VALLEY STATION (Jefferson Co.): [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 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] 72°
VALLEY VIEW (Madison Co.): (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, interview, 4/28/1978; (3) "Valley View Ferry: Kentucky's Oldest Continuous Business", GUIDE TO MADISON CO., pub. by the Madison Co. NEWSWEEK, Spring-summer, 1971, P. 7.
VANARSDELL (Mercer Co.): [Va/nahrz/dal] (McBrayer). A settlement with extinct post office and former station on what's now the Southern Railway, just e of the Salt River, 1½ 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]
VAN BUREN (Anderson Co.): [Van Byü/rn] (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, postmaster, and with many intermissions it operated until it closed in 1922. From 1886 the name was spelled Vanburen, 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) McKe & Bond, P. 124; (3) Philip Spencer, interview, 8/4/1978]
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 downtown 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 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 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 supplying Clarksburg and as a shipping point for 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. Wm. M. Talley, "Salt Lick Creek and its Salt Works" REG. of the KHS, Vol. 64, 4/1966, pp. 85-109; Beulah Faye Lykins, letter to me, 2/3/1973.
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 Paintsville'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 postmaster 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.

VARILLA (Bell Co.): [\text{\textipa{Vəri/lə}}] (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, 1 1/2 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]
VARNEY (Pike Co.): [Vahr/nee] (Varney). This active post office on the Left Fork of Brushy Fork of Johns Creek, 11 air miles ne 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]
VAUGHNS MILL (Powell Co.): [Vahns Mihl] (Clay City). A community which extends for at least 1 1/2 miles along KY 1057 and Hardwicks Creek, some 3 1/2 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. 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 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, 10/5/1975; (2) Larry Meadows, interview, 11/30/1977.
**(VEAZEY (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]
VENTERS (Pike Co.): [Vehn/tərs] (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
VERA CRUZ (Gallatin Co.): [Vehrz/3 Krüz] (Sanders). An extinct village on the present KY 35, near the head of the Vera Cruz Branch of Craigs Creek, and 2 1/2 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
VERDA (Harlan Co.): (Verda) (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, 4 1/2 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..."; 123]
VERSAILLES (Woodford Co.): [Ver-sälz] (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 Falling Springs 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 operation 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.
VERTREES (Hardin Co.): [Ver/trees] (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 Vertrus 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]
VEST (Knott Co.): [Vehst] (Vest). A hamlet with an active post office and a consolidated elementary 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]/39/
VIANNA (Clark Co.): "Vee/aen/a" (Palmer). Once a thriving village on the Red River on what was, before the Civil War, the main road between Winchester, 12 1/2 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 Vienna post office (sic) was established March 3, 1863 with John Rucker, postmaster, and discontinued in 1874. Though the name was spelled Vienna in postal records and on 19th century maps, it is now almost exclusively spelled Vianna, probably reflecting its traditional pronunciation. Note that even in the 19th century, Vienna or Vianna was not an uncommon feminine 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.
VICCO (Perry Co.): [Vink/oh] (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 Sassafras. 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 Monta-go, named for the company and the creek which joins Carr Fork at this point. The Monta-go post office, which opened on March 1, 1921 with William McK. Stacy, postmaster, was renamed Vicco 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]
VILLA HILLS (Kenton Co.): [Vihl's Hihlz] (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 Villa Madonna 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 Villa Hills was incorporated in 1962 and is served by the Ludlow branch of the Covington post office. [THE CITY OF VILLA HILLS: ONE TENTH CENTENNIAL, n.d, P. 8]
VINE GROVE (Hardin Co.): Vahn Shrody (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 Co's: join, 1 1/2 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 blacksmith 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." 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. Vine Grove 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]
VINEYARD (Jessamine Co.): [Vinyard] (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 s.e. The age of the community, which never had its own post office, is not known, but the vineyard 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]
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]
VIOLA (Graves Co.): [Vah/yohl/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 community's businesses shifted to what is now called West Viola, 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 Viola post office was in operation from 1884 to 1910 and mail is now delivered from Hickory, 2½ road miles s. Back in the days when the Whittemore family owned most of the businesses in town it had the nickname of Whittemoreville. [(1) Lon Carter Barton, interview, 8/5/1977; (2) PAD. SUN-TIMES, 2/27/1977, P. C1]
VIPER (Perry Co.): [Vah/par] (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, privately printed, 1979, P. Pp. 3-4; (2) Eunice Tolbert Johnson HIST. OF PERRY CO. DAR, 1953, Pp. 101-3}
VIRGIE (Pike Co.): \(\frac{V}{3}/djee\) (Dorton). A village with an active post office on (US 25/119), 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]
VISALIA (Kenton Co.): [Vihsəl'ıə] (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 Visalia 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 New Canton 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 PALMOUTH OUTLOOK Pp. 27-8.
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 Willa 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]
WABD (Rockcastle Co.): [Wab] (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]