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AN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF BATH COUNTY, KENTUCKY

THESIS

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of Master of
Arts at the University of Kentucky.

BY

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Before a comprehensive history of Kentucky can be written there is need of careful, detailed histories of the various counties. Although this thesis does not attempt to present a complete social and political history of Bath County, it should be a step in that direction. The libraries and the schools of the State are asking for such histories. The longer their preparation is delayed, the more difficult the task of writing them becomes, for original records are being destroyed.

Little has been written about Bath County that has value as economic history. This is the first attempt to produce such a written history of the county. Original source material is limited. Mr. Luther Hess, Owingsville, Kentucky, at the time of his death, had under way a social history of the county, the manuscript of which was secured by this writer. His history, in its dates and other statements, is often at variance with other authorities. Since Mr. Hess seldom quoted authorities whereby his statements might be verified, in cases where there was disagreement the statements of others have been preferred. Reports of geologists, a few magazine articles, the Bath County Court records, the United States Census reports, the early histories of Kentucky, a few private records, conversations with old residents, small bits of material from other books, and files of newspapers make up the bulk of the source material.

Some of the difficulties met with in preparing this work should be mentioned. In the first place, history was being made in this territory long before people were interested in recording it. The territory was settled and a thriving society established for more than twenty years before there were separate court records for Bath County. Naturally, considerable portions of the historical accounts of this territory and period will be found merged with the records of other and larger areas that included what was later to be Bath County. In the next place, although Bath is an old county, few historical sketches of any kind have been written about it. Consequently, any history of this territory will be fragmentary and incomplete. Finally, it is necessary to include both social and economic activities in a history of a pioneer society since these activities in pioneer times are so closely intertwined. Many activities that have social and economic significance, but are common to early American or Kentucky life, are omitted, for a complete account of them is to be found in more general histories.

CHAPTER II

THE HISTORY OF BATH COUNTY BEFORE 1811

Mound Builders of Bath County-- Mounds, with varying contents bearing witness to the existence of a people who lived before authentic history sheds light that can identify them, are found in Bath County and elsewhere in the State. Smith refers to a report, made by Rafinesque, a Frenchman who traveled in this part of the country, describing three of these mounds in Bath County.¹ Rafinesque, as reported by Young, says these mound builders were "a white people who were familiar with arts of which the Indians knew nothing". But these whites "were finally exterminated". "They were an agricultural people of sedentary habits."² Professors Funkhouser and Webb of the University of Kentucky, after long and critical studies of the relics of the mound builders in Bath County and elsewhere, give it as their conclusion that these mound builders were Indians.

No writer attempts to set a date for the sojourn of the mound builders. The growth of large trees on their mounds indicates that they had been built at least two hundred years before the coming of the white man. Linney

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- 1 Z. F. Smith, History of Kentucky, Courier-Journal Job Printing Co., (Louisville, 1886), p. 744
2 Colonel Bennett H. Young, Prehistoric Men of Kentucky, John P. Morton and Co., (Louisville, 1910), p. 191

recounts the finding of a skeleton of a mammoth in Bath County near the present town of Sharpsburg in a pond dug by the mound builders in connection with the construction of a nearby mound.¹ These facts lend evidence to the claim of the antiquity of the mounds and would seem to place the time of residence of the builders before, or during, the period in which mammoths roamed the territory. The bones of this animal were sent to Centre College in Kentucky about 1851.

However, the relics from the mounds are too scanty for very wide or very strong conclusions to be drawn therefrom. If metal implements, carvings, or stone buildings had been found, they would reveal more clearly the culture and habits of the builders. The absence of these furnishes testimony of a people with simple social and economic habits.

Indian Occupancy— Bath County is bounded on the north and east by the Licking River. Wild life was plentiful in the early days, and the Indians hunted in the territory. Along the banks of the Licking grew the sweet bamboo cane and lush grasses the buffaloes preferred. Also in this area there were many salt and other mineral deposits that supplied the animals with necessary minerals. The buffaloes formed their "traces" or paths along the streams and cross-country to other streams and mineral deposits. The

1 W. M. Linney, Bath and Fleming Counties, John D. Woods, (Frankfort, Ky., 1886). Geologic Survey of Kentucky, John P. Proctor, Director, p. 52

game was trailed by the Indians and along the same routes later came the white settlers hunting game. Naturally, the first conflicts and battles between the white people and the Indians occurred near the streams.

While the Indians from across the Ohio River hunted in Bath County, and for many years came in such numbers as to be a constant menace to the settlers, there is no record of this territory's having been the home of any tribe. Collins, in his history of Kentucky, and Sudduth, in his history, give extended and varied accounts of the conflicts of the Indians and white people. One account tells of one of the trips of Daniel Boone into the county.

Coming of the White People— Kentucky histories show how the settlement of this State was begun by people from Virginia. But many ventures were made almost simultaneously by other individuals and groups apart from the venture made by the group settling at Boonesborough. Smith says, "Colonel Floyd made his first survey (out of Fincastle County, Virginia) on the Ohio River in Lewis County, Kentucky, on May 2, 1773, of 200 acres of land for Patrick Henry." ¹ Mr. Hess says, "The old Elliott and Gillon house near Owingville, when torn down, was found to bear the date of 1776." ² Mr. Hess refers to another house built

¹ Z. F. Smith, Op. cit., p. 25

² See Appendix, Hess Manuscript. Other dates relative to early settlers are given there also.

in this county in 1775 by a Mr. Freeland. He says, "The old Springfield Church neighborhood was settled in 1771,¹ or 1772, by the Lanes."

Two things drew the settlers to this territory: rich soil and abundant game. Two things drew game to this territory: lush vegetation and salt deposits. Licking River received its name from the great number of "licks" along its course. The name "lick", appearing so frequently in the county, indicates the presence of salt or other mineral and the attendance of animals upon those deposits. In and near this county are Buffalo Lick, Salt Lick, Deer Lick, Mud Lick, Two Lick, and Three Lick.

A "lick" is a place where a mineral that animals crave exudes from the ground with the moisture and permeates the soil or collects as deposits. Usually this mineral is salt. All herbivorous animals make their way periodically to these "licks". They lick the dirt with the salt in it. The ground was often furrowed by their tongues. In the summer they often wallowed in the mud near the "licks", so that the ground was beaten down over great areas. The more timid animals, as the deer, waited on the margin of the droves until the larger animals took their departure. Mr. Sam Cassity, Editor, told the writer that the first

¹ See Appendix, Hess Manuscript

view white men had of Olympian Springs (formerly called Mud Lick) was had by his forebears, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Cassity, as they were hunting in that neighborhood. Coming to the top of a hill, they saw a herd of buffalos, estimated at five hundred, gathered about the salt, copperas and alum springs situated in the yard of the present Olympian Springs Hotel.

Early Home Life and Industry-- Much could be written under this head about the early economic and social activities of the people in this county, but these were similar to the recorded activities of other pioneers. Only those matters that definitely belong to this county will be recounted here.

The first water power mill west of the Allegheny Mountains was brought from Cockeysville, Maryland, by John Cockey Owings and set up on Slate Creek in this County. A few years ago one of the millstones from this early mill was given to Professor Webb of the University of Kentucky, and the stone now adorns his garden.

Customs change slowly in the mountains. For more than one hundred years in the southern part of Bath County a bushel of corn, a gallon of sorghum, ten pounds of meat, or seventy-five cents in money was sufficient pay for a day's labor. Imlay says that good land without improvements sold in 1790 for "one to eight shillings per acre".¹

1 G. Imlay, Topographical Description of the Western Territory of North America and Laws and Government of the State of Kentucky, Samuel Campbell, (New York, 1793), p. 145

Today good land lying off the main roads in the southern part of the county can be bought for \$2.00 or less per acre.

There is at least one house still standing that was built with portholes to allow guns to be fired through in defense against Indians.¹ In Bath County is to be found a high grade limestone that is excellent for building purposes. Many old houses are made of this material. Clay for fire brick and building brick is abundant. Many kilns for local needs were erected at an early date. Sand stone is available but has been utilized but little. Imlay says millstones equal to the French burrestones were to be found in this region.²

Agriculture and Natural Resources— Mention has been made of the abundance of game in this territory. Imlay says that the last stand of the buffalo in Kentucky was at the head waters of the Licking River.³ In this county were often seen enormous flocks of wood or passenger pigeons. In the early days the flocks were described as being so large as to darken the sky. Their weight broke down the smaller trees, and limbs of larger ones, when they attempted to alight on them in such numbers. Wild turkeys were found along the streams but in time were exterminated or driven to other grounds.

1 See Appendix, Hess Manuscript

2 G. Imlay, Op. cit., p. 125

3 Ibid., p. 102

However, they were replaced by quail, which came in with the advent of grain that was planted by the farmers. Wild clover was found along the streams. Red clover was brought from the eastern states about 1800. One account says that bluegrass was brought first to Boonesborough in 1769, and a bushel of seed was taken from there to Clark County in 1770.¹ Another account has it that the seed was probably brought to Bath County from Virginia in the stomachs of the buffaloes.

Transportation and Trade-- Any exchange of produce calls for transportation. The extent of trade is limited by the convenience and cost of transportation. Some articles that were produced in profusion in earlier days had little value because they were not near a market. Cattle and hogs from Kentucky were sold on the eastern seaboard but with little profit. "Hog drovers" drove hogs across the mountains all the way from Bath County to the Carolinas. Corn could have been sold, but its bulk made transportation costs excessive. Corn made into whiskey had its bulk reduced and its value increased by a single operation.

In time there came to be three routes into Kentucky from

1 Robert Peter, History of Fayette County Kentucky, edited by W. H. Perrin, O. L. Baskin and Co., (Chicago, 1882), p. 12

the East: the Wilderness Road, the Ohio River, and another overland route, opened about 1788, entering Kentucky at Catlettsburg and following rather closely the route now held¹ by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. This road passed through Bath County, leaving the route of the Chesapeake and Ohio at Salt Lick and bearing south of that railroad, passing the Olymrian Springs Hotel, coming again to the Chesapeake and Ohio at Preston, Bath County. This soon came to be known as the "State Road". The Bath County News-Outlook, November 10, 1927, says the first "pike" built by the State was this road from Owingeville to the mouth of the Big Sandy River in 1836. In other sections of the Union this road bore the name "Midland Trail". In 1926 this road was designated National Highway Number 60 and was surveyed from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceane. The earliest road in this county was built by Colonel Owing when this county was a part of Bourbon. It led from his furnace on Slate Creek through Mt. Sterling, Winchester, Paris, and Frankfort in a more direct route than the present National Highway. It was called the "Iron Works Road". This road passed a little to the north of Lexington. The Fayette and Scott County sections of this road still go by this name.

The Licking River was used by the people of Bath County

1 Kentucky Gazette, October 4, 1788, announced that a company was setting out over this new route for Virginia.

in shipping their products, but as transportation was often unsafe because of the presence of hostile Indians, much of their products was taken overland to the Kentucky River¹ where the owners joined with other shippers and in larger boats made the trips down the Kentucky, the Ohio,² and the Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. Much time was consumed in the round trips to the markets.

The articles for shipment were mostly: pelts of fur bearing animals, skins of cows and sheep, feathers from ducks and geese, wool and tobacco. These commodities were light, valuable, and would not spoil easily. They were therefore well adapted for transportation and sale. Other articles sold were: salt meat, grain, whiskey, sorghum molasses and later tan bark, lumber, etc. Those articles on reaching New Orleans were exchanged for cane sugar, coffee, or cash.³

In 1786 the territory that later came to be Bath County was a part of Bourbon County. On June 20, 1786, at the second session of the Bourbon County court, an order⁴ was issued for road labor to be performed under an overseer.

Creation of State and County-- Virginia held claim to most of the territory comprising what is now Kentucky at the time it was being settled. This territory was a part

1 Peter, Op. cit., p. 59

2 Kentucky Gazette, April 25, 1789, James Wilkerson offered \$10. per month for men to take his boats to New Orleans, or \$35. for the round trip.

3 Peter, Op. cit., p. 59

4 Peter, Op. cit., p. 41

of Fincastle County, Virginia. It was not long before the residents of this new country desired this district to be a separate county. The reasons set forth for this separation were: different commercial interests, the possession of funds for the expense of a separate government, and the expense of justice by reason of the distance from the county seat. "Kentucky County of Virginia" was set¹ up December 6, 1776, by the Commonwealth of Virginia. In time this county was subdivided. Fayette County was created in 1780 and later in the same year, Jefferson and Lincoln.² In 1785 Bourbon was created as the fifth county. It was carved out of Fayette. In 1792 Clark, the fourteenth county, was cut from Fayette and Bourbon. In 1796 Montgomery, taken from Clark, was set up as the twenty-second county. Bath County was created in 1811. It is composed of a part of Montgomery. Bath became the fifty-sixth county. In 1822 territory was taken from Bath and Floyd counties to form Morgan as the seventy-third county. In 1869 Bath, Morgan, Powell, Montgomery and Wolf counties contributed parts of their territory to form Menifee as the one hundred-thirteenth county. This new county took its name from Bath's most illustrious citizen, Richard Menifee.³

1 Robert McNutt McElroy, Kentucky in the Nation's History, Moffat, Yard and Co., (New York, 1909), p. 77

2 W. H. Perrin, J. H. Battle, and G. C. Kniffen, Kentucky: A History of the State, F. A. Battey and Co., (Louisville, 5th edition, 1887), p. 670

3 Ibid, p. 623. Note the change in spelling of the word to "Menifee".

It may be noticed that Bath County had been a part of Montgomery and, before that, a part of Clark and, before that, a part of Bourbon and, previous to that, a part of Fayette and, before that, a part of Fincastle County, Virginia.

When Kentucky became a separate state in 1792, there were already fourteen counties within its bounds. The same reasons were urged for Kentucky's becoming a separate state as were advanced for the creation of independent counties.

CHAPTER III

THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF BATH COUNTY SINCE 1811

In this chapter the further history of the county will be developed under the following subheads and in the order here mentioned: Area, Settlement and Early Social Life of the County, Population and its Distribution for Bath County, Roads and Transportation, Forests and Timber, Agriculture, Debt, Taxes, Banking Statistics, Wealth, Industries and Institutions.

Area— Bath County lies in the northeast quarter of the State. Young gives the original boundaries of the county at its creation:

"Beginning where the dividing line between Bourbon and Montgomery crosses Kingston; thence up Kingston to the mouth of Lane's branch; thence to Flat Creek at the upper end of Alexander McIntire's farm, on which Original Young then lived; leaving James H. Lane's old house in the county of Montgomery; thence to Stepstone Creek, one and a half miles above its mouth, including Brook's farm; thence a straight line to the waters of Little Slate Creek, so as to include Janett's farm in Bath; thence a direct line to where the State road crosses Blackwater Creek; thence down Blackwater to its mouth; then down Licking River to the Nicholas County line; thence along said line to the Bourbon line; thence with the Bourbon line to the beginning."

In 1869 Menifee County was formed to the south of Bath, taking part of this county and having the following

1 Van B. Young, History of Bath County, Transylvania Publishing Co., (Lexington, 1876). Reprinted in News-Outlook serially beginning October 6, 1927.

boundaries:

"Beginning at the mouth of Beaver Creek; thence a straight line to the divide between Buck and Clear Creeks; thence with the divide to the gatepost on said ridge; thence with the great road so as to include the farm of J. M. Havermill, beginning at the head of Carrington's Branch, and running with the ridge west to Salt Lick Creek; thence with the dividing ridge between main Salt Lick and Clark's Fork of Salt Lick to the divide between Clark's Fork and Mud Lick; thence with the dividing ridge to the head of Mill Creek and east fork of Slate Creek."

On the north of Bath County is Fleming County, on the east is Rowan, on the south is Menifee, and on the west are Montgomery and Nicholas.

The main creeks are: Slate, Salt, Mill, and Flat. All creeks drain into Licking River.

The mean summer temperature is 74.6 degrees, the frostless season averages 152 days, the growing season ranges from 165 to 191 days, the annual rainfall averages 45.55 inches¹ with the July average 4.66 inches. However, an unofficial record of rainfall for the Sharpsburg community, extending from January, 1859, to September, 1885, a period of twenty-six years, shows an average of 40-1/8 inches. The record was kept by Jonathan Vanarsdell, Esquire.² According to Vanarsdell the greatest rainfall was in 1882 and totaled 55 inches. The least was in 1871, a fall of only 29-1/8 inches. October

1 Wilbur Greeley Burroughs, Geography of Kentucky Knobs, Kentucky Geological Survey, (Frankfort, 1926), p. 113

2 W. M. Linney, Bath and Fleming Counties, 1886, Cover page.

was the driest month and July the wettest that year.

Slate Creek divides this county almost evenly in halves. The soil north and west of this creek has lime as a definite ingredient, and in this soil bluegrass flourishes. To the east and south of the creek the soil has white clay and sand as ingredients. No lime is found therein. Geologically the county falls within the "knobs" classification and the southern end of the county conforms to this classification. However, the limestone section across Slate Creek is definitely of the bluegrass type, and Lipscomb says, "Here is some of the finest farming land in the State."¹

The elevations above sea level for various points in this county are: on Flat Creek, the lowest point recorded for the county, 650 feet; Mill Creek, at the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad bridge, 703 feet; Preston, 741; Olympia, 751; Owingsville, 995; top of Carrington Rock, the highest point recorded, 1396 feet.² The area of the county is 275¹/₂ square miles, or 176,064 acres.

Settlement and Early Social Life of the County--

Settlement of the State in general has been considered. What is now Bath County had been settled and events of historic significance were transpiring there long before a separate county was created.³ Under the above heading

1 A. B. Lipscomb, Editor, Commercial History of the Southern States Covering the Post-bellum Period in Kentucky, John P. Morton and Co., (Louisville, 1903), p. 26.

2 Linney, Op. cit., p. 12.

3 Kentucky Gazette, November 10, 1787, gave "notice of a 'settling' on Main Licking".

the story of the development of this county from the earliest time will be briefly set forth.

Perrin says, "The great number of mineral and medicinal springs within its limits furnish the county a name."¹ This statement is indicative of the truth although it is not a complete statement of the truth. The Lansdownes, who owned the property in this county known as the Olympian Springs, were descendants of the Earls of Bath, England, who owned that earldom. As Bath, England, was noted for its mineral waters, the Lansdownes gave that name to this county because mineral waters were found here in such abundance.²

The fertility of the soil brought Jacob Myers from Richmond, Virginia, October 3, 1782. He surveyed, entered and patented 6,000 acres of land on Slate Creek, Fayette, County, Virginia³ (now Bath County, Kentucky). However, Elias Tobin

¹ Perrin, Op. cit., p. 553

² Linney, Op. cit., p. 36

³ Certified copies of land grants made to Jacob Myers and in the possession of Mr. Hess were inspected by the writer. One reads in part, "part of a Land Office Treasury Warrant No. 742 and issued the 15th day of October 1779 unto Jacob Myers-----there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto said Jacob Myers a certain tract or parcel of land, containing five thousand acres, being by survey of November 6, 1783, in Fayette County including part of Big Slate Creek." (Signed by Partick Henry, Governor, December 2, 1785). Another warrant, No. 721, dated October 15, 1779, and signed by Edmund Randolph, Governor, April 25, 1787, conveyed to Jacob Myers 1,000 acres of a survey dated October 15, 1784. The land is on "large fork of Main Licking, emptying in North side about 5 miles from Upper Blue Lick". Still other warrants, numbered 7830-35, dated November 1, 1781, signed by Beverly Randolph, Governor, on May 17, 1790, conveyed 15,000 acres of the survey of March 3, 1789, to Francis Buckner. This land lies in Bourbon County "on waters of Licking" adjoining the 12,000 acres of land belonging to James Taylor. One boundary line of this tract of land "crosses Slate".

in 1775 had made an "improvement" by building a temporary cabin and clearing a small piece of land on Slate Creek near the site where the Bourbon Furnace was later built. William Calk was also on Slate Creek in 1779.¹ One author says Bath County was settled about 1763 by Thomas Clark and his brother, Hugh Sidwell, Elias Tobin, James Wade, Rollard, Francis Downing, and William Calk.² Mr. Hess says the lanes had settled in the Springfield community of the county by 1771 or 1772.³

Owingsville had its beginning in the building of a home by Harrison Connor, according to Mr. Young.⁴ But Mr. Hess says, "It is a mistaken idea that Harrison Connor built the first house. Joseph E. Brinn in 1788 built one of the first. The Elliott and Gillon houses when torn down were found to be dated 1776."⁵ Young says there were only two fortifications in Bath County: one on the ore mine hill on Slate Creek, and the other at Cassity's Station on Salt Well Branch erected by Peter Cassity. This blockhouse on Slate Creek was "the earliest fortification in this section of the state".⁶ The workers and their families lived in the stockade and went to their work in the fields and ore mines with their rifles in their hands, because of the

1 Lewis Collins, History of Kentucky, J. P. Morton and Co., (Louisville, 1874), edition of 1924, Volume 1

2 Perrin, Op. cit., p. 553

3 See Appendix, Hess Manuscript.

4 Van B. Young, Op. cit., passim

5 See Appendix, Hess Manuscript.

6 Kentucky Magazine, Volume 1, November 4, September 9, 1917, L. H. Kilpatrick.

danger from attack by Indians.

The Indians seem to have been worse than usual in 1786. They stole horses in this county near Sharpsburg and Bald Eagle. Mr. Sudduth, surveying "Licking bottoms from Slate Creek to Salt Lick, found plenty Indians". In 1788 he was surveying on Slate Creek and killed "buffaloe" on Mud Lick. He mentioned also that there were plenty of beavers and deer.¹ Collins, in his history, mentions several fights with the Indians. Daniel Boone had one encounter with them in this county. When Boone's daughter was stolen by the Indians, their flight was traced through this county.

²
The Kentucky Gazette published a letter from Jacob Myers in 1788 in which he proposed "laying off a town on Slate Creek with large streets which will allow public grounds sufficient for courthouse, meeting-house, and school house. I will sell also 20,000 acres at thirty pounds per hundred. Part of the price to be paid in two pair good mill stones, castings and bar iron. There is a public road to the eastern states and navigable waters to the Ohio. As soon as a crop of corn is raised on said land, I will erect a Gristmill and further intend, as soon as possible, to erect iron works and slitting mill on the waters of Slate Creek."

1 William Sudduth, History Quarterly of the Filson Club, Volume II, Number 2, January 1928, Louisville, Sketch of the Early Adventures of William Sudduth in Kentucky, p. 45 f.

2 Kentucky Gazette, Lexington, August 9, 1788.

There has been considerable controversy as to the earlier owners of the beautiful Olympian Springs property. A Mrs. Matthews of California told the writer in a letter that her great grandparent, Thomas Hart, received this property in a grant from Partick Henry, Governor of Virginia. History shows that "Colonel Thomas Hart" was a member of the Transylvania Company and received a grant of land from the Virginia Commonwealth. Mr. Luther Hess of Orangeville told the writer that Colonel Hart never owned the Olympian Springs but that the property belonged to Guthbert Banks, who, in 1784, conveyed it to Henry Clay. However, the writer found, in the records of deeds in the Montgomery County courthouse under the date of March 25, 1806, a copy of a deed signed by Guthbert Banks who "for 5 shillings to him in hand and other obligations to be paid off" conveys to Thomas Hart a "parcel of land in Montgomery, including the Mudlick, and patented by the Commonwealth of Virginia to Jacob Myers on 7th day of July, 1789". Mrs. Matthews and Mr. Hess are both partly right and partly in error. Mrs. Matthews said Henry Clay handled the property as executor for the Hart heirs. Henry Clay married Lucretia Hart, daughter of Colonel Thomas Hart, and made the Olympian Springs his summer home. Here he entertained Aaron Burr and other notables. His writings refer to Olympian Springs.

1 Calvin Colton, Editor, Works of Henry Clay, G. P. Putnam's Sons, (New York, 1904).

Richard Menefee, a native of Bath County, became a close friend of Henry Clay, and Mr. Clay intended that Mr. Menefee should receive his Whig following. This plan was cut short¹ by the death of Mr. Menefee.

Colonel Thomas Dye Owings came from Maryland and set up an iron ore furnace on Slate Creek in 1791.² This seemed to be the fulfillment of the promise by Jacob Myers made in 1788. The furnace was given the name of "Bourbon Furnace" after the county in which it was then located. A second furnace was erected and given the name of "Maria Forge" after Colonel Owings' wife. The claim is often made that the Bourbon Furnace was the oldest furnace west of the Allegheny Mountains. This is disputed by some. "The oldest furnace west of the Allegheny Mountains still stands on Roxbury tract, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, built before 1789. There is another in McCracken County, Kentucky, nearly as old as the Bourbon Furnace."³ Colonel Owings was the manager of the furnace from its beginning.

The terrain about the first settlement on the creek near the furnace was too broken to be a site for an ambitious county seat, so the top of a hill about two and one-half miles north, where Colonel Owings' home was located, was selected for the courthouse and town. The settlement about

1 McElroy, Op. cit., p. 507

2 Van B. Young, Op. cit. passim.

3 News-Outlook, Owingsville, Kentucky, April 1, 1897.

the "Owings' House", as the Colonel's home was soon called, was named Owingsville in honor of Colonel Owings. At the time Owingsville was settled, the land on which the town was built was owned by Colonel Owings and Richard H. Menefee. There was a contest to determine whether Owings or Menefee would give his name to the new town.¹



This entire corner building, including the darker part to the right of the Bank, is the Owings' House. It was in more recent times subdivided into a bank building and hotel. The main entrance was the door to the right of the Bank.

For many years the Owings' House remained a show place of the State.²

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- 1 Ibid, April 29, 1901. These two gentlemen were building pretentious homes. The people of the community agreed that the one completing his home first should give his name to the town. It seems Colonel Owings' home was completed first.
 - 2 Ibid, August 20, 1931, names twelve points of historic interest in Bath County. These points were determined by Mr. Luther Hess. This home is one of them.

The building cost \$60,000. Slave labor was used in its construction. Benjamin H. Latrobe, the architect who designed the national Capitol, designed this home. The winding stairs were made in Baltimore and probably cost \$10,000. The stairs rise for three stories without support other than that carried in their close fitting construction. They are today as solid and usable as the day they were set up. Brick for the house were hand pressed and today are still good. The nails for the building were made at the local furnace. The walls were three to four feet thick and were designed to withstand attack. The builder thought the English might renew the war and be able to get this far inland.

¹
Henry Clay and other notables were often the guests of Colonel Owings in this mansion.

On one of his trips to Baltimore Colonel Owings met Louis Philippe. He invited his royal friend to visit his home. Louis Philippe accepted the invitation and was his guest for several months.² Some deny that Philippe ever visited Owingsville.³

Colonel Owings moved the furnace store to Owingsville in 1814. It was built on Coyle Street, the only street in town at that time. On this street were the old inn,

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- 1 Andrew Jackson on his way to Washington, D. C., for his inauguration as President in 1828, stopped in Owingsville for several days.
 - 2 Van B. Young, Ct. cit.; also see unpublished thesis of H. P. Burkholder, University of Kentucky, 1917, "Louis Philippe in Kentucky."
 - 3 Young E. Allison, The Curious Legend of Louis Philippe in Kentucky, privately printed, (Louisville, 1924).

the tan yard, the carding factory, the blacksmith shop, the hat shop, shoe shop, tailor shop, and horse power gristmill. Richard H. Menefee built a brick house and ran a tavern.¹ His widow, Polly, ran it on after Mr. Menefee's death.

The writer has inspected the account books of Colonel Owings for this period. A day-book and two ledgers have been preserved. Upon the urging of the writer these have been turned over to the library of the University of Kentucky. Entries often are made in the day-book with the money values indicated in English terms--pounds, shillings, pence. However, they are posted to the ledger in American values. Entries of items often show to the quarter of a cent the value of an article, and the fraction of the cent is retained in the totals. A paper of wine sold for twenty-five cents or for one shilling-six pence. Madder, used in dyeing, appeared often as an item in the household accounts. Brandy and wine appeared often in the account of "Polly Menefee". Her tavern required these beverages. Wine sold for seven shillings-six pence, one pint of whiskey for twelve and one-half cents, two pounds of coffee for two shillings-seven and one-half pence, three pounds of sugar for two shillings-three pence, one pound of madder for three shillings, one pair of stockings for \$1.38. Almanacs

1 See Appendix, Hess Manuscript.

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sold for twelve and one-half cents.

The public well was dug by William Castigan in 1814² and cost \$120. "Owingsville, about 1800, was nothing more than a frontier settlement" but it was on the "great road" from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.³ Settlers, statesmen, and soldiers of the Revolutionary War traveling west to take up land, stopped at Owingsville to buy from these stores and to rest.⁴ These stores were better stocked than the average store. Colonel Owings had a gristmill, blacksmith shop, iron foundry and a general store. "For years this was the only store in this section of the State. It furnished coffee, indigo, madder, and other domestic necessities." The goods for his store were brought on pack horses, or on wagons, or were floated down the Ohio River to Maysville on flatboats and then hauled overland on ox carts.

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- 1 Other items read, "Cash lent 1/6", "1 pound coffee 44¢", "2 pounds coffee 2/7", "Polly Menefee, to balance on brandy \$27.00". Warren and Pearson have translated many prices of former years into modern day values. With the prices of 1910-14 as bases, "all commodities" of 1817 have an index value of 151, and in 1818 an index value of 147. "Foods", likewise, have an index value for 1817 of 154, and for 1818, an index value of 172. These would indicate that coffee, at 44¢ a pound in 1817, would have a value in 1910-14 of about 80¢ a pound. Sugar at 2 shillings-3 pence for three pounds in 1817 would have a value in 1910-14 of about 28¢ a pound. (George F. Warren and Frank A. Pearson, Prices, Revised third printing, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., (New York, 1933), pp. 24, 25.
- 2 Van R. Young, op. cit. passim.
- 3 H. P. Burkholder, Thesis, 1917, University of Kentucky, Louis Philippe in Kentucky.
- 4 Kentucky Magazine, Volume I, Number 4, L. H. Kilpatrick.

The furnace was originally built for the purpose of casting ten-gallon kettles to be used in boiling maple sap into sugar. Soon nails, cooking utensils, axe blades, and plow shares were being made. Later Colonel Owings set up a store in Lexington and advertised his wares as "not inferior to any in the United States".

Mr. Young in brief space sums up the living conditions for the county:

For crops they raised corn, wheat, rye, oats, and flax. They had no good foreign markets. Hogs, horses, mules were driven to South Carolina and Virginia. Provisions were cheap, money was scarce. Hogs were worth \$1.25 a hundredweight, horses \$25, milk cows \$8 and \$10, sheep 50¢, whiskey 25¢ a gallon. For game there were deer, turkeys, bears, and smaller animals. Big looms were used to weave the wool and the smaller looms to weave the flax or linen. The men wore jeans, trousers, and linen shirts. The women wore linsey dresses with brilliant stripes. The hats were made in the cities. A neighbor would tan leather on shares. They imported coffee, madder for dye, cups, saucers, plates, and knives and forks. Schools were mere prisons to keep children out of mischief. The school books were few. Schools were supported by subscription.

While a list of names of prominent citizens does not necessarily belong to an economic history, a little space may be permitted for the names of a few who, economically speaking, attained success.

