Clinton, Kentucky's eighty fifth county, was established in 1835 from parts of Cumberland and Wayne Counties and is generally believed to have been named for DeWitt Clinton (1769-1828), New York's governor (1817-1821, 1825-1828) and the projector of its famed Erie Canal. There's little credibility to the popular notion that it was named for Israel Clinton Winfrey, the then twelve year old son of State Representative Francis H. Winfrey from Adair and Cumberland Counties who had sponsored legislation creating the new county.¹

The county's earliest settlers were several east Tennessee families led by William Wood, Thomas and Jesse Stockton, and the Reverend George Smith who arrived in the 1790s in what was soon to become Stocktons Valley. In 1799 they were joined by Robert Ferrill, a wheelwright, who built the area's first mill and opened a school. His most famous pupil was the Rev. Smith's son, the future Raccoon John. This valley, two miles south of Albany, was later to be called Clear Fork and then Duvall Valley after Louis Duvall acquired most of its territory.

Clinton's present 197 square mile area is little changed from its original 210 square miles but for slight land losses in its share of the creation of the two lakes at the north and south ends of the county.

Typical of Kentucky's Upper Cumberland Valley, Clinton's terrain is mostly hilly with fertile, fairly level bottomland devoted to subsistence agriculture, orchard cultivation, and forestry. The county's eastern section lies in the western edge of the Cumberland Escarpment. The county is drained by the several branches of the Cumberland River (including Willis, Salt Lick, Indian, and Hancock Creeks) which forms its northern boundary with Russell and Adair Counties, and by Tennessee's Wolf River tributaries (the Illwill, Sulphur, and Springs Creek, and Lick Branch).
Until 1940 the county’s economy was based on tobacco, stock raising, and timbering. Arable land, such as it was, was mostly in its fairly level stream bottoms, unsuitable for large scale commercial farming except for fruit cultivation. Some oil, limestone, dolomite, brick-making, clay, and coal reserves broadened its economy to some extent, but as no major railroad ever came through the county there was little opportunity for industrial development.

From the First World War till around 1970 the county lost much of its population to northern cities. A brief oil boom, along with stock and tobacco raising and several clothing factories, helped to reattract its population. The county’s main industries now are clothing manufacturing, lumbering, and the processing of crushed stone. Its main hope for the future lies in the further development of tourism which began with the creation of (1) the 27,000 acre Dale Hollow Lake by the impoundment of Tennessee’s Obey River and the construction in 1944 of the Dale Hollow Dam, and (2) Lake Cumberland in 1952 and the nearby (in Russell County) 3,000 acre Lake Cumberland State Resort Park. A 2006 Census estimate placed Clinton County’s population at some 9,500.

The county’s first seat was at Paoli, a trading post on the Clear Fork of Spring Creek, founded in 1817 by descendants of the victims of the massacre of Paoli, Pennsylvania on September 20, 1777. A county-wide vote in 1838 brought the seat two miles north to the newly established Albany, now 121 road miles ssw of downtown Lexington (via US 27 and US 127), where it remains.

Clinton’s forty six operating post offices, discussed below, will be located by road miles from the court house in downtown Albany or from other nearby offices.
The county's first post office—Elliotts Cross Roads—was established on March 12, 1817 by Ambrose S. Bramlette and named for his father-in-law Capt. Thomas Elliott. The latter, a Virginia-born Revolutionary War veteran, settled about 1798 near the present Maupin Church, a mile north of Static (on the Tennessee line), where he died in 1824-25. It may have been in the Maupin vicinity that this post office operated, first through June 1840 and then from May 23, 1850 to mid September 1856.2

The post office of Seventy Six was originally located about one mile southwest of what has long been called (the) Seventy Six Falls. Whether the falls of Indian Creek that dropped over a rocky ledge and into a deep gorge some eight miles from the Cumberland River arc or were seventy six feet high, as some have claimed, is debatable. They could have been that high when the name was first applied but, in early times, they were more likely eighty three or eighty four feet. In recent years, though, they’ve been reduced to a mere thirty eight feet due to the backup of nearby Lake Cumberland. Or, as the late Judge J.W. Wells has suggested, the falls, or more likely the community and post office, which may have been named before the falls, referred to the station number in the original area survey. Or, as others insist, on little evidence, the name refers to the year of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

Anyway, the vicinity of the falls, some six miles north of Albany, was settled around 1806 by John W. Sample who built there water-powered grist and cotton mills and a store and laid out a town in 1817 that never developed. On April 27, 1830 James Madison Goodson established a local post office he called Goodson's which Charles D. Sample renamed Seventy Six on September 17, 1834. In 1890 Iverson L. Warriner moved the office to his large store about a mile north, on (the present) Ky 734. The office was in Edgar Dickens' store, seven miles north of Albany, when it closed in January 1952. By the late 1970s the Seventy Six community was
being served by Robert York's store, at the junction of Rtes. 734 and 1266, half a mile north of the Dickens post office site. Recently, the falls have become a popular tourist attraction with a picnic area, walking trails, and a roadside park.  

