THE POST OFFICES OF MENIFEE COUNTY

Menifee, Kentucky's 114th county, was authorized by the legislature on March 10, 1869. Most of its territory came from sections of Bath and Montgomery Counties with some smaller areas taken from Powell, Morgan, and Wolfe. It assumed its present boundaries in 1886 when it acquired some property along its Morgan County line to accommodate local landowners.

The county was named for Richard Hickman Menefee, Jr. (1809-1841) of Owingsville who was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1836 by a mere 234 votes over Richard French of Mt. Sterling. His untimely death occurred only five days after his election to the U.S. Senate. The Kentucky legislature erred in spelling the county's name, and though a bill to correct this was passed by the state Senate it was never even considered in the House, and thus the county's name remains misspelled to this day.

Menifee's 203 square mile area, in the western edge of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Fields, is drained by streams in the Licking and Red River watersheds. The Licking and its Cave Run Lake impoundment serve as the county's northeast border with Rowan, while the Red River forms part of its southern boundary with Powell and Wolfe Counties. Menifee's main interior streams are the Licking River's Slate and Beaver Creeks and their branches and some west side tributaries of Blackwater, and the Red River's Indian and Gladie Creeks.

Though Menifee is essentially rural, its being mainly in the Daniel Boone National Forest has resulted in only about one-eighth of its land in cultivation. With the end of the county's once thriving iron and lumber production by the early twentieth century,
industry is virtually non-existent. Most of Menifee's gainful nonfarm employment, that is not trade or service oriented, is out of the county. Future economic hopes seem to lie in the better development of area tourism. The revised 1990 Census counted nearly 5,400 county residents.

Most of Menifee's twenty nine post offices will be located by road miles from the court house in its centrally located seat, Frenchburg.

The first two post offices within the county were the only ones whose entire lifespan was spent in one of the mother counties--Bath. Beaver Iron Works, operated between October 4, 1820 and 1824 by George Slaughter, served a forge and furnace in the Beaver Creek valley, near the future Scranton. Laurel Fork, established on January 28, 1851 by John Latham, was probably somewhere on that branch of Gladie Creek. Like many of Kentucky's antebellum post offices, it failed to survive the Civil War, closing in mid April 1863.

Frenchburg, the county's only incorporated community, is a sixth class city with a 1990 population of 625. Centering at the junction of US 460 and Ky 36, fifty eight road miles east of downtown Lexington, the town was laid out and established as its seat when the county was formed in 1869. It was named for Richard French (1792-1854), the Mount Sterling lawyer and onetime circuit court judge who had lost his Congressional seat to Richard Menefee. French was later to lose another race, for Kentucky governor in 1840, but regained his Congressional seat two years later. The local post office was established as Frenchburgh on February 24, 1871 with Samuel Greenwade, postmaster, and the town was incorporated on March 18 of that year. The post office name became Frenchburg in 1894.
Since the mid 1870s five post offices served consecutively the Slate Creek valley in the extreme western part of Menifee County. The latest, Means, still does.

The first was Pine Table, probably referring to the forested section along Hawkins Branch as shown on Joseph Leslie’s 1859 map of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field. On September 2, 1875 local storekeeper James Wills opened the Pine Table post office, one-fourth of a mile north of Slate Creek. This may have been what Collins’ 1874 history identified as Rebelville, with a store, shop, hotel, and some thirty residents on the state road (now U.S. 460), nine miles from Frenchburg and thirteen miles from Mount Sterling.2

In November 1878, with the arrival of the Mount Sterling Coal Road, later to be reorganized as the Kentucky and South Atlantic Railroad, from Mount Sterling, Elijah Chambers had the post office moved half a mile west to his newly established Chambers Station, and changed its name to Boone. By the time it closed in June 1881, this office was also serving three sawmills and other businesses taking advantage of the station.

