

THE POST OFFICES OF OLDHAM COUNTY

Oldham, one of Louisville's two fastest growing suburban counties, lies just northeast of Jefferson County. LaGrange, its seat, is only twenty four road miles from downtown Louisville, via I-71. The 1990 ²⁰⁰⁰ Census counted some ^{46,000} ~~33,300~~ residents in Oldham's 190 square miles. Its area is drained by the Ohio River and its two historically important branches, Harrods and Eighteenmile Creeks and by two equally historic streams in the Salt River system, Floyd's Creek and Curry's Fork of Floyd's.

The 74th of Kentucky's counties, Oldham was created on December 15, 1823 from parts of Jefferson, Henry, and Shelby Counties. It was named for Col. William Oldham (1753-1791), a native of Berkeley County, Virginia, who settled at the future Louisville in 1779 and was killed by Indians at the infamous battle of St. Clair's Defeat. In January 1833 that part of Oldham east of Floyds Fork was returned to Shelby County, making that stream the dividing line between these two counties. Some of Oldham's northeastern territory was lost to the new Trimble County in 1837. Oldham assumed its present boundaries in March 1856.

The not_able issue in early Oldham County's history was the establishment of its permanent seat. It took fourteen years for the citizens of this county to decide on its location. On June 1, 1824 the committee appointed to locate "the most convenient and suitable" place for the seat recommended the establishment of a town to be called Lynchburg on fifty acres of John Button's farm. This has not been precisely located but is believed to have been in the vicinity of the future Eighteenmile Church, just south of US 42¹

and four miles nnw of LaGrange. Opposition to Lynchburg by Ohio River residents led to the immediate relocation of the seat to George Varble's home near the already established river town of West Port. Here the first court session was held on February 16, 1824. The seat remained at West Port till July 1827 when it was removed to LaGrange. Nine months later it was returned to West Port where it stayed till 1838 when it moved to LaGrange for good.

Since the court never met at Lynchburg contemporary historians remind us that this place cannot actually be considered⁸ the county's first seat. Yet the town was officially established and may have been laid off. It even had an official post office, between 1824 and 1826, though it is not known who managed it or if it operated at all.

Most of the twenty three post offices discussed below will be located by road miles from the junction of Ky 53 and 146 in downtown LaGrange.

Westport, Oldham's oldest town, still maintains the county's first post office, but only a few dozen homes, a church, and a couple of stores. On September 3, 1796 Joseph Dupuy and Harmon Bowman announced through the Kentucky Gazette, then the state's only newspaper, their intent to lay off the town of Liberty at the mouth of Eighteenmile Creek. By the time they actually purchased this 300 acre site (part of Elijah Craig's thousand acre Treasury warrant) in June 1797, they were calling it West Port.² This is believed to have referred to the town's earliest aspirations as a river port for the area's trade with the Northwest Territory. These were soon realized with the location here of a landing and warehouse by 1800.

By the 1840s West Port had become a busy industrial town, steamboat landing, and shipping port, even enjoying an early rivalry with Louisville. Its decline began with the arrival of the railroad through LaGrange in the early 1850s which attracted commerce away from the river. The post office was established, as West Port, in 1815, with Hugh Luckie, postmaster, but had become Westport by mid century.

Floydsburg, which had Oldham's second post office, was also a once prosperous town that was bypassed by the railroad. In 1851 the Louisville and Frankfort (later the Louisville and Nashville) Railroad was completed through what became Crestwood, only a mile away. Floydsburg was founded at or near one of the several pioneer stations built by the Virginia-born surveyor Col. John Floyd (1750-1783). Its post office was established on May 12, 1822 with Elijah Yager, postmaster, but operated only till mid November 1861. Now the town-site, on Ky 1408, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles southwest of LaGrange, has only a small store, a church, and some homes.

