VALLEY HILL (Washington Co.): [Vael/ee Hihl] (Maud). A station on the L&N Railroad's Bardstown Branch and extinct post office, on KY 55, just e of Cartwright Creek and 4 air miles nnw of Springfield. The post office was established March 1, 1888 with Thomas S. Grundy, postmaster, and named for Valley Hill, the home built in 1822 by Charles Grundy, son of pioneer Sam'l. Grundy and nephew of US Senator Felix Grundy. The post office closed in 1906. The old store building still stands but is unused. (1) Mary D. Kelly, interview, 8/10/1977; (2) Ibid. "Nostalgia: Jan., 1794-Jan. 1974" Pp. 1, 15 of BI-CENT. ed. of the SPRINGFIELD SUN, 1/31/1974, P. 15:1] 523, 1314

√ <u>VALLEY STATION</u> (Jefferson Co.): [Vael/ee Stā/shən] (Valley
Station, Kosmosdale, Louisville West). An unincorporated area
of over a dozen suburban subdivisions spreading out from the
junction of the Dixie Highway (US 31w/60) and Valley Station
Rd. (KY 907), 12 air miles ssw of the court house in downtown
Louisville, and including, roughly, the area between the Ohio
River (on the w), Pages Lane (on the n), and Pond Creek (on the
e and s). The local post office, established June 22, 1874
with William T. Kennedy, postmaster, and the community which
                                                    that year
      grew up around it were named for the station built/on
the n side of the present Valley Station Rd. by the Elizabeth-
town & Paducah (now Illinois Central Gulf) Railroad. Due to
its situation in relatively poorly drained, lowlying terrain
in the Ohio River valley w of the Muldraugh Ridge, this was one
of the last of Louisville's suburban areas to be developed.
With a 1970 population of some 24,500, the community is now
served by a branch of the Louisville post office. [Ward Sinclair
& Harold Browning, "Valley Station--An Endless Sea of Subdivisions
and the Dixie" LOU. TIMES, 10/26/1965] 72P

√ <u>VALLEY VIEW</u> (Madison Co.): [Vael/ee Vyū] (Valley View). This

hamlet extends for nearly a mile along KY 169 s from the s bank

of the Kentucky River, some 9 air miles nw of Richmond. Laid

out as a town in 1891 by J.H. Powell and S.F. Rock to accommodate

a thriving though relatively shortlived sawmill operation, it

partly occupies the site of a community that may be traced back

to 1785 when John Craig established a Kentucky River ferry there,

just below the mouth of Tate Creek. This ferry is still in

operation and is thus the oldest continuous business in Kentucky.

The community's name is known to have preceded its establishment

as a town and post office (on Nov. 27, 1891)and is believed to

have been inspired by the beautiful view seen from the hilltop

across the river in Fayette Co. The thriving lumber town and

trade center had a peak population of nearly 2000 by the turn of

the present century but its decline soon followed the depletion

of its timber supply. What remains is now on a Richmond rural

route. [(1) Jonathan T. Dorris & Maud W. Dorris, GLIMPSES OF

HIST'C. MADISON CO., KY., 1955, P. 68; (2) Robt. N. Grise, inter-

view, 4/28/1978; (3) "Valley View Ferry: Kentucky's Oldest Conti-

nuous Business", GUIDE TO MADISON CO., pub. by the Madison Co.

NEWSWEEK, Spring-summer, 1971, P. 7] 57, 790, 1294

VANARSDELL (Mercer Co.): [Və/nahrz/dəl] (McBrayer). A settle-
ment with extinct post office and former station on what's now
the Southern Railway, just e of the Salt River, 1¼ miles w of
US 127, and 8 air miles n of Harrodsburg. The community,
station, and post office (established Nov. 2, 1889 with George
W. Robinson, postmaster) were probably named for Jackson
Van Arsdall (sic), a local farmer and distiller and member of
one of the county's distinguished pioneer families. Local
farm families are now on a Harrodsburg rural route. (1) THROUGH
200 YEARS, P. 184; (2) Rebecca Conover, interview, 4/21/1978 40, 1264

