WARFIELD SALT WELLS:

The history of this salt well is just what has been told to me by the old generation of people.

This has been handed down to me by tradition. They say that people used to go there and get the salt water and they would boil it down into salt, and use it, but for many years people secured their salt from there. I mean the people that lived close around there but it has been for many years they have vanished away and you cannot see any trace of them. They have gone into swamps and vanished away.

WHY WARFIELD GOT ITS NAME:

The old generation of people said that how Warfield secured its name, was by a battle that happened many years ago by the Indians and the white people or settlers. They came in and started to take the land, and at last they made a success. The Indians ran away somewhere else and began to make their settlement and to this day the white people has the land in possession.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE THICKET ROCKS:

These rocks are located on the head of a fork which is called the Thicket Fork. They are the largest rocks in a ten mile radius of the place where I live. These rocks are about one-half of a mile in length and they have in the summer on them what we call moss. It is a very pretty place to visit in summer.

They are about one hundred feet in height and made straight up and down. They are located just between two hills which we sometimes call points. Its temperature is changeable, different at almost all times. Caves are very popular they go every direction in this rock.
BATTLE HAPPENED AT WARFIELD:

This battle was connected with the Civil War of 1861 to 1865. They fought from point to point and there was a man in this battle by the name of Alley Richmond. He was a negro. He was one that fought in this battle, he fought from beginning to the end and came out alive. Then he lived at Warfield and later on told the story about the battle he fought in. It is handed down by tradition. He has been dead something like thirty or forty years and that is what gave Warfield its name.
In the year 1864, during the conflict between the north and south, a new citizen was added to the town of Warfield. His name was Alfred Richardson, a colored man. Herebefore the people would not permit negroes to live in Warfield.

Richardson was in a skirmish at Warfield and was listed among the northern people as missing. His leg was injured and he was in a serious condition. The good people living at Warfield had their sympathies stirred up by his condition and took him in and gave him food and medical attention until he was able to work.

At first the people thought they had done a Samaritan act, but as soon as Alf had a chance to prove himself, he was considered a blessing and not a curse. He became the paper hanger for the town. Then someone wanted to have his hair cut and Alf proved to be an excellent barber.

He rented a shop and went into the barber business and made a success. He owned considerable land, and other property when he died. He lived and died at Warfield, Ky., and was considered one of its most up to date citizens. He proved himself and was found worthy of his hâre. Alf Richardson. So hurrah for the person that is faithful over a few things.

A DESCRIPTION OF SALT PETER ROCK:

This rock is located on the Peter Cave Fork of Wolf Creek, about one mile up the creek it contains salt.

The height of it is about twenty-five feet and is about fifty feet in length.

This rock is located just on the top of the point about two hundred feet from the creek or water that flows. The temperature is different almost all the time. The rock doesn't contain any cave at all.
Rockcastle Creek flows through Martin County. It is evident that it received its name from the castle-like appearance of the rock formation on its bank.
Nigger Hollow in Martin County was given its name in
the early 1850's, or so the story goes, after this incident
took place.

A white woman was raped on Wolf Creek and there was a
terrible fierce hunt for the man that did it. Finally somebody
got the word that Nigger Jim did it. He was last seen, they
said, heading toward the Johnson County line to get free.

Immediately a posse of white men set out after him. He
(JIM) was finally caught in what is now called Nigger Holler.
There they hung him up to a tree and skinned him alive.
He didn't make a sound or even cry, they say, until the skin
was pulled from over his hands and feet and at that instant
he died. To this day there are not any Negroes living in
Martin County.
Wolf Creek, Kentucky, was given its name by an unusual happening.

Wolf Creek, as it is now called, got its name when a group of men were camping and fishing on the creek one night when they caught a wolf in one of their traps set along the creek for muskrats. The wolf was caught and brought back to camp alive where they skinned it, or attempted to. They got it almost skinned when it came back to life and ran away, dragging the partly skinned hide behind it. Thus Wolf Creek was born.
September 12, 1938

Mr. W.R. McCoy
Inez, Kentucky

Dear Mr. McCoy:

The Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration is preparing a Kentucky Guide Book which includes a tour through Martin County.

