

THE POST OFFICES OF KNOX COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Kentucky's forty first county, Knox, was created by legislative act on December 19, 1799. Its original 2,300 square mile area, the upper Cumberland River watershed, was taken exclusively from Lincoln County. In 1805 it gained 150 square miles from Madison County and, for the next sixty years, lost territory to Clay, Rockcastle, Whitley, Harlan, Laurel, and Bell Counties in succession, reaching its current 388 square miles by 1882.¹

There remains some controversy over the county's name source. For years it's been accepted that the county was named for General Henry Knox (1750-1806), George Washington's chief artillery officer in the Continental Army and later his first Secretary of War. But, with no evidence to support this, twentieth century historians like Elmer Decker have contended that the famed Longhunter, Scottish-born Revolutionary War veteran, Indian fighter, and co-builder of the Wilderness Road, James Knox was the probable name source. This was based, as Decker pointed out in his manuscript history (Pp. 16-7), on a claim in a letter written on November 18, 1848 by Robert Wickliffe who also reminded us that James Knox was a state senator from Lincoln County at the time Knox County was established.

Knox County lies in the mostly forested southern part of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field. Over ninety three per cent of the county is drained by the main channel and tributaries (Stinking, Brush, Fighting, Richland, Little Richland, Indian, Flat, and Little Poplar Creeks) of the Cumberland River. Less than seven per cent (in its northern section) is drained by the Collins Fork of Goose Creek, in the Kentucky River's South Fork watershed, acquired from Madison County in 1805.

With the arrival of the L&N Railroad's main (or Cumberland Valley) line in 1887-8, Knox's early subsistence economy was superseded by commercial enterprises like coal mining, timbering, and, later, gas production. Two spur lines (the Cumberland and Manchester between Heidrick and Manchester, and the Cumberland--later the Artemus-Jellico Railway--up Brush Creek) were developed to ship coal via the main line to Blue Grass and other markets. In recent years the extractive industries have been replaced as the county's main economic support by some manufacturing--principally of industrial sealants, furniture, clothing, roofing materials, food service equipment, wire and fiber products, and small water craft. Superseding the railroad as the county's main means of access to the rest of the region is Ky 11 and the four lane US 25E. Some 32,000 Knox residents were counted in the 2000 Census.

This essay will deal with the eighty one post offices that ever operated within Knox's present boundaries. Offices will be located by road miles from downtown Barbourville, the county's more or less centrally located seat on the Cumberland River (102 road miles sse of downtown Lexington) or with reference to other offices in their respective valleys.

The fourth class city of Barbourville, with a 2000 population of about 3,600, centers just above the mouth of Richland Creek, near the site of Richard Ballinger's pioneer tavern, a major travelers' stop on the Wilderness Road. It was most likely named for James Barbour, the Virginia-born pioneer, who offered thirty eight of his five thousand acre landholding for the new county's seat.² The local post office was established on April 1, 1804, with Richard Henderson, postmaster. The town's growth was slow and uneventful till, with the arrival of the L&N

in 1888, it became the county's main loading point and was incorporated in 1890. West Virginians, often wondering if there was any connection between their town of Barboursville, east of Huntington (which, like their Barbour County and its seat Phillippi, between Charleston and Morgantown, were named for Philip B. Barbour) and the Knox County seat, are reminded that their town's name has a medial "s". Yet, for many years in the nineteenth century Knox Countians pronounced their town's name with the "s", and for a few years around the turn of the twentieth century the post office's name was even spelled that way.

, Three as yet unlocated post offices may have operated briefly in the 1820s but are not recalled by contemporary Knox historians. It's almost certain that one of them was not even within the present county limits. The earliest was Camplin's which operated between June 15, 1824 and October 1827, with William and Jeffrey Camplin, its postmasters. Upper Flat Creek, between 1826 and 1831, was probably somewhere on this four mile long stream that heads just east of the Whitley County line and joins the Cumberland two miles below the mouth of Little Poplar. Samuel Wilson is said to have been the first of its two postmasters. Wherretts, operated by Peter Wherretts between 1829 and 1830, may have been in the vicinity of Cumberland Ford, the forerunner of Bell County's Pineville.

The village of Flat Lick, now extending for about two miles along US 25E north from the Cumberland River and the L&N tracks to a point about eight miles east of Barboursville (via Ky 930 and 225), is near the site of the county's oldest settlement. Identified by name at least by 1763 in pioneer journals and on John Filson's 1784 Kentucky map, it was a strategically located travelers campsite where three historic roads from the north came together as the main route to Cumberland Gap. The name derived from a local salt lick on a three

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acre flat rock, since grass covered, long visited by large game and the Indians and whitemen who hunted them. By 1800 the site had been settled by Revolutionary War bounty warrantees (Arthurs, Walkers, Woodsons, Pagues, Bakers, Horns, etc.) and in that year was a contender with the Barbourville site for the county's seat.

The vicinity's first postal service may have been provided by an office inexplicably called Rome, established by Owen R. Moyers on September 24, 1840. It was moved to and/or renamed Flat Lick on April 5, 1848 by Ambrose Arthur. Since the Civil War a distinction has been made between Flat Lick and Old Flat Lick, the settlement's original site through which the Cumberland River flowed until, in 1862, its course was shifted by severe flooding. By the 1870s Flat Lick at both sites was a fairly thriving village of mills, stores, and travelers rests and had become the commercial center of the upper Cumberland valley. Flat Lick grew up around the L&N depot that opened in 1888, just below the mouth of Sandy Branch, and between one and 1½ miles south of the several sites of the still active Flat Lick post office in Old Flat Lick.³

In the April 29, 1750 entry in his diary, the noted explorer Thomas Walker mentioned that less than a mile from his cabin, near the west bank of the Cumberland River, was a large pond (one fourth of a mile long and two hundred yards wide) often visited by wild water fowl. This feature was rediscovered some twenty years later by Daniel Boone who is said to have named it Swan Pond. It's not known for sure where the pond was located. Edmund Lee's 1856 map and Lloyd's 1863 map show it on the west side of the Cumberland opposite the mouth of the three mile long stream now known as Swan Pond Creek. But some area residents think the pond was on the east side of the river, by the creek itself. In any

case, it's long gone. Contemporary maps show a relatively recent man-made Swan Pond nearly two miles up the creek. But that's not it.

Wherever it was, the pond gave name to the Swan Pond post office. This was established on October 30, 1850 at an unknown site, with Spencer H. Tuggle, postmaster. It closed in November 1851 but reopened, again site unknown, on December 9, 1862 and operated till February 1874. The office was re-established again, but as Swanpond on July 14, 1921, with Jonathan L. Blair, postmaster, to serve a village of some 125 residents at the mouth of Swan Pond Creek, three miles south of Barbourville (via the present Ky 11). It closed for good in 1933.

