THE POST OFFICES OF MARSHALL COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Marshall County with its 304 square miles and 27,200 residents lies in the heart of a major agricultural and tourist area of western Kentucky. It is the northeasternmost of Kentucky's Jackson Purchase counties. Benton, its somewhat centrally located seat and trade center, is 160 miles southwest of downtown Louisville and twenty six miles southeast of Paducah on the Ohio River.

The county is drained exclusively by the streams of the Tennessee River system. The main stream itself forms its northern boundary while Kentucky Lake, an impoundment of that river and one of the largest man-made lakes east of the Mississippi, forms its eastern boundary. The principal Tennessee River tributaries: Jonathan, Bea, Bear, Cypress, and Little Cypress Creeks, and the Forks of Clarks River are the major streams of Marshall County. The East Fork of Clarks, which drains most of the western two-thirds of the county, joins the West Fork in McCracken County, some twelve miles from the Tennessee. Several miles of the West Fork flow through the southwestern section of the county. The Clarks' main branches: Wades, Beaver Dam, Middle Fork, and Elender Creeks (East Fork) and Duncans, Soldier, and Sugar Creeks (West Fork) are used as locational reference points in Marshall County.

The Jackson Purchase section of Kentucky (roughly 2400 square miles) is that part of the state west of the Tennessee River which Andrew Jackson purchased in 1818 from the Chickasaw Indians. Until 1821 this territory was technically a part of Caldwell County. It became Hickman County in 1821 but the following year the eastern third of the area became Calloway County with its seat at centrally located Wadesborough. After an unsuccessful attempt to divide Calloway in 1837, the residents
of its northern half succeeded, in February 1842, in getting legislative
approval to establish Marshall County as the state's ninety second. It
was named for Chief Justice John Marshall (1755-1835) of the US Supreme
Court. The county assumed its present boundaries at inception.

The area that became Marshall County is thought to have been first
settled, soon after the purchase itself was finalized, by James Stewart
who built his home on Wade Creek, less than one mile north of the present
Calloway County line.

The first post office to serve all of Calloway County was established
at Wadesborough in 1824. Though the seat was removed to Murray after
the division of the county, this post office continued to serve the
border area till 1904. The town and post office were named for the creek
which was probably named for Bannister Wade, another early settler.

The first six post offices in what was to become Marshall County
were established while that area was still a part of Calloway. Three of
these ceased operation before Marshall was created. A post office called
Jonathan, operated by Edward Curd from 1828 to 1835, was named for its
site somewhere on Jonathan Creek. This stream which heads just northeast
of Murray, joins the Tennessee River (now Kentucky Lake) eleven miles east
of Benton. Until 1818 the creek may have been known as Harland's but was
renamed for Jonathan Grear who had just settled at its mouth.

The Storey's Ferry post office was the second to be established in
the future Marshall County. This is believed to have been on the Tennessee
River where the pioneer Storey family had an early ferry. Established
on January 28, 1833 by Gideon A. Haydock, the post office became known as
Withe in December 1834, and closed in November 1838. This may have been
at or near the site of the future Haygooks Ferry (given as Haddox Ferry on
published maps), on the Tennessee, two miles north of Calvert City (and
fifteen miles north of Benton).
The second post office to serve the southeast corner of what was to become Marshall County was Aurora. A predecessor post office, established by John Keys on January 13, 1836, was called Pentecost, perhaps for a local family. In December 1837 the name was changed to Aurora (with Charles Curd, the first postmaster) and in March 1840 to Callaway (sic) (with Alexander Ferris, postmaster). However, a year and a half before Callaway closed, another Aurora post office, apparently at a nearby site, was established (on January 20, 1841) and served the area intermittently till May 1906. These early post offices were probably on the west bank of the Tennessee River in the vicinity of Eggners Ferry and the present Eggners Ferry Bridge, two miles north of the Calloway County line. The ferry was a very early Tennessee River crossing that had been purchased by Milton H. Eggner in 1835/6. Eggner also ran the local grist mill, landing, and store, and operated the post office off and on for many years. While Aurora remained the post office name, the community itself was also known as Aurora Landing and Eggners Ferry. In December 1893 the office was moved one mile northwest to a point just beyond the junction of the present US 68 (Ky 80) and Ky. 94.

Today the Aurora name is applied to the commercial strip along US 68 at the west end of Kenlake State Resort Park, while Eggners Ferry Bridge takes travelers on US 68 across the Kentucky Lake to the famed Land Between the Lakes vacation area and points east. The origin of the Aurora name is not known. Perhaps it was named for the city in New York whence many Kentuckians had come, but it is not known if any early Purchase settlers had come from there.

Another pre-Marshall County post office was the inexplicably named Fountain Inn which operated from October 9, 1838 through July 1842 possibly on Middle Fork Creek, several miles southeast of Oak Level. James Clark was the first of its two postmasters.
In the 1830s Enos Faughn is said to have opened a store in the vicinity of the junction of the present US 68 and Ky 962 (some 6½ miles east of Benton). Since he always dealt fairly with his customers his store came to be called the Fair Dealing Store. As Fair Dealing the local post office operated intermittently from September 7, 1838 (with Thomas R. Travis, the first postmaster) through May 1908. Today the name (usually spelled as one word) applies to the businesses stretching along US 68 between Ky 962 and the new Jonathan School.

Marshall's seat and largest community is Benton, a fourth class city with some 3900 residents. Located on US 641, just east of the Purchase Parkway, and one mile west of Clarks River's East Fork, it was founded as the new county's seat in June 1842 on land deeded by Francis Clayton and John H. Beardin. It was named for then US Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri (1782-1858). Its post office, the first following the creation of the new county, was established on July 8, 1842 with Beardin as postmaster. The town was incorporated on January 11, 1845.