√ <u>VAN BUREN</u> (Anderson Co.): [Vaen Byū/rɔn] (Chaplin). An extinct village on the n bank of the Salt River, about 200 yards from the junction of Nelson, Spencer, and Anderson Co's. and 14 air miles wsw of Lawrenceburg. It was laid out in 1835 by Edward Harris on his farm at the mouth of Crooked Creek and named for Martin Van Buren who was soon to become President of the U.S. The post office was established May 23, 1850 with Jacob W. Lindle, post-master, and with many intermissions it operated until it closed in 1922. From 1886 the name was spelled <u>Vanburen</u>, though on all recent maps the 2 word spelling has been used. From a substantial 19th century village with a wagon factory and a flour mill and, later, Charley Ashby's general store, the largest in the county, it was recently reduced to a mere memory when all the homes and business places were torn down in anticipation of the Taylorsville Dam backwash. [(1) Souv. Supplement to ANDERSON NEWS, 6/1906, P. 57; (2) McKee & Bond, P. 124; (3) Philip Spencer, interview, 8/4/1978] 140, 138

1453

✓VANCEBURG (Lewis Co.): [Vaens/bergh] (Vanceburg). A 4th class city
of some 1900 persons on the Ohio River and KY 8, 10, and 59, just
above the mouth of Salt Lick Creek, and 123 air miles ene of down-
town Louisville. Since 1864 it has been the seat of Lewis Co. It
was founded in 1797 by Moses Baird and Joseph Calvin Vance on land [55 acres]
acquired that year from Alexander Keith Marshall, brother to the
future Supreme Court Justice John Marshall, and named for Vance.
Due at least in part to the lack of clear titles to local properties,
it failed at first to become the county's seat, that honor falling
in 1809 to Clarksburg (q.v.), a short distance up the creek. Though
the Vanceburg post office was established [may have been before 1811] July 3, 1815 with George
Swingle, Jr., postmaster, and the town was chartered by the Kentucky
Legislature in 1827, the latter developed slowly. In its early
decades it served primarily as a landing place for flatboats supply-
ing Clarksburg and as a shipping point for [the] area saltworks. In Dec.
1863 the Legislature authorized the removal of the county's seat
from Clarksburg--and this was effected the following year--most
likely to take advantage of Vanceburg's growing economic importance
as a river town. A new hydro-electric plant being built up river is
the basis of anticipated area growth and development. Vanceburg is
still referred to by oldtimers as Alum City for a large rock,
surrounded by deposits of alum, which lies on a hill overlooking the
town from the e. [(1) Wm. M. Talley, "Salt Lick Creek and its Salt
Works" REG. of the KHS, Vol. 64, 4/1966, Pp. 85-109; (2) Beulah Faye
Lykins, letter to me, 2/3/1973] 769, 1103

Collins 1847 Hist, referred to a large quarry of alum rock,

√ VAN LEAR (Johnson Co.): [Vaen Leer, Vaen Leer] (Paintsville).
In 1909 the Consolidation Coal Co. acquired John C.C. Mayo's
large coal holdings along Miller Creek, an e bank tributary of
the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River, 1½ miles se of Paints-
ville's present city limits. Here they established a mining
town which they named for Van Lear Black, a member of their
Board of Directors. Frederick H. King became the first post-
master on Nov. 10, 1909. A modern, well maintained community
developed along the creek for about 5 miles e from the river
and grew to a population of over 4000 by 1927. In 1946 the
company, having ended its operations there, pulled out, arranging
with a real estate firm for the sale of homes and businesses to
their occupants. Many miners left while others remained to
find jobs in other area mines. In 1963, to avoid the considerable
expense of maintaining services in what had by then become a
depressed area, the town was dis-incorporated. The community
with an active post office had a 1970 population of over 1000.
[(1) Mitchell Hall, HIST. OF JOHNSON CO., KY, 1928, Vol. 1, P. 262;
(2) Chas. E. Beachley, HIST. OF THE CONSOLIDATION COAL CO. 1864-
1934, privately printed in 1934, Pp. 98-9; (3) Joe Creason, "The
Captive City that was Set Free" LCJ MAG. 4/3/1949, P. 5ff] ⁱ⁹ᵢ ᶠ⁹ᵢ 3ᵣo
B̶r̶y̶a̶n̶ ̶W̶i̶l̶k̶i̶n̶s̶,̶ ̶"̶V̶a̶n̶ ̶L̶e̶a̶r̶ ̶R̶e̶s̶i̶d̶e̶n̶t̶s̶ ̶A̶s̶k̶ ̶f̶o̶r̶ ̶I̶n̶c̶o̶r̶p̶o̶r̶a̶t̶i̶o̶n̶"̶ ̶L̶E̶X̶.̶
H̶E̶R̶A̶L̶D̶,̶ ̶2̶/̶9̶/̶1̶9̶7̶8̶