In the matter of the name of the county seat of Martin there is some confusion which you may be able to straighten out for us. It is this, that the name of the county seat is Eden and that the Post Office there is Inez. Other data gives the county seat as Inez. Which is correct?

If the name was changed from Eden to Inez do you know when and why the change was made? Was the name Inez adopted as a tribute to some local person?

This tour will enter the State at Warfield. How did that community get its name? When was it first settled? Has it always been known as Warfield? The data on hand here indicates that the place took its name because of a Civil War skirmish on the site of the town, yet it appears the town was settled long before 1861.

Any information you may be able to supply will be most highly appreciated. An enclosing self addressed envelope for your convenience.

Very truly yours

Fred Eichelberger

P.S. The
Fred Michelberger
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Sir:

For reply to yours of the 12th instant would say that the County Seat of Martin County was originally named Eden. When they attempted to establish a post office in that place it was their intention to call it Eden but found that there was already a post office in the state by that name. The then post master at Louisa, Ky. named the post office Inez after his daughter, Inez Frank. The town continued by the name of Eden and was incorporated by that name by a session of the Legislature 1887-1888 as I recall. The charter was surrendered a few years ago and since that time the town has been called Inez the same as the post office.

The town of Warfield was established early in 1850. George H.C. Floyd and his associates acquired title to what is known as the Ben Say Grant and established the town of Warfield, drilled a salt well, put in salt works, opened up the coal and mined and shipped the coal by water. George R. C. Floyd was a brother of John B. Floyd of Virginia and who was secretary of war as I understand at the out break of the war between the states. From a relative of Floyd's was possibly one of the stock holders of the Warfield Coal & Salt Co. These properties passed from the Floyds and their associates to the Barrets. James A. Barrett was a colonel as I am advised, in the Mexican War later a banker in Springfield, Ohio, and later acquired the Warfield properties and settled in Warfield a few years after the close of the Civil War. The Warfield Coal & Salt Co. was sold out and Barrett and his associates bid it in and organized the Tug River Coal & Salt Co. This Company continued to own the property until about 1892 as I recall when the property was sold under a decree of the United States District Court for the purpose of settling certain bonded indebtedness. Lewis Burger of Cincinnati, Ohio became the purchaser at a commissioners sale and continued to own the property until his death, and it developed in some way that he only owned 1/3 undivided interest and that Catherine M. Briggles owned a 2/3 undivided interest. The Burger & Briggles sold considerable of these properties to the Buck Creek Coal Co. and a few years ago sold the remainder of these properties to the Warfield Natural Gas Co.

A skirmish was had in the town of Warfield during the war between the states, but the town had been established, the mines opened, and salt works put in prior to that time.

I hope this information will be sufficient for your needs.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Sept. 14, 1938.
MARTIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY POST OFFICES

1. WARFIELD (1856+) orig. named Johnson. Surname re-est. to WARFIELD, Alfred Plain, pm.

2. INEZ (1873+) orig. named by Rev. Stagg. Surname re-est. to INEZ, Lewis Richmond, pm.

3. PETER CAVE (1878-1989) orig. named by law. co. in 1878.

4. COPELY (1882-1987) orig. named by law. co. in 1882.

5. SUEZ (1882-1983) then moved to and became CALF CREEK (1883-1958) (s/n)

6. PLEASANT (1883-1914) orig. named by law. co. in 1883.

7. ANDY (1887-1988) orig. named by law. co. in 1887.

8. BESSIE (6/1890 – 8/1890) orig. named by law. co. in 1890.

9. PILGRIM (1891+) orig. named by law. co. in 1891.

10. MILLO (1894-1984) orig. named by law. co. in 1894.

11. OPPY (1902-1948) orig. named by law. co. in 1902.

12. CHAPMAN (1902-1904) orig. named by law. co. in 1902.

13. DELONG (7/11/1902-1918) orig. named by law. co. in 1902.


15. STIDHAM (7/3/1903-1955) orig. named by law. co. in 1903.

16. JOB (6/23/1903-early 1900s) orig. named by law. co. in 1903.

17. LAURA (1909-1987) orig. named by law. co. in 1909.

18. McCLELLAN (1904-1959) orig. named by law. co. in 1904.

19. DAVISPORT (1912-1980) orig. named by law. co. in 1912.

20. BREECE (1914-1957) orig. named by law. co. in 1914.

21. HIMLERVILLE (1/17/1921-1929+ nch. to BEAUTY in 1929+) orig. named by law. co. in 1921.

22. HODE (6/3/1921-1989) orig. named by law. co. in 1921.

23. MOREE (8/22/1923-1958) orig. named by law. co. in 1923.

24. ADD (10/1/1923-1957) orig. named by law. co. in 1923.

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WARFIELD (1914-1939) orig. named by law. co. in 1914.