In 1849 a Scotsman, Thomas Love, arrived at a site on the west bank of the Tennessee just above the mouth of Bear Creek (about twelve milesene of Benton). Apparently attracted by the economic potential of the area's virgin firsts, he opened a store and, on October 3, 1851, a post office (with Laban S. Locker, postmaster) which he named for Birmingham, England. The town of Birmingham, Ky. was laid out in 1853 and incorporated in February 1860. By the 1870s it had become a flourishing mill and trade center and the main shipping port for timber and tobacco products on the lower Tennessee River. Its economic decline was assured when it was bypassed by the railroad later in the century. This was one of the two towns completely inundated by the flooding of Kentucky Lake in the mid 1940s. Its post office closed in 1943.
Though the site of the present hamlet of Palma [pæl/ma] on US 68, 7½ miles north of Benton, was settled before 1830 by the Flowers family from Warren County, it was not until July 20, 1854 that its post office was established by storekeeper Alfred Johnston and given its name possibly for Zachary Taylor's decisive Mexican War victory at Resaca de la Palma in 1846. The post office operated through 1905.

The precise location of the shortlived (July 20, 1854 to October 1863) post office of Watson's is not known. Probably named for the first of its two postmasters, Joab Watson, it may have been in the vicinity of the future Ozan post office or at/near the site of the old Oak Hill School, half a mile west.

Another unlocated ante-bellum post office was Davis Cross Roads. This was established on January 2, 1855 (with William Noel, postmaster) just over the line in Calloway County but was presumably soon moved to Marshall County where it operated till November 1857. Which Davis may have given his name to the crossroads is not known either. Arthur H. and Elbert Davis are known to have owned land on Middle Fork Creek while William Davis paid taxes for property on West Clarks.

The village of Briensburg extends northwest along US 68 and west along Ky 58 from their junction at a point 4½ miles nne of Benton. It was named for its founder, James Brien, Jr. (1792-1875), a North Carolina-born blacksmith, who had settled in the vicinity by 1820. While representing that area in the Kentucky Legislature, he helped secure passage of the bill creating Marshall County, and his town was a candidate for its seat. It was incorporated in 1861. The Briensburg post office was established on May 1, 1856 with William H. Yancey, postmaster, and after several short distance site changes, closed in 1905. The town's nineteenth century
prosperity as a trading competitor of Benton suffered when the railroad reached Benton instead, but it is now enjoying new growth, to a peak population of some 400, due to its proximity to Kentucky Lake and other area tourist attractions. From 1867 to 1894 the post office name was spelled with a terminal "h".

On June 19, 1857 a post office that had been established the preceding July as Bishop’s Mills was moved two miles to the junction of the present Ky 962 and 1897, some 8½ miles southeast of Benton. It was renamed Olive. In the 1870s the community boasted at least three stores and John Bishop’s saw and grist mill. It survived the closing of the post office in February 1905 and is today still a crossroads hamlet centered at John Harrison’s store. The origin of the Olive name is not known; the theory that it was named for a man of this name has never been substantiated.

The hamlet of Brewers is now centered at the junction of Ky 80 and 1836, 1½ miles east of Clarks River's West Fork (and about 8½ miles southwest of Benton). It was named for the family of Peter Brewer who had built a water-powered grist mill and store on West Fork sometime before 1840. In 1861 the post office of Barksdale, that had been established in February 1859 by Rolly Sutherland down the river and just over the Graves County line, was moved to the mill site and renamed Brewers Mill. John M. Brewer, who was running the mill then, became postmaster. Several site changes and a name-change to Brewers (in 1896) followed the closing of the mill and the subsequent change in the river’s channel. The post office itself ceased operation in 1955.
From December 11, 1860 through November 1865 Wiley Waller operated a post office called Flatwoods somewhere in the Flatwoods area, a level upland of some ten square miles between Benton and Harvy. The surface of this area was once described by James R. Lemon, the county's first historian, as "undulating (with) a large portion so level as to be glady, poorly drained and (thus) having a soil...impervious to water, covered ...with a small black gravel and almost untillable."  

A rather confusing and still not altogether resolved history centers on several post offices on and near the Tennessee River in the area still referred to as Altona. A Mr. Patterson ran a ferry across the river in the late 1820s to connect with the road from Smithland on the Ohio River, 6½ miles north. The community that grew up here may first have been called Patterson's Ferry but later was called Covington's Ferry, and a post office of the latter name was established by William D. Covington on October 25, 1865. Around this time Antney Burradel (or Anthony Birdwell) opened a store at the ferry site. Steamboats began landing here and the place soon became known as Burradel's (or Birdwell's) Landing. In 1866 Burradel (or Birdwell) became postmaster, and the following March he secured the office's change of name to Birdwell. In 1870 Newton J. Robertson renamed the post office Altona for reasons that have never been ascertained. In 1872 the Paducah and Elizabethtown (later Illinois Central Gulf) Railroad bypassed Altona and established its station at Calvert City, 3½ miles southeast. Meanwhile (in June 1873) the Altona post office was moved 1½ miles south, probably to a point, on the new railroad, that later was known as Cloud Crossing. It was inexplicably renamed Caldwell with Conrad P. Cloud, its only postmaster. It closed the following March ostensibly in deference to the increasing economic importance of Calvert City.
A second Altona post office at its original site operated from February 26, 1894 through July 1905 when its papers were transferred to Calvert City. Virtually nothing remains at this site on the river, sixteen miles north of Benton. George R. Stewart in *American Place Names* thought that all the Altonas in America ultimately derived from the German city of that name.7

The post office of Henderson's Mills was operated by Richard W. Henderson from April 6, 1866 through June 1881 on the east bank of Jonathan Creek, probably just south of Ky 80 and the south edge of the present Jonathan Creek embayment, four miles east of Hardin.