VARILLA (Bell Co.): [Və/rihl/ə] (Varilla). A coal town and station on the L&N Railroad's Cumberland Valley Division, 5 air miles e of Pineville, that T.J. Asher, wealthy landowner and developer of the region's timber and coal resources, established and named for his wife, Varilla (nee Howard) (1848-1935). For a number of years the principal generating plant for Kentucky Utilities was located here and a post office was in operation from 1912 to 1930. It is now served by the Calvin post office, 1½ road miles sw. [(1) Edward S. Wilson, tape, 11/27/1978; (2) H.H. Fuson, HIST. OF BELL CO., KY. NY: Hobson House Press, 1947, P. 369] 79,1416

VARNEY (Pike Co.): [Vahr/nee] (Varney). This active post
office on the Left Fork of Brushy Fork of Johns Creek, 11
air miles nne of Pikeville, was established April 6, 1904
and named by and for its first postmaster, William Larkin
Varney. [R.D. Maynard, McCombs, Ky., in letter to me, 7/26/1979] 1108

VAUGHNS MILL (Powell Co.): [Vahnz Mihl] (Clay City). A community which extends for at least 1½ miles along KY. 1057 and Hardwicks Creek, some 3½ air miles sw of Stanton. The mill on Hardwicks Creek, about a mile s.. of its confluence with Red River, was built by Samuel J. Vaughn, a Virginian. The post office was established in Isaac Mize's store by the mill on Jan. 12, 1881 and Mize was the first postmaster. For years the settlement was little more than mill, store, post office and Christian Church./ The mill closed around WorldWar I. Now only a church remains at that site for the post office had moved at least twice up the creek until, while at the mouth of Little Hardwicks Creek, it closed in the late 1950s. Only a store remains at this latter site and local residents now get their mail from the Clay City post office, some 4 road miles n.. ... [(1) W.J.B. Schimfessel, "Owner of Grist Mill Gives Community its Name" CLAY CITY TIMES, 10/9/1975; (2) Larry Meadows, interview, 11/30/1977] 70/, 1334

✓ <u>VEAZEY</u> (Hopkins Co.): [Vee/zee] (Slaughtersville). This settlement/on
KY 630, a mile from the Webster Co. line and 7½ air miles nw of
Madisonville, was founded before the Civil War by the four Veazey
brothers and their two sisters from Granville Co., N.C. The post
office was established April 13, 1888 in Louis N. Veazey's store
and was discontinued in 1909. [ORIG. ATLAS AND HIST. DATA OF HOP. CO
KY. 1974, Pp. 64-5] 159

with extinct post office

VENTERS (Pike Co.): [Vehn/tərz] (Hellier). A hamlet with an
extinct post office on KY 195 and centering at the mouth of
Lick Branch of Marrowbone Creek,.a tributary of Russell Fork
(of the Levisa Fork of the Big Sandy River), 10 air miles sse
of Pikeville. The post office was established July 10, 1882
and named for its first postmaster, Adam Venters, who owned
most of the area at that time. The office was discontinued
in 1894 and re-established April 30, 1910 as Carmen by Willie
Ratliff who named it for his daughter. The vicinity is now on
a rural route out of Elkhorn City,.11 road miles ese. [(1) Eva
Powell, interview, 8/16/1977; (2) Arthur L. Long, Pikeville
Coll. student, to Leonard Roberts] 934,1354

✓VERA CRUZ (Gallatin Co.): [Vehr/ə Krūz] (Sanders). An extinct village on the present KY 35, near the head of the Vera Cruz Branch of Craigs Creek, and 2½ air miles s of Warsaw, that grew up around an antebellum stage stop and inn. According to tradition, inn, village, and stream were named for the coincidence of a local fight and the Mexican War battle of Vera Cruz on March 9, 1847. The coming of the railroad to Sparta, 4 miles s, and the failure of the village to secure its own post office, contributed to its economic insignificance and early demise. (Gypsy M. Gray, HIST. OF GALLATIN CO., KY., 1968, P. 78] 87

