THE POST OFFICES OF ROWAN COUNTY

Rowan became Kentucky's 104th county when it was created by the legislature on January 19, 1856 from parts of Fleming and Morgan Counties. It was named for John Rowan (1773-1843), a Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals and later (1825-1831) a U.S. Senator.

The 282 square miles of Rowan County are drained by the Licking River, its western border with Bath and Menifee Counties, and two main tributaries--Triplett Creek, which extends through most of its central section, and North Fork and its branches, which separate Rowan from its southern neighbor, Morgan County. Triplett's main tributaries--its own North Fork, and Dry and Christy Creeks--figured prominently in Rowan's early history and development. By the late 1830s the county's first permanent residents had settled Revolutionary War grants along these streams.

The county's first significant development came with the completion of the Elizabethtown Lexington and Big Sandy (now the C&O) Railroad in the early 1880s. This and the opening of several spur lines provided needed shipping outlets for the products of the area's earliest economic activities--the exploitation of its extractive resources--timber, clay, and stone. In 1974 the U.S. Corps of Engineers completed an impoundment of the Licking River, creating the 8,270 acre Cave Run Lake as a key tourist attraction. The U.S. Census, in 1995, counted some 21,506 Rowan County residents.

Morehead, sixty five road miles east of downtown Lexington, is the county's centrally located seat and largest town. Most of the forty post offices described in this chapter will be located by road miles from Morehead's office.
Little is known of Morehead's early history. Until it was established as the county's seat by the same legislative act that created the county, there were at this site only a couple of houses and Jake Wilson's sawmill. Yet as early as April 1817 the site had its own post office called Triplett for the local stream. Jacob Powers and several members of his family were its first postmasters. When the town became Morehead in 1856 its office too took that name. John Hargis operated the office in his combination store and saloon next to the new court house. Though Kentucky's governor then was Charles S. Morehead, the town was actually named for his cousin, an earlier governor (1834-1836) and later U.S. Senator (1841-1847) James Turner Morehead. The town was incorporated on January 26, 1869.

Morehead's development as a town came in the 1880s with the completion of the railroad. Timber was shipped from all parts of the county and its neighbors to local sawmills and stave and spoke factories. By the turn of the century the town had also become the principal trade center between Mount Sterling and Ashland. Morehead is now a fourth class city with a 1990 population of some 8,400. Its principal employers are Morehead State University (with an enrollment of 9,700) and St. Claire Medical Center. It has also been, for some time, the state's largest producer of wood veneer products. A clothing factory and a ballbearing plant furnish additional employment.

One of the first Licking River mills to give its name to a town and post office was Gill's Mills. This was a family enterprise established around 1809 by South Carolina-born Samuel Criswell Gill (died 1854). It was on the west side of the river, just north of
the future Yale, and only half a mile northwest of the junction of Bath, Menifee, and Rowan Counties. To this water-powered grist mill was later added a sawmill that was to make the area a major supplier of lumber products to the Cincinnati market for over a hundred years. The post office of Gill's Mills was established here (on the Bath County side of the river) on September 11, 1832 with Thompson L. Parks, postmaster. He was soon succeeded by Gill's sons Harrison and Marcus and later by William M. Ragland, whose family name was to be applied in the late 1860s to another post office, in Bath County, a mile north.

In April 1866 the Gill's Mills post office was moved across the river to a site in Rowan County half a mile east of the river and a mile south of Scotts Creek (that is, six miles south of Farmers via the present Ky 801). Within ten years it was serving a good sized town of some 500 residents with grist and woolen mills, a distillery, a wagonworks, at least two stores, and other businesses. The town was even incorporated in 1869. But its success was shortlived. The post office closed in April 1881. Both this and Gill's Mills' original Bath County site are now in Cave Run Lake.

It has been said that Rowan County's first settlement of any consequence was not at what became Morehead but at or near the present Farmers. But like Morehead's, its early history is not known. The first settlers may have built their homes in the 1830s somewhere south and east of the mouth of Triplett Creek. They are known to have been served by James Hunt's Licking post office on Triplett, just below the mouth of that stream's North Fork, between January 5, 1837 and early April 1839.
Shortly thereafter, a mile or so down Tripltt, a Major James M. Brain, (ne ca. 1810) opened a tavern at the junction of two main roads that gave rise to a community that came to be known as Farmer's Cross Roads or simply The Cross Roads. On August 28, 1849 the Farmer's post office was established at this place with John M. Zimmerman, postmaster.

Sometime after the Civil War, this community was known by several names--Licking City, Farmer's, Cross Roads, and Confederate Crossroads. It was incorporated on April 23, 1873 as Confederate City, though the following year Collins' history identified the town (with a sawmill, tavern, three stores, and some 300 residents) as Crossroads. An 1876 gazetteer gave its name as Farmers with several stores, a hotel, cabinet makers, a wagonmaker, and other businesses. On April 15, 1862 the state legislature officially sanctioned the Farmers name, and this it has been ever since.

No one knows why it was called Farmers. Its earliest spelling with an 's offers no clue. The mid nineteenth century area censuses show no families of this name, but one can't rule out local agriculturalists as its source.

With the arrival of the EL & BS Railroad in the early 1880s, Farmers became a key lumber town with several sawmills and a rail shipping point for their products. Until its boom busted with the depletion of the area's timber shortly after the turn of the century, Farmers was the county's largest town.