The northwest Marshall County community shown on contemporary maps as Sharpe has had a long and curious history. The area may have been settled as early as 1820 by South Carolinians Absalom and Isaac Johnston. The community that grew up around their farm was later called Oakland presumably for the many area oak trees. The post office of Oakland was established just over the McCracken County line on July 24, 1867 with Henry C.D. Howard as postmaster. Later that year it moved into Marshall County, just above the head of Little Cypress Creek. In 1876, confusion with the Oakland Station post office in Warren County led a postal inspector to insist that the name be changed. According to a Johnston family tradition, then postmaster-storekeeper James Hampton Johnston strongly objected, challenging the inspector to find another name for the office for he wouldn't. He told the inspector "If you're so sharp you find a name for it yourself." And he did.8

As it was, the post office did not officially become Sharp until October 1884. This account seems as credible as any other since no other has been offered, and there have never been any Sharp or Sharpe
families in the county. Curiously, while the post office name was Sharp, and by this spelling the community was identified on all nineteenth and early twentieth century maps, contemporary maps have inexplicably shown it as Sharpe. The post office closed in April 1907. Today the community of Sharpe extends along US 68 for about two miles from a point less than half a mile from the county line to just east of Ky 795, twelve miles northwest of Benton. The Oakland name is still applied to two local churches near the county line.

Most of the village of Gilbertsville (which was an incorporated city from 1953 to 1976) is now on Ky 282, just north and west of I-24 and nearly thirteen miles north of Benton. This is the relocation of the town that was originally where the Illinois Central Railroad reached the Tennessee River but whose site was cleared with the building of the Kentucky Dam (between 1938 and 1944) and the creation of Kentucky Lake. The current post office, however, is in the Kentucky Village State Resort Park, which it mostly serves, over two miles south of the village itself.

In 1870, in anticipation of the arrival of the Paducah and Elizabeth-town (later Illinois Central Gulf) Railroad, Horatio Jones opened a store on the west bank of the Tennessee River. Here, on February 15, 1871 he established a post office he called Clear Pond, presumably for the pond less than one mile northwest of the present Gilbertsville site. The area had become quickly settled with the coming of the railroad in 1872 when Benton attorney and state senator Jesse C. Gilbert arranged to incorporate the town and it was renamed Gilbertsville. Jones' post office, which had closed in July 1873, was reopened on May 3, 1876 also as Gilbertsville, with Thomas B. Waller, postmaster.
About where the Purchase Parkway crosses Ky 1949 and Middle Fork Creek, 6 3/4 mile southwest of Benton, was an old post office first called Exchange. It was established on March 10, 1871 with Benjamin R. Waller, postmaster. In February 1881, some six years after Waller opened the local Melrose Academy, he changed the post office name to Melrose. The office closed in October 1884. The Academy and a Melrose Methodist Church are long gone and few people recall this place or the names that identified it. The origin of the names remain unknown.

Calvert City, Marshall County's other 4th class city, with some 2,500 residents, centers at the junction of Ky 95 and the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, two miles south of the Tennessee River and 12½ miles north of Benton. In 1870 the Paducah and Elizabethtown Railroad was offered a right-of-way through Potilla Calvert's (1822-1901) land if a station would be built there and named for him. This was done and the town that grew up around it was incorporated as Calvert City in March 1871. The still active Calvert City post office was established on August 27, 1872 with Wilson H. Calvert, postmaster.

Until the Second World War this was chiefly a farm and timber products shipping point. Its unique position in the Tennessee River floodplain but above the high water mark, its location four miles west of the Kentucky Dam, a low-cost electric power source, and the navigable channel of the river here attracted industrial development, and today several major chemical plants are located on this plain between the town and the river. In 1957 the US Board on Geographic Names reversed its 1924 decision which had favored Calvert, the name applied to the railroad station.
Another station and post office on the Elizabethtown Railroad, about one mile from the Tennessee River and two miles from the McCracken County line (15½ miles nw of Benton) was Little Cypress. It was first established on June 1, 1876 (with James M. Bottoms, postmaster) where the railroad crossed the west bank of the creek that gave it its name. It closed in January 1879. On November 9, 1881 James A. McDonald established a post office in his store, about one mile west, but unable to call it McDonald Station or White Oak (for the creek half a mile west), he named it Blythe [bliθi] probably for a local family. In 1883 postmaster William Franklin Story moved the office back to the Little Cypress site and re­adopted that name. Here it stayed till it closed in 1935. Little Cypress and which it joins Creek which joins/(main) Cypress/just yards from the Tennessee River are believed to have been named before 1830 for the many cypress trees on their banks.

The hamlet of Oak Level on Ky. 1949, one mile from Graves County and 7½ miles west of Benton, was settled before the Civil War by Allen Nance who opened the first local store. A later storekeeper, Samuel H. Turner, established the post office on November 9, 1876. It closed in March 1907. The community and post office were named for the dense oak forest on a fairly level stretch of land.

Around 1856/7, East Tennessee-born James Harvy Ivey (1830-1909) acquired a six hundred acre farm at the edge of the Flatwoods. In 1880 he opened a store there and, in the following April, established a post office. His proposed names Flatwoods and New Bethel (for a nearby church) apparently being unacceptable, he chose Harvy, his mother’s maiden name. He alone served that office till it closed in March 1907. There is some question as to the proper spelling of Ivey’s middle name. According to postal records,
the spelling of Harvy was based on his signature on the petition and the Site Location Reports. The hamlet of Harvey, as it is spelled on contemporary maps, now centers at John Ed Barnes' store and the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church at the junction of Ky 58 and 1949, five miles southwest of Benton.