The first settlement of any consequence in what was to become Clinton County was Paoli. It was settled in 1798 by descendants of the American soldiers brutally murdered on July 20, 1777 after their surrender to the British at this Chester County, Pennsylvania town. The Clinton site was officially named Paoli in 1817 and laid out as a town in 1821. The Paoli post office was established on July 25, 1833 with William H. Preston, postmaster, and the first seat of the newly established county (1835) was located here. When a county-wide election was held in 1837 to find a permanent seat, Paoli's co-contenders were Benny Dowell and Robert Cross's farms at the head of Spring Creek's Clear Fork, over a mile north, and the site of the future Ida post office several miles further north. The winner was the Clear Fork site which had been settled around 1786 by Albany, New York native Simon Barber. To this site, by then called Albany, postmaster Preston H. Leslie, on September 4, 1837, moved the Paoli post office, and on January 27, 1838 the town of Albany was incorporated. By now Paoli, the town, had begun to run its course.  

A conservative attitude, a two lane U.S. 127, little available land, and a less than impressive school system has, until recently, limited Albany's growth and development. Oil production boomed somewhat in the early 1990s with several wells, including one of Kentucky's largest, on Jack Ferguson's farm just south of town; and some industry--clothing, farm implements, charcoal, stereotapes, and cheese processing--has contributed to its economic base. But Albany's location between the
Cumberland and Dale Hollow Lakes has made it primarily a resort town. Some 2,200 residents were counted in the 2000 Census.

The first post office established after the county’s organization was Illwill. It first operated between May 29, 1839 and September 8, 1841, with James Smith, the first of its two postmasters, at an unknown site presumably on this eleven mile long, curiously named, Wolf River branch. According to tradition, one of several pioneer hunters camping on the creek wanted to push on but agreed to remain when his buddies warned him of a likely Indian attack to the west. "I’ll stay," he said, "but it’s with a Illwill. On July 8, 1880 the post office was re-established by Calvin Smith, the local blacksmith and wagonmaker, at a site called Cedar Grove, nearly a mile east of the creek, a little north of the river and the Tennessee line, and ten miles southwest of Albany. His first name choice, the apt Wolf Hill, was replaced by Illwill. The office served one or more mills till it closed in mid November 1918. Its site is now in the Dale Hollow Lake.

The Lick Creek post office, operating between September 26, 1840 and mid May 1845, remains unlocated. We can only assume it was somewhere in the valley of Wolf River's 4½ mile long Lick Creek which heads in the Kennedy Mountain. Perhaps it was a mile or so east of Cedar Knob and northeast of Static. William Dabney was the first of its three postmasters.

Just after the Civil War the Poplar Mountain Coal Company (later the Poplar Mountain Railway and Mining Company) established a town just north of Short Mountain, and some 9½ miles north of Albany, to serve its projected area mineral and timber operations. Its post office was opened on April 26, 1867 as Cumberland City (with Samuel M. Dick, its first postmaster), so named probably for its proximity to the river.
In the 1880s a rail line was built between this vicinity and the Rowena Landing on the river for coal and timber shipment to the Nashville market. Cumberland City was soon the largest town in the county with over 300 residents. By June 30, 1940, when the post office, then at the junction of (the present) Rtes. 829 and 558, closed, the mining and timbering had all but ceased and the company's holdings had been sold.

On July 15, 1869 Francis M. Brown established the Brown's Crossroads post office in his store at the junction of the old Burkesville Road and (the present) Ky 639, three miles west of Albany. By the 1880s it was also serving another store, a distillery, wagonworks, flour and saw mills, a tannery, and other businesses. In October 1928 the office was moved 1 1/2 miles up the Burkesville Road to its junction with the Hogback Ridge Road, a site then known as Shelleys Store, where it closed in August 1961. Now only homes mark both locations.