To confuse matters even more there was a community and post office called Swan Lake on Ky 459 overlooking the river from the west. This was one mile south of Walker's cabin (since 1931 the Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site), five road miles southwest of Barbourville. This sounds like Walker's and Boone's Swan Pond, for a Swan Lake, as such, has never been found. It's most likely that only one such area feature bore this specific name. Anyway, the Swan Lake post office was established on March 2, 1911, with Maggie Terrell, postmaster, less than half a mile west of the mouth of Swan Pond Creek, and lasted till 1951.

William H. Brafford (1818-1890), a Barbourville lawyer and onetime postmaster (1845-6) and later (1865-1870) a (Knox) County Attorney, opened a store and hotel probably at the mouth of Lynn Camp Branch of the East Fork of Lynn Camp Creek, some eight miles west of the county seat. As Brafford's Store, a local post office was established on June 8, 1868 with Brafford himself as postmaster. From February 7, 1887 till it closed in January of the following year it operated as Brafford Store. By this time it was serving a village and neighborhood of some one thousand residents, several mills, stores, and hotels. Soon the vicinity was also being served by an L&N station called

Rossland (possibly for the descendants of pioneer Hugh Ross). The authorization for a post office called Rossland on February 17, 1908, with James T. Morgan, postmaster, was rescinded in August of that year.

Sometime in the early nineteenth century a store was opened by a Bryant at or near the mouth of Four Mile Branch of Little Poplar Creek.⁴ By the middle of the century the Bryant family had moved it a mile or so away.⁵ On September 6, 1873 Minor Bryant (1819-1885), then the store-keeper, established the Bryants Store post office probably on the road between Stony Fork (of Little Poplar) and Swan Pond Creek, some six miles south of Barbourville, where it served a community called Poplar Creek with mills, other stores, shops, and other businesses. Probably by 1909 and certainly by 1912 the office and store had been moved to the road that became part of Ky 11, just north of Little Poplar toward King, and nine miles by that road south of Barbourville. After a short distance move by Eliza Fuson in 1924 it was serving Fuson Store. Most recently the post office and store have been on Ky 1809, just north of the mouth of the Little Poplar tributary of Hubbs Creek.

OTHER LITTLE POPLAR CREEK POST OFFICES

Little Poplar Creek heads two miles north of the Whitley County line and extends for about eight miles to the Cumberland two miles below the Whitley County line near Gausdale. It's to be distinguished from (main) Poplar Creek, which also joins the river from the east, but wholly in Whitley County (see below). Five post offices, including Bryants Store, served the Little Poplar watershed.

Samuel F. Matlock's family name was first proposed for an office near the upper end of Little Poplar. But it opened, on September 17, 1889, as Middlepoint. It's not known what it was the middle point of.

On October 15, 1892 it was moved over a mile and renamed Birdseye by postmaster William D. Engle. When it closed in late 1914 it was on Little Poplar and (the present) Rte. 1809, 2½ miles above Bryants Store and about 10½ miles south of Barbourville. One can attempt to trace Birdseye to the regional coal bed and the recently established Jellico and Birdseye Coal Company mine on Whitley County's Cane Creek.

On the road (now Ky 11) between Little Poplar and the mouth of Bull Run (of the Cumberland River), six miles southwest of Barbourville, were the sites of the King post office. This was established on January 31, 1902 by John E. King whose family name replaced his first proposed name Lone Star.⁶ For years the community it served was also known as Kingtown for John's many local relatives. When it closed in 1951 the post office was at the junction of 11 and 1809, half a mile north of Little Poplar.

v The shortlived (August 14, 1905 to July 15, 1909) and aply named post office of Pine was operated by C.B. Williams to serve a locality called (in his Site Location Report) Poplar Creek. Since it's believed to have been somewhere between Bryants Store (four miles west of it) and Lunsford, and 2½ miles south of Lay (then up Little Brush Creek), it's more likely to have been on a branch of one of Little Poplar's tributaries, possibly Catron Branch of Hubbs Creek. Nothing else is known of it.

Hubbs, an even shorter lived (December 24, 1925 through July 1928) post office was operated by Mat S. Girdner at the (head) forks (Bain and Catron) of the 2½ mile long Hubbs Creek that joins Little Poplar just south of Bryants Store's most recent post office site. The Hubbs family, through William, a post Civil War landowner on Little Poplar, were descendants of John Hubbs, a Knox County Revolutionary War pensioner.

INDIAN CREEK POST OFFICES

According to an early tradition, a band of Cherokees had a camp just north of Dishman Springs, probably in the Paint Hill area, on the banks of what's now the Helton Branch of Big Indian Creek. Sometime later, a dozen or so white families settled in that vicinity, but within a short time they were attacked by Indians and completely wiped out. Their blood was used to paint the rocks and trees of the nearby hill as a warning against further white encroachment. Thus we have Paint Hill and nearby Painted Gap. Some two miles south, Helton joins Big Indian Creek which, with its main stream, Indian Creek, and Little Indian Creek which joins the latter half a mile from the Cumberland, are also said to have been named for the massacre.⁷ Two post offices served the Indian Creek valleys.

The Indian Creek post office was established on January 23, 1874 with John A. Campbell, postmaster, and served two stores and a flour mill at two neighboring sites near the Indian Creek-Big Indian Creek confluence. When it closed in 1937 it was at the junction of the present Ky 6 and 633, four miles from the river and seven miles west of Barbourville.

Another post office was just ^{above} ~~below~~ the mouth of Indian Creek c. 1870 (probably on the present Ky 459), six miles southeast of the Indian Creek post office and nine miles below Barbourville. First postmasters John T. and Ollie Williams' proposed name Cumberland gave way to Lindsay for another Knox County family, and the office operated from August 16, 1893 through September 1925.

RICHLAND CREEK POST OFFICES

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Richland Creek heads just south of the Clay-Knox-Laurel Counties convergence and extends roughly south for about twenty three miles to the Cumberland River at the southwest corner of Barbourville. It's paralleled by Ky. Rtes. 1803, 229, and 6. The first two post offices in this valley--Crane Nest and Jarvis Store--were established on the same day, July 13, 1874.⁸

The Crane Nest settlement, at the mouth of Hubbard Branch, about ten miles north of Barbourville, and on (the present) ^{file 112} ~~Ky-229~~, was the center of a late nineteenth century timber producing area whose products were shipped from here down the creek. The first postmaster was John Stubblefield. Though the Post Office Department and government map-makers have always spelled the name without a terminal "s", local people have always sounded it Cranes. According to tradition, someone is supposed to have found a crane's nest in the vicinity, an unusual occurrence, for these long-necked, long-legged water birds were quite rare in this part of the country. The office was suspended in September 1980.

On Ky 229, some three miles down Richland from Crane Nest, at the mouth of Jarvis Branch, and half a mile below ^{South} ~~(north)~~ of the mouth of Knox Fork, a succession of Jarvises (Samuel H. was the first) operated a store and post office. Till 1894 the office was Jarvis' Store; from 1894 to 1952 it was Jarvis Store; from 1952 to November 1963 it was simply Jarvis; and from 1963 to 1988 it was Jarvis CPO.