Now but a small crossroads village at the junction of Ky 329 and the Old Zaring Road, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles southwest of LaGrange, Brownsboro was once the county's main industrial and commercial center till it too was bypassed by the railroad. It developed around a trading post and Callahan's Tavern, a stage stop at the junction of two pioneer roads. The name, as Brownsborough, possibly honoring Kentucky's first senator, John Brown (1757-1837), was first applied to the post office established in 1824 and was then bestowed on the town when it was chartered in 1830. In 1838 the town was an unsuccessful contender with LaGrange for the transfer of the county seat from Westport. So enervating was this loss, apparently, that

the town's charter was repealed in 1840. Yet the community persevered; by the late nineteenth century it had become an important producer of wearing apparel, saddles, and farm implements. Even today it still has several stores, a community center, three churches, and a couple of quarries just west of the crossroads. But the office closed in mid January 1908.³

The sons of James and Isabella Ballard of Spottsylvania, Virginia settled early in Oldham County and gave their name to the viable village of Ballardsville. Thomas (1789-1865) was among the county's first Justices of the Peace, while Addison (1799-1879) was to represent the county in the State Legislature in the 1830s and 40s. The village, centered at the junction of Ky 22 and 53, four miles sse of LaGrange, was chartered as a town in January 1838. Its post office operated between 1825 and 1903. James Goslee was probably the first postmaster.

Five shortlived antebellum post offices have not been located. For a few months in 1826 a post office of this name served Fisher's Tanyard about which nothing else is known. From February 3, 1827 till sometime in 1829 Mitchell R. Overstreet operated the LaFayetteville post office in his store probably three miles south of LaGrange. Storekeeper John Wheeler ran the Wheeler's Store post office between January 3, 1833 and mid March 1834. The Allan Grove post office was maintained by Frederick B. Culver from May 8, 1839 till late March of the following year. Then there was Kelly's Landing (on the river?) which John Kelly ran between March 2, 1852 and February 1853.

The inexplicably named Centreburch post office, operating from November 7, 1839 through 1845, was a forerunner of the community

of Centrefield and its post office of Worth. Thomas Dunaway was the first of Centreburg's four postmasters. On February 18, 1850 the office was re-established as Centrefield with Martin Demoss, postmaster, but closed in September 1871. While the community that developed around it remained Centrefield (and later became Centerfield), the office was again re-established, on March 16, 1883, and named Worth probably for the local storekeeper and its first postmaster, Allen Worth Brown (son of Jackson J. Brown, Centreburg's third postmaster). It closed for good in 1903. This viable community, still known as Centerfield (Worth was only applied to its post office), centers at the junction of Ky 22 and 392, six miles ssw of LaGrange. Its several businesses, a school, and Mt. Tabor Church serve growing residential subdivisions.

Several key towns and their post offices grew up around stations on the Louisville and Frankfort (later the L&N) Railroad which was completed through the county in 1851.

One of these was LaGrange. With a ²⁰⁰⁰ ~~1990~~ population of some 3, ^{5,700} ~~800~~, the county's seat is now a fourth class city centering at the junction of Ky 53 and 146 and just north of I-71. Its site was acquired and settled by Major William Berry Taylor before 1800 and was first called The Cross Roads for it was the junction of pioneer routes connecting Louisville with the Bluegrass and West Port with Shelbyville. In 1827 Major Taylor's offer of this site for the relocation of the court house from West Port was accepted. A town was then created and named by Taylor for the country estate in France of General LaFayette with whom he had been impressed on the Frenchman's recent visit to the area. But after only nine months the

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county's court was returned to West Port where it remained till 1838 when LaGrange became the permanent seat. In January 1840 the town was incorporated. The LaGrange post office was established in 1827 probably with Thomas Berry as its first postmaster.

The shortlived (October 13, 1851 through 1853) Clores Depot post office may have served one of the first stations on the new rail line. The first of its two postmasters, Richard Clore, was a descendant of one of six brothers from Virginia who, after a short stay at what became Louisville, settled permanently in the vicinity of Brownsborough. Actually, Clore had established his post office on January 9, 1851, before the completion of the railroad, as Hinkleburg (possibly for another family), about which nothing is known. Nor is known the site of this earlier post office.⁴ From mid nineteenth century maps it appears that Clore's Depot was at or close to the site of the future ^{Camden}~~Canmer~~ (see below).

The first of Oldham's towns to actually be developed around its railroad station was, at its founding in 1852, called Smith's Station. It was most likely named for and probably by its developer, Henry S. Smith (1802-1883), the son of a pioneer settler from whom he had acquired much of the site. The post office was established on February 8, 1856 with Henry's son and then station agent, Charles Franklin Smith, as postmaster. It was not, however, named for the station but, like the community itself shortly thereafter, was given the name Pewee Valley.