Somewhere near the forks of Soldier Creek, perhaps on the Jackson School Road, a mile or so north of Ky 80, was the post office of Nick. Shortly after he established the office on April 13, 1881, local storekeeper James Lucius Pember moved his family to Graves County and the office closed. In February 1885 it was re-established in that vicinity by Jesse W. Starks who operated it through November 1891. The name source is unknown.

When Samuel Martin's proposed name Fairview was disallowed for a post office about 4½ miles north of Benton, he may have given it the name of a Or. J.A. Scales who lived in the Palma vicinity just before the Civil War. The Scale post office operated from April 10, 1882 through 1904 at or near the junction of Ky 795 and the Old Paducah Road.

The post office of Mahon served the area between Hardin and Aurora at three different locations between 1882 and 1904. The first, some three miles west of Jonathan Creek, probably on the present Ky 80 in the vicinity of the Joppa School, was established on May 15, 1882 by (and likely named for) Robert Mahon. He first proposed the name Joppie. In 1888 N.W. Warren moved the office two miles southeast to a site one mile east of the creek. In 1900 Thomas B. Mathis moved it again, ¾ mile south to a site two miles east of the creek and ¼ mile from the Calloway County line where it operated through March 1904.
On the old road between Birmingham and Palma, about midway between them, in the vicinity of the later Tatumsville post office, was the post office of Luterton. It was established on March 10, 1884 by John Wesley Luter and named for his family, the thirteen children of a Methodist preacher, Elisha Luter, who had moved to that area from Tennessee in the early 1850s. The office only lasted through September 1886.

From June 30 to April 1907, William W. Gregory and others operated the Tatumsville post office at a crossroads three miles nne of Briensburg. The Tatums were another area family. A large country store still serves that area.

The neighborhood around James Henry Ham's store, at the junction of the present Ky 408 and 1897, 3½ miles east of Benton, was served by the Hamlet post office from February 12, 1885 through September 1906. Ham (1842-1915) was the first of its three postmasters.

When the name Lemon was rejected for a post office just south of the proposed Paducah Tennessee and Alabama Railroad, and 1½ miles from the future Fristoe, postmaster-designate William M. Arnett offered his own name, and the Arnettsville post office operated from January 22, 1887 through June 1893.

Lemon fared a mite better when, for a year at least (November 1889 to December 1890), it was the name of D.D. Covington's still unlocated post office. Both offices undoubtedly honored Benton's postmaster, James R. Lemon, a local druggist, who also edited its newspaper and was (in 1894) to publish the county's first history.
Coy was the name given to a post office on the present US 68, 1½ miles northwest of Palma (nine miles northwest of Benton) that was operated from April 6, 1887 through February 1907 mostly by storekeeper Julius F.S. Wahl. No one knows the origin of this name. No Coy families lived in the county. Could Cox, a common family name in that area, have been intended? Or could Coy have been someone's given name?

When, in late 1887, William Yancy Darnall failed to establish his post office as Yancy, he submitted the name Gladstone instead. From July 14, 1888 to April 1894 this post office served the area later called the Yancy Darnall Neighborhood, south of Watch Creek and west of the present route of US 641, some four miles south of Benton. Could Gladstone have been a corruption of the name of Clay Galdstone Lemon, the twelve year old son of Benton's postmaster?

The curiously named Kobe [kohb] post office at or near the junction of Ky 782 and the Old Paducah Road, between Palma and Scale (6½ miles north of Benton) was established by James P. Brian and operated from July 1, 1890 through January 1905. Could it have been named for the Japanese city, twenty two miles west of Osaka, that had been founded in 1868 and had become a major international port?

From January 22, 1891 to April 1907 Zachariah B. Magness ran the Magness post office on the present Ky 299, half a mile from the Calloway County line and 7½ miles ssw of Benton.

When the Paducah Tennessee and Alabama Railroad reached Marshall County in 1890 a station was built at a site 3/4 mile from the Graves County line (and eight rail miles northwest of Benton) and called Elva. Joel C. Barnes operated a store here and established the Elva post office which served the vicinity from January 31, 1891 to October 1913.
Iola, another station on this railroad, some 3½ miles southeast of Elva, also sought a post office but when Iola was disallowed, Hallie Bigger, the postmaster-designate, suggested Fristoe, and this office operated from December 10, 1892 to 1915. In the latter year, apparently after the Iola Station ended its mail pickup services and the Elva post office had closed, Thomas A. Hill had the Fristoe post office moved to the Elva site. Until 1921, however, the office continued to be called Fristoe. On July 2, 1921, postmaster Albert D. Bourland had the name changed to Elva and it continued to operate as such until it closed in 1954. Iola remained a station until it ceased operations in 1960.

The Elva, Fristoe, and Iola name origins are still unknown. Fristoe is a family name in several other sections of Kentucky as well as that of a community in Benton County, Missouri. There were also several noted Baptist preachers of this name.

Another station on the old Paducah, Tennessee, and Alabama Railroad, but four miles southeast of Benton, was the inexplicably named Glade. Its post office which was established by the rail agent Jackson A. Cope, operated from May 1, 1891 to November 1905 at two sites, half a mile apart. Cope's family also owned the local saw, grist, and planing mill and a large general store.