The post office was re-established, one-fourth of a mile west of the Chambers Station, on September 4, 1882, as the inexplicably named Serena with George C. Stephens, its only postmaster. When it closed in June 1886, the area’s postal services were transferred to Cornwell, an office at another K&SA station, three miles east.

On April 10, 1901 storekeeper and Chambers’ depot manager Wilbur W. Means (ne 1867) reopened the post office as Means. By then the K&SA had been acquired by the C&O Railroad. Today the hamlet of Means, with three stores, its post office, and a number of homes
extends half a mile along U.S. 460 from the Montgomery County line to Ky 713, eight miles west of Frenchburg.

Another post office serving a K&SA station in the Slate Creek valley was the aptly named Cedar Grove. About a mile north of Chambers Station, it operated between November 2, 1889 and mid March 1907 with William D. Thornton, Boone's last postmaster, as its first postmaster. William S. Hamilton, Thornton's successor, ran the local store in the mid 1890s.

The village of Cornwell, referred to above, grew up around the home of William Cornwell built in 1870 near the mouth of the Bull Fork of Slate Creek, 2½ miles east of Pine Table. With the arrival of the K&SA, a station was located here and, by 1880, at least four general stores, two groceries, flour, saw, and woollen mills, two saloons, a hotel, and other businesses were serving a village of some 150 residents. The Cornwell post office was established on January 3, 1878 with Arnold Ingraham, postmaster.

In April 1889 Samuel Tabor moved the post office one mile east to the new community of Rothwell where it took that name. By then Rothwell, named for several related local families, had become the K&SA's eastern terminus, 19½ miles from its Mount Sterling junction with the C&O's main line. Meanwhile, William Cornwell's son, Charles continued to operate a local store and several other businesses at the Cornwell site. The post office remained at Rothwell, five miles west of Frenchburg, till it closed in 1960. Today, only some abandoned stores, a church, and homes on U.S. 460 mark the site of these two stations and the communities they served.
One of Menifee's four active post offices is Wellington. This serves two local stores and most of the eastern part of the county at the junction of the present U.S. 460 and Ky 1569, 8 3/4 miles east of Frenchburg. It was named for Wellington Davis (1850-1887), a wealthy area landowner, in thanks for his getting the office established on January 15, 1880. James S. Wells was its first postmaster.

On April 13, 1880 John King opened a post office at his store on the west side of Beaver Creek, some two miles south of the Licking River. Since his first name preference, Skidmore, for a nearby creek, was already in use in Leslie County, he suggested Slab Camp for another nearby Beaver Creek branch. He operated the office as Slab till March 1883.

The Slab Camp name probably derived from the slab shanties built in that vicinity to house the employees of the nearby Beaver Iron Works, a fifty year old furnace and forge that had begun operation in the early 1820s.

Shortly after the closing of the Slab post office, some lumbermen from Scranton, Pa. opened a sawmill at the mouth of Slab Camp Branch and built a town for their employees. At first the community was called Slab Camp, and then, possibly, Maze (for a local family.) On April 27, 1899 the local post office was re-opened as Mifflin (for one of several Pennsylvania towns and a county that had been named for that state's first governor). George Williams was the first postmaster. In October of that year the office adopted the community's new name Scranton.
With the depletion of the area's timber supply around the First
World War, the mill closed and the community became the trading center
for the few lumbermen who remained to farm the area. Most of the
timbered land between Scranton and the river was taken for Cave Run
Lake in 1974 and nearly all of the remaining residents were relocated.
The post office, just north of Ky 1274, eight miles ene of Frenchburg,
closed in the spring of 1988.

The site of the short-lived (December 7, 1881 to the following
August) Bragg post office continues to confuse Powell and Menifee
historians. According to sole postmaster James Will's Site Location
Report, his office was on the north side of the Red River, one-fourth
of a mile below the mouth of Indian Creek, clearly then, as now,
in Powell County, a mile from the Menifee line. Yet this office
has always been considered in Menifee County.