The story of its naming has fascinated area residents and others ever since. According to the most popular account, a less prosaic name was being sought for the new post office when the distinctive

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call of a wood pewee, a bird common to the area, was heard, and everyone agreed this would make a good name. Yet no one can explain why Valley was tacked on to the name since the community lies on an elevation. The town was incorporated in 1870, and by the turn of the century had become a famous resort with a large hotel and two colleges. It is today a fifth class city, with a ²⁰⁰⁰1990 population of ^{1,440}~~1,200~~ and an active post office, lying just short of the Jefferson County line and eleven rail and road miles southwest of LaGrange.

Just northeast of Pewee Valley is Crestwood. It too developed around a station with another name, Beard's, on a site donated by its name source, Joseph M. Beard. Its post office, established on July 2, 1857, as Beard's Station, with Owen Dorsey, postmaster, was shortened to Beard in December 1880. After a while railroad men got to calling the station Whiskers, and while this was accepted by oldtime residents, newcomers from Louisville in the early 1900s were not so tolerant. Fearing ridicule, they succeeded in getting the name of the station and community changed to Crestwood. The post office too took this new name on December 9, 1909. No one knows why this inapt name was chosen for, as the late county historian, Lucien V. Rule, once pointed out, the place was ^{then} not at the crest of anything. Now this sixth class city with an active post office and a ²⁰⁰⁰(1990) population of ^{2,000}~~1,435~~, centers at the junction of Ky 22, 146, and 329, nine miles southwest of LaGrange.

Brownsboro Station, the next to be established, was nearly three rail miles north of Beard's-Crestwood, at the junction of the present Ky 146 and Glenarm Road. Its post office, established on February 26, 1862, with James Campbell, postmaster, was named for the station

which served the town of Brownsboro, two miles west. But within ten weeks, while the station remained Brownsboro, the post office name was changed to the inexplicable Peru. In April 1906, however, both station and post office adopted the name Glenarm, allegedly on the suggestion of a Mr. Telford whose family had come from the North Channel town of Glenarm in County Antrim, Ireland. The post office closed at the end of November 1920, and now only some homes mark the site.

The present village of Buckner, which still has its post office, began as Buckner's Station, some three rail and road miles southwest of LaGrange. The station and the post office, established on January 3, 1867, with storekeeper William A. Campbell, the first postmaster, were named for the family of local landowner Coleman Buckner (1797-1852). By the time in mid December 1880 that the post office had become simply Buckner, the community growing up around it had a sawmill, two distilleries, several stores and shops, a wagonworks, hotel, and grain and livestock dealerships. Now the community, which extends for over a mile along Ky 146 and the tracks, is the site of the county's consolidated high and middle schools and two lumber companies. Midway between Buckner and LaGrange is the State Reformatory.

The last rail station with a post office to be established was Camden. This was midway between the Beard's and Brownsboro Stations and may have been named for William Camden Hays, whose father, storekeeper Hiram Rowe Hays, began the post office on March 28, 1879. Before the office closed in early April 1898 it was serving at least two general stores and a nearby flour mill. Now there is nothing

there but a few homes and Klein's nursery.

A mile or so north of Smith's Station (Pewee Valley), on what is now Ky 22, was the early settlement of Rollington. This is said to have been settled around 1810 by the family of Michael Smith, Smith Station Henry's father. Edward Smith established the post office in 1831 but as Rowlington, though in early postal records it was also spelled Bowlington. The office closed in late July 1835 but the community continued at least till the Civil War with a tavern, sawmill, church, and school, and the name was later applied to the local voting precinct. While contemporary historians feel certain that Rollington is correct, they cannot account for the name in any spelling. No Rolling, Rowling, or even Bowling families are listed in nineteenth century county records. Today this neighborhood, some 10½ miles southwest of LaGrange, has about a dozen homes that are not in mint condition.

Around 1790 the brothers Thomas and Daniel Trigg came down the Ohio River by flatboat to take possession of some land their father had recently acquired from the Hugh Mercer heirs. Finding the second half of their long trip from Pennsylvania quite harmonious as compared with the earlier stage of their journey, they called the place of their arrival Harmony Landing.⁵ By 1815 the Landing had acquired a store, two warehouses, several shops, and some forty residents, and had become a fairly prosperous river port. Its post office was established as Harmony Landing on January 1833 with William Duerson, Jr., postmaster.