Yet another PT&A station saw the development of Marshall's third incorporated city, Hardin. With a population of some 600, it is now centered just south and east of the junction of US 641 and Ky 89, one mile north of the Calloway County line and seven miles sse of Benton. In 1890, Hardin O. Irvan, a Wadesboro storekeeper, who owned much land at the site of the future town deeded some of it for a depot and moved
his home and store to that site. The station and town were named for him as was the post office established on October 31, 1891 with his son, John T. as the first postmaster. The town soon threatened to rival Benton as a trade center, survived the depression, and is now as big as it ever was, with an active post office and a number of stores and other businesses.

The post office of Wiley where Ky 1949 crosses Sugar Creek, ¼ mile from the Graves County line and 8½ miles wnw of Benton, operated from March 3, 1893 through June 1905. It was named for its only postmaster, James Wiley Park, the local storekeeper.

At three sites about 1½ miles west of the Tennessee River and between Birmingham and Gilbertsville, was the post office of McEuen. It was named for its first postmaster, Felix McEuen, or his family, and operated from July 8, 1893 through December 1909.

The Ozan post office is thought to have been about half a mile east of Oak Hill School, or, perhaps, a bit further south, at a site on or just north of the present I-24, one mile west of Little Cypress Creek and two miles from the Graves County line. It was established on November 4, 1893 by storekeeper William N. Smith whose family name was replaced by the inexplicable Ozan. It closed in August 1905. Could this place have been named for a town and creek in Hempstead County, Arkansas, the only other known examples of the use of this name in the United States? According to John C. Branner, the Arkansas name was derived from the French aux anes (of the asses).10

Just north and east of Salyer Creek (an East Fork Clarks River tributary), the post office of Lowry served the community long known as Griggs-town. Luck, the preferred name, was replaced by Lowry, that of several
related Marshall County families when Benjamin H. Johnston established the office on November 28, 1893. It closed in November 1905. The local Griggs families are descended from Berry and Louiza Jane Griggs who settled the vicinity in the early 1850s.

Also imprecisely located but known to have been just north and east of Clear Creek (an east Jonathan Creek tributary) and about midway between Aurora and Olive was the Stringer post office. It was established on June 15, 1897 and named for the family of its first postmaster, Elizabeth J. Stringer. In 1901 Albert T. Inman moved it almost one mile east to his store where it served what has since been called the Inman’s Store Neighborhood until it closed in March 1904.

Another local family gave its name to the Brittian post office, imprecisely located at two sites south of Soldier Creek, east of the Jackson School Road and probably in the Darnall School Neighborhood. Linn was the name proposed by its first postmaster, John L. Baker. Less than a year after he had established it on March 17, 1898, his successor, Philip Starks, moved it one mile south where it remained till it closed in October 1901. The family for which it was named variously spelled its name Brittian, Brittain, and Britton.

Harrison M. Holland, the local storekeeper, was the only postmaster of the inexplicably named post office of Paul on the present Ky 58, 6½ miles east of Benton. Arima had been the preferred name. The neighborhood served by this post office from June 22, 1898 through July 1906 has long been called Mt. Carmel for the local Methodist church which was organized in 1823. No record of persons or families named Paul has been found.
The last post office to be established in Marshall County was in the vicinity of what is shown on contemporary maps as Hiatt, just east of the Ruff (Rough) Creek Embayment and US 68, 3\(\frac{1}{2}\) miles southeast of Fairdealing. Since the proposed name Faughn, probably for area families, was unacceptable, postmaster-designate Hettie C. Collie suggested the office Heights. By this name it operated from March 23, 1900 through August 1915 when Benjamin F. Gay moved it four miles southwest to his store and the "community" he called Gaysville. The latter may have been a mile or so north of Ky 80, half a mile west of Jonathan Creek. It continued to operate as Heights here for only one year. The derivation of the Heights name is not known. Neither do we know if it preceded the application of Hiatt to the rural neighborhood and its local church. Could Heights have derived from Hiatt or Hiett, the name of several Marshall County families?

Most of Marshall County's forty eight post offices served definable communities of some kind. Nearly all were located in a store or rail depot, or were at least in close proximity to one. Usually with a change in postmaster came a change in site since the office was generally in that person's store or home. This accounts for the difficulty in precisely locating post offices. When known, the most recent post office location, or that which the office occupied the longest was the one recorded on the accompanying map.

The names of fifteen post offices were not those originally intended for them. Six served communities with other names. Nine offices had name changes. Several offices that had closed and were later re-established to serve the same communities were given different names.
Only four post offices survive—including the three (Benton, Calvert City, and Hardin) that serve still incorporated communities. The fourth active post office, Gilbertsville, serves a major resort complex.

Twenty-four offices bore the names of local or county persons or families; one honored a famous American from another state; one was descriptively named; to four were transferred the names of nearby geographic or manmade features; three were named for distant places; and one may have reflected the postmaster's sense of humor. The derivations of fourteen names are not known. Six offices have never been located.

(Note: The distances given for the post offices are road miles from Benton's post office).

FOOTNOTES

1. Kentucky Lake, created in August 1944, is 184 miles long and as much as 2½ miles wide. Its 2,380 miles of shoreline take in five counties: Marshall, Calloway, Livingston, Lyon, and Trigg. The dam itself is 208 feet high and 842 feet long, the longest in the Tennessee River system.

2. John Pentecost is listed on Caldwell County's first tax list, 1809.

3. Callaway was an early variant spelling of the county's name as well as the family's for which the county was named.


5. Birdwell was the name recorded on postal documents, though Census and other local records spell the family's name Burradel or Burradell.
6. The Paducah and Elizabethtown RR was later acquired by Collis P. Huntington and became the Chesapeake & Ohio Southwest. In 1890 it was bought by the Illinois Central (now Illinois Central Gulf) Railroad System.