Just below the head of the five mile long Knox Fork (and on the present Ky 229) were the several vicinity sites of the Knox Fork post office. This was established on April 22, 1887 with William R. Williams, its first postmaster, who was succeeded in February 1888 by Samuel H. Jarvis, who had earlier established the Jarvis Store post office, 3½ miles southeast. *This office closed in 1951.*

The shortlived (April 1 to December 5, 1891 and inexplicably named Odds was somewhere in the Richland valley between Jarvis Store and Baileys Switch on the Cumberland Valley (L&N) Railroad. John C. Clouse, its only postmaster, had first proposed the name Richland for it.

James W. "Jim" Gilbert established a post office on the 2 and 3/4 mile long Billies Branch of Richland but, according to county historian Sol Warren, when he learned that Gilbert was already in use for Kentucky post offices (as Gilberts Creek in Lincoln County and Gilbertsville in Marshall County) he called his Gibbs. It opened on August 4, 1902 with his wife Lizzie E. as its first postmaster. Having occupied several vicinity sites on Billies, it closed in 1974 at the mouth of Sassers Branch, on (the present) Rte. 1803, three miles north of Crane Nest.

The Tedders post office, named for his family by its first postmaster John L. Tedders, was at three sites on Richland, two-three miles below its head and thirteen-fourteen miles north of the Cumberland River at Barbourville. It operated between October 5, 1909 and 1983.

Another Knox family, perhaps that of Henry Minks (ne 1877), gave its name to the Mink post office at some site in the Richland watershed, possibly on Hunting Shirt Branch. Postmaster Jesse L. Parker's Site Location Report places it two miles west of Richland, three miles south of the Blackwater post office, four miles west of Crane Nest, and 3½ miles east of the Knox Fork post office. Other maps of that time show it also three miles southwest of Gibbs and 2½ miles east of Tuttle. It was operated between April 26, 1905 and early April 1920 by Jesse and Nila B. Parker.⁹

Between August 15, 1919 and September 15, 1927 Garfield Gilliam maintained the Garrich post office 3½ miles up the Middle Fork of Richland. It was about where the old US 25E (now 1232) meets the new four lane 25E,

2.8 miles (by the four lane) northwest of Baileys Switch and six miles from Barbourville. Gar, the first name proposed for the office, was in use in Wayne County. Could the name then have combined Garfield's and Richland?

POST OFFICES ON LITTLE RICHLAND CREEK

Or . . . This stream, mostly paralleled by Ky 11 and the C&M Railroad, extends for about eleven miles to join the main Richland channel near the L&N's Cumberland Valley line, just north of Heidrick. Five post offices served its watershed, while a sixth, Bimble, began there and soon moved to Fighting Creek.

The active Bimble was established on January 24, 1898 in first postmaster Daniel C. Hawn's store just below the head of Little Richland, near the site of the present Hinkle post office, on the east side of then Kellys Fork (now Hawn Branch-?), eight miles northeast of Barbourville. The preferred name Hawn was replaced by Bimble, it's said, for Will Payne's prized oxen Bim and Bill. At the end of 1902 the office closed. It was reopened on July 15, 1905 in William Dozier's store, about a mile south, at the head of Fighting Creek, 5½ miles east of Barbourville, with Annie Maude Dozier (later Moneyham), its next postmaster. It was moved in 1930 half a mile down Fighting, and again in 1933 another half a mile down. Around 1940 it was again moved, to Loss R. Yeager's store at its present site at the junction of old US 25E and Ky 1304, 3½ miles east of Barbourville. For some years this site was also called Yeager until confusion with Yeager Station near Pikeville led to an April 12, 1966 US Board on Geographic Names decision in favor of the exclusive use of Bimble.

Bimble's first site, at the mouth of Payne's Creek (of Little Richland) was again served by a post office, the shortlived (July 10, 1915 through August 1917) Payne. With John R. Patterson, its only postmaster, it (like the creek) was named for one or more area landowners.

From April 1926 till the present, the site was again served, by the ⁻¹⁷
Hinkle post office. This office had been established the same day as
Payne, probably at the head of Hinkle Branch of Stinking Creek's Road
Fork, some three miles northeast. Sarah Mills was the first postmaster
and the Hinkles were another Knox County family. Fannie Allen moved
the office, she said in her Site Location Report, to a site closer to
her home and because no one at the first site was capable of continuing
it there.

Cannon, another active post office on Ky 11 and Little Richland,
was established on May 29, 1901 by Henry L. Cannon (ne February 1845)
and named for his family. Yet the name has also been attributed to the
cannon set up near there during the Civil War by Union militia to halt
General Felix Zollicoffer's approach to a salt works during his march
on Barbourville. From its outset the post office served the area called
Sinking Valley for the local school and church, and in 1917 the Cannon
name was applied to a station on the newly opened C&M Railroad through
the Little Richland and Collins Fork valleys. The office is now at the
mouth of Dancey Branch near the Sinking Valley Church, 3½ miles north-
east of Barbourville.

In 1916, to ship coal to distant markets, Charles C. Heidrick of
Brooksville, Pa. completed his twenty three mile long C&M (Cumberland
and Manchester) Railroad from Manchester (Clay County) to a junction
with the L&N's Cumberland Valley line called J.R. Allen in the community
of Highland Park. Here he located his roundhouse and switchtrack and
renamed the junction Heidrick. On March 4, 1920 Ben Herndon established
the Heidrick post office just west of the C&M tracks and two miles up
Richland and Little Richland Creeks from the Cumberland River. In 1926
the C&M was sold to the L&N which has maintained it ever since. The

Heidrick post office now serves a fair sized village which extends for nearly a mile on both sides of Ky 11 from the relocated US 25E at Barbourville's northeastern limits to Little Richland.¹⁰

In Godfrey Jackson's store at or near the mouth of the 1½ mile long Little Richland tributary of Trace Branch, another shortlived post office was established, on March 19, 1926. Jackson's proposed name Pennsy, for his store, gave way to Tracebranch, and his wife Effie was postmaster till it closed in late September 1928. The branch, which also gave its name to this extant community, was named for an old Indian trace that followed its course.

COLLINS FORK POST OFFICES

Collins Fork extends for nine miles in Knox County and ten miles in Clay County to join Goose Creek (one of the two head forks of the Kentucky River's South Fork) just above Garrard. It's paralleled by Ky 11 and the C&M branch of the L&N Railroad.