DELONG (1902-1918) orig. named by law. co. in 1902.
27. Maynard (1928-1929) Bascom Maynard
28. Lovely (1931+) S. L. Lovely, Smoky Bottom, S. Kenmit
     Monroe H. Williamson, pm.
30. Threeforks (1938-late 1990s)
     at lower of Threeforks, near Blackburn, pm.

Post offices that were authorized but never operated
1. Cumbotown (1891)
2. Lol (1906) Leonard Endicott (Lick Branch)
3. Evangeline (1907) Rebecca Salmons (Stafford Branch)

Among the first proposed names for post offices that were called something else

Inez (first name proposed was Eden)

Pleasant (Lorena)

Tomahawk (Sulphur Sprng)

Wendle (Cassady)

Bessie (Cumbo)

Pilgrim (Mouth of Emily)

Milo (Lick Branch)

Chapman (Perry)

Davella (Gertrude)

Job (Pack)

Stidham (Pearl, Mollie)


Hode (Bertha)

Moree (Ben, Marie)

Add (Holly)

$19\%$ had names not originally proposed for them.

$6\%$ were composites of other names.

$3\%$ had nicknames.
Martin Co. communities

1. Warfield (po and com) ☞
2. Inez (co. seat) ☞
3. Peter Cave (dpo) (now POPR (ngbr.) ☞
4. Copley (dpo) ☞
5. Calf Creek (dpo) had been Suez (new-POPR) (com) ☞
6. Pleasant (dpo) ☞
7. Wells (dpo) ☞
8. Andy (dpo) ☞
9. Bessie (dpo) ☞
10. Cumbotown (dpo) ☞
11. Pilgrim (po and com) ☞
12. Milo (po) (com) ✔
13. Wendle (dpo) * c ▲ (com) ☞
14. Tomahawk (po and com) * wells (dpo) ☞
15. Oppy (dpo) (com) ✦
16. Delong (dpo) ☞
17. Davella (po and com) ✦
18. Chapman (?) (dpo) ✦
19. Job (po) (com) ✔
20. Stidham (dpo) (com) ☞
21. McClure (dpo) (com) ✦
22. Soi (po est. but never in op.) ✦
23. Evangeline (ibid.) ✦
24. Jock (dpo) ✦
25. Davisport (po) (com) ✔
26. Laura (po and com) ☞
27. Freece (dpo) (com) ☞
28. Beauty (po and com) had been Himlerville ☞
29. Hole (po and com) ☞
30. Debord (com and po) ✦
31. Add (dpo) (com) ✦
32. Moree (dpo) (com) ✦
33. Maynard (dpo) ✦
34. Three Forks (com) ☞
35. Stepp Ngbr. ✦
36. Head of Caney Ngbr. ✦
37. Linbark Fork Ngbr. ✦
38. Trace Fork Ngbr. ✦
40. Turkey Creek Ngbr. ✦
41. Cassady (com) ✦
42. Lower Blacklog Ngbr. ✦
43. Lovely (dpo and com) ✦
44. Big Elk Ngbr. ✦
45. Buck Branch Ngbr. ✦
46. Buffalo Horn Ngbr. ✦
47. Cassell Ngbr. ✦
48. Fluty Creek (com) ✦
49. Forks of Big Elk Ngbr. ✦
50. Grassy (com) ✦
51. Grassy Creek Ngbr. ✦
52. Head of Peter Cave Ngbr. ✦
53. Head of Pigeon Roost Ngbr. ✦
54. Head of Stafford Ngbr. ✦
55. Head of Wolf Creek (com) ✦
56. Lick Branch Ngbr. ✦
57. Little Elk (com) ✦
58. Little Rockhouse Ngbr.
59. Lower Middle Fork Ngbr.
60. Mouth of Peter Cave Ngbr.
61. Mouth of Pigeon Roost Ngbr.
62. Muddy Branch (com)
63. Pack Bottom (com)
64. Smoky Bottom Ngbr. (lovely)
65. Turkey Creek Ngbr.
67. Upper Rockhouse Ngbr.
68. Upper Middle Fork Ngbr.
69. Little Laurel Ngbr.
70. Long Branch (com)
71. Pigeon Roost (com)
72. Whiteoak Fork Ngbr.