Another Brown storekeeper, William D., operated the Caney Gap post office from July 6, 1874 through January 1875. His store and post office may have been in the vicinity of the future Caney Gap School, between Snow and Upchurch, some 4 1/2 miles north of Albany.

By October 1875 a Pickett County, Tennessee post office called Halls Mills had moved a short distance over the state line and taken the name Huntersville. William C. Hunter, its first Kentucky postmaster, was probably a descendant of Nathan Hunter, who had settled in the Spring Creek valley, half a mile north. While serving a store, a wagonworks, and several mills the office closed in December 1879. When, in July 1883, William G. Oaks was unable to reopen the office as Huntersville he submitted his own name and as Oaks the local office operated through August 1885. On January 10, 1890 Richard Pittman was successful in re-establishing the office as Huntersville. It became a rural branch of the Albany post office, five miles north, in June 1964 but closed for good four years later.
Walker Fry Cartwright (ne October 1852), one of four physician brothers, is said to have been the name source of a post office established on June 23, 1880 by John W. Long. According to Long's Site Location Report his office was to have been called Stoney Point (in use as Stony Point in Bourbon County) and would serve several stores in the Wades Gap locality (on the present Ky 350, six miles northeast of Albany.) After several early twentieth century moves Cartwright closed in April 1958 at the junction of Ky 350 and old 90, roughly a mile north of the gap. Nothing marks the latter site now but the Stoney Point Baptist Church.

Storekeeper George Washington Savage (1857-1931) established a post office about half a mile north of Spring (now Koger) Creek, between the Copperas and Jenny Knobs, 5½ miles ese of Albany. Instead of his proposed Oak Bottom it opened, on August 14, 1882, as Savage and was soon serving a flour mill, two stores, and other businesses. Shortly before the First World War the office was moved to the Duvall Valley and (the present) Ky 696, north of Copperas Knob (and 6.3 miles east of Albany), by Neal's store and the Oak Grove School and church, where it closed in May 1951. Only the church and some homes survive.

To serve a store and mills between the ridges, about two miles southeast of the Cumberland River, and Rockhouse Bottom, David G. Orton, a steamboat engineer, requested the establishment of the Orton post office. But it operated, between June 7, 1888 and mid December 1892, as the inexplicable Ariadne. On October 23, 1895 it was re-established by Israel F. Andrew, a drygoods merchant, on (the present) US 127, half a mile south of the head of Tearcoat, and twelve miles now of Albany. Eddy, Andrew's first name choice, was replaced by Desda, the name suggested by a neighbor Hirum Irvin, for his girl friend of whom nothing else is known. The office closed in November 1935. The local store too is gone and only the Desda Methodist Church remains.
One of the contenders for Clinton's seat was a crossroads settlement at the head of Indian Creek, some 6½ miles nnnw of Albany. But this site, at the junction of (the present) US 127 and old 90 (now 1590), didn't get its post office until May 21, 1890 when storekeeper Pleasant H. Smith established it as Ida. It's said to have honored Ida Holsapple, the teacher at the local Sprowls School (that preceded the Ida School). The office closed in late June 1940, as did the school and store shortly thereafter, so little remained to be affected by one of the twenty six killer tornados that hit various sections of Kentucky on April 3, 1974.

At the site of what was once Lowell's Plantation and later Lowell Crossroads, imprecisely located between Hayes Creek and the Tennessee line at Static, and roughly 5½ miles southeast of Albany, John C. Buck established the Maupin post office. According to his Site Location Report it was to have been called Lola (but that name was then, and still is, in use in Livingston County.) Maupin, in operation from December 31, 1891 through May 1912, was named for the descendants of local landowners Amos and Lafayette Maupin.

In 1890 John S. Keen and his wife Hannah co-founded the Bible Mission School, a Methodist-sponsored preacher-teacher academy on (the present) Rte. 1351, about one mile west of Ky 90 and six miles northwest of Albany. Soon a settlement grew up in that vicinity with a post office (established by Brother Keen on July 28, 1892), the Rock Spring (later Highway) Church, two stores, and other businesses. Three names were proposed for the post office: Ezel (for David's refuge rock in 1st Samuel 20:19), Keen, and Highway (for the "Highway to Heaven" referred to in Isaiah 35:8). After several vicinity moves in the early twentieth century the Highway post office closed in July 1963 followed by the local store in the early 1970s.
A family of Shipleys, descendants of John (1820-1893) and W.P. (1824-1893), gave its name to a post office established on October 31, 1892 by Samuel William Bristow at the junction of (the present) Ky 553 and the old Lettered Oak Road, five miles wsw of Albany. Several family members later served as Shipley postmasters till the office closed in January 1934. Until recently the late Charles B. Albertson ran a steam-powered grist mill near the post office site and across the road from his store, since closed. All that remains of the small community served by the post office is the nearby Cedar Hill Methodist Church and two cemeteries. Just west is Wisdom's Airport serving Albany and the nearby Dale Hollow Lake resorts.