Senators to Frankfort from this county: Thomas Dye Owings in 1823, Thomas Johnston Young, 1847-1851, James Gidduth, 1851-1859, Colonel John W. Conner, 1869-1873,

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Andrew J. Ewing, 1875-----¹ Others of prominence are: Richard Menefee, born 1810, went to Congress in 1837, died in 1841. John C. Mason came from Virginia, located in Bath, served in the Legislature and Congress and in the Mexican War. Ambrose D. Mann, born in Bath, became United States Agent to Austria, then to Hungary, and later to Switzerland. Henry S. Lane, born in Bath, removed to Indiana and became a United States Senator for that State. Andrew Trumbo, born in Bath September 13, 1799, went to Congress in 1845. John B. Young, born in Bath September 22, 1823, went to Congress in 1857 and served until 1872.

Population and its Distribution for Bath County--The first United States Report of the Census, after the creation of Bath as a separate county, is for 1820. The table below gives the distribution of the population from that date to the last return in 1970, according to race and sex. The only record found before 1820 is a statement in the Kentucky Gazette of May 28, 1791, giving the total population of Bourbon County as 7,837 in number. This total is made up of 1, 645 white males more than sixteen years old, 3,249 white females, 2,035 white males under sixteen, and 908 slaves. At that time Bourbon included Clark, Montgomery and Bath counties. Only three counties in the State at that time were larger than Bourbon: Fayette,

¹ Van B. Young, op. cit. passim.

population 18,410; Woodford, 9,210; Nelson, except Green River, 9,017. The entire population for the State was: white males sixteen years and older, 15,154; white males under sixteen, 17,057; white females, 28,922; slaves, 12,430; all others, 114; total, 73,677. Jefferson County at this time had only 4,765 people. Apparently in 1791 there were but a few hundred people settled in Bath. For the population to swell to 7,961 in 1820, or within thirty years, shows a strong pull towards this county. The area of the county in 1930 was reported as 270 square miles. Census data on population is shown in tabular form below.

Census Year	Total population	Total whites	All males	All females	Total free colored	Free males colored	Free females colored	Total slaves	Foreign born	Population per sq. mile
1820	7961	6685			52		1224			
1830	8799	7186			31		1582			
1840	9763	7708			104		1951			
1850	12115	9464			116		2535			
1860	12113	9472	6184	5929	141 ^(a)	69	72	2500 ^(b)	81	
1870	11145 ^(c)	8443			2702				90	
1880	11982	9965	6124	5858	2017				85 ^(d)	
1890	12813	11235	6645	6168	1578				36	
1900	14757	13042	7758	6999	1692				23	54.5
1910	13988	12652	7213	6775	1336	679	657		24	51.8
1920	11996	10976	6194	5802	1008				12	44.4
1930	11836	11075	6093	5743	744	374	370		17	41.0

(a) Of the 141 free colored people, 52 are reported as mulattoes.

(b) Of the 2500 slaves reported in 1860, 1241 were male and 1259 were female.

(c) The loss in population, in part, as reported this year is explained by the creation of Wenifree County in 1869, taking away a part of Bath County.

(d) Mining, lumbering, and railroad construction brought the foreign born to this county. When these activities ceased the foreigners, for the most part, left. The census shows the year 1900 as marking the greatest population for the county. At this period the mines were running, the railroads were demanding ties, lumber was being sawed.

The total number of divorced people reported in 1930 was 45. In this census also 76 families were reported as having ten or more members in the family.

It will be observed there were but few slaves at any time. The average is less than one slave to each white family. It is probable that only one-fifth of the white families had slaves. The number of "free colored" from year to year showed practically no growing disposition in the county to liberate the slaves. The percentage of free colored people to the total population varies from one-half to one. From 1820 to the first census after the war in 1870, the percentage of negroes to the total population increased at a steady rate from 15 per cent to 24 per cent. The census report later shows this percentage dropped to $16\frac{2}{3}$ in 1880, and the rate of decline is steady until 1930 when the negroes were but $6\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of the total population. It will be noted that there have been at all times more males than females in the county. The county being strictly agricultural one may expect the population to show a decrease in keeping with the trend of agricultural disemployment.

The population per square mile for all of Kentucky in 1930 was 65.1, in 1920 it was 60.1, in 1910 it was 57, and in 1900, 53.4. The rate per square mile for the State seems to be increasing but for the county it is decreasing. The rate for the State is more than 50 per cent higher than for the county. In 1930 there were 2,600 families reported living in the county, and this included 178 negro families. White people made up 93.1 per cent of the

population in 1930. This proportion varies little from year to year. Fifteen hundred-thirty-eight families owned their homes in 1930. Eighteen hundred-forty-nine families lived on farms. Seven hundred-fifty-one are non-farm families. The median value of all homes owned is \$1,406. The modal family has two members, 554 families reported as having this number. The median family is composed of 3.76 persons. Of the 1849 farm families, 1005 own their homes. The median farm family has 4.03 members. The percentage of illiteracy for the county in 1930 was 7.6, while for 1920 it was 11.3.

Owingsville is known to many friends living away from the city as "the city of beautiful scenery".¹ It is on the top of a rather large hill and overlooks beautiful valleys with larger hills in the distance. It was incorporated in 1829. In 1850 the town boasted of having 300 inhabitants, two churches, two taverns, a courthouse, a post office, five stores and groceries, three doctors, seven lawyers, two schools, one blacksmith shop, one tailor, and one saddler. In 1870 the population was 550, in 1880 it was 773, in 1890 it was 763, in 1900 its greatest population was reported, being 956. In 1910 its inhabitants were numbered at 942, in 1920 they were reported at 761. In 1930 the census reported 933 people in the little city. This report shows three times more people moved from the industrial centers to this agricultural community

¹ Democrat (newspaper), Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, March 10, 1882.

during this census period of 1910-1920 than moved from this county to the cities. This change of movement of the population from the cities to the country is in keeping with the general trend of the movement of people in times of industrial depressions. When industries in the cities close, those people who are adversely affected¹ by the closing return to their relatives in the country.

In 1876 there were daily stages to Mt. Sterling and Sharnsburg and tri-weekly stages to Mayeville. There was also a daily mail from Mt. Sterling, the nearest shipping point, fourteen miles distant. The Bath County News, owned by Young and Williamson, was the county paper. At this time there was in Owingsville a hotel, four physicians, three druggists, and a bank, the Exchange and Deposit Bank, operated by J. A. J. Lee and Son. James P. Picklin operated a tan yard and a harness, boots and shoeshop.

1 Dr. James W. Martin, in testifying before the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1931, stated that Kentucky had, according to the census of 1920, a less percentage of population between the ages of 18 and 54 (ages of ordinary employment) than eleven other neighboring states. This State suffered a loss of 18.6 per cent of its population through the migration of her people to other states. The rate of migration is one-half times the rate of immigration. This is occasioned by the lack of industries within the State. (I.C.C. report, Commonwealth of Kentucky et. al., Complainants, vs. Ahnapee and Western Railway Co. et. al., Defendants, Volume II, I.C.C. Docket 21373, Frankfort, Kentucky, March 13, 1931, pp. 2,3.)

There were eleven lawyers in the town.¹ In 1884 there were two banks, Lee's Bank and Goodpaster's Bank. The newspaper was then called the Owingsville Outlook and was published by T. J. Young. There were also two livery stables.²

In 1922 the town had a band of fifteen pieces. That year the Owingsville Chamber of Commerce was organized. It has not accomplished much. Its chief duty is to serve as a medium through which the established businesses of the town cooperate. It ineffectually fought the entrance of a chain grocery store.

The local newspaper announced on November 14, 1901, that there would be a moving picture show at the courthouse. A regular Edison outfit was to be used. Life size pictures, cast by electric lights, were to be seen. Admission price was twenty-five cents, reserved seats thirty-five. The lights proved to be too weak to make satisfactory pictures. In 1922 the town passed an ordinance to tax the movies. This indicated the moving picture show had become established. The "talking pictures" were first announced in Owingsville for Friday, May 30, 1930.

The mail for Owingsville came by train to Preston

1 Van B. Young, op.cit. passim.

2 Atlas of Bath and Fleming Counties, D. J. Lake and Co., (Philadelphia, 1884).

after about 1890. The mail was hauled by a hack from Preston to Owingsville. The first Sunday mail was brought in on August 23, 1927.¹

The county paper for November 12, 1896, announced that the city had voted to have eight electric arc lights installed in the town. In April, 1897, three more lights were added. In 1899 new electric machinery was secured by the Owingsville Electric Light Company to supply the growing demand for lights. In 1925 no company bought the electric franchise, and it was expected Owingsville would be without lights after July 6th of that year. The town tried to get power from the Kentucky Utilities Company. Temporary arrangements were made and the lights were continued. The next year a deal was made with the Kentucky Central Power Company in which that company bought the plant of the Owingsville Electric Light Company and agreed to furnish current twenty-four hours a day. At no time has the city undertaken to make its own electricity. In 1933 the city was paying \$1,800 a year for its lights.

On June 23, 1896, the well at the courthouse door was begun. It was drilled eight inches in diameter. At a depth of 107 feet the well had 59 feet of water. It was thought an artesian flow would be struck within 600

1 See Appendix for a table of distances between towns within the county.

feet from the surface. Pence and Lewis had the contract to drill the well. When they had reached a depth of 670 feet and no artesian flow had been found, they decided to drill no further. A record kept of the substances passed through in drilling the well shows: surface soil and red dirt, 18 feet; red limestone, 3 feet; blue clay and soapstone 22 feet; hard limestone, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet; soapstone, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet; sandstone, 31 feet; soapstone, 4 feet; blue limestone, 243 feet; shale, 300 feet; granite, 3 feet; and black limestone, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet.¹ The next year the well was declared to be a failure as the water was too oily for drinking purposes.² However, the oiliness disappeared and the water was used. A hand pump was installed that would lift water from a depth of 200 feet, although the water usually stood within eighteen feet of the surface.³

The local paper of August 16, 1894, described the new city fire engine. Twenty-four men were required to operate it. It could pump from six to eight barrels of water per minute. It had a chemical tank and 400 feet of hose. The engine cost \$1,000. In April, 1901, the city decided to build five or six cisterns in the streets to hold a supply of water for protection against fire. The money was appropriated the following July. In 1931 the city built another cistern on Bath Avenue with

1 News-Outlook, August 27, 1896.

2 Ibid., October 7, 1897.

3 Ibid., January 7, 1897.

dimensions of 15 feet by 16 feet. In October of the same year a modern type fire engine was bought. It could pump 500 gallons per minute. It cost the city \$4,750.

In March 1933, the government Reconstruction Finance Corporation approved a \$49,000. loan to Owingsville for the construction of a water system. Bonds to the amount of \$13,500, authorized in 1931 for a water-works project but never sold, were issued by the city to meet a part of the expense. In March 1933, the contract for water mains and hydrants was let. The next month a water tank was bought at a cost of \$3,939. In November a proposed ordinance was advertised by the city. The Ordinance would authorize the city to issue bonds to the amount of \$49,000 to secure money for the expense of the water system. No objection to



The courthouse as it is today.

the ordinance was raised; the ordinance was adopted; the bonds were issued; and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation advanced the money. In the following January work began on the project. The labor was provided under the Citizens Work Administration. In the summer of that year sewerage connections were made and running water was installed in the courthouse. Before the year closed it was evident that the total cost of the water system would exceed \$40,000.



The main business block as it is today, having thus been rebuilt since the fire of 1893.

The tax rates in Owingsville in 1935 included a general property tax rate of 75¢ per hundred and an amount of \$1.00 per taxpayer for the school fund. To this was added \$1.50 poll tax. Besides these, the following occupational tax rates have been in effect since, or before, April 1, 1934: \$100 per year for permission to sell beer. (This tax was in effect in 1933. Four business houses paid this tax in 1935.) \$300 per year is charged for permission to sell whiskey. (Two houses paid this tax in 1935.) A general business tax of \$10 is charged grocery, dry goods, and other stores. A professional tax of \$5.00 is charged doctors, lawyers, and others. Gasoline Filling Stations pay \$5.00 per year. Cream collecting stations also pay \$5.00 per year. Barber shops pay an amount according to the number of chairs operated.

Sharpsburg is the next largest town in this county. Collins says the town was laid out in 1820 and incorporated in 1824.¹ It was first called Bloomfield. The name was changed to Sharpsburg in 1825.² Young says the town was laid out in 1814 and that James Wilroy and Joseph Yeater built the first houses in it. It was named "Sharpsburg" after Moses Sharp, "a spy for Daniel Boone". Moses Sharp settled on Bald Eagle Creek in 1780. He

1 Lewis Collins, Historical Sketches of Kentucky, Lewis Collins, Publisher, (Maysville, Kentucky, 1847), p.176.

2 Van B. Young, op. cit. passim.

came from Virginia accompanied by his brother-in-law, William Penix. Moses Sharp died in 1820.

The United States Census for 1870 reports the population of this town for various years as follows: in 1850 it had 329 inhabitants; in 1860 there were 347; and in 1870, 319. In 1880 the population was 356, and in 1890 it reached its greatest population of 516 residents. In 1900 there were 482 residents, in 1910 there were 410, in 1920 the population was 363, and in 1930 it had increased to 408. This tendency for the population of small country towns to increase in the years of the depressions was noted in the population report for Owingsville. In 1850 the town had three churches, four stores, one tavern, six doctors, two saw mills, one bagging factory, one male and one female school, two wool factories, and ten mechanical shops. The Fannie Talbot Institute was located here.¹ This school is described more fully later.² Young reported in 1876 that the town had three dry goods stores and five groceries, two blacksmith shops, one saddlery, one drug store, one woolen "manufacture", two lawyers, and two livery stables. The Atlas of 1884 shows as outstanding business men: J. O. Hamilton, J. S. Berry, W. C. Clover, Jr., and J. M. Bigstaff as breeders of Shorthorn cattle, and H. C. Ratliff

¹ Collins, revised 1874, op. cit. passim.

² Van B. Young, op. cit. passim.

and Brothers owners of Hinkston Creek Mill.¹ This mill made good flour, meal and feeds for the neighboring communities. In 1903 a free rural route from Sharpsburg out on Prickly Ash Creek was begun. The notice in the county newspaper said, "This privilege may be had by other communities if a petition with enough names be prepared."

The town is still incorporated. The Fannie Talbot Institute finally was taken over by the free public school system. This community was one of the earliest to have a consolidated school and an independent school district. The tax rate for the town is 75¢ plus 50¢ school tax. This rate has prevailed for several years.

There is no railroad in this town. In another place will be discussed its efforts toward securing a railroad. The shipping points for this town are: Mt. Sterling, 12 miles south of Sharpsburg on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad; Carlisle, 14 miles west on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad; and Maysville, 34 miles north on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, Lexington-Paris division, and on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, Cincinnati division, and on the Ohio River. Before the railroads were built, hauling was done by regular teamsters. A four horse wagon hauled regularly to and from the Ohio River boats at Maysville. Teamsters also

1 Atlas of Bath and Fleming Counties, op. cit.

had regular schedules to Mt. Sterling and to Carlisle. Tobacco formed the bulk of products shipped out. Livestock was then driven to market but today is generally hauled to market on trucks. The bagging factory made bagging from the hemp grown in the community and this manufactured product was shipped to the south for baling the ginned cotton. The tavern became popular as a stopping place and enjoyed a good trade until better roads and better vehicles lengthened the "day's journey" to larger towns on either side of Sharpsburg.

Many small manufactures in this county, such as saddleries, boot and shoe shops, rope walks, woolen factories, hat factories, tailor shops, have been displaced by larger factories, having better locations and larger capital, and equipped with more efficient machinery.

Sharpsburg had a weekly newspaper that attained prominence. More will be told about this later.

Salt Lick did not appear on the map until the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad was built. The United States Census did not list it separately until 1890, when it was reported to have 150 inhabitants. For some reason it was not reported separately in 1900, although Mr. Hall¹ said that in 1897, when the lumbering activity was at its height, there were about 800 people in the town. The census for 1910 shows 532 inhabitants, and in

1 Mr. J. S. Hall, native of Salt Lick, a lumberman in the time of the greatest activity there, reports this to the writer in October 1935.

1920, 518. In 1930 the population was 475. It has been the most important shipping point in the county since 1900. For a time, when the ore mines were operating and shipping from Olymnia, that town was the greatest shipping center. Salt Lick has had a bank for years. More will be told in another place about the bank and industries of the town. It has two churches, a brick school house, hotel, six stores, two garages, a flour mill, a saw mill, and it is a shipping center for eggs and chickens.

¹
Bethel, according to Mr. Young, was laid out in 1817. In 1876 it had two dry goods stores, one grocery, one saddlery, one blacksmith shop, two churches, two doctors, and the population was considered to be 100. The United States Census does not report a separate enumeration for the town. The population remains about 100. The town is located in the region of Bath County's best limestone soil. ² Lipscomb, writing in 1903, credits the town with having a tavern, two saddleries, and a hat shop. At that time it was a shipping point for hogs, cattle, and tobacco. It has had a bank for several years.

Olymnia is located on the Chesapeake and Ohio ³ Railroad. According to the Democrat, the first house built

1 Van B. Young, op. cit. passim.

2 Lipscomb, Commercial History of the Southern States, 1903.

3 Democrat, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, January 24, 1893.

in Olympia was in 1881. In January 1883 there were forty houses and 200 people in the little town. The railroad could not, at this time, haul the timber, ties, and tanbark as fast as it was put to the depot for shipping. The only United States Census report for the town is for 1890, and it reports the population as 303. Mr. Young¹ says that in 1893 there were about 500 people in the town. The district in 1935 had 200 children of school age. There were, until recently, a Methodist Church and a Disciples Church in Olympia. The Methodist Church was sold in 1935 and the church services discontinued.

Wyoming is a town on the Licking River. The census reports show that in 1880 the town had a population of 105, and in 1890 it had a population of 97. Mr. Young² says that in 1820 there were two stores, two blacksmith shops, one hotel, one Christian Church, one steam saw mill, and one coal yard. The population then was reported as 150. Collins³ says that about 1870 there were 120 residents, two taverns, two gristmills, and two cabinet shops. The merchantable timber that abounded here and elsewhere along the Licking River has been consumed. Good roads have made the taverns unnecessary.

Sherburne is also on the Licking River, and is below

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- 1 Mr. G. W. Young, native of Olympia and Salt Lick, told this to the writer in October 1935.
 - 2 Van B. Young, op. cit. passim.
 - 3 Collins, revised 1874, op. cit. passim.

Wyoming. The only census reports for this town are for 1890, reporting 194 residents, and for 1900, reporting 251. The greater part of this town is in Fleming County. Between 1880 and 1890 there were a flour mill, a bank, several stores, and the population was about 200. The town was incorporated February 17, 1847. An old covered wooden bridge connects the two parts of the town and remains serviceable after more than fifty years of use. The flour mill has ceased to operate, and so has the bank, which was on the Fleming County side of the town.

Preston is the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad station that serves Owingsville, the county seat. A telegraph operator-agent is employed here for the accommodation of the people of Owingsville. Its volume of business, however, does not warrant Preston's being maintained as an agency station. Since the completion of the Federal Highway through Owingsville and the establishment of bus and truck service with Mt. Sterling, the mail, much express, and most of the freight transportation have been diverted from Preston. The population has been stationary at about 100 since the town was founded. Preston is not incorporated. The census does not report its population. It has a blacksmith shop, two stores, and a tomato cannery that was built in 1925. The village has a gristmill that grinds on Saturdays.

Reynoldeville, an unincorporated settlement, is reported by Young as having forty people in 1870.¹ The town has no industries, nor is there a post office for it.

Polksville is a community rather than a settlement. Polksville has one store. Near by is a county school. In 1844, according to Young, there were forty-five inhabitants. When the ore mines were operated nearby, this was an important business center.

Odessa community had a post office for some years, but this was closed in 1905. No industries were ever located at this place.

White Sulphur as a community had some importance between 1880 and 1890 when the lumbering business was booming. The Atlas² indicates that in 1884 Mr Harrison Knowles operated a steam sawmill, and Mr. J. W. Piersall operated a water mill on Salt Lick Creek.

Ficklin's Tanyard was a community in 1880 that later lost its name. In 1884 Harrison Gill³ operated the Olympian Springs Hotel, Cad Ingram operated a steam sawmill, and Green B. Garrett ran a general store in this precinct. The precinct lines were later changed, and the industries just named came to be identified with other communities.

The United States Census for 1890 reports in the

1 Van B. Young, op. cit., passim.

2 Atlas of Bath and Fleming Counties, op. cit.

3 Ibid.

entire county for the previous year 124 deaths of white people and 25 deaths of colored people. Sixty-one of those dying were under five years of age, 27 died of consumption, 15 died from pneumonia, and 13 died with diarrhea. There were in the county at that time 20 insane people, 23 people of feeble mind, 6 deaf people, 6 others deaf and dumb, 32 people were blind in one eye, and 12 blind in both eyes. ¹ Burroughs reports the death rate in 1911 from tuberculosis as 209.8 per 100,000 (or a total of 21). The rate for Etill County was 126.1, and for Jefferson County, 230. The rate of deaths from typhoid was 35.6 as compared with 45.8 for Rowan County and 9.2 for Powell County. The deaths from pneumonia were at the rate of 106.8, and this compares with 135.2 for Lincoln County and with 38.2 for Powell County. The deaths from cancer were at the rate of 35.6, compared with a rate of 83.1 for Montgomery County and with 15.4 for Powell County.

² Mr. Young says that when the cholera was raging in 1833, the disease never crossed Slate Creek to the eastern part of the county. No explanation has been offered for this phenomenon.

This county has had a Health Department and has employed a nurse since 1930.

1 Burroughs, Geography of the Knobs, p. 180.

2 Van B. Young, op. cit. passim.

Roads and Transportation--- The transportation of goods for long distances in 1811 was still mainly by boats on the rivers. "State" roads began to appear and to connect with each other, forming inter-state routes. For another hundred years the Licking River was used for floating timber to the large mills nearer the big cities. As will be seen later, there were several large mills in Bath County on this river. Railroad ties were also made into rafts and floated to convenient points for re-shipment by rail. Occasionally small boat loads of coal¹ were brought down from the headwaters of Licking. This continued until other mines with better grades of coal were opened at more accessible points. Seldom does any coal come down now and the rafting of ties and timber has about ceased. However, a slight increase in timber coming down the river has been recently noted.² Many sawmills located on the river, which received their supply of timber from rafts, disappeared as the supply of timber failed. In more recent years the building of railroads and, later still, the building of substantial county and state roads into the regions of the available timber have caused sawmills to be located nearer the sources of supply.

People had great hopes of making all streams into highways of transportation. On February 1, 1812, a bill

1 Linney, op. cit., p. 7.

2 News-Outlook, March 26, 1936, "30 rafts passed on Licking during the past freshet". For further details of rafting timber see E. W. Gibson, unpublished thesis, University of Kentucky, 1929, "Economic History of Boyd County".

was passed by the Kentucky Legislature to repeal an act of 1794 to keep Slate Creek in Bath County open for navigation up to the Bourbon Furnace.¹ Evidently the legislation of 1794 had been secured through the efforts of the Bourbon Furnace which desired cheaper transportation of its products. Some old citizens of the county insist that the cannon balls used by General Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans were floated on rafts down Slate Creek from the Furnace.

In 1816 a law was enacted allowing Greenup and Marble to erect a water mill on Lower Licking that would interfere with navigation,² but again in April 1817, an act was passed that would allow no dams on Licking below the mouth of Fleming Creek.³ All such obstructions were consequently removed from the River, and thereafter, boats and rafts of timber and coal passed down Licking River as they had done in earlier days.⁴ One author says the Licking River would be navigable to West Liberty, county seat of Morgan County, if locks and dams were built.

If a settler bound for Kentucky wished to buy his conveyance, he could buy in Pittsburgh a flatboat that would cost five shillings per ton capacity. If he wished merely to ship his goods, others would transport him and

1 Acts of Kentucky General Assembly, 1812.

2 Ibid., 1815, Chapter 362, p. 585.

3 Acts of Twenty-fourth Kentucky General Assembly, Chapter 149.

4 Lipecomb, op. cit., p. 26.

his goods at the rate of one shilling a hundredweight.¹ A flatboat, when it had made its trip down the river, was sold to others who might want to go still farther down the river, or the boat was taken to pieces and the material used in building houses. The flatboats could not be taken up the river easily. Of course, when steam engines came into use the flatboats were towed or pushed up stream for reloading.

The Bourbon Furnace found a large market in Cincinnati, and at an increasing rate shipped its heavy merchandise down the Licking River in barges. Louisville developed into a good market, and as soon as the Mississippi River was freed from the Spanish domination at New Orleans, the iron furnace began shipping its products in greater quantities to this city. In a short time New Orleans afforded a better market than Cincinnati or Louisville. Soon the shipments of iron products were moving by the boat load.

In 1807 Colonel Owings received some contracts from the United States Government for canister and cannon balls. These were hauled by wagons to Iles Mill on the Licking River and there loaded into barges and thence floated to New Orleans via the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

It seems that there were never any post rider, or² courier, routes in this section. The Gazette for December

1 Inlay, op. cit., p. 142.

2 Kentucky Gazette, Lexington, Kentucky, December 5, 1789.

5, 1789, tells of the installation of such a service, beginning December 14th of that year, between Lexington and Harrodsburg. The trips were to be made weekly. Mail, evidently, was brought into Bath County from Lexington by those making business trips to this city. Other mail from the East was brought in by passengers coming over the new State road via Catlettsburg.

As stated earlier, there had come to be a "great road" from Philadelphia and Baltimore. The route was in use before 1788. By 1803 a stage coach route had been established over it. The highway was known as the "State Road". Soldiers going west for their bonus land went over it.¹ Covered wagons traveled about twenty miles a day.² It took twelve or fourteen days to travel by horse from Baltimore to Kentucky. A charge of about fifteen shillings a hundredweight was made for hauling merchandise. More will be told about this road later.

An act was approved by the Legislature at Frankfort on February 16, 1808, to establish a State road from Paris via Flemingsburg and the Salt Licks on the Ohio River in Lewis County to the Virginia State Road at the mouth of Big Sandy River. It was to be a "wagon road" and was built by subscription. Each county through which it passed was to keep in repair its section of the road. The

¹ Kentucky Magazine, August 1917, Kilpatrick, p. 316.

² Imlay, op. cit., p. 142.

road never had such importance as a State road and became merely a series of county roads.

The first stage coach in Kentucky to operate on a schedule ran between Lexington and Olympian Springs, Bath County, beginning in 1803.¹ Peters made the statement that the first stage coach through Paris ran in 1808, and that the first regular stage from Georgetown to Paris began in 1818. The stage-coach line to Olympian Springs was begun by Mr. Kennedy but later was operated by the "well-known Outhbert Banks (of Montgomery County) who advertised:

THE STAGE

For the Olympian Springs
will leave Major Wagon's in Lexington, every
Monday morning, and return on Saturday. The
stage is now furnished with excellent horses and
a good careful driver.²

OUTHBERT BANKS."

The author, from whom the above is quoted, reprints a timetable for mail and passenger service in use between Stanton, Virginia, Harrisonburg, and Lexington, on which Ovingville is shown.³ The date of this schedule is 1800. In the same book, page 130, is a reprint of another schedule in effect in 1839. It bore this information:

WINCHESTER AND OVINGVILLE MAIL STAGE
leaves on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at
5 o'clock A.M.

J. H. Penney, General Agent
October 27, 1839.

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- 1 J. Winston Coleman, Jr., Stage-Coach Days in the Bluegrass, p. 142. See Appendix.
 - 2 J. W. Coleman, op. cit., p. 37. See Appendix.
 - 3 Ibid., pp. 56 and 130.

These stage-coach lines later gave way to "hack lines". A hack line differed from a stage-coach line in that the stage-coach line called for more capital. The operator owned several horses and several coaches and operated, usually, over a longer distance. Often the hack line was operated by a person who owned only one team, and the carriage might be a coach or an open or closed wagon, with or without springs. The hack covered only a short distance over which it returned the same day. Connections with other hack lines were not carefully maintained.

Travel called for roads, and if there was to be much travel, roads were necessary. In the earlier days roads were not made but rather located where the least obstruction to travel was found. The building of roads did not appear as a function of governments for nearly two hundred years after America was settled. As better roads were demanded, private business enterprises furnished them. The Kentucky Statutes for the year 1834 and following record that the Owingsville and Big Sandy Turnpike Company was incorporated in 1835. The first McAdamized road in the county was made from Sharpsburg to Bethel in 1849.¹ Within the next fifty years sixteen companies were incorporated to build privately owned toll roads in Bath County.²

1 News-Outlook, November 10, 1927.

2 Bath County Court Records of Corporation. See Appendix.

These companies were capitalized at varying amounts, usually calculated upon the estimated cost of building the roads.¹ Capital stock in amounts of \$15,000 to \$30,000 per company was issued. The type of road constructed was that known as "macadamized". This type of road was made with larger rock as a base, the rock being six to eighteen inches in circumference, and smaller limestone rock placed on top of this. The roads were surfaced with limestone rock one inch or less in diameter. The roads were usually well made, having good surface, grade, and drain.

Toll-gates were of two kinds, full toll and half toll. The half toll-gates were put in to accommodate travelers over short sections of road, as between two cross roads. A full toll-gate was placed about each six miles. Full toll, or toll between two full toll-gates, was: for one horse and rider, five cents; for horse and buggy, ten cents; for a two-horse loaded wagon, twenty-five cents. No charge could be collected from pedestrians. The distance between Salt Lick and Owingsville was about twelve miles, and there were two full toll-gates for this stretch of road. Between Owingsville and Mt. Sterling, a distance of fourteen miles, there were two full toll-gates and one half toll-gate. Also there were two between Owingsville and Flemingsburg.

1 According to Burroughs, Geography of Kentucky Knobs, p. 246, in 1880 there were 86½ miles of turnpike in the county, averaging a cost of \$2,250 per mile.

The building of these better roads by the turnpike companies began after the Civil War.

Small residences were built near the roads with gates, or poles, that swung across the roads to bar the passage of vehicles or animals until the toll had been paid. Then the gates were swung out of the way. These toll-gates were let out to the highest bidders. Each year new bids were submitted and contracts were made. The roads that were traveled the most returned more tolls and the toll-houses and gates of these roads brought higher rent. From the News-Outlook is gathered the following:

The Prickly Ash toll-gate on the Wyoming turnpike was rented in 1896 for \$1,003 for the year.

The Owingsville and Mt. Sterling turnpike toll-gates rented: one for \$1,150, another for \$600, and the one nearest Mt. Sterling for \$2,833. These rent costs were \$50, \$200, and \$33 respectively less than for the previous year.

The toll-gate on the Owingsville and Preston turnpike rented in 1897 for \$1,800.

The White Oak gate rented for \$212.

The Owingsville, Bald Eagle, and Sharpsburg toll-gate rented in 1897 for \$2,000, or \$317 less than in the previous year. In 1894 this toll-gate rented for \$2,025.

The Owingsville and Preston toll-gate rented for \$1,711.50 in 1894.

The Prickly Ash toll-gate rented for \$947 in 1894.

The Wyoming gate rented for \$150 in 1894.