Farmers is still a village centering at its school and post office near the junction of U.S. 60 and Ky 801, half a mile from the river, and 7½ miles wsw of Morehead. Its several local businesses
now cater to the nearby Cave Run Lake tourist trade.

The first of the two Rowan County post offices to be established across Licking's North Fork in Morgan County was Bangor. At the mouth of North Fork, this was probably the site of the abortive Knowlesburg, which Maine-born Harrison Knowles and his fellow sawmill operators had succeeded in getting the legislature to incorporate on March 18, 1871. John J. Cassity, a grist mill operator, had established here, on June 22, 1868, the Bangor post office which he probably named for Knowles' hometown. By the early 1880s Cassidy was still running his mill and the post office, Maine-born C.H. Whitcomb was managing the Licking River Lumber and Mining Company, and at least two other local mills were in operation. In May 1889 Sanford A. Day moved the Bangor post office a mile north into Rowan County. It was again moved, in 1897, to a site just north of the North Fork that is now in Cave Run Lake. The office closed in 1960. Bangor is now shown on current maps on Rt. 1274, less than 1½ miles north of the river, and 12½ miles south of Morehead.

Pine Springs is said to have been a fairly important settlement on Triplett's North Fork in the last third of the nineteenth century. At least Collins' 1874 history and other contemporary records report that a place with this name had a sawmill, at least three flour mills, a couple of stores, a shingle factory, two churches, an M.D., a post office, and some 150 residents. But while this community and its post office are said to have been at several sites along this Triplett Branch, these have not been precisely located.

The Pine Springs post office was established on June 29, 1869 by storekeeper L.B. Heflin. He was succeeded in November 1876 by
Fielding B. Ham (who, four years later, was to establish another post office called Triplet), and the community it served, ten miles northeast of Morehead, was then known as Pine Grove. According to Ham's Site Location Report for Triplet, Pine Springs was five miles west of his new office. But an 1881 record places Pine Springs near Island Fork, a stream joining Rock Fork four miles from Triplet's North Fork, at the site of the future Waltz post office. Some late nineteenth century maps also place Pine Springs some distance north of the main stream. (But we must bear in mind that the name of a main stream, in those days, was often applied to other streams in its watershed.) Wherever it then was located, the post office closed in early September 1895 and has since been almost forgotten.  

The shortlived Blue Bank post office was located where the present I-64 crosses the Licking River, a mile west of the future Ramey post office, and twelve miles west of Morehead. It was operated solely by John W. Morgan from July 31, 1871 through January 1874. T.W. Razor's attempt to reopen it as Bluebank in November 1901 failed, and the area's postal needs were then handled by nearby Ramey. Like the Bluebank area south of Flemingsburg, it may have been named for the local slate-like blue-gray soil. The Bluebank name survives in that of a stream and Rowan County in the local church on the Bluebank-Ramey School Road, just east of Rt. 1722.

The extant village of Elliottville with school, stores, and an active post office extends for a mile along Ky 32, at the head of Christy Creek, and ten miles east of Morehead. It may first have been called Hoggetown (which continued to be applied as a nickname till at least the First World War) for the vicinity had first been
settled around 1870 by Squire and James Hogge, the first storekeepers. The post office, established on September 12, 1876 with John P. Huff, postmaster, was inexplicably named Elliottville, which name it has borne ever since. Yet, on April 9, 1878, one of the three local storekeepers Charles A. Ward had the town incorporated as Bristow.

Bristow's source also remains unknown. One may merely guess that it honored Benjamin Helm Bristow (1832-1896), the Elkton, Ky. native, who had served briefly in the State Senate during the Civil War, was the country's first Solicitor General, a U.S. Treasury Secretary (1874-76), and an unsuccessful candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 1876. He was later to serve as legal advisor to several major U.S. businesses, including the L&N Railroad, and was a co-founder of the American Bar Association.3

Another Rowan post office neither recalled, precisely located, nor explained was Queen City. However, in his Site Location Report, Delaney Bolling, the first of its two postmasters, pointed out that the office would be on the east side of Triplett's North Fork, 3 3/4 miles west of Morehead. It served Robert Nickell's saw and grist mill between April, 1878 and late May 1884.

In the late 1860s William W. Phillips was operating the Cassity's Mills post office on the Morgan County side of Licking's North Fork, just above the mouth of Yocum Creek. Between April 30, 1879 and July 1880 he was operating a post office called Popping Hill on the Rowan County side of the Fork, across from and just below the mouth of Yocum. On April 14, 1882 a storekeeper, David Myers, re-established that area's post office, but instead of his preferred name Martin he called it Paragon [pärəm/ə/ghən]. In November 1884 a Morgan County
miller, William C. Brown, had the office, still as Paragon, moved across the Fork to Morgan County. Here it stayed at the mouth of Yocum till July 1908 when it returned to Rowan County to serve the local station on the newly completed Morehead and North Fork Railroad, some 10½ miles south of Morehead. The office survived by eight years the railroad's abandonment in 1933.