✓ <u>VERDA</u> (Harlan Co.): [V3d/ə] (Evarts). A coal town and railroad station with a 1970 population of some 950, on Clover Fork of the Cumberland River, at the mouth of Jones Creek, 4½ air miles e of Harlan. The town and its now extinct post office, established April 24, 1917 with Chad Middleton, postmaster, are said to have been named for Verda Middleton, pioneer settler. The vicinity is now served by a rural branch of the post office at Evarts, 2 road miles ne. [Mabel Collins, "Town Names Given by Railroads..."] 335

✓ <u>VERSAILLES</u> (Woodford Co.): [Ver/s̄al̲z̲] (Versailles, Tyrone).
A 4th class city of some 7500 residents and the more or less
centrally located seat of Woodford Co., on US 60 and 62, 52
air miles ese of downtown Louisville. It was laid out and
founded in 1792 on the site of a pioneer settlement
called <u>Falling Springs</u> and named by trustee General Marquis
Calmes for the birthplace of Lafayette on whose staff he had
served in the Revolution. The post office has been in opera-
tion since 1802. /(1) Lucile S. Davis, interview, 7/15/1978;
(2) Ibid., "Hist'l. Tidbits" col. in the WOODFORD SUN, 6/1/
1978, P. 3; (3) Wm. E. Railey, HIST. OF WOODFORD CO. 1938,
P. 32] 180, 374, 1269

<u>VERTREES</u> (Hardin Co.): [Ver/<u>trees</u>] (Constantine). An active post office just w of the junction of KY 86 and Rough River and 13 air miles w of Elizabethtown. It was established as <u>Vertrus</u> on July 6, 1881, an obvious error that was corrected in 1895. Both the post office and the nearby Vertrees Creek, a tributary of Rough River, were named for an early family whose progenitor, Joseph Vertrees, had built a cabin between the creek and the river in 1810. [McClure, 1797, Pp. 208-09] 136

✓ <u>VEST</u> (Knott Co.): [Vehst] (Vest). A hamlet with an active post office and a consolidated elementery school on KY 1087 and Balls Fork of Troublesome Creek, 3½ air miles n of Hindman. The post office was established Jan. 31, 1886 with William Grigsby, postmaster, and named for the postal inspector who had been sent in to validate the need for an office and who stayed to assist in its establishment. Nothing else is known about him. [Tom Sutton, interview, 6/18/1979] 1391

✓ <u>VIANNA</u> (Clark Co.): |Vee/<u>aen</u>/ə̄| (Palmer). Once a thriving village on the Red River on what was, before the Civil War, the main road between Winchester, 12½ air miles nw, and Irvine, it is now virtually extinct. It may have grown up around a mill and ferry depot before 1860 and named, for reasons unknown, for the Austrian capital. The <u>Vienna</u> post office (sic) was established March 3, 1863 with John Rucker, postmaster, and discontinued in 1874. Though the name was spelled <u>Vienna</u> in postal records and on 19th century maps, it is now almost exclusively spelled <u>Vianna</u>, probably reflecting its traditional pronunciation. Note that even in the 19th century, <u>Vienna</u> or <u>Vianna</u> was not an uncommon feminine given name and this could possibly have been its origin. [(1) "Clark Co. Chron." WINCH. SUN, 12/14/1922; (2) Kingsbury-Stuart ms on Clark Co. P.N./ 328, 975

✓ <u>VICCO</u> (Perry Co.): [<u>Vihk/oh</u>] (Vicco). A 6th class city with an active post office and some 350 residents, a trade center on KY 15 and Carr Fork (of the North Fork of the Kentucky River), 5½ air miles ese of Hazard. Its eastern city limits extend slightly over the Knott Co. line where they meet the unincorporated community of <u>Sassafras</u>. Though there may have been a settlement with a store here prior to the establishment of the Montgomery Creek Coal Co. mines in the vicinity, it was at this time that the town and its post office was established as <u>Montago</u>, named for the company and the creek which joins Carr Fork at this point. The <u>Montago</u> post office, which opened on March 1, 1921 with William McK. Stacy, postmaster, was renamed <u>Vicco</u> in 1923 for the Virginia Iron Coal and Coke Co. which then dominated coal production in the area. [(1) W.E. Baker, letter to Wm. G. Steel, 4/21/1922; (2) Estill McIntyre, interview, 7/7/1977] 1186, 1327