The Prickly Ash toll-gate on the Wyoming turnpike rented for \$967 in 1897.

In 1894 the Owingsville and Wyoming Turnpike Company paid a dividend of 3 per cent. This turnpike cost \$30,000 for less than seven miles of road. By 1897 Bath County owned a good part of the stock of this company. Of the total capital needed to build this road \$23,300 were raised from the sale of stock and \$6,900 were borrowed at 10 per cent. The first dividend paid by the company was 2 per cent in 1881. This was the third turnpike built in the county. The first one built was from Wayssville to Mt. Sterling, thirteen miles of road through Bath County. The second turnpike was the Owingsville and Mt. Sterling road.¹

It was the custom to let the preachers and doctors pass through the gates free of charge. In 1896 a new law allowed people to go to church on Sundays free of charge. If a traveler claimed he was going to church, and the claim was doubted, he could be compelled to register his name in a book kept by the gate keeper.

In the spring of 1897 raids in different parts of the State were made on the toll-gates. The purpose of the raids was to compel the State to abolish the toll system and to establish free roads. However, the raids were usually made by a class of people that did not gain favor

¹ This is not the first Macadamized road in the county. The roads being discussed here are privately owned roads.

for the cause. The raiders would suddenly appear at night and cut down the gates. Often they would threaten the gatekeeper. Sometimes the gatekeeper would repel the attack with firearms, and again at the word of warning he might withdraw within his house and let the raiders find his axe for their work. In May 1897, the sheriff learned of a raid to be made and so awaited the raiders and fired upon them. His posse took some captives. There were threats for awhile that the friends of the raiders would attack the jail to deliver their friends. The County Judge called for State troops, who promptly came. On another occasion a concerted plan was made to raid five gates at one time in different parts of the county, but the plot was frustrated. Most of these depredations took place on the roads leading to the river. The fiscal court of the county in April 1897, agreed to restore all toll-gates torn down, and the court posted a notice of a reward of \$500 to be paid for the capture of the raiders. Feeling in favor of free roads¹ grew rapidly. There were fifteen toll-gates in the county at this time.

The editor of the county paper on March 17, 1898, referring to these raids said, "This may be a good policy. Time will tell."

The county, foreseeing the time when it would have to

1 News-Outlook, January 27, 1898, "Pat Toy of Craige refused to pay toll last week. He was fined \$10 and cost."

take over the roads, had been for years buying stock in the various turnpike companies. In 1897 the county began to dicker with the companies for an outright purchase of the roads. In January 1897, the Owingsville and Sharpsburg Turnpike Company offered to sell its road to the county at the rate of \$25 per \$50 share. There was a total of 500 shares, 100 of which already belonged to the county. The Owingsville and McIntyre Ferry Road Company wanted par plus 6 per cent for its stock. The Owingsville and Mt. Sterling turnpike was offered for a lump sum price of \$20,000. The Owingsville and Wyoming Company wanted par. The total of these offers amounted to \$48,000. They were all rejected at this time. In July of this year the "turnpike committee", appointed by the road companies, agreed to make the following prices to the county:

Owingsville and Mt. Sterling road	6½ mi.	\$12,500.
Owingsville and Wyoming road (255 shares at \$50, 75% of par)	6½	9,562.50
Owingsville, Bald Eagle, and Sharpsburg (393 shares at \$50, 40% of par)	10½	7,860.
Owingsville and McIntyre Ferry Road (56 shares at \$50, 50% of par, plus \$2,000 debt)	12	<u>3,400.</u>
Total miles-----	35¼	
Total Amount-----		\$33,322.50

The county owned in January 1897, 106 of the 466 outstanding shares of the Owingsville and Wyoming Turnpike Company. In February of the following year the county agreed to buy the Owingsville and Sharpsburg road, eleven miles, for \$4,000, with \$1,000 to be paid each year, the balance unpaid drawing interest at 6 per cent per year. It bought the

Owingsville and McIntyre Ferry Road, twelve miles, for \$1,573.63. This company was bankrupt and it was bought by merely paying the amount of its indebtedness. The White Oak Road was priced to the county at fifty cents on the dollar, but the offer was declined. The Maysville and Mt. Sterling turnpike was offered to the county for \$15,000 but this offer was declined. The next month the county bought the Owingsville and Sherburne road, seven miles, for \$700. The county at the same time paid \$5,000 for the Owingsville and Wyoming road. These purchases gave the county 59 miles of turnpike, free of tolls, at a cost of \$22,600. This left two more important roads to be bought: Owingsville to Mt. Sterling, and Owingsville to Preston, a total of twelve miles. "But there were 68 miles of turnpike¹ yet to be made free of tolls." This meant that many miles of road were owned by the county on which tolls were still collected. In June of this same year the court bought the Owingsville and Stepstone turnpike for \$1,000, and the Reynoldsville and Bald Eagle turnpike for \$175. In the following November the fiscal court made a contract with Rudolph Kleybolte and Company of Chicago by which this Company was to buy \$38,000 worth of turnpike bonds bearing interest at 4 per cent on which a premium of \$462 was to be paid. These bonds were to be delivered January 1, 1899.

1 News-Outlook, March 31, 1898.

The county debt then became \$35,000.¹

It was soon learned by the county that when it bought turnpikes, it bought "expenses". Complaints began promptly to come in that the roads were not kept in good condition.

In December 1898, the county fiscal court bought the Owingsville and Preston turnpike of five miles for \$1,587.50 and leased the Preston and Howards Mill road.. The court at this time offered ninety cents on the dollar of stock outstanding for the Owingsville and Mt. Sterling turnpike. The offer was declined. The road was bought in February 1899, at par value, paying \$17,400.² Of this amount of purchase price, \$4,854 represented stock already held by the county. The road thus cost the county at this time \$12,546. All but \$1,246 of this was paid for in cash. A certificate for this amount, bearing 6 per cent, was issued for the balance.

Several of these toll-gate houses are still standing (in 1935).

There was only one tollbridge in the county. It crossed the Licking River near Farmers, Kentucky. It was owned by the Bath-Rowan Bridge Company. The stock was owned by Dr. H. Van Antwerp, S. B. Reese Lumber Company of Bath County, who took over the Montague Lumber Company,

¹ News-Outlook, February 10, 1898.

² This road paid good dividends. In July 1897, it paid 8 per cent. News-Outlook, August 5, 1897. This is why it was hard to agree on a price.

W. H. Thomas, Dr. Jerry Wilson, and J. B. Warren. The stock held by these men was paid for largely with material entering into the construction of the bridge. The bridge company bought a bridge that had been designed for another location. For this reason they secured it at a great discount. The price was \$4,300. The bridge was built in 1907 and was sold in 1925. The toll prices were held unchanged at: 25¢ for a car, 50¢ for a truck, 1¢ for pedestrians, and 5¢ for a horse and buggy. Passes were issued freely to neighbors. From the beginning the investment paid well.

In the course of time Bath County wanted to buy the bridge so that it could meet the requirements specified for a national highway. Since the owners of the bridge did not offer to sell at a price sufficiently low as to induce the county to buy, Bath County undertook condemnation proceedings. The bridge was too new and substantial and was sufficiently wide for such a highway, so the condemnation proceedings were dropped. The county thought to build another bridge alongside of this, but the bridge owners had bought up the Rowan County bank of the river to prevent this move. The Bridge Company offered to sell the bridge for \$15,000, and the county offered \$10,000. The company accented on condition that it might collect toll for one year more. The amount of toll collected this year more than paid the difference that existed between the two

prices. The United States Government collected \$1,700 tax from the sale.

The bridge had been financed by a sale of bonds for \$3,000. A stock bonus of \$3,000 was given the bonding company.¹ The tolls ceased January 1, 1927.

Since the bridge was already paying good dividends, the company told the collector of tolls that he might raise the gate at night and let all people pass free. However, the collector, so it seems, collected the fares at night also for his own use, and when the bridge was sold, he was able to buy himself a large farm with his earnings.

When the county had secured the turnpikes, the task was upon it of securing money for the maintenance of the roads. Also it had to devise a system of road maintenance. In 1888 there were in Bath County more than 100 miles of turnpike, the value of which, including bridges, was approximately \$250,000.² All these roads had been built since the Civil War. In June, 1895, the fiscal court voted \$1250 a mile to build six miles of turnpike from Olympia to the Menifee County line. The cost of the road was to be met by tolls collected thereon. Also \$1,000 a mile was voted to be used to build a road from Bald Eagle to the Springfield pike.³ In May 1896, the

1 Dr. H. Van Antwerp told the writer this October 1935.

2 News-Outlook, January 26, 1888.

3 Ibid, June 27, 1895.

the county appropriated \$1,200 per mile to build four miles of road from Salt Lick to White Sulphur Springs, and in July the fiscal court approved an order for \$1,250 a mile for seven and one-third miles of turnpike to be built from Salt Lick to intersect with the Owingsville-Menifee road.

In August 1897, the county road system included:

Wayeville and Mt. Sterling	14 miles
Owingsville and Mt. Sterling	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Owingsville and Wyoming	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Owingsville, Bald Eagle, and Sharpsburg	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Owingsville and McIntyre Ferry	12
White Oak	6
Reynoldsville, East Fork, and Sherburne	7
Owingsville and Bethel	5
Little Flat and Bethel	4
Owingsville, Olympia, and Menifee County	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Owingsville and Stepstone	5
Owingsville, Flat Creek, and Sharpsburg	10
Harpers Fork	3
Moore's Ferry and Salt Lick	4
Forge Mill and Licking	4
Preston and Peeled Oak	4
Wyoming and Oakla	3
Craig	1
Salt Lick and White Sulphur	4
Sharpsburg and Carlisle	1
Flat Creek and Sharpsburg	3
Owingsville and Preston	5
	126 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles

A county road engineer was secured at a salary of about \$1,200 a year. He was not technically trained as an engineer, but he was a good business man and knew how to compute the amounts of stone, timber, and labor that were required for road and bridge building. The smaller bridges and culverts were built under the engineer's direction, but the larger bridges were built by contractors.

The stone was usually knapped by hand. The farmers sold the stone off their fields, usually receiving for it a price that about covered their labor in hauling it to the roadside where it was to be used. The knapping of the rock was paid for by the rod of knapped rock, or the laborer received wages by the day. A rod of knapped rock was a mile one rod long, and averaged two feet wide at the base and two feet high. In 1899 the county planned to get a steam rock crusher to crush the rock at the quarry and haul it to the places where it was needed for repairs to the roads. This was done. However, even now, 1935, hand knapping of rock for small jobs remains an economical method of road repair. In 1899 there were 150 miles of turnpike in the county. At this time the county was divided into five districts, each district having a magistrate who was the road commissioner over 30 miles of road. The magistrate was allowed a salary of \$3.00 per mile, or \$90 per year, for supervising the roads. All repair of roads was then by contract, and the contract was assigned to the lowest bidder. The contractors were bonded, as were the commissioners.¹ Each year advertisements appeared in the paper asking for the material needed for the road. Bids were received and the contract awarded to the best bidders. In April 1934 the fiscal court granted

1 News-Outlook, February 23, 1899.

the county \$9,520 for the repair of the roads.¹

By 1935 practically all the county roads have been piked and have been admitted to the State system of roads. This means they are maintained up to a higher standard than they had been maintained. Roadbuilding under state supervision has proven cheaper and better.

During the years 1933-35 much of the labor, paid for by the Federal Government as relief work, was expended on road building. This work under the direction of the National Recovery Administration, and later the Works Progress Administration, has given the county a complete system of hard surfaced roads.

In considering the subject of Roads and Transportation the item of railroads chronologically comes next. The county had advanced from an era of river transportation and trails to a county system of roads. The next new development was in railroad building.

The only railroad now in Bath County is the Chesapeake and Ohio. It had its beginning as the Lexington, Owingville, and Big Sandy Railroad Company. This company was incorporated March 3, 1851. The name was soon² amended to Lexington and Big Sandy Railroad Company. Construction on this road began at Catlettsburg with a great ceremony on November 19, 1852. The enterprise failed,

¹ Ibid, April 12, 1934.

² Acts of General Assembly of Kentucky, 1850-51.

however, and at an auction sale was bought by Mr. Huntington. He gave it the name Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, and he planned for it to be a link of a grand railway system, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific.¹

In 1881 another line, Elizabethtown, Lexington, and Big Sandy Railroad was started east. The same year "the Chesapeake and Ohio built a branch from Huntington to Ashland and fourteen miles farther west to meet the Elizabethtown, Lexington, and Big Sandy. This year the E. L. & B. S. R. R. was operated as a division of the C. & O."² The Owingsville Outlook of September 23, 1897, says state convicts were used in building this railroad and refers to a visit by the State's inspector of convict labor. This railroad has 14.15 miles of track through this county. In 1881 tracks, buildings, and bridges with a value of \$286,000 had been constructed in Bath County.³ The taxes from this company furnish the largest single receipt of revenue for the county. The amount of taxes is just about one-third of the entire amount received by the county. Since the beginning of the present century it, as a single industry, has furnished the greatest amount of employment for labor living within the county. Fifty-two men, on an average, are employed by this railroad.

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- 1 William B. Graham, unpublished thesis, University of Kentucky, 1931, "Railroads in Kentucky before 1861".
 - 2 Margaret Yent, unpublished thesis, University of Kentucky, 1931, "History of C & O Railroad".
 - 3 Burroughs, Geography of Kentucky Knobs, p. 246.

Business boomed for the railroad. Timber was cut faster than the railroad could move it. Also cross-ties were in great demand. Tanbark was stacked at the railroad depots, covering acres, waiting for shipment. The ore mines in the county also shipped several carloads of iron ore daily. Solid trainloads of these products of the county moved out each day.

Today only two or three cars of ties per month, about the same amount of lumber, and no ore are shipped from the county. Olympia, once the largest shipping point, has become a non-agency station. The agent was withdrawn from Olympia in 1931. After Olympia's decline as the leading shipping point Salt Lick held that position for several years, but by 1935 the shipping from Salt Lick had declined to about a total of ten cars of all products per month. It remains as an open station-- a station having an agent. Preston is a station having an agent. It is not maintained as an open station because of the amount of traffic, but because it serves the county seat, and because the railroad must maintain telegraph operators at regular distances along its route.

Another branch of the Chesapeake and Ohio, not actually touching the county but serving its southern border, was the "coal road" from Mt. Sterling to Rothwell, Kentucky, in Menifee County. In 1930 the Chesapeake and Ohio made an

appeal for permission to cease operating this line, since it no longer paid and since the area was served adequately by buses and trucks. This road was 19½ miles long. The appeal was contested and permission to abandon the line was declined until the Garrett Highway (Kentucky Highway Number 40) had been surfaced and regular bus lines established thereon. About one year later permission was granted and the rails were taken up.

In 1896 a lumber road was proposed up Beaver Creek from Midland, Kentucky, on the Chesapeake and Ohio. New Jersey men had bought 16,000 acres of timber land in Bath and Menifee counties and planned to set up a sawmill. This road was never built, but a road thirty miles long was built from Salt Lick to Yale and Blackwater to serve sawmills set up at those places. More is told of this in the discussion of lumbering.

The Midland Railroad, running from Frankfort to Georgetown and on to Paris (and intended to reach Cincinnati), received much of its finances from people in Bath County.

¹
A Louisville paper¹ said, "The vote of Bath County in favor of subscriptions totaling \$150,000 to the stock of the Paris, Georgetown, and Frankfort Railroad is a matter of first interest to Louisville because it opens again to her trade the richest section of the State."

1 Louisville Commercial, quoted in News-Outlook, November 24, 1887.

Promoters for the railroad said a branch line would leave Paris and pass through Sharpsburg, Owingsville, Salt Lick, and up Licking River into Floyd County, and connect with other roads reaching into the deep South. This branch line was never built, and the main line never reached Cincinnati--as the Midland Railroad. It connected at Paris with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad for Cincinnati.

One paper¹ said the road cost a million dollars but later sold for \$150,000. These figures are evidently "round numbers" for the same paper later² said, "It cost more than half a million dollars and sold for \$160,000." This paper verified the fact that the railroad was largely financed in Bath County and that it promised to pass through this county. The name of the railroad after its sale was changed to Frankfort and Cincinnati Railroad. In 1930 as bankrupt property it was sold for about \$30,000. A survey was actually made and the construction of a tunnel was begun in Bath County to boost the sale of stock there. Today near Owingsville is the "Tunnel Hill" community commemorating the enterprise.

In 1899 the Black Diamond Railroad was proposed to run from Sharpsburg via Owingsville and Salt Lick to Morgan County. After the failure of the Midland Railroad to utilize this route, but little enthusiasm could be

1 News-Outlook, January 7, 1897.

2 Ibid, April 27, 1899.

found. The bankers in the county, through the newspaper,¹ advised against the investment. The promoters claimed this road would become a North and South trunkline.

In 1901 a railroad was begun from Morehead, Rowan County, twenty-three miles from Owingsville, to West Liberty, Morgan County. This road was to haul coal and timber to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. In 1908 it began its service as a public carrier. The road reached a few miles beyond Wrigley in Morgan County but lacked six or eight miles of reaching West Liberty.² The railroad was named the Morehead and Northfork Railroad. It ceased as a lumber and coal road, but about 1928 a tile factory was located near Morehead and the road was taken over by it for the purpose of hauling clay and tile.

At another time the Owingsville and Sharpsburg Electric Railway was incorporated.³ This did not get beyond the stock subscription stage. At another time the Olympian Springs Railway Power and Light Company was incorporated.⁴ It never got to the production stage. In 1901 a railroad was surveyed from Owingsville to Preston, a distance of 4½ miles. The cost to build this road was estimated at \$37,640.⁵ The effort did not get so far as to be incorporated. The estimated cost seemed to preclude

1 News-Outlook, January 5, 1899.

2 Ibid., January 3, 1901.

3 Bath County Record of Corporations, p. 160.

4 Ibid., p. 220.

5 News-Outlook, September 26, 1901.

any hope of profit and the movement for the railroad ceased. Because of Owingsville's high elevation the construction cost of a railroad would necessarily be exorbitant.

The Salt Lick Navigation Company was organized in 1882.¹ Its purpose was "to make and keep Salt Lick Creek in Bath and Menifee counties a public highway for floating logs, etc.". Dams and booms were built and the company collected tolls. The venture was not profitable, so it was soon abandoned.

In 1913 a narrow gauge railroad was begun at Olympia and extended towards Owingsville. It began as a tram road to haul iron ore to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad at Olympia. The right of way to Owingsville was given the railroad company as an inducement to extend the line to that city. The railroad was built to the city in 1915. W. W. Hubbard, Manager of the Yale Lumber Company, was the builder. It carried freight, mail, and passengers. The train was pulled by a gasoline engine. In October 1915, the locomotive got out of control and ran off the trestle. This made the public afraid to ride the train, and the passenger traffic practically ceased. The following summer S. J. Fearing, Superintendent of the Rose Run Iron Company, undertook to operate the train, but the public would not ride and the freight traffic would not support the investment, so the corporation was dissolved in

1 Bath County record book of Corporations, p. 22.

¹
1918. This was a good time to dispose of the property. The used rails and rolling stock were sold at good prices to the coal mines in the State that were operating under a war-time stimulus.

The next advance in transportation, in point of time, was the building of a national highway through the county. It has been noted that from the earliest times this county lay in the route from East to West. The old State Road, or Midland Trail, was to become United States Highway Number 60. In July 1921, meetings were held in this and adjoining counties to have this highway pass through Rowan, Bath, and Montgomery counties. There was difficulty in getting the right of way given for a route through Owingsville. For this reason and because the route through Owingsville would add to the length of the road, and because of the added engineering difficulties and expense in locating a highway satisfactorily over the Owingsville hill, the federal engineers were on the point of locating the highway by way of the Olympian Springs. This route would shorten the distance, give a better grade, and so be less expensive. To follow this route the highway would be built along the earlier State Road. However, on March 11, 1922, the route through Owingsville was determined by the passage of a bill in the Legislature at Frankfort.

1 News-Outlook, June 27, 1918.

The route through the county from the Montgomery County line to the Rowan County line called for a road twenty miles long. It was estimated that a reinforced concrete road would cost \$600,000. According to the plan, the State would assume 25 per cent of this cost, the Federal Government would pay 50 per cent, and 25 per cent would fall on the county. In July 1922, the county decided to call for a vote to decide on issuing bonds for the expense of building the highway. The vote was taken September 16¹, and the county was authorized to issue bonds for the building of the Midland Trail, the Fields Highway, and the road from Owingsville to the Menifee County line. The bonds were to be issued only as needed for the money actually arose. A tax of ten cents on the hundred dollars of assessed valuation was expected to retire the bonds in thirty years. A saving in the future to the county was seen in that the upkeep of the road would pass to the State. In urging the issue of bonds, the proponents argued that sixty per cent of the cost of the Federal Highway, or \$360,000, would be used for labor, and the labor supply would be drawn largely from the county. Thus, while the cost of the road to the county would be \$150,000, probably more than \$300,000 would be returned to the citizens of the county in the form of

1 News-Outlook, July 6, 1922.

pay for labor. In this manner it was made to appear that the citizens would lose money by not going ahead and building the road.

The survey for the highway began in November of the same year. On July 18, 1925, the concrete surface of the Midland Trail from Mt. Sterling to Owingsville was completed. The contract for the remaining distance, from Owingsville to the Rowan County line, was to be let on September 16, 1925.¹ However, in July of this year a contract for 2.01 miles of concrete road, from the city limits of Owingsville towards the Rowan County line, was let to Davis and Ingram. This contract also included the building of a reinforced concrete bridge across Slate Creek. The remainder of the road to the Rowan County line came under a later contract, and the highway was not completed until October 21, 1931.²

This road, known as the Midland Trail, was officially designated in August 1926, as United States Highway Number 60.

The little town of Owingsville hardly felt able to pave the highway through the extended length of its incorporated limits. In May 1934, the Kentucky Highway Commission agreed to build a road of rock asphalt through the town.

1 News-Outlook, July 23, 1925.

2 Ibid, October 22, 1931.

The next advance in the matter of roads was the development within the county, in connection with the State's move in that direction, of the inter-countyseat highways, or the State system of primary highways. It has been seen already that the county authorized bonds to cover the construction of certain of these roads.

This system included the following roads from Owingsville, the countyseat of Bath, to the following countyseats: to Mt. Sterling in Montgomery County; to Carlisle in Nicholas County; to Flemingsburg in Fleming County; to Morehead in Rowan County; and to Frenchburg in Menifee County. There were two other sections of road in Bath lying between other countyseats. The road from Morehead to Frenchburg via Salt lick has seven miles in this county lying between the Midland Trail and the Owingsville-Frenchburg road. The Fields Highway between Mt. Sterling and Flemingsburg has twelve miles in Bath. It will be noticed that the Midland Trail provides the connecting road between Owingsville and Mt. Sterling and between Owingsville and Morehead.

The Legislature at Frankfort in 1920 passed the law providing for the system of Primary State Highways. According to this law the State takes over and maintains the main roads between county seats when they have been built up to certain standards. The road between Sharpsburg

and Owingsville was the best improved of any in the county. This is probably the most important section of road in the county, so far as the use by citizens of the county is concerned. In August, 1922, a contract was let to treat 3.2 miles of this road with tar. In 1924 Representative Ray of Montgomery County introduced a bill in the Legislature, which bill was prepared by D. W. Doggett, Attorney for Bath County, to make the road from Carlisle to Owingsville and on to Frenchburg a part of the State system of primary highways.¹ The bill was passed, and the road became Kentucky Highway Number 61. That portion of this road between Sharpsburg and Owingsville was the first in the county to be taken over by the State for maintenance. It is a well made McAdamized road with a surface treatment of tar.

A survey was made of the Fields Highway through Bath County in April 1928, and in 1930 the contract for this section of the road was let to Thomas Ruth and Company to "grade, drain, and surface with rock asphalt on a limestone base".² The work was completed by November 7. The same company was awarded the contract to build concrete curbs and gutters through Sharpsburg. Their successful bid for this job was in the amount of \$6,077.59.³ The finished job presents a road unusually good as to beauty, width, grade,

1 News-Outlook, March 13, 1924.

2 Ibid, September 11, 1930.

3 Ibid, June 18, 1931.

and smoothness of surface.

The next road to be improved was that part between Salt Lick and the Owingsville-Frenchburg highway. This seven miles was brought up to specifications in August 1931, and was taken over by the State. It is a road of improved grade and drain with an untreated surface of crushed limestone of the traffic bound type.

In April 1931, the survey was begun for the Owingsville-Frenchburg road, and in May 1932, the county advertised for bids to build the 12.1 miles from Owingsville to the Menifee County line. Langhorn and Langhorn was awarded the contract to grade and drain the stretch at a price of \$68,231.65. The company was to build the road and a concrete bridge over Slate Creek and one over Little Salt Lick. Work was begun in September 1932. The construction was delayed by bad weather but by working in double shifts the contract was finished within the time set. All grades are easy except for the hill leading into Owingsville. Upon the completion of the road it was promptly taken over by the State for maintenance. The type of construction is traffic-bound McAdam, made of crushed limestone with surface untreated.

In November 1932, eight-tenths of a mile of road in this county near Moorefield, a part of Kentucky Highway Number 61, was advertised for grade, drain, and

surface. The contract was let the next February on the bid of \$14,000. The work was finished that July. The road is made of limestone with a water-treated, rolled surface. This was accepted by the State, and with this acceptance all of Kentucky Highway Number 61 in Bath County came under State maintenance. The State in 1933 built a concrete bridge over Prickly Ash Creek, near Owingsville, on Kentucky Highway Number 61.

That part of the Owingsville-Flemingeburg road within Bath County was ordered surveyed by the State Highway Commission in July 1933. This is the last piece of state-aid road in Bath County coming within the system of primary highways. The specifications set by the State call for a minimum width fifty-foot right of way. The county insisted that the land owners, along the roads to be improved, give the land that is needed for the improvement. The owners of the land in this part of the county are not willing to make such a donation, so the road remains unimproved.

Considerable relief money has been used in repairing and improving the county roads during the depression years of 1930-35. About the only relief work offered in this county was road work.

With the coming of better roads better methods of transportation of passengers and freight were introduced. "Hack lines" gave way to separate "taxies", and these in

turn gave way to incorporated bus and truck lines operating on the main highways, while individuals have paid license fees to operate independent buses and trucks. Points that were more or less inaccessible are now on milk routes, hucksters' routes, oil routes, school bus routes, and passenger bus routes. Since farms are connected with their markets by better roads, farming is becoming more profitable. Diversification of crops is practiced. Calves, eggs, milk, chickens, and produce are received at the farm gates and within an hour delivered to the consumer or to the market. Lessened transportation cost and inconvenience mean more profit to the farmers. Two companies are operating milk routes, and two produce firms buy at the farm gates.

The county paper announced that a passenger line would operate from Mt. Sterling to Owingsville and another from Mt. Sterling to Sharpsburg beginning January 1, 1906.¹ Another automobile passenger line from Owingsville to Paris was begun by Eepa Maze on July 11, 1921. In 1925 a passenger line was running from West Liberty in Morgan County via Frenchburg, Owingsville, Mt. Sterling, and Paris to Cincinnati. By February 1922, Mr. Maze was operating the "Reo Service Bus" from Winchester to Mt. Sterling. This bus made connections with the Mt. Sterling

¹ News-Outlook, November 30, 1905.

to Paris line, and at Paris connections were made with other lines for Georgetown, Carlisle, Louisville, etc.¹ In November the Reo line was operating a bus from Mt. Sterling to Flemingsburg via Owingville. Another line, called the Greyhound Bus Line, running from Ashland to Mt. Sterling, was operated by Ed Phaul Hamus. In 1925 the Consolidated Coach Company was incorporated, being made up of six smaller companies. The Reo line, the Blue Goose, the Red Star, and the Thoroughbred entered the corporation. Mr. Hamus did not merge his company and take stock for payment as others did, but he did sell the line to them. The Consolidated Coach Company paid to him a premium for the use of the name "Greyhound". There are three buses daily each way through the county at this time.

One other method of transportation will be mentioned here, but a discussion of it will be made under the subject of Oil Industry: a pipe line for oil running from the Ragland field in this county to Salt Lick.

A few miscellaneous items follow: In 1898 the county paper was advertising the Cleveland and the Pope bicycles. A bicycle cost \$100, a tandem (two seated bicycle) cost \$150. The first automobile seen (and heard)

¹ News-Outlook, February 23, 1922.

in Bath County made its appearance on Sunday, July 27, 1902. It was on its way from Mt. Sterling to Olympian Springs.¹ The report of the next appearance of an automobile was on May 21, 1903.

1 News-Outlook, July 31, 1902.

CHAPTER IV

ECONOMIC HISTORY OF BATH COUNTY SINCE 1811 (Continued)

Forest and Timber-- "Forests" are sections of standing timber. "Timber" is trees of a size and kind to be cut into lumber, or the term sometimes refers to lumber hewn or sawn to very large dimensions, as for bridges and buildings. The actual making of timber into lumber is discussed as an "industry". The greater part of the growth of a forest is underbrush and trees that have no value for timber. As timber is removed by cutting or by fire, rubbish that is detrimental to a forest accumulates.

¹
Wilson says the trees having value as timber found in this part of Kentucky are: oak, poplar, chestnut, walnut, hickory, cherry, basswood, and pine. Pine is not a hardwood nor is poplar, but the other trees are so classed. There are 11,000 square miles of timber land in Kentucky, and Bath County has a large share of it. Linney² adds that on Hinkston Creek "beech, yellow poplar, black walnut, and sugar maple of fine quality were found". He says that there were 500 men in the woods near Salt Lick in 1900 employed in cutting lumber, ties, and tanbark. But forty-five years later the supply is so nearly exhausted

1 Samuel H. Wilson, History of Kentucky, Volume II, S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., (Chicago, 1928), p. 51.
2 Linney, Bath and Fleming Counties, 1886, p. 12.

that the industry did not employ thirty men. Lipscomb¹ says, "In the extreme eastern portion of the county is to be found some of the finest timber in the State, such as oak, poplar, and walnut."² Linney, writing in 1886 after most of the timber was out, says that "white oak and pine are about all that remains". Beech, poplar, chestnut and the best pine are now gone. What chestnut was not out has been destroyed by blight.

Timber land in the best days sold for \$10 to \$30 per acre. The same land today, having been stripped of its virgin growth of timber and with inferior timber on it that may be big enough to cut within a few years, sells for \$4 to \$10 per acre. This price is brought, not because of the value of the timber, but because of its possible value as farmland. There is no demand for timber land.

At no time have lumbermen cut their timber sparingly. If that timber that was burned or slashed be added to the waste in sawing, more timber was destroyed than was utilized.³ Wilson speaks of the destructive cut in 1907.⁴ Linney mentions the damage done by fire. The hills after a few years of cultivation are valueless. This is because the soil is uncared for and is allowed to wash away. The county paper each spring and fall called

1 Lipscomb, Commercial History of the Southern States, 1903, p. 26.

2 Linney, op. cit., p. 33.

3 Wilson, op. cit., p. 51.

4 Linney, op. cit., p. 33.

attention to the big forest fires.¹ Often the atmosphere miles away was made unpleasant for breathing. No effort was made to put out the fires and they burned unchecked until rains or natural barriers halted them. These fires were caused by passing trains, by hunters, and by farmers in clearing their lands. As late as 1935 but few people in the county have scruples about allowing fire to spread to another's property. Linney says that the best thing to do for the steep hillsides is to prevent fires and to reforest the slopes, or put them in fruit trees. Many acres have been abandoned after a few crops have been raised. Land is so cheap that no one thinks to save the soil. The census for 1920 shows 26,718 acres in woodland in this county.² Burroughs cites the census figures that show an increase of woodland acreage from 88.6 per square mile in 1910 to 98.9 in 1920 as evidence of an increase in forests. This rather indicates land taken out of cultivation and allowed to revert to brush or rubbish.