In early January 1851, when George Gosney became postmaster, the office was moved 2½ (road) miles east to the new community of

Saltillo. The latter had been named by returning veterans of the Battle of Buena Vista for the north Mexican town near the battle site. But the post office was given the name Goshen for the local church that was organized in 1825 by the Rev. Gideon Blackburn⁶, and soon the community too became Goshen. Today Goshen, on US 42, 13½ miles west of LaGrange, still has its post office and church, and a store, and is across the road from the subdivision called Harmony Lake Estates.

Meanwhile, Harmony Landing continued as a river port into the 1920s, then declined to almost nothing till, in the mid 1960s, it experienced a revival. Now that area has boat building and maintenance shops, a Martin-Marietta plant, a sand and gravel operation, and several real estate developments like Harmony Village, named for the landing half a mile north.

The village of Skylight is 3½ miles northeast of Goshen, also on US 42. It was first called Tippecanoe, shortly after that famous battle, by early settlers who had served with General Harrison. On February 7, 1854 the local post office was established as Oldhamburgh, probably named for the county, with William Ladd, Jr., postmaster. It closed in late August 1870. When John Willis Barrackman sought to re-establish the office in 1888 he suggested it be called Ruby. But, instead, it operated between April 6 of that year and mid May 1925 as Skylight. According to local tradition, after several very dreary days the sun finally broke through the clouds prompting someone to observe "how light the sky is getting."

Just north of where we think Lynchburg would have been, near the site of the old Belle Rose School, was the shortlived post office

of Belle Rose. The office, served only by Thomas R. Hicks, Jr. from March 19, 1866 through April 1868, may have been named for W. Lindsay's stock farm shown on the 1879 Beers map as Bell Rose. (Or could it have been the other way around?) Some old maps show the school as being just north of the Eighteenmile Church.

Finally, there was the post office of Oldham, but this was not named for the county. William G. Foree established this office on March 30, 1880 to serve what was then called Oldham's Landing on the Ohio River, just below the mouth of Patton's Creek. The name source was probably A.J. Oldham, the resident owner. In 1907 the office was moved $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south to the mouth of Harris Branch of Eighteenmile Creek, some three road miles ene of Westport, where it continued to operate till 1939.

Six of Oldham County's twenty three post offices are current. LaGrange, Pewee Valley, and Crestwood serve three of the county's five incorporated places. The sixth class cities of River Bluff and Park Lake have no post offices of their own. Goshen, Westport, and Buckner coontinue to serve currently unincorporated communities. Only four other offices are known to have served villages in the past. Most of the rest were located at or near a store, school, and/or church.

Local or area people gave their names to nine offices while non-local celebrities accounted for two others. Three offices were given descriptive or geographic names. Two were named for distant places, and to four were transfered the names of nearby features (a grove, a church, a landing, and a farm). Four have unknown derivations.

Five offices have still not been located.

The names of two offices were not those first proposed for them. Two served communities with other names. Four had name-changes.

FOOTNOTES

1. Button is known to be buried in a small cemetery on US 42, just east of Smith's Lane.
2. Helen Fairleigh Giltner, Westport, Louisville, 1947.
3. Several mid 1820s court records referring to a Brownsville may have meant Brownsboro. By the late nineteenth century, postal and other records were spelling the name Brownsboro.
4. Lloyd's 1863 map locates a Hinkleville between the railroad and Curry's Fork, southeast of Brownsboro.
5. Wallace T. Hood of Prospect, Ky., in a letter to the writer, July 8, 1980.
6. George R. Stewart, in his American Place Names (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970, P. 184) wrote of the Biblical Goshen:
"The land which the Israelites inhabited in Egypt is described in the Bible chiefly as a country for sheep, though other products are also implied. On this scanty evidence, early Americans began to apply the name for commendatory reasons to places which they believed to have rich soil, or so wished others to believe...."