8. From an interview on May 29, 1984 with Bill Wallace of Lexington, Ky., a great grandson of Johnston.

9. This railroad was acquired in 1896 by the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis which, in 1957, merged with the L&N.


11. Twenty three post offices closed during the first decade of the twentieth century. Of these, seventeen were discontinued during the three year period 1905-07.

REFERENCES


5. Maupin, Judith, "Birmingham" Murray Ledger and Times, June 11, 1977
7. Rennick, Robert M. Kentucky Place Names, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984
10. Wallace, Bill, Lexington, Ky, interviewed by the author on May 29, 1984
1. **FAIR DEALING** - (in Calloway Co.) 9/7/1838, Thomas R. Travis; 10/13/1842, James Holloway; (by this time Marshall Co. had been established)... 5/22/1855, James A. Filbeck; Disc. 1/12/1860; Re-est. 5/24/1860, Enos Faughn; Disc. 7/10/1860; Re-est. 8/21/1860, Wm. R. Nimmo; Disc. 7/15/1863; Re-est. 9/18/1866, Enos Faughn; 7/6/1880, J.W. Holsapple; ... 10/19/1907, David L. Nelson; Disc. 5/11/1908, effective 5/31/1908 (mail to Benton);

2. **AURORA** - (in Calloway Co.) 1/20/1841, J.T. Elliott; 4/17/1841, Richard T. Kelley; (by this time Marshall Co. had been est.) 8/14/1843, A.G. Price (?); Disc. 9/30/1843; Re-est. 10/21/1843, Nicholas Braswell; 3/25/1844, Gabriel P. Bagwell; 2/16/1845, Charles McDonald; 12/23/1847, J.C. Handcock (sic); 4/8/1848, Milton H. Eggner; Disc. 12/5/1855; Re-est. 2/13/1856, Milton H. Eggner; 1/8/1861, Matthew Biggs; 2/5/1861, Obidiah (sic) Waldrop; Disc. 8/31/1861; Re-est. 6/19/1865, Milton H. Eggner... 12/13/1893, Stephen A. Whale; 9/12/1905, Willie P. Williams; Disc. 4/14/1906, effective 5/14/1906, (mail to Hardin);

3. **BENTON (C.H.)** - 7/8/1842, John H. Beardin; 1/20/1845, Justus Shinn....

4. **BIRMINGHAM** - 10/3/1851, Laban S. Locker; 4/25/1856, Jonathan Ellis... 4/23/1861, James S. Locker; Disc. 7/3/1863; Re-est. 1/19/1866, Laban S. Locker; Disc. 12/4/1866; Re-est. 2/1/1867, Henry C. Wilson; 6/9/1868, John H. Philips (sic);

5. **PALMA** - 7/20/1854, Alfred Johnston; Disc. 8/29/1861; Re-est. 3/8/1866, Robert A. Wade; 4/13/1867, Elijah C. Dycus.... 3/7/1903, Fannie Cooper; Disc. 12/15/1905, effective 1/15/1906 (mail to Benton);

6. **WATSON'S** - 7/20/1854, Joab Watson; 9/25/1855, Samuel Leckey; Disc. 10/10/1863;

7. **DAVIS CROSS ROADS** - (started in Calloway Co. but soon was in Marshall Co.) 1/2/1855, Wm. Noel; 8/15/1856, John S. Miller; Disc. 11/10/1857;
8. BRIENSBURG- 5/1/1856, Wm. H. Yancey; 7/17/1858, Laban S. Locker,... 6/12/1860, John H. Dix; Disc. 8/13/1862; Re-est. 9/18/1866, John P. Locker; Disc. 4/13/1867; Re-est. 5/17/1867, John W. Whitnall; 10/25/1869, Wm. B. Chandler; 6/19/1873, James R. Lemons; Disc. 10/31/1873; Re-est. 11/14/1873, Joseph M. Mooney; 1/8/1875, Wm. R. Nimmo; 2/25/1889, John P. Locker; name changed to Briensburg from Briensburgh, 4/21/1894, Wm. W. (? ) Nimmo; 6/4/1897, Samuel M. Fields; 3/31/1905, Thomas J. Minter; Disc. 9/2/1905, effective 9/30/1905 (mail to Benton);

9. BISHOP'S MILLS- 7/3/1856, John W. Barnett; name changed to Olive, re-located 2 mi. northwest, 6/19/1857, Francis M. Chandler; 7/19/1862, James Williams; Disc. 7/31/1863; Re-est. 9/18/1866, Reuben R. Wilson; 4/6/1870, Wm. T. Bowling; 7/31/1871, James Chandler; Disc. 7/12/1876; Re-est. 2/11/1878, James M. Edmunds; 3/11/1878, James M. Starks; 5/27/1903, Porter Smith; Disc. 1/14/1905, effective 2/15/1905 (mail to Hardin);

10. BARKSDALE- (in Graves Co.) 2/22/1859, Rolly Sutherland; (sometime while Sutherland was still postmaster, it came into Marshall Co.); name changed to Brewer's Mills, 8/30/1861, John M. Brewer; Disc. 11/30/1865; Re-est. 1/19/1866, John M. Brewer; 3/25/1873, Mrs. E.A. Brewer; 7/10/1890, Thomas E. Brewer; 5/27/1895, Wilburn W. Ray; name changed to Brewers, 3/14/1896, James A. Cullom; 10/2/1896, James Parker;

