closed on June 30, 1975.

Another Rock Creek post office was the shortlived (June 9, 1875 to July 7, 1876) but as yet unlocated Bellville maintained by and probably named for George W. Bell.

Some 2½ miles up Rock Creek were two post offices established by and for the Stearns Coal and Lumber Company. The vicinity was first called Paint Cliff for its colorful rock formations, and this name was assumed by the local coal company. Sometime before 1907 the company and its mines were acquired by Stearns and in that year the site was reached by the Stearns' new K&T Railway. To serve their operations and the 200 resident camp being built, R.L. Stearns opened, on March 29, 1907, the Oz post office. It's said that this name was chosen, some six years after the publication of Frank Baum's first Oz book, for its brevity and that it couldn't be misspelled or mispronounced. Three postmasters--Isaac M. Blevins, William P. Upchurch, and Eli W. Martin--maintained this office through April 1914 when it closed.
On March 7, 1918 the office was re-established as Paintcliff. Its first postmaster Wayne Chambers was succeeded in October 1919 by Oz's last postmaster Martin, the local K&T station agent. Though the office closed for good in May 1932 the Oz Station survived till the railroad was abandoned in 1952, and the last Oz mine shut down at the end of the following year.

Another shortlived (February 10, 1890 to mid December 1893) but unlocated post office whose postmasters Joseph Riley Sweet and his wife Rebecca would have called Roberts for their neighbors, operated instead as the unexplained Banocks.

On June 30, 1890 the Rev. Grant Roberts established a post office in his store just east of the Little South Fork. He would call it Powder Spring but it operated till 1977 as Slavans [slʌ/vənз], the name of a well established pioneer Wayne County family whose name was variously spelled Slavan, Slavin, Slevin, Slavy, Slavans, Slevins, and Slavey. The post office survived for a year the closing of the longtime local store on Ky 92, half a mile from the creek and the (now) Wayne County line.

Then there was the shortlived and apparently much relocated post office of Alum which may have operated in both the Pulaski and Wayne County sections of what became McCrery. According to first postmaster Lizzie Seller's first known Site Location Report (December 4, 1899) this office may have been in Pulaski County, one fourth of a mile west of the Big South Fork, one eighth of a mile north of Alum creek (sic) and six miles northwest of Coolidge. According to the Post Office Register, though, the post office was established by Lizzie Sellers on March 23, 1900 in Wayne County, but by December of that year she had moved it four miles east to Pulaski County to serve a village of fifty residents, one fourth of a mile east of the fork, just west of the railroad, and
1½ miles north of Coolidge. In November 1901 Lizzie had it moved again, one half mile west, into Wayne County, two miles west of the fork, on Alum Creek, and seven miles west of Coolidge to serve a village of 100 residents. On June 28, 1902 she was succeeded by Nannie Sellers who ran it till it closed in March 1903. 

According to Doctor P. Sellers' first Site Location Report, his new post office Freedom, to serve that locality, would be at a site on the south side of the Little South Fork (that part of Wayne County that became a part of McCreary on its organization). Since his name choice was then in use in Barren County he opened his office on December 26, 1906 as the underived Lorena. Yet, according to Sellers' Site Location Report of August 1, 1912 (just after McCreary's organization), his office was 100 yards west of the Little South Fork and not in the new county. Later in August Sellers was succeeded as postmaster by B.F. Black and the office closed on October 31, 1913.

SIXTEEN POST OFFICES ESTABLISHED IN WHITLEY COUNTY BEFORE McCREARY'S FORMATION

The earliest post office to serve what became McCreary County was established on April 9, 1829 as Big South Fork. It was on the Pulaski County side of that stream, just opposite the mouth of Rock Creek, and north of the Wayne-Whitley-Pulaski Counties convergence. Michael Castillo, its first postmaster, was succeeded on August 17, 1832 by William K. Beaty. By then it was in Whitley County. But it closed in late November 1835, and the area was not to be served again till the establishment of Yamacraw in November 1905 (see below).

The second post office to serve the future county was Marsh Creek. This was on the aptly named twenty three mile long Cumberland River
Branch heading about half a mile within Tennessee's Scott County. The office was established on January 26, 1858, with William W. Hubbard, postmaster, just below the mouth of Murphy Creek, two miles from the Tennessee line, and about 2½ miles east of the site of the later Strunk post office. It was discontinued in July 1863, re-established on June 20, 1866 in postmaster John Wood's store, and discontinued again in August 1898. William Hayes had it re-established a second time on June 7, 1907. In 1913 it may have been moved 1½ miles downstream to a site one mile west of Ashton, but this is not certain. In any event, it closed at the end of 1914.

Katie Branham's inn was a favorite of antebellum travelers on the old toll road between Lexington and Jacksboro, Tennessee. According to tradition, though, when someone would stop to spend some time there Katie, customarily would ask him how many ears of corn he wanted to feed his horse. Whatever he said was what she'd charge him. But, in fact, it was mostly pine knots that she'd drop in the horse's feeding trough. One guest, on an extended stay, is said to have become quite concerned when his horse, seemingly well fed, kept getting progressively thinner. He discovered Katie's deception and soon spread the word of her perfidy up and down the highway. Her inn soon came to be called Katie's Pine Knot, and, after her death, the Pine Knot Inn. 13

A post office was established in this vicinity on June 19, 1874 with James H. Wilson, postmaster, and it too was called Pine Knot, though the small settlement it served may also have been called High Point. It closed on November 22, 1878 and was re-opened on July 25, 1879 in postmaster John Harmon's store as Commercial Summit; but on December 21, 1887 James B. Vickers had the Pine Knot name restored. By this time the railroad had arrived, and by 1900 the Pine Knot station had become a major shipping point for area lumber mills, with the community growing up there boasting
at least half a dozen general stores, a hotel, churches, a school, and other businesses. Its strategic location on the railroad and at the junction of what was to become US 27 (a major north-south route from Lexington to Tennessee) and Ky 92 (the main road between Williamsburg and Monticello) gave it a great potential for industrial and commercial growth. It soon became Whitley (Coolidge)'s rival in all things and, in 1912, was an unsuccessful contender for the new county's seat. It too was incorporated (in 1913) but, like Whitley City, this condition was shortlived. Though its potential was never realized, the town, 5½ miles (via new 27) south of Whitley City, is the county's largest with an active post office and a 2000 population of 1,680.

The post office of Holly Hill, named for the abundance of such trees in the Cumberland watershed, was at a number of sites in the area between Marsh Creek and Pleasant Run. Its location when it was established on August 3, 1876 (with John L. Davis, postmaster) is not known. But by 1890 it's believed to have been about half a mile east of Marsh Creek at or near the site of the later Ashton, and was soon serving several area stores and a population of about 100. For awhile (ca. 1907) it may have been on Pleasant Run, two miles east of its Ashton site and just beyond the future county line. By 1912, though, it was one fourth of a mile within the new McCreary County. After several more area moves it ended on (the present) Ky 92, just west of the Pleasant Run School (gone) and church, 7½ miles east of Pine Knot, where it was suspended on May 1, 1934, a month before the closing of the local store.