There is little likelihood of the individuals doing anything to restore a growth of timber. In 1930 the Federal Government set up the Cumberland National Forest.³ Much of Bath County has been included in this area.

1 News-Outlook, October 21, 1897. "The mountains in the southern part of the county have been burning for some time. The drouth helps along the burning. A pall of smoke covers the landscape beyond one mile view."

2 Burroughs, op. cit., p. 46.

3 News-Outlook, June 1, 1933.

Thousands of acres of this burnt over and cut over land were bought by the Government. In Menifee County much of this land was bought in 1931 for \$3.75 to \$6.00 per acre. By October 1934, this federal forest included 1,812 acres in Bath County for which \$6,523.20 was paid. This made an average price of \$3.60 per acre. One boundary of this land that had the merchantable timber cut off in 1926 was offered for sale at \$1.00 per acre in 1932. One tract of 800 acres in this territory, with the timber cut off in 1923, was offered for sale in 1926 at \$4.00 per acre. This tract had on it much cleared land, fences, several acres of orchard, new barns, and two dwellings. An additional 23,000 acres of land in this county will be added to this forest reserve.¹ In May 1935, the government condemned for reforestation purposes 1,803.7 acres. The land was condemned mainly as a legal procedure to get a clear title from infant heirs.

Agriculture-- The information tabulated in the following report was gathered from the census returns. The census enumerators have not secured their information from year to year in a uniform manner. Therefore the information can not be tabulated with completeness.

¹ News-Outlook, October 25, 1934.

Year	Number of farms	Farmers		Average acres to farm improved land	Total Acres	Improved Acres	Farms worked by owners	worked by managers	worked by tenants	Farms free of debt	Farms Mortgaged
		White	Negro								
1880	1382			82.2		113583					
1890		788							530	253	18
1900	2027			61.2	151266	124200	1126	24	877		
1910	2017	1933	86	56.1	143130	113147	1154	7	856		
1920	2005			45.6	130238	91426	1210	4	791		
1930	1901	1848	53		136512		1684		811	776	215

31 negroes owned farms in 1900

79 per cent of all acreage was improved in 1910

533 of the tenants in 1920 were share croppers

5 farms were of 1,000 acres, or more, in 1920

8 farms were of 1,000 acres, or more in 1925

23 negroes owned farms valued at \$109,410 in 1930

The table reveals the following facts and trends:

The year 1900 marks the time the greatest number of farms was tended. In 1930, although there were more people back from the cities because of the depression, fewest farms were tended. Those returning from the cities expected to be here only temporarily or were not equipped for farming. However, they did help the people on whose farms they lived to tend more acres. The average number of "total acres" in the farms

in 1930 was increased from 65 acres in 1920 to 71.8 acres in 1930. The decline in the number of farms tended is accounted for thus: little, worn out farms in the hills were being abandoned; farms in the Bluegrass were growing larger. This decrease in the number of farms cultivated is not striking. A significant change is taking place in the Bluegrass. The farms in this section are growing fewer but larger. This comes about from different reasons; the only child of one family marries the only child of a neighbor and the farms are combined; or a neighboring farm must be sold and the land owner whose property is adjoining buys this farm to "prevent undesirable neighbors from coming in"; or adjoining farms are bought "to square out the first farm", or to give the new owner more pasture land. The decrease in improved acres of farm land is striking. Whereas the average acreage per farm in 1850 was 82.2, it was only 45.6 in 1920. The number of farms operated by white people increased while the number operated by negroes decreased. The table indicates that in the year 1900 about 85 per cent of all land in the county was included in farms and that about 82 per cent of the land included in farms was cleared. In 1920 only about 70 per cent of all farm land was improved. In 1890 one-third of the farms was worked by their owners,

two-thirds were worked by tenants, except that 24 of the farms were operated under managers. In 1910 only seven managers operated farms, and only 42 per cent were worked by tenants. The remainder, or 57 per cent, were operated by their owners. This trend of farm operation passing to the hands of the owners held through the following years, except that the year 1930 shows an increase in the percent of farms operated by tenants over those operated by owners. In 1920 there were only four managers. Whereas there were five farms of 1,000 acres or more in 1920, in 1925 there were eight. In 1890 there were 253 farms free of debt and 18 mortgaged, but by 1930 there were 776 free of debt and 215 mortgaged. This would seem to leave 910 farms in debt but not mortgaged. However, the year 1930 was a depression year and the number of mortgages would be expected to be greater.

The soil of the western part of the county is known as red limestone soil and is the best soil for bluegrass. East and south of Slate Creek the soil is of a sandstone nature. In this territory the bottom land is a white clay and sand mixture, and much of it is infested with crawfish. On the hillsides is a light, sandy soil. It is fairly fertile but soon washes away into the valleys. The limestone soil will grow tobacco, wheat, other grain,

bluegrass, and forage crops. The other soil grows nothing so well as the limestone soil but will raise light tobacco, corn, certain forage crops, fruits, and vegetables--especially tomatoes.

Severe drouths seldom visit the county. However,¹ in 1897 there was a ten weeks' drouth.

²Peters says that the bluegrass area of Kentucky is 40,000 square miles in extent and is underlaid mainly by the blue limestone of the Lower Silurian or Cambrian formation, and "No soils in the world exceed" our best limestone soil. Collins says that some of it is as fine for grain and grass as any in the world. Linney³ in 1886 said that "the finest and most desirable lands in Bath County are near Bethel, Sharnsburg, and Flat Creek. Potash, phosphoric acid, and lime present make the soil".

The natural fertility of the soil has been unreasonably wasted. Most of the land stands in need of fertilizing now. Some farmers have always been willing to fertilize their land, but Linney⁴ says that "thousand of dollars have been spent on fertilizers for these soils without return" because the fertilizers

¹ News-Outlook, November 4, 1897.

² Peters, History of Fayette County, Kentucky, 1882, p.19.

³ Linney, Bath and Fleming Counties, 1886, p. 12.

⁴ Ibid, p. 15.

have not been adapted to the soil's needs. He says that "the Oriskany period of Devonian rock in the Tanyard precinct is often about three feet thick. The percent of phosphoric acid is quite large and could be made valuable for fertilizing poor soils".¹ However, the census report shows only \$370 spent in the county in 1879 for fertilizer. Aided by J. E. Parker, the county farm agent, Tom Duff in 1927 spread the first marl in the county. His local marl bed tested 69.9 per cent pure lime. The marl beds in the county test 40 percent² to 50 per cent pure lime, on the average. The State in 1933 stationed a limestone crusher in the county, to be moved from place to place, to crush the stone at cost for the farmers. This made a good grade of crushed limestone available to the farmers at about 50¢ per ton.

The sale price and the tax value of the bluegrass, or limestone, land have risen steadily, varying only with depression periods. Improved mountain land sells for \$4 to \$30 per acre. Burroughs³ says that land sold in 1880 for \$10 to \$20 per acre in the hills, and the poorest to the best bluegrass land sold for \$30 to \$300 per acre. That is, the bluegrass land is worth

1 Linney, Bath and Fleming Counties, 1886, p. 23.

2 News-Outlook, November 10, 1927, and August 16, 1928.

3 Burroughs, Geography of Kentucky Knobs, 1926, p. 246.

from seven to ten times as much as the mountain land.

¹ Young says that bluegrass farms sold in 1876 for \$50 to \$100 per acre. The mountain land is steadily depreciating in value as farm land. ² Burroughs says that the assessed value averaged for the county in 1900 \$21.32 per acre, in 1910 \$38.98, and in 1920 \$84.75. ³ Collins says that the average value in 1846 was \$8.63 and the total value \$3,006, 835. Burroughs, in another place, ⁴ says that in 1860 the average value per acre was \$10.15 and the total value \$3,130,857. The assessed value of the real estate for the year 1879 was \$1,699,835, and for personal property \$417,730.

Census figures show a reduction of stock per square mile, yet the farm value for the county as a whole has steadily increased. This is explained by the increasing value given to the bluegrass farms. The enhancement of the bluegrass land proceeded faster than the decrease in value of the mountain farms that were abandoned.

Crops and products from the farms in Bath County are varied. Some crops that paid well at one time are not produced now. Hemp was a paying crop in the nineteenth century. At one time there was a bagging

1 Van B. Young, History of Bath County (1811-1876).

2 Burroughs, op. cit., p. 248.

3. Collins, Historical Sketches of Kentucky, 1847, p. 177.

4 Burroughs, op. cit., p. 246.

factory at Sharpsburg using this product. In 1850 mules were cited as substantial item of income. Since the beginning of this century there have been few mules raised in this county. Wheat at one time was a good producing and well paying crop. In 1902 a good crop of wheat yielded 20 bushels to the acre. The average for the county that year was about six bushels per acre.¹ There is not enough good soil in the county now to raise hemp and wheat in paying quantities.

Bluegrass is probably the most valuable thing that grows in the county. There are different ideas as to how this grass came into Bath County. Young² says that it was found first between the years 1784 and 1790 at Olympian Springs, and he "supposed it was brought from Virginia by the Buffaloes that congregated at the springs to lick salt". According to this same author, bluegrass was next found at Mt. Sterling. Another trace of bluegrass was found near Sharpsburg along a Buffalo trail. Bluegrass makes a good pasture for live stock. As stated elsewhere, bluegrass is found only on limestone soil.

All that part of Bath county and east of Slate Creek has no limestone soil and so has no bluegrass. This

¹ News-Outlook, July 10, 1902.

² Van E. Young, op. cit.

region, known as the "knobs", has corn as its principal crop and yields 15 to 25 bushels per acre.

In 1909 the value of all products per farm in the county was \$606.15, and in 1919, following the war, \$1,459.39.¹ The average for the State at large in 1909 was \$536.19, and in 1919 the value was \$1,288.32. From the knobs section also comes sorghum molasses and fruit. The average of the sorghum molasses, where raised, was 37.2² gallons per acre.

In view of the light soil in this part of the county the products that could well be increased with profit are: bees for honey, poultry and eggs, fruit, sheep, timber, and garden produce.

The census of 1880 shows the returns for the previous year in bushels: corn 830,966, wheat 124,603, oats 50,257, rye 9,160, Irish potatoes 6,652, sweet potatoes 2,709, and 2,873 tons of hay. The census of 1920 shows: 2,159 acres of corn yielding 442,071 bushels, 3,957 acres of wheat yielding 58,661 bushels, 1,855 acres of oats yielding 22,551 bushels, 449 acres of rye yielding 3,673 bushels, 179 acres of Irish potatoes yielding 8,780 bushels, 12,482 acres of hay yielding 13,228 tons worth \$237,564 (timothy was the leading hay), 209 acres of sorghum yielding 756 tons of feed, and 9,170 gallons of molasses.

1 Burroughs, op. cit., p. 112.

2 Ibid., p. 132.

In 1930 the census shows 20,164 acres of corn yielding 646,866 bushels, and 810 acres of wheat yielding 10,655 bushels. In 1920, according to the census, all cereals raised in the county were valued at \$933,940, grain and seed \$4,763, hay and forage \$237,564, vegetables \$107,186, fruits and nuts \$16,928, all other crops \$1,077,793, or a total of \$2,378,174. No part of these is shipped out of the county but is consumed locally, the prices for local trading being determined by outside markets.

Tobacco, from an early date, has been in most of the county--on limestone soil and in the knobs--the main money crop. In the knobs the tobacco is light in weight and color and sells for a good price, but the acreage is less and the total weight is less. In 1880 the census shows that 2,658,750 pounds were raised the previous year. In 1910 a total of 5,562 acres was planted and 5,557,379 pounds of tobacco, or 999 pounds to the acre, were raised. Six thousand three hundred and fifty-two acres of tobacco in 1920 were reported as yielding 4,641,870 pounds having a total value of \$5,029,450. The crop averaged 730 pounds to the acre and had a value of \$792 per acre. This means tobacco averaged more than \$1.00 per pound. In 1930 Bath County planted 6,012 acres

which yielded 5,190,674 pounds. In 1935 the December sales of Bath County tobacco on the Lexington Market averaged over \$21 per hundred.

In 1893 the Hamilton Farm, Incorporated, planted 410 acres of tobacco on Flat Creek.¹ George G. and J. C. Hamilton were the managers. In January 1898 tobacco was selling at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to 9¢ per pound.² In 1900 whole crops sold at 6¢ and 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.³ In 1905 there were reports that whole crops were selling at 8¢ per pound.⁴ During the War the 1918 crops sold for \$49.30 to \$56.50 per hundred pounds.⁵

The county is well adapted to fruit growing by reason of the climate and soil. The light sandy soil of the Licking river valley raises good watermelons. These ripen about the first week in August. They do not grow so large in size but have good qualities otherwise. Cantaloupes also grow well. The hillsides are adapted to peaches and apples, and more of these should be grown. It is hard to protect ripening crops from predatory neighbors so that many people are discouraged from raising fruit. Nearly every farm in early years had quantities of apples, peaches, and cherries.

Many orchards are neglected and not nearly so much fruit is raised now as formerly. The presence of

1 News-Outlook, March 2, 1893.

2 Ibid, January 20, 1898.

3 Ibid, March 15, 1900.

4 Ibid, January 12, 1905.

5 Ibid, February 13, 1919.

insects that prey on the fruit and on the trees explains in part this reduced production of fruit. There are more insects because there are fewer birds. Also different diseases of fruits and trees have become entrenched in the State and county, and most owners fail to spray the fruit and trees for these diseases. There is seldom a fruitless year in the county. The census for 1920 reports 47 acres of small fruits yielding 27,616 quarts. Only one acre of strawberries was reported this year. The census reports further: 19,952 apple trees producing 4,581 bushels, 4,269 peach trees producing 390 bushels, 638 pear trees 26 bushels, 2,453 plum trees 839 bushels, 752 cherry trees 50 bushels, and 1,127 grapevines 9,724 pounds of fruit. Evidently 1919-20 was not a good year for fruit. The 1930 census showed 10,576 bushels of apples and 1,452 bushels of peaches harvested. The value of all fruit and vegetables in the county this year was \$1,954,064.

One fruit farm in this county is worthy of special notice. In 1915 W. C. Kautz set out near Salt Lick an orchard of apples, peaches, pears, and cherries. The trees were set alternately, that is, peaches or cherries between the apple trees. Only the apple trees paid well. Forty acres were first set out, and recently another eleven acres were added. Altogether there are now about 3,000 trees. The orchard came into its prime about 1927. Then

it yielded 5,000 bushels of apples for the year. The apples were shipped to many places, but they were sold very largely through the Lexington produce houses. The best apples were Stark's Delicious, Winesaps, and Roman Beauty. Just five miles from this orchard, in Rowan County, Dr. Van Antwerp has a similar but larger and better yielding orchard.

Mention has been made of the fact that this land was adapted to the raising of vegetables. The soil of the creek and river bottoms is especially suitable for vegetables. Tomatoes were raised near Salt Lick in the Licking Valley and on Salt Lick Creek, and a cannery was built at Salt Lick in 1924. Many acres of tomatoes were set out near Preston, and a cannery was erected there in 1925. The land will average 200 bushels of tomatoes per acre. Two acres near Salt Lick bore about 600 bushels of marketable tomatoes. The depression closed the canneries in 1930.

In 1857 Bath was a leading hog raising county of the State. That year there were 31,983 hogs. At that time wheat sold for 70¢ to 85¢ a bushel, corn sold for 75¢ a bushel, oats for 35¢ a bushel, refined sugar sold for 14¢ a pound, coffee sold for 11¢ a pound, whiskey for 21¢ a gallon, leaf tobacco for \$7 to \$12 a hundredweight,

cattle for \$2.50 a hundredweight, sheep for \$4.00 a head,¹ lambs for \$1.75 a head, and hogs for 6¹/₂ a pound. The last yoke of oxen was reported in the county paper as selling for \$129 in 1898.² Oxen were used in the lumbering industry, and there was little demand for them when this business waned. In 1850 horsebreeding was a profitable business in the county and continued so to the end of the century. In 1850 mules were cited as affording a substantial item of income. / In September 1896, mule colts were sold in the county for \$25 to \$45 a head. Cavalry horses then sold for \$35 to \$100 each. In March 1898, the year of the Spanish-American War, horses sold for 50 per cent more than they did one month earlier. In 1901 plug horses sold for \$65 to \$85 each, and mules sold for \$55 to \$100 each. Mule colts sold in October 1901, for \$25 and \$35 each. In September 1922 some mule colts sold for \$22 each.

Until the beginning of the present century there was no market outside of the county for butter and cream produced in the county, but since cream stations have been located in the county, milk, cream, and butter have steadily grown in importance as farm products. In July 1921, at one time, cream was selling for 33¹/₂ a pound.

1 News-Outlook, February 15, 1894.

2 Ibid., June 16, 1898.

The census for 1920 shows: milk produced 704,061 gallons with 9,401 gallons sold, 6,506 gallons of cream sold, 27,094 pounds of butter fat sold, and 25,002 pounds of butter sold. The value of all these farm products was \$121,995 and the value of all products sold was \$39,814. The same census show eggs produced 316,746 dozens, with 212,912 dozens sold. Also 119,319 chickens were raised and 14,746 sold. The value of chickens and eggs produced was \$179,697, and these products sold had a value of \$81,326.

Turkeys in fair quantities are raised in this county. Just before Thanksgiving 1898, J. M. Reynolds employed twenty colored women and boys to dress 300 turkeys per day for the Boston market. During the Thanksgiving season of 1900 turkeys were reported to be scarce. However, they were bought at 5¢ per pound. Six and one-half cents was offered later. The following week 1,000 turkeys were bought at 5½¢, and 100 were bought at 6¢.² Turkeys sold locally in 1901 at 5½¢, but in 1903 they sold for 10¢ a pound. It is estimated that during the Thanksgiving season of 1905, \$15,000 was paid for turkeys in two weeks.³ In 1930 turkeys sold for 15¢, "the lowest price of the season. The crop of turkeys is the best in years".⁴

1 News-Outlook, November 17, 1898.

2 Ibid, November 15, 1900.

3 Ibid, November 16, 1905.

4 Ibid, November 20, 1930.

In 1935 they sold for 12¢ and 13¢ a pound.

Geese were raised for the market and in the earlier days were driven many miles to market as cows were driven. A flock of 700 geese was driven from Owingsville to Mt, Sterling in 1896.¹ In 1899 a flock of 1,800 was driven through the county seat. They were bought for 42½¢ each.² In 1901 a flock of 1,500 was driven through town.³ In 1903 a flock of 920 geese was driven to market. This is the last time mention is made of geese being driven to market.

In September 1896, sheep and lambs sold for \$1.44 each. In the following spring wool sold for 15¢ a pound, and lambs for 5¢ a pound. In May 1899, wool sold for 10¢ to 18¢ a pound, and in 1901 it sold for 16¢ and the price was considered low. On court day in May 1902, two hundred sheep were offered for sale, but there was no demand for them. Lambs sold in July of that year for 5½¢. In May 1932, wool sold for 12¢, but the crop the following year sold for 20¢.

Only occasionally do sheep-killing dogs get in their work. In 1896 dogs killed some sheep. In May 1901, \$130 worth of sheep out of one flock were killed. Inroads were made into other flocks and several sheep were

1 News-Outlook, November 19, 1896.

2 Ibid, November 30, 1899.

3 Ibid, November 21, 1901.

killed before the dogs were destroyed. The census of 1920 reports wool from 1,842 sheep weighed 9,090 pounds and brought \$4,799.

The county paper, from time to time, noted the prices of hogs as follows: March, 1896, stock hogs \$3.25 to \$3.75 per hundredweight; January, 1899, top slaughter hogs \$4.00; February, 1900, 150 hogs sold at \$3.50; April, 1901, growing hogs to be pastured with cattle, \$5.00; November, 1902, hogs \$5.50 and \$6.00; and May, 1905, slaughter hogs \$4.90.

The county paper noted the price and sale of cattle as follows: March, 1896, 300 cattle were on the market on court day and all were sold; March, 1898, 200 head of cattle were sold on court day; August, 1898, 225 head of cattle were on market and sold at good prices on court day; Feeder cattle averaging about 880 pounds were bought at \$4.25 a hundredweight; October, 1898, 200 head of cattle were sold on court day; January, 1901, steers sold for \$4.50. Sucking calves sell at various prices but seldom as high as \$18 to \$30, as was paid in May 1899. This was during the Spanish-American War.

The census report for 1880 gives the value of livestock as \$584,447. The value of all farm products that year was \$562,724. The report for 1900 gives the value for all animals as \$741,418. In 1910 the value is given as \$1,256,591 for all farm animals. This shows

the farm animals to be worth 14.9 per cent of all farm values. The same year the horses and mules were valued at \$513,815, while cattle was valued at \$458,174. In 1920 the census gives the value of all animals as \$1,159,983. In 1880 there were 4,162 horses, 1,213 mules, 590 oxen, 3,173 milk cows, 7,935 cattle, 8,085 sheep, 22,696 hogs, 40,218 pounds of wool, 190,191 pounds of butter, and 3,830 pounds of cheese reported for the previous year in the county. In 1910 there were reported: 4,600 horses, 2,121 mules, 10,799 cattle, 12,790 sheep, 10,321 hogs, 94,661 chickens, 405,646 dozen eggs. There were per square mile: horses 16.7, mules 7.7, cattle 39.2, sheep 47.3, hogs 38.2, chickens 343.6, eggs 1,472.4 dozen. The 1920 census furnishes data on the basis of per square mile: 13.8 horses, 6.2 mules, 32.2 cattle, 10 sheep, 33.5 hogs, 357.1 chickens, 1,173.1 dozen eggs. The census for 1930 shows that there were in the county: 2,529 horses, 1,572 mules, 10,483 cattle, 11,403 sheep, 6,878 hogs, 25,757 pounds of wool, 1,719,684 gallons of milk produces, 8,275 turkeys, on 404 farms. Thirty-four thousand four hundred and eighty-five gallons of milk were sold. The Associated Industries of Kentucky, Bath County, says that for 1924 the value of the milk was \$124,885, and the value of the poultry and eggs was \$209,632, and adds, "milk production in the county has

increased 100 per cent in five years.¹

It will be noticed that from 1850 to 1930 there was a great decrease in the number of horses, a fair increase in the number of mules, a decided increase in the number of cattle, a falling off of more than two-thirds of the number of hogs, a decided falling off in wool production but about 3,000 per cent increase in the production of milk. The decrease in the number of horses shows there is less cultivation of land. The county is learning that it is adapted to "grass farming". More sheep should be raised. Lipecomb² says that in 1900 the raising of shorthorn cattle was a principal business, and that corn, wheat, and tobacco were the main cultivated crops. The farmers do not breed all the cattle they send to the markets. They buy feeder stock from outside of the county, place the stock on their bluegrass pastures and let nature take its course. The cattle and sheep eat the grass, drink from the clear streams and ponds, and are fed some corn to finish them for the markets. Many farmers, who make cattle feeding their main business, build large silos and fill them with corn silage to feed hundreds of cattle through the winters. Many of the cattle and sheep fattened by the bluegrass farmers are bought in the mountains.

1 Associated Industries of Kentucky, Bath County.

2 Lipecomb, op. cit. passim.

Bath County had the reputation of being a good fish and game county. Most of the birds have been killed. Each year there are plenty of rabbits in the hill section. Fishing has about ceased to be a pastime. In 1903, before it was against the law to sell game, quail sold for \$3.00 per dozen. In May 1896, someone dynamited Licking River. There were so many fish killed that the dead and stinking fish ran people away. Sturgeon weighing 50 pounds to 63 pounds, carp weighing 19 pounds, and cat weighing 32 pounds were sometimes caught from the river.¹ In January 1897, an eagle measuring eight feet from tip to tip was trapped and caught.² In December of 1898 Olell Ewing's hunting party killed more than 1,000 partridges in the county on one hunting trip.³ In September 1901, two men killed 60 bullbats in one evening's shooting.⁴ An eagle measuring six feet from wing tip to wing tip was killed in the county in November 1901.⁵ In 1903 two flocks of wild wood pigeons were seen. One flock was estimated at one thousand birds, the other not so large. These birds, once so plentiful, "disappeared more than twenty years ago."⁶

One hopeful note can be added. The Hamilton estate,

1 Newa-Outlook, May 28, 1896.

2 Ibid, January 7, 1897.

3 Ibid, December 1, 1898.

4 Ibid, September 5, 1901.

5 Ibid, November 28, 1901.

6 Ibid, November 19, 1903.

in this county, was bought by Carrol Chenault and is to be made into a game reserve. It will be stocked by the state.¹

The threshing of grain in this county by means of cattle treading on it was practiced as late as the beginning of the present century. A generation earlier, or about 1875, wooden mills were used for crushing sorghum cane in the making of molasses. At that time maple trees furnished the sap for sugar and syrup. Practically no maple syrup is made in the county now.

The census of 1890 reports the value of farm lands and improvements thereon as \$4,130,640. By 1899 threshing machines were advertised in the local papers. The census of 1890 shows only 18 farms or farm homes to be mortgaged. The value of the mortgaged property was \$23,280, and the total of the mortgage debts was \$9,572. The average value of the mortgaged home was \$1,040, and of the mortgaged farms \$1,391. The 1910 census gives the value of all farm property as \$8,456,601. This was an increase of 73.8 per cent over the 1900 value of \$4,865,438. Many counties during this period, however, showed an increase of 100 per cent. This property value of \$8,456,601 was made up of the following subdivisions: land 66 per

¹ News-Outlook, September 10, 1931.

cent, buildings 17.6 per cent, machinery and implements 1.6 per cent, and animals and poultry 14.9 per cent. The average value of all property per farm was \$4,193. The average value of all land per acre was \$38.93, while the average of all land per acre in 1900 was \$21.32. In 1920 the value of all farm property was reported as \$14,659,477. The average value of all farm land per acre was \$73.11. With the improvements of the farms included, the average value per acre of all farms was \$64.75. In 1930 the census shows value of all farm property \$8,622,452, the average value per farm \$4,536, the average value per acre \$63.20. The value of the livestock that year was \$1,025,742. The value of poultry was \$129,823. Two hundred-thirty-four farm homes have telephones, thirty homes have water piped into the houses, twenty-two have bath rooms and seventy-six have electricity. A steady increase of farm values is noted up to 1930 when the depression called for a revaluation of property.

In 1922 an effort was begun to get the services of a farm agent for the county. In March 1926, an agent was assured. Bath County was to pay \$1,000 of the salary, another \$500 was to be raised locally, and \$1,500 was to be paid by the state and federal governments. His services were to begin in the following fall. His salary was named again in 1928 as \$3,000 per year. The salary

was reduced in November 1932.

This county had no central markets. In the early days products were shipped down the Licking River and the Ohio to Cincinnati, Louisville, and New Orleans. Cattle and horses were driven to the New Orleans market. Hogs were driven to the North Carolina and South Carolina markets. Turkeys and geese were driven to Mt. Sterling. Maysville became a shipping point and something of a market. There the products were loaded onto boats for shipping, and merchandise from New Orleans, Pittsburgh, and other points was received from the boats. Four-horse wagons did regular hauling between Maysville and points in Bath County. It took two full days to make a trip in either direction. Tobacco was stored and priced in Mt. Sterling and shipped via the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, or it was hauled to Carlisle to be stored, priced and reshipped over the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. A dray (low wagon without sides) pulled by two or three horses could haul three hogheads of priced tobacco. Loose-leaf tobacco sales in Mt. Sterling began about 1903. The practice of trading horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, and produce on the courthouse square has continued since the county was formed. The Farmers Stock Company, incorporated November 3, 1911, as a cooperative buying and selling organization with 1,600 shares valued at \$5.00

each, made a fair start but after two years of activity was crushed with its overhead expenses. The 1930 census reports eleven farms buying and selling through various cooperative markets, selling products valued at \$21,960.¹

The county farm agent, soon after his coming, organized several Four-H clubs. Another club of interested farmers was organized to help the farm agent accomplish larger results. The employment of the farm agent has been greatly worth.

When the Federal Government began to help the farmers in 1933, fourteen farmers participated in the wheat allotment plan and received \$549.40 for curtailing their crops.² The wheat allotment to Bath County was 6,260 bushels for that year. One hundred-twenty-four growers of tobacco signed contracts for the year 1934. By September 1934, it was seen that forty acres of the 2,500 planted in Bath County must be plowed up. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration reported from Washington in December 1935, that the farmers in Bath County had received in rental and benefit payments for three months ending September 30, 1935, as follows: wheat growers \$868.24,

1 While Bath County has no central market, fourteen miles away, at Mt. Sterling, Montgomery County, is a farmers' cooperative sock yard. This is one of the best in the State. The farmers from Bath and other neighboring counties use this market altogether and profit considerably thereby. Good roads throughout the counties and the Federal highway into Mt. Sterling make other such markets nearby unnecessary.

2 News-Outlook, December 28, 1933.

tobacco growers \$45,876.56, corn-hog producers \$723.23, total \$47,468.03.

The county paper from time to time revealed the following prices paid by the citizens of the county: in 1902 round steak cost 12½¢ and sirloin steak 15¢ a pound, corn \$2.00 a barrel, or 40¢ a bushel. The next time corn sold this cheaply was thirty years later. In 1921 the citizens paid \$1.50 a hundred for ice. In 1900 farm labor cost \$12 to \$15 and board per month. The same prices were paid in 1930, 1931, 1932, and 1933, during the depression. In 1902 a price of 18¢ a pound for bacon was complained of as high. The people in 1903 called 14¢ a bushel for coal, purchased in Mt. Sterling, high. Black coal then sold for 5¢ a bushel.

Debt, Taxes, Banking Statistics, Wealth-- The county has never had an unreasonably large indebtedness. A debt has never been defaulted by it, although it engaged in railroad financing as did other counties. On January 1, 1874, the county debt amounted to only \$6,550.¹ The debt of the county was only \$2,600 shortly before this. The census for 1880 shows the total of bonded debts as \$104,750, and the floating debt as \$135. The large total included the debts of the county, the bonded debts of

1 News-Outlook, January 4, 1874.

the towns, \$1,571, the district school debts of \$440, but not the portion of the State's debts incurred for the county.¹ In 1885, according to Burroughs,² the bonded indebtedness was \$25,000 and the floating debt \$10,000. In 1890 the census reports a total debt of \$2,011.³ The per capita debt this year was 16¢ while in 1880 the per capita debt was \$8.75. On February 2, 1898, the county debt was reported as \$12,706.99. The county had begun to buy the turnpikes from their private owners by 1898. The Farmers Bank held \$11,245.94 of the debt which bore 8 per cent interest, and W. M. Wright held \$1,362.05 of the debt which also bore 8 per cent interest.⁴ The county paper reports in November 1899, that the fiscal court had met and paid all bills for the year and that "a considerable surplus was left".⁵ Apparently there were road bonds outstanding but not due. On April 4, 1905, the county owed turnpike bonds debt of \$32,000, other bonds \$21,700.⁶

Sharpeburg made the proud boast that that town never floated any bonds, although it at an early date was the center of an independent school district with a fine school building. Bonds, however, were issued to build this consolidated independent school building.