Neither has its name been explained. It was to serve a small
settlement called Fortner, probably for a local family, but the
proposed name was Bragtown (sic). When Wills' petition was returned
to him, however, "town" was crossed out and he was advised to select
a short name. Bragg was apparently what he selected. But there were
no known Bragg families in Menifee or Powell Counties, leaving one
to wonder if the office could have been named for Confederate General
Braxton Bragg, or for the settlement of Bragtown in North Carolina
that is now a part of Durham.

If the Bragg post office was, indeed, at or near the mouth of
Indian Creek, in either county, it was probably the predecessor of
the Haystack post office. This office was established at the mouth
of Indian Creek (in Powell County) on August 13, 1888. Postmaster
Henry C. Farmer's first name choice was probably Halsey, for another area family, but it was named instead for the Haystack Rock, in Auxier Ridge, about half a mile south of Red River, and probably within site of the new office. The rock resembles a farmer's haystack. In October 1903 Belle Palmer had the office moved 1 ½ miles up Indian Creek, to the mouth of Powder Mill Branch, one-fourth of a mile within Menifee County, where it closed in mid March 1913.

An early producer of tanbark and barrel staves, with a mill and a couple of stores, was called Laurel Spring for its site in a grove of laurel trees. When postmaster-designate Jonathan Osborn was instructed by the Post Office Department to find another name for his new office, he chose his daughter's name Mariba. But the office was actually established, on May 10, 1882, as Hariba, a misspelling. Mariba's husband, William C. Taylor, local landowner, merchant, and lumberman, and later county judge and school superintendent, became postmaster in August 1883. When Mariba herself succeeded him in January 1886, she had the name changed to Mariba [me:ə/ba or me:ə/be]. As recently as the 1910s this community, on U.S. 460, 4 3/4 miles southeast of Frenchburg, was also known as Pokeberry. The post office closed in 1993.

The inexplicably named hamlet of Pomeroyton [pahmәrәi/tәn] centers at the junction of Rts. 946 and 1569, 10 3/4 miles southeast of Frenchburg, and 1 ½ miles from where Menifee, Morgan, and Wolfe Counties come together. This southeastern Menifee area was first settled by the Little family in the mid eighteen hundreds, and was the center of extensive logging operations by the end of the century. Its post office, established on October 11, 1883, with storekeeper
William C. Catron, postmaster, closed in the early 1990s.

John Ledford's old home near the mouth of Gladie Creek may have been the site of the three post offices that served his family's 4,000 acre logging operation in the Red River valley. The first office, as Gladie, was established on June 11, 1884 with Benjamin Noe, postmaster, who was succeeded by two of John's sons, Aley and Will before the office closed in April 1887. It was re-established on August 30, 1900 as Gladys with Isaac N. Horton, Jr., postmaster. In February 1905, John's other son Joseph B. moved the office half a mile south to a point on the north bank of the river where it closed before the end of the year. From July 15, 1915 through the following April, Joseph maintained the third office as Glendive (because his preferred name Glady was too close to Gladys, by then assumed by an office in Lawrence County.) The Menifee office may then have been back in the Ledford family home. The home, on Ky 715, 16½ miles south of Frenchburg, was recently rebuilt by the U.S. Forest Service as a museum for area logging activities. The Gladie (or Glady) and Glendive names have not been derived. Perhaps the latter, like that of the stream in Montana, was corrupted from the name of the Irish river, the Glendine.

The little remembered Lonesome post office served a sawmill and store in the Buck Creek Neighborhood in the northeastern section of the county. It was half a mile south and west of the Licking River and less than 200 yards east of Beaver Creek, then some fourteen to fifteen road miles northeast of Frenchburg, and now in the Cave Run Lake. The office operated between November 6, 1885 and September 1907 with James W. Swim, its first postmaster. At or near the office
was a station on the short-lived Licking River Railroad between Yale (in Bath County) and Blackwater (in Morgan County). Lonesome's name source is not known.