The Ashton post office, named for a local family, was established by George W. Lovett on June 5, 1901 and occupied at least two sites, 1½ to two miles west and south of Holly Hill, till it closed in December 1913.
The Cumberland Falls, by far the largest and most impressive in Kentucky, and considered by many "the Niagara of the South" was, in the earliest settlement times, in pioneer land speculator Andrew Craig's 2,000 acre grant between the lower ends of the Indian and Eagle Creeks. Its sixty eight foot drop into a rocky gorge has been, since the 1850s, a major tourist attraction. Its first visitors' accommodation, a log cabin, was opened in 1850. In 1875 this was replaced by Socrates Owens' Cumberland Falls Hotel, soon to be made more accessible by a twelve mile long road (now a part of Ky 90) east from the new railroad's Cumberland Falls Station at Parkers Lake. The first post office to serve the falls, its hotel, and that section of the Cumberland valley, then also known as the Great Falls, was established on July 19, 1880, on the west side of the river, as Devil Shoals, with Socrates' wife Nannie its first postmaster. On April 12, 1881 she had the name changed to Cumberland Falls. After twenty years it closed, but was re-established, also as Cumberland Falls, on June 25, 1902. It was now on the east side of the river to serve the guests of postmaster Henry C. Brunson's inn. On August 29, 1916 it was moved back to the west side of the river, now in McCreary County by new postmaster Rae Chesney.

In 1930 a half million dollar gift from the late Delaware senator (and Louisville, Kentucky native) Coleman T. DuPont created a 500 acre state park around the Cumberland and several other area falls. In 1942 the post office, then on Ky 90, 300 feet west of the river, and fourteen miles northwest of Whitley City, was discontinued. By 1983 the park had become a 1,794 acre state resort park in the Daniel Boone National Forest with camping facilities and a yearround lodge named for the senator. In that year 1,294 acres of the park were dedicated as a state nature preserve.
George W. Strunk, the storekeeper descendant of a large family that had acquired land on area creeks before the Civil War, gave their name to a station on the Cincinnati Southern midway between Pine Knot and the Tennessee line. The station was called Strunks Lane and to serve it, on February 18, 1892 the Strunks Lane post office was established, with James H. Pemberton, postmaster. On May 5, 1894 the Lane was dropped, and as simply Strunk the office has served that vicinity at several sites (currently at the junction of old 27 and Ky. 1470, just east of new 27, and two miles south of Pine Knot).

Shortly after the turn of the century the local rail station took the name Silerville (probably for Bill Siler of another area family.) On August 13, 1907 James C. Walker opened the Silerville post office one mile southeast of the Strunk post office and Silerville Station to serve the camp and office of the West Jellico Coal Company. By then Louie E. Bryant's Strunks Lane Coal Company was also shipping its product from the Silerville Station. The Silerville post office, though, lasted only till mid February 1915 when its papers were transferred to Strunk. To further confuse postal historians the names Strunk and Silerville have been used interchangeably for the same community.

A second Marsh Creek post office was Lay Ford operated by storekeeper Berry B. Lay from June 6, 1892 through August 1902. According to his Site Location Reports it was one mile northwest of Holly Hill and four miles below (northeast of) the Marsh Creek post office. The area's Lay family were probably descendants of the Rev. William Lay (1809-1907).

From January 31, 1893 to mid January of the following year Embry K. ("Uncle Ek") Creekmore ran a post office half a mile or so above
the head of Hayes Creek (a Marsh Creek tributary) and just above the head of Rock Creek of Jellico. He named it for himself and his wife Mandy, the vicinity's first settlers. It was re-established on March 2, 1911 by his brother Alexander Z. Creekmore a mile down Hayes Creek, on (the present) Ky 1470, 2½ miles south of Ky 92. It closed for good in 1968 on the death of its last postmaster, Ek's daughter-in-law.

Somewhere south of Holly Hill and 2½ miles east of Marsh Creek was the shortlived (February 2, 1893 to September 27, 1894) and unexplained Ample post office maintained by Elizabeth G. Lovitt and Sarah E. Smith.

West of Marsh Creek and some six miles east of Pine Knot would have been the Bethel post office, named for the local church. But as Bath County already had such an office, postmaster-designator James H. Swain gave it his family name and maintained it from May 11, 1900 through June 1901. It was re-established, also as Swain, by George E. Swain on April 28, 1925. When it closed in January 1934 its name died with it and area folks now refer to the site as Bethel.

A site about 2½ miles south of what would become Coolidge (Whitley City) was settled in 1840 by Riley and Bailey Sellers and first called Hemlock probably for the local trees. In 1901 some 500 vicinity acres between the Cincinnati Southern Railway and what would become US 27 (now Rte. 1651), were purchased or leased from then owner and coal operator Louie E. Bryant by the Streans Coal and Lumber Company. This was a firm owned by and named for New York-born Justus Smith Stearns, then of Ludington, Michigan. By the summer of 1903 the company had founded and laid out the Stearns mining town and located its offices in the railroad's Hemlock yard and siding. The station soon took the Stearns name and shortly became a major rail shipping point. A post office, also as Stearns, was established on December 29, 1902 in the company's newly opened commissary building, with John Emil Bergelin, its first postmaster.
On May 22, 1902 the Stearns company chartered its standard gauge Kentucky and Tennessee Railroad (later re-incorporated as Railway) as a shipping and passenger spur from what would be several satellite mining towns west and south of Stearns to its junction with the Southern. In 1903 the country's first electrically-powered sawmill was built in Stearns giving rise to the largest timber processing operation in Kentucky. By the late 1920s the wholly owned company town had some 2,000 residents, with over half working in area mines and processing plants, and a million tons of coal were being shipped annually from the Stearns station.

In short, till the early 1950s the town was the center of a vast empire of some 130,000 acres of timber and coal land, mostly in McCreary County but also in adjacent Kentucky and Tennessee counties. But by the mid 1950s the sawmill had closed, and in 1960 the county's local holdings were sold to their occupants and several private utility firms. In 1975 the company's coal operations were acquired by the Blue Diamond Coal Company of Knoxville, Tennessee as the Stearns Mining Company.

Today, the town with its active post office on Ky 1651 (old 27) and 92, one mile west of the new 27 routeway, serves some 1,580 residents (second in population to Pine Knot). By the 1990s the Stearns Historical Area Development Authority and the county's Heritage Foundation were restoring old buildings and maintaining a museum and archives to preserve and interpret the company's and town's early history.

The first coal town built by the Stearns company and the first station (completed in May 1903) on its Kentucky and Tennessee Railway, 3½ rail miles ssw of Stearns, was Barthell [bahr/thehl]. It was named for Edward E. Barthell, a Nashville and Chicago attorney who did much of the legal work involved in the company's acquisition of large tracts
of Kentucky and Tennessee coal and timber land. By the time its post office opened, on May 4, 1905, with Fred A. Cain, postmaster, the town had some 300 residents. But the mine was abandoned and the town "dismantled" in 1952 and its post office ceased operation on June 30, 1953. In 2000 then property owner Harold "Sonny" Koger restored the mine and camp facilities as a living museum.

From Barthell the K&T extended for a mile to the Big South Fork, then down that stream for another 2 3/4 miles to a point opposite the mouth of Rock Creek, a locality that may have been called Lonesome. Here, in 1905, the Stearns Company founded its mining town of Yamacraw and opened its K&T station as Rock Creek. The Yamacraw [yaem/a/kraw] post office, with James Rufus Sparks, postmaster, opened in the depot on September 2nd. It's not known why this name (and not Lonesome, the first name proposed for it) was given. It's that of a tribe of renegade Creek Indians living at what later became the city of Savannah and had been that Georgia settlement's first name. There's no basis for the belief that the McCreary town's name honored the chief of the alleged corn-cultivating Comargo tribe who had brought his people to this site after the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals in 1775. Anyhow, the post office closed in mid March 1950 and coal production ceased shortly thereafter. Nothing remains at the site just south of (the present) Ky 92, 4½ miles west of Stearns.