The first post office that's believed to have served the Knox County's Collins Fork watershed was Payne's. Named for one or more area families, it was established on July 13, 1874 by flour mill owner Dutton Jones somewhere between the Richland and Little Richland Creeks. In 1881 it was moved by storekeeper Louis Henderson Jones two miles northeast to a site on Collins (possibly in the vicinity of the later Green Road post office), three miles east of the Jarvis Store post office to serve his and another store, several mills, and other businesses. In January 1888 Jones had the office name changed to Girdler for the descendants of James Girdler (1751-1842), a Pennsylvania-born Revolutionary War veteran, who later lived and died in Pulaski County, Kentucky.¹¹

In the summer of 1895 Tyre Y. Marcum moved the Girdler post office - 1 / two miles down Collins (north) to the mouth of Hammons Fork where it replaced Columbus Troutman's earlier (November 27, 1891 through October 1893) Hopper post office (named for the descendants of Blaggrove B. Hopper, an antebellum landowner) and assumed the Hopper name. By the time the C&M had arrived in 1916 the Hopper community had a sawmill, factory, stores, shops, churches, and a school. In January 1907 Fountain Fox Rowland (1858-1937), a Laurel County native and local storekeeper, who had married Nancy Ann Hopper in 1883, became postmaster. By May 1916 he had accepted the job as ^{the} C&M's local station agent and moved his office to the tracks. On the twenty first of the following month he had the office renamed for himself. The Fount post office closed in 1974.

On April 28, 1899 Millard Hibbard re-established the Girdler post office three miles up Collins (south) from Hopper-Fount. By February 1915 it was midway between Collins and Little Richland, four miles south of Hopper-Fount. It still serves a school, stores, and a sawmill at the junction of Ky 11 and 1304, 6½ miles northeast of Barbourville.

On the 7½ mile long Hammons Fork, maybe at the mouth of its Shop Branch, four miles east of Hopper, was the shortlived (February 18, 1896 through January 1897) and inexplicably named Abel. Sarah E. Jones was its only postmaster.

Another shortlived post office (March 29, 1906 to February 15, 1907) was on Jones Fork of Hammons, two miles above Abel and six miles east of Hopper. Sole postmaster Isaac Mills' first proposed names Abel and Sal were replaced by Williams, also underived.

The 4½ mile long Bull Creek joins Collins from the northwest just below (north of) Fount. At several sites on, and at the mouth of, Bull's Upper Turkey Branch was Sprule. This office, begun by Leander D. Jarvis

on April 6, 1905 to serve a locality called Hemlock, was named for the
or
Knox County Sprule / Sproul family (perhaps for James Sproul [1853-1930]).
It closed in 1983.

William Martin proposed his family name for a post office on some
unidentified Collins Fork tributary, but as it was then in use in Lewis
County he called his office Dallas. According to his two Site Location
Reports, it was five miles northeast of Hopper and two road miles from
the Clay County line. It operated from May 5, 1909 through November
1912. Its name derivation remains unknown.

The Criss post office, established on July 20, 1917 by John M. Cole,
was on Collins, one mile south of the Clay County line, and two miles
north of Fount. It operated till mid September 1925. It's said to
have been given the first name of a prominent local person, not other-
wise identified.

Woollum, one of several Kentucky post offices that operated in two
counties and served residents of both, was named by and probably for
its first postmaster Samuel J. Woollum. He established it on Collins
a couple of miles within Clay County on March 5, 1900. Cotton was his
first name choice. By early 1909 the office, with S.A. Blevins, post-
master, was a mere 700 feet from the Knox County line. It was moved
again, on October 6, 1924, by Henry W. Cobb, an earlier Sprule post-
master, to a site 500 feet within Knox County, one mile north of Criss.
Several more short distance moves along the Fork within the next thirty
years brought it half a mile up Collins and Ky 11 from the Clay County
line where it ~~still operates~~. WAS SUSPENDED ON 8/29/2003.

To serve the C&M Branch's Green Road Station, midway between Fount
and Girdler, the Green Road post office was opened on November 30, 1927,
with Mrs. Alice Hammons, its first postmaster. It ~~still operates~~, on
CLOSED ON AUG 19 2005
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Ky 11, at the mouth of Bunker Branch, half a mile south of the station site. Whence the name? Half a mile below (north of) the post office lies the Greenbriar Branch of Collins, and half a mile below that is Green Branch. Otherwise, no one seems to know the name's origin.

POST OFFICES IN THE LYNN CAMP CREEK VALLEYS AND BRANCHES

The main channel of this stream drains northwestern Knox County, eastern Whitley County, and the southern edge of Laurel County for fifteen miles to join the Laurel River (a Cumberland River branch) a little over a mile northwest of Corbin. For at least seven miles it serves as the Knox-Whitley County line. Four post offices served this stream's Knox County section.¹²

The little recalled and shortlived Steel post office (April 13, 1881 to September 22, 1884) served postmaster Harrison H. Steel's grist mill, several other area mills, and some other businesses on the east side of Lynn Camp (or possibly its Stewart Creek branch.) It's believed to have been at or just north of the future Wilton coal camp site, and may have been its precursor.

In 1900 the North Jellico Coal Company opened a mine and a camp some four miles east of Woodbine and the Lynn Camp's main channel on the Whitley County line. By December of the following year the camp, by then called Wilton, for reasons unknown, had been reached by the L&N's Coal Switch (later Wilton Branch) spur line from Woodbine. On August 26, 1901 the Wilton post office was established with Charles S. Neild of Harrodsburg, Ky., the mine superintendent, as its first postmaster. By 1910 some 1,500 residents in 391 homes were being served by the company's commissary, electric power plant, hotel, and nearby lake. The town failed to survive the decline in coal production in the 1920s,

and by 1931, with the abandonment of the railroad, it was gone. But the post office remained, at several vicinity locations (most recently on a branch of Stewarts Creek, less than half a mile north of Ky 6, and 13½ miles north of Barbourville) till 1948.

Stephen Dowis would open a post office in his store on Lynn Camp, two miles below its head and perhaps 1½ miles above (southeast of) the site of the future Wilton Camp. Dowis Store, his first name preference, gave way to Dow, and Stephen operated his office from May 26, 1881 through 1885.

The derivation of Dumas, applied to an office on Lynn Camp, half a mile from Whitley County and 1½ miles southeast of Corbin, is also unknown. Jacob Watson and Henry Fuson ran the office between January 3, 1923 and 1934.

POST OFFICES ON THE EAST FORK OF LYNN CAMP CREEK

Lynn Camp's East Fork heads one mile south of Brafford Store (Rossland) and extends for ten miles west to join the main channel just east of downtown Corbin.

Somewhere in the East Fork watershed was the Singleton post office which George R. Barton operated from October 2, 1882 to mid April 1883. According to his Site Location Report he first proposed his own family name for the office that would be three miles sse of the Lynn Camp post office (then at the junction of the present Ky 830 and 233, at the southern edge of Laurel County), and eleven miles from Barbourville. It may have been named though for A.R. and Mariah L. Singleton of whom nothing is known.