On May 21, 1890 Hiram B. Armitage established the Carrington post office which he named for the area's antebellum landowner John Carrington who had operated a successful local tannery. On March 5, 1904 Armitage's successor Charles B. Craig renamed the office Sudith [sūˈdath] for another prominent area family. Until it closed in the early spring of 1988, the office had been at several sites along Ky 36, from the Bath county line to a point at the mouth of Johnson's Branch of Stonequarry, its most recent location, some five miles north of Frenchburg.

Postmaster-designate Daniel Boone Morefield (ne 1856) probably gave his name to the Dan post office established on July 21, 1893 on Eaton Creek, about half a mile from the Morgan County line. Thence, till it closed in 1958, the office was at several vicinal sites, most recently on Rt. 1693, one mile from the county line, and 13½ miles east of Frenchburg.

Alley and Petra were the names that Hawkins Branch timberman Thomas E. Amburgey suggested for his post office some 350 yards north of Hawkins and two to three miles south of the future Means. Alley may have honored one or more families of Amburgey's acquaintance, while Petra was probably derived from the nearby Petre Trace Branch of Slate Creek, so identified on 1850s area coal maps, and given as Peter Trace on current maps. The office, with Amburgey its only postmaster, operated between July 31, 1893 and January 1899.
A post office called Kent, for reasons unknown, has only been indefinitely located. According to the Site Location Report of the first of its two postmasters, Alexander H. Daugherty, it was some 300 yards east of Coal Cave (now Cold Cave) Creek (of Beaver Creek), and 2½ miles from Dan. It operated only from April 29, 1898 through May 1904.

In 1898 the Union City Lumber Company of Michigan acquired some trackage that had been built several years before in an attempt to extend the Kentucky and South Atlantic Railroad southeast from Rothwell to ship timber from Indian and Amos Creek. On its completion, the Red River Valley line, as it came to be known, extended some nine miles to a ridge, 1½ miles south of Frenchburg. The ridge and local station were named McCausey for Joseph McCausey, the railroad's chief executive. To serve the station which shortly also became an important supply depot for area storekeepers, the McCausey post office was opened on February 8, 1899 with Joseph Ledford, postmaster. But like many other spur line stations in the region, McCausey's days were numbered. By late 1911, with the depletion of the timber supply, the line was abandoned as unprofitable. The post office closed in February 1918, and the ridge is now an area of scattered farmhomes.

The year after the completion of the Red River Valley Railroad to McCausey, a five mile extension of the line was built from a point called Amos, two miles west, to the mouth of Big Amos Creek on the East Fork of Indian Creek. The station located here was called Apperson, probably for the family of the late circuit judge. It, too, had a short-lived post office (from February 28, 1899 through
July 1902) but the latter was called Strong for its only postmaster Nathan A. Strong (né 1856).

The several names George W. Buchanan submitted for his post office on the upper reaches of Indian Creek included Myers for the branch at whose mouth it would be located. But these were already in use in Kentucky. Thus he chose Tabor, the name of a prominent Rothwell family. (W.C. Tabor was then Rothwell's railroad agent, and Samuel Tabor was Rothwell's postmaster who had endorsed Buchanan's application.) The office, on the present Ky 713, four miles southwest of Frenchburg, operated between July 15, 1899 and 1941.

The Denniston post office, named by and for its first postmaster, Joseph C. Denniston (1870–1963), was established on March 9, 1900 on Betty Gap Ridge, four miles northeast of Mariba and four miles northwest of Wellington. In 1934 Henry Goebel Botts had it moved several miles south to the new highway (now U.S. 460) where, seven miles ese of Frenchburg, it still serves a store, a church, a rural crafts museum, and the county's second elementary school named for Botts' family.