Two post offices—Odell and Joel—may have served the same neighborhood, roughly midway between Albany and Huntersville. Odell, known to have been half a mile north of the Spring Creek's Clear Fork, was operated by John G. Sloan between December 19, 1892 and August 8, 1894. Jennie Dabney maintained the Joel post office from February 16, 1906 through March 1907 while Fannie McWhorter ran its re-establishment from May 6, 1910 through November 1910. Neither name has been derived.

Nor is the name source of Hobart known. This office, established by John H. Pierce and operated between March 9, 1898 and mid September 1931, was some 500 yards east of the Cumberland County line and a mile west of Illwill Creek. Its vicinity is now cut off from the rest of Clinton County by the Dale Hollow Lake.

Roughly midway between Cartwright and old Alpha, on the old Ky 90 loop, just south of new 90 and 9½ miles northeast of Albany, was the Nora post office. It was established on December 11, 1899 and named for the six year old daughter of its first postmaster Angiley T. (Mrs. Jacob R.) Taylor. Haskell (Hack) Vitatoe and Bill Upchurch later ran the local store and the office till it closed in November 1957.
Another Clinton family to give its name to a post office were the descendants of William Snow (ne 1768), a Virginian who settled in the Indian Creek valley around 1800. On April 12, 1900, at the junction earlier called Graham's Cross Roads, two miles south of the creek, local storekeeper James William Staton opened the Snow post office. It closed on June 30, 1940 and only a few homes now mark the site at the junction of (the present) US 127 and Ky 734, one third of a mile south of (new) Ky 90 and four miles north of Albany.

The shortlived Cook post office was established by David L. Cook, its first postmaster and probable name source, on May 14, 1900 on Smith Creek, a Spring Creek branch, 3½ miles northeast of Albany. The office closed in mid October 1902, but was re-opened on May 6, 1907 by Willie Burr Thrasher, and closed for good in mid May 1913. This office is not shown on any known maps and its precise location is merely assumed in the vicinity of the old Cowan's School on Ky 350.

Somewhere above the head of Hancock Creek (of Otter Creek) Lee Honey, a grocer, established a post office he named Narvel [nahr/vel] for the six year old son of his neighbors John and Nancy Wilson. It officially opened on September 7, 1900 but moved twice (in 1900 and 1916) two miles down Hancock (on the present Rte 1009) to serve Brown Beck's mill and the Walnut Grove Church and School just west of Haw Knob and 9.8 miles northeast of Albany. Only the church survived its closing in May 1958.

According to the first of its two postmasters, Hazias D. Bell, Zenobia [zeh/nohb/ya] was established on February 19, 1901 on Hancock Creek, just yards from the Wayne County line. He may have named it for his wife or for the wife of a local Mr. Guffey. Little is recalled of it since its closing in September 1914.
The rural settlement of Pine Grove, extending for some three miles along Ky 558 in the northeast corner of the county, was served at several sites by the Watauga [wah/tah/gho] post office. Before the office was established on February 23, 1901, four miles south of the Cumberland River (with George F. Brown, its first postmaster), the vicinity was called Piney Woods for the local trees. Watauga, one of the three names proposed for it, referred to the old Watauga Settlement in northeastern Tennessee whence many of the area’s first settlers has come in the early nineteenth century. With the closing of the office in March 1954 the vicinity has locally borne the name of the school (closed) and Methodist church just north of the post office’s most recent site.

To serve an area early settled by Peter Brents, west of the Huddleston and Burchett Mountains, William E. Ferguson, on June 25, 1904, established a post office. As each of his proposed names—Blainesville, Gifford, and Beaumont—was already in use in Kentucky, he called his Wago whose derivation remains unknown. He was shortly succeeded by several other family members till the office closed in late December 1933. When it was re-established on April 26, 1935 by George H. Ferguson the vicinity on (the present) Ky 639, just east of Brown’s Pond, and 4½ miles nne of Albany, was also known as Burchett. The office closed for good in June 1940.

