INTRODUCTION

Man has a need for names. Since the dawn of creation, in his private thoughts and in his expressions of communication, man has applied names to people, to things, and to places. Place names originated from his need to distinguish one place from another.

In his study of AMERICAN PLACE NAMES, George R. Stewart points out that once the land was barren of names; then, men came, and with their succeeding civilizations and according to their ways, gave names to the land. As tribe followed tribe, most names were changed, but some remained perhaps reshaped but still alive in the language of those who followed.

Finally, the people were called Americans and their land America, and although their speech followed the ways of the English, they had gathered a rich heritage from all those who had preceded them in the land before. And with every generation the heritage grows more bountiful.

The topic of place names is one which is especially interesting to students of folklore as well as to local historians, as names reveal a great deal about the early
settlement and consequent development of an area. Currently, throughout the United States, many persons are involved in the systematic and comprehensive survey of all the place names of the country -- the places they identify, their locations, what they are noted for, and especially the derivation and origin of the names themselves.

Some states and areas have been thoroughly researched, others only moderately, and some not at all. Kentucky falls into the moderate category -- some work has been done, but much remains undone.
DEFINITION OF TERMS

The term "place name" simply means "geographical name": a city or town, a lake, a hill, an island, a tree, a building, etc.

The place names themselves are usually made up of two parts -- the generic and the specific. The generic, which designates the feature, must always be present; while the specific, which particularizes, may or may not be mentioned. For example, if a person finds a hill and speaks of it as such, it actually has no name until he starts referring to it as the Hill, Town Hill, Goodnight Hill, etc. Thus, hill is generic while Town and Goodnight are specific.

Some topographic definitions which may be helpful to this study involve names for waterways and names for land formations. These are as follows:

WATERWAYS:

River -- A large, main stream of water.

Fork -- A tributary of a main stream or a branch of a main stream.

Creek -- A stream of water smaller than a river or fork which is a tributary to a larger body of water; it is made up of branches.
Branch -- A smaller stream, usually smaller than a creek, which may be dry part of the year.

Run -- A small stream which may be dry part of the year. This term may be interchangeable with branch, but it is not used as much as branch in Muhlenberg County.

LAND FORMATIONS:

Bottoms -- Level land bordering a stream and usually fertile.

Hill -- A naturally occurring elevation of the ground; it may be gradual or sudden.

Hollow -- A valley or depression in the land's surface; it may be very large or relatively small.

Knob -- A rounded hill that is easily seen from the surrounding area.

Ridge -- A long, narrow stretch of ground that is higher than the surrounding area.

Slough -- A low lying area adjacent to or leading off of a river and usually filled with water.
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A long and magnificent tradition of scholarship and research relating to place names has existed in Europe, and especially in England, and American researchers should, and probably do, recognize their great debt to those studies. Although we are a little behind in this area, because of our relative youthfulness as a nation, the information which has and is being gathered in the United States is more thorough per item than that done in England. The present national survey began about 1947 and gradually county and state surveys have been and are being completed.

The most complete "model" for individual items comes from a model study based on research into historical records and oral tradition done by Frederic G. Cassidy which was titled THE PLACE NAMES OF DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN. Mr. Cassidy's was an in depth study, as he included all names since the settlement of the county. The major part of the study was the list or dictionary of Dane County names which he arranged alphabetically, with cross-references for easy use.

He did field work and examination of documents of all available printed records to assure historical accuracy of dates, name changes, changes of location, and associations with historical situations and events. He also included
all relevant folk beliefs and legends that had a bearing on the name. And he adapted a format for each entry from the OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

Patterned after Cassidy's study, Robert L. Ramsey did a study entitled THE PLACE NAMES OF BOONE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. His was an intensive study of a single central county -- which was close to the heart of the state and fairly representative of the commonwealth. This study shows a strong Kentucky influence, as all the borrowed names of Boone County, Mississippi, with one sole exception, came from the Bluegrass State.

This same type of study was also done by Dr. Vivian Zinkin titled A STUDY OF THE PLACE-NAMES OF OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, 1609-1849. This study spanned three centuries -- from the year of the first recorded name until the county was formed. It consisted of two parts essentially, an analysis of the names, and a dictionary listing of them.