REFERENCES

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2. Giltner, Helen Fairleigh, Westport, Louisville, Ky. 1947
3. Gottbraith, Paul, "Early Days of Pewee Valley" The Oldham Era, October 14, 1976, P. 2C:1-8.
4. Hood, Wallace T., Prospect, Ky., letter to the writer, July 8, 1980.
5. Kentucky Ancestors, Vol. 13 (1), July 1977, P. 27 and Vol. 13 (3), January 1978, P. 122.
6. Klein, Theodore, Crestwood, Ky., interviewed by the writer, April 7, 1978.
7. Perrin, William H., etal., Kentucky: A History of the State, 6th Edition, Louisville: F.A. Battey, 1887.
8. Rennick, Robert M. Kentucky Place Names, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1984.
9. Rule, Lucien V. "The Towns and Villages of Oldham County" Chapter 27 of the Third Part of his Oldham County History, ca. 1922.
10. United States Post Office Department: Site Location Reports-- Oldham County Post Offices, National Archives (Washington, D.C.)

Augusta Owens
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POINTS OF INTEREST IN OLDHAM COUNTY AS MARKED ON MAP.

1. The home of Dr. Robert Morris, poet laureate of Free Masonry, also founder of the Order of Eastern Stars, which is now the Mecca Shrine of the Order.
2. Anita Springs - About one-half mile from LaGrange on the Louisville road. It is noted for the crystalline water and is an excellent place for an outing (Property now owned by Mr. J. W. Saph, County School Superintendent, Oldham County)
3. McCarty and Ricketts Mortuary - Is one of the outstanding places of its kind in Kentucky.
4. Pewee Valley Sanitarium and Hospital located seventeen miles northeast of Louisville, in the center of fifty acres of beautiful ground. It is on the main line of the L & N Railroad, and on State Road No. 22, one mile west of Pewee Valley.
5. The home of D. W. Griffith, noted film producer is located at LaGrange.
6. Anna Fellows Johnston's Home. Located in Pewee Valley, is a beautiful old southern home.
7. Green Field Country Golf Club. Located on Highway No. 42 between Skylight and Goshen. There is a beautiful golf course and the only one in Oldham county.
8. Hunting and Fishing Club at LaGrange city Lake.

9. Union Church at West Port, Kentucky. In 1830 the erection of a Court House was started and completed in 1831. West Port was selected as the second county seat of Oldham county. It was used until 1838 as a Court House, now being used as a Union Church.

Kentucky
MAY 29 1922

OLDHAM COUNTY HISTORY

THIRD PART.

CHAPTER. XXVII

Rule

THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF OLDHAM COUNTY.

In April, 1922, Mr. G. S. Morris, the Post Master at La-Grange, referred to us the following letter which he had received from the far West from William Gladstone Steel, an author and authority on "Place names covering every state in the Union, giving the origin and significance with reference to authorities quoted."

Dear Sir:-

Eugene Oregon.
April 14th. 1922.

"For many years I have been preparing a work on place names of the United States, their origin and significance, but Kentucky is not well represented, so I am trying to add materially to the list of names for that State. Will you help me? If you cannot give the desired information, will you kindly refer this letter to some one who can?"

"Can you tell me who bestowed these names, or any of them, when and why they were selected?"

Ballardsville
Brownsboro
Buckner
Camden
Crestwood
Glenarm
Goshen

La Grange
Harrod's Creek
Oldham
Pewee Valley
Skylight
Westport
Worth

"And any others that may occur to you."

Very sincerely,

Will G. Steel.

No doubt our good friend, Mr. Morris, felt sure that as the author of this County History we could supply the information as well as any one; and we have made an effort to do so; but we feel in turn that others who read these lines will have to come to our rescue and correct or supplement what we fail to give.

✓ Ballardsville is an old village taking its name from the Ballard family of Oldham county who settled in that community a century ago.

✓ Brownsboro is believed to be as old as Louisville. It was a trading post and fort when General George Rogers Clark occupied the fort at Louisville. In 1782 Kuykendall Station was established on the waters of Harrod's Creek in what was then Jefferson County. This was the first settlement at Brownsboro so far as history discloses. The site of the old fort is some distance from the present village; but this was the first settlement in Oldham county. The name Browne-boro, as far as it is possible to determine, ~~Brownsboro~~ was given to the village in honor of John Brown of Virginia who came to Kentucky in 1783. He was a contemporary of Captain William Harrod, who commanded the company from the garrison at Louisville sent out by General Clark in 1782 to establish the fort or "Station" on Harrod's Creek.

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This John Brown was prominent in the earliest Kentucky political affairs. He was a member of conventions, the Legislature, and was sent to Congress also. He was the son of a Presbyterian minister and his wife opened the first log-cabin Sunday School west of the Allegheny mountains. A monument to her stands in Frankfort cemetery near that of Daniel Boone. The village of Brownsboro was named some years after the fort was established, so far as we can learn from old records.