Beech Bottom, another area to give its name to a regional oil pool, was centered at the confluence of McIver and Spring (now Kogar) Creeks, some six miles ese of Albany. For some reason this name was replaced by Rolan for Rolan(Rolen) Flowers (1823-1911), an area resident, when the local post office was established by William K. Rodgers on May 19, 1905. Since contemporary maps show Rolan on (the present) Ky 415, half a mile east of the confluence, this may have been the office’s site when it closed in January 1957.
One of the several names submitted by William P. Cook for a post office just below the mouth of Brown’s Branch of Indian Creek, a site now in Lake Cumberland’s Indian Creek embayment, was that of Osco O. Anderson (1877-1939), a Pine Grove area storekeeper. The Osco office operated between June 14, 1905 and mid February 1939.

An area Marlow family gave its name to a post office one mile up the Cross Creek branch of Indian Creek, on the present Ky 558, eight miles nne of Albany and two miles south of Cumberland City. Established by Isaac G. Catron, it operated from June 21, 1907 through June 1940.

Half a mile west of the Indian Creek embayment and nine miles north of Albany, storekeeper James Samuel (Sam) Grider established a post office that he would have named Heighland for the topography. Instead, on August 5, 1907, it opened as Kendrick for his seven year old son. On February 13, 1911 the name was changed to the commendatory Fairland. From January 1928 through April 1935 when it closed the office was maintained by Sam’s wife Sallie Delene.

At two sites on the present US 127, a little over a mile apart, was the Aaron post office. It was established on March 11, 1908 by Addison R. Aaron (1856-1916), a local doctor, at his grocery-drygoods store just north of (the) Lands Chapel (Church), nine miles nnw of Albany. In 1958 Georgia Morrison moved the office north to the west end of Aarons Ridge Road where it was suspended in November 1990 on her retirement.

At or near the first site of Crawford L. Holsapple’s Forest Cottage post office, established in 1876, some 7½ miles northwest of Albany, and later moved to Cumberland County (see above), his son Eulas C. established, in turn, two post offices. The first, which he operated between August 8, 1908 and mid July of the following year, he called Eula.
On August 26, 1924 Eulas established another post office which he'd also call Eula but, according to tradition, decided to call it Decide, and as such it operated till late February 1943.

From February 23, 1909 through April 1910 Leander S. York maintained the Cedar Point post office at the site of the old Clinton Chapel on (the present) US 127, just north of Spring Creek, and three miles ese of Albany. Ten years later (or from August 7, 1920 to mid October 1935) another post office was established to serve the local store at that site. Storekeeper, and probably its only postmaster, Frederick R. Stockton, is said to have named it Bug for an insect he allegedly spotted running up the wall. Both store and church are also gone.

Perry S. Brown co-owned a store with Abe Upchurch on old Ky 90 (now Rte. 2063), 5½ miles nne of Albany. On August 8, 1909 Brown opened the local Upchurch post office, named for his partner's father Ahile, the area's first settler. The office which closed on June 30, 1940 was survived for awhile by the store and the nearby Caney Gap School, also since closed.

Joining the Cumberland River at the lower end of Wells Bottom was the two mile long Tearcoat Creek. At its mouth Martha J. Wells and Rufus Choate maintained the Tearcoat post office from March 12, 1910 through July 1920. Until recently the creek was an almost inaccessible and inhospitable feature inspiring legends of persons stumbling through the dense thicket along the stream and tearing their coats on the brambles as they attempted to elude pursuing bears.

Not to be confused with the Cedar Point post office (above) was Cedar Knob which served the area between Maupin and the Tennessee line at Static between September 29, 1920 and mid October 1929. William A. Byers submitted Maupin as his post office's name but then replaced it with the name of the elevation three fourths of a mile west.
The little recalled Drop post office, operated by James Douglas Smith between April 20, 1921 and mid July 1929, was just north of (the present) Ky 738 (old 55), half a mile west of the Ewing Branch of the Wolf River's Spring Creek, and less than three miles southwest of Albany. Its name too remains underived.

On March 21, 1922, to serve the century old local mill, Charles N. Cannon (1884-1956) established the Cannons Mill post office by (the present) Ky 415, 200 yards east of Smith Creek, and 3½ miles east of Albany. It closed in April 1942.