The next Stearns town and station was Worley [wirl/ee], named for area families, at the mouth of the Big South Fork's one mile long Worley Branch, 1¼ miles south of Yamacraw. By the time its post office was established, on August 28, 1906 (with Charles E. Mustard, postmaster), it had become a village of some 500 residents and would serve three Stearns area mines. The office extended through October 1953.
POST OFFICE ESTABLISHED IN McCREARY COUNTY AFTER ITS FORMATION: THOSE SERVING OTHER STEARNS COAL TOWNS ON THE K&T

In late 1913 the K&T, extending up Rock Creek, reached a site, some six miles west of the Big South Fork, then called Difficulty. Here another Stearns coal town was set up to serve its Mine Number 14, and on January 13, 1916 (with James L. Estes, postmaster), a post office was established as Exodus.18 It's said to have been named for its being the end of the K&T line, its last station (sic) till 1921 when the tracks were extended three more miles to Bell Farm. On November 15th the post office closed. Nothing is there now.

Around 1916 Stearns opened its Fidelity Mines [fah:/dehl/3/tee] on Rock Creek, about a mile east of Exodus, and set up its camp and K&T station in this name. But its post office was established on July 26, 1920 as Shoopman for the company store manager and postmaster-designate James A. Shoopman (1891-1961). The office closed in late April 1939, and nothing marks the site now.

In 1921 a K&T spur was extended 1 1/3 miles up White Oak Creek from the main line at White Oak Junction to serve what was to become the second largest of the Stearns coal towns. The town and its post office, established on September 8, 1922 in the company store, with its manager Lee L. Craig as postmaster, were named Cooperative for the local mining operation was a cooperative effort of a number of employees who had acquired company stock. The mine ceased operation in 1950 when it was no longer economically feasible to continue. In 1963 the post office was moved up (by then) Rte. 1363 to a country store where it was suspended in early January 1980.

In 1937 another K&T spur was extended one mile up (south) the Big South Fork from its junction with the main line at Comargo, and two rail
miles southwest of Berthell. It would serve Stearns' last mine (#18) that had opened that year as Blue Heron. Depending on who you ask the mine, its camp, and later its post office, were named for the local birds or a brand of coal. Perhaps both. The post office was not established until July 19, 1946 in the company store with store manager W.A. Pryor the first of its two postmasters. The mine and camp were abandoned in 1962 and the post office was closed in mid February 1963. In 1988 the Corps of Engineers restored the camp as an "interpretive museum" for its 100,000 plus acre Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and it soon became reachable by a six mile long privately operated scenic railway from Stearns.

**POST OFFICES SERVING OTHER COAL TOWNS**

A Mr. Wiborg from New York arrived in the area between Parkers Lake and Flat Rock in the 1890s and with a Mr. Hanna initiated coal and timber production near the head of Koger Creek. Though the coal operation all but ended before the First World War, a Wiborg [weye/burgh] post office was established on February 2, 1915 to serve a Southern Railway station near the junction of (the present) US 27 and Ky 1045, six miles north of Whitley City (via new 27), with Hurchel E. Thurman, postmaster. By 1970 it was still serving some 300 residents, but it closed in September 1988.

In 1906 Messrs. Coleman, Marlow, and Gorman, operating as the Comargo [ka/mahrgh oh] Coal Company, opened a mining camp in that name opposite the mouth of the Big South Fork's Roaring Paunch Creek, 1½ miles south of Worley and less than a mile below (north of) the later Blue Heron. To serve it a station on the K&T and a post office were established as LaColeman [l3/kohl/mn] for Clarence Coleman, one of the partners. The office operated, with James G. Vinsant, its first postmaster, only from March 19, 1920 through September 1928 when a flood nearly wiped...
flood nearly wiped out the camp and the surrounding area. Though the Stearns Company later acquired the site the mine never re-opened.

To serve the Premier Coal Company operations about a mile up Wolf Creek (a westside Big South Fork branch) Rachel Slavan opened, on August 28, 1920, the Benelli [bə/ˈnɛhl/ɪ] post office. It was named for the Italian-born Tony Benelli (1890-1975), a recent McCreary County arrival who, till the 1950s, ran a confectionary and sandwich shop for Stearns. The office closed at the end of April 1935 and nothing now marks the site.20

OTHER McCREARY COUNTY POST OFFICES SERVING RAIL STATIONS

Nearly 1½ miles north of Whitley City, at the junction of Ky 700 (the Alum Road) and 1651 (old US 27), is Marshes Siding. To serve this Southern Railway siding and the community around it storekeeper William P. Upchurch established its still active post office on May 13, 1924. It may have been named for Smith Marsh from whose local mill area timber products were shipped by rail.

The village of Revelo [rɛhl/əʊ] with a Southern Railway station and an active post office near the junction of Ky 92 (1651 or old US 27) and Ky 742, just south of Stearns. The post office was established on June 29, 1928 with William B. White, postmaster. His first proposed name White Fork was replaced by that of a Mr. Oliver, the engineer in charge of the railroad’s construction through that section. Yet, from the outset, and for reasons that remain unexplained, the spelling of his was reversed and an "e" was substituted for the "i".21 Another possible name source was the Oliver Brothers, Pine Knot area businessmen.

Some 3½ miles up Rock Creek, at its confluence with the four mile long, aptly named White Oak Creek, was the small settlement of White Oak.
When the K&T extended a spur line a mile up White Oak to its new mine and camp at Cooperative the site became White Oak Junction. A post office in this name was established in the depot on June 6, 1931 with station agent Homer Hamlin, its postmaster. It closed in August 1949.

**OTHER MCCREARY COUNTY POST OFFICES**

Two post offices--Unsona and Dogwood--may have served the Sandy Hill area west of the lower reaches of Marsh Creek, southeast of Barren Fork, but their sites are still undetermined. Unsona, whose name source also remains unknown, was established on August 1, 1918 with Elias C. Bryant, postmaster, but closed at the end of January 1927. It was re-established on September 19, 1928 by Laura S. Bryant but closed for good in mid June 1936. According to Mrs. Bryant's Site Location Report it was 1⅝ miles west of Marsh Creek.

The Dogwood post office was maintained from June 29, 1939 through July 1941 by Leslie Bryant to serve the Sandy Hill locality a mile south of Indian Creek. (This and/or Unsona may have been on the present Ky 700.)

At two sites on (the present) Ky 90, five miles east of Parkers Lake (and US 27), and some 3½ to four miles west of Honeybee, was Beerock. This probably aptly named post office was established on April 19, 1921 with Walter R. Clark, its first postmaster, and continued through February 1943.

From September 7, 1922 through October 1929 Ethel (Mrs. John D.) Manning maintained the Caylor post office, probably at or near the junction of Ky 92 and 592 in the Marsh Creek valley, some five miles east of Pine Knot. It was named for a Wayne-McCreary family, perhaps for J.C. Caylor, a "court's trustee" for the newly established (1912) county, or for Will H. Caylor (ne 1883), a Whitley City lawyer.
The local Smith Family, perhaps Crit Smith, large landowner and store-keeper when this area was still a part of Whitley County, gave their name to the village and post office of Smithtown, centered at the junction of (the present) Ky 92 and 791, two miles west of Stearns. The post office was established on May 20, 1922 with James W. Worley, postmaster. When it closed in June 1976 it had been serving some 500 residents, a store, and one of McCreary's six elementary schools.