11. FLAT WOODS- 12/11/1860, Wiley Waller; Disc. 11/29/1865;


13. HENDERSON'S MILL- 4/6/1866, Richard W. Henderson; Disc. 6/27/1866;
14. OAKLAND- (in McCracken Co.) 7/24/1867, Henry C.D. Howard; 10/7/1867, Edwin Dishman; (into Marshall Co.); 12/10/67, James H. Johnston; name changed to Sharp, 10/7/1884, James H. Johnston; 7/3/1899, Lucy A. Johnston; 4/28/1905, Alfred B. Johnston; Disc. 3/20/1907, effective 4/15/1907 (mail to Benton);

15. CLEAR POND- 2/15/1871, Horatio Jones; Disc. 7/9/1873;

16. EXCHANGE- 4/10/1871, Benjamin R. Waller (sic); name changed to Melrose, 2/28/1881, Benjamin R. Walter (sic); 6/21/83, Miss Bell Johnson; 8/17/1883, Lucian Edwards; 7/30/1884, W.W. Waller (sic); Disc. 10/23/1884 (papers to Harvy);


18. GILBERTSVILLE- 5/3/1876, Thomas B. Waller; 5/6/1886, Martin L. Chesnut....

19. LITTLE CYPRESS- 6/1/1876, James M. Bottoms; 8/2/1877, F.M. Rudolph; 8/27/1877, James M. Bottoms; Disc. 1/13/1879;

20. OAK LEVEL- 11/9/1876, Samuel H. Turner; 3/12/1871, W.J. Riley.... 10/7/1893, James Reeves; Disc. 3/8/1907, effective 3/15/1907 (mail to Benton);

21. HARVY- 4/13/1881, James H. Ivey; Disc. 3/7/1907, effective 3/15/1907 (mail to Benton);

22. NICK- 4/13/1881, James L. Pember; Disc. -no date given (mail to Harvy); Re-est. 2/16/1885, Jesse W. Starks; Disc. 11/27/1891 (mail to Harvy);
MARSHALL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (4)


Disc. 1/31/1905

24. SCALE- 4/10/1882, Samuel A. Wartin (?); 11/1/1882, Marquis B. Pace... 2/3/1904, Adolphus Burnham; Disc. 12/15/1904, effective 1/14/1905 (mail to Benton);

25. MAHON- 5/15/1882, Robert Mahon; 6/26/1882, Robert C. Mahon; 6/16/1900, Thomas B. Mathis; Disc. 3/22/1904, effect. 3/31/1904 (mail to Hardin);

Disc.

26. LUTERTON- 3/10/1884, John W. Luter; 12/15/1884 (papers to Briensburgh); Re-est. 3/9/1885, James F. West; Disc. 9/28/1886 (mail to Briensburgh);

27. HAMLET- 2/12/1885, James A. Ham; 9/30/1902, Franklin P. Washburn; 5/12/1905, Joseph D. Washburn; Disc. 9/8/1906, effective 9/29/1906 (mail to Benton);

28. ARNETTsville (or Arnettville-?)- 1/22/1887, Wm. M. Arnett; 5/11/1888, Cyrus L. Reeves; Disc. 7/1/1893 (mail to Fristoe);

29. COY- 4/6/1887, Julius F.S. Wahl; 8/14/1902, Charles J. Atwood; 11/24/1903, Julius F.S. Wahl; Disc. 2/12/1907, effective 2/28/1907 (mail to Benton);

30. GLADSTONE- 7/14/1888, Wm. Y. Darnall; 1/18/1889, Philip Darnall; Disc. 4/18/1894, (mail to Benton);

31. LEMON- 11/4/1889, D.D. Covington; Disc. 12/3/1890 (no papers sent);

32. KOBE- 7/1/1890, James P. Brian; 11/24/1903, Horace C. Hartsfield; Disc. 1/3/1905, effective 1/31/1905 (mail to Benton);
33. MAGNESS- 1/22/1891, Zachariah B. Magness; Disc. 3/2/1907, effective 4/15/1907 (mail to Hardin);

34. ELVA- 1/31/1891, Joel C. Barnes; 8/31/1893, Martha L. Johnson; 8/9/1909, Joseph C. Raper; Disc. 10/15/1913 (mail to Fristoe);

35. GLADE- 5/1/1891, Jackson A. Cope; 7/7/1903, Naaman L. Cope; 9/10/1903, Wm. M. Anderson; Disc. 10/16/1905, effective 11/15/1905 (mail to Benton);

36. HARDIN- 10/31/1891, John T. Irvan; 9/13/1897, Lewis C. Starks;

37. FRISTOE- 12/10/1892, Hallie Bigger; 7/6/1893, Cyrus L. Reeves; 7/23/1919, Albert D. Bourland; name change to Elva, 7/2/1921, Albert D. Bourland; Disc. 195_

38. WILEY- 3/3/1893, James W. Park; Disc. 6/3/1905, effective 6/30/1905 (mail to Benton);

39. McEWEN- 7/8/1893, Felix McEwen; 9/21/1897, Wm. J. Houston; 7/10/1901, Ben Houston; 2/23/1905, Estella L. Heath; Disc. 12/31/1909 (mail to Gilbertsville);

40. OZUN- 11/4/1893, Wm. N. Smith; 10/16/1901, Richard L. Jessup; 3/19/1902, Samuel Brooks; Disc. 7/15/1905, effective 8/14/1905 (mail to Calvert City);

41. LOWRY- 11/28/1893, Benjamin H. Johnston; 4/14/1894, James N. Oliver; Disc. 11/10/1905, effective 11/30/1905 (mail to Palma);