$N \neq 2r \text{ } \{\text{excluded}\}

P_{est} = 2$

$N + 1 = 41$
1. CASSADY, John E. (1880) for Andy and (1900) for Wendle
2. CHAPMAN families
3. COLEY families
4. CRUM, Adam (1900) for Dave & Ella Delong, or Gertrude
5. CUMBO, Wm. F. and Frank (or were they the same?) for Bessie (1880)
6. DAVIS, Martha L. for Davisport (1910)
7. DEBORD, Nathan (1920) for Debord po.
8. DELONG, Dave. Did he have a wife named Ella (for Davella po (1900) How were they related to William, Nathan, and Adam Crum
   William Delong was pm of Delong (1900). Succeeded by Mahala and Harrison Delong. Was there a Gertrude Delong
9. ENDICOTT, Leonard (1900) for Lol
10. FANNIN, Gipsy (ch. sp.) for any Adam. (Add p.o.) or Holly (1920)
11. FREDERIC, Gabriel and Laura. Did Gabriel have a daughter named Laura? (1900, 1910) Did Laura marry a Jude? or a Pinson? ?
12. HENSLEY, Rev. Wm. Henry. Did he have a daughter Bertha? and a son Hodeviah? (1920)
13. HIMLER, Martin (1920)
14. JOHNSON, Ulysses Grant (1900) for Oppy and Bessie Did he have a daughter named Bessie who marr. Ned Copley (1880, 1900)
15. JUDE, Everett, Edward, Laura. Did Everett or Edward have a daughter Laura who marr. M.C. Pinson? Was there a Mrs. Laura Jude? What was her maiden name (1900, 1910)
16. LOVELY, Sid L. (1920)
17. MAYNARD, Bascom (1920)
18. McClure, Thomas S. Did he marry Elsie, d. of Sam'l. Moore? Who was Eliz. Moore? (1900) (McClure p.o.)
20. PERRY, J.J. for Chapman (1900)
21. PINSON, M.C. for Laura (1900)
22. PREECE, Sherman (1910)
23. ROBINSON, Oliver L. for Marie? or Ben? (1920) (Moree p.o.)
24. SALMONS, Rebecca (1900) for Evangeline p.o.

25. SMITH, Charles for Milo (1880, 1900)

26. STIDHAM families (1900) and Pearl and Mollie

27. WELLS, Richard M. for Wells P.O. (1880)

28. WILLIAMSON, Clay for Copley p.o. (1880)? Sam'l. B. for Stidham, Pearl, and Mollie (1900)
In my research visits throughout Ky. I have found that each co. has had at least one person who is so well associated with it that county and person are considered inseparable. One can't think of Martin Co., for instance, without thinking of the late Rufus M. Reed, the man who knew more about that county's people and their history than anyone else, and was ever willing to share his.

Rufus, as his neighbors and friends called him, was born on Caney Creek, in the Wolf Creek valley, on May 5, 1895. He lived most of his life in the vic. of Lovely on the Tug Fk. at the mouth of Wolf. Trained as a surveyor and employed for years as a consulting civil engineer, he is best remembered for his syndicated nature cols. in a no. of e. Ky. weeklies and for his several volumes of poetry. His book Conqueror of the Dark Hills (1979) tells the story of Martin Co.'s isolated transformation from a rural/subsistence economy to a one of coal-derived prosperity. He died in Huntington's VA Hosp. on April 4, 1984.
several Sundays in the summer of 1971, Rufus shared with me on tape his memories of streams and communities, schools, churches, and cemeteries throughout the co. and, with few exceptions, was able to give me detailed histories and even name derivations. As a surveyor and naturalist he had personally visited and had become intimately acquainted with every square foot of the co.