✓ Buckner Station was named from a family of Buckners who settled in that vicinity many years ago. It is one of the older Post Villages of the county and the family was a prominent one.

✓ Camden was originally called Rollington. We do not know how or when the name was given.

THE TOWN OF "WHISKERS"

✓ Crestwood has a story equal to anything in Josh Billings or Mark Twain. It was originally called Beard Station from a worthy and well known family of Beards who settled there long ago. It is said that the brakemen on the Louisville and Nashville railroad trains always sang out "Whiskers" whenever the next stop was Beard Station. The story goes that the local population stood this very well, having a keen sense of humor. But when city people began to make this point their summer residence and give to it a greater dignity, they lost realish for the joke and demanded a change. So Beard trimmed its whiskers for good and blossomed out as Crestwood. The gentleman who gave us this information is an authority on County History; and he added with a laugh that Crestwood is hardly at the crest of the gradual ascent of the wooded country round about. But it is a live and growing village and station.

✓ Glenarm was originally Brownsboro Station; and when a Post Office was established there the name was changed to Peru. We understand that a certain resident of the station, whose wife was a Canadian school teacher, had the name changed again to Glenarm for its more picturesque character.

✓ Goshen was first a Presbyterian church in the woods in 1825. The post office was for many years after at Harmony Landing on the Ohio three miles away. But a blacksmith shop and several dwelling houses were built around the church; and at the time of the Mexican War the name Saltillo was popular through the country; and when the post office was moved from Harmony Landing to Goshen the name was changed to Saltillo. Later on it was changed back to Goshen; or rather the name of the church was given to the post office and village.

✓ Floydsburg is a village dating far back with Brownsboro. It was named for Col. John Floyd a famous Indian fighter in Daniel Boone's day who lost his life as a defender of the white settlers. This town is more ancient looking than Brownsboro; and the history of Col. Floyd is one of the most romantic in Kentucky annals.

✓ LaGrange, the county seat, was named from the country residence of General LaFayette in 1824 during the visit of this famous man to Oldham county, when he called upon an old comrade in arms, Commodore Taylor, who lies buried on the Ohio River hills. LaGrange succeeded Westport as the county seat after an election in June, 1827. Col. William Taylor was the founder of LaGrange.

✓ Harrod's Creek is in Jefferson county, but is so close to the Oldham county line that it is almost like a village of the county. It was founded many years after the stream was named in honor of Captain William Harrod. It was first laid out as a rival of Louisville at the mouth of Harrod's Creek. Quite a town was anticipated and lots were sold, streets were named, and people prophesied a great future for the place. It was called Transylvania. It was right across from the thriving Indiana town of Utica, and at that time the greater stream of emigration from the South to the Northwest territory crossed the river at the mouth of Harrod's Creek, because these people dreaded the falls at Louisville. Louisville, however, came to the front and Transylvania vanished from the map. The village of Harrod's Creek grew up half a mile from the river and the founder of it was John Lentz, assisted chiefly by his son, Henry Lentz, who were Utica pioneers.

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Oldham is a landing on the Ohio above Westport. It was an old River Post Office like Westport and Harmony Landing. It still retains much of the good old quiet ways of life and hospitality far from the rushing, selfish world.

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Pewee Valley was established on the railroad 60 or 70 years ago, as far as we can learn. An old soldier at the Confederate Home says that he remembers when the town was an open field, and he is eighty odd years old. It was named for the sweet little singing bird Pewee. Prof. Kemp says there is a story to the effect that when the people were discussing what name to give their village, this little bird flew over them and they adopted the name. It is the most poetic town in Oldham county, being the home of several widely known poets and novelists. We have an impression that John J. Audubon, the naturalist, made many researches around this section of the forest long ago and wrote about this little bird species that gave the name to Pewee Valley.

HOW SKYLIGHT GOT ITS NAME.

✓ Skylight is a very old village and was named originally Tippecanoe in honor of William Henry Harrison in the campaign of 1840. Later on it was called Oldhamburg; and then many years after, the Post Master General settled quite a discussion by naming the place Skylight. Like the town of "Whiskers", this name has made a lot of fun for local humorists. The joke is that they are very high up; but, like the Irishman who lived at the top of a New York sky scraper, he told his friends, "Bedad, if you turn the house topsy turvy I'll be living on the first floor!"