The names Popping Hill and Paragon have not been derived. Since the former had been applied to the landmark elevation east of the present Ky 519 and the Lower Lick Fork at least by the late 1870s, the story of a rock on the hill popping during the construction of the 275 foot railroad tunnel nearly thirty years later cannot be considered its derivation. ⁴

On Triplett's North Fork, probably at the mouth of Holley Fork, Fielding B. Ham, on February 24, 1880, established the Triplet (sic) post office. ⁵ Here he served two stores and a steam-powered mill till the summer of 1892 when John W. Shumate moved the office 1½ miles south to serve the community of Locust Grove. In June 1926 the office was again moved, one mile east, to a site a mile south of Holley. It was moved four more times over the next half dozen years before ending back where it began, and closed in 1941. Today Triplet is a store at the junction of Ky 377 and 799, eleven miles north of Morehead. The Triplett Creeks may have been named for pioneer landowner William Triplett.

All of the several sites of the Cogswell post office are also now in the waters of Cave Run Lake. This office, always in the vicinity of Scotts Creek, a Licking River tributary, was established on July 22, 1881 by Fielding Alfrey and was soon serving at least
two stores and one or more mills. When it closed in 1951 it was just east of Ky 801, six miles southeast of Farmers. Scotts Creek was settled in the 1850s by several related Cogswell families, probably descended from Jedediah Cogswell (ca. 1765 to sometime after 1850). Another of his descendants, William P. Cogswell, served as postmaster in 1906.

Eadston was the first of Rowan's post offices that owed their existence to the Elizabethtown Lexington and Big Sandy (later C&O) Railroad. It was established on October 23, 1882, with Jessa Stout, its first postmaster, to serve the new Gates Station, five miles northeast of Morehead. By 1930 it had been moved about a mile east to Hays Station. Till it closed in 1941 this office, always Eadston, moved between the two stations.

On most current maps Eadston is associated with the stringtown community of Gates that extends for about 1½ miles along US 60, east from its junction with Ky 799. Hays Station, centering at the junction of US 60 and 174, was part of a large area settled in the early nineteenth century by the Richards family and acquired from them around 1860 by John Wesley Hays, a Letcher County native. Before the arrival of the railroad that area may have been called Highland Point. Gates probably honored local landowner Augustus Gates, but the origin of Eadston remains unknown.

In the 1880s, some six miles west of Morehead and just north of the newly completed EL & BS Railroad, the Cushman Stone Company located two quarries which they called Freestone and Bluestone. These names referred to a kind of sandstone that became popular as a building material in the late nineteenth and early twentieth
centuries. The stone may be characterized as fine-grained and even-
textured, of medium hardness, gray and bluish in color, and compara-
tively easy to cut in all directions without splitting or shattering.

On April 16, 1883 Henry F. Martin, the superintendent of one
of the quarries, opened the Freestone post office at the Freestone
Station just below the mouth of Triplett Creek's North Fork. In
July 1897 this office, still called Freestone, was moved three-fourths
of a mile east to serve what by then was called Rockville Station.
On April 17 1920 this office was renamed Bluestone, and shortly
thereafter Rockville Station took the Bluestone name. With the
increased use of limestone and concrete for building purposes by
the early 1930s, local production of freestone and bluestone all
but came to an end. Bluestone lost its post office in 1960 and
today it and Lakeview Heights, its incorporated neighbor on the hill
above it, are residential suburbs of Morehead.\textsuperscript{9}

Somewhere in the vicinity of the present Ky 32, some four miles
east of Elliottville and two miles west of Ordinary (in Elliott
County), was the Fraley post office. Postmaster-designate John M.
Cornett's proposed name Spruce was already in use as Spruceville
in Whitley County, so he named his new office for one or more area
families. It operated from January 26, 1888 through 1913.

Two more post offices in the North Fork of Triplett watershed
have not been precisely located. The first, Munson operated from
February 25, 1888 through November 1914. According to the Site
Location Report of its postmaster-designate Fantley R. Muse, it was
to be one-fourth of a mile west of Clear Fork and four miles southwest
of the Pine Springs post office. Though he doesn't indicate where
on Clear Fork it was located, it is shown on early twentieth century published maps at or near the junction of an unidentified stream and the North Fork itself. Yet when the Cranston post office was established in 1902 (see below), Munson was 2 1/2 miles west of (that is, down the Fork from) Cranston, and here it has been shown on subsequent maps.

Now to confuse matters more, Munson was the preferred name for another post office that Henry C. Caudill operated from August 22, 1919 through 1925. This, however, was given the name Newway and, according to Caudill's Site Location Report, it would be somewhere on the east side of Clear Fork, three (road) miles from Cranston, and four (road) miles from Waltz.

The Munson and Newway names have not been explained. Neither have Auburn and Arlington, two other names proposed for the Munson office.

Several homes and businesses now occupy the site of an old sawmill town centered at the junction of US 60 and Ky 32 at the eastern edge of Morehead. The mill and town were founded around 1880 by the New York State-based Hixson-Rodbourn Lumber Company to process timber brought in from the Clear Fork area in the vicinity of the future Cranston. With the arrival of the railroad in the 1880s a station called Martin's Switch began to receive the timber directed to the local mill. To serve his company's operations Amos Hixson established the Rodbourn post office on July 3, 1888. Several years later the company sold out to another New York firm, but in the late 1890s a series of fires, which may have been deliberately set, destroyed most of the original buildings. The post office closed in late January
1922. By this time, two C&O stations were serving this vicinity now called Redburn: East Redburn (later simply Redburn), just above the mouth of Martins Branch (now Redburn Hollow), and West Redburn (later Christy), 0.9 miles west, at the junction of the short-lived Christy Creek Railroad.