What follows are Rufus' verbatim accounts. Ellipses were used to save space in this article, while explanatory and supplementary data are presented in parenthetical statements.

Add: (At the mouth of Rockhouse Pk. of Rockcastle Creek, ca. 4 mi below (n. of) Inez. Ext. po est. 10/11/1923 with Mrs. Gipsie Fannin, lat pm.) "Was probably named for one of the Fannin family... probably an Adam whose name was shortened to Ad. But for some reason the PO name is spelled Add."
THE ELK CREEKS: "On down Tug R. is the 2 Elk Creeks. One is called Big Elk (8 mi below Warfield) and one is Little Elk (4 mi below Warfield)... They got their names from the elk that roamed through here back in pioneer times.

(Dr. Thomas) Walker's diary mentioned the great no. of elk in this region... Little Elk has a chu. and a store and used to have a sch. It now has a po called Hode... (at its mouth). It was named after Hodeviah Hensley.

(Bapt.) An old minister lived there by the name of W(m) H(enry) Hensley. He had a boy named Hodeviah (pron. ho/di'vye) (On another occasion Rufus had informed me that Hodeviah's sister Bertha Hensley, est. the po on June 3, 1921 and that the boy had been killed in a car wreck. The office closed in Sept. 1989).

(Two of the branches of Big Elk are Booth Fk. and Clay Fk.) "The Booth family lived in there. That's one of the old families of that region... lot of them living there yet. And there's Clay Fk... I heard that was named after Clay Williamson, an old surveyor who probably surveyed that land in there. (Williamson was Rufus' mento)."
"Buck Creek which empties into the Tug R. at Warfield was named for a buck deer... You go up Buck Cr. about a mi. & a half and you come to a forks (at Beauty) and the main left fork is where the highway no. 40 goes up to/ Inez (tho given as Buck Cr. rather than Left Fk. on the govt. maps)... Phoebe Trace runs into Buck Cr. (about 1½ mi. above Beauty)... I d.k. who Phoebe was. I think some old lady was probably called Phoebe back there. There's a lot of Phoebes lived in there."

"Warfield is one of the oldest commu's. in M. Co. It was first laid off as a town by a surveyor named Case--laid it off in lots and streets. And one good thing that he did--he made the streets... 60 ft. wide. There's some disagreement about the origin of the name. Some claim it was due to the battle there. The Shawnees had a battle there with some whites way back before the CW... And there was a skirmish there during the CW. But other historians claim that John Warfield and some more oldtimers came to Warfield and settled there on acct. of the salt works. Now just above Warfield, at the mouth
of Collins Creek (which joins Tug R. just opp. Kermit, WVa)

there's a tract of land, used to be, called The Salt Works,
about 6 acres where they used to get salt, get the water
and distill it and make salt. They'd ship salt from there
(by) steamboat down the river to different towns....People
would come there to get the salt and I think that probably
that's what brought Warfield there, from I believe Wa. He's
supposed to be closely related to Wallis Warfield Simpson who
married the Duke of Windsor...."

Beauty used to be called Himlerville, "named after Martin
Himler who was a Hungarian coal operator, businessman, came
there and est. a town and built a large mansion up on the
hill which is still there. And est. the Himler Coal Co.
there and built all those houses there for his employees
and est. a bank there called the Himler State Bank and
operated till the depression....They had to close down and
I think they went into receivership. And after that
they changed the town from Himlerville to Beauty...(Why
was it called Beauty?) I think from the beautiful scenery
around there...a very beautiful place. That's what
One of the Tug River's major Martin Co. trib. is Wolf Creek. "I've been informed that a large timber wolf was killed at the mouth of Wolf Creek and the creek has borne this name ever since... A man/in here, a Rev. James Madison... and made a no. of surveys. He started nr. the mouth (of the creek), going up one side of the creek several miles and crossing over and back down the other side, taking in all the bottom land. I think during that survey he probably killed this wolf and named it Wolf Creek. This was about the yr. 1796. One of the oldest surveys in this country was the old Madison Survey. He was the leader of some religious sect... and was going to est. homes in here for them." (ft. Substantially the same acct. appeared in the intro. to Reed's Conquerors of the Dark Hills.)