In 1897 a New Jersey man, Martin Wells Knapp, seeking a place for a mission school and church, acquired from Thomas Taylor a deed to some land on the plateau overlooking Indian Creek from the north. Here was established the Beulah Mountain Childrens Home. From its establishment on February 13, 1929, with J. Thomas Johnson, postmaster, till its suspension in early April, 1995, the school, home, and local church were served by the Beulah Heights post office on (the present) Rte. 1045, five miles northeast of Whitley City.

Of McCreary's fifty nine operating post offices, seven (Whitley City, Marshes Siding, Parkers Lake, Pine Knot, Revelo, Stearns, and Strunk) are active. At least twenty five were the foci of population concentrations while the other served at least a country store, landing, church, and school. One office, Sipher (unlocated and name underived) was authorized on October 17, 1922, with Austin B. Kidd, postmaster, but never operated.

Twenty one offices were named for local/area persons or families, and three honored wellknown non-local persons. One may have been named for a distant place, and to ten were transferred the names of local or nearby features (six streams, a falls, an inn, a trail, and a lake). Eleven had geographic, descriptive, or locative names. Two were inspired by local economic activities. Blue Heron had two possible name sources. Another office may have been named for a popular book, and one had a Scriptural source. Eight names have not yet been derived and eight offices have not been precisely located.
Eleven offices had names that were not the first proposed for them. Eighteen served communities, neighborhoods, landings, and localities with other names. Five offices had name changes during their operation.
1. Of McCreary's 406 square miles, 151 were taken from Pulaski County, 143 from Whitley County, and 112 from Wayne County.

2. The movement of goods by the Cumberland River barges had been possible only at high tide. According to Stearns executive Frank Thomas, in his August 7, 1980 letter to the author, a very rugged terrain necessitated much tunneling for track layout, so many tunnels in fact that the stretch between Somerset and Stearns was called "The Rat Hole".

3. McCreary County can hardly be considered an agricultural county since little of its land has ever been arable. By the time the Feds arrived on the scene only 13,000 acres of county land was non-forested.

4. One third of this area's total acreage is in McCreary County.

5. After the November 18, 1951 court house fire and with Whitley City's accumulated debts owing to an obligation to fund the construction of US 27 through its area, there was some local talk about returning McCreary to its original counties along with a call to remove the seat to Pine Knot. But neither move was successful. (cf Paul Hughes, Louisville Courier-Journal, February 17, 1952, P. 4)

6. After the organization of McCreary County, the Bauer post office was but 100 feet from the Pulaski line and seven miles northeast of Greenwood.

7. Data on the Beaver Creek Coal Company and its Bauer camp and post office came from L.E. Perry's McCreary Conquest (1979, P. 4) and letters from area resident James C. McDowell Jr., January 27 and February 5, 1981.

8. At this point, according to Elmer Sulzer's Ghost Railroads of Kentucky (P. 213), the K&T was joined by the twenty five mile long Stearns-owned narrow gauge log carrier that followed the creek from a point northeast of Jamestown, Tennessee.
Richard Harve Slaven, ne ca. 1800 and probably the family's Wayne County progenitor, lived in the Elk Springs valley and later on the Big South Fork's No Business Creek (in Tennessee). His Slavinsky forbears are said to have come to America from a Slavic-speaking country.

However, according to Dr. Frank Thomas, a later Stearns executive, it was.

Lizzie had first intended to move her Alum post office to Marshes Siding, a mile north of Coolidge, but decided against it.

The Alum name, suggesting the local presence of one or more such minerals, was applied to several Wayne and McCreary County features. Besides the 3 3/4 mile long Big South Fork branch and the Alum Cave near the confluence (both so identified on Luke Munsell's 1818 map), an Alum Cave Hollow, off the creek, was noted on later nineteenth century maps. Then there was Alum Ford, a noted Big South Fork crossing, which fell victim to the Cumberland's impoundment, closing a main road between the two South Forks and thus isolating a large area. Now that vicinity is served by the Alum Ford Boat Ramp and Campsite, maintained by the U.S. Forest Service at the end of Ky 700, half a mile south of the Alum Creek-Big South Fork confluence.

This story was shared with me by Smith G. Ross of Pine Knot. He featured it in his book Come Go With me (1977, Pp. 95-96). It earlier appeared in William E. Barton's history of the community and later in my From Red Hot to Monkey's Eyebrow (1997, Pp. 29-30).

According to a 1926 Site Location Report, Mrs. Chesney may have had the office returned to Whitley County but if so it was for only a very short time, for in 1927 it was back in McCreary County.

Alexander's first choice Hays (sic), for the creek, was in use in Breathitt County,
16. Lovitt was the first name proposed for this office.
17. The Hemlock name was long preserved in the K&T's freight facility and repair shops in Stearns town.
18. Difficulty, the first name proposed for this office, was apparently unacceptable to the Post Office Department.
19. The Stearns Company is said to have used bird names like Golden Eagle, Scarlet Tanager, and Blue Heron to grade their coal.
20. Some, like Perry's Conquest, spell it Buelli, its spelling on the 1934 Barthell 15 minute topographic map.
21. Another case of a name reversal with a "slight alteration" is Revillo, a Grant County, South Dakota place named for J.S. Oliver, another railroad man. (According to Edward Ehrensperger's South Dakota Place Name, Vermillion: University of South Dakota, 1941)
22. Could it have been a "take off" of Usona, from the United States of North America, a name once proposed for our country, and in 1913 was applied to a Mariposa County, Colorado post office?
23. Isaiah (62.4) applied the name Beulah to the land to be given to the Children of Israel after their return from exile; it connotes a much anticipated future paradise, a land of peace and contentment.

REFERENCES

3. Dickinson, William K. on the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area in the Kentucky Encyclopedia, P. 77
4. Kinne, W.A. The Gum Tree Story, privately printed, 1929 (passim)
5. McCreary County Record, 50th Anniversary Issue, July 3, 1962, I, II, II (passim)


10. Perry, Samuel D. South Fork Country, Detroit, Mi: Harlo, 1983 (passim)


12. Ross, Smith of Pine Knot, Ky., interviewed by the author on June 22, 1978


17. United States Post Office Department, Site Location Reports—McCreary County, Ky. Post Offices, National Archives (Washington, D.C.)

MCCREARY COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES

1. BIG SOUTH FORK - 8/17/1832, William K. Beaty; Disc. 11/23/35; (always in Whitley Co.) 

2. MARSH CREEK - 1/26/1858, William W. Hubbard; 6/8/58, Joab Hill; 4/8/1862, John Oneil (sic); Disc. 7/21/1863; Re-est. 6/20/1866, John Wood; 5/26/1897, Everett Woods; 6/20/98, R.E. Wood; Disc. (with papers to Strunks), 8/5/1898; Re-est. 6/7/1907, William Hayes; (from Whitley to McCreary County); 1/12/1914, Michael Day; Disc. effective 12/31/1914 (mail to Pine Knot).