Minor Creek, which heads a couple of miles south of Elliottville and joins Craney Creek some 7½ miles southwest, may have given its name to the Minor post office. This office was established on the ridge just east of the creek on May 15, 1890 with William R. Wells, postmaster. By 1941, when it closed, it was on the present Ky 173, 4½ miles south of Elliottville.

The origin of the creek’s name is still in question. It was identified as Miner’s Creek on land records and surveys by the late 1830s and given as Miner’s Fork on some mid-nineteenth century eastern Kentucky coalfield maps. According to Collins’ history (1874), twelve inch thick seams of coal were being mined along that stream. So could Minors Creek have originally been Miners? No antebellum Censuses list any Minor families in that area.

One of Kentucky’s four Pekin post offices served a section of Triplett’s North Fork between May 27, 1891 and mid July of the following year. Postmaster John G. Evans’ preferred name Dallas was already in use in Pulaski County. Pekin’s location can only be approximated, as 3½ road miles east of the Pine Springs post office and 4½ road miles west of the Triplet post office. This makes sense if Pine Springs was the forerunner of Waltz (see above), though it would then have been much closer to Triplet. The reasons for Dallas and Pekin have not been legated, and few Rowan Countians are even aware
that such an office ever existed.

The same can be said of an office called Dry that, according to postal records, was operated by John Kelly between October 5, 1892 and June 21, 1895. But no Site Location Reports for it are available, and it has never been located. Nor has its name been explained.

One of Rowan County's Waggoner families may have given its name to the Wagner post office. This was established on Craney Creek on April 2, 1894 by Samuel B. Caudill whose first name preference was Craney. In 1911 George Fultz had the office moved northeast to what is now Ky 1167, four miles south of Elliottville, where it closed in 1933.

Somewhere on the lower end of Dry Creek Joel H. DeBord established the Debord post office on April 2, 1894. According to his Site Location Report, this was 2 1/2 road miles southeast of Morehead. In the fall of 1899 a successor, Howard M. Turner, moved the office three-fourths of a mile west, but it closed the following October. An attempt by John M. DeBord to re-establish the office as Dry Creek in July 1903 was unsuccessful. Since 1908 the Clearfield post office has served this area.

Rowan County's short-lived (June 4, 1894 to September 1895) Clayton post office is not to be confused with the longer-lived (1907-1932) Clayton post office in neighboring Elliott County. With its postmasters Aaron McRoberts and William M. Bell, the Rowan County office served a small village of some fifty residents somewhere between Munson and Pine Springs, and twelve miles from Morehead. One or both of two Rowan County businessmen could have been its name
source: George Clayton (1844-1916), a Farmers area merchant, or C.L. Clayton (1866-1911) who, at his death, was mayor of Morehead and the president of its local bank.

The Hilda post office was at several sites on Little Brushy Creek from June 30, 1897 through June 1943. According to an account by Iva J. Manning, her mother Alice, the twenty year old daughter of local mail carrier James Thompson, suggested Hilda for a character in a book she was then reading. Mattie M. Howard, the first postmaster, was succeeded by Alice's brother-in-law, the local storekeeper John Ed Johnson, and later (1933) by Alice herself. When the office closed it was at the junction of the present Ky 32 and Bull Fork Road, seven miles northwest of Morehead.

An obvious Biblical name was given to the Rowan County post office of Mizpah. One of three such named offices in the U.S., Rowan's was probably on the road between Brinegar and Christy Creek, nearly four miles southwest of the former and a mile north of the latter (as road miles went in those days), half an air mile from the Carter County line, and three miles northwest of Elliottville. The office operated from August 5, 1897 through June 1905 with William Patton the first of its three postmasters. Mizpah is Hebrew for watchtower and referred to several Holy Land places. It was derived from the lines in Genesis 31:49--"The Lord watches between me and thee when we are absent one from another."

The inexplicably named Crix post office was established on February 11, 1899, probably on the present Rt. 1167, half a mile south of the Oak Grove Church. Robert Arnold was its first postmaster. In 1914 Jesse H. Cornett had the office moved two air miles west
to a site on Dry Creek, in the vicinity of the Dry Creek Church, some five miles ese of Morehead, where it closed in 1933.

Christy was another creek that gave its name to a post office on its banks. The stream, heading just above Elliottville, is said to have been named for a Bill Christy who owned all of it early in the nineteenth century. Or it may have been named for James Christy who owned over 900 acres on the lower end of the creek and 200 more acres on Triplett which the creek joins just south of Rodburn. The post office was established on April 5, 1899, 3½ miles east of Rodburn, probably at the mouth of Moore Branch, with Malissie F. Bradley, postmaster. It moved one mile east the following year, to a site 4½ miles west of Elliottville, and moved again, in 1917, to serve the short-lived Christy Station on the Christy Creek Railroad, just below the mouth of Old House Creek. When it closed in 1941 the office was about back where it started. This Christy Station and its post office must be distinguished from the Christy Station on the C&O just below Rodburn.

Midway between Christy and Elliottville was the post office and rail station of Vale. The office was established by George W. Bruce on January 29, 1903, and might have been called Needmore if that name had not already in use in Mason County. This office also closed in 1941. Whence Vail is not known.

