MARTIN COUNTY

POST-OFFICES IN 1874
(Spelling of names follows that used in 1874)

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Martin County was organized in the year 1870 from parts of Johnson, Lawrence, Pike and Floyd Counties. It was named for Colonel John P. Martin, a distinguished and cultured gentleman who lived in Prestonsburg, Kentucky.

The county seat of Martin County was originally known as Eden, but was later changed to Inez because there was an other post office elsewhere in the state by the name of Eden, so it was named Inez in honor of a girl who lived at Louisa by that name.

Martin County is bounded as follows: Tug River forms the north eastern boundary the entire length of the county, Pike and Floyd Counties forms the southern boundary, Johnson and Lawrence bounds it on the west.

Inez the county seat is located near the center of the county at the junction of the middle and Cold Water Forks of Rock Castle Creek. Its population is about 500 it is located in the quiet little valley of Rock Castle Creek. Surrounded by beautiful hills which afford beautiful natural scenery.

It has a good system of public schools also a good high school, besides a private school conducted by the Presbyterian Church, which is a great asset to the town, as well affording a splendid opportunity for the young people to secure an education.

There are five churches in town the M. E. Church south, Missionary Baptist, the United Baptist, Presbyterian and the Nazarine or Holiness Church.

There is one bank located in town which does a very good business. It is housed in a substantial two story stone building, which would be a credit to a much larger town.
One thing the town is quite deficient in is its hotels. There are only two places in town that are called hotels, and the accommodation in them are not first class, but there are a few boarding houses that accommodates part of the traveling public.

Inez is pretty well fixed in regard to stores there are four or five general stores, besides two or three exclusive grocery stores. Richmond Bros. is the largest establishment in town. The building is made of native stone and covers nearly one-half a city block. It is quite up to date in every detail, in fact they seemed to take into consideration the future growth of the city for several years to come in the construction of the building.

John W. Goble handles a general line of merchandise, perhaps the most complete line in town, as he seems to cater to wants of the people and tries to keep everything they need. Besides the general stores there is one wholesale and retail grocery store that does a very nice jobbing business.

They have two garages and repair shops in town quite sufficient to take care of the needs of the people. One is constructed of stone. Beside these there are two or three filling stations.

THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE COUNTY:

The resources of Martin County are almost limitless. A whole book could be written on the natural resources of Martin County, and then one would have just a faint idea of their vastness.

When this section of the state was first settled by the hardy pioneers from Virginia and the Carolinas, the chief industry was hunting and farming.

The first thing the settler would do was to locate a site and erect a rude log cabin to live in, and the next thing he would go into
the forest with his axe and clear out the ground and prepare it for
cultivation where he would grow his corn, beans and other vegetables.

The first thing the only property he possessed was perhaps one
horse, a cow, and a few pigs, this plus his brown, grit and determin-
ation to succeed was his only asset.

The hills and valleys in those early days were covered with virgin
timber, considered at that time to be practically worthless, hence
a great deal of the timber was cut and the logs were rolled together
and burned and destroyed in order to clear off the ground in prepara-
tion for crops, but later when the years went by and the demand for
building material increased the timber business became the leading
industry of Martin County.

(The method of procuring and marketing the timber)

When the timber business was first inaugurated in Martin County
the older citizens who first settled in this section of the county
owned great boundaries of land in the Rock Castle valley, some of
them owning several thousand acres of land.

The principal timber that was in demand in Martin County in the
beginning of the timber business in this county was poplar and oak,
which was very abundant in this county.

The poplar timber was used extensively for building material,
therefore it was in great demand and often brought a fancy price.
The oak timber was chiefly used for the manufacture of barrels of
all kinds especially oil and whiskey barrels.

Then the farmer wanted to dispose of his timber he usually
commenced the operation in the fall of the year after he was through
with the work on his farm. He would employ several men and equip them
with axes and a cross-cut saw and go into the forest and cut the
timber down and saw the logs in convenient lengths and get them ready to haul to the creek.

In the beginning of the timber business in this county they used oxen all together to haul the logs to the creek often using five or six yoke of oxen in one team. They would work all through the fall and most of the winter cutting and hauling the logs to the bank of the creek where they would wait until the spring rains would come and raise the water sufficiently to float the logs, and then they would put them in the creek and drift or float them to the mouth of the creek where there was a boar made of logs fastened together with chains or heavy cables stretched across the creek to stop them. There they would put 75 or 100 logs together in a raft, and then they would tie the raft together by using long saplings or poles by boring a hole through the pole in the log with an auger and fasten them with a wooden pin which holds the raft in tact. From there they float them down the river to the market places either to Catlettsburg, Kentucky or to Cincinnati, Ohio. They would sell the timber and often receive a fair remuneration for their time, labor and timber.

In the course of years they exhausted the timber supply that grew along the main creeks, and soon had to go into the hills and smaller streams for their supply of timber, and then to get the logs to the main creek, so they could be drifted out to the river, soon became an object of great concern or oftentimes the logs would have to be hauled a distance of several miles with an ox team which proved to be very slow as well as expensive operation.