An interesting study, AMERICAN PLACE-NAMES: A CONCISE & SELECTIVE DICTIONARY FOR THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES OF AMERICA by George R. Stewart done in 1970, states that there exists approximately 3,500,000 named places in the continental U. S.; this is about one every quarter mile. This study was selective and focused more on names than on places or locations.

Somewhat like Stewart's study, AMERICAN PLACE NAMES by Alfred H. Holt gives in dictionary form the accurate
pronunciation of place names of disputed or difficult names throughout the nation, up to 1938, the date of publication.

Another book by Stewart, NAMES ON THE LAND, previously mentioned in the introduction, is a very readable sampling of United States place names with informal discussion, based on sound research. It is excellent for a general background in the story of the naming of our land from ocean to ocean.

"Up Salt Creek Without A Paddle" by John Q. Anderson is not a place name study in itself, but it does relate to the study of place names. It discusses an original boast by keelboatmen about "rowing up Salt River" -- Salt River being in Kentucky -- and the consequent changes (in meaning, word combination and locality in which it is used) until it eventually became "Up Salt Creek without a paddle".

A good example of how a state study should be undertaken would be the study by Edwin G. Gudde titled CALIFORNIA PLACE NAMES. It is presently in the third revised edition, and is one of the best state studies. It is a study of the origin and etymology of current geographical names in California, but it includes an appendix of obsolete names.

An interesting study that goes right along with a place name study is TOPOGRAPHIC TERMS IN THE OHIO VALLEY, 1748-1800 by W. Bruce Finnie. This study is in the form
of a glossary and a commentary based on that glossary. This glossary will add much light on a place name study in Kentucky as the topography of this study is also that of much of the state.

Other books which contain material related to place name studies are THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE by H. L. Mencken and revised by Raven I. McDavid, Jr., PLACE NAMES OF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD by C. M. Matthews, and A WORD GEOGRAPHY OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES by Hans Kurath.

A local researcher-writer is Mr. W. L. Weinbarger who has written THE HISTORY OF THE MUHLENBERG COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION which would be helpful for some early place name information. THE HISTORY OF THE OATES EARLIE FAMILIES is another book which would have information on the people and places near the center of the eastern boundary of the county in the Harp's Hill area. These were two early families to settle in Muhlenberg County, and there are many descendants in the area. Mr. Weinbarger has also contributed many articles to the local paper.

Mr. Alexander Cather is a local historian who was very helpful. He is an active collector of much material on Muhlenberg County, has published articles in the local paper, and helped organize and sponsors a Muhlenberg County History Club. He is also the coordinator for the Muhlenberg County phase of the Kentucky Place Name Study which is presently taking place as a part of the Place Name Survey of the United States.
Muhlenberg County is a county of approximately 481 square miles and a population of 27,537 in the heart of the Western Kentucky Coal Fields. It is the first largest coal producing county in the state and Kentucky ranks along with West Virginia as the leading coal producing states in the nation.

Before coal became "king", Muhlenberg County was a heavily wooded, hilly to gently rolling land in the southern area, with the remainder of the county being made up of broken uplands surrounded by broad river flood plains. This latter area produces good crops annually. The county is bordered on the northeast by Green River, and Pond River forms the entire western boundary, while the Mud River forms a considerable part of its southeastern boundary. As might be expected, the county is well drained by these streams and their tributaries.

After coal became a salable product and after the Illinois Central Railroad and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad were built through the county, many mining towns sprang up -- mostly along these railroad routes. Years later, when stripping became popular, most of the underground mines closed. As the stripping has continued, many towns have been moved or have gone out of existence, and
much of the county has been turned inside-out and has become an ugly, desolate place. Recently, more strictly enforced reclamation laws have forced the coal companies to do a slightly better job of leveling the "stripper dumps" and of planting a ground cover to help reduce erosion and leaching. However, it is impossible to return the stripped land to its natural state, and the stripped areas are easily identified.