Storekeeper John H. Ramey gave his family’s name to the Ramey post office he established on October 14, 1901, one-fourth of a mile up Three Lick Creek from the Licking River. From 1909, after several moves, till it closed in 1932, the office was 1½ miles up Bluebank Branch, just north of the present I-64, one air mile from its Rt.
801 interchange, and two air miles southeast of its original location.

Cranston, at the mouth of Clear Fork of Triplett's North Fork, might have been called Arch if that name had not already been in use in Hardin County. The Rowan office was established on August 28, 1902 with Belford B. Ham, postmaster. From 1939 till it closed in 1975 it was on Ky 377, 9 1/2 miles north of Morehead. Its name source is not known. There were no Rowan families of that name. But one can't rule out the Rhode Island city.

At or near the mouth of Island Fork of Rock Fork, another of Triplett's North Fork tributaries, was the Waltz post office. It was named for the family of its first two postmasters, Dawson M. and George Waltz, the sons of John L. Waltz, a Clear Fork resident. The office operated, five miles north of Cranston, between December 26, 1906 and 1941.

Little remains of the once prosperous company town of Haldeman that extended almost a mile west along Ky 174 and the C&O tracks from the head of Triplett Creek, just short of the Carter County line, to a point 1 1/2 miles from Hays Crossing, 7 1/2 miles northeast of Morehead. Around 1907 Ohioan L.P. Haldeman founded his namesake to accommodate the workers of the Kentucky Firebrick Company that he established there the year before to produce bricks from area clay deposits. The brickyard, later acquired by General Refractories, closed in 1951. The Haldeman post office, established on February 12, 1907, with David Leadbetter, postmaster, closed in the early 1990s.

Another one-time company town but now a Morehead suburban village with active post office is Clearfield. It extends on both sides of
Ky 519, roughly from the foot of Clack Mountain three miles to Triplett Creek at Morehead's south central city limits. In 1905, near the site of Dixon Clack's early nineteenth century water-powered sawmill and store on Dry Creek, the Clearfield Lumber Company of Clearfield, Pennsylvania established a sawmill and the dispatch point and northern terminus of its Morehead and North Fork Railroad to receive timber and coal shipments from its extensive holdings in south Rowan and northern Morgan Counties. Blaine Fulton became the first postmaster of Clearfield on August 4, 1908.

With the depletion of the area's timber, the Clearfield Lumber Company ceased operations in 1922, and its mill, acquired by the Lee Clay Products Company, was converted to the production of clay sewer tile and chimney pipe. In 1933, when area coal was no longer in sufficient supply to warrant continued hauling to Morehead for shipment on the C&O Railroad, all but four miles of the M&NF was abandoned. These four miles continued till the 1970s to carry fire clay mined in Clack Mountain to the Lee Clay plant.

Inexplicable was the name applied, at least since the 1830s, to the North Fork (of Licking) tributary of Craney Creek. Just below the mouth of this stream, and four miles above Paragon, was the M&NF Railroad station and post office of Craney. The office, with U.G. Blair, its first postmaster, operated between February 2, 1910 and 1941.

Rowan County had two post offices—Smile and Grin—whose names in combination have evoked much mirth for "odd name" fanciers. According to tradition, local residents smiled when they learned that the application for a post office to serve Caudill's store had
been approved. Lyda J. Caudill was the first of several postmasters, between September 12, 1913 and 1975, to serve the office at several sites on Ky 785 and North Fork of Triplett's Big Brushy Creek, eight miles nw of Morehead.

**Grin**, 5½ miles south of Smile, operated between July 14, 1920 and mid November of the following year probably in the vicinity of the present Pine Crest Shopping Center, where Ky 32 meets I-64. John W. Barber, its only postmaster, whose first name choice was his family's name, placed the office, in his Site Location Report, half a mile east of Triplett's North Fork, three miles northwest of the Morehead post office, and three miles south of Hilda. But he didn't say, nor has anyone else, why it was named Grin.

Then there was the short-lived post office of **Longway** whose name was possibly suggested by the Elliott County office of Sideway, a mile or so north. **Longway**, serving the Sand Gap community from July 20, 1916 through September 1917, would have been called **Jones** probably for the family of postmaster Russell Jones. According to Jones' predecessor, William Waggoner, the office was 3½ miles northwest of Ordinary and four miles north of Elliott County's Clayton. The Sideway name, incidentally, was but a reversal of Wayside, the name first proposed for this office but found, in 1912, already in use in Kentucky.¹⁰

**Rushie Martt** proposed his family's name for an office on Craney Creek, just above the mouth of Slabcamp. But it opened, on June 21, 1928, as **Hamn**, probably for an area family. The office moved several times: first, in 1939, to Wagners Fork (of Craney), a couple of miles north. Then, in 1948, it moved another 1½ miles north, but
in the following year it returned to its Wagners Fork site on the present Rt. 1167, nine miles ese of Morehead, where it closed in 1955.

Rowan's last post office to be established was Pelfrey on Upper Lick Fork, three miles north of its confluence with Licking's North Fork, and seven miles ese of Morehead. Upper Lick was postmaster Mary Terrell's first name preference. The office, operated by Mrs. Terrell and several other family members between 1932 and 1951, was named for a family probably descended from Amos Pelfrey, an early Christy Creek landowner.