42. ALTONA- 2/26/1894, James H. Herron; 4/27/1895, Mrs. Maryland Poe; Disc. 7/31/1905 (mail to Calvert City);

43. STRINGER- 6/15/1897, Elizabeth J. Stringer; 11/4/1901, Albert T. Inman; Disc. 3/22/1904, effective 3/31/1904 (mail to Hardin);
44. TATUMSVILLE— 6/30/1897, Wm. W. Gregory; 6/15/1898, G.W. Copeland, failed to qualify; 7/29/1898, Robert R. Redden; 1/14/1901, James W. Stice; 6/24/1901, Lloyd J. Hodge; Disc. 3/20/1907, effective 4/15/1907 (mail to Benton);

45. BRITTIAN (?)— 3/17/1898, John L. Baker; 3/13/1899, Philip Starks; 3/9/1899, Lafayette F. Starks; Disc. 10/14/1901, effective 10/31/1901 (papers to Harvy);

46. PAUL— 6/22/1898, Harrison M. Holland; Disc. 7/3/1906, effective 7/31/1906 (mail to Benton);

47. HEIGHTS— 3/23/1900, Hettie C. Collie; 2/1/1901, Reuben B. Collie... 8/29/1916, Benjamin F. Gay; Disc. 8/15/1916 (mail to Hardin);
Marshall Co. communities

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Marshall Co. communities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fair Dealing (dpo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aurora (dpo)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Benton (co. seat)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Birmingham (dpo)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Palma (dpo)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Watson's (dpo)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Davis Cross Roads (sic) (dpo)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Briensburg (dpo)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Olive (dpo)</td>
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<td>Brewers (dpo)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Flat Woods (dpo)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Caldwell (dpo)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Henderson's Mill (dpo)</td>
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<td>Sharpe (dpo)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Clear Pond (dpo)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Melrose (dpo)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Calvert City (po and com.) (rr name=Calvert)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Gilbertsville (po)</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Little Cypress (dpo)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Oak Level (dpo)</td>
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<td>Harry (sic) (dpo)</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>Little Cypress (dpo)</td>
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<td>Scale (dpo)</td>
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<td>Glade (dpo)</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Hardin (po and com.)</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Elva (dpo) had been Fristoe (rr) (com)</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Wiley (dpo)</td>
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<td>Ozun (dpo)</td>
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<td>Lowry (dpo)</td>
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<td>Altona (dpo)</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>Stringer (dpo)</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>Tatumsville (dpo)</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>Brittian (sic-?)</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>Paul (dpo)</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>Heights (dpo)</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>Clarks School Nebr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Buena Vista (com)</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>Cambridge Shore (com)</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>Sherwood Shores (com)</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>The Moors (com)</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>Big Bear Creek (com)</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>Dixie (com)</td>
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<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Enterprise (com)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
57. Little Bear Creek (com)
58. Marshall (com)
60. Graves Co. Line Ngbr.
61. Pleasant Valley Ngbr.
62. Van Zora Ngbr.
63. Houser Ngbr.
64. Middle Fork Ngbr.
65. Oak-Level-(com) Woodall Creek Ngbr.
67. Brezeel Ngbr.
68. Iola (com)
69. Pleasant Grove Sch. Ngbr.
70. Possum Trot (com)
71. Angle Creek Ngbr.
72. Kaylortown Ngbr.
73. Lone Valley Ngbr.
74. Provine Chapel Ngbr.
75. Beechwood Ngbr.
76. Coon Pond Ngbr.
77. West Gilbertsville (com)
78. Freedoms Corner Ngbr.
79. Howards Grove Ngbr.
80. Bethel Ngbr.
81. Draffens Corner Ngbr.
82. Draffenville (com)
83. Locust Grove Ngbr.
84. Mt. Carmel Ngbr.
85. Pugh School Ngbr.
86. Bald Knob Ngbr.
87. Clark Sch. Ngbr.
89. Dogtown (com)
90. Salem Chapel Ngbr.
91. Griggs Ngbr.
92. West Benton Ngbr.
93. Cleveland Sch. Ngbr.
94. Point Necessity School (com) Ngbr.
95. Collie School Ngbr.
96. Barnett Mathis Ngbr.
97. Hiatt (com)
98. Inmans Store Ngbr.
100. Jonathan Cabin Creek Area (com)
101. Ruff Cabin Creek Area (com)
102. Union Ridge Ngbr.
103. Unity Ngbr.
104. Parrishes Store Ngbr.
105. Church Grove Ngbr.
109. Sink Hole Hill Ngbr.
110. Union Hill Ngbr.
111. Walnut Grove (com)
112. Yancy Darnall Ngbr.
113. Cherry Grove Ngbr.
115. Magnolia (com)
118. Pentecost - amora - Callaway
119. Storey's Creek - Withe
120. Jonathan
121. Fountain Inn Ngbr = 50

n = 70

\( O = \) sample
\( X = \) reserve

x see Brown

\( \checkmark \) Tucker interview notes
8/4/77.
MARSHALL CO. (5)

Other places/names

1. Watson's
2. Davis Cross Roads
3. Flat Woods
4. Caldwell (Altona, Birdwell, Covington's Ferry)
5. Henderson's Mill
6. Melrose (Exchange)
7. Nick
8. Mahon
9. Lutherton
10. Hamlet
11. Arnettsville
12. Coy
13. Gladstone
14. Lemon
15. Kobe
16. Blade
17. Wiley
18. McEwen
19. Ozun
20. Lowry
21. another Altona
22. Stringer
23. Brittian (sic)
24. Paul
25. Heights
26. Buena Vista
27. Cambridge Shore
28. Sherwood Shores
29. The Moors
30. South Marshall
31. Dixie
32. Highland
33. Marshall
34. Hiatt
35. Walnut Grove

Vanzora Stone Du how named

Name 11 changing to

run by

Hannah Smith

on road

Harrison +

Oak Level