<u>VILLA HILLS</u> (Kenton Co.): [<u>Vihl</u>/ə <u>Hihlz</u>] (Covington). One of the
fastest growing communities in northern Kentucky, this 4th class
city of some 3530 persons is located between Crescent Springs and
the Ohio River, 4 air miles w of downtown Covington and 8 air miles
n of the court house in Independence. The community centers on the
86 acre tract on Bromley Heights that the Benedictine Sisters of
Covington purchased in 1903 and named <u>Villa Madonna</u> at the suggestion
of Fr. Rhabanus, OSB, then Pastor of St. Joseph Church in Covington.
It means "Country Seat of Our Lady." In 1904 classes began at the
Villa Madonna Academy there and in 1923 the Villa Madonna College
was chartered. This was renamed Thomas More College in 1923 when it
was moved to its present location 3 miles s. The city of <u>Villa Hills</u>
was incorporated in 1962 and is served by the Ludlow branch of the
Covington post office. [THE CITY OF VILLA HILLS: ONE TENTH CENTEN-
NIAL, n.d, P. 8] 71

<u>VINE GROVE</u> (Hardin Co.): ⟨<u>Vahn</u> <u>Ghrohv</u>⟩ (Vine Grove). A 4th class
city with an active post office and some 3300 residents, 6 air
miles nw of Elizabethtown, and almost wholly supported by its
close proximity to Fort Knox, several miles e. It was first located
where KY 144 crosses Otter Creek and Hardin and Meade Cos. join, 1½
miles w of Vine Grove's present center (the junction of its Main
Street and the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad tracks). Here in
1850 Mike Flaherty opened the community's first business, a black-
smith shop, and, on Aug. 26, 1856 the post office was established
with Anthony Swabentham, postmaster. It was named for the
"profusion of wild grape vines which grew intertwined in the oak
forest that covered a major portion of the land at the town's
inception."[249] In or shortly after 1865, in anticipation of the
coming of the railroad that was completed in 1873, the town moved
to its present site where it soon became a lumber, livestock, and
tobacco shipping center on the Illinois Central (now Illinois
Central Gulf) Railroad. <u>Vine Grove</u> hopes to maintain its identity
in the face of the rapidly encroaching larger and newer city of
Radcliff to its ne. [(1) Terry M. Alley, "Vine Grove Residents
Look Back at History with Pride", Bicent. ed. of ELIZ. NEWS, 5/21/
1974; (2) Mrs. T.D. Winstead, interview, 8/23/1978] [249,1420]

VINEYARD (Jessamine Co.): [Vihn/yərd] (Little Hickman). This
hamlet at the junction of US 27 and Hoover Pike, less than 1½
air miles s of Nicholasville, was named for a long abandoned
commercial vineyard a mile or so se. The age of the community,
which never had its own post office, is not known, but the vine-
yard itself dates back to the antebellum period when it was
worked by slave labor. The area was served by the Hanley post
office, ½ mile s, and is now on a Nicholasville rural route.
[Robt. M. Suell, letter to me, 3/24/1978] 1390

VINNIE (Russell Co.): [Vihn/ee] (Eli, Faubush). An extinct post office just off KY 196, less than ½ mile from the Pulaski Co. line and 10 air miles e of Jamestown. The post office was established Jan. 5, 1898 by Green M. McKinley, local storekeeper, who named it for his girl friend, Vinnie McClendon. Vinnie, born around 1880, later married John Barlow and moved to Ohio. For years the post office and a Vinnie School were located just over the Pulaski Co. line. In 1938 the office was moved to its Russell Co. location and was discontinued in 1958. [Mary Weaver, letter to me, 9/1/1979] 1410