On the present Rt. 1274 and Beaver Creek, about midway between Frenchburg and Scranton, was the Havana post office. It was established on August 28, 1900 by James H. Thomas whose first preference Ray had just been given to a newly opened Logan County office. So he deferred to storekeeper (and later postmaster, sheriff, and county judge) Harlan Sexton's suggestion that it be named for the capital of Cuba where Sexton had served during the recently concluded Spanish-American War. The Menifee office closed in August 1913, and nothing now marks its site.
Only homes on Ky 713 and a nearby fire tower are what's left of the small settlement and post office of Fagan [fa'ghan], seven miles southwest of Frenchburg. They were not named for a local family, however, nor for a character in a Dickens novel, but for the guide or center pole of a charcoal pile that, in the decade before the Civil War, supplied the Bath and Estill County iron furnaces. The Fagan post office operated between January 23, 1901 and 1953, with George W. Miller its first postmaster.

Menifee County historians assume that the post office of Korea was named for the Asian country that was in the news on February 10, 1904 when it was established (with Liza A. Whitt, postmaster). When it closed in 1982 it was at the junction of Rts. 1693 and 3343, 2½ miles northeast of U.S. 460, and twelve miles east of Frenchburg.

Tennie was the first preference for Richard A. Craft's Artville post office on Coon Creek and Rt. 3343, 100 air yards from the Morgan County line, and twelve miles east of Frenchburg. The office operated between February 15, 1919 and 1971. Neither name has been explained.

The post office of Big Woods, on the north end of Dan Ridge, just south of the junction of Rts. 1693 and 1274, and 11½ miles east of Frenchburg, must be distinguished from Tarr Ridge which was also called Big Woods during its timbering days in the late nineteenth century. Both were densely wooded areas. The post office was established on June 10, 1925 with Mrs. Flora Back, its first postmaster, and closed in 1963.

Though Salt Spring was the first name proposed for a post office on the Licking River, two-thirds of a mile above the mouth of Puget Branch, Bertis was the name given when Mrs. Bertis Barber opened
it on July 19, 1926. In September 1940 John Staton moved the office to his home and store 1½ miles around the bend, where he said he could accommodate more customers. Here, a mile below the mouth of Twolick Creek, it closed in 1969. Both sites are now in Cave Run Lake.

Serving the community of Flat Rock, some 700 yards from the where Wolfe, Morgan, and Menifee Counties came together, 12½ miles southeast of Frenchburg, was Menifee's last established post office. Postmaster-designate Kelly Kendrick Little's preference for Moody gave way to Stoll, and by this name the office operated between June 2, 1928 and 1937. Flat Rock, already in use by a McCreary County post office, was derived from a large flat rock which provided a natural fording place for travelers crossing Little Blackwater Creek. Stoll may have been corrupted from Stull, the name of several Menifee families descended from S.C. Stull listed in the county's first tax register.

Only four of Menifee's twenty-eight post offices (Frenchburg, Wellington, Denniston, and Means) are still in operation. Frenchburg's serves the county's only incorporated place. Nine office names were not those first proposed for them. Five offices served communities with other names. Three had name-changes.

Local or area people accounted for thirteen post office names, while Frenchburg was named for a politician from an adjacent county. Three offices had geographic or descriptive names. Three were named for distant places, while to two were transferred the names of nearby streams. One name was derived from an artifact used by a local
FOOTNOTES

1. The once popular contention that Frenchburg was named for some local families of French descent is hardly taken seriously anymore.

Old Bath County postal records suggest that the Frenchburg post office may have been preceded by a post office called Rockhouse, established on January 10, 1859 with Benjamin F. Cox, its first postmaster. He was succeeded, in May 1861, by Thomas N. Perry, but the office closed in December of that year. It was re-established, again as Rockhouse, on February 6, 1867 with Barbara E. Pierce, postmaster, who was followed, in November 1868, by Ilborn H. Hackney. The office became Frenchburgh on February 24, 1871 when Samuel Greenwade became postmaster, nearly two years after the new county was created.

2. Richard H. Collins and Lewis C. Collins, *Historical Sketches of Kentucky*, Covington: Collins & Co., 1874, reprinted in 1966, Vol. II, p. 601. James Wills, whose parents, William and Mary Wills, had settled this section of Slate Creek around 1820, is said to have maintained a roadside inn on the state road and called it Travellers Rest.