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- 1 Census 1880, p. 1597.
 - 2 Burroughs, op. cit., p. 246.
 - 3 Census 1890, Part I, p. 259.
 - 4 News-Outlook, March 7, 1901.
 - 5 Ibid., November 2, 1899.
 - 6 Ibid., October 5, 1905.

Bonds to the amount of \$20,000 were issued and were paid easily and promptly as they came due.

On September 16, 1922, the county voted by a majority of 731 votes to authorize \$300,000 worth of bonds for roads and bridges. Bonds were sold to the amount of \$100,000 to Seasongood and Mayer, and to Weil Roth and Irving of Cincinnati, at par, dated¹ January 1, 1924, to bear interest at 5 per cent. On July 7, 1925, another series out of the \$300,000 amount in the sum of \$50,000, at a premium of \$515 and cost,² was sold to Weil Roth and Irving. In November 1927, according to the county's financial statement, the bonded indebtedness was: for turnpikes \$10,000, for roads and bridges \$200,000. At this time the county had taxable wealth amounting to \$10,000,000.³ On December 31, 1927, the floating debt was \$22,012.50.³

The county's books were seldom audited, but in June 1930,⁴ the grand jury announced that they had been audited.

In 1931 another amount of \$100,000 of the bonds authorized to be issued was sold to Seasongood and Mayer, Cincinnati. The bonds bore interest at 5 per cent, and a

1 News-Outlook, January 3, 1924.

2 Ibid., November 19, 1925.

3 Ibid., November 24, 1927.

4 Ibid., June 5, 1930.

premium of \$310 was paid. This issue was to pay for the construction of the Field's Highway.¹

In 1934 the highway bonds of \$300,000 made a per capita debt of less than \$30. In December 1935, the highway bonds outstanding were listed at \$248,000 at 5 per cent, and the floating debt, created just for day to day checking purposes, was \$16,000. This makes a very reasonable debt for this small county. The financial condition of the county in every way is good.²

The salaries of the county officials are: County Judge \$1,200 plus \$300 for trials of misdemeanor cases, County Attorney \$1,200, County Clerk \$750 and fees, Circuit Clerk \$240 and fees, Sheriff \$175 and fees, and Bond Commissioner \$200.³

On January 29, 1933, Circuit Judge H. R. Prewitt declared a moratorium on real estate debts in the county for the duration of the depression.

The census for 1930 reveals the following: population of the county is 11,075, total receipts by the county \$154,000, or per capita receipts \$13.91. Of this total amount received the tax receipts from property amount to \$112,000, poll tax

1 News-Outlook, March 3, 1931.

2 T. C. Darnell, Treasurer, Bath County, on December 12, 1935, furnished this information.

3 News-Outlook, April 13, 1933.

\$1,000, license fees \$3,000. Of the 11,075 population 1,816 people live in cities, towns, or villages, and 9,259 live in the rural school districts. Of the total receipts of \$154,000 an amount of \$76,000 was collected from the towns, showing a per capita collection of \$41.85, and \$76,000 is from the rural school districts,¹ showing a \$8.42 per capita collection.

Somewhere in an economic history such as this, mention should be made of the part whiskey has played in the county. Reference to only one distillery in the county has been found, and it was evidently a small one, operating at an early date and soon ceasing. No information concerning it is now available. But much whiskey has always been quietly and illegally made in this county. Whiskey thus made is called "moonshine whiskey". Whiskey so made adds nothing to the county's wealth. On the other hand it has been the source of much crime and expense. One grand jury of the county reported, "The handling and drinking of intoxicating liquore is the underlying cause of most of the crime that is committed within the county."² In November, 1933, the county voted "dry" by 90 votes, but in November, 1935, it voted for the return of whiskey.

1 Financial Statistics of State and Local Governments, 1932, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, Bath County, Table I, p. 670.

2 News-Outlook, May 17, 1926, Grand jury's report for May.

Until 1925 the county had the magisterial district form of government, but in June 1925, the county voted for a commission form, after two grand juries had¹ already voted in favor of it. The administration is now thoroughly businesslike.

The May, 1894, fiscal court fixed the county tax levy as follows: turnpike tax rate 17¢, bridge 6¢, ad valorem 27¢, special 18½¢. This made a total of 68½¢. The state tax added to this was 42½¢, or a total of \$1.11 for county and state. In May, 1896, the total rate was \$1.10. In April, 1898, the county levy was set at 50¢ and the State levy at 52½¢. The rate for the county included the item of 22½¢ imposed to liquidate an indebtedness of \$18,000 incurred under the old constitution. This rate was calculated to raise revenue that would remove the debt in three years. In April, 1926, the fiscal court adopted a budget for the apportionment of the county funds as follows: roads and bridges 50 per cent, general expenses (salaries, etc.) 12 per cent, charity fund 7 per cent, public health 2 per cent, dirt roads 6 per cent, miscellaneous 23 per cent. The county levy was made as follows: general expense 25¢, turnpike 25¢, common schools 38¢, poll tax \$1.50, and

1 News-Outlook, April 9, and June 6, 1925.

for common schools \$1.00. Seven hundred and fifty dollars was to be allowed to physicians for their services to the poor in the county.¹ The grand jury reported in May, 1928, "We believe the system of maintaining roads up to this time has involved an unnecessary outlay of money, that is, in an excessive number of overseers and managers."² In 1930 the county levied on \$9,000,000 taxable property value, applying the following rates: turnpikes 25¢, general expense 25¢, roads and bridges fund 17¢. On \$433,109 value of bank stock 20¢ was levied. The item of 25¢ for general expenses was supposed to yield: for salaries \$6,600, charity \$3,350, health \$980, dirt roads \$2,500, and miscellaneous \$8,870. Forty cents was levied on property outside of the four graded school districts for the benefit of the county schools.³

Mr. W. W. Horton, County Superintendent of Education, said that there are five taxing districts in the county for schools: the county, outside of the various independent school districts, with a rate of 40¢; Owingsville city school, rate \$1.00; Salt Lick independent school district 80¢; Sharpsburg independent school district 50¢; and Bethel independent school district 60¢.⁴

The tax rate for the general expenses of Sharpsburg is

1 News-Outlook, April 12, 1928.

2 Ibid., May 17, 1928.

3 Ibid., April 3, 1930.

4 Ibid., June, 1933.

75¢. It was only 50¢ a year for many years before 1910. Salt Lick has a general tax rate for the town of 40¢. The tax rate in Ovingville is: general 75¢, plus \$1.50 poll tax, plus \$1.00 school tax. The city also charges occupational licence taxes, in effect since April 1, 1934, as follows: for sale of beer, \$100 per year (four business houses are paying this tax); for sale of liquor, \$300 per year (two business houses are paying this tax); any general business, \$10 per year; and the professional selling, \$5; to operate cream station or filling station, \$5; and to operate barber shops, one chair, \$3.

The county paper lists nine separate tax levying bodies in Bath County: Bath fine l court, Sharpburg graded school district, city of Sharpburg, Bethel graded school district, Salt Lick graded school district, City of Salt Lick, City of Ovingville, Ovingville graded school district, Bath County Board of Education.¹

A tax payers' league was organized in March, 1933. The organization did not accomplish much and the interest soon passed. A reduction of the salaries of the officers of the county was secured but the salaries were soon raised to the modest former amounts. A ten per cent reduction was accepted by the officers but this reduction was in effect for only one month.² The census of 1880³

¹ News-Outlook, February 10, 1927.

² Ibid, February 18, 1933.

³ Census of 1880, Part II, p. 1536.

shows the tax apportionment as follows: for the State \$9,635, for the county \$38,689, city and school \$314, total \$48,638.¹ The census for 1890 shows the assessed value of property in 1890 to have been \$3,507,442 as against \$2,117,565 in 1880. The assessed value per capita in 1890 was \$273.74 compared with \$176.73 in 1880. The ad valorem tax in 1890 amounted to \$21,835 as compared with \$48,638 in 1880. The ad valorem per capita tax in 1890 was \$1.70 as against \$4.06 in 1880. The total of \$21,835 for 1890 was divided as follows: to the State \$7,015, for the county \$5,250, State levy for schools, \$7,892, for county schools \$1,678. This afforded \$11,380 from the tax for schools. The county supervisors fixed the assessment of the county at \$2,659,605 in 1891.² For 1897 the State Board of Supervisors raised Bath's assessment on lands and personalty 8 per cent and on town lots 4 per cent. For 1898 the County assessment was equalized at \$2,759,280, or including bank stock and the railroad assessment, \$3,000,000.³ The taxable property value was raised to \$3,199,940 in 1900.⁴ In April 1900 the fiscal court levied an additional 7½¢ to liquidate old debts, 20¢ ad valorem, 5¢ to pay off old debts against the county. The total was 15¢ less than for the previous year. The oil and

1 Census 1890, pp. 74, 184, 617.

2 News-Outlook, February 2, 1891.

3 Ibid, February 10, 1898.

4 Ibid, April 5, 1900.

gas wells valued at \$185,000, 90 stores valued at \$100,705, and oil leases and such valued at \$364,285 added to the assessed valuation of the previous year made a total property tax value of \$4,277,040,¹ in 1903. The assessment of real estate that year was increased 5 per cent. In 1905 the assessment was raised 10 per cent on farms and 5 per cent on city property. In 1922 the assessed valuation of property, subject to school tax, was listed at \$8,168,835. The rate of the county school tax levy for 1921 was 38¢. At this time the salary of the County Superintendent of Education was raised to \$2,400.² The assessment for the year 1921 was \$12,429,142.³ In 1921 assessment for Bath was ordered raised \$225,000,⁴ but the board of equalizers finally fixed the Bath assessment at \$12,000,000.⁵

The value settled on by equalizers for 1924 was \$12,097,892.⁶ In 1931 the total taxes to be collected for the year was \$115,569,74. Of this amount was due: State \$31,212.27, county tax \$58,892.57, county poll \$2,406, school tax \$21,891,90, school poll tax \$1,167.⁷ In 1932 there was a decrease of taxable value of \$909,028, making a new total of \$8,685,882. The reduction was mostly

1 News-Outlook, February 12, 1903.

2 Ibid, January 5, 1922.

3 Ibid, March 2, 1922.

4 Ibid, March 9, 1922.

5 Ibid, April 6, 1922.

6 Ibid, June 5, 1924.

7 Ibid, August 27, 1931.

on farm values.¹ For 1934 the assessment was fixed at \$7,608,316, or \$279,737 more than for the previous year.² The increase was most in land values and least on livestock.² This valuation was to raise amounts of tax: State \$8,663.11, County \$50,098.99, county schools \$22,606.45, East Lick Graded School \$1,335.66, Owingsville school \$28,565.15,³ or a total of \$91,269.36. The assessment was fixed for 1935 at \$204,678 less than for the previous year. Bank shares declined most in value, land next, while livestock increased in value.⁴ This assessment was calculated to yield \$63,497.78. In March, 1935, the county received \$5,521.02 for the second quarter of fiscal year from the State Government. Four thousand five hundred and twenty-two dollars and ninety-two cents was received the first quarter. This amount was to be used on road and bridge bonds, and was one-third of the total amount used by the county for its local expenses.⁵

The largest single piece of taxable property is the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. In 1935 the amount of tax paid by it was \$15,449.61. The amount per year had been \$12,580.15 for years, but a special levy that year increased the amount. "Bath County could hardly operate except for this tax amount from the Railroad," said the sheriff who

1 News-Outlook, January 12, 1933.

2 Ibid., January 18, 1934.

3 Ibid., October 4, 1934.

4 Ibid., January 17, 1935.

5 Ibid., March 7, 1935.

collects the taxes. The auditor at Frankfort has put this county on a budget and has changed the dates for the beginning and close of the fiscal year.

The county was created in 1811. "The first circuit court was held on the fifth day of May, 1811, at the residence of Captain James Young, on Flat Creek, five miles west of Owingsville." "On May 3, 1813, the first circuit court was held in the new courthouse at Owingsville." The courthouse was made of brick. It stood until 1831. It was then torn down and another one built. The second one was burned by Federal soldiers in April, 1864. The present one was built on the same site in 1866 at a cost of \$34,000.¹ The county paper says the corner stone was laid in 1867 but was opened again July 1, 1903,² when the courthouse was remodeled. In February, 1903, the Fiscal Court appropriated \$6,000 for a tower and a clock for the courthouse. The county built hitching racks on the courthouse yard for the horses of the country people. The county paper mentions that the tower was painted in 1922 and again in 1930. It was remodeled in January, 1925. In 1900 a well was drilled to a depth of 676 feet in the courthouse yard. The county has had to buy several thousand dollars worth of road equipment: trucks, graders,

¹ Van. E. Young. Also see Appendix, Hess Manuscript.

² News-Outlook, July 9, 1903.

scrapers, etc.

The county has had four jails. The first was made of logs by Jacob Warner in 1814. The second "built down by the school house" was of brick. The third was of brick also and stood where the present jail stands. It was torn down in 1889. The building now serving as the jail was built in 1889.¹

In 1893 the county purchased a 370 acre farm, known as the James McDonal farm, paying for it \$35 per acre, or \$12,950.² This is now known as the "Poor Farm". The farm is let out each year to the man making the best bid for it. The successful bidder must sign a contract to care for the paupers under certain conditions.

Captain Wells rented the farm for the year 1899-1900, paying \$775 for the year's rent. In turn he charged the county \$12.50 board per month for each inmate. He worked the able men, paying them a reasonable wage. The average number of paupers for the year was thirty-seven. The county paid \$462.50 board for the inmates, while the rent brought the county \$775. The cost to Captain Wells, therefore, was \$312.50. That year Mr. Wells sold \$2,000 worth of products from the farm. His net receipts averaged \$45 per pauper. His profits were not more than \$740 net.³

1 See Appendix, Hess Manuscript.

2 News-Outlook, February 8, 1900.

3 Ibid, November 29, 1900.

The banks in this county have had a fine history. There has never been an outright failure. Upon the death of J. A. J. Lee in 1893 his private bank was somewhat short of available resources. However, 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of all obligations of the bank were paid from the estate. This bank was the Exchange and Deposit Bank, and J. A. J. Lee was the president. The Bethel Bank of this county settled all of its obligations in 1934 and went out of business. Also because of declining business, the Exchange Bank of Sharpsburg sold out to the Citizens Bank of that town in April, 1926. All other banks organized in the county are still doing business and continue until this year, 1936.

No records in the county show when the Exchange and Deposit Bank, or Lee's Bank was organized. But another bank in Owingsville, first known as Levi Goodpaster's Bank and founded in 1865, later became the Goodpaster's Bank and was chartered as the Farmers Bank May 22, 1893, to begin business October 2, 1893. The Farmers Bank shares were valued at \$100 each. When the charter was issued under the name Farmers Bank, 400 shares were issued to J. W. Goodpaster, 25 shares to C. W. Goodpaster, and 50 shares to H. S. Goodpaster out of the

total of 800 shares. The capital stock was \$80,000. Thus the control was retained by the Goodpasters. On October 5, 1899, the capital stock was reduced to \$40,000, on February 1, 1908, it was increased to \$50,000. On January 4, 1911, the number of directors was reduced from seven to five and the capital stock increased to \$60,000; on August 2, 1915, the stock was increased to \$80,000; on June 13, 1919, the number of directors was again fixed at seven; on October 21, 1919, the capital stock was increased to \$120,000. On October 21, 1920, the number of directors was set at nine. On Jan. 31, 1921, the permitted debt was increased to equal capital stock plus surplus. On May 29, 1934, the capital stock was reduced to \$60,000. An itemized statement of this bank's business from year to year is shown in the Appendix.

The Owingsville Banking Company was chartered May 10, 1893, following the closing of the Lee Bank. It had capital stock of \$50,000 and could contract debts equal to \$200,000. On May 5, 1897, the capital stock was reduced to \$30,000 on account of the tax on banks levied according to capital stock; on May 8, 1923, it was increased to \$40,000; and on May 2, 1932, the stock was reduced to \$30,000. An itemized statement of this bank's business is shown in the Appendix. In the local paper of July 9, 1896, 50 shares were advertised for sale at

\$100 per share. On July 1, 1895, a semi-annual dividend of 8 per cent was declared and 10 per cent was posted to surplus. In December, 1896, this bank declared a 6 per cent semi-annual dividend, while the Farmers Bank announced a 4 per cent semi-annual dividend.

The Exchange Bank of Sharpsburg was incorporated June 9, 1893, with \$25,000 capital stock. It was organized from a former bank that had its beginning in 1866, according to the advertisement of the Exchange Bank.¹ On December 10, 1898, the capital stock was reduced to \$20,000. This bank was taken over in April, 1926, by the Citizens Bank of Sharpsburg. An itemized statement of this bank's business is given in the Appendix.

The next bank in Bath County in order of time is the Salt Lick Deposit Bank. It was chartered July 3, 1901, with \$15,000 capital stock, and it was given the power to make debts up to \$100,000. It was stipulated in the beginning: "no share holder is to hold more than twenty shares for more than one month." On February 3, 1913, this was amended to: "no share holder is to hold more than seventy-five shares for more than one month." A detailed year to year showing of this bank's figures will be found in the Appendix.

A charter was issued to the Citizens Bank of Sharpsburg

¹ News-Outlook, January, 1904.

bearing the date of December 1, 1903, and the bank was to begin business January 20, 1904. The Citizens Bank took over the Exchange Bank in April, 1926. A detailed showing of the bank's figures are given in the Appendix.

The Bethel Bank, Bethel, Kentucky, received its charter January 22, 1910, authorizing \$15,000 capital stock. The business was not profitable, and in March, 1932, the stockholders were assessed for the deficit and the bank liquidated its obligations and closed its doors. Two cashiers committed suicide within three years. A detailed showing of the bank's condition is given in the Appendix.

The Farmers Trust Company, adjunct of the Farmers Bank, was incorporated December 18, 1914, with capital stock of \$20,000 authorized. This was soon increased to \$30,000. In the Appendix will be found a statement showing the condition of the bank year by year.

These banking statistics show a fair amount of wealth for the county. At the end of December, 1930, the first complete year of the depression, the five banks of the county showed: totals of capital stock \$250,000, with resources of more than one and a half million dollars, surplus and unpaid profits of \$456,000, and deposits of \$1,012,950.12. This is a volume of business just \$18,046.79 more than for the big year of 1929. The bank

loans for 1930 were \$809,576.68.¹ The surplus and undivided profits for 1930 were \$83,113.35 more than for 1929. The Owingsville banks did not take the banking holiday granted by the Government in 1933, but operated through it under restrictions. Within two weeks the banks were² operating again with the restrictions removed.

Crime, poverty, benevolence, relief, and unemployment are factors that play prominent parts in economic history. The census for 1890³ reports eight white people and four colored people in the almshouse. The census of the county⁴ for 1930 shows that there were 3,191 male workers gainfully employed, and 234 female workers; the class "A" persons out of a job, able to work and looking for a job, males 24, females 1; class "B" persons, having jobs but on a lay off without pay, excluding those sick or voluntarily idle, males 56 and females 5. Probably the citizens of the county are as charitable as other people, but there is no objective proof of this. One sizable gift is mentioned in the county newspaper: J. B. Spratt, a Bath County man, donated \$10,000 to Bryan College, Fayetteville, Tennessee, in 1921.⁵

Besides gifts for the care of the poor in the county, the county gives \$250 a year to the State childrens

1 News-Outlook, January 22, 1931.

2 Ibid., March 9, March 15, 1933.

3 Census 1890, Part II, p. 709.

4 Census 1930, Unemployment, p. 403.

5 News-Outlook, September 1, 1921.

orphan home.¹

In January, 1900, the county had an agreement that sixty-one paupers would be cared for free for the use of the farm. Others, more than the sixty-one, would be paid for by the county at the rate of \$25 a month.² There were fifty-two paupers on the farm in 1901. In 1932 the poor farm was rented for half the price paid in 1931. In 1933 the paupers were cared for by the renter of the farm at a charge of \$8.00 per month to the county.

The Federal Government found plenty of opportunity to offer relief in this county in 1933. The county got \$6,000 from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for relief work on the roads for the months of January and February. Two hundred and seventy-three men applied for work, of which 256 were accepted and set to grading the roads. Where there was no able bodied male in the family to perform the work called for, direct relief of \$1.50 to \$3.00 per week was granted to the family. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation in March aided 672 families of 3037 individuals with \$2,875.75, gave out 75,000 pounds of potatoes, 32,723 pounds of fertilizer. Also onion sets and garden seed were distributed. The rate of issue was ten pounds of potatoes and five pounds of fertilizer to each member of the family.³ In June of 1933

1 News-Outlook, November 20, 1924.

2 Ibid, January 11, 1900.

3 Ibid, April 6, 1933.

there were 1307 relief gardens in the county. In November 18,000 pounds of pork were distributed. At this time 19 per cent of the population of the county was listed for relief. Coal was issued for relief in December. In August, 1934, the county had 350 on relief payrolls who received \$2,750. Direct relief amounted to \$1,250. This made a total of \$4,000 in relief expended in the county¹ expended in the county in August.

The Home Owners Loan Corporation officers for the county were named in August of 1933.

The National Relief Administration was organized in the county in September 1933.

The Citizens Work Administration local organization was formed in November of 1933. This organization proceeded to take over the work of the relief projects. This did not affect the plan of direct relief. The rate of pay for labor was 45¢ per hour for not more than 30 hours per week. The workers were to be taken off the relief rolls. Within a month 600 men registered for CWA jobs. Eighty-nine were promptly put to work and nine more projects were planned. All relief projects in this county were road making. In August, 1934, the county received three thousand or more cattle from the drouth area in the West for the purpose of furnishing them pasture. The farmers received from the Federal Government one dollar per month per head of

¹ News-Outlook, August 16, 1934.

cattle pastured. During the next three months a total of \$27,000 of relief money, under one name or another, was received in the county.¹

The Red Cross for many years has aided many in the county. In 1932 it helped, before the Government began its aid, 150 families and distributed 4,110 pounds of flour, besides much clothing. "The membership in the Red Cross in the county at this time is far below the quota."² In November of 1933 the quota was announced as 756 members. This organization brought \$10,000 of relief into the county during a single year. In the year previous 4,000 yards of cloth were distributed, 1,736 garments for 250 families, and 1,325 bags of groceries were given away.³

As for the distribution of wealth in this county, it is to be noted that while the northwest half of the county is of limestone soil and is a section as rich as is to be found in the world, the southeast half has about as small a per cent per capita of wealth as any county in the State.⁴ The Census for 1860 shows the real estate valuation for the county as \$3,983,576 and personal wealth as \$2,911,069. In 1880,⁵ however, the report gives to real estate a value of \$1,699,835, and to personal property \$417,130. The first

1 News-Outlook, August 16, 1934.

2 Ibid, January 19, 1933.

3 Ibid, November 16, 1933.

4 U.S. Census, 1860, Table III, p. 302.

5 Ibid, 1880, Part II, p. 1536.

report was made before the Civil War. Both armies ravaged the county. The 1880 report was made before the reopening of the mines, the building of the railroads, and the cutting of timber. The 1890 census shows a total of wealth in the county of \$6,080,000 with a per capita wealth of \$474.52. The value of land per acre averaged \$35.19. The real estate and improvements assessed for taxes this year had a value of \$2,511,435, while the farm lands and improvements were valued at \$4,130,640. A further itemization of the wealth in 1894¹ was given as follows: land \$2,026,620, town lots \$198,445, cash and notes \$369,005, other personal property \$364,700 (exemptions \$120,000), net total of wealth, as taxed, \$2,829,770. An article in the county paper in August, 1896,² lists the wealthy people of the county and shows the nature of the wealth. "All are farmers, excepting two or three", or nine out of ten are farmers. Only those are counted who are worth from \$5,000 to \$500,000. Not all those who would fall in the lower bracket are listed. In the Flat Creek section (that section claimed by some to be the richest soil in the world) are: Archibald Hamilton and his sons, James and George, and his grandsons, George G. and Carroll; William and Harvey Berry; Johnson A. Young; Thomas J. Young;; Thomas Jones; Caleb

1 News-Outlook, January 4, 1894.

2 Ibid, August 20, 1896.

Ratliff; James and Johnson Whaley. In the east end of the county are: William Atchison and his sons, Jessie and William; Joshua Ewing and his sons, Henry and Penrose; A. J. and Charles Goodpaster. The 1900 census shows this recapitulation of assessed property for the county: money, notes, and bonds \$325,898; land, 161,861 acres, \$2,321,019; 516 $\frac{1}{2}$ town lots \$295,164; stocks and personal property \$565,551; total (less exemptions) \$3,373,632.

Farm products for the year: 1171 acres of tobacco, \$670,200; corn from 1628 acres, \$176,255; wheat from 7,492 acres, \$64,860; 1923 horses worth \$50,890; 247 mules worth \$29,190;¹ 7,191 head of cattle, \$145,072; and 5,175 hogs, \$20,009.²

Lipscomb refers to Owingville as "one of the prettiest and most cultured, and wealthy towns of its size in the State. It is blessed with all modern improvements." It had four churches, two banks, two newspapers, electric lights and telephones. But it did not have a water system.

J. J. Mark³ recapitulates the work of John Oakley, the assessor, for the year 1903: steam engines \$30,500, mineral products \$2,565, coal mines, oil and gas wells \$444,000, 102 stores with \$104,725 of stock, 514 town lots worth \$314,760, tobacco 1,448,300 pounds, corn 111,900 bushels, wheat 35,350 bushels. The Bath County tax figures, arrived at for

1 News-Outlook, February 28, 1901.

2 Lipscomb, op. cit.

3 News-Outlook, January 21, 1904.

1920, shows: 166,491 acres \$8,984,030; 641 town lots \$754,922; 354 automobiles \$131,360; bank shares \$236,993.¹ That year there were 2,598 voters and 1,616 dogs.² In 1920 the taxable wealth was reported to be \$12,628,493 with a per capita wealth of \$1,052.72. This rate compares well with that of Madison County, a county also having bluegrass and knobs sections. The per capita wealth of adjoining Rowan County, which lies wholly in the knobs, is \$296.94.³ The assessment for the year 1921 was: land \$9,327,176; town lots \$602,072; tangible property \$620,526; intangible \$1,165,184; livestock \$367,450; bank stock \$404,247; leases \$737; total \$12,429,142. It may be that dogs should not be listed as wealth, but there were 1,037 of them. Little value is accorded to leases this year as compared with the \$444,000 valuation of 1903.⁴ In August of the same year the assessment was reported as 116,724 acres, worth \$7,533,605, or \$45.25 per acre, 661 town lots valued at \$767,122, and improvements thereon \$569,521. The average value of the town lots was \$1,160 and the average value of improvement thereon \$860.

Industries-- Little is known about the earliest industry--that of salt making. Linney⁵ reports an analysis made by Robert Peter in 1897 of salt water from the Buffalo

1 News-Outlook, March 25, 1920.

2 Fifth Biennial Report of Department of State Roads and Highways.

3 News-Outlook, March 2, 1922.

4 Ibid., August 3, 1922.

5 Linney, op. cit., pp 43, 46.

salt well showing sodium chloride 4.7121 to 1,000 parts of water and a total of saline ingredients of 5.3940. West of Owingsville on Salt Well Creek is a well bored 485 feet deep "many years ago". Salt was manufactured here for some years. Also there is a well bored in one of the salt springs at Olympian Springs with the depth unknown. Also unknown is the digger and the date of digging or drilling of the well. Salt was made here for many years. Salt was being made at Vanceburg, in Lewis County, around the year 1830.¹ The salt was made by boiling water in shallow pans. About thirty gallons of water yielded one pound of salt.

The mining and manufacture of iron is considered to be the first real industry. On the land granted to Jacob Myers by Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia in 1779 were very rich deposits of iron ore. On May 24, 1791, Myers sold three-fourths interest in the ore ground to John Cockey Owings of Maryland and others, and by 1792 the first furnace fired by charcoal made from wood on the scene was in blast.² Really, according to Leesley,³ the blast began in 1791, the furnace having been erected by government troops. Whatever connection the government troops may have had with this enterprise, there

1 Furrourgs, op. cit., p. 93.

2 Kentucky Magazine, 1; 4 September 1917, p. 377.

3 United States Census 1880, "Statistics", Volume, p. 98, "Early Manufacture of Iron in Kentucky".

is no doubt that Colonel Owings was the manager and later the owner of the furnace. Colonel Owings in 1800 purchased controlling interest in the foundry.

The first castings were ten gallon kettles used for evaporating maple syrup. Flows, nails, and axes were soon being made. A record of the contract by which Colonel Owings secured a potter for his furnace has been preserved. The following receipt indicates one transaction:

Waynesville, December 24, 1807. Received of Thomas Deye Owings the following balls to be delivered to the commanding officer at New Orleans, viz; 413 twenty-four pound balls, 375 thirty-two pound balls--weighing in all 21,612 pounds--in order and neatly executed. John C. Owings, Jr., Sergeant Major.

Other orders were for cannister and grape shot for the artillery corps of General Andrew Jackson. These were hauled from the furnace to Lees Mill, on the Licking River, in wagons, there loaded into barges and floated down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. "On January 8, 1815, with the aid of this ammunition, General Jackson checked and routed the British veterans under Pakenham. So part of the battle of New Orleans was fought in the hills of Bath County."¹

An act of the legislature at Frankfort² shows that T. D. Owings incorporated the Licking Iron Company, capitalized at \$200,000. Little is known about this

1 Kentucky Magazine, op. cit., September, 1917.

2 Acts, Chapters 116 and 117, Section 16.

company.¹ The Bath County Court in October, 1811, condemned a "seat for iron works and for other water mills to be located at Slate".² A forge was also erected. The ore was now mined from two rich banks. The machinery was operated by water power although the water was often insufficient to keep the machinery working. The output was about three tons a day, using more than three tons of ore to produce one ton of iron. "This process was extremely wasteful, large quantities being thrown off in the slag."³ In the Kentucky Gazette during the years 1813 and 1814 appeared advertisements of the two forges, "Maria Forge" and "Slate Forge". "Iron of superior quality, three to four tons a day." According to some, 1836 was the date of the last blast,⁴ but Lesley says 1836 was the date of the last blast. Colonel Owings remained the manager of the Bourbon Iron Works until 1822 at which time it was declared bankrupt. The trustees continued to operate the furnace for several years. "This is the only furnace in Kentucky whose history can be definitely traced back to the last century."⁵ *Don't forget*

"The year 1814 saw Owingsville the manufacturing and mercantile center of Eastern Kentucky from which

1 The Ledger of T. D. Owings for 1817 has an account with Licking Iron Works. The account shows castings were sold to The Licking Iron Works. Also there was an account with Red River Iron Works.