According to Rothert's History of Muhlenberg County, Muhlenberg was the 14th county formed in the state. It was formed in 1798 from parts of Christian and Logan Counties.

It is bordered by the following seven counties:

Logan -- formed in 1792
Christian -- formed in 1796
Ohio -- formed in 1798
Hopkins -- formed in 1806
Butler -- formed in 1810
Todd -- formed in 1819
McLean -- formed in 1854.

Of these, Christian, Hopkins, and Butler counties, as well as Muhlenberg, were named after officers of the Revolutionary army.

Muhlenberg County was named in honor of General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, one of Washington's brigadier-generals, according to a historical marker in front of the courthouse at Greenville. As many of his men
under his command later pioneered this area, it seems very fitting that they named the county for a man who was a friend, pastor, and general to many of its earliest settlers.

While doing research on the county for the past several months, the following log of topographic features and the frequency of their occurrence was noted as follows:

RIVER occurred four times. Namely, Pond River, East Fork of Pond River, Mud River, and Green River.

FORK appeared two times, but one of these also is listed under the river section. These were Muddy Fork (of Cypress Creek) and East Fork of Pond River.

CREEK is the most commonly used name for a stream in Muhlenberg County, as it appeared thirty-one times. Namely, Bat East Creek (given as Batiste Creek on an earlier 1913 map), Sulphur Spring Creek, Hazel Creek, Little Hazel Creek, Rocky Creek, Rocky Clifty Creek, Buck Creek, Carter's Creek, Pond Creek, Jarrels Creek, Long Creek, Sandlick Creek, Pryor Creek, Little Cypress Creek, Cypress Creek, Saltlick Creek, Bogges Creek, Drake Creek, Elk Pond Creek, Thompson Creek, Isaacs Creek, Brier Creek, Irwin Creek, Caney Creek, Halls Creek, Plum Creek, Hooper Creek, Jacobs Creek, Beech Creek, Nelson Creek, and Log Creek.

BRANCH was next in use, as it occurred ten times. Those names were Norman Branch, Lazy Branch, Jockys Branch, Harris Branch, Canfield Branch, Daniels Branch, Lyons Branch, Bell Branch, Slaughter Branch, and Thorofare Branch.

RUN was noted four times, and they were Opossum Run, Whiskey Run, Daniel Run, and Andrews Run.

LAKE occurred nine times. Namely, Black Lake, Luzerne Lake, Morgan Lake (strip mined), Graham Lake (strip mined), Greenville Country Club Lake, Greenville Reservoir Lake, Murphy Lake, Lake Malone, and Kirkwood Lake.
RIDGE appeared four times as follows: Welburn Ridge, Ware Ridge, Chestnut Oak Ridge, and Union Ridge.

HILL only appeared ten times in this investigation, but surely there are more hills named in the county. These ten were Tooley Hill, Harp's Hill, Bard's Hill, Turkey Hill, Airdrie Hill, Society Hill, Town Hill, Stivers Hill, Pisgah Hill, Hack's Hill.

KNOB only occurred three times as Huckleberry Knob, Buck Knob, and Gobbler's Knob.

HOLLOW was found to be used only once in the county as Boggess Hollow.

This investigation has only slightly scratched the surface of place name research in and around Muhlenberg County. Many years more research would be necessary to do a thorough study for the entire county, but this contribution, along with the work being done by field workers connected with the Kentucky phase of the national survey which is currently being conducted, is a step ahead.
Notes of Interest

Due to stripping as a mining process there are several towns and settlements which no longer exist physically, but do live on in the memories of people now living -- when they die, much will pass with them, because the younger generations know only the names and not the locations. They also have no visual images to relate to the names, which will make it hard for the names to continue in use.

Some of these places which no longer exist are as follows: Earles, Bethel, Morgan, Morehead, Dovey, Mercer (Mercer Church was moved to Powderly, and many of the people relocated there), and East Union Community (East Union Church was moved to Graham, and many of the members moved to Graham).