3. ROCK CREEK - (in Wayne Co.) 3/17/1865, John Lewellen; Disc. 7/23/1869; Re-est. 3/27/1872, Marcus Foster; Disc. 12/15/1873; Re-est. 10/17/1892, Lenora P. Bell; 3/16/1906, James D. Selvidge; 9/3/1908, Shadrack (sic) Bell; (from Wayne to McCreary County); 10/26/1912, William S. Gregory; Disc. 4/30/1914 (with mail to Griffin).

4. FLAT ROCK - (in Pulaski Co.) 6/19/1874, Joseph Coffy (sic); 7/24/1874, Alexander Strunk; 9/28/1892, Edgar L. Walker; Name changed to FLATROCK, 11/10/1894 with William C. Roberts as postmaster; 8/21/1897, George W. Denney; 6/24/1913, Harry A. Wise (from Pulaski to McCreary Co.); 3/14/1914, Laura L. Smith (failed to qualify); 12/2/1914, Charles D. Williams; 11/8/1918, Lula M. Castineau; Disc. 5/31/1919 (with mail to Wiborg); Re-est. 9/12/1921, Adele Dungan; 3/19/1925, Albert Strunk (acting postmaster); 6/8/1925, Albert Strunk....

5. PINE KNOT - (in Whitley Co.) 6/19/1874, James H. Wilson; Disc. 11/22/1878;

COMMERCIAL SUMMIT - (in Whitley Co.) 7/25/1879, John M. Gannon; 12/31/1879, Walter C. Miles; 12/7/1886, James B. Vickers; name changed to PINE KNOT, 12/21/1887, James B. Vickers; 4/26/1889, Isaiah W. Davis; 10/18/1911, Maggie Trammel; (from Whitley to McCreary County); 6/28/1915, Dennis E. McQueary (?).
6. GREENWOOD— (in Pulaski County) 5/15/1876, Henry C. Farris; 12/15/1879, Jabez R. Crooks... 7/26/1909, Callie B. Beaty; (from Pulaski to McCreary County); 4/26/1911, Henry F. Lewis; 1/27/1915, Callie B. Beaty.... D I S C . 1 9 7 5


8. COOLIDGE— (in Pulaski County) 5/12/1880, Middleton B. Holloway; 11/17/1894, William T. Crouch.... 3/29/1906, William G. Cundiff; (from Pulaski to McCreary County); 11/17/1905, Lorenzo Corder; 12/6/1906, Geo. A. Bell.... D I S C . 1 9 7 5

9. DEVIL'S SHOALS— (late in Whitley Co.) 7/19/1880, Mrs. Nanny W. Owens; Name changed to CUMBERLAND FALLS, 4/12/1881, Mrs. Nanny (or Nannie) W. Owens; 5/14/1897, William B. Forch; 9/16/1899, Charles W. Banta; Disc. 4/23/1901 (with papers to Parkers Lake), effective 4/30/1901; Re-est. 6/25/1902, Henry C. Brunson (sic); 5/16/1916, Rae Chesney; (changed location—from Whitley to McCreary County, 6/5/25); 6/18/1927, Walter H. Kidd.... D I S C . 1 9 7 5


11. BANOCKS— (in Wayne County) 2/10/1890, Joseph R. Sweet; 6/23/1891, Rebecca Sweet; Disc. 12/16/1893 (with mail to Hillside); D I S C . 1 9 7 5

13. TOLEDO (in Pulaski County) 1/31/1891, James L. Jones; Disc. 10/5/1895 (with mail to Greenwood);

14. HILLSIDE (in Pulaski County) 2/11/1891, John Hitchcock; 7/9/1891, Irving Bucklin; 12/14/1891, Martha Marler; Disc. (with mail to Coolidge) 1/8/1892; (She may not have served)

15. SAWYER (in Pulaski County) 12/14/1891, Thomas W. Sawyer; 9/16/1899, Willis H. Morgan; (from Pulaski to Whitley County, 10/10/1899, Willis H. Morgan); (from Whitley to McCreary County); 10/28/1924, George F. Morgan (acting); 11/14/1924, George F. Morgan; 

16. STRUNKS LANE (in Whitley County) 2/18/1892, James H. Pemberton; Name changed to STRUNK, 5/5/1894, John T. Dillehay; 10/19/1896, John L. Creekmore.... 9/24/1904, George W. Strunk (from Whitley to McCreary County); 4/11/1913, James C. Ball; 8/23/1918, Lillie Creekmore....

17. LAY FORD (in Whitley County) 6/6/1892, Berry Lay; Disc. (papers to Ashton), 8/15/1902, effective 8/30/1902;

18. CREEKMORE (in Whitley County) 1/3/1893, Embry K. Creekmore; Disc. 1/18/1894 (with papers to Angel); (from Whitley to McCreary Co) re-est. 3/2/1911, Alexander Z. Creekmore;

19. AMPLE (in Whitley County) 2/2/1893, Elisabeth G. Lovett; 9/11/1894, Sarah E. Smith; Disc. 9/27/1894 (mail to Marsh Creek);

20. NEVELSVILLE (in Pulaski Co.) 5/7/1898, John W. Nevels; (from Pulaski to McCreary Co.) 6/25/1923, Sarah A. Nevels; 12/9/1924, Mary M. Owens; Disc. 1933
MCCREARY COUNTY, KY., POST OFFICES (4)

21. BARRENFORK (in Pulaski County) 1/18/1899, Charles J. Ross; 2/14/1908, John Craynon; 1/5/1911, Hiram Silvers; (from Pulaski to McCreary County); 6/8/1911, James L. Jones; 7/8/1914, William M. Vitatoe; Disc. 10/30/1925.

22. FUNSTON (in Pulaski County) 7/1/1899, Francis M. Kidd; 1/20/1903, Tavia Kidd; Disc. 2/7/1905, effective 2/28/05; (mail to Sawyer, Whitley Co.); re-est. 2/9/1906, Linus A. Worley; 9/28/1906, William G. Taylor; (from Pulaski to McCreary County); 5/20/1916, Virgil Neal.

23. SWAIN (in Whitley County) 5/11/1900, James H. Swain; 3/27/1901, J.M. Caddell; Disc. 6/10/1901, effective 6/29/1901 (papers to Pine Knot);

24. BUZZARD (in Pulaski County) 6/18/1900, William H. Bryant; 2/4/1905, Susan Bryant; 9/25/1907, Mrs. Frank Darlington King; (from Pulaski to McCreary County); 5/29/1914, Susan Bryant; Disc. 7/15/1914 (with mail to Flatrock);

25. MCGUFFEY (in Pulaski County) 3/28/1902, Joseph E. Williams; 12/6/1902, Jacob Guth; 12/23/1906, Hiram Silvers; Name changed to INDIAN HEAD, 7/21/1906, Hiram Silvers; 1/15/1908, T. Bruce Hail; 10/22/1908, Agnes J. Taylor; (from Pulaski to McCreary County); 9/21/1925, Mrs. Letha A. Marlar (sic); 3/18/1926, Rosa Mae Shelton; Disc. effective 4/15/1927 (mail to Wiborg);

26. STEARNS (in Whitley County) 12/29/1902, John E. Bergelin; 1/5/1904, John E. Butler; (from Whitley to McCreary County); 9/18/1913, Roger W. Henderson; 4/1/1921, Orange H. Marcum (acting); 8/24/1921, Orange H. Marcum; 1/30/1925, Samuel H. McMurray.
MCCREARY COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (5)