2 Acts, Chapter 361, 1815.

3 Kentucky Magazine, September 1917, p. 377.

4 See Appendix U. S. Census 1880, Volume Statistics And Manufacturers, p. 98.

5 Ibid.

practically the entire State drew its supply of iron and iron products."¹

Lipscomb, writing in 1903, says, "One of the finest ore deposits in the United States is found in the eastern portion of this county."² In 1838, a furnace was set up on Caney Creek in the extreme portion of the county. This furnace operated until 1848. Mr. Lipscomb evidently did not accurately describe this ore. This was a Lower Carboniferous ore. It was burned with charcoal and was worked before the Clinton ore was developed. The ore could not be stripped with a steam shovel and so was more expensive to mine. Also the deposit was too distant from the highway, river, or railway, and its market was too far away for the ore to be produced profitably. The ore was a nodular ore of Lower Waverly formation and had too much sulphur in it.³

Another furnace was set up on Clear Creek. It was operated for a number of years but it was handicapped, as was the Caney Creek furnace, and ceased operating for the same reasons.⁴

The next iron mining operation in this county was under the name Slate Creek Iron Company. It began about 1890.

1 Kentucky Magazine, September 1917, p. 377.

2 Lipscomb, op. cit., p. 26.

3 Burroughs, op. cit., p. 79.

4 Linney, op. cit., p. 35.

Mr. P. W. Moore, Superintendent, leased 22 acres of the Judge Ewing land. The ore was a hematite and in places was nineteen feet thick. The average thickness was about seven to fifteen feet. Mr. Moore interested Mr. Mackaye of Boston, Massachusetts, in the development of this deposit. The Ewing heirs were paid \$180,000 in royalties. The mine had a commissary at Olympia, D. R. Bishop, Manager, and N. S. Shaylor, Geologist, were associated in this business with Mr. Moore, who was also a geologist.¹ Mr. Moore estimated that the crest of two hills had more than 1,800,000 tons of ore. The ore was taken from the ground with a steam shovel and then hauled to the tippie where it was screened and loaded into railroad cars.²

This ore, according to the geologic survey and from analysis of fourteen samples, ranged from 26.61 per cent to 60.41 per cent metallic iron with an average of 49.10 per cent. Three samples yielded 27.22 per cent of carbonate of iron.³ Many deposits nearby remain undeveloped.

A narrow gauge railroad was built to haul the ore to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad at Olympia. Steam shovels were used to strip off the top soil covering the ore, and the shovels then were used to load the ore into the cars. Fifty men could load 125 tons a day. The mine

1 Dr. VanAntwerp, in October, 1935, gave the writer this information.

2 Linney, op. cit., p. 26.

3 Perrin, op. cit., p. 553.

employed seventy-five to one hundred and fifty men.¹
 At first the ore was smelted at the mines, but this was
 wasteful. It was later shipped to Ashland, Kentucky,
 Ironton, Ohio, and some to Lormoor and Big Stone Gap,
 Virginia for smelting.²

In 1892 there was a strike at this ore mine. The
 laborers were receiving \$1.10 per day but wanted more.
 The workmen lost in the strike and their pay was lowered
 to \$1.00 a day--the same rate the Chesapeake and Ohio
 Railroad was paying its section hands. The shipments of
 ore were falling off and the company was hardly able to
 pay a larger wage.³ It seems that mining was suspended
 for awhile, for in September 1894, the county paper made
 note that the mine had resumed work and was advertising
 for workmen.⁴ In 1896, having exhausted one deposit, the work
 shut down for a week to transfer the machinery to Knob
 Lick. The railroad was extended to this location. A
 political speech was made to the men at the time of the
 abandonment of the mine. The county paper said in this
 connection, "If silverism carries in November, the mine
 will close down at Knob Lick indefinitely." The mining
 company had spent more than half a million dollars in

1 See News-Outlook, September 24, 1896, for a slightly
 different but unsubstantiated description.

2 For detailed description of early iron mine activities
 in Kentucky see E. W. Gibson, unpublished thesis,
 University of Kentucky, 1929, Economic History of Boyd
County.

3 Sentinel Democrat, April 1, 1892.

4 News-Outlook, September 6, 1894.

operating the mines.¹ Evidently the mine did not prosper, for permission was secured to allow the corporation to² dissolve as of date April 25, 1900.

The last iron mining operation undertaken in this county was by the Rose Run Iron Company, which was organized about 1900. The mine was in operation by the last of July 1902.³ In 1905 about 25,000 tons of ore were produced. All this ore was shipped to Ashland for smelting. This ore was taken from a region east of Slate Creek on the waters of Rose Run about five miles removed from Slate. Olympia, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, was the shipping point. The ore averaged about two feet in thickness in the bank. The high percentage of lime in the ore made the addition of lime for smelting purposes unnecessary. The ore yielded 35.7 per cent to 38.6 per cent of its weight in pig iron, or about 3,000 tons per acre per foot of thickness. Probably 125,000 tons were mined from 40 acres. There remain unworked probably several thousand acres, or one and one-half million tons, of this hematite of oolitic Clinton ore, of about the same grade and thickness as that mined. But only a small percentage of it can be taken out by

1 News-Outlook, September 24, 1896.

2 Ibid., March 15, 1900.

3 Ibid., July 31, 1902.

stripping with the steam shovel.¹ Dr. Peter made a chemical analysis of this Bath County ore. This unmined ore will be available when prices may justify its being mined.

The Rose Run Iron Company took over the Owingsville and Olympia narrow gauge railroad to haul its ore, and tracks were built to other nearby deposits of the ore. The railroad continued to operate under its original name, but was never a paying business. The output of the mine began to decline because of the low quality of the ore and consequently because of the low prices recieved for the product. This meant low wages for the workers, which brought dissatisfaction and a strike. The owners of the mine were in the mood to answer the demands of the workmen by permanently closing down the mines. The Rose Run Iron Company was dissolved in 1919.²

Probably the earliest ore smelted by Bourbon Iron Works was superior,³ as is claimed by some, but that produced later was described as "soft, fluid, foundry iron, somewhat called short".⁴

Perrin⁵ says, "Nothing now remains to mark the spot

1 Sallie C. Eubank, Thesis, University of Kentucky, 1927, The Iron Industry in Kentucky.

2 News-Outlook, March 27, 1918, and April 10, 1919.

3 Eubank, op. cit.

4 Linney, op. cit., p. 19.

5 Perrin, op. cit., p. 553.

where the furnace was located." This is an error, as the furnace on Slate Creek belonging to the old Bourbon Iron Works still stands and can be seen from Kentucky Highway Number 61. It is a blast furnace but not the open hearth type as some claim. A picture of it is herewith presented.



These furnaces were fired with charcoal. The timber on adjacent lands was burned to furnish the charcoal. The hills were nearly completely stripped of trees in these operations. This devastation, increased by the work of the steam shovels in removing the soil, has left the land infertile and desolate.

However, as there are many acres of this cheap ore yet¹ unmined, Linney recommends that foreigners, who are used to small scale ore mining, be encouraged to buy these acres. They can get the ore out, the refuse will enrich the surface soil, and crops can be raised. They will build homes and wealth will be added to the county.

The earliest power for machinery used in this county was water power. Treadmills run by horses or other animals seem to have been used but little in this country as they were used in the older countries. A horsepower² grist mill was set up in Owingsville about 1820. The earliest water mill used in Bath County was that one mentioned as set up on Slate Creek in 1791 by Thomas Dye Owings.³ Many water mills that were located on Licking River were removed by a law of 1817 that required streams⁴ to be left open for boats and timber rafts. Rice's mill⁵ was on the river, and another was at Ragland on the river. Piersall's mill was located on Salt Lick Creek. It closed about 1890. This mill made flour, meal, and feed. Another corn and wheat mill was located at Licking Union

1 Linney, op. cit., p. 21.

2 See Appendix, Hess Manuscript.

3 "The flour mill situated on Slate Creek, where old Maria Forge stood, now owned by Judge Ewing, is one of the first mill seats in the State." Van E. Young, 1875.

4 Acts of Kentucky General Assembly.

5 J. S. Hall, Salt Lick, told the writer about this in October, 1935.

on the river. Combined with this was a wool carding factory. The wool, for a small charge, was washed, picked, and carded into rolls by machinery. Ice sometimes prevented grinding for long periods in the winter, and many people were forced to use chops in making bread instead of flour or meal.¹ This mill at Licking Union ceased operations about 1890. At Forge's Mill on Slate Creek near its mouth is another water mill grinding corn and wheat. It continues today, but no one seems to know who built it or exactly when it began. It is the only water mill in operation in this county in 1936. It supplies only local needs.

The water mills have been crowded out by the steam and gas powered engines that can grind so much faster. A few large capacity mills have about monopolized the trade. However, more water mills would have continued except for failing and uncertain streams that furnish the power. Deforestation has thus affected the streams. The streams dry up in the summer, overflow in the spring and winter, and continually fill up mill ponds with the silt washed from bare and unprotected hillside fields. Several springs that were notable in earlier days have now become only wet-weather springs.

1 Mrs. Bet (John) Cassity told the writer about this in August, 1935.

Lumbering has been an important industry from the earliest time. This county lies in the hardwood area of the Appalachian Mountains and here is found oak, poplar, chestnut, walnut, hickory, cherry, basswood, and pine. Eleven thousand square miles of Kentucky is in this hardwood section. The system of cutting was very destructive¹ to a future growth. Beech, poplar, walnut, chestnut, and virgin yellow and black pine are gone. Only the white oak and scrub pine remain. Fires have been allowed to rage, often twice yearly, unchecked until no new timber can start its growth. When the hills are cleared of timber and used for crops they are only good for six years, or less, of medium crops.

In the eighties there were several big mills and great activity in the woods and along the Licking River. At Yale, in this county, was a large mill, that of the Yale Lumber Company. This mill was owned by the Heywood Brothers, and the Wakefield Company of Boston, Massachusetts. The mill cut lumber for chairs and baby carriages. The factories were in Gardner and Wakefield, Massachusetts, and in Chicago, Illinois. Five hundred men were employed.² The Company bought or constructed thirty miles of railroad to serve their mills. The railroad was incorporated under

¹ Wilson, op. cit., p. 51.

² News-Outlook, April 11, 1901.

the name of the Licking Valley Railroad Company. The county newspaper reports that in 1899 a large area of their standing timber was burned with great loss.¹ In the summer of 1899 a receiver was appointed for the Sterling Lumber Company at Yale, whose mill burned shortly before, and for the Licking Valley Railroad operated in connection with the Sterling Lumber Company.² Both, however, continued to operate. On October 24, 1899, the Licking Valley Railroad was sold to its receiver for \$29,000.³ This mill at Yale had a capacity of 28,000 to 30,000 feet board measure a day. Mr. Lanyon was the manager. The railroad, a narrow gauge, was built beyond Yale to Blackwater to haul timber to the mill, and ties, tan bark, and lumber to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad at Salt Lick for shipment. Much of the rough lumber was sold to other mills in Mt. Sterling and Lexington, there to be finished into various building materials. Certain kinds of hardwood were cut to given sizes and shipped to the Company's furniture factories in the north for further manufacturing. Maple, beech, and oak were used primarily for the furniture. About 500 cars of chair stock were shipped from this area. Timber, fifty and sixty feet long, sawed or hewn to the

1 News-Outlook, May 11, 1899

2 Ibid., June 8, 1899.

3 Ibid., October 26, 1899.

square, and requiring two or more flat cars for their loading, were shipped out.

In early 1905 this business was sold to the Licking River Lumber Company of Farmers, Kentucky. This included¹ the sale of the railroad and 12,000 acres of timber. Farmers was just five miles away, on the Licking River, and in Rowan County.

Besides the lumber, there were about four car loads of railroad ties a day shipped from Salt Lick and about the same number from Olympia. Ties then were of about two grades and sold for 15¢ to 30¢. Now there are five grades and they are sold for 15¢ to 60¢ each. Oak is the most common wood used for ties. Cherry, walnut, chestnut, birch, pine, beech, and maple were formerly used. Think of using cherry and walnut for cross ties! W. C. Taylor, as the purchasing agent, bought and shipped most of the ties and staves. Today the shipments of ties hardly average one car per week. The great railroad building period for the United States has closed. Besides, by creosoting ties their life is extended to three times the period of usefulness of untreated ties. The Erie Railroad uses most of the ties bought in this county. The tie and lumber business was heaviest in 1900. At that time there were literally acres covered with stacks of ties, tan bark, lumber, and staves on the Railroad yards

1 News-Outlook, January 26, 1905.

at Salt Lick and Olympia awaiting shipment. A Baltimore and Ohio Railroad freight agent solicited Mr. J. S. Hall, yard manager for the lumber company, for a few cars to be routed over his lines. Mr. Hall, in a quiet manner, said, "All right, place me one hundred B. & O. cars tomorrow to be loaded with staves to be routed over your line." The solicitor stared at him in amazement at the big order, but he caught the first train for his headquarters and began to send in empty cars for this unusual shipment.¹

All saw mills were run by steam. About 1895 the mills began to change from the use of the circle-saw to band saws, thus making a saving of timber. The circle saw reduces from one-fourth to one-half an inch of the timber to sawdust at each cutting. The band-saw hardly wastes one-fourth this. The cut surface is smoother also.

The stave plant referred to, built at Salt Lick, had 100,000 feet board measure of lumber used in its construction. A planing mill and a grist mill were operated also by the owner of the stave mill,¹ Mr. W. J. Fell. The mill began sawing about 1891. The staves were shipped to Louisville and to Cincinnati to be made into wine and whiskey barrels, to the East to be made

1 J. S. Hall, in conversation October, 1935.

2 News-Outlook, April 29, 1897.

into rum barrels for the West Indies trade, to New Orleans to be used in making barrels for kerosene and molasses. W. J. Fell had another stove mill in Ashland, which employed thirty men. All the mills paid \$1.00 to \$1.50 a day for labor. Often there were car shortages, and some competition to secure the cars would result between the shippers of lumber, tan bark, and staves. Many storekeepers were willing to exchange groceries for tan bark at \$6.00 or \$7.00 a cord. A cord was 160 cubic feet. Later the bark was paid for by the pound. The tan bark was shipped to Ashland, Cincinnati, and Louisville. Chestnut and oak bark was used in tanning leather. The most recent tan yard in this county was known as the Ficklin Tan Yard. It was a small yard and served the local need only. This yard ceased operation so long ago that no one can furnish a personal recollection or printed record of it. It ceased long before 1900. Much timber in the beginning was wasted in the gathering of tan bark. Trees were felled and stripped of the bark and the logs left to decay. Effort was made later to lessen the waste.

W. J. Fell sawed other products than staves. He owned a considerable area of land. Clell Ewing sold him \$40,000 worth of timber land near Ragland in the

southern end of the county, at Yale.¹ In August, 1903,
 his mills employing 700 workers were shut down because
 of trouble with the labor unions.² Possibly growing out
 of trouble with the labor unions, Fell's mills and
 warehouses were burned and destroyed within the month.
 Mr. Fell decided not to rebuild and removed his mills,
 Salt Lick's "principal industry";³ to West Virginia.
 The Fell lumber mills were situated on the river bank
 and had their logs floated down the river to the mills.
 Some of the rough sawn lumber was again rafted and
 sent further down the river, even to Cincinnati, to be
 made into finished building material.

Five miles up the Licking From Salt Lick was Farmers,
 just across the river in Rowan County. Two saw mills
 were located here during this period. One was a mill of
 rather large capacity. Much of its timber came from
 the Bath County side of the river. Its timber in rafts
 came down the river to the mill. The larger mill was
 owned by J. R. Buckwalter. Early in 1901 he added a
 planing mill to his saw mill. He made tobacco hogsheads,
 and all kinds of building material--flooring, ceiling,
 weatherboarding, moulding, and lathes.⁴ The boundary of

1 News-Outlook, June 1, 1899.

2 Ibid., August 7, 1903.

3 Ibid., September 11, 1903.

4 Ibid., February 14, 1901.

timber supplying this mill was exhausted, and the mill was closed by 1925.

Another saw mill was established at Salt Lick, owned by the Salt Lick Lumber Company. Its timber also was brought down the river in rafts. In later years the planing mill was added and the company specialized in high grade flooring and house finishing material. The business became bankrupt, but the mills continued to operate under the trustees for a year or so. In its heyday it shipped five or six cars of its products a day. In 1927 four of its drying kilns burned with a loss of \$35,000.¹

During this period of lumbering there were two small portable saw mills near Preston. The timber supply was limited and was soon out and the mills were removed.

In October, 1898, advertisements appeared in the local paper offering to sell one tract of 7,700 acres of timber land near Salt Lick on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, the timber being oak and poplar. No bid was to be for less than \$25,000 for the boundary. Another tract of 3,277 acres, known as the "Woolley Lands", was offered but no bid was to be for less than \$18,000.²

Since this period of great activity there has been

1 News-Outlook, March 10, 1927.

2 Ibid, October 6, 1898.

an average of five portable saw mills in the county. They do not operate all the year, and seldom do they operate at full capacity. Each could cut from 5,000 to 10,000 feet a day. They supply the local demands for bridge, barn, and rough house lumber.

In the south end of the county the Richardson Brothers, beginning in 1902, engaged rather extensively in the lumbering business. At that time land with good timber sold for \$10 an acre. They sold rough lumber at the mill for \$1.00 a hundred board-feet measurement. They also cut and loaded lumber for others, principally for McCormick Lumber Company, Mt. Sterling, for 75¢ a hundred board-feet measure. Most of the lumber was white oak. They cut the timber off at least 500 acres of land. Much pine was also cut off the land of the Embry¹ heirs.

The decline in the lumber production business in the county is indicated by the 1930 census report of only 83,000 feet of lumber and 484 railroad ties as the year's output for the county.

A few small industries have left but scant records.

Mr. Young² mentions a distillery located on Licking

1 N. P. Richardson in conversation August 1935.

2 Van B. Young, History of Bath County.

River "where Day's Mill now stands". No one recalls where Day's Mill stood or anything about the distillery.

The famous Minnehan saddles were made by Eugene Minnehan¹ in Owingsville from before 1887 until about 1917. The demand for these saddles remained moderate.

It seems that in 1865 there was a small tannery near Carrington Rock.²

and Just out of Bath County, in Fleming County, at Ringo's Mill, in 1896, was a grist mill and carding mill. It advertised wool carded for 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ a pound.³

Many early homes were made of brick produced near the sites of the houses. There are few land marks left of these kilns.^{early} The fires of the last local kiln near Sharpsburg went out about 1900. The scarcity of wood for the kilns is given as the reason for the passing of these local industries. About the same time, also, livery stables were doing a thriving business. In 1900⁴ there were three in Sharpsburg.

In 1897 a local electric light company was organized in Owingsville with \$1,500 capital stock. There was a local

1 News-Outlook, April 25, 1918.

2 Ibid., July 4, 1895. In 1895 some one found in a crevice of the Carrington Rock cliff a roll of hides that were tanned in 1865 that had been stolen and hidden there. Only the outer roll of hides had been ruined by exposure during that lapse of time.

3 Ibid., June 4, 1896.

4 J. C. Nelson, December 1935, in conversation with the writer.

electric plant in Sharpsburg also. These local plants were displaced in time by cheaper service furnished by larger companies through central distributing systems. These larger companies made their entrance into the communities usually by buying the small plants. Thus in 1928 the Kentucky Electrical Development Company, Louisville, ¹ bought the plant at Sharpsburg.

In 1897 Frank Fehr built a storage plant along the railroad at Preston for the storage of meat, beer, and vegetables, ² and in 1900 Armour began a similar storage plant. ³

Perrin, writing in 1862, speaks of coal being found in this county. Coal was in this county when Meniffee County was a part of Bath. This coal now is in the northern edge of Meniffee County. The vein is twenty-eight to thirty-six inches thick. It is mined in a small way occasionally to supply local needs. It is of an inferior grade. ⁴ In 1899 a native of the county claimed he had found a vein of cannel coal four feet nine inches thick near Preston. ⁵ The coal proved to be only shale.

Oil was known to exist in Kentucky for 100 years before its extraction was undertaken. The Bagland field, found in

1 News-Outlook, October 18, 1928.

2 Ibid., July 29, 1897.

3 Ibid., June 21, 1900.

4 Perrin, op. cit., p. 553. This coal is "sub-conglomerate". Perrin wrote his history thirteen years after Meniffee County became a separate county. There is no coal in Bath County.

5 News-Outlook, March 16, 1899.

Bath and Menifee Counties, was opened in 1897. In 1903 a pool was found in Wolfe County and another in Lawrence County. The Bagland oil is found in the Onondaga limestone, or "Corniferous" or "Irvine sand", at the base of the Devonian system. The oil is described as of a low grade--testing as low as 22 Baume--thick, black, low-gravity oil. In 1915 the oil reached the low price of 66¢¹ a barrel but in 1919, during the war, it sold for \$4.60. Ninety-two wells were drilled of which thirty-six were dry. The initial daily production was 728 barrels, or 13 barrels average to each well. The pool seems to be about exhausted. This oil in paying quantities is found at depths varying from 200 to 900² feet. The oil was pumped through four inch pipes from the wells to a reservoir on a hill at Salt Lick and through a six inch pipe from there to the railroad loading rack. From three to four tank cars were shipped a day. The accommodations allowed six cars to be loaded at one time. At first the reservoir was composed of two wooden tanks that held about 250 barrels. These were replaced with a steel tank that holds 1,500 barrels. The steel tank still stands. Oil is still in the wells and can be pumped when there is a demand for this grade of oil. The

1 It was 66¢ in October 1903. News-Outlook, October 23, 1903.

2 W. C. Eyl, unpublished thesis, University of Kentucky, 1922, Oil and Gas Industry of Kentucky.

prevailing price is now \$1.00 to \$1.50 a barrel. Because of the low price of oil, the wells stopped pumping in 1932. The Standard Oil Company ran pipes to the Bagland field in 1902 and 1903 and bought this oil, but in 1904 these pipes were taken up.¹ From then until 1932 the oil was piped to Salt Lick.²

There were many companies drilling in the Bagland field, or trying to get in. The new Dominion Oil Company, a branch of the Standard Oil Company, was in by January 1904.³ In 1902 the Mutual Oil and Gas Company was selling stock. It was capitalized at \$25,000 and had 2,100 acres in the Bagland Field.⁴ In August, 1902, the Guffy and Galey Oil Company "shot three wells on their holdings in the Bagland field, resulting in a good flow of oil".⁵ This company sold its holdings in December of 1902 to the Southern Pennsylvania Company for \$1,000,000. The Guffey and Galey Company paid the Mt. Sterling Oil Company \$120,000 for it the preceding spring.⁶ However, a later report was to the effect that the Guffey and Galey property consisting of 41 wells producing 20 barrels of oil a day and valued at \$350,000 was sold to the

1 This company was fined \$300 for selling oil to others than dealers. News-Outlook, June 9, 1904.

2 News-Outlook, July 17, 1902.

3 Ibid, January 14, 1904.

4 Ibid, August 7, 1902.

5 Ibid, August 28, 1902.

6 Ibid, December 11, 1902.

Pennsylvania Company.¹ The Licking Valley Oil and Gas Company in 1903 had eleven wells valued at \$63,000. The Kentucky Ragland Company's property valuation was reduced in 1903 from \$300,000 to \$10,000 by the Bath County Board of Equalization.² In July, 1903, the output for the Ragland field was reported to be 5,000 barrels a week. Three companies were operating at that time. The Dominion Oil and Gas Company was pumping 50 wells.³ Other oil companies were active in other fields in this county. The Mutual Oil and Gas Company was capitalized at \$15,000.⁴ The Flat Rock Oil Company operations failed and its property was sold by the court.⁵ The Olympia Oil Company and the Corona Oil and Refining Company also failed and their property was sold by the court.⁶ The William Abney Oil Company was not a success and closed its business in 1919.⁷ The Licking Valley Oil and Gas Company subscribed for \$30,000 worth of stock in the company that ran the pipe line from the Ragland fields to Salt Lick. Seven oil companies subscribed for the total amount of stock required to build the pipe

1. News-Outlook, January 29, 1903.

2. Ibid.

3. Bath County World, July 24, 1903.

4. News-Outlook, June 27, 1914.

5. Ibid., June 8, 1905.

6. Ibid., November 24, 1921.

7. Ibid., January 1, 1919.

¹
line.

Another pool located near the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad between Salt Lick and Olympia was discovered about 1917. The pool was small, the wells shallow, and the oil was of a low grade. The oil was found in the Onondaga limestone.² In July, 1918, a pipe line was begun from Salt Lick to this new pool. It ceased running for the same reason that the Ragland field ceased--low prices for oil.

Activity in oil production reached into the adjoining county. In July, 1902, a well was drilled in Fleming County, but it was not a success.³

In the fall of 1902 oil was found four miles south of Preston towards Olympia on the Cad Ingram property at a depth of 480 feet. There was little oil but a better show of gas. Near by on the Embry tract of land, also was found a trace of oil.⁴ The Mountain Valley Development Company, formerly the Diamond Oil Company, began wells also near Preston but with no great success.⁵ In November, 1902, the St. Louis Oil and Gas Company claimed to have brought in an oil well at a depth of 500 feet, producing 300 barrels a day on the Embry tract

1 News-Outlook, July 10, 1902.

2 Eyl. Thesis, and Durrough, op. cit., n. 77.

3 News-Outlook, July 17, 1902.

4 Ibid., October 2, 1902.

5 Ibid., November 6, 1902.

south of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad between
 Preston and Olympia.¹ This well proved to be a disappointment.
 However, in January, 1903, in this community, 108 acres of
 land were reported to have been sold for \$350, another
 tract of 100 acres was sold by Mr. Sponsel for \$1100,
 Taylor Downs sold a tract for \$800, and Joseph Blevins
 sold 50 acres for \$250—all sold in an oil development
 project. At least four wells were drilled on the Olympian
 Springs Hotel property. No oil was found within the 500
 feet drilled but gas was found. Other wells in the
 neighborhood were drilled on the land of Newton Richardson,
 Elias Highley, and others, but oil was not found. The oil
 boom raised the assessed valuation in this county for the
 year in the amount of \$500,000.² In 1905 the wells and
 leases on the large Embury tract were held by the St. Louis
 Oil Company and the Yale Oil Company.³

The activity in the oil line lessened for a few years.
 In 1918 it was reported that "there are now seven
 producing wells on the McCarty farm".⁴ In the summer of
 1921 wells were drilled on the Clyde Young land at Olympia
 to a depth of 800 feet without result.⁵ Mr. Richard
 Crouch drilled one well 400 feet deep at that time, but it

1 News-Outlook, November 27, 1902.

2 Ibid, January 15, 1903.

3 Ibid, May 18, 1905.

4 Ibid, December 26, 1918.

5 Ibid, June 16, 1921.

was abandoned as a dry hole. Another well¹ at 425 feet returned to him a low, but paying, yield. The Lorain Oil and Gas Company well in the bed of Salt Lick Creek yielded twenty-five to thirty barrels of oil a day. Other companies immediately began buying leases on land surrounding this spot. Other wells have not been opened,² however.

The county paper is authority for the statement that many of the citizens of Cwingville have invested heavily in oil wells in other sections.³ It seems that most of the capital for the developments in this county came from without the county.

There is much oil shale in the county that can be used when the value of oil will justify its use. Near⁴ Olympian Springs are beds 100 feet thick. This shale has a specific gravity of 2.246. The weight of one cubic foot in pounds is 136.79, and the shale yields 11.25 gallons of oil per short ton, with an approximate gas value of 3,000 cubic feet per short ton.

The United States census report for 1860, page 168, shows two manufacturing establishments in the county with a total capital of \$8,000. They used \$9,300 worth of raw material and employed twenty men, receiving together

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- 1 News-Outlook, July 14, 1921.
 - 2 Ibid., December 21, 1933.
 - 3 Ibid., November 13, 1919.
 - 4 Burroughs, op. cit., p. 55.

wages of \$4,000 annually. The total value of the manufactured articles produced was \$21,650. The census for 1880, page, 243, shows five flour and grist mills with capital stock of \$20,500, using nine laborers and paying them a total of \$1,900 in wages. The value of the raw material was \$28,195 and the finished products \$32,245. Also there was one establishment making woolen goods. It had capital stock of \$1,000, employed eleven men and ten women, and paid \$2,000 annual wage bill. The value of raw materials used was \$11,006 and that of the finished product, \$22,000.

The census of 1880, Volume "Manufacturing", page 120, reports for the county forty-nine factories employing seventy-four males, ten females, and one child, having a capital investment of \$75,625, wage payments of \$20,785, and using materials costing \$72,301. The manufactured products had a value of \$132,525. The census for 1930 shows no manufacturing. One will notice from the totals for 1880 that the manufacturing then must have been done by very small establishments since the average was less than two workmen to the plant. Grist mills, shoe shops, and other small industries have made up the list. The definitions of "factory" and "manufactures" changed after this report was made. In 1935 there were at least five saw mills employing about seventy workmen.

The census of 1890, Volume of "Manufacturing", Part I, page 430, shows ten establishments with a capital of \$42,763, using 36 employees, paying wages of \$10,646, using raw materials worth \$42,624, and producing goods having a total value of \$59,550.

The census of 1920, page 481, shows thirteen manufacturing establishments, employing 60 wage earners, paying \$42,075 wages, using raw materials valued at \$423,928. The finished products had a value of \$621,113. Machinery, using 459 horsepower, was employed. The rent and taxes paid by these establishments amounted to \$2,000. This was during the period of inflated prices.

Sharpsburg was early the manufacturing and industrial town of most promise in the county. Its largest population was in 1880 when there were 700 people in the town. About that time it had a "rope walk", cotton jeans factory, woolen factory, hat factory, and an establishment where boots and shoes were made by hand. The town boasted also a tailor shop, furniture factory and a large saw and planing mill. The boiler of the mill exploded in 1870. The brick kilns made brick for local needs until the available wood needed for firing the kilns was consumed. A flour mill, newspaper, and later a picture show flourished. The mill and picture show burned and were not rebuilt. There were seven groceries, two drug stores, and three dry

goods stores at one time. Now there are three groceries and one dry goods store.

Good roads may have prevented Sharpsburg from becoming a larger town. Twelve miles south on a good road is a larger and more prosperous town, Mt. Sterling, Montgomery County, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. To the north about forty-five miles away on the Ohio River and on two railroads is Maysville. Ten miles east is Carlisle, another thriving county seat. Each of these towns is growing faster than Sharpsburg and automobiles on good roads take people to them for business and pleasure.

Salt Lick was an important business center for a while but as noted elsewhere its main business was the manufacture of lumber. Its boom period of home building was at its height in 1903.¹

In 1929 the following businesses in the county were listed:² Bath Home Telephone Company, employing two men and five women; Ferrell Manufacturing Company, saw mill, employing ten men; Salt Lick Lumber Company, manufacturing flooring, employing eighty-two men; Salt Lick Roller Mills, employing three men.

Bath County inns and hotels had a more than local reputation. Sharpsburg, on the main road from Maysville,

1 Bath County World, October 16, 1903.

2 Kentucky Resources and Industries, Newton Bright, Commissioner, Bulletin 34, 1929, p. 123.

on the Ohio River, to the bluegrass and eastern Kentucky, had an inn at which people tried to find it convenient to stop when traveling this route. The inn continued in business until good roads and automobiles made the small town inn unnecessary. Bagland Oil fields had a good hotel but it burned in 1903. The loss was \$3,000. It was not rebuilt. At White Sulphur Springs, in the southern edge of the county, was a health resort. Fourteen cottages were burned February 12, 1904, with a loss of \$3,000.¹ It ceased to be a resort then. No further details are known about these hotels.