Wolf Creek joins the Tug R. just above the town of the Lovely. This used to be known as Smoky Bottom Ngbd.

"At the time it was 1st settled, it was a pretty rugged ngbd. They'd meet here, a lot of outlaws would, and drink..."
and shoot their pistols and make the air right smoky... so they called it Smoky Bottom for a long time from the pistol smoke (is) how it got its name. But we who live here now resent the name because we have a better, a more civilized commu. than that, \(\text{maxim}
\)

... but a lot of people still call it that! (Later Rufus pointed out that, before the po was est., the commu. was also called South Kermit (for its being a mi s. of the across the Tu., in town of Kermit, WV.) The po was named for S.L. Lovely, the town's first storekeeper who helped to get the po est.)

\(\text{Buck Br. of Wolf Cr.} / "I suppose/it got its name was that it heads right up against Buck Creek" (mentioned above) \(\text{streams}\)

"There are two Petercave on Wolf. The 1st is (Branch) called Little Petercave, a couple of miles up, on the w. side (of Wolf). It's called that because it's smaller than (Fork) Big Petercave up Pigeonroost Pk. (see below)."
Pipe Mud Br. is a well known br. of Wolf Cr. It's up nearly 3 mi from the mouth, on the e side of the cr. And it always seemed to be hard to get to--no road from the creek leading over to it but people do go in there quite a bit. Used to be a famous place to hunt. I'd say 3 or 3 mi long. And I dk how that name originated unless they got some mud out of there when they were building the odd cabins back there...I know the Hales lived around there."

"(I asked about Pilgrim, the still active po at the mouth of Pipe Mud)"

✓ The 1st major e. side trib. of Wolf Cr. is given on modern govt. maps as Emilv Creek. "It's a large stream with many tribu. and I think it got its name from some of the old pion. ladies that used to live (there). It's a very old name; you find it on some of the older maps and deeds of this region. But it's spelled Emly and that's what it's still called."
"A mi up Emily Cr. is White Oak Fk... I suppose it got its name from some big... white oak tree growing there.... near the mouth... Most of the land (is) owned by large corps. The Pocahontas Land Co. owns most of the minerals in there, at the head of the creek (and that sect. is thus uninhabited now). On the White Oak Fk. there are the Upper and Lower Twin Branches that come in right almost in the same mouth, nearly close together, but they widen as you go up in 'em, about a mile long...."

"There are two Goodman Branches on White Oak Cr. (given as Goodwin on Govt. maps). One is Upper Goodman and one is Lower Goodman and they come in right near together into the creek...."

"Back to Emily Creek, "Mossy Br. is... about 3½-4 mi up Emily on the e. and... on the ridge around Mossy there is some of the finest coal in Ky.... There's one seam on top of the hill called the Fireblock Seam which is about 8 ft. thick of coal. They're getting that coal in there now (1971) by stripping off the mts. But in the Mossy Br. at the present time no settlements whatever. Evidently they got its
name from the mossy country in there. It's green woods—very much—always in woods in there the moss would stay green the year round."

Back on Emily Creek there's a Roost Br. That's where the (passenger) pigeons used to roost. They came through here about 100 yrs. ago in great no's....They covered the whole old region...The Roost Br. Sch. (nr. the mouth) is now used for a chu. called the Little Home Chu.

"On up Emily we come to Caney Creek. Then there's Rock Holler after a big rock there. Then there's Dog Hol. Maybe some man found a dog there or there was a hunting dog. It was named for a dog. These are on the e. side of Emily."

"On the w. side is Meade Branch. It must have been named for one of the 1st settlers of Emily. Then there's the Copperas Mine Branch on the e side...a large stream about 3 mi long where they said the copperas would run right out of rocks there, cliffs, they called it Copperas Mine. Might have mined it, I d.k. About a mi further up Emily is the Seng Branch. "This is the shortened form of Ginseng which is one of our valuable plants of Ky. Oldtimers would
dig this plant to get its roots to sell. It's very scarce now. It's so scarce, in fact, that one pound of dried ginseng (mm) is now (1971) worth $43 on the market. But there's none to be found hardly."