Often, a small cemetery exists where no real community does, and this is so in Muhlenberg County. Over the years, as much land has been stripped, many cemeteries were not moved, possibly because of the expense involved, so the mines stripped up just as close as they could to these. As a result, a small green cemetery, with its orderly gravestones, is often seen trapped in the midst of these desolate dumps. Many such cemeteries exist in Muhlenberg County, and a study of them alone might prove quite fruitful.
One of the towns mentioned as no longer existing has an interesting Jesse James tale connected with it. Dovey was the name of a mine near Mercer, and the area was known simply as Dovey. Jesse James and his gang came through Dovey and stopped to rob the office of the mines of their payroll, but either he had misjudged or the train was late, because the payroll did not arrive until the next day. However, not knowing this the gang stopped and only gained a few dollars which were in the safe. Trying to save the situation from a total loss, they also took some personal possessions from the workers; one of these items being an engraved watch. Years later, when Jesse James was killed, the watch is reported to have been in his personal possession -- thus verifying the fact that indeed he had stopped at a little spot called Dovey in Muhlenberg County. This story is still being told in the oral tradition in some areas of the county.
GLOSSARY

✓ AIRDRIE (OLD AIRDRIE)

Airdrie refers to a settlement and an old iron-smelting furnace ruins about a mile below Paradise, Kentucky, in the eastern section of Muhlenberg County on Green River. The town has long been gone but the furnace ruins and the name remains.

Airdrie is rumored to have been used as a prison at one time and to have used convict labor. Prisoners were supposedly kept in a three-story, sandstone building called "Stone House" located near the furnace stack. The building has a stone inscribed "AIRDRIE, 1855".

Airdrie, according to Rothert's History of Muhlenberg County, page 225, was named from a small city in Scotland because the founder was a descendant of the titled Alexanders of the House of Airdrie, Scotland. Most of the early settlers to this area were from Scotland.

BARD'S HILL

Bard's Hill is a settlement near Pond River in the western section of the county. About 8,000 acres of the area was once owned by Rev. Isaac Bard and
several families who are his descendants still own much of the acreage there. The settlement has one church — Bard's Hill General Baptist Church.

BOATYARD SLOUGH (Sometimes called THE BOATDOCK)

A slough off Pond River in Muhlenberg County near Harp's Hill. The Oates family built flatboats and floated products to the Green, then the Ohio, then the Mississippi, and on to New Orleans several generations ago, and this is supposedly the slough in which these boats were built.

It is a very remote area, and known primarily to old-timers, fishermen, and duck hunters; however, it is "Boatyard Slough" or "The Boatdock" to most of these.

BRASWELL BRIDGE BOTTOMS

Bottom lands made up of hardwood forests and bottom lands of Pond River, and located near Anton between Sacramento and Madisonville. It is one of the few places left in this area where a person can find native pecan trees.

Before the larger timber was cut a few years ago, it was considered by many to be one of the finest squirrel hunting areas in Western Kentucky.

BUCKNER FURNACE (See Also: FURNACE LANDS)

This iron-smelting furnace was built by Aylette H. Buckner, the father of General Simon Bolivar Buckner of Civil War fame. The ruins are still standing near the Friendship community.
BUTTERMILK ROAD

A road, now blacktopped, which goes through Bremen in the northwest section of Muhlenberg County.

BUZZARD'S BALLYARD

A canyon with a creek in the bottom and extremely steep cliffs near Clifty Creek in Todd County. The buzzards used this area to roost. Crows do now, primarily, and many people have been known to go to Buzzard's Ballyard for a little rifle practice.

CENTRAL CITY

Now a mining and industrial town with a population of approximately 6,000.

It was originally known as Morehead's Horse Mill because of a horse-powered gristmill operated there by a man named Morehead.

According to Rothert's History of Muhlenberg County, page 415, the first postmaster was appointed in 1871, and the name of the town listed as Owensboro Junction. However, in April of 1873, the town was incorporated as "Stroud City". By an act approved in 1882, the name was changed to Central City, and was named from the Dupont Central Coal & Iron Company which was located there.

(The town is having a summer-long Centennial celebration this summer.)
COBB TOWN  (See Also:  OUTLAW HILL)

Cobb Town is the area exactly on top of "Outlaw Hill" in Hopkins County just across the Muhlenberg County line. There are five houses there, and all the families living there are named Cobb.