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Of Rowan's forty post offices, only four (Morehead, Farmers, Clearfield, and Elliottville) survive. The county's two incorporated places—Morehead and Lakeview Heights—are served by Morehead's office. At least eight discontinued offices served once active villages. Fourteen offices had names that were not those first proposed for them. Eight served communities with other names. Two had name-changes.

Ten post offices were named for local or area people, while Morehead was named for a Kentucky governor. Four were named for distant places and six were given the names of nearby features (five streams and a mill). Three names were descriptive, one referred to a local business, and another had a literary origin. One may have been suggested by the name of a nearby post office, and another may have been inspired by a local joke. The sources of twelve office names are not known. Five offices (in Triplett's North Fork area) have not been precisely located.
1. George R. Stewart, in his *American Place Names* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970, P. 34), questioned Ralph Waldo Emerson's half-jocular attribution of the name of Maine's Bangor to an old hymn tune. According to Stewart, it was probably named for towns in Wales or (Northern) Ireland. He also stated that Pennsylvania's Bangor had been named by a Welshman for the Welsh town that was, like it, the center of an important slate quarrying operation.

2. The Pine Grove name, also applied to the late nineteenth century magisterial district, is now that of a mission on the northwest side of Ky 377, midway between the mouth of Rock Fork and the present Triplet.

3. Ross A. Webb, *Benjamin Helm Bristow: Border State Politician*, Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1967. There being a Bristow Station and then a Bristow post office in Warren County, Kentucky may have precluded a Rowan County post office of this name.

4. Indiana also had a Paragon, in its Morgan County, whose post office was established in 1868. Great things are said to have been expected of this place though they never happened.

5. Ham's first preference for what became the Triplet post office was Holley (sic) for the stream at whose mouth he had probably located it.

6. In railroad records and some maps derived from them the station name was incorrectly spelled Hayes, while on the 15 minute Morehead topographic map of 1935, a community called Hayes is
shown half a mile east of the 60/174 junction.

7. The sixth class city of Lakeview Heights, Rowan's only other incorporated place, had a 1990 population of 250.

8. Letters from Iva J. Manning of Morehead to the writer, June 5 and September 1, 1969.

9. The other Mizpahs are in north central Minnesota and Atlantic County, New Jersey.


REFERENCES

1. Birchfield, Bessie, Towns and Villages of Rowan County, W.P.A. manuscript in the Kentucky State Library and Archives, Frankfort.


5. Powers, J.H. manuscript history of Rowan County, n.d., in the Kentucky and Appalachian Collection of the Morehead State University Library.


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

1. TRIPLETT est. in Fleming Co. on or before 11/8/1828, Henry L. Powers; 5/6/1835, John R. Powers... 8/22/1848, F. Powers; changed to Morehead (C.H.) when Rowan Co. est. 7/22/1856, John Hargis; 9/8/1857, James H. Hargis.... 10/2/1872, James W. Johnson; Disc. 6/20/1873; Re-est. 7/22/1873, Harrison G. Burns; 10/23/1874, Cyrus Alley....

2. GILLS MILLS est. in Bath Co. on or before 9/11/1832, Thompson L. Parks; 11/21/1836, Harrison Gill; 5/11/1842, Marcus Gill... 2/14/1855, Wm. M. Ragland; Disc. 9/20/1859; Re-est. 1/20/1860, Oliver P. Maxey; 5/30/1862, Wm. M. Ragland; Disc. 7/31/1863; Re-est. 9/23/1865, Wm. M. Ragland; Re-est. in Rowan Co. 4/2/1866, Charles F. Brown; 4/3/1867, Jonathan M. Lewis... 1/5/1877, Newton Johnson; Disc. 4/28/1881;

3. FARMER'S - est. in Fleming Co. 8/28/1849, John B. Zimmerman; 1/22/1857, Thomas J. Thomas; (by now in Rowan Co.); 9/18/1857, Joshua M. Carey...(by now the p.o. name had lost its apostrophe);

4. BLUE ROCK- 9/3/1861, Wm. H.H. Garvin; Disc. 10/10/1863; Re-est. 2/9/1864 in Carter Co.; Disc. 11/30/1865;

5. BANGOR- est. in Morgan Co. 6/22/1868, John J. Cassity; 3/1/1875, Christopher C. Hagemeyer... (into Rowan Co. on or before 6/28/1891); 6/28/1891, Sanford A. Day; 2/8/1906, Wm. Martin.... Disc. 1960.

6. PINE SPRINGS- 6/29/1869, L.B. Heflin; 11/28/1876, Fielding B. Ham (sic)... 11/11/1892, Daniel W. Clark; changed to Pinesprings, 2/28/1895, Wyman Blanton; 4/20/1895, James Henderson; Disc. 9/4/1895 (mail to Munson);

7. BLUE BANKE (sic)- 7/31/1871, John W. Morgan; Disc. 1/28/1874;

8. ELLIOTTVILLE- 9/12/1876, John P. Huff; 4/24/1877, Will P. Ward...

9. QUEEN CITY- 4/11/1878, Delaney Bolling; 11/15/1882, Wm. Fowles; Disc. 5/28/1884 (papers to Morehead);

ELLIS P.O. etc 7/4/1817, Jacob Powers
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<td>6/30/1906, Bert McKinney</td>
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<td>1/26/1888</td>
<td>John M. Cornett</td>
<td>10/17/1893, Benjamin F.</td>
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<td>12/26/1889, Hiram D.</td>
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<td>Amos S. Hixson</td>
<td>2/17/1894, Henry G.</td>
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<td>1/31/1922 (mail to Eadston)</td>
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<td>Minor</td>
<td>5/15/1890</td>
<td>Wm. R. Wells</td>
<td>11/28/1905, Green Wilson</td>
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ROWAN COUNTY POST OFFICES (3)