The Cumberland River's six mile long Willis Creek branch was probably named for John Willis who received, in 1783, a one hundred acre Virginia military grant to local land. The creek's first known settlers, though, may have been David Evans (in 1798) and Elisha Moore (in early 1799). But it wasn't until November 30, 1927 that a Willis Creek post office was established by Henry Clay Witham in his store, half a mile up the creek's East Fork (now York Branch). In 1938 the office was moved 1½ miles down the main stream to a site one hundred yards from the Cumberland County line where it closed in 1974.

In the late 1890s the folks on (the present) Ky 90, about 1½ miles from Cumberland County and eight miles northwest of Albany, were led to believe that a college or seminary would be established in their vicinity. Though land was purchased for it and the name Seminary was applied to the locality, the institution was placed instead in Columbia, and in 1923 became Lindsay-Wilson College. On January 25, 1936 Paul Marvin Penny-cuff established the Seminary post office which operated through May 1966.

Albany is the only one of Clinton's forty five post offices that is still active. Only seven offices served onetime villages, and only Albany has been the center of an incorporated city. Elza McSmith's January 21,
1904 authorization for the unlocated and underived Arnam was rescinded in June.

Local or area persons/families accounted for twenty two post office names. Three offices were named for distant places while eight were given the names of local or nearby features (five streams, one school, a hill, and a mill). Two were named for geographic features; one was named for an anticipated school; another for a Biblical reference; and yet another presumably reflected the namer's sense of humor. Seventy Six may have had several possible name sources. Six names have not yet been derived. Three offices have not been precisely located.

Fourteen post offices bore names not first proposed for them, while seven served places with other names, and two had name-changes.

FOOTNOTES

1. Until his death from cholera in the 1870s young Winfrey lived in Columbia.

2. Ambrose, who married Thomas' daughter Sarah and was to represent Cumberland County from 1832 to 1837 and Clinton County from 1845 to 1848 in the Kentucky legislature, is better known as the father of Kentucky's Civil War governor Thomas Elliott Bramlette (1817-1875).

3. There's a town in Perry County, Missouri also called Seventy Six which the late Missouri place names authority Robert Ramsay (in his Our Storehouse of Missouri Place Names, Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1952, P. 112) claims was named for the Clinton County, Kentucky place. In turn, for reasons he doesn't give, Ramsay claims that Kentucky's Seventy Six was named for the date of the Declaration.

4. The Pennsylvania town took its name from a local tavern that had honored the famed Corsican patriot Pasquale Paoli, much admired by Americans during their own revolution.

6. The tale of Benny Dowell's tavern and his mellow patrons' slurring to "all (for) Benny" is probably just that, though awl/bhem/ee is still a popular variant pronunciation of the town's name.

7. Refer to *Alpha*, discussed in the Wayne County chapter, P.

8. Though a mid 1920s Kentucky Geological Survey map shows a Caney Gap through which (the present) US 127 passes between Snow and Albany, it's more likely that Brown's post office was in the vicinity of the Caney Gap School for in his Site Location Report he locates it 2½ miles south of the Seventy Six post office and four miles north of Albany. In either case the gap was named for a thick growth of wild cane.

9. The Wades Gap locality was first settled in 1804-05 by and named for John Wade and his father Richard.

10. According to Eula G. Mackey in *The Clinton County News*, May 6, 1954, the Bible school became an orphanage in 1924 and was later moved to Texas by its then director Brother Evans.

11. The Lettered Oak Road extended past the old oak tree where Daniel Boone allegedly carved his name, near the one room Lettered Oak School, six miles west of Albany. Both the school and the tree are long gone.

12. Cook's "alternative name" for his office was the inexplicable Gaines Valley.

13. The other names submitted for what became Osco were Fern, Cook, Etta, and Oil.
14. Kendrick Samuel Grider, a retired Detroit policeman, returned to Clinton County where he died in 1984. The Fairland name was also applied to a school (gone) and church, half a mile west of the post office-store site.

15. In case Eula was already in use Holsapple offered, as alternatives, Lewis, DeSotas, Ada, and (possibly) Howe.

16. Wells Bottom, first called Elliotts Bottom for pioneer landowner Samuel Elliott, was later renamed for the Virginia-born (in 1764) David Wells who arrived around 1798 and built his home on the river in the upper end of the bottom.

17. Several Tearcoat chasees have been identified in as many traditional accounts. It may have been Longhunter James Dysart, a later hunter William Hedger, Daniel Cliff's daughter who was driving in her family's cows to be milked, another girl sent to pick blackberries for her family's supper, and David Wells' daughter walking home from some errand....

18. Smith Creek, which joins Spring Creek at Bug, is said to have been named for pioneer settler George Smith.

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