3. The Kentucky and South Atlantic Railroad was organized in 1874 by some Mount Sterling businessmen to ship Menifee County coal and timber for transfer to the Chesapeake and Ohio in their town. In 1907 the line was extended nine miles to McCausey to supply
stores in the upper Beaver and Red River areas. The railroad was abandoned in 1931.

4. Don Fig, U.S. Forest Service historian, Stanton, Ky., in notes shared with the writer, July 16, 1987.

5. Ibid., interviewed by the writer on June 17, 1978

REFERENCES

1. Fig, Don, U.S. Forest Service historian, Stanton, Ky., interviewed by the writer on June 17, 1978


3. Ingram, Barbara Wells, et al., compilers, The History of Menifee County, Kentucky, 1986


5. Rennick, Robert M., Kentucky Place Names, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984


8. Thompson, Geneva, in a term paper for George Boswell's folklore class at Morehead State University, 1965, shared by the instructor.

9. United States Post Office Department: Site Location Reports—Menifee County Post Offices, National Archives (Washington, D.C.)
MENIFEE COUNTY POST OFFICES

1. FRENCHBURG: 2/24/1871, Samuel Greenwade; 12/5/1871, John Armitage... 1894 as Frenchburg APO

2. PINE TABLE: 9/2/1875, James Wills; 7/3/1877, Albin H. Berkley; changed to Boone, 12/6/1878, Elijah Chambers; 7/26/1880, W.D. Thornton; Disc. 6/6/1881;

3. CORNWELL: 1/3/1878, Arnold Ingraham; 10/17/1878, Geo. T. Shackelford... 6/1/1888, Thos. A. Combs; changed to Rothwell, 4/1/1889, Sam'l. Tabor; 5/31/1893, Nannie McIlvain...

4. WELLINGTON: 1/15/1880, James S. Wells; 11/8/1881, Jos. W. Huff...

5. SLAB: 4/13/1880, John King; Disc. 3/14/1883 (papers to Bangor, Morgan Co.);

6. BRAGG: 12/7/1881, James Wills; Disc. 8/14/1882 (papers to Holly's Store, Powell Co.);

7. HARIBA: 5/10/1882, Jonathan Osborn; 1/23/1883, Frank Gose.. 8/27/1883, Wm. C. Taylor; 1/18/1886, Mariba F. Taylor; changed to Mariba, 3/15/1886, Mariba F. Taylor; 10/24/1889, James E. Wynn...

8. SERENA: 9/4/1882, Geo. C. Stephens; Disc. 5/16/1883 (papers to Jeffersonville, Montgomery Co.); Re-est. 2/16/1885, Geo. C. Stephens; Disc. 6/19/1886 (no papers);

9. POMEROYTON: 10/11/1883, Wm. C. Catron; 5/29/1889, Nancy J. Ratliff...

LAUREL FORK P.O. (Balk Co) 1/28/51, John Math

Disc. 9/11/1863.
MENIFEE COUNTY POST OFFICES (2)

10. GLADIE: 6/11/1884, Benjamin H. Noe; 5/14/1886, Aley Ledford; 11/17/1886, W. Ledford; Disc. 4/23/1887 (papers to Mariba);

11. LONESOME: 11/6/1885, James W. Swim; 11/1/1890, Geo. F. Mynheir; 5/15/1897, Geo. M. Harmon; Disc. 8/27/1907, effective 9/14/1907 (mail to Yale);

12. HAYSTACK: est. in Powell Co. 8/13/1888, Henry C. Farmer; 10/23/1903, Belle Palmer (in Menifee Co.); Disc. 3/15/1913 (mail to Fagan);

13. CEDAR GROVE: 11/2/1889, Wm. D. Thornton; 1/05/1894, Wm. S. Hamilton; 9/3/1902, Hattie Thornton; Disc. 2/19/1907, effective 3/15/1907 (mail to Means);