COURTHOUSE, THE

The county seat building in Greenville, Muhlenberg County, Kentucky is known simply as "The Courthouse". The present courthouse was erected in 1907 and is the county's third to be built on the same plot. The first was built in 1799 and the second in 1834. The imposing dome-topped, brick building is on a square in the center of town.

CROSS RIDGES

This is the farm where James Lloyd and Pearl Short live near Pond River in Muhlenberg County. The house sets where two ridges cross. It has been in the Short family since 1910 and was deeded then as "Cross Ridges".

DRAKESBORO

A town west and slightly north of Greenville in Muhlenberg County. It was built around 1882 and centered around a store started by Frank Rice and for a few years was called Ricedale. In 1888 the place was incorporated and named Drakesboro in honor of William Drake, one of the first comers to the community.

FIVE SPOT

There were once five houses located near...
other on the Central City - Drakesboro Road, and it got to be called "Five Spot" for the five houses. The houses have been replaced by one residence and a pallet mill owned by Marvin Perry, but it is still referred to as Five Spot by some people in the county.

FOOTNEY'S POND
A pond located near Graham in Muhlenberg County.

FURNACE LANDS, THE (Also called THE FURNACE BOTTOMS)
Land totaling approximately 300 acres in Muhlenberg County about five or six miles from Greenville on Friendship Road near the junction of Pond River and Saltlick Creek.

It became known as the Furnace Lands because of an iron-smelting furnace operated there long ago. The ruins still stand and are visited by a few people each year. It is sometimes referred to as the Buckner Furnace.

The land was once known as the Rothert Farm and later owned by Walter Sargent and presently by John Walthan.

GOBBLER'S KNOB (See Also: SOCIETY HILL)
A hill in Graham, Muhlenberg County, Kentucky.
One end of this hill seems to be called Gobbler's Knob while the other end is called Society Hill.

GREENVILLE
Greenville is the oldest town in the county.
According to Rothert's History of Muhlenberg County,
which refers to Collins, Greenville was established in 1812, and probably named after General Nathaniel Greene, a Revolutionary War hero and friend and co-worker of General Muhlenberg. Rothert notes that Greenville was started as Caney Station in 1799 and served from its beginning as the county seat, but was not officially established by the Legislature until 1812.

According to another version, not generally accepted, Greenville received its name because of the expanse of green tree tops which could be seen when one looked out over the valleys from the hill on which Greenville is located.

GUS

Gus is located out from Penrod near the Butler County line, and was named after Gustie Waggoner who had a store and postoffice there. It claims only five houses and one store, and was once the smallest town in the state with a post office. It no longer has a post office.

HACK'S HILL

Now the northern end of Powderly, but once a separate small settlement. According to my mother, Aurelia Hatfield, age 65, Everette Hack was the first businessman to locate there. He built a garage on the top of a long hill and soon people were going to "Hack's Hill".
HARP'S (HARPE'S) HILL

Both spellings of the name are in active use.

The last settlement before entering Hopkins County from Muhlenberg County on Highway 62. Named after Big and Little Harp, famous brothers who were outlaws in the 1700's.

Within this large area called Harp's Hill is a specific spot called Harp's Hill which is supposedly the lookout and cave used by these outlaws, and the location where Big Harp was killed in or about 1798.

HILLSIDE

A settlement which sprang up near a mine about a mile from Powderly. The mine is gone, but the settlement still exists. It is along the Illinois Central Railroad route.

HOECAKE(S) CORNER

Hoecake(s) Corner is the area between the Vernal Grove crossroads to the river. This area was once owned by the Bards, and is said to have been so named because "if you worked for the Bards, you couldn't afford nothin' but hoecakes."

HORSESHOE BEND, UPPER

A very prominent horseshoe bend in PondRiver located between Highways 62 and 70. The distance across the neck of the land inside the horseshoe bend is only about forty feet.