Around 1890 the North Jellico Coal Company established the Bertha Mine, one of the county's earliest coal operations, about a mile up what became the Bertha Hollow of Lynn Camp's East Fork. Bertha is

✓ believed to have been the daughter (nee March 1883) of George Darby who established there the Bertha post office on January 4, 1899. By that time the community that had developed around the mine had a population of some 1,200. The post office closed in late February 1915, but by then a Bertha Station had opened on the L&N tracks, one mile north, at the mouth of the Hollow, and midway between Gray and Rossland.

✓ Robert Martin's proposed Cupid post office opened as Baden [bā/dən] somewhere on or near the Hazel Fork of Lynn Camp's East Fork. According to his Site Location Report it would be 3½ miles north of Gray and three miles southeast of the Lynn Camp post office in Laurel County. He alone operated it from June 22, 1905 through August 1914. The source of neither name is known. In Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, Baden, alone or in combination with something else, denotes a spa or watering place. This, though, doesn't seem to be the case in Knox County.

✓ Another post office whose name source and first precise location are not known was Watch. This was opened on September 27, 1916 by Abijah P. Hopper somewhere 3½ miles east of Corbin and 2½ miles north of Lynn Camp's East Fork and the L&N's tracks. His first proposed name was Sturgill for a local family. In 1926 it was moved three fourths of a mile southwest to a point one mile north of the tracks and the then route of US 25E, and one fourth of a mile west of Stony Fork of East Fork where it closed in 1951.

✓ According to Mrs. Bertha J. Vaughn's Site Location Report, the locality of Vaughn, somewhere between Corbin and Watch, and probably on the road that became US 25E, would be served by a post office called Abiff. It lasted all of six months (July 8, 1922 to mid January 1923). Whence Abiff is not known.

OTHER POST OFFICES ON THE L&N'S CUMBERLAND VALLEY LINE AND IN LYNN
CAMP'S EAST FORK WATERSHED

A Stokes County, North Carolina native Emanuel Pfaff (1826-1909) settled with his parents Peter and Leah in Knox County before 1830. To serve the community of Stonecoal at the mouth of Stonecoal Branch of Richland Creek's Middle Fork¹³, four miles northwest of Barbourville, James Bowlin, on September 14, 1886, opened the Emanuel post office. Shortly thereafter, at several sites, the office was serving several stores, a grist mill, and the area's L&N shipping point Lovell. By the turn of the century the station too was called Emanuel. When it closed in 1937 the office was at the mouth of Poplar Branch of Stonecoal, one rail mile west of its first site.

The hamlet, rail station, and post office of Baileys Switch, just below the mouth of Middle Fork, four miles north of Barbourville, developed near the site of a camp occupied by Daniel Boone in 1769, and again in 1775 when he was laying out a trail to the newly settled Bluegrass. The post office was established on September 15, 1890 shortly after the L&N erected a switch on storekeeper and lumberman John R. Bailey's land, and Bailey was appointed its first postmaster. By the time the office was suspended on June 23, 1987 it was at the junction of US 25E and Ky 229. Since the switch too is gone the local community is now simply Baileys.

The village of Gray with an active post office is on Ky 1232 (old US 25E), on the north side of Lynn Camp's East Fork, just south of the new (four lane) US 25E, and some ten miles northwest of Barbourville. While some county historians believe its name identified a small cross-roads settlement there before the L&N arrived in 1887, others trace it to the establishment of its station that year and the post office on

January 25, 1888. They attribute it to Calvin C. Gray, a local farmer,²⁰⁻ merchant, and millowner who gave the railroad its right-of-way through his farm. He was the first postmaster and station agent, though he was shortly succeeded in both roles by his brother Ben T., a storekeeper and coal mine operator. For some reason the post office name was spelled without the terminal "s" and this spelling has been preserved on all maps and records since. The "s", however, has always been sounded locally.

One or more Campbell families gave their name to a post office established on July 14, 1893 to serve an L&N station 2½ miles southeast of Gray and three miles northwest of Emanuel. Sarah F. Campbell was its first postmaster.¹⁴ It closed at the end of October 1902.

Another office, at or near the Campbell site, was established on May 6, 1911 as Charlton to serve the L&N's Charlton Station. William H. Lee was its only postmaster, and the office closed in late July 1912. This vicinity is identified on current published maps as Arkie. Neither Charlton nor Arkie have been name derived.

Just before the turn of the twentieth century, to serve the L&N's Dewey Station, three miles east of Corbin and 2½ miles west of Gray, a post office of this name would be established. Shortly thereafter the station was named Siler [sa:/lɪr] for a local family.¹⁵ Since this name was already in use by a Whitley County post office, the office to be established here would be called Peace for the local family of Simon (ne ca. 1861) and Sarah Peace.¹⁶ But on its application this was misread as Place by postal clerks and the office was opened in this name on May 15, 1899 with Mary B. Hodge, postmaster. While the post office was Place till it closed in November 1963, local people have preferred the name Siler for the station and community around it, and this name

was officially retained by a BGN decision in 1970. Today the Siler community centers on two stores at the junction of Rtes. 1232 (old US 23E) and 830, just north of the tracks.

TWO CUMBERLAND VALLEY POST OFFICES THAT SERVED THE WHITLEY-KNOX COUNTIES BORDER AREA

Isaac Bryant established and named the Isaac post office on May 17, 1883 within Whitley County to serve the folks on Goodin Creek, an east-side branch of the Cumberland River ten miles below Barbourville. The following year Josiah Smith moved it half a mile or so up the creek to a site just over the Knox County line. On closing in February 1886 its vicinity was served by the Dishman post office till that was moved back to Whitley County two years later. Still later the first Isaac site was served by the Gausdale post office (see below).

At three sites between the river and the Whitley County line, most recently on (the present) Rte. 1530, some eight miles below (southwest of) Barbourville, John V. Cloyd, etal. maintained the Clate post office. Cloyd's first proposed name was Bon (something), but neither that nor Clate, by which it operated from September 11, 1888 through August 1917, has been explained.

POST OFFICES IN THE STINKING CREEK WATERSHED

Stinking Creek heads at its head forks--Alex Creek and Pigeon Fork, one mile above (northeast of) the Mills post office. It extends for about nineteen miles to join the Cumberland River one mile below Himyar and two miles above Artemus. In use by 1784, as it was so identified on John Filson's Kentucky map of that year, the name was given by early hunters for the odor of rotting animal carcasses thrown in the creek after the removal of their hides. Twelve post offices served the Stinking watershed.

THE FIVE POST OFFICES ON STINKING'S MAIN CHANNEL AND KY 718

On January 10, 1890, to serve the neighborhood around the mouth of the Roaring Fork of Stinking, an area settled in the 1830s by Knox pioneer John Walker's son Brice,¹⁷ Augustus "Gus" Walker established the Walkers post office. It was discontinued in March 1895, but was re-established by "Gus" as simply Walker on April 7, 1899. Several moves progressively down the creek brought it to its present location half a mile below the mouth of Stinking's Middle Fork, and 1½ miles above (east of) DeWitt (and 13½ miles east of Barbourville via the four lane US 25E and Ky 718.)