27. BARTHELL (in Whitley County) 5/4/1905, Fred A. Cain; 11/3/1908, Merchison Frogge; 3/2/1911, George Goldson; 4/16/1912, Timothy W. Upchurch; (from Whitley to McCreary County); 8/29/1913, Richard W. Orme (failed to qualify); 2/16/1914, Andrew J. Godsey; 7/27/1915, George W. Walker

**Disc. 6/30/1953**

28. YAMACRAW (in Whitley County) 9/2/1905, James R. Sparks; 12/12/1906, Stonewall J. Conn (to 5/21/1907)..... (from Whitley to McCreary County); 7/8/1913, Prince M. Stephens; 9/21/1917, Wm. H. Stephens; 4/19/1920, John L. Creelmore (sic);.... **Disc. 3/15/1950**

29. HONEYBEE (in Pulaski County) 9/21/1905, Jasper M. Harp; (from Pulaski to McCreary Co.) 8/31/1915, Edward Shelby.... **Disc. 9/5/1983**

30. HARGIS (in Pulaski County) 6/28/1906, Sidney M. Hargis (declined); 8/9/1906, William T. Hyden; (in McCreary County but d.k. when; then returned to Pulaski Co); 4/28/1917, Ila M. Walker; 1/26/1921, Winfield S. Calhoun;

**Disc. 10/31/1953**

31. WORLEY (in Whitley Co.) 8/28/1906, Charles E. Mustard; 4/19/1907, India V. Simpson; 10/13/1908, Herbert L. Moody; 5/5/1911, Elias S. Stephens; (from Whitley to McCreary Co.)

**Disc. 10/31/1953**

32. LORENA (in Wayne County) 12/26/1906, Doctor P. Sellers; (from Wayne to McCreary Co.) 8/24/1912, B.F. Black; Disc. 10/31/1913;

33. OZ (in Wayne County) 3/29/1907, Isaac M. Blevins; 8/7/1907, William P. Upchurch; (from Wayne to McCreary County); 4/16/1913, Eli W. Martin; **Disc. 4/30/1914 (mail to Yamacraw);**
34. SILERVILLE (in Whitley County) 8/13/1907, James C. Walker; 10/17/1911, Richard T. McKeen; (from Whitley to McCreary County); 12/9/1913, Lyndon W. Barnes; Disc. 2/27/1915 (with mail to Strunk);

35. BAUER- (in Pulaski County) 11/21/1907, Gavin L. Dudley; 6/4/1909, James A. Bauer; 12/7/1909, Richard W. Orme; 8/15/1912, Jacob C. Ballow; (from Pulaski to McCreary County) 11/8/1915, Mary A. Marcilliat; Disc. effective 8/15/1924 (mail to Greenwood);

36. WIBORG 2/2/1915, Hurchel E. Thurman; 7/23/1915, Charles M. Walter...

37. EXODUS 1/13/1916, James L. Estes; 1/10/1917, Oscar L. Marcum; Disc. effective 11/15/1921 (mail to Sheepman);

38. HARDSHELL 8/11/1917, Garvey Noble; Did this operate? Or was it in[Brackets][Co.]

39. PAINT/CLIFF 3/7/1918, Wayne Cambers; 11/1/1918, Harlan N. Hill (declined); Disc. 1/31/1919 (mail to Yamacraw); Re-est. 10/10/1919, Eli W. Martin; 12/7/1925, Lewis Foster; 5/17/1928, Eli M. Martin; Disc. 5/21/1932

40. UNSONA 8/1/1918, Elias C. Bryant; Disc. effective 1/31/1927 (mail to Whitley City); Re-est. 9/19/1928, Laura S. Bryant; Disc. 6/15/1936

41. LACOLEMAN 3/19/1920, James G. Vinsant; 11/3/1921, John M. Bryant... 9/11/1926 (acting) W.T. Moren; Disc. 9/29/28 (mail to Worley);

42. SHOOPMAN 7/26/1920, James W. Sheepman; Disc. 7/29/39

43. BENELLI 8/28/1920, Rachel Slavan; Disc. 7/30/35
MCCREARY COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (7)

44. BEEROCK (sic) 4/19/1921, Walter R. Clark; 2/1/1924, Tava Clark. Disc. 2/28/1943

45. SMITH TOWN (sic) 5/20/1922, James W. Werley; 10/28/24 (acting), 2/3/1925, Rlander (sic) L. Perry; Disc. 6/2/1976

46. CAYLOR 9/7/1922, Ethel Manning; Disc. 10/10/1929, effective 10/31/29 (with mail to Pine Knot);

47. COOPERATIVE 9/8/1922, Leo L. Craig; Sup. 1/4/1980 + Disc. 1/10/1984

48. SIPHER 10/17/1922, Austin B. Kidd; Rescinded 1/22/1923;

49. MARSHES SIDING 5/13/1924, William P. Upchurch; 6/30/1925 (acting) Raymond Upchurch; 12/10/1925 (acting) Linnie Gilreath; 3/20/1926, Linnie Gilreath; A PO

50. BELL FARM 2/17/1925, James G. Andersen; 9/30/1929, Isaac H. Burke; Disc. 1975

51. HILL TOP 2/18/1925, John H. Bryant; 11/30/1927, Artie L. Lawson; Sup. 9/16/1977 + Disc. 7/22/1983

52. SWAIN 4/28/1925, George E. Swain; Disc. 1/31/1934

53. REVELO 6/29/1928, William B. White; 1/13/1930 (acting), Lewis E. Chitwood; 3/15/1930, Lewis E. Chitwood; A PO
MCCREARY COUNTY, KY.  P.O. (8)

54.  BEULAH HEIGHTS  2/13/1929, Thomas Johnson;  Susp. 4/21/1955, Disc. 5/31/1997

55.  WHITE OAK JUNCTION  6/6/1931, Homer Hamlin;  Disc. 8/31/1949

56.  BELLVILLE  6/9/1875 in Wayne Co.  & Geo. Bell (only)  Disc. 7/7/1876.

57.  BLUE HERON  est. 7/19/1946 + Disc. 2/15/1963.

58.  NOXUBEE  est. in Whitley Co c. 1902.


60.  DOGWOOD  6/29/1939 - 3/31/1941

61.  ALUM (WAYNE CO) 3/23/1900, little sellers  in Pul. Co. 12/14/00, Bech to W. Co. late 1901 or early 1902.  6/28/02, Nannie Sellers  Disc. 3/7/1903.
OTHER PLACES/NAMES:

29. Alum
30. Banocks
31. Lorena
32. Toledo
33. Hillside
34. Lay Ford
35. Ample
36. Nevelsville
37. Barrenfork
38. Funston
39. Buzzard
40. McGuffey
41. Oz
42. Silerville
43. Hardshell
44. Unsona
45. Lacoleman
46. Shoopman
47. Benelli
48. Beerock
49. Sand Hill (com)
50. Comargo (com)
51. Fidelity (com)
52. Gilreath (com)
53. Rock Creek
54. Bellville
55. Marsh Creek
56. Cumberland Falls (Devil Shoals)
57. Worley
58. Bauer
59. Caylor
60. Trace Branch
61. Hickory Grove
62. Bryant
63. Geary
64. Jones Hol.
65. Beech Grove
66. Gregory
67. Hayes Creek
CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK

Cumberland Falls State Park, 18 miles from Corbin on State Highway 90, is composed of 500 acres of virgin forest, mountains, streams and catastrophes, the gift in 1930 of Senator Coleman T. Du Pont and citizens of the community. The total area contains a tract of wild, rugged rocks and rough mountainous country cut by the Cumberland River, which threads its way through the hills over a rocky course, and, coming to a wide rock cliff in a wild and beautiful gorge, plunges over, then rushes on in whirlpools and rapids. Immediately behind the falling sheet of water there is a cave in the surface of the rock; it is possible to go almost across the river by this passage through an arch formed on one side by the rock and on the other by the flashing waters.