Disc. early 3rd qtr. 1904

15. DAN: 7/21/1893, Daniel B. Morefield; 8/6/1902, French Mann.

Disc. 1958

16. ALLEY: 7/31/1893, Thomas E. Amburgey; Disc. 1/18/1899 (papers to Rothwell);

17. YALE: est. in Bath Co. 5/3/1897, Chas. H. Eaton...into Menifee Co. on or before 7/15/1915, Myrtle Cassity;

Disc. 1954

18. KENT: 4/29/1898, Alexander H. Dougherty; 2/23/1901, Brack McQuinn; Disc. 5/6/1904, effective 5/31/1904 (mail to Wellington);

19. McCAUSEY: 2/8/1899, Joseph R. Ledford; 1/8/1900, Scorcher G. Spradling; 2/15/1913, Flossie M. Williams; Disc. 2/28/1918 (mail to Frenchburg);
MENIFEE COUNTY POST OFFICES (3)

20. STRONG: 2/28/1899, Nathan H. Strong; 7/19/1902, effective 7/31/1902 (papers to McCausey); Disc.


22. TABOR: 7/15/1899, Geo. W. Buchanan; 11/30/1901, Alexander M. Buchanan; Disc. 1/16/1902

23. DENNISTON: 3/9/1900, Jos. C. Denniston; 11/12/1900, Horatio Tuttle; A PO

24. HAVANA: 8/28/1900, James H. Thomas; 7/14/1905, Harlan Sexton; 4/5/1909, James R. Short; Disc. 8/31/1913 (mail to Frenchburg);

25. GLADYS: 8/30/1900, Isaac N. Horton, Jr.; 1/18/1902, Julia F. Klaber; 5/2/1905, Jos. B. Ledford; Disc. 11/21/1905, effective 12/15/1905 (mail to Haystack);


27. MEANS: 4/10/1901, Wilbur W. Means; 4/23/1902, Emmett Ledford; A PO

28. KOREA: 2/10/1904, Liza A. Whitt; 7/03/1907, Nora Craft; Disc. 1907

29. GLENDIVE: 7/15/1915, Jos. B. Ledford; Disc. 4/29/1916 (mail to Lombard);
MENIFEE COUNTY POST OFFICES (4)

30. ARTVILLE: 2/15/1919, Richard D. Craft; D:cc 1971

31. BIG WOODS: 6/10/1925, Mrs. Flora Back; D:cc 1968

32. BERTIS: 7/19/1926, Bertis Barber; D:cc 1969

33. STOLL: 6/2/1928, Kelly K. Little; D:cc 1937
BROKE LEG FALLS

A few years ago Broke Leg Falls, located in Menifee County, was known only to residents of the immediate neighborhood. The falls of Broke Leg Creek are beautiful, but the wild setting in which the creek plunges over a rock ledge helps to increase this beauty.

Below the falls is a quiet ravine inclosed by rocky cliffs. Between these rock walls and along the banks of Broke Leg Creek are mountain wild flowers, trees and other plants seldom seen along the highways. Apparently man seldom trod this ravine until recent years and as a result it remained primeval. Fortunately the owner of the property saw its natural beauty, preserved it and opened it to the public. Although the Falls has been open to the public for several years, the place has lost some of its appeal but now plans are in the making for it to become a State Park.

The falls are 147 feet high. In one area of the falls one may see the "Bear Hole". This is in the big open cave in the wall of the cliff. It got its name from the fact that bears, inhabiting the gorge, used the hole to go up and plunder the surrounding country and return to their habitat.