Also on January 10, 1890 Allen Messer of another pioneer Knox family established the Messer post office to serve a village of some 300 residents four miles above Walkers. Other Messers--John W., Anthony, and Champ(ion)--followed Allen till the office closed in mid June 1905. The Messer School and Community Center at the mouth of Laurel Creek survived till recent years along with the Messers Store on Buckeye Fork.

Three years after Messer's closing its vicinity was again served by a post office called Caverock for a large jutting rock there used as a travelers' shelter. It was operated from May 9, 1908 through May 1910 by William Smith and James Keningham.

Somewhere above the head forks of Stinking another of the county's several Isaac Mills established the Mills post office on May 27, 1891 to serve a key timbering area which produced logs for shipment down the creek to the loading depot at Flat Lick. After several moves on Stinking it ended its days in October 1993 at the late Nasby B. Mills' store at the mouth of Acorn Creek, 6½ road miles above Walker.

The Dewitt [dee/wiht] post office, long at the mouth of Stinking Creek's Road Fork, roughly midway between Flat Lick and Walker(s), was established at Lewis Campbell's store on April 26, 1894. As there was already a Campbell post office in Knox County (see above) Jesse Campbell, Lewis' father and the postmaster-designate, named it, it's said, for an old man who lived in that vicinity in the mid nineteenth century but about whom nothing else is known. The office continues to serve this crossroads hamlet with store and school at the junction of Ky 223 and 718.

THREE POST OFFICES UP THE ROAD FORK CREEK

Through the nineteenth century this stream was known as Trace Fork for the route along it traveled by eighteenth century Indians and white hunters, the so-called "Warriors Path" that led ultimately to the Ohio River. The stream heads just south of the Clay County line and, paralleled by Ky 223, extends for about 9½ miles to Stinking Creek, some 8 and 3/4 miles above the latter's Cumberland River confluence.

On the same day (January 10, 1890) that the Walkers and Messer post offices were established, C.E. Hammons opened the Hammons post office some six or so miles up the then Trace Fork. Inexplicably, the Post Office Department saw fit, two years later, to respell the name Hammond and this meaningless name has since been perpetuated on all maps and records.¹⁸ The office closed in 1975.

Just below the head of Road Fork, a little over a mile from the Clay County line, and 3½ miles above Hammond, William C. Warren's Caudill post office operated between October 24, 1916 and mid November 1917. Caudill is an old eastern Kentucky family name.

Since Road Fork was already in use by a Pike County post office, Andrew J. Carnes chose the unexplained Barnyard for his Knox office roughly midway between Hammond and Dewitt. He, Pearl Carnes, and others

operated it between November 15, 1926 and 1950.

POST OFFICES ON STINKING'S MIDDLE FORK

Heading at its head forks--Jeff and Salt Gum--Middle Fork extends for slightly over four miles south to Stinking Creek at Walkers' first site.

The first of Middle Fork's two offices was Scalfton [skaef/tən]. This was operated between July 13, 1883 and January 14, 1884 by Peter Scalf. It was re-established as Scalf on December 23, 1897 by James Matison Scalf probably at or near its first site. This is believed to have been at the Hubbard Branch, 2½ miles up the Fork, for it's known to have served Hubbard's Mill in the 1880s. It's still here.

On Jeff Creek, just above its Salt Gum confluence, two miles above (north of) Scalf, was the Salt Gum post office. This was established on January 7, 1926 by Obie Bargo, a sawmill operator, whose large family has lived on the 3½ mile long Salt Gum. His first name choice was Bargo, but whence Salt Gum, even for the creek, remains an enigma. What's a "salt gum"? Anyway, in 1930 storekeeper Victor Bingham moved the office one fourth of a mile up Jeff where it was suspended on March 31, 1989.

OTHER STINKING POST OFFICES

For three years from September 1899 an Eros post office operated just north of Paint Gap (on the Clay County line) and just south of the head of (main) Goose Creek. Could this have been a forerunner of Knox County's Erose post office which was established in May 1909 somewhere on Pigeon Fork (one of Stinking's head branches)? Joseph and Henry Slusher, of one of the area's dominant families, were its first post-masters. After at least seven known moves up and down Pigeon Fork, it closed in 1951 just below the mouth of Low Gap Branch, 1½ miles above

(east of) Mills (then at the mouth of Acorn). Neither Eros nor Erose has been explained.

About a mile up Stinking's four mile long Turkey Creek branch, 2½ miles from Flat Lick and Himyar on the L&N, William S. Woodson established, on May 25, 1916, the Baughman [bahf/mən] post office. The Baughmans (whose name was also sometimes pronounced bahk/mən) were another old Knox County family. For some time in the 1920s and 30s, the neighborhood served by this office was also known as Turkey Creek. In 1966 the office became a rural branch of Barbourville, six miles west, via the new US 25E.

POST OFFICES SERVING BRUSH CREEK, KY. 225, AND THE OLD CUMBERLAND AND ARTEMUS-JELICO RAILROADS' COAL TOWNS AND STATIONS

Brush Creek heads just south of the Bell County line and the Brush Creek Gap and extends for nearly thirteen miles to the Cumberland River, half a mile south of Artemus, and three fourths of a mile south of the L&N's Cumberland Valley line. Nine post offices served the coal mines, camps, and rail stations in its valleys.

A coal field developed a mile up Owens Branch of (the lower end of) Brush Creek prompted the East Jellico Coal Company in 1894 to build a three mile spur to bring its coal to the L&N's Cumberland Valley's loading station at Artemus. In 1905 the Warren, Pennsylvania-based Cumberland Coal Company, having acquired coal lands some eight miles up Brush, completed a line called the Cumberland Railroad to its holdings. Financial overextension allowed the railroad to go into receivership and in 1924 it was purchased at public auction and renamed the Artemus-Jellico Railroad to reflect its then route between Artemus and the Kentucky-Jellico mines at the upper end of the valley. By 1939,

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with the closing of the mines in the valley and the completion of a highway (now Ky 225), the railroad began to be phased out and was eventually abandoned.¹⁹

To serve the new Keel Station on the L&N's Cumberland Valley Railroad, just above the mouth of Stinking Creek and three miles below ^{was} ~~(northeast~~ of) Flat Lick, James M. Durham, on September 8, 1888, opened the Elon [ee/lɔn] post office. But on March 18th of the following year storekeeper and new postmaster John W. Hemphill had the office moved 1½ miles down the tracks and the river to a point one mile north of the mouth of Brush Creek and four miles above (southeast of) Barbourville. It would serve another newly opened station called Artemus [ahr/teem/əs], named in 1888 for Artemus Ward Herndon (ne August 1863) who had donated the right-of-way and depot site for the loading of area coal. The office was renamed Brush Creek but, on June 1, 1891, it became Artemus. In 1894 and 1905 the Artemus Station became the junction point for the independent Brush Creek rail lines. Some coal lading and several small businesses continue to support a fairly thriving community centering at the junction of Ky 225 and 930, though it's nothing to what it had been in the coal boom of the early 1900s.