Dams across the branch were built some times to a height of 10 or 12 feet deep at the dam. The dam was either constructed with a slide door that was raised up with a large wood lever that was used
to raise the door in order to release the water from the dam, or with two swinging doors in the center of the dam supported by an upright beam in the center set in a niche cut out in a large wood sill that extended crosswise the dam at the bottom, the upright at the top was placed into a slot cut into another large beam that extended across the dam at the top which was securely fastened at either end sufficiently to hold the immense weight of the water that bore up on it. It was also manipulated with a large lever at the top to raise it upright and release it from the slot at the bottom, so the water was released at will.

In the meantime the trees in the hills were cut down and the logs cut in proper lengths and hauled either to the branch below the dam or into the water above the dam, so in the spring time when the streams were swollen by the rains they would close the dam and catch it full of water and turn it loose and drift the logs out to the main creek where they could be floated out to the river.

These dams were called splash dams. By this method the timber has been practically exhausted in this county.

The largest timber operation in the history of Martin County was about 40 or 45 years ago, when Mr. Leon Isaacson Gen. manager of the Yellow Poplar Lumber Company of Ironton Ohio came into this county and bought up great boundaries of timber and took out several thousand logs, over a period of several years of operation.

This period has been designated as an era of great prosperity in the history of Martin County, as they employed several hundred men for several years at fairly good wages.

This company through its extensive operations practically drained the county of its most valuable timber.
With the exception of one boundary located on the head of the Middle Fork of Rock Castle Creek a distance of about 12 miles south of Inez, which was owned by the Simpkins heirs, the Yellow Poplar Lumber Company consumed practically all of the valuable timber of the county.

About 30 years ago the Simpkins heirs sold the timber on this tract to the Kitter Lumber Co. and they bought a large band mill into this section and cut millions of feet of lumber and transported it across the hill to the main line of the C. & O. Railroad by means of a narrow guage road and shipped the lumber to all parts of the country. This tract of land contained 12 thousand acres of virgin timber.

This was considered to be the finest tract of timber in the whole county, many of the huge poplar trees was six feet in diameter and 75 to 100 feet in length, besides many oak of the same dimensions. It took several years to work up this vast area of timber, and before they finished sawing the lumber the mill burned, and they were forced to ship the remaining logs by railroad to other mills where they were sawed into lumber. This was the last major timber operation in this county.

Some of the smaller and cheaper grade of timber are used in the manufacture of cross ties, but the long distance they have to haul them to the market makes it impractical as the expense is so great they cannot realize a profit from them.

In the early settlement of this county there was another class of timber that in later years became very valuable, and that was black walnut.
The black walnut grew in the rich law lands of the valley of Rock Castle creek, and on the fertile hill sides adjacent to the level bottom land, so it was this type of land that the early settlers utilized first on account of its natural advantages, so in the process of clearing and fencing the ground in the preparation of their crops they used a great deal of this black walnut timber for fencing purposes not knowing the value if it.

They would cut the trees down and saw them into 10 foot lengths and split them in to rails and build the fence and in this way destroyed much valuable timber.

The birds eye walnut which is the most valuable is quite rare in this county but there used to be quite a few growing in this section.

This type of timber usually brought a fabulous price, many of the finest trees if they were growing today would be worth four or five hundred dollars each. The finest grade of this timber is used for fine furniture, gun stocks etc.

These classes of timber which contributed so much to the growth and resources of Martin County has almost completely disappeared, so the present generation will be compelled to rely entirely on the second growth and more inferior qualities for their timber supplies.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Natural Gas has been known to exist in Martin County ever since the first settlers came into it.

In many places in this county the gas was forced to the surface of the ground by its own pressure through minute seams or crevices in the rock for a distance of thousands of feet beneath the earths surface in sufficient quantities to burn if ignited, there were many
such places in this county, and one of the most outstanding places which caused more wonder to the inhabitants was located in the head of Tug River near the town of Warfield, which when lighted would burn on the surface of the water it did this for years regardless of how high the river got. This was a strange thing to the people of that day as their knowledge of gas was quite limited. Those conditions were supposed to have been caused by upheaves of the earth thousands of years ago sufficiently strong to release the gas that had been pent up in the bowels of the earth for millions of years. So people from the east who had some knowledge of gas and oil on learning of these things came into this county to investigate the truth of those tales with the expectation and hope of discovering rich oil fields.

The first man that came into this county for that purpose was a man by the name of Holmes, he came to the present site of Inez when it was a mere settlement, and located a site for a well about one mile south of this point at the mouth of the salt well branch on Rock Castle Creek to drill for oil. This was prior to the civil War and about the year 1858 or 59. Mr. Holmes proceeded to drill the well with the primitive and crude equipment which was then used. It was a very slow and tedious process in that day, as they had to use a spring pole instead of a walking beam which they use noewin drilling the well. He drilled it to a depth of 8 or 9 hundred feet and found a slight trace of oil and a pressure of gas sufficient to force the salt water a distance of 100 feet into the air, which was continued for a year or two but finally caught on fire and burned the derick and destroyed the machinery. The war between the states soon broke out, and that caused such a disturbance among the people, that he abandoned the operation but in the mean time the gas continued to burn for several years. Then a period of several years
BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- History of the Presbyterian Church in the State of Kentucky. Davidson, p. 81.
Fourth of July.
Celebration held at Inez, County Seat.
Ball game, hazard races, greased pole contest, greased pig contest.