At Olympian Springs there was a hotel that had a long and notable history. Before the property became a resort it was the home of Thomas Hart. Later, Henry Clay, having married Lucretia Hart, used the property as his summer home. The first stage coach in Kentucky to operate on regular schedule began to run from Lexington to Olympian Springs in 1803.² By 1805 Olympian Springs had become a watering place for the public. By 1822 it was an outstanding resort of the South.³ Seven springs offering different mineral waters were available to the guests of the hotel. In 1905 a new hotel was built. It cost \$60,000 but later improvements to the property brought the

1 News-Outlook, February 19, 1904.

2 J. W. Coleman, Stage Coach Days in the Bluegrass. See Appendix also.

3 Elise Lathrop, Early American Inns and Taverns, Robert M. McBride and Company, (New York, 1926).

total cost to \$119,000. The profits for some years amounted to more than \$10,000 a year.¹ It came to be a gambling resort, sometimes \$10,000 changing hands in a single night. A dancing pavilion and cottages were built in the spring of 1897. Its best days were between 1890 and 1910. The advent of bad roads, automobiles, and prohibition ruined its business. It was dependent on good roads, for automobiles went only to those resorts found on good roads. If whiskey could not be sold guests had less inducement to patronize the resort. The property was overfinanced so that dividends on the investment grew less and then disappeared. The property underwent a series of sales and failures and finally experienced sales in bankruptcy.²

The telephone system in the county began as short lines between two or more communities. The Swingsville Telephone Company was incorporated at \$2,500 on June 16, 1899. The company was granted a twenty year franchise. By September, 1900 the line had an operator paid \$30 a month. In January, 1901, Goodpaster and Scott planned to run a line from Sharpsturg to Reynoldsville. In March, 1901, the Bath Fiscal Court gave the American Long Distance Telephone Company the right to put up lines through the county from Mt. Sterling to Farmers. In May there were eighty men working on the line. In March, 1901, the local

1. T. T. Foreman, Lexington, a director in the company, 1925, to the author. Also Nova-Outlook, January 12, 1905.

2. See Appendix.

line was completed to Hillsboro in Fleming County. The event was celebrated with band music sent over the line. In September, 1901, the Home Telephone Company was organized with headquarters at Harpsburg. About the middle of October the exchange was ready for business. The first connection with the Owingsville exchange was made October 21, 1901.¹ "On November first all the grocers had their phones taken out" because the patrons called for too many deliveries. The storekeepers noticed their total sales were less, also, since the customers did not visit the stores to make their orders.² In July, 1902, the Owingsville Company was placed in the hands of a receiver. In November, 1902, the county had connections over long distance lines with the North, but not with the East. The following month S. P. Atchison had established connections with still other communities and with neighboring counties. In November, 1903, the Home Telephone Company was selling additional shares at \$25 for the purpose of enlarging its business. One hundred and twenty shares were offered. That month the Company had 175 phones. The same month the American Telephone Company increased its stock to \$10,000. This was not a local company. In 1905, the Harpsburg Home Telephone Company ran its lines to Olympia, Olympian Springs, and to Preston. In August, 1905, a telephone franchise for the

1 News-Outlook, October 24, 1901.

2 Ibid., November 7, 1901.

whole county was advertised for sale. In April, 1925, Salt Lick advertised for sale a telephone franchise for that town. In 1928 the Home Telephone Company sold out to the Kentucky State Telephone Company, of Prockville, Kentucky. The line was to be improved and repaired. The line had been allowed to fall into disrepair and there was much dissatisfaction with the poor service. With the coming of the depression in the following year, little repair was made and some outlying communities were deprived of service through abandonment of the lines. In April, 1930, telephone rates were raised to new levels as follows: business houses \$39 a year, city residences \$27. This made a raise of \$9 to \$12 per year. Ninety subscribers ordered their phones taken out. At this time there were three exchanges in the county: Ovingville, Sharpsburg, and Bethel. The same year the Kentucky State Telephone Company was sold to C. B. Morgan and Company, interests from outside the county. The Morgan Company also bought several neighboring counties' lines. The headquarters of this company were in Little Rock, Arkansas.¹ In October, 1935, the Bath County lines were reported to have been sold to the Kentucky Standard Telephone Company, an Ohio firm.²

Railroads have been discussed under transportation. Here they are noted briefly as an industry. The Chesapeake

¹ News-Outlook, April 10, 1930.

² Ibid, October 10, 1935.

and Ohio Railroad pays about one-third of the taxes of the county and as an employer of local labor ranks fourth.

A few small industries will be noted at this point.

¹ Linney recommends that slate, found in abundance in the southern end of the county, be used in road making. There is plenty of slate, but it is not a good road material. However, in 1935 it was used on secondary roads. Linney also refers to the sandstone found in the county. There is much of it. A Buena Vista Sandstone of the Cuyahoga formation occurs near Olymper Springs. It is rather "thin bedded" and its use will be local until the demand for it as a building stone increases.² The sandstone used in the construction of the courthouse at Owingaville has become discolored, cracked and spalled. Limestone is found in many places in the northern part of the county. It is knapped and used in road building, or crushed and used in concrete construction. Formerly it was rough-hewn and used as blocks in house building. Now it is being pulverized for soil improvement. In the southern part of the county a few limestone cliffs are found. Stone taken from them is sometimes burned to make lime for building purposes. One writer has referred to the good quality of the rock at Carrington Rock for millstones, but there is no record of millstones having been taken from there. Fire clay is

1 Linney, op. cit., p. 30.

2 Burroughs, op. cit., p. 60.

found in the southern part of the county but little use has been made of it as there are better deposits being worked in nearby counties. Brick clay is found at many places. The old Oving house is made of hand pressed brick made from clay taken from near the house. The building stands today apparently as solid as when built. In 1900, A. S. Trother started a brick kiln in West Ovingville. About the same time A. J. Cheap set up quite a large kiln near Salt Lick and made brick and tile. He operated the kiln with profit until 1910 when, for personal reasons, he closed the plant and moved elsewhere. He paid wages of \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day. The plant still stands and could resume work with little expense for repair.

The supply of labor for the needs of the county has always been adequate. Excess labor seems to find employment easily in the cities. There is little variation in place to place and time to time payment of wages. In 1897, labor was reported to be scarce. At the tobacco warehouse in Ovingville the foreman was paid \$2.00 a day and other laborers were paid \$1.00. Farm hands were paid 75¢ a day that year and laborers for garden work, and work of that type, in town were paid \$1.00 and two meals a day. Some farmers, however, were only paying 50¢ a day. One farmer reported 200 bushels of wheat wasted in the field for want

of laborers.¹ In February, 1897, the Prendergast Lumber and Coal Company advertised in the county paper for labor to make 15,000 railroad ties in the following two months. In January, 1905, the county paper carried advertisements for farm hands. In 1918 there appeared in the local paper a two-page advertisement for war workers, carpenters to be paid 60¢ an hour and common labor 35¢ to build barracks at Camp Knox.² The next year carpenters, boat builders, plumbers, etc., were wanted at Fort Clinton, Ohio.

The census for 1930 shows that out of the total population of 11,075 there were 3,191 males and 234 females "gainfully employed". Of these 2,525 of the men and 57 of the women are employed on the farm. Of the men working on farms, 560 work for wages. The next largest group of gainfully employed men is 145 engaged in storekeeping, or trade. Following in order of their importance as industries are: 74 engaged in saw milling, 52 in railroading, 41 in garage work. Of the 234 women who are gainfully employed, the largest group 79 in number is engaged in domestic or personal service. The negroes are mostly farmers. The next larger groups of negroes are: 17 in building and construction trades, and 10 as dealers in merchandise. The total gainfully employed is 3,425. Twenty-five people of the class "A" are "unemployed but are able-bodied and

1 News-Outlook, July 29, 1897.

2 Ibid., October 17, 1918.

looking for jobs". Sixty-one people are of class "B", "having jobs but laid off without pay".

Among the enterprises promoted in the county is the Hamilton Farm, Incorporated, with capital stock of \$500,000 and permissible legal debts of \$250,000. This was a stock farm and did a big business for a while; but it did not pay on so large a scale, and the corporation became inoperative and the property changed hands. The farm is still a fine piece of property but is now operated as a private enterprise. Another incorporated farm was the England Farm near the England oil field. Its capital stock was \$10,000. Its charter was taken out in February 1903. It seems never to have accomplished much.

The Carnation Milk Company, with a milk condenser at Mayaville, forty miles from Coalingville, began a milk route in the county in May, 1934. Besides this dairy enterprise, there are several cream stations in the county buying hundreds of gallons of cream and milk each week for other firms.

An enterprise that has grown steadily through the depression is a flour mill begun by Perry and Wood at Salt Lick in 1917. Wood sold his interests to Perry in 1923. The mill has a capacity of 50 barrels a day. The mill with its own truck delivers its products. From two to four truck

loads of their products are sold each day. They make flour, meal, mill feed, and choos. They also buy and sell corn, oats, fertilizer, wheat, and seed. Their sales amount to \$1,200 to \$1,500 a day. Their delivery service reaches into eight or ten counties. They buy 20,000 bushels of wheat a year, and grind 30,000 to 40,000 bushels of corn a year. The county does not now raise enough wheat to meet the requirements of this mill.

In 1909 J. P. Wright began to buy eggs and chickens and to ship them. The firm became Wright, Dezor, and Wright, Salt Lick, Kentucky. They also buy and ship hides, scrap iron, and aluminum. Buying and selling chickens is their largest single interest. The amount of poultry handled each year is increasing. At first they shipped in crates by express, sometimes by truck loads. At present they are shipping one railroad car load of poultry a week to New York or to Philadelphia. The value per car is \$3,000. The minimum weight for a car of chickens is 14,000 pounds, and the average carload weighs 14,000 pounds. Near Thanksgiving and again near Christmas they ship several cars of turkeys, usually about eight cars. Their egg business amounts to about 25 to 30 carloads per year although eggs are usually shipped by truck. Two or three truck loads go to Detroit each week, each having a value of about \$5,000. The scrap iron business amounts to about two cars a year. Roy Vice, Owingsville, ships several cars of eggs and chickens per year also. The

heaviest movement of chickens and eggs occurs in the spring. The benefits of this business to the farmers are substantial. Each car of chickens sold brings about \$3,000 to the farmers.

The soil of the southern and eastern portion of the county is not adapted to heavy farming. It can best be used for grazing. The creek and large river bottoms can well be employed in raising tomatoes. A tomato cannery was set up at Salt Lick for the season of 1924. Ten or twelve cars of tomatoes were canned each season until it was closed.

The products of the cannery were worth about \$3,000 to \$4,000 per carload. One year the business totaled \$50,000. The cannery paid 40¢ a bushel for tomatoes. About 200 people worked for the cannery during the canning season. It ceased operation because of declining prices for canned tomatoes. In 1925 the owner of the Salt Lick cannery built another cannery at Preston, about eight miles west of Salt Lick, also on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. Each cannery required a minimum of 100 acres of tomatoes. One hundred and eighty acres were signed up at Salt Lick and 150 acres at Preston. The best yield on record was from two acres near Salt Lick. These acres bore about 600 bushels of marketable tomatoes. The average yield for the community was 150 to 200 bushels per acre. The cannery at Salt Lick was removed in 1926. The one at Preston remains, although it has not operated since 1930. The prices paid for canned tomatoes haven't seemed to justify the operation of this business.

The Bath County Court record of corporation in the county between 1875 and 1935 shows eighty-three corporations as follows:

16 turnpike companies	1 school
9 oil and gas companies	2 farmers cooperatives
10 telephone companies	2 electric light companies
2 farms	1 mercantile company
5 cemeteries	2 engineering companies
1 mines	2 hotels
4 logging and lumber companies	2 building corporations
4 railroads	1 navigation company
7 lodges	1 woolen mill
7 banks	1 city, Articles of incorporation

In 1935 eighteen of these corporations were doing business within the county.¹

In 1933, when the federal government was trying to be helpful to the farmers of the country, this county signed up under the "blue eagle" as follows: county as a whole, 80 per cent, Charlestown, 100 per cent, Ovingtonville, 50 per cent, and Bethel, 50 per cent.²

* Institutions— It is interesting to note the progress of advertising. A study of the files of local newspapers indicated the procession of fads patent medicines, improvements of machinery, etc. Bicycles, for example, began to be advertised about 1891 and cream separators came before the public in 1894. Eugene Minnihan was the most consistent advertiser, advertising his saddles. The

1 See Appendix for list of corporations.

2 News-Outlook, September 21, 1933.

Single "gramophone" with cylinder records and the loudspeaker horn was advertised in the local paper in 1897. In 1901 boys were urged to send in tobacco tags for premiums. For many years in the last quarter of the nineteenth century Dr. Young advertised that he would give ice to anyone sick in the county. In August, 1902, an advertisement in the local paper offered to give, on the evidence of a doctor's prescription, free ice and a bottle of whiskey to anyone sick in the county. In 1904 the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company advertised the harm that follows from the use of cigarettes.

The post offices in Bath County in 1935 were as follows:

<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Box Holders</u> <u>Rural Route</u>	<u>Star Route</u> <u>Box Holders</u>	<u>Boxes in</u> <u>Post office</u>
Bathel	4th	66	66	62
Olympia	4th	none	23	30
Oringeville	3rd	643	none	151
Freeton	4th	none	none	25
Salt Lick	3rd	none	236	62
Charneburg	3rd	430	none	50
Yale	4th	none	none	47
Wilbo	4th	none	20	none

The June 5, 1924, issue of the county paper announced that the salary of the postmasters for offices of the third class was increased from \$1,700 to \$1,900 a year.

It is not certain when this count began to have county fairs. The first fair of record was held in April 1891, near Charneburg. The fair in 1899 was held October 12 to 14. The attendance on the 14th was 6,000. There were 431 buggies and wagons in town that day. The name of the fair was "Bath County Live Stock and Trotting

Association". The headquarters were at Sharpsburg. This fair paid well and grew from year to year. It was said to have the best amphitheater in the State. One year there was an attendance of 10,000 people. In 1895 the fair was held from August 6 to 9. The attendance that year was said to have been poor and the sentiment was that "probably this will be the last fair". For "people have outgrown the county fair."¹ The fair next year was held July 22-24. Again the attendance was reported small and the statement was made that "the County Fair is doomed".² It seems that the holding of the county fair was abandoned for several years.

Patent medicine shows were popular also. In September, 1896, the Parker Medicine "free show" was declared to be good. The show men "sold out all their medicine". Another gathering held annually for many years was the reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1896 it was held in August. In 1897 it was estimated that 4,000 people were present. Concessions for various privileges were sold. This gathering was held near Salt Lick. The John Robinson Circus "in the old wagon show days" showed at Coalingville in May, 1899. The attendance was reported as 4,500, "a crowd that was never equaled here."³

1 Star-Outlook, August 18, 1895.

2 Ibid., September 24, 1896.

3 Ibid., May 25, 1899.

In 1928 the holding of fairs was resumed after a fair agent was employed for the county. In September of this year the fair was held at Owingville. The old fair grounds near Sharpsburg had been abandoned. In Owingville the exhibits were placed in the courthouse and nearby warehouses. These later fairs included exhibits from the schools of the county. Also they were supported by several 4 H agricultural clubs of the county. Street carnivals in connection with the fair were permitted. Cattle, sheep, horses, and other animals were exhibited but there was no ring or track. It was estimated that 5,000 people attended the fair in 1928. Four hundred dollars worth of prizes were awarded. In 1931 the fair was reported as one of the best and largest ever held. The same was said about the 1932 fair. Between 3,500 and 4,000 people were present on the last day. Fairs also were held in 1933, 1934, and 1935.

Owingville's first paper, the Owingville Inquirer,¹ began January 1, 1869. It was sold in June 1869. It seems that there was another paper called the Bath County News prior to 1861, for the Democrat, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, on April 15, 1861, announced that W. B. Giddell, Attorney, had bought the equipment of the old Bath County News in order to revive the paper. The Bath County World

1 News-Outlook, November 2, 1899.

began May 18, 1892. J. C. Nelson was the editor and owner. The office was at Charretburg, Kentucky. This paper was published until 1914, when it discontinued on account of "too little income". The Path County News (Republican) began about 1893, but soon ceased to be published.¹ Many copies of the county's various newspapers are not on file with the present editor of the county paper, but the editor has well bound volumes of all papers left to him and issued by him. It is supposed that the big fire in Cringeville in 1893 destroyed many papers prior to that date. The Path County Banner (Republican), owned by a stock company, expected to begin publication on February 1, 1894. It was a seven column paper. The editor of the Cringeville Outlook could "recall about fifteen publishers who had tried their luck here" and so could offer little encouragement to his competitor.² The Path County Banner soon failed. The Fox Horn, a temperance paper beginning about 1892, was issued from Charpsburg, under the editorship of L. C. Kelly. This grew into the Kentucky Issue and that led to the American Issue, a national temperance paper. Both publications are still printed. The Fox Horn began in Charpsburg at the time that local option was an issue.³ In October, 1901, the Palt Lick Pantagraph, with W. F. Schooler as editor, was announced. Nothing further is known

1. Haden Leedy, Editor, orally to writer, November, 1935.

2. Cringeville-Outlook, January 25, 1894.

3. J. C. Nelson, orally to the writer, November 12, 1935.

about this paper.

The present county paper is the Fath County News-Outlook. The issue for March 19, 1936, bears the volume and issue number LVIII: 30. It began as the Swingsville Outlook and in 1923 it became the Fath County News-Outlook. It was founded by T. J. Young. The first issue appeared in the third week of August, 1879. All copies are missing from 1879 to 1887. The file is complete from 1887 to 1905. There is a thirteen year gap at this place. The file is complete from 1918 on. The paper has failed to go to press only for a few issues in 1912.¹ This paper is one of the neatest and best managed county weeklies in Kentucky.

Fath County had schools from the beginning of its existence. But "Schools were mere prisons to keep children out of mischief. School books were few." All schools² were subscription schools in the beginning.

The Fannie Talbot Institute at Charpsburg began in 1852 as the Charpsburg Academy. Later it took the name of Charpsburg College. When the grade schools were voted "free schools", the Institute moved into the Chaley House and ran as the Fannie Talbot Institute. The attendance upon this private school for some time ran higher than upon the free school. In all, this school continued twenty-five years, and helped to give to Charpsburg the reputation of being the most cultured town of its size in the State.

1. News-Outlook, August 22, 1929.

2. Van P. Young, op. cit.

After the schools of the state were voted free, Mrs. Talbot, by arrangement with the county, taught a combination public and private school. Five months' tuition was free and five months' was paid. All students above the primary grades paid tuition. Later only the students of college level paid. In 1886, the school had 144 pupils. Courses were offered in instrumental music, voice, painting, latin, and drawing. Teaching was conducted through the primary, preparatory and collegiate departments. It was advertised as a Christian institution. It offered four years of college and also postgraduate work. The principal had a fine library to which the pupils had access. The catalog announced that three daily stages would bring pupils to the school. Tuition in the primary grades was \$10 for one-half school year, in the preparatory department \$15, and in the college \$20. Music added 20 to the tuition bill, instruction in voice added \$20, painting \$20, and embroidery \$20. Seven teachers comprised the staff. In 1891 there were 143 pupils. That year the building was advertised for sale in equity for \$1,001.95 by the court.¹ In 1894 the number of pupils was 143. In 1901 the school was reduced to six grades. The school had six pages of rules printed in the catalog. The last year of school was taught in 1911-1912 with five teachers in the old hotel building. Mrs.

1 News-Outlook, June 15, 1891, "Charleburg Male and Female Academy Building".

Walbott was the music teacher. The town of Harpsburg counted Mrs. Talbott as a most honored and valued citizen.

Probably from the experience of this school, Sharnsburg was early persuaded to have an independent school district. The town has a consolidated elementary and high school. The school is open for nine months, operates two buses, occupies a building that cost \$20,000, the citizens are ready to pay all school bonds ten years before they are due.

Sharnsburg has a special school tax rate of 50¢. In 1934 this independent school annexed two neighboring smaller schools, thus making it a consolidated school.

In 1887 Bath Seminary, a private school, was organized in Swingsville. Tuition for the highest grades was \$20 for a term, \$15 for intermediate grades, and \$12.50 for primary grades. The school opened in January, 1888. In 1893 this school offered academic, "normal", or teachers' courses, and commercial courses. Forty dollars was the amount of tuition charged for ten months, and the commercial course for twelve weeks was offered for \$20. In 1895 the school opened with ninety students. At that time instruction was offered in the primary and intermediate grades, and in certain college subjects. Instruction was offered in piano and guitar playing, and in the French language. Business courses in typewriting and stenography were offered also.

1 News-Intlook, June 14, 1934.

The tuition charged ranged from \$7.50 to \$25 for five months. All pupils living in "district one" got five months' tuition free in the common school branches. By 1897 the free schools were gaining over the Seminary. The Seminary had only forty pupils that year. In the fall of the same year it advertised itself as the "best review school in Eastern Kentucky", and offered teachers normal training, elocution, and "calisthenics".¹ The addition of teacher training seemed to help the school, for in 1901 they had seventy-six students. It was noted in the county paper for July 21, 1904, that the Owinneville "common" school hires teachers for both Seminary. In July, 1905, the paper announced that "the new graded public school" would open its first session in the following September. This school has grown to be a class "A" city grade school and high school.

Bethel voted to have a graded school district and to build a modern brick building. The school is a combined grade and high school. In 1934 it gave up its charter as an independent district school and became a consolidated county school, employing eight teachers and instructing 263 pupils, using three buses to transport the pupils.²

1 Owinneville-Outlook, September 2, 1897.

2 Bethel-Outlook, April 5, 1934, September 6, 1934, and October 11, 1934.

Salt Lick had an independent grade and high school. Its school fund receipts for the year ending July 31, 1927, were \$4,860.72.

The United States census for 1870, page 412, shows attendance in or at the schools of the county as follows: Male white, 904, female white, 895, colored, 7, making a total of 1,806. In the county there were 973 people above sixteen years of age who could not read and 1,039 who could not write. In 1910 there were 545 white illiterates and 146 colored, or a total of 691. The per cent of illiteracy in 1900 was 23.4, in 1910 18.9, in 1920 11.3, and in 1930 7.5. There were six hundred and sixty-three illiterates in 1930.

The census for 1890, page 617, reports total receipts for the county schools as \$14,661. Taxes provide \$11,380 of this fund and miscellaneous sources \$3,281. The amount expended was divided to teachers \$11,380, building \$3,281, total \$15,101. The value of all county school property is given as \$19,800.

In July, 1903, the per capita school fund for the county was announced as \$2.60. In 1905 it was \$3.25, giving to Bath County on the basis of 4,664 pupils a total of \$15,257.13.¹ This year Montgomery County had only 3,973 pupils.

¹ Oringaville-Outlook, August 24, 1905.

In January, 1922, the county paper announced the assessed valuation of property in the county, subject to school tax, to be \$8,168,835, and the rate of the school tax, 38¢. The salary of the county superintendent, beginning with January 1922, was \$2,400. This statement of school expenses indicates that this county, as compared with other counties, is not extravagant. In September, 1929, the school board received \$25,471.25 from the state school fund. The schools were to receive in addition \$26,416.49 of tax money from the county, or a total of \$51,887.74 for the schools of the county.¹ In April, 1933, the Lath County Fiscal Court approved the budget of the Board of Education for \$37,000. The county paper of August 15, 1935, shows that Lath County received \$36,929.20 from the state. This was on the basis of 3,378 pupils at \$10.95 per capita.

In 1933 there were one city and three independent district high schools. There were no county high schools. Nine teachers were employed in these district high schools. The schools were Cringaville City School, class "A", and Salt Lick, Tharnsburg, and Bethel independent district schools. Bethel became a county high school in the following year. That year there were forty-four grade and rural schools with forty-eight teachers. Besides these there were six colored elementary schools having nine teachers. The total number of

1 News-Outlook, September 12, 1929.

pupils in school was 2,603.

Speaking for a system of consolidated schools for the county, Superintendent W. S. Horton said that in Bath County there were four graded school districts, each with a different tax rate. All schools outside these districts came under another rate. In the County School District there were 43 white and 3 colored schools, totaling with the district schools, 50. Of the 43, five are two-teacher schools, one is a three-teacher school, and thirty-seven are one-teacher schools. "These are too many for a county this size." These schools could be consolidated to eighteen. This would give 8 one-room schools on dirt roads, 4 two-room schools and six school centers, Owingsville, Charpsburg, Salt Lick, Bethel, Preston, and Glynnia. There would be five taxing districts, the county with a rate of 40¢ at present, Owingsville with a rate of \$1.00, Salt Lick with a rate of 60¢, Charpsburg with a rate of 50¢, and Bethel with a rate of 60¢. There should be just one modern senior high school located at Owingsville, and junior high schools at these consolidated school centers. He estimates that expenditures would amount to a total of about \$78,700.39. The school tax rate now is 65¢. Increase this to 70¢ and the plan will be financed. This would allow thirty-two of the fifty schools of the county to consolidate. There are 3,151

children of school age in the county. Two-thirds of these are in one and two-room school houses. There are 168 high school pupils with ten teachers. These fifty schools can be consolidated into 12 now and, with better roads, later into four schools. The average attendance on 22 schools during the past year was 604. These schools could be consolidated with the Wingo¹ville school and make an attendance of 800 or 900.

The census of 1870, page 539, shows that there were in the county 5 Baptist churches, 10 Christian, 10 Methodist, 3 Presbyterian, or a total of 28 organizations having 25 buildings worth \$35,175. The census of 1880, page 395, shows the following churches in the county, 4 Baptist, having a value of \$6,000; 9 Christian, value \$10,000; 15 Methodist, value \$14,500; 2 Presbyterian, value \$4,000. The census of 1890, page 63, merely reports 37 organizations with 4,136 members, and 37 buildings having a value of \$55,845. The Christian Church in Wingo¹ville was destroyed by fire in 1893. It was rebuilt, preserving the plan of the old church, with a tower added, at a total cost of \$5,300. In 1896 the Mormons began work in the county and in 1903 they had thirty members. They have a constituency at this time, 1935, of more than 100.

1 News-Outlook, February 14, 1935, and April 12, 1934.

The census provides some statistics about homes and families that belong to this kind of history. The census of 1890, "Farms and Homes", page 254, reports 1,657 families in the county owning 859 farm homes. Eight hundred and forty-six of these homes are free of debt and thirteen are encumbered. Seven hundred and ninety-eight families rent homes. This indicates that 51.84 per cent of the families own their homes, a condition that might be expected to exist in an agricultural county. Less than one per cent, or .78 per cent of the homes are encumbered, or 1.51 per cent of the families are encumbered with debts on their homes. This is an unusually good showing. Page 295 of this census shows for the purpose of comparison, that in 1880 965 families owned farm homes as against 859 in 1890. In 1880 there were 417 families renting farm homes as against the 798 in 1890. The percentage of families owning farm homes in 1880 was 69.83 per cent as against the 51.84 per cent in 1890. Likewise, 30.17 per cent of the homes were rented in 1880 as against 48.16 per cent in 1890. The census of 1890, page 920, reports 2,397 dwellings occupied by 2,445 families with an average number of persons to the family of 5.24. The 1910 census, Volume I, page 1326, reports 3,036 homes of which 1,592 are farm homes. Of these farm homes 921 are free of debt, 160 are encumbered, 9 have an unrecorded status, and 802 are rented. Of the homes other than farm homes there

are 1,164. Of these 34 are owned and encumbered, 55 are owned but their further status unknown, 704 rented, and 45 unknown whether owned or rented. That year there were 3,056 families in 3,007 dwellings. The census for 1920, Volume III, page 362, and Volume II, page 1309, shows 2,715 families occupying 2,661 dwellings. Of these dwellings 1,224 are rented, 1,262 are owned and free of mortgage, 147 are encumbered, and 25 are unknown as to whether owned, rented, under debt or free of debt. The 1930 census, Volume I, page 511, reports 2,600 families. Of these 1,476 families own their homes. Seven hundred-fifty-one are non-farm families, and 1,349 are farm families. One hundred-seventy-eight of these families are negroes. There are 41 negro families on farms. More than one-half of the non-farm homes have a median value of \$1,406. The median size family in these homes is composed of 4.07 persons. Forty-four dwellings have more than one family. There are 254 radios in the county. That year there were 25 divorced males and 19 divorced females in the county.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

That Bath County from the earliest was considered a desirable land is evidenced by the fact that mound builders lived there; by the competition among Indian tribes for possession of the territory; by the plentifulness of buffalo, bear, deer, fish, and other game; by the presence of salt and other minerals; by the abundance of iron ore; by the contests of the white people with the Indians for possession of the land; and by the great quantity of forest products used and shipped from the county. The economic resources of the county are further evidenced by the development of oil properties, mineral springs, the products of rich farms, and the wealth as indicated by bank deposits.

In the future there should be as much economic progress as there has been up to this time. There remain iron deposits, clay deposits, mineral waters, oil shales, and other oil properties awaiting development. The growth of timber will be increased so that lumber production may continue indefinitely. The cheap land, if intelligently treated, will come to have greater value. Much of the land needs to be reforested, other land can be held for cultivation indefinitely by adopting proper crops and by rotating those

crops. The hillside land should be turned back to forest growth or set with fruit bearing trees. Other marginal land should be set in grass and used in sheep raising.

Perrin says, "If the Olympian Springs property were more thoroughly advertised, it would rank as second to no similar place in the State."¹

¹ Perrin, op. cit., p. 553.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE WRITER

The writer of this thesis was born July 10, 1886, in Pulaski County, Georgia. He received his secondary education at Tennille, Georgia. After working several years for a railroad, he entered the ministry. In 1912 he graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, with the degree of Master of Theology. He served as pastor of several churches until 1918. He went as chaplain in the United States Army to France in that year. From 1918 to 1932 he worked in the capacity of pastor and missionary. He graduated from the Morehead State Teachers College in 1934 with the A. B. Degree. That same year he began resident study in the University of Kentucky, pursuing work toward the degree of Master of Arts. Work toward the degree was interrupted by teaching for two terms at the Morehead State Teachers College and by thirteen months work as chaplain and educational supervisor with the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Thomas Uriah Fann

January, 1937

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APPENDIX

EARLY MANUFACTURE OF IRON IN KENTUCKY

(Taken from 10th United States Census, 1880, Volume
"Statistics and Manufacture", article entitled "Early
Manufacture of Iron in Kentucky", p. 98.)

"The first iron enterprise in Kentucky is said by
Lesley to have been Slate Furnace, erected by government
troops in 1791 on Slate Creek, a branch of Licking River,
in Bath County, then Bourbon. It was successfully
operated until 1838. This is the only furnace in Kentucky
whose history can be definitely traced back to the last
century."

"-----It is probable that about the year 1800 there
were a few bloomaries in Eastern Kentucky, to supply local
wants for bar iron, and possibly Slate Furnace was not
the only furnace that supplied castings to the Kentucky
pioneers in the last century."