20. PEKIN- 5/27/1891, John G. Evans; 3/17/1892, Annie Flank; Disc. 7/15/1892;

21. IBY- 10/5/1892, John Kelly; Disc. 6/21/1895 (no papers sent);

22. WAGNER- 4/2/1894, Samuel B. Caudill; 4/26/1898, Abel Caudill....
   Disc. 1932

23. DEBORD (sic)- 4/2/1894, Joel H. DeBord (sic); 4/19/1899, Joseph G. Williams; 10/21/1899, Howard M. Turner; Disc. 10/3/1900, effective 10/15/1900 (papers to Morehead);

24. CLAYTON- 6/4/1894, Aaron McRoberts; 2/8/1895, Wm. M. Ball; Disc. 9/13/1895 (papers to Muses Mills, Fleming Co.);

25. HILDA- 6/30/1897, Mattie M. Howard; 4/19/1899, John E. Johnson;
   Disc. 1943

26. MIZPAH- 8/5/1897, Wm. Patton; 5/15/1900, Henry R. Johnson; 6/21/1900, Rebecca J. Harris; Disc. 6/6/1905, effective 6/30/1905 (mail to Elliottville);

27. CRIX- 2/11/1899, Robert Arnold; 6/1/1903, Jesse H. Cornett; Disc. 3/20/1905, effective 4/15/1905 (mail to Wagner); Re-est. 12/22/1906, Wesley Cox; 4/15/1914 Elijah K. Warren....
   Disc. 1932

   Disc. 1941

29. RAMEY- 10/14/1901, John H. Ramey; 12/29/1903, Wm. F. Prater....
   Disc. 1932

30. BLUEBANK- 11/1/1901, T.W. Razor, order rescinded 12/6/1901;
31. CRANSTON - 7/17/1902, James A. Littleton, declined; 8/28/1902, Belford P. Ham; 12/11/1906, Nellie A. Littleton...
   Disc. 1975

32. VALE - 1/29/1903, George W. Bruce; 5/9/1911, Jesse Adams...
   Disc. 1949

33. DRY CREEK - 7/27/1903, John M. Debord (sic), order rescinded 4/21/1904;

34. WALTZ - 12/26/1906, Dawson M. Waltz; 3/19/1907, George W. Waltz...  
   Disc. 1949

35. HALDEMAN - 2/12/1907, David Leadbetter; 7/16/1909, Henry K. Leighow...

36. CLEARFIELD - 8/4/1908, Blaine Fulton; 3/15/1918, Howard M. Turner...

   Disc. 1949

38. SHARKEY - est. in Fleming Co. 7/10/1913, Lewis H. Ratliff;
   12/28/1921, Jennie L. Ratliff; Disc. effective 2/15/1927 (mail to Ringos Mills); Re-est. 3/16/1928, Samuel N. Sorrell; (into Rowan Co. on or before 3/16/1928); 3/16/1928, Samuel N. Sorrell;
   Disc. 1955

39. SMILE - 9/12/1913, Lydia J. Caudill; 11/3/1920, Maud Richardson...
   Disc. 1975
ROWAN COUNTY POST OFFICES (5)

✓ 40. LONGWAY- 7/20/1916, Wm. Wagoner; 7/16/1917, Russell Jones; Disc. 9/29/1917 (mail to Sideway);

✓ 41. NEWWAY (sic)- 8/22/1919, Henry C. Caudill; Disc. effective 12/31/1925 (mail to Waltz);

✓ 42. GRIN- 7/14/1920, John W. Barber; Disc. effective 11/15/1921 (mail to Morehead);

✓ 43. HAMM (sic)- 6/21/1928, Rushie Martt;
Blue Stone is a small country village located on U.S. 60, 5 miles west of Morehead at the junction of Triplett Creek and Licking River. It received its name from the blue looking rocks and stones found in the vicinity.

Clearfield is located one mile southwest of Morehead. It is maintained by the tile plant and adjoining clay mines operated by the Lee Clay Product Company. It is here that the Citizens Conservation Corps is located for this district. This is known as Camp LockeRe. A concentrated drive is being made to make this one of the outstanding camps of the country. Clearfield has a five teacher graded school.

Ray M. Williams, Commanding Lieutenant of the camp.

Badston is located on U.S. 60, six miles east of Morehead. Badston is also known as Gates and extends for three-fourths mile along U.S. 60 and the C. & O. Railroad. Farming, lumbering, and work at the brick yard at Holdeman constitute the work of the inhabitants. This is a very thriving and prosperous community.

Elliottsville also known as Hoggtown is truly a country village, with farming the main and only industry except the blacksmith, the garage-man or mechanic and the three merchants. Elliottsville has a graded and junior high school of which the community is justly proud. Elliottsville is located on the Dixie Field Highway leading from Morehead to Sandy Hook. It has no railroad.