Where the East Jellico Coal Company loaded the products of its two Owens Branch mines onto its rail cars it established a town it called East Jellico and a station aptly named Coalport. To serve them the Jellico post office opened on November 10, 1897, with Fred G. Tice, postmaster, but by the end of that year the office had also become Coalport. All was gone by the end of 1910.

At the mouth of Brush Creek's Tye Fork, ten miles south of Artemus, Nimrod Lunsford, on November 2, 1898, established the Lunsford post office.

[luhnz/færd]. His first proposed name was Bear for the one mile long stream that joins Brush Creek from the east. Shortly after the office closed in July 1908, the Cumberland Railroad reached this site and opened its Lunsford Station as a freight shipping point. In 1930 the Bryan W. Whitfields (Sr. and Jr.) developed here the holdings of their Kentucky-Jellico Coal Company and re-established the post office as Kayjay on April 9, 1931. Claudius D. Silvers was its first postmaster. In 1952 Kentucky-Jellico discontinued its operations and the (by then) Artemus-Jellico Railroad shut down. From 1960 to 1975 the post office was a rural branch of Barbourville's.

Meanwhile, the Anchor Block Coal Company of Knoxville, Tennessee was developing its holdings at the head of Tye Fork to which a 2.7 mile Cumberland Railroad spur was being laid from Lunsford to serve this unfolding operation. The Anchor post office was established on March 31, 1908 with Hugh W. Smith, postmaster, and soon the Anchor Station and nearly 300 residents were in the coal business. But in 1942 the mine and community were abandoned and the post office was closed.

On May 20, 1900 John R. Trosper (ne November 1860) opened a post office in his family's name at (or near) the mouth of Brush Creek's Powers Branch, 4½ road miles south of the river. By 1906, when store-keeper-blacksmith James B. (Jim) Trosper (1858-1931) became postmaster, the office was serving the new Cumberland Railroad's Bennett Switch or Bennettsville Station and the area's Bennettsville-Jellico Coal Mines developed by and named for Dr. Samuel Bennett. Thence came some moves up and down the creek and tracks till, in 1933, the office was serving the Rock Cliff Station and the Franklin Coal Company's holdings just below Powers. It still operates at the mouth of Powers.

From July 10, 1913 to mid July 1919, when Trooper was three fourths of a mile above the Bennettsville Station and mine, another post office, called Bradel [probably braed/ə1] was serving the Bennett Coal interests. This name is believed to be a combination of the names of W.D. Ellison, who applied for the office, and John Bradley, the first postmaster. Shortly after its closing, the Trooper office was moved back to the Bennettsville site.

The Lay post office was established at the mouth of Lay Branch of Little Brush Creek, on September 27, 1905 with James Hampton, postmaster. It was named for an area lumberman Lewis J. Lay (1860-1943) and his wife Jane who had acquired land on this west-side-of-Brush branch in the 1880s. In 1907, however, the office was moved 1½ miles east to the Little Brush's mouth, two miles south of the river, where it was soon serving the Myrick Station, the R. Dean Collieries, and the Slick Lizzard Mines. Myrick was named for the Tennessee-born Francis Myrick, who was living with the Lays. The office closed in 1936.

The Cumberland Coal Company of Warren, Pennsylvania was incorporated in 1902 to develop coal lands some eight miles up Brush. To ship its products to the L&N station at Artemus it built its Cumberland Railroad in 1905 and, at the mouth of Chesnut Branch of Brush, a mile north of Lunsford, located its Cumberland Station. Here a community called Warren was established and, on April 4, 1906, the Warren post office was opened with James Whitcomb Owens, postmaster.²⁰ The office was discontinued in 1950.

In August 1911 a two mile long Cumberland Railroad extension was completed from Warren to a point near the head of Brush Creek for the Wheeler Brothers' Brush Creek Mining and Manufacturing Company mines.

Here was established the Wheeler Station and, on January 22, 1912, the Wheeler post office. Robert L. Wheeler (1878-1940), the firm's president and general manager, was its first postmaster. When the mines closed in 1929 the rail extension was abandoned. But the post office survived, also to 1950.²¹

OTHER CUMBERLAND RIVER VALLEY POST OFFICES

Of the approximately 700 mile long main Cumberland River channel some thirty three miles are in Knox County.

The post office of Holden (name also underived) operated from October 1, 1900 through April 1914. It was some three miles east of Barbourville, halfway up the eight mile long Fighting Creek which joins the river 1½ miles above Barbourville and just south of Boone Heights. First postmaster Joseph H. Walton's first proposed name was Cora, perhaps for Cora Grindstaff who succeeded him in 1906.

In the late 1870s, some two miles above Flat Lick, Oliver P. Ely opened a coal mine. Soon the two mile long Cumberland River branch passing through his land was known as Elys Branch or Elys Hollow. In 1889 he deeded land to the L&N's Cumberland Valley line for a right-of-way and station which also took the Elys name [ee/leez]. Several yards up the branch W.R. Hughes, d.b.a the Hughes-Jellico Coal Company, opened a mine in 1904 to which a rail spur was extended and a station called Hujel [hyū/djəl] was located. In 1905 a post office to be called Ely was applied for but opened as Hujel. In September 1907 its postmaster Rufus Murphy Rice had it moved from Hujel Station some 400 feet to the main tracks to serve the Elys Station and the newly developed Ely Jellico and Matthews Jellico Companies' mines, and took the Elys name. After several moves between the station and a point just short

of the Bell County line, a mile or so up the river, and long after the area's coal operations had fizzled, the post office closed in 1952. By then the office of 0.3 miles above Elys Station and two thirds of a mile below the Bell County line, and was serving a locality also known as Dry Hill.

Two sites in the lower end of the Flat Creek valley, between a half and one mile up from the Cumberland River, were served, from May 3, 1907 to 1958, by the inexplicably named Permon post office. Its first postmaster Joseph Grant's first proposed name for it was Logan by which that locality was then known.

Finally, there's the hamlet, L&N station, and post office of Himyar [hihm/yar] on the Cumberland River about a mile above (east of) the mouth of Stinking Creek and 2½ miles from Artemus. Founded in 1898 by Stephen Watt, and with the hope that it would be one of the fastest growing towns in Kentucky, it's said to have been named for one of the state's fastest race horses. This was an English mount named Himyar whose owner may once have drilled for oil in its vicinity. At least that's one possibility.²²

Another is the local tale, a real folk etymology, recounted by the columnist Joe Creason, about the local man who had lost a promising stallion colt. A search was begun and the man who found him shouted 'him yar!' And the horse's stable became the first post office site.

But why would a race horse be called Himyar anyway? And what did the name mean and where did it come from?