In addition to the scenic falls which are 68 feet in height and 125 feet in width, the Cumberland Falls State Park has many other points of interest and attractions such as Lovers Leap, Natural Bridge, High Bluffs, Little Eagle Falls, Lookout Point, Valley of Rocks, and a beautiful and varied flora.

Half a mile down the river, Little Eagle Falls, small but picturesque, surrounded by heavily wooded hills, was said to have been guarded day and night by the Indians as a place of worship, in defense of which the Indian battle of Shiloh was said to have been fought. On the south side of the river is a cliff walk, a narrow ledge high above the water which winds around the shoulders of the hill until it reaches the top where a shelter house is located. Native trees and wild flowers may be studied while following the foot trails and bridle paths along the ravine and mountain sides.
A fine growth of yellow pine crowns the ridges, while on the steep slopes and ravines leading down to the river a mixed forest growth of such trees as hemlock, tulip, magnolia, oak, sweet gum and holly are found, the holly being particularly abundant and of very large size. Dogwoods, azaleas, rhododendron, spicebush, stewartia, the viburnums, blueberries, shrubby St. Johnswort and strawberry bush are among the many plants to be found.

The cataract comes into view from several points on the trails, which are cut through the timber and underbrush on the steep level of the stream.

Near the falls, situated on a ledge above the river, is the Moonbow Inn. During the full of the moon Cumberland Falls presents a moonbow, a spectrum conjured in the mist - one of the rare occurrences to be seen on this continent. The old inn at the falls takes its name from this phenomenon. It has been recently remodeled under the supervision of the State Park director and care was taken to retain the atmosphere of the sixties when it was built.

The National Park Service under the Department of the Interior has put into the park many improvements consisting in the main of a bath house with a bathing beach; water and sewerage system; shelter houses with open fireplaces; Du Pont Lodge and 16 log cabins, five of which contain living rooms with fireplace, two bedrooms, bath and kitchen; a custodian's lodge and service building; picnic areas with tables, seats and ovens; 25 miles of trails winding through the area; lookout tower, bridges, and parking space for 600 cars.

Du Pont Lodge, named in honor of Senator Coleman T. Du Pont, is situated on a ridge overlooking the Cumberland River, one mile from the
falls. It is built of natural wood and stone and has every convenience.

The Cumberland National Forest of 900,000 approved acres encircles Cumberland Falls State Park protecting it from despoliation. Miles of trails and gravel roads are to be placed in this forest, together with fishing reservoirs and observation towers. Thousands of acres along the river are filled with virgin timber and a variety of wild game.

Here in the park is provided a natural refuge where deer, black bear and smaller fur-bearing animals, as well as wild turkey, quail and waterfowl may find a native home safe from molestation. Here too the camper, the student, the nature lover, may find opportunity for sport, study or solitide amid beautiful, primeval surroundings.
MCCREARY, James Bennett (Gov. 1875-79) b. Madison Co., Ky., July 8, 1838; d. Richmond, Ky., Oct. 8, 1918; ed. Center College (Daniels) and Cumberland College University (U. of Tennessee) (LL.B. 1859); practiced law, Richmond, Ky., served as maj. in Eleventh Ky. Cavalry (C.S.A.) 1862-65; 1st. col., 1865; served in Ky. Legislature (House) 1869-75; gov. first term, 1875-79; M. C. 1884-96; U. S. sen. 1902-11; again elected gov. for term 1911-15; upon expiration term retired to home in Richmond. In 1867 m. Catherine Hughes of Lexington, Ky.; practice of law; chairman of the State Democratic committee; in the campaign of 1900; delegate to the Democratic National Convention at Kansas City in 1900, at St. Louis in 1904, at Denver in 1908, and at Baltimore in 1912; elected as a Democrat to the U. S. Senate in 1909, served from March 4, 1913 to March 5, 1923; unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1916; again, res. of Feb., 1917-19; unsuccessful candidate for election to the U. S. Senate in 1914; resumed the practice of his profession; died in Richmond, Ky., 1918.

... admitted to the bar, 1859; practice at Richmond, Ky. Mem. Ky. Ho. of Rep., 1869, 1871, 1873 (speaker, 1871-3);
The following are tales told by the organizers of the STEARNS COAL & LUMBER COMPANY AND were suppose to have taken place during the very early days before and after McCreary Co. was made.

Negro Hollow

I. Negro Hollow was a Hollow with its large rock house, so named because it was a hiding place for runaway negroes before the Civil War, situated at the head of a prong of Station Camp Creek, it was surrounded on three sides by high cliffs containing a large rock house, only accessible by following the course of the branch which had its beginning at the spring nearby. It made an ideal hiding place. The settlers in the immediate section were not in sympathy with slavery, and without their help the rock house was almost impossible to find.

Through the litigation of the title to more than a quarter of a million dollars worth of property, the Negro Hollow, or Nigger Hollow, as it was called, became familiarly known. A corps of lawyers, numbering among them an ex-governor, two ex-attorney generals with many leading local lawyers, as well as an assistant United States attorney general argued at great length whether a subsequent use of the Hollow by a settler constituted a possessory right sufficient to give title to more than 20,000 acres of land.
McCreary Co., communities