"The original of the following memorandum was handed
to the editor of the Portsmouth (Ohio) Tribune in 1880
by Mr. L. C. Robinson. It refers to a furnace in Kentucky
called Fourbon, but which was probably the same as Slate
Furnace:

"Kentucky, ss: Memorandum of an agreement made and
concluded upon this day between John Cockey Owings and

Company, in Iron Works at the Bourbon Furnace of the one part, and Robert Williams (potter) of the other part. Witnesseth that the aforesaid Company doth this day agrees to give said Williams five pounds p. month for three months' work and find him provisions during the time he shall work until the three months are expired, and said Company doth further agree in case the furnace is not ready to blow before or at the expiration of the three months, if the water will admit, or as soon as the water will admit after that time, to give him p. month as much as he can make in a month at the putting Business for such time as said Furnace may not be ready to put in blast-- as witnesseth our hands this second day of June, 1793.

Test: John Mockabee

JN. Cookey Gwings
Walter Beall
Christ Greenup¹⁴

"Lesley says that Plate Furnace was run by Colonel Gwings and that it went out of blast in 1838. The name Bourbon Furnace indicates its location in Bourbon County, and it is hardly probable that there were two furnaces in this county as early as 1793."

"The term "potter" was applied to the molder who cast pots, kettles, etc., from the melted iron which was taken from the furnace and poured into molds. Colonel Christopher Greenup afterwards became the third governor of Kentucky,

serving from 1804 to 1808, and it was in his honor that Greenup County was so named."

"-----Tench Cox in 1810 mentions only four furnaces and three forges. One furnace was in Estill, one in Wayne, and two were in Montgomery County. One of the forges was in Estill, one in Wayne, and one in Montgomery County."

"In 1815 iron was smelted in Greenup and by 1817 the first blast furnace in the district was operating."

"The period from about 1825 to 1860 witnessed the greatest activity in the development of iron industry in Kentucky."

APPENDIX

TABLE OF DISTANCES FOR BATH COUNTY
(From An Atlas of Bath and Fleming Counties, Kentucky,
Published by D. J. Lake and Co., Philadelphia, 1884)

From	To	Bethel	Olympia	Owingsville	Polksville	Preston	Sharpsburg	Salt Lick	South Sherburne
Bethel		-							
Olympia		16.1							
Owingsville		10.5	5.6						
Polksville		17.7	4.9	7.2					
Preston		15.5	4.6	5.	8.3				
Sharpsburg		5.	17.3	11.7	13.9	16.7			
Salt Lick		20.2	6.3	9.7	2.5	11.3	21.4		
South Sherburne		4.5	18.1	12.5	19.7	17.5	9.5	22.5	
Wyoming		11.5	12.2	8.	9.4	13.	14.6	11.9	3.

APPENDIX

Hess Manuscript

(Editor's Note -- The following memoranda of historical information were collected by Mr. Luther Hess, Owingsville, Kentucky. Many errors in spelling and composition will be noted, but since the editor can not determine the correct spelling nor the intended meaning in several instances, he decides to reproduce the manuscript as the author left it. The readers are left to judge for themselves as to its historical value. Mr. Hess invited T. U. Fann to aid him in bringing the work to publication, but his untimely death prevented this.)

Ralph Morgan station on Slate Creek he bought a tract of land from Jacob Myers in the year 1736. This was a 5000 acre tract. Myers selling 1000 acres to John Cocky Owings. The remainder of 4000 acres to said Morgan. On this he build his station on the James Carter place by a spring near the old Carter house. Near this place is a small cave. In 1793 the men were away clearing land and the Indians came and captured the women and children Except one woman and she got to this cave and they did not find her but smothered the child to death. They took these people south, got up in what is now Menifee County on Beaver Creek. The whites followed the Indians there and killed nineteen. They were buried on a branch running south from Beaver which carries the name of Murders Branch until this day.

The year of 1808 Thomas D. Owings commenced the construction of his house on the Forge farm south of where the

Kendil Springs church now stands near the furnace there which was called Sarah. Dug the seller and walled same planted his orchard figuring that would be more suitable for a town site, it being a large tract of level land. The railroad (now) runs by it. The Olympian Springs 9 miles south east of Owingsville during the war of 1812 Col. Thomas D. Owings while raising and organizing the 28th regiment of U. S. infantry had his camp there and built most of the cabins. Many of them were burned during the Civil war but rebuilt and torn away since the new hotel was built.

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Richard Menifee was living in a double log house where the first court was held in Owingsville on the west end of Mr. Goodpaster's vacant lot where the pool is. It was a spring of Mr. Menefee. Mr. Menefee lived at this house in 1801 and 2, represented Montgomery County in the Legislature. In the Senate 1808 to 12. In 1811 Bath County was set up leaving Mr. Menefee in Bath County. Richard H. was born in Montgomery. In this log house 1810 where Owingsville now stands. It is a mistaken idea that Harrison Conner built the first house, Joseph E Brinn 1788 built one of the first was found when Ed Barnes tore down the old Elliott and Gillon houses dated 1776. The last birth was 1802. The cabin was built over the spring in Miss A(1)ttly Anderson's garden an man by the name of Nailor built a cabin where the cemetery pool is very early left there and went to Nailor Branch and built a cabin 1783.

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Thomas Dye Owings moved the Furnace store to Owingsville

in 1814. It was built on Coyle Street. It was the only street in town. Petter Coyle was the first clera. That is where it got its name. All the business industries in town was on this street. The old Inn, the Tan Yard, the Carding Factory, the Black Smith Shop, the Hat Shop, the Shoe Shop, the Tailor shop, the Horse Power Grist Mill. The last owner was Cusbert Crouch(?) Colonel Owings had a high fence around his house. The Owings house was a private residence until 1870. Then run as a hotel to 1914.

Richard Menefee built a brick house near where E. H. Goodpaster residence stands and run a tavern. When he died his widow Polly run it on. Richard H. tended bar until she married George Lansdowne. He was rich and owned the Olympian Springs at that time. He had beat Henry Clay in a card game and won the property from him. Henry Clay had won it from Cuthbert Banks who the grant was issued him about 1786. Banks was a Hebrew. George Lansdowne's daughter married Harrison Gill. The Gills owned it until 1905. Jim Lane owned a half interest with George Gill. Lane bought Gill out and a company got the property and commenced improving and spent quite a some of money that amounted nought. It belongs to some Baptist preachers. George Lansdowne would stay in town through the winter and at the springs in the summer.

Owingsville has had three court houses and four jails. The first courthouse was built of logs in the end of Slate Avenue twenty feet back from Main Street. Built in 1814, taken down in 1833 and a brick was built which burned down April 1864 by Federal soldiers. The present one built 1867 cost \$44,000

wasn't finished until later. Given all cost \$68,000. The first jail was log, built at the rear end of the school building in 1814 on Vermont St. Jacob Wagner was the contractor, Wm Cosdigan dug and walled the well. Got \$180. The second jail brick where the present one stands, torn down in 1889 and the present one built same year.

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One of the historical points in Bath County is on Flat Creek between Owingsville and Bathel is an old stone house three stories high large chimney at each end with three fire places on each chimney. In the gable of this house is a large stone with the name of J. S. Six 1799. The walls are just as plumb as the day it was finished. Quarrying the stone and building this house must have taken five years or more to complete it. It has port holes for shooting out of. Near the building showing where the fort was builded out of stone. A mile up Flat Creek from this house is a log house that was built in 1775 by Mr. Freeland. The stone house was occupied until four years ago. Down the creek a mile was the old Baptist church, built out of stone, called Salem. The people would walk a long distance to church, take their dinners, spend the day. One Sunday there was a storm and blowed a tree down on the house and killed eight people. The grave yard is covered with bushes and briars. Is hard to find many of the graves. The author has a photograph of one of the graves, his name Christian Wag(?)ram, Born Jan. 1702, died Jan 5, 1802. There is graves older than this one. This neighborhood was settled mostly by a family of Hawkins and House, Dickins, Six.

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The old Springfield Church neighborhood was settled in 1771 or 2 by the Lanes. There is a branch there called Lanes Branch to this day. The first preacher was Rev. Joseph P. Howe. Came from North Carolina in 1794, was ordained in 1795 July. Over little mountain on Hinkston Creek where Mt. Sterling is built and Springfield churches (Presbyterian) He was a good man, prayed and sang well. He died in 1830. Buried in the Springfield cemetery. The first building at this place was log. Torn down 1807. The present one was built there the same year. Being kept in good repair. Barton S. Stone was preaching there when he pulled away from the Presbyterian denomination and founded the Reform or Christian denomination in 1801. This history was written by Thomas Bishop who was a professor of history in the Transylvania College. Written and printed in 1805. The author (Mr Hess) has this history in his possession. (Edt. Note: The administrator of Mr. Hess' estate could not locate this book later.)

July 2, 1838, cholera visited Kentucky. Deaths at Maysville 17, in Mason County 15, Millersburg 11, in Sharpsburg 13.

This list remarkable as it is for showing how many Revolutionary soldiers emigrated to Kentucky and were still living and citizens thereof in 1840, contains the names of probably less than one-third of those that moved to Kentucky. List of the Bath County. A few whose names are in the list it is evident from their age were too young to be in the Revolutionary War except as drummers or wagon boys, probably in the Indian Wars.

(over)

The figures indicate their age in 1840: Loses Botta 94, Wm Boyd 74, Josiah Collins 83, Gordon Griffen 86, Wm Kearns 84, Andrew 81, James McElhanev 80, Michael Moores 84, Holman Rice 82

(Copy of page 6, evidently a part of a history. Found with the belongings of Mr Luther Hess. This copy made March 31, 1936)
*Errors and all copied.

Though close to the westward to the Slate Creek Iron Works it was rather inaccessible owing to the steepness of the approaches to the site, and that probably led to its abandonment.

Peter Coyle, Dublin bred and trained to a seafaring life, did not find clearing the land in the wilderness and farming an isolated tract a very congenial occupation, so he removed to the brand-new town of Owingsville, and engaged in the retail grocery, liquor and butcher business. He either built or bought a log ~~xxxx~~ house at the western end of what is now Coyle Street. I have heard that the house stood on the north side of the street, probably next the little drain that enlarges into Falling Rock Branch. Here he and his family lived the balance of his life and here his widow lived and continued the business the balance of her ~~xxx~~ long life. As mentioned before, Peter Coyle died on June 12, 1822 or 1823, at the age of 76 years and was buried at the abandoned town graveyard at the rear of the garden of Dr A. W. Walden's residence.

John A. Turner, Jr. told me that Peter Coyle was a very reticent about his business; was a remarkably neat man in his dress and could butcher an animal without soiling his apron in the least. My grandfather said he got on occasional sprees, but was never quarrelsome or boisterous. In fact, he was generally known as a peacemaker and frequently settled quarrels and stopped fights. My mother said she ~~???~~ that while under the influence of intoxicating liquor his mind would revert to his former allegiance and he would hurrah for King George of Great Britain. I never heard from whom he named his twin sons. I should have it was for George Washington in my grandfather's case, but there was no "W" in his name; it might have been for King George III but as the other son was named Nicholas it might have been for the noted lawyer and statesman George Nicholas of Virginia and Kentucky. George Nicholas served in Congress from Virginia and took a very prominent part in the erection of Kentucky into a State. He was the father-in-law of Colonel Thomas Dye Owings, who married his daughter Maria.

In regard to Peter Coyle returning to his home in Ireland my grandfather said that he was convinced of the justice of the American cause against the mother country. And as the law of primogeniture would --

page 6

Not offered as a part of the thesis.

APPENDIX

Additional Information about the Olympian Springs

Quoting from Coleman ¹ : "On Wednesday, August 9, 1803, John Kennedy, a resident of Lexington, announced that he had started the first regular stage-coach line in Kentucky ², and that it would run from Lexington by Winchester and Mt. Sterling to the Olympian Springs in Montgomery County, a distance of about 47 miles. Bradford's Kentucky Gazette carried the notice of this first stage line:³

LEXINGTON AND OLYMPIAN SPRINGS STAGE: J. Kennedy respectfully informs the public that he has commenced running his stage-coach on the line between Lexington and the Olympian Springs, at Mud Lick, every Thursday morning, at four o'clock precisely, to arrive at the Springs the same day. Passengers may engage places with R. Bradley, at the Stage Office, Traveller's Hall, in Lexington.

	<u>FARES</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>d</u>
To the Springs	21		
Mt. Sterling	15		
Winchester	9		
With Mr Galloway, Winchester			
To the Springs	15		
Mt. Sterling	7		6
Lexington	9		
With Mr. Simpson, Mt. Sterling			
To the Springs	9		
Winchester	7		
Lexington	15		
With Mr. Botts, at the Springs			
To Mt. Sterling	9		
Winchester	15		
Lexington	21		

¹ J. Winston Coleman, Jr., Stage-Coach Days in the Bluegrass, Standard Press, (Louisville, 1935), pp. 32f

² Collins, History of Kentucky, 1874, V. I, p.514

³ Kentucky Gazette, August 9, 1803

Each passenger will be allowed 10 pounds baggage, for all extra baggage from Lexington to the Springs, will be charged three cents per pound, from Winchester to the Springs two cents per pound and from Mt. Sterling to the Springs one cent per pound, or one cent per pound between any two of the adjoining places. He will also undertake to convey packets of papers, etc., at a reasonable rate.

Kennedy expended \$2,000 in starting the service. The coach traveled three or four miles an hour. The service was discontinued during the winter months on account of mud. Mr. Kennedy apparently lost money on the venture, for next year George Sowerbray operated the line "every Monday and Thursday morning at daylight, and run to Olympian Springs during the present season without fail. Passengers may engage places on each preceding evening at the latest."

Mr. Coleman continues: "Early in the nineteenth century it became popular with the elite of Lexington to leave the 'sickly climate' of the city and visit the well known watering place, Olympian Springs, which the owner, George Coleman, announced 'is now elegantly furnished for the season and ready for the reception of genteel visitors'. This was one of the earliest watering places in Kentucky and was noted for its most pure and salubrious air where the traveler found himself in a high mountainous country, imbellished with scenery of a bold romantic character. Henry Clay was one of the early owners of this resort and gave it the name of Olympian Springs.

"The fame of this resort in Montgomery County was largely responsible for the continuance of the stage line, and, after several years, the proprietor of the stage was the well

known Cuthbert Banks, who advertised.

THE STAGE

For the Olympian Springs
Will leave Major Wagon's in Lexington
every Monday morning, and return on Sat-
urday. The stage is now furnished with
excellent horses and a good careful driver.

CUTHBERT BANKS ¹

"Olympian Springs was earlier known as Mud Lick. In 1791 a patent was issued by the Governor of Virginia to Jacob Myers for a tract of land "including a large mudlick, with log cabins and improvements, in the mountains".²

" In 1822 the Olympian Hotel promised its guests the best food the country could produce, calling attention to the venison they served; the bar, with choice liquors; and also advertised that they had 'as fine a PACK as ever went into a chase'".

Colonel Thomas Dye Owings during the War of 1812 organized the 28th Regiment, United States Infantry, and had his camp at Olympian Springs. Here he built cabins for his soldiers. These cabins remained after the war and were kept in repair until the time of the Civil War. They were used again during the Civil War as barracks for the Union soldiers. In the latter years of the war they were burned by the Confederate soldiers. Some of the cabins were again rebuilt and used for many years by the guests of the hotel.⁴

In 1888 the Harrison Gill land at Olympian Springs, consisting of 770 acres of fine timber land, "recently surveyed,

¹ Kentucky Gazette, 1815, p. 100

² Coleman, op.cit. passim

³ Elise Lathrop, Early American Inns and Taverns, Robert M. McBride, (New York, 1926), p.294

⁴ Van B. Young, History of Bath County, 1876, op. cit. passim

with title clear", had an indebtedness against it of \$1,980 and was advertised for sale by the court.¹

In 1891 an advertisement appeared in the county paper: C. C. Everett, Plaintiff, versus G. C. Gill, Defendant, Sale in equity, of the Olympian Springs property of 523 acres.²

Dan W. Young and J. W. Lane in 1898 bought the interest of J. W. Wilson in the Olympian Springs lease and with R. E. Hazlerigg planned to operate the resort for three years.³

When the hotel building was enlarged and a handsome, large ball room added in 1905, the Olympian Springs Railway Power and Light Company was incorporated with the intention of running an electric railway to Owingsville.⁴

By 1918 it seemed the good days for the hotel were over. Local citizens circulated petitions in an endeavor to secure interest to have the county procure the building for a consolidated school.⁵

That same fall the chattel property of the hotel was advertised for sale for the purpose of paying the taxes due for the cars 1915 to 1913. The taxes amounted to \$537. 82.⁶

In April 1922, J. P. Haswell, representing the holders of the first mortgage on the property, advertised the hotel for sale at an upset price of \$20,000. There was no bid for the property. In 1923 Mr. A. P. Brown bought the property but was forced to sell it. In January 1925, T. U. Fann bought the property at a court sale for \$19,500 and operated a school there.

¹ News-Outlook, June 7, 1888

² Ibid., 1891, June 11

³ Ibid., June 30, 1898

⁴ Ibid., October 5, 1905

⁵ Ibid., May 2, 1918

⁶ Ibid., October 17, 1913

Bethel Bank, Bethel, Kentucky

Date	Capital Stock	Deposits	Resources	Surplus and Undv. Profits
June 1918	\$15,000	\$82,757.18	\$118,217.46	\$ 4,204.51
Nov. 1919	15,000	115,781.25	138,309.72	7,102.06
May 1921	15,000	65,260.42	91,662.20	10,262.27
Mar. 1922	15,000	70,906.58	95,311.93	9,405.35
Dec. 1923	15,000	54,000.62	88,408.12	9,407.50
Dec. 1924	15,000	43,462.27	82,761.99	9,021.14
Dec. 1925	15,000	56,617.79	85,824.49	9,206.70
Dec. 1926	15,000	43,814.86	80,969.01	9,000.00
Dec. 1927	15,000	61,713.62	81,389.99	4,674.87
Dec. 1928	15,000	60,757.10	98,378.39	4,000.00
Dec. 1929	15,000	47,767.76	80,399.92	5,778.51
Dec. 1930	15,000	35,485.16	68,683.91	5,198.75
Dec. 1931	15,000	29,424.76	62,573.54	5,148.78

Citizens Bank, Charlestown, Kentucky

June 1904	\$15,000	\$ 28,824.00	\$ 38,862.10	\$ 411.48
Apr. 1918	15,000	158,650.22	177,785.14	2,973.28
Apr. 1919	15,000	251,307.62	273,943.68	4,397.12
May 1921	15,000	132,695.29	158,256.32	9,858.97
Mar. 1922	15,000	87,475.26	111,814.16	8,704.65
Dec. 1923	15,000	90,454.83	113,338.51	7,596.18
Dec. 1924	15,000	79,968.31	112,842.38	7,736.07
Dec. 1925	15,000	103,157.32	126,729.25	22,500.00
Dec. 1926	15,000	131,313.32	154,732.97	7,669.65
Dec. 1927	15,000	189,796.63	215,200.47	9,203.84
Dec. 1928	15,000	200,847.35	226,694.76	10,847.41
Dec. 1929	15,000	297,953.42	225,478.30	11,500.00
Dec. 1930	15,000	174,911.36	202,404.81	12,493.45
Dec. 1931	15,000	110,738.43	138,562.99	12,824.66
Dec. 1932	15,000	97,048.29	124,367.33	12,249.10
Dec. 1933	15,000	56,371.97	104,198.10	9,774.53
Dec. 1934	15,000	74,537.98	101,892.95	12,290.14
Dec. 1935	15,000	106,589.28	133,596.62	10,000.00

Exchange Bank, Charlestown, Kentucky

Dec. 1903	\$20,000	\$ 57,752.38	\$ 84,252.38	\$ 1,500.00
June 1904	20,000	60,493.05	82,246.32	1,753.27
Apr. 1918	20,000	209,787.65	240,121.56	8,381.43
Apr. 1919	20,000	257,143.58	285,506.63	6,512.07
May 1921	20,000	114,815.23	148,721.45	12,220.16
Mar. 1922	20,000	119,140.26	151,609.83	9,262.99
Dec. 1923	20,000	79,585.82	107,797.89	8,000.00
Dec. 1924	20,000	70,883.30	116,660.11	8,000.00
Dec. 1925	20,000	68,517.46	96,537.51	8,000.00

Farmers Bank, Owingeville, Kentucky

Date	Capital Stock	Deposits	Resources	Surplus and Undv. Profits
Dec. 1893	\$ 80,000	\$172,268.03	\$ 262,807.88	\$ 6,216.55
June 1895	80,000	182,102.49	281,152.54	3,073.96
Dec. 1895	80,000	200,348.17	291,698.74	1,884.91
June 1896	80,000	176,633.29	273,101.27	6,427.44
Dec. 1896	80,000	209,278.96	322,047.55	13,395.13
Dec. 1897	80,000	212,503.59	316,611.41	6,397.21
Dec. 1898	80,000	253,734.92	347,335.73	8,569.00
Dec. 1899	40,000	321,610.57	382,892.75	12,612.02
June 1900	40,000	245,515.75	309,310.09	16,554.04
Dec. 1900	40,000	305,353.44	371,766.39	18,849.62
June 1902	40,000	222,555.19	297,992.99	28,058.43
Dec. 1902	40,000	268,955.84	342,685.67	30,714.58
June 1903	40,000	250,141.70	332,223.03	34,399.70
June 1904	40,000	226,753.40	318,855.08	41,233.47
Dec. 1904	40,000	244,252.43	331,893.00	41,696.05
June 1905	40,000	264,321.44	357,648.55	46,259.47
June 1918	80,000	590,495.92	727,530.38	39,754.29
Dec. 1918	80,000	581,583.85	716,305.64	35,419.07
Dec. 1919	120,000	845,150.97	1,031,465.13	62,034.84
June 1920	120,000	708,902.41	914,082.42	82,834.44
Dec. 1921	120,000	522,928.80	724,211.62	78,429.44
Mar. 1922	120,000	537,984.33	743,111.73	84,084.01
Dec. 1923	120,000	468,240.90	703,081.30	78,640.40
Dec. 1924	120,000	546,618.30	788,108.90	85,290.60
Dec. 1925	120,000	674,854.76	904,268.15	91,413.39
Dec. 1926	120,000	573,102.37	810,512.64	99,314.63
Dec. 1927	120,000	606,990.21	840,385.21	113,395.00
Dec. 1928	120,000	609,647.32	853,256.05	63,608.73
Dec. 1929	120,000	535,331.50	787,700.56	72,369.06
Dec. 1930	120,000	502,883.67	764,768.90	141,885.23
Dec. 1931	120,000	491,620.02	751,569.50	139,949.48
Dec. 1932	120,000	470,705.36	710,819.33	120,000.00
Dec. 1933	120,000	425,327.92	665,802.19	60,474.27
Dec. 1934	60,000	504,225.75	685,059.15	120,734.98
Dec. 1935				

Owingsville, Banking Company, Owingsville, Kentucky

Date	Capital Stock	Deposits	Resources	Surplus and Undv. Profits
Dec. 1893	\$25,000	\$ 24,827.74	\$ 56,015.75	\$ 3,200.15
June 1895	50,000	22,811.40	79,206.48	3,481.40
Dec. 1895	50,000	25,892.79	79,104.62	1,093.08
June 1896	50,000	21,693.36	76,361.01	1,051.37
Dec. 1896	50,000	21,916.31	77,799.59	1,051.37
June 1897	30,000	20,037.37	52,901.23	1,351.37
Dec. 1897	30,000	29,722.37	61,073.74	1,351.37
Dec. 1898	30,000	25,557.67	57,816.90	1,551.37
Dec. 1899	30,000	39,799.92	73,485.40	1,551.37
June 1900	30,000	41,834.09	74,874.13	1,551.37
Dec. 1900	30,000	48,800.17	82,537.23	1,551.37
July 1902	30,000	50,865.88	86,754.68	1,731.38
Dec. 1902	30,000	54,245.00	89,877.25	1,911.37
Dec. 1903	30,000	91,214.24	125,497.95	2,091.37
June 1904	30,000	60,094.58	108,472.90	6,602.35
Dec. 1904	30,000	100,194.98	134,898.79	2,271.37
June 1905	30,000	87,485.89	147,958.15	2,271.37
April 1918	30,000	155,206.95	198,989.39	11,930.06
Apr. 1919	30,000	215,886.33	257,203.88	10,982.59
Jan. 1920	30,000	206,138.40	249,156.47	12,191.10
Sep. 1921	30,000	171,270.05	219,514.29	17,654.47
Mar. 1922	30,000	157,669.22	214,106.86	15,226.87
June 1923	40,000	186,682.54	235,554.35	8,871.81
June 1924	40,000	187,956.64	236,307.57	6,350.93
June 1925	40,000	226,192.41	275,493.57	19,001.16
June 1926	40,000	189,917.67	241,693.00	11,675.00
June 1927	40,000	245,668.00	296,660.31	10,992.31
June 1928	40,000	192,188.06	272,044.14	11,811.78
June 1929	40,000	209,343.59	263,785.96	14,442.37
June 1930	40,000	194,281.93	251,289.68	17,007.75
June 1931	40,000	158,781.72	217,102.04	18,320.32
June 1932	30,000	121,297.80	177,146.54	25,807.30
June 1933	30,000	101,224.38	142,785.09	11,520.79
June 1934	30,000	120,327.21	163,024.63	12,652.44
1935				

Salt Lick Deposit Bank, Salt Lick, Kentucky

Date	Capital Stock	Deposits	Resources	Surplus and Undv. Profits
June 1902	\$ 7,500	\$ 41,156.05	\$ 49,000.92	\$ 344.87
Dec. 1903	15,000	65,583.42	83,068.91	2,485.49
June 1904	15,000	62,135.56	80,216.16	3,080.60
Dec. 1904	15,000	57,365.63	75,992.91	3,627.28
June 1905	15,000	76,979.79	96,007.38	4,027.59
Apr. 1918	30,000	184,085.10	224,114.62	10,029.52
Nov. 1919	30,000	251,209.24	300,310.61	15,879.24
May 1921	30,000	249,671.04	306,358.92	24,519.10
Mar. 1922	30,000	214,053.73	281,773.76	26,248.92
Dec. 1923	30,000	209,521.70	268,315.48	28,639.51
Dec. 1924	30,000	206,963.24	267,131.87	30,052.86
Dec. 1925	30,000	187,209.96	245,352.66	28,142.70
Dec. 1926	30,000	174,823.58	233,140.81	27,348.09
Dec. 1927	30,000	201,607.11	255,919.85	24,312.74
Dec. 1928	30,000	165,188.32	219,631.17	24,442.85
Dec. 1929	30,000	140,642.65	207,390.48	22,747.83
Dec. 1930	30,000	117,600.13	182,631.16	22,031.03
Dec. 1931	30,000	105,085.45	148,145.42	12,879.45
Dec. 1932	30,000	77,139.54	134,634.48	13,825.00
Dec. 1933	30,000	68,755.02	114,988.16	4,100.00
Dec. 1934	30,000	88,555.03	119,755.03	1,200.00
Dec. 1935				

Farmers Trust Company, Owingsville, Kentucky

June 1918	20,000	\$ 44,033.61	\$ 2,652.97
Jan. 1920	20,000	77,611.85	6,693.99
Sep. 1921	30,000	66,641.39	11,338.64
Mar. 1922	30,000	60,805.16	16,163.00
Dec. 1923	30,000	69,299.63	22,561.66
Dec. 1924	30,000	76,041.62	26,217.40
Dec. 1925	30,000	79,567.40	28,791.10
Dec. 1926	30,000	87,806.69	30,444.18
Dec. 1927	30,000	87,189.61	31,382.73
Dec. 1928	30,000	92,364.71	31,784.06
Dec. 1929	30,000	109,235.67	23,060.19
Dec. 1930	30,000	106,917.53	34,395.10
Dec. 1931	30,000	105,104.59	34,364.75
Dec. 1932	30,000	97,672.39	30,000.00
Dec. 1933	30,000	91,060.75	23,331.71
Dec. 1934	30,000	96,581.89	20,000.00
Dec. 1935			

APPENDIX

Corporations Chartered with main Offices in Bath County

Bald Eagle Turnpike Company
Bath County Tobacco Growers Association
Bath Home Telephone Company
Bath Lodge No. 551
Bethel Bank
Bethel Cemetery
Citizens Bank, Sharpsburg
Cow Creek Oil Company
Crown Hill Cemetery Company
East Union and Sharpsburg Turnpike Company
Electric Light Company
Exchange Bank of Sharpsburg
Fannie Talbott Institute
Farmers Bank, Owingsville
Farmers Stock Company
Farmers Trust Company
Fidelity Oil and Gas and Improvement Company
Flat Creek Turnpike Company
Goodpaster and Company
Gudgell Hill and Springfield Church Turnpike Company
Hamilton Farm Company
Home Utilities Company
Jarrett Manufacturing Company
Kauffman Engineering Company
Kentucky and Ohio Oil and Gas Company
Kentucky Logging Company
Licking River Rail Road Company
Lodge IO of GS and D of S
Lodge London No. 126
Longview Cemetery Company
Marcum Oil and Gas Company
Maux Branch and Sharpsburg Turnpike Company
Midland Oil Company
Mutual Oil and Gas Corporation
New Crown Hill Cemetery Company
Olympia and Owingsville Railway Company
Olympia Oil and Gas Company
Olympian Mining Company
Olympian Springs Hotel Company
Olympian Springs Incorporated
Olympian Springs Railway Power and Light Company
Owingsville and Craig Turnpike Company
Owingsville and Macintyre Ferry Turnpike Company
Owingsville and Menifee Turnpike Company
Owingsville and Olympia Rail Road Company
Owingsville and Preston Telephone Company
Owingsville and Sharpsburg Electric Railway Company

Owingsville and Stepstone Turnpike Company
Owingsville Banking Company
Owingsville Cemetery Company
Owingsville Oddfellows Hall Company
Owingsville Telephone Company
Owingsville Water and Licking River Turnpike Company
Owingsville, Wyoming and Hillsboro Telephone Company
Owingsville Wyoming Telephone Company
Pisches Sumter Company
Preston and Peeled Oak Turnpike Company
Prickly Ash and Tunnel Hill Turnpike Company
Ragland Farm Company
Rose Run Iron Company
St Rose Te ple No. 93
Salt Lick and Moores Ferry Telephone Company
Salt Lick and Owingsville Telephone Company
Salt Lick and Yale Telephone Company
Salt Lick Building Corporation
Salt Lick Deposit Bank
Salt Lick Lumber Company, Incorporated
Salt Lick Moores Ferry Turnpike Company
Salt Lick Navigation Company
Salt Lick Turnpike Road Company
Salt Lick Woolen Mills Company
Sharpsburg Telephone Company
Slate Creek Iron Company
Slate Valley Oil and Gas Company
Strack Lumber Company
Times Building Company
Trumbo Lodge No. 261 F&AM Incorporated
Union and Sharpsburg Turnpike Company
Union Benevolent Society No. 29
Upper Blue Lick and Sherburne Turnpike Company
Williams Abney Company
Wyoming and Hillsboro Telephone Company
Yale, Articles of Incorporation, Amendment to