Perhaps, for some strange reason, it referred to the ancient kingdom of the Himyars in the Yemeni Uplands of the Arabian peninsula which, in the early Christian era, is known to have achieved great wealth and power by controlling the spice trade between the Orient and the developing Mediterranean world. By the early fifth century (A.D.) its king and many of its subjects had converted to Judaism, and to

avenge the persecution of fellow Jews by the Ethiopian Christians, had allied themselves with the Persians in opposition to the emerging Christian states of Africa. They were all but destroyed in retaliation and by the mid seventh century, after their conquest by Mohammed, their remnants had been converted to Islam.²³

But this still doesn't tell us why they were honored by the name of a race horse, or, indeed, by the name of a Kentucky post office.

The Himyar post office was established on May 28, 1906 with Joseph Liford, the first postmaster, to serve the community and station. After a number of short distance moves it was suspended in March 1984.

Of Knox County's eighty one post offices, twenty were foci of settlements with more or less definable boundaries and concentrated populations. Many of these were coal camps with limited lifespans (though several have survived as residential communities). Sixteen offices (Artemus, Barbourville, Bimble, Bryants Store, Cannon, Dewitt, Flat Lick, Girdler, Gray, Green Road, Heidrick, Hinkle, Scalf, Trospen, Walker, and Woollum) are still active. Only one, Barbourville, serves an incorporated community, the county's seat. Corbin, a city shared with neighboring Whitley County, will be considered in the chapter devoted to this county.²⁴ Most of Knox's post offices, including several extant ones, served only a local store or two, and perhaps a mill, a rail station, a school or church, and the rural families dependent on them.

Forty seven post offices bore the names of local or area persons/families; five had geographic or descriptive names; and five were named for local or nearby features. Two offices had other name sources (local Indian-white relations and prized oxen), while two or more derivations apiece accounted for two others. Sixteen office names are as yet underived, and seven offices have not yet been precisely located.

Twenty five post offices bore names that were not the first proposed for them, while twenty two served communities, neighborhoods, or rail stations with other names, and eight had name changes.

Four offices were authorized but never operated. Somewhere in the Road Fork valley (of Stinking Creek) Sol A. Hammons (ne November 1869) would operate the Sol post office but his May 28, 1903 order was rescinded on July 30, 1904. Mary and Green M. Campbell's June 4, 1903 order for an Emmet post office (location and name derivation unknown) was also rescinded, on December 14, 1904. As was James T. Morgan's order of February 17, 1908 for the Rossland post office to serve the rail station of that name near the site of the Brafford Store, and A. Carnes' order of November 30, 1907 for a Carnes post office, half a mile up the Roaring Fork of Stinking.²⁵

FOOTNOTES

1. According to Gordon DenBoer (compiler) and John H. Long (editor) of the Atlas of Historical County Boundries--Kentucky, New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994, Pp. 246-54, Knox in 1806 lost 130 square miles toward the creation of Clay County and, in 1810, lost eighty square miles toward Rockcastle County. The new Whitley County acquired 660 square miles in 1818, and Harlan picked up 770 square miles the following year. In 1826 and 1834 Knox contributed 310 square miles toward the newly organized Laurel County. In 1838 it gained forty square miles from Harlan County, but in 1867 lost another 150 square miles toward (Josh) Bell County.
2. The story goes that the recently appointed county court commissioners, failing to break a three to three tie in their vote to locate the new county's seat at either the settlement of Flat Lick or the site of Ballinger's tavern, unanimously adopted Barbour's offer of

thirty eight acres. (Charles K. Steele, "First Cabin in Kentucky Was in Present Knox County" Lexington Leader, June 30, 1938, III, P. 41:1-8)

3. Old Flat Lick was given as Pogues on Edmund F. Lee's New Map of Kentucky, Etc. in 1856. The area between the mouth of Sandy Branch and Pogue Hollow, a mile above, was identified on Civil War era maps as Pogue. The Pogues were a pioneer family that produced a succession of county sheriffs and justices before the Civil War. Pogues Branch (or Hollow, as it's now called) was named for pioneer settler John Pogue who had a tavern on the Cumberland about 1824 and a water mill there in 1830. James Pogue later heired the mill. (According to K.S. Sol Warren's 1976 history, Pp. 66, 199.)
4. According to the late Orange Prichard of Barbourville, through a letter from K.S. Sol Warren to the author, May 6, 1987, this branch is said to have been four miles from the Mackey Bend Ferry across the Cumberland River.
5. Ibid.
6. John E. (ne 1865) was of a large family that had acquired considerable land in Knox and Bell Counties.
7. Indian Creek heads in Candle Ridge and extends roughly 10½ miles to the Cumberland opposite Mackey Bend.
8. Richland Creek was so identified by William Calk in a 1775 entry in his journal (According to H.H. Fuson's Bell County history, 1947, P. 101)
9. The terminal "s" in the family name is, curiously, crossed out in Parker's Site Location Report.
10. In 1949, according to Ernest Tuggle, Jr.'s Site Location Report, the post office was still serving the community of Highland Park.

11. While James' Pulaski County descendants continued as Girdler through the nineteenth and into the twentieth century, Knox Countians of that family, through Michael (1813-1888), who had settled and owned land on Little Poplar, have spelled their name Girdner. I've never learned why.
12. See Pp. for more on Lynn Camp Creek and its name derivation.
13. For some reason this stream is identified on current published maps as Stone Cove~~h~~ Branch; and some records give the Pfaff name as Poff.
14. The first name proposed for the Campbell office may have been Clyde.
15. For more on the Silers see Pp. below.
16. Simon was a descendant of Joseph Peace who had settled in Knox County at least by 1810. Related Peace families had extensive antebellum landholdings in Whitley and Knox Counties through the nineteenth century.
17. The Roaring Fork of Stinking Creek was named for the loud noise of its waters over the rock bed, a definite roaring sound likened by local folks to that of a lion.
18. The Hammons family can probably be traced back to Peter, a Revolutionary War veteran from North Carolina. Two later Hammond (sic) postmasters were Sol A. and Joseph Hammons.
19. Elmer Sulzer, Ghost Railroads of Kentucky, Indianapolis, Indiana: V.A. Jones Co., 1967, Pp. 203-10
20. It's believed by some that the Warren post office was also named for J.C. Warren, a local mine owner; and we know that a James M. Warren became postmaster on January 25, 1907.
21. According to Sulzer, op.cit., a proposed rail extension from Wheeler to Jellico, Tennessee through a tunnel in Brush Creek Gap and along Greasy Creek never materialized. The Artemus and Jellico Railroad ceased its entire operation in 1952, and its track Dismantlement was completed by the following spring.

22. Himyar, the race horse, may not have been all that fast, for he only came in second to Day Star in the Fourth Kentucky Derby, 1878.
23. At least according to Philip K. Hitti's History of the Arabs (1935).
24. According to the 2000 Census, only twenty four per cent of Corbin's population resided in Knox County.
25. The county's Carnes families were descended from the brothers Thomas and Abner who settled on Roaring Fork in the very early 1800s.

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