✓ Westport is one of the oldest river towns on the Ohio. It was established far back in the early days of Brownsboro, and for many years of the last century was a promising rival of Louisville. It was the first county seat of Oldham county, in 1823, and only declined in importance when the railroads drew travel and traffic away from the river.

✓ Worth was originally called Centrefield. We do not know how old it is; but the old Mount Tabor Methodist church is located there. It is a quiet country community of the good old fashioned type.

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Prospect lies near the Oldham and Jefferson county line two miles above Harrod's Creek. It was originally called Sand Hill from a rather picturesque elevation at this point. The old Louisville, Harrod's Creek and Westport railway terminated at Sand Hill, although it was surveyed up the river bottom to Westport, and part of the work was done. It was to be extended to Cincinnati. But, instead, a narrow-gauge steam road was built with dinkey engine and coaches which ran to Sand Hill. This road was opened in 1876. The name Sand Hill was changed to Prospect some forty years ago by request of the Station Agent, Mr. Alex Wilhoite. It is now a very thriving little village, the terminus of an electric line from the city. When the Louisville and Nashville Railway leased the line to the city it was thought that another road from Cincinnati was trying to get into Louisville over this route.

About the year 1850 Harper Bros. of New York got out a big "Gazetteer", which gave every city, town, village and county in America and all the world. It was a wonderful book. We still have it. Westport is put down as the county seat of Oldham and LaGrange also. This confusion was because Westport still had the old court house. The Masonic College at LaGrange is mentioned as in a very flourishing state. In our boyhood we loved to get this old book down from the shelf and study it. We still use our copy. No doubt the work projected by Mr. Steel is one on like scale. It is surely a great undertaking and worthy of every assistance. We sincerely hope that every reader of this chapter will assist us and correct us in the names and facts and dates about the towns and villages of the county.

FAMILY REUNIONS AND COUNTY HISTORY.

Prof. Willis Kemp says that in Indiana the old custom of holding family reunions has held together the kinship of many households and the traditions of many a line of descent. This, says he, is of inestimable value to history because it preserves much that would otherwise not be cherished or kept alive. In Kentucky and the South pride of family in many places has prevented this ancient custom of great family gatherings such as are held in Indiana. The New-rich will not mingle with or welcome their poor kin.

(4)

He told the story of an old family in County History who were so proud that one member of it said she could smell a poor man through a stone wall. Of course a pride like this went before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall, as the scripture says. Time came when this family were scarcely able to hold body and soul together. It is needless to say that they never held any family re-unions where poor kin were likely to come around. Yet, on the other hand, Prof. Kemp says that the families of the new-rich who were common people to begin with have never cherished honorable and worthy family traditions as cultured people do; and the high-brow pedigree business is all a sham in their case.

Prof. Kemp says that County History necessarily and very naturally consists of old family tradition. Take the Clore family, whose history centers around Brownsboro. They are a large clan in Oldham County History. It is said that they came from an old community across the seas where an old village church was the center of their name and affections. Mr. Kemp says the Wilhoyses and other families were descended and emigrated in the same way from the same Motherland. We understand that six Clore brothers came from Virginia far back when the soldiers of Captain William Harrod were still holding the fort on Harrod's Creek. These brothers made it a rule each day to arise at dawn and stop for breakfast when they had killed game. They shot a bear on the spot where Second and Main streets, Louisville, now are. Then they moved on toward the upper country and settled around Brownsboro. From these six sturdy brothers came the large Clore connection of this county. Our good friend, Mr. Drane Clore, who gave us this story recently says that there is a Clore family book with the line of descent all the way down from that oversea village.