1. Alum (dpo)
2. Banocks (dpo)
3. Bell Farm (com. & po)
4. Honey Bee (com. & po) (aka Honeybee)
5. Lorena (dpo)
6. Pine Knot (po and com.) had been Commercial Summit
7. Rock Creek (dpo) -> Bell Farm
8. Slavans (po) (com.)
9. Stearns (com. & p.o.)
10. Yamacraw (rr, ext. comm.) (dpo)
11. Bellville (dpo) (could this have been #3, above?)
12. North Mill Creek Nnbr.
13. Mill Creek Nnbr.
14. Big South Fork (dpo)
15. Marsh Creek (dpo)
16. Flat Rock (dpo) (com.)
17. Greenwood (com. & po)
18. Holly Hill (or Hollyhill) (com. & po)
19. Whitley City (co. seat) had been Coolidge
20. Cumberland Falls (dpo) had been Devil Shoals
21. Parkers Lake (com. & po) (rr name=Cumberland Falls Station)
22. Toledo (dpo)
23. Hillside (dpo)
24. Sawyer (po) (com.)
25. Strunk (com. & po)
26. Lay Ford (dpo)
27. Creekmore (dpo) (com.)
28. Ample (dpo)
29. Nevelsville (dpo) (com.)
30. Barrenfork (dpo)
31. Funston (dpo) (com.)
32. Swain (dpo) (com.) -> Petrol (com.)
33. Buzzard (dpo)
34. McGuffey (dpo) -> Indian Head P.O.
35. Barthell (ext. com., rr, dpo)
36. Harveys Worley (dpo) (com.)
37. Oz (dpo) (rr) (Oz Station) = Paintcliff (dpo)
38. Silerville (dpo) (com.) (rr)
39. Bauer (dpo)
40. Wiborg (com. & po)
41. Exodus (dpo) (com.)
42. Paint Cliffs (dpo) (com.)
43. Unsona (dpo)
44. Lacoleman (dpo)
45. Shoopman (dpo) (com.)
46. Benelli (dpo) (com.)
47. Beerock (dpo)
48. Smith Town (sic) (dpo) (com.)
49. Caylor (dpo)
50. Cooperative (po) (com.)
51. Sipher (p.o. est. but never in op.)
52. Marshes Siding (dpo) (com.)
53. Hill Top (po)
54. Revelo (po and com.)
55. Beulah Heights (com. & po)
56. White Oak Junction (dpo) (com.)
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58.</td>
<td>Blue Heron (ext. com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.</td>
<td>Trace Branch (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.</td>
<td>Hickory Grove (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61.</td>
<td>Bryant (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.</td>
<td>Geary (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63.</td>
<td>Hemlock (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64.</td>
<td>Vingar Mill (sic-?) Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65.</td>
<td>South Mill Creek Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.</td>
<td>Rock Branch Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.</td>
<td>Patrick (POPR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.</td>
<td>Bear Wallow Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.</td>
<td>Kidd Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.</td>
<td>Foster Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71.</td>
<td>Mart Hill Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.</td>
<td>Wolf Creek Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.</td>
<td>Sand Hill (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74.</td>
<td>Taylor Ridge Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.</td>
<td>Vanover Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76.</td>
<td>Dobbs Hill (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.</td>
<td>Dobbs Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78.</td>
<td>JonesHol. (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79.</td>
<td>Comargo (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.</td>
<td>Fidelity (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81.</td>
<td>Beech grove (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82.</td>
<td>Otter Creek Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.</td>
<td>Gregory (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.</td>
<td>Green Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85.</td>
<td>Rosstown (POPR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86.</td>
<td>Cal Hill Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.</td>
<td>Gilreath (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88.</td>
<td>Lower Marsh Creek Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89.</td>
<td>Hayes Creek (com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.</td>
<td>Upper Rock Creek Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91.</td>
<td>Bethel Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92.</td>
<td>Pleasant Hill Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93.</td>
<td>King Town Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94.</td>
<td>Upper Marsh Creek Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95.</td>
<td>Lower Rock Creek Ngbr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ N_T = 68 \]
McCreary Co. place names

The Pine Knot informants, 6/22/1978, were very friendly and seemingly interested in my pns needs. They couldn't help me much with details and seemed to regret it, but referred me to others they assured me could give me considerable data.

Chitwood was willing to set up an interview with Bill Carter of Danville. We arranged for a 10 AM+ meeting in Danv. on Sat. Chitwood now lives in Danv.

I'll check on Ross's book which may be in some libraries, c1977.

Ross referred me to W.K. Watkins, age in his 90s who still writes long letters and knows p.n.'s of many area counties. Ross got a long letter from him recently.

Burris Smith regretted having to cut short our interview but he had a Kiwanis meeting scheduled for 6 PM. He invited me to come back Fri. night but I told him I'd be in Williamsburg. Smith of Pine Knot, Ky. is a retired surveyor, age 65.

cf Earl Anderson of Pine Knot, Ky. for Creekmore. (acc. to Smith).
DICK'S JUMPS - is the singular name given to immense masses of the conglomerate, which have fallen from the hills, and now lie in the Big South fork of Cumberland river, just above the mouth of Wild Dog Creek, blocking it up and rendering navigation from above impossible. The coal fields embrace one-half of the area of Wayne Co. Sandstone, ripple-marked and fine grained, in 8-inch layers, and quarrying in 10-foot slabs, is found W. of DICK'S JUMP, in a ridge of Turkey Creek. Iron ore is found all over the coal region - in some places strewn over the top of the ridges, in others in belts near the coal beds.

Collins II - page 754
Interview with Mrs. Hattie C. Hune (Mrs. C.W.) at the office of the McCreary County Record, weekly newspaper which her husband (publix) edits, on Saturday, October 16, 1971, 9-10:30 A.M., re-the McCreary County place name survey which she will coordinate.

No historian nor historical society in the county. Court records from 1929 are complete. But most places were named before then. Will have to rely on oldtimers or lumber and coal company records.

Access to court records in other county seats (Whitley, Pulaski, and Wayne from which McCreary Co. was formed in 1912).

There's never been any history of McCreary County other than the recent special issue of the newspaper, a copy of which she gave me. Her husband could do such a history if he'd settle down to it, he's a history buff. Mostly it would have to be based on interviews. Will work through the newspaper; putting out feelers and anyone with information will then be interviewed. May run items on specific names that she'd like to know about and wait for replies. She feels she can get good coverage of all sections of the county this way. She'll start this right away, even before she receives Field's list, and send some of her findings to me as soon as she can to see if this is what I want, i.e., a sampler of McCo. Co. p.m. People will cooperate, she feels.

May plan a column on p.m. in her newspaper; perhaps some day even a printed booklet.

Will solicit help from Lester Cooper, retired teacher and history buff who will work with her on this kind of project.

She'll also contact George Stephens, 97 years old but still active and a good memory.

Court house burned down twice and all records to those times were destroyed. No county library—a sore spot to her.

She and her husband both enjoy this kind of work. He used to be a school teacher and ran the newspaper. He was a native of Pendleton Co., and she came from Tennessee. They've talked about this kind of project several times before but never had a reason to actually get into it until now.

She'll send me the story of the old gum tree in front of the Stearns building. Also mentioned a book called "Pine Knot" by Wm. S. Barton (?), c. early 1900s. Very few copies. None in libraries.

Two accounts of the naming of Pine Knot......

Revelo was named for an engineer who built the C&O and T.P. RR through here. Mr. Oliver. Name reversed; d.k. why misspelled.

D.k. why that name was changed or who changed it.
Mentioned Mrs. Robert E. Gable of Frankfort, Ky. She works with the Ky. Heritage Commission. Her husband was State Parks Commissioner under Gov. Nunn for a few years. He is age 39, a grad. of Stanford U. and an industrial engineer. A 4th generation Stearns, he owns controlling interest in the Stearns Co. He was going to run against Emberton in the Rep. primary but changed his mind; now he's his finance chairman.

Mrs. Gable will work with the County place name survey. Is interested in this sort of thing and she'd have access to State Archives, etc.

Mrs. Hune told me much about the Stearns Company and the town and county.... The company owns the town and people rent from them. Always been a company town. Once the cultural center of the county, its gone downhill since the mines have played out. Stearns used to employ 3500 persons; now only 2 mines are still operating. At one time there were 8 mining camps; now all closed. Stearns pop. is 1800 now. Once an independent school district. Town was self-sufficient at one time; no longer. The Stearns also ran a logging camp at one time.

The Stearns family came here from Luddington, Mich. in 1902. Justice (check spelling) Stearns, his son R.L. Stearns, and his sons R.L. Jr., Freeman, and daughter Paulina Gable who is Robert's mother.

Mrs. Hune is very interested in survey and sees its value. She's interesting source of much local and county history and interesting to listen to.

Suggestions for other counties:

1. O'Leary Mees, superintendent of schools, Somerset. She knows him. He's a very outgoing person. A friend of Mr. Hune

2. Maurice Henry could tell me who for Bell Co. (I told her that he declined and that his wife is ill.)

3. Mrs. Hester King for Knox Co. Retired person. Knows the county. Used to work for Gov. Simpson. She knows everyone. If she couldn't do it herself, she could tell me who. Lives in Barbourville.

The record's office is on the second floor of the Stearns Coal and Lumber Co. store, #1 Building on corner. Walkup on the side, beyond the lunchroom.