Some fifty years ago a motion picture, "The Capture of Chessie Wells, the Famous Moonshiner", was made in the Broke Leg Falls gorge, and was sold to an exhibitor at a
good price. The scene involved the attempted escape of the 'shiner up the cliffside to the "Bear Hole" and the horse- and -wagon "funeral" cortege. The proprietor of Broke Leg Falls, Vernon (better known as Pee Wee) Wells, was a mere child when the picture was made. He acted as Chessie's wife. The funeral procession went from the Falls area to the residence of "Uncle Roe Wells" on the ridge above the Falls. "Uncle Roe's" family did not know the picture was being made and they all ran out real excited when they saw the procession heading toward the house. Of course this added to the realistic value of the picture.*

Uncle Berry Jim Wells (called Berry to distinguish him from the other Jim Wells' in the community) tells of how he used to "shinny" down a giant poplar tree into the gorge of the Falls when he was six years old to get some slate to use for pencils at school.

* Told by Vernon Wells, age 59, Menifee County.
When a girl became pregnant, she was said to have broken her leg. The legend goes that is how Broke Leg Falls got its name. A girl became pregnant at this spot.

(H. G. Stephens said he heard this some 20 years ago.)
1. Folk Tales

One day an old man had been to a salt mill to get some salt and on his way back, he was getting home after dark, he felt something jump up on his horse behind him. And before he knew what had happened his coat was ripped from his collar to the tail. It was a panther and boy when he saw what it was did he ever get away from there. He made it on home without a scratch.

Told to me by Mrs. Hester Bailey, age 74, my grandma.

Prose Folklore

1. The Dead Lovers.

In Menifee County, Kentucky there is a tall ledge where a boy and a girl wrapped in each others arms jumped to their death. Their parents didn't want them to marry and even forbade them to see each other. There had been a sort of feud between the two families for years. There hadn't been any killings, but just quarreling and bickering. The girl and boy left notes in their rooms at home and told their parents that they had rather be dead than to be parted. So they went to the rock jumped off and to this day the big cliff is called Lovers Leap. The death of these two made their parents see how foolish the feud had been all along, which was brought on by a rooster fight.

Told by Aunt Em Mann, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, who is 91 years old.
Menifée Co. communities

1. Frenchburg (co. seat)
2. Boones (dpo) had been Pine Table
3. Wellington (po and com)
4. Slab (dpo) → Sandtown
5. Bragg (dpo) → Haystack
6. Mariba (po and com) had been Hariba
7. Serena (dpo)
8. Pomeroyton (po and com)
9. Gladie (dpo)
10. Lonesome (dpo)
11. Rothwell (dpo) had been Cornwell
12. Cedar Grove (dpo) (com)
13. Sudith (po and com) had been Carrington
14. Scanton (po and com) had been Mifflin
15. Dan (dpo) (com)
16. Alley (dpo)
17. Kent (dpo)
18. McCausey (dpo)
19. Strong (dpo)
20. Tabor (dpo) (com)
21. Denniston (po and com)
22. Havana (dpo) (com)
23. Gladys (dpo)
24. Fagan (dpo) (com)
25. Means (po and com)
26. Haystack (dpo)
27. Korea (dpo) (po) (com)
28. Glendive (dpo)
29. Yale (dpo)
30. Artville (po) (com)
31. Bertis (dpo) (com)
32. Big Woods (dpo) (com)
33. Stoll (dpo) (com)
34. Back Nebr.
35. Betty Gap Nebr.
36. Blackwater Nebr.
37. Botts Nebr.
38. Broke Leg Falls (com)
39. Clay Lick (com)
40. Cold Cave Nebr.
41. Craft Nebr.
42. Dog Trot Nebr.
43. East Fork (of) Slate Nebr.
44. Hawkins Bridge Nebr.
45. Hilltop Nebr.
46. Igo Nebr.
47. Kendrick Ridge Nebr.
48. Leatherwood Nebr.
49. Lower Beaver Nebr.
50. Miers Fork Nebr.
52. Red River Nebr.
53. Stonequarry (sic) Nebr.
54. Sulphur Nebr.
55. Tar(r) Ridge Nebr.
56. Trimble Bend Nebr.
57. West Denniston Nebr.

- = sample
x = reserve

Nebr = 22 (exc.

N = 34