INDIAN KNOLL

Indian Knoll is immediately across the Green
River from Paradise in Ohio County. It is one of the largest and most famous shell mounds in Kentucky. Once it was quite large, but scientific archaeological digs have changed the structure and have produced over 1,000 Archaic burials which have yielded well over 55,000 artifacts.

**JEFFERSON DAVIS MONUMENT**

This monument is located at Fairview, ten miles east of Hopkinsville in Christian County on U. S. 68 and Ky. 80. It is a 351 foot tower and the tallest concrete-cast obelisk in the world. It was dedicated as a tribute to Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy from 1861 - 1865, who was born on the site in 1808.

**LUZERNE**

Settlement located northwest of Greenville, and named after Luzerne, Pennsylvania, where the Duncan and other Scottish families lived before coming to Muhlenberg.

**MALONE FARM**

Located near Rosewood, Kentucky, in southern end of the County, and so called because W. C. Malone was owner for many years. It consisted of approximately 2,700 acres before donating land for Lake Malone. (After donation of this land, there were approximately 2,000 acres left.)

It has many scenic cliffs and large acreages of hugh beech trees. Boasts large pine forests, areas known for many types of flora. Abundance of wildlife.
particularly squirrel and quail.

Recently purchased by Ray Ryan, owner of Ryan Oil Company, Evansville, Indiana, and is presently being developed with large motel, dude ranch, golf course, scenic hiking and trail riding. There are several access roads being built through the farm to Lake Malone.

It is, however, still called the Malone Farm.

MALONE, LAKE

Also known as Lake Malone State Park, the mailing address is Dunmor, Kentucky, but the park now has around 394 acres of land and about 826 acres of lake. It is located in the southern area of the county and is in an area of rugged cliffs (some as high as 200 feet at the lake shore) and rough hilly country.

Some place names on the lake are: Shady Cliff Restaurant & Boat Dock, Sherwood Point, Fern Cliff Village, State Boat Dock & Beech, and Cherokee Beech and Board Dock.

NONNEL

A small coal mining town (present population approximately one hundred) on Highway 431 between Cleaton and Drakesboro. It was built along the Louisville and Nashville railroad line, and was named after John Lennon who was an L & N Maintenance Superintendent. The name of the town is simply his last name spelled backwards.

OUTLAW HILL

This hill is just over the Muhlenberg County line
in Hopkins County. A fairly high hill in a large bottomlands. So named because of a family named Outlaw who lived there several years ago.

PARADISE

Paradise is one of the oldest places in the county. It is in the eastern boundary of the county on Green River. This area was once called Stum's Landing because of a ferry and landing, farm, and store once operated there by Leonard Stum and sons Jacob and Henry.

The story is told that a family was coming up Green River on a flat boat and their baby was very sick so they tied up at Stum's Landing for the night. The next day, the baby had recovered and the parents were so pleased that they thought the place was "Paradise".

After the Mexican War the place had been called Monterey, but in 1856 it was incorporated as Paradise.

The people of the town moved so that the area could be stripped for coal by Peabody and so that a Tennessee Valley Authority (T.V.A.) steamplant could be started in 1959.

The postoffice opened in 1852 and closed in 1968.

PARADISE STEAM GENERATING PLANT (See Also: T.V.A.)

A generating plant northeast of Drakesboro on Ky. 176 operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority -- often referred to simply as Paradise. It is one of
the largest plants in the world, and its three
electric generating units total 2½ million kilowatts.
It is located in the heart of a coal field and this is
the fuel it uses. There are three giant cooling towers
which rise more than 430 feet in the air and these
form a Western Kentucky landmark.

This plant was built at the site of the old
settlement of Paradise on Green River.

PIGEON ROOST HOLLAR

A hollow in Todd County near Deerlick and near
the headwaters of Rocky Creek. This was a roosting
spot for millions of passenger pigeons (now extinct).
People would, according to old-timers, go in at night
and kill them --sometimes with sticks -- and ship
them in brine in barrels to restaurants in the East
where they were considered a delicacy. This accounts
in part, no doubt, for their extinction.

Although the pigeons have long been gone, the
name lives on.