√ <u>VIOLA</u> (Graves Co.): [Vah/<u>yohl</u>/ə] (Hickory). Really 2 villages now--
the original, on the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad, consists only
of John W. Whittemore's store. In recent years most of the commu-
nity's businesses shifted to what is now called <u>West Viola</u>, at the
junction of US 45 and KY 408, about a mile w of the store and 7 air
miles n of Mayfield. The community and station may have been named
for the wife of an early Whittemore who is said to have given the
right-of-way and station site to the New Orleans & Ohio Railroad in
the 1850s. The <u>Viola</u> post office was in operation from 1884 to
1910 and mail is now delivered from Hickory, $2\frac{1}{4}$ road miles s. Back
in the days when the Whittemore family owned most of the businesses
in town it had the nickname of <u>Whittemoreville</u>. [(1) Lon Carter
Barton, interview, 8/5/1977; (2) PAD. SUN-TIMES, 2/27/1977, P. C1] $^{346,/228}$

✓ VIPER (Perry Co.): [Vah/pər] (Hazard South). A once prosperous
rail shipping point and now a hamlet with an active post office
and a 1970 population of some 500, extending along KY 7 from
the mouth of Elk Branch, 3 air miles sse of Hazard, for almost
a mile up the North Fork of the Kentucky River. The first post
office to serve this area, from 1875 to 1879, was Hallsville,
at the mouth of Wicks Branch of Maces (Masons) Creek. It was
named by and for its first postmaster, Philip W. Hall, a
Virginia-born surveyor and timber dealer. On May 26, 1886,
Enoch C. Campbell, who had succeeded Hall as postmaster, got
the office re-established at the mouth of Maces Creek, a branch
of the North Fork. According to local tradition, a young man,
Phillip Fields, suggested the name for a large snake some boys
had just killed on the road near Campbell's store. [(1) A HIST.
& GENEAL. OF RIGHT HAND FORK, MASONS CREEK, PERRY CO., KY.
compiled by Taylor & Dora Dehart, pvtly. printed, 1979, P. Pp.
3-4; (2) Eunice Tolbert Johnson HIST. OF PERRY CO. DAR, 1953,
Pp. 101-3] 55, 114

VIRGIE (Pike Co.): [V3/djee] (Dorton). A village with an active post office on (US 23/119), some 9 air miles sse of Pikeville. The office, established as Clintwood on April 3, 1890 with James M. (Matt) Damron, postmaster, shortly assumed the name of the 14 year old daughter of W.O.B. (Butler) Ratliff, a Pikeville lawyer and timber dealer. [Sylvia Newsome, T.P. for Virgie High Sch. Engl. class; sent to me by Fred W. Cox, Principal, 2/28/1969] 947

VISALIA (Kenton Co.): [Vihs/āl/yə] (Alexandria). This village of some 250 persons between KY 177 and the w bank of the Licking River, 12 air miles s of downtown Covington and 5 air miles ese of the court house in Independence, was settled sometime before 1807 by Nathaniel Vise, Jr. In 1818 he was authorized by the then Campbell Co. Court to established a town there which was later called <u>Visalia</u> for him. For a brief period, in 1827, it was the county's seat. The first post office to serve that area was established Jan. 2, 1855 as <u>New Canton</u> probably on the e bank of the Licking. In 1859 George Watson moved it a short distance upstream to the Visalia site and it was renamed. It has since closed and the community is now on a Covington rural route. [(1) John W. Stevens, "Alexandria" in NEWPORT LOCAL, 12/12/1878, P. 1:4; (2) Margaret Hartman, CAMPBELL CO., KY. HIST. AND GENEALOGY, 12/15/1978, Supplement to the FALMOUTH OUTLOOK Pp. 27-8] 94,753

✓VIVA (Laurel Co.): [Vee/və or Vih/və] (London). An extinct post office,
coal camp, and station on the long defunct Altamont & Manchester
Branch of the L&N Railroad, 3 air miles n of London. The site
was first called Wild Cat but the post office, in operation from
1900 to 1933, was named for Viva Thompson, an early resident. Little
remains to bear the name but the Viva Church. The East Bernstadt post
office, 2½ road miles wsw, provides mail service to the area. [Logan
Ewell, interview, 4/29/1972] 1282

<u>WABD</u> (Rockcastle Co.): [Waeb] (Maretburg). The name of this hamlet with an extinct post office on KY. 461, 3 air miles sw of Mount Vernon, was derived from the initials of its first postmaster, William A. B. Davis when the office was established June 17, 1886. Davis was also the county's second school superintendent. The vicinity is now on a Mount Vernon rural route. [Opp Bussell, Jr., interview, 4/21/1978] 1243