**Drevhouse Branch** is another branch of Emily Creek. "It's a couple of miles up from the mouth, in the old Munsey settlement, and it was once called **Dryhouse Branch**. I think some people still call it that. But it seems to me that somehow they mispelled it; some of the early citizens of the region must have misspelled it, or some of the historians or mapmakers (did) because on maps it's **Drevhouse Branch** when it should be **Dryhouse Br.**"

**Lackey Branch** is another old br. of Wolf Creek, a mi. above the mouth of Emily, on the west side. Several houses up in there. Some Munseys live up there and Runyons used to too. And Lackey was named from some of the old settlers there. "It's a very old name... Many gas wells were drilled in there... I think the name may have originated among the Stepps--probably some of the Stepps
were named Lackey...There's no Lackeys in Martin Co.
at the present time...."

Six miles up Wolf Cr. is Pigeonroost Fork, a large
creek with many trib's., some named for old settlers.

"When I was a child I heard 'em talk about these passenger
pigeons. They had several roosts in pigeon fork...It was
a wild woods and full of oaks and these pigeons liked
acorns, and they'd come in there to get the acorns and
they'd roost there in such great numbers that they said
they'd darken the sky when they flew over. They'd break
the timber down when they'd latch--so many of them--by
sheer weight of numbers. They was millions and millions
of 'em. But now they're all extinct...They'd alight on
trees till they'd break them down. So numerous they'd
darken the sky. In the late 1880s were the last great
flights of these birds through here. They became extinct
when man got to shooting them down."

The first major branch of Pigeonroost is Petercave Fk.

It's about two mi. up, on the w side. It's a thickly settled
place. One time there was caves in there which--where deer
came to lick the saltpeter that run out of the rocks--be
lookin' white on the rocks and it tasted--had a kind of
bitter, salty taste. Deer would come there and lick that.

So they called the creek Petercave...."

Over a mile up Petercave is Laurel Fork "which was
named for the laurel that used to grow in there..."...

Some 3 mi up Petercave is a place called the Three Forks
of Petercave. "That's where three forks come together...
on one place. Used to have a sch. there and a po called
Threeforks. Not too long ago, John Jude and his wife kept
the po...This used to be a famous mtg. place--had chu.
there and sch., a kind of commu. ctr. It's about all done
away with now."

At the head of Petercave (at least 6 mi up) is the
Runyon Pk, named for the Runyon family, some of whom still
live there.

"About four mi up Pigeonroost, on the e. side, has been
called Schoolhouse Br. since the 1880s. My mother attended
school there (in the early 1890s) and the branch took its
name from this old schoolhouse..."
incl. some members of his family by any name. (Rufus shared a list of teachers with me.) The schoolhouse was abandoned long ago."

A mi or so up Pigeonroost we come to Rockhouse Fork on the w side. Half a mile above, on the e side, is Lick Br. of Pigeonroost. "This is a very old settlement (sic) (that) used to be the home of the Taylor and Field families." Another half mile up Pigeonroost is Caney Fk. "This was once thickly settled and had many people that became well educated. One of the families had 7 schoolteachers. My grandmother always told me it got its name from the Biblical Canaan; Caney was a shortened form of Canaan. She said it was a kind of wild land flowing of milk and honey (sic), of all kinds of animals, birds, and trees..."

Some 2½ mi up Caney is The Flat Hollow. At its mouth was the Head of Caney Fk. Sch. which has since been torn down.

There used to be 8 or 10 houses on Caney but all but one are gone.
Half a mile above Caney Fk, coming into Pigeonroost from the sw, is Wildcat Branch. "They used to call the mt. bobcats in there wildcats." Betw. Wildcat and Caney was the Sartin Branch "named for the Sartin family that lived on that branch at one time."

Nearly 1½ mi above Caney, on the e side of Pigeonroost, is Hobbs Fk. It's a relatively unsettled, timbered area. Its branches include John Hollow named for an old settler; Charley Staton Hollow named for an old hunter who had a cabin at its mouth; Stonecoal Creek named for a seam of very hard coal called stone coal; and the Crooked Gourd Neck Branch that makes a curve like the neck of a crooked gourd.

At the mouth of Hobbs Fk. is the po of Laura. It was est. on July 26, 1909.