In closing this chapter, we wish to say that we have time and again asked our readers to furnish us with any valuable and worthy history enshrined in family annals or traditions. Prof. Kemp mentioned the Ballard family of LaGrange and Ballardsville as another household that deserves very high mention in County History. Some good folks have no doubt wondered if this County History will ever come to an end. To these we will say that our ambition and desire has been to discover and reveal every worthy tradition and individual deserving a place in the memory of coming generations. Prof. Kemp says this frothy age sets no store at all by the old traditions, customs and ideals. He declares that the rush and hurry of this age is like the Ohio at flood stage. It breaks over and washes away landmarks that we will mourn the loss of for years and years to come. Hence, says he, the task of setting in order and handing down these traditions is no thankless undertaking. We wish to say ourselves that the generous encouragement of the editor of the Era has been a very great factor by giving us space to publish these chapters. We know that many of them have been copied and quoted from here and there; and the Louisville Public Library recently told us through one of their leading workers that they grieved the fact that they have not the files of the Era since this History began. They spoke for a copy to be placed beside the famous County History of Muhlenberg County by Mr. Otto Rothert. So we desire to complete our task and dream of having it published during the centennial year of our County History.

The Louisville Public Library on May 22, 1922, sends us this message regarding our county history: "We have procured, through the Oldham County Era, copies of their publication containing your history of Oldham County. They were unable to supply several of the numbers and we thought you might be able to secure them for us. We have none before March 25, 1921. This issue contains the article "Oldham County History, Second Part, Madison Cawein's boyhood in Oldham". If you have copies of this paper prior to March 25, 1921 containing your history and also issues for April 22 and 29, 1921 we would like very much to receive them."

Oldham Co. communities

- *1. ~~(Balkardsville)~~ Brownsboro (dpo and com) (C) had been Kuykendall Sta.
- *2. Floydsburg (dpo and com) (C)
- *3. Goshen (po and com) had been Saltillo (C)
- *4. Harmony Landing (dpo)
- *5. LaGrange (co. seat) (C)
- *6. Westport (com. & po) had been Liberty (C)
7. Wheelers Store (dpo)
8. Allan Grove (dpo) (Ext. com)
9. ~~Camden (dpo)~~ had been Rollington (or Rowlington) X Rollington (com)
10. Centreburg (dpo) (dpo)
- *11. Worth (dpo) had been Centrefield (C) Centerfield (com)
12. Cloves Depot (dpo) had been Hinklesburg Clove (?)
13. Kelly's Landing (dpo)
- *14. Skylight (dpo) (C) had been Oldhamburg(h); before that Tippecanoe (com)
- *15. Pewee Valley (po and com) had been Smith's Sta. (C)
- *16. Crestwood (po and com) had been Beard's Sta. and then Beard (C)
- *17. Glenarm (dpo) had been Peru; before that Brownsboro Sta. X (com)
- *18. Buckner (dpo) had been Buckners Sta. (C) (com)
- *19. Oldham (dpo) (com)
- *20. Demplytown (com) (C)
21. Belle Rose (dpo)
- *22. Ballardsville (dpo and com) (C)
- 23. Belknap Beech Ngbr.
- 24. Cedar Point Ngbr.
- 25. Cooper Lane Ngbr.
- 26. Covington Ngbr.
- 27. Darby Creek Ngbr.
- 28. Deans Ngbr.
- 29. Eighteenmile Creek Ngbr.
- 30. Elder Park Ngbr.
31. Frazierstown (com) (C)
- 32. Green Haven Ngbr.
- *33. Harmony Village (com) X
- 34. Hebron Ridge Ngbr.
- 35. Ky. State Prison Farm Ngbr.
- 36. Liberty Ngbr.
37. Liro (com)
- 38. Mallory Ngbr.
- 39. Moody Land Ngbr.
- 40. Rose Island Ngbr.
- 41. Shrader Lane Ngbr.
- 42. Smithfield Rd. Ngbr.
- 43. Worthington Ngbr.
- 44. Zion Ngbr.
45. Alpine (com)
46. Amber (com)
47. Anglin Springs (com)
48. Breevy Hill (com)
49. Fair Oaks (com)
50. Fox (com)
51. Huston (com)
52. Kendrick (com)
53. Kenwood (com)
54. Larne (com)
55. Leet (com)
56. Locust Ridge (com)
- * 57. Magnesia Springs (com) X
58. Muir (com)

59. Oldhams Landing (com)
60. Powell (com)
61. Rosemont (com)
62. Royal (com)
63. Rugby (com)
64. Stackhouse (com)
65. Staplehurst (com)
66. Vaden (com)
67. Wasson (com)
- *68. West Pewee Valley (com)
69. Wooldridge (com)
- *70. Lake Louisville (ngbr)
- *71. Camden (DPO, ext. com)

① = sample
x = reserves

ref. co. = 12
ngbr = 19 (excl.)

NT = 50