PILOT ROCK

A huge rock on top of a hill four miles west
of Allegre, Kentucky, in Todd County. The rock is
approximately 75 feet high and about 40,000 square
feet on top and would cover about an acre. There
are steps up to it, and a lookout tower on top of
it which is maintained by the Dept. of Natural Resources.
One can see for miles in all directions. The Davis
Jefferson Monument is visible, and it is about twenty
...
miles away by road but only about seven miles actual straight distance.

POWDERLY

A town of approximately 800 people and located two miles north of Greenville on Highway 62. The town started in 1887, and was named in honor of a leader of the great labor movement who was before the public at that time, Mr. T. V. Powderly. (Rothert, p. 383)

According to Miss Amy Longest's article "Powderly, Past and Present" published in the Greenville Record in March of 1911, the town sprang up after the opening of Cooperative Coal Company mine, of which her father John D. Longest was the first president. The early enterprise was not successful, but in 1890 the Greenville Coal Company purchased the Powderly Mine and it began to pay. The mine closed in the early 1950's, but the town continues to grow.

PUNKIN CENTER

This name is used by residents of Cleaton in Muhlenberg County to designate a certain area of town. Although Cleaton is a small town in population, it is spread out and the land area covered is considerable.

ROCHESTER

Rochester is a small community just over the Muhlenberg - Butler County line where the Mud River empties into the Green River. The Rochester-Skilesville Lock & Dam # 3 is located here on the Green, but the highway bridge crosses the Mud. This area...
very popular fishing spot with many people in the area.

SKILESVILLE

Skilesville is now a settlement of just a few houses located 16 miles east of Greenville on the southern bank of Green River at Lock & Dam # 3. It was named after James R. Skiles who is reported to have introduced the first steamboat upon Green River and who was an early promoter of Green River navigation.

The town had already existed for more than forty years when it was incorporated on March 8, 1876.

SOCIETY HILL

This hill in Graham is also known as Gobbler's Knob. This hill is supposed to have been where the plantation house was in earlier days, and then where the people with money and/or position built. It became known as "Society Hill", and is still known by that name by the local residents although now there are no fine homes there and the residents are not necessarily "society".

T.V.A.

Many people refer to the Paradise Steam Plant simply as T.V.A. -- and are clearly understood by residents of the County. This is probably because this is the only Tennessee Valley Authority facility in the area.

TAIWOPETY (tie-wop-i-ty)

A "wide spot in the road" with one church and a few houses in Todd County, Kentucky, just past the
Muhlenberg County line. The small settlement is between Rosewood and Clifty on Highway 181.

TOOLEY HILL

A hill in Muhlenberg County about eight miles south of Greenville and between Greenville and Rosewood on Highway 181. It is one of the highest points in the county. It was once part of the old Rothert Farm which at one time had approximately 2,700 acres. It was later owned by Walter Sargent and is presently owned by John Walthen who owns a feed mill and grain elevator in Madisonville.

TWIN TUNNELS (TWIN TUNNEL)

This name refers to an area of Muhlenberg County on Highway 431 between Belton and Penrod. It was named Twin Tunnels because of two railroad tunnels which cut through ridges there. However, one of the tunnels caved in and the debris has long been cleared away; thus, leaving one tunnel. Now some people have dropped the "s" and say Twin Tunnel; this may be due to either laziness or to the fact that there really is only one tunnel.

VANEYVILLE (Vain-i-ville)

This Muhlenberg County settlement of just a few houses is on Highway 70 between Central City and Madisonville near Midland. It probably was named for residents who are named Vane, as there are some families living there by that name.
WHISKEY RUN

A small stream -- some people might even say drainage ditch -- which runs through a section of Greenville near South Cherry Street and under and along Highway 62 and empties into Caney Creek at the edge of town.

WILDCAT HOLLAR

A rugged hollow in Christian County just out of Muhlenberg County on Highway 189 between Greenville and Hopkinsville. It is wild country, sparsely settled along the ridges, and supposedly there are still "wildcats" in a deep, long hollow.

(NOTE: Accompanying this project is a large map of Muhlenberg County which has the items in this glossary marked and located. It could not be fitted into the notebook because of size, but it should be referred to when studying this glossary of names.)