Farmers, unincorporated, was the first settled village of the county and was once the most thriving. Today it is the second town in size, being surpassed only by Morehead and 1 ½ miles east of the Bath County line, on U.S. 60, 8 miles west of Morehead. Farmers is strictly an agricultural town and has a population of 150.

Haldeman, unincorporated, is located 1 ½ miles off U.S. 60. It can
be reached by a newly constructed road leaving U. S. 60 at Edaston. Haldeman is dependent upon its manufacture of bricks and nearby clay mines. Haldeman maintains a graded and senior high school.

Morehead, incorporated, is the county seat of Rowan County, was founded in the early 1800's and so named in 1856 in honor of the former Governor James Morehead. Today it has a population of approximately 1800. It is a fast growing college and agricultural town. It is located in the mountainous district of Kentucky on U. S. 60, midway between Lexington and Ashland. U. S. 32 intersects U. S. 60 at the west end of town and connects Morehead and Flemingsburg, two miles east of Morehead, at Rodburn, U. S. 60 intersects the Dixie Field Highway which leads to Sandy Hook and Louisa.

Rockville is located on U. S. 60 and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad four miles west of Morehead and one mile east of Blue Stone. Its industries are farming and quarrying of Rowan County free stone. It is from the abundance of free stone that it received its name.

Rodburn is a small agriculture and lumbering community or village. It is located two miles east of Morehead at the junction of U. S. 60 and the Dixie Field Highway and along the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, who maintain a switch and loading yard. Rodburn has maintained her industries continuously for fifty years. She was founded and named by the Hickman Rodburn Company in 1885.

Rowan County has no cities.
Rowan Co. communities

1. Morehead (co. seat) had been Triplett

2. Gills Mills (dpo)

3. Farmers (po and com) had been Confederate Cross Roads

4. Blue Rock (dpo)

5. Bangor (dpo) (com)

6. Pinesprings (dpo)

7. Blue Banke (dpo) later Bluebank

8. Elliottville (po and com) had been Hoggetown

9. Queen City (dpo)

10. Popping Hill (dpo)

11. Triplet (sic) (dpo) (not No. 1, above) (com)

12. Cogswell (dpo) (com)

13. Edstown (dpo) aka Gates (com)

14. Eadston (dpo)

15. Bluestone (dpo) (com) had been Freestone (com)

16. Fraley (dpo)

17. Munson (dpo)

18. Rodburn (rr, com, dpo)

19. Minor (dpo) (com)

20. Pekin (dpo)

21. Iby (dpo)

22. Wagner (dpo)

23. Debord (dpo)

24. Clayton (dpo)

25. Hilda (dpo) (com)

26. Mizpah (dpo)

27. Crix (dpo) aka Dry Creek (Sch.) Comm.

28. Christy (dpo) (com)

29. Ramey (dpo) (com)

30. Bluebank (dpo)

31. Vale (dpo)

32. Dry Creek (dpo) (p.o. est. but never in op.)

33. Waltz (dpo) (com)

34. Haldeman (p.o and com)

35. Clearfield (com. & po)

36. Craney (dpo) (com)

37. Sharkey (ngbr.) (dpo) (Fleming Co.)

38. Smile (dpo)

39. Longway (dpo)

40. Newway (sic) (dpo)

41. Grin (dpo)

42. Hamm (dpo) (com)

43. Rockville (com.)

44. Forest Hills (com.)

45. Green Valley Acres (ngbr.) (mm)

46. Lakeview Heights (ngbr.)

47. Summit (com)

48. Upper Lick (com)

49. Pelphrey (com)

50. Vanantwerp (com)

51. Plank (popr)

52. Big Brushy Ngbr.

53. Ditney Ngbr.

54. Hayes Crossing (com) (qades (com)

55. McBrayer (com)

56. Poplar Grove Ngbr.

57. Rosedale Ngbr.

58. Slab Camp Ngbr.
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<td>Hays Branch Ngbr.</td>
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<td>60.</td>
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<td>66.</td>
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<td>Miller's Vill. (com)</td>
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<td>73.*</td>
<td>Wagner (RPO)</td>
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\[ N_T = 57 \]

0 = Sample
X = Reserve
Morehead, James Turner studied law - was admitted to the bar in 1818, and commence practice in Bowling Green, Ky.; mem. state house of representatives 1827-1830; elected Lt. Gov. of Ky. in 1831; served from 1832 until the death of Gov. Breathitt, on Feb. 21, 1834, when he became governor, served until 1836; again a member of the state house of representatives in 1837; president of the state board of internal improvements 1838-1841; elected as a Whig to the United States Senate, and served from March 4, 1841, to March 3, 1847; continued the practice of his profession in Covington, Kenton Co., Ky., until his death in that city on Dec. 28, 1854; interment in the state lot of the Frankfort, Cemetery, Frankfort, Franklin Co., Ky.
MOREHEAD, James T. (Gov. 1834-36 D.) b. Bullitt Co., Ky., 1797; d. Covington
 Ky., 1854; ad. Transylvania U., 1813-15, and studied law, Bowling
 Green, 1818; member of legislature, 1828-30; lt. gov. 1832; succeeding
gov. John Breathitt (Gov.) in 1834; resumed practical law, Frankfort,
1836; U. S. sen., 1841-47; retired from sen. to Covington, Ky., where
he resumed his law practice. Married Susan Roberts of Logan Co., Ky.