Fluty Branch Cemetery - Annual meeting of the United Baptist Church, Third Sunday in August. It has been held annually for thirty years. There are usually 600 to 900 present.

Bibliography:
Howard Mills, teacher, Martin County.
Emmons Preece, Aid to Martin County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. J. R. Fairchild, Inez, Kentucky
Russell Williamson, Athletic Director of Martin County High School.
The growing of cane from which molasses or sorghum are made is an interesting as well as a profitable industry in Martin County.

Most every farmer grows a patch of cane from which he makes his year's supply of molasses.

There are also a few farmers that grow it more extensively for the market and they usually find a ready sale for it.

Big Sandy sorghum on account of its fine qualities has a national reputation for its quality and flavor.

You may go into most of the larger cities and find Big Sandy sorghum advertised for sale on the market.

The light sandy soil of Martin County seems to be especially adapted to the growing of a quality of cane that produces a fine grade of sorghum.

Sorghum making time is looked to by the people on the farm with a great deal of reluctance and dread, especially if they happen to have a very large patch of cane, as it is usually a hard and tedious job, often requiring several days and perhaps weeks of hard work often extending far into the night. On the other hand there is a class of people especially the children and young folks of the neighborhood who look to the occasion with much delight, who anticipate a good time visiting the evaporator at night on the ostensible excuse of partaking of some of the delicious golden foam produced from the evaporation and boiling down of the juice in the process of making the sorghum, but incidently in having a get together party and having a good time. It is no unusual thing to have several couples of young folks to visit the evaporator of evenings on those occasions.

The cane is usually ripe and ready to make the sorghum by 15th of September.

The first thing to be done is to prepare the wood with which to heat the furnace. The next thing is to strip the blades from the stalks.
a sharp hoe or other sharp instrument close to the ground, and put in piles where someone will come along with a knife and cut the heads or seed from the stalk, and then it is ready for the cane mill which has been placed in the proper place. The mill is equipped with a long wood lever or sweep with one end attached to the mill and to the outer end a horse or mule is hitched and made to do around in a circle. This turns the heavy steel rollers while someone sits by the mill and feeds the cane to the mill. The juice is mashed out of the stalk that is forced between the rollers, and the juice is caught in a tub or barrel, and from thence it is transferred to another barrel set over one end of the evaporator pan with a faucet attached so the juice can flow into the pan as needed. The furnace that the pan sits on is made of stone and after a sufficient amount of the juice is turned into the pan a fire is lit in the furnace and the process of making the sorghum has begun.

The sorghum maker is usually an experienced hand at the business, and is equipped with a wooden rake which is used to stir the juice to keep it from scorching in the bottom of the pan, a skimmer which is a gadget made from heavy perforated galvanized tin attached to a handle sufficiently long as to reach across the pan. The skimmer is used to skim the green foam from the juice when it is boiling. The sorghum-maker stands by the side of the evaporator all day long continually stirring the golden liquid back and forth between the galvanized bars to prevent it from scorching, and continues to skim the green foam from the boiling juice. It is not long until you can detect a change in the color of the juice in the front end of the pan from a light green to a golden color and at this point the experienced sorghum-maker is ever alert watching very closely that the fire in the furnace is not too hot and the constant stirring with the wooden rake is not abated or the sorghum would scorch. When it has boiled to the proper consistency it is then drawn off into a can or other container and becomes the finished product.

At this stage of the process is when the children and young folks become
interested, as well as bees, yellow jackets, hornets, wasps, and all manner of insects are also enticed to the place by the sweets that are naturally produced around the cane mill and the evaporator where sorghum is made.

They all make their frequent visits to the place. The children and young folks come with their spoons or wooden paddles eager to get a taste of the sweet golden foam that is produced from the constant boiling of the juice, and the careful skimming off the green foam until a portion of the juice in the pan becomes comparatively thick and light yellow in color.

The bees, wasps, yellow jackets, hornets, etc., sometimes come in such number as to become quite a nuisance and menace to the helpers around the mill and evaporator, as well as the visitors, often coming in contact with them and the result is they get stung, which sometimes disfigures them by the swollen effects, as well as suffering much pain from the effects of the sting.

When the process of making the sorghum is finished it is stored in barrels, large cans or jugs for home use or the market.

The sorghum often sells for as much as one dollar per gallon, and from this source the farmer often receives a fair remuneration for his labor and time in growing the cane and manufacturing the sorghum.
WARFIELD SALT WELLS:

The history of this salt well is just what has been told to me by the old generation of people.

This has been handed down to me by tradition. They say that people used to go there and get the salt water and they would boil it down into salt, and use it, but for many years people secured their salt from there. I mean the people that lived close around there; but it has been for many years they have vanished away and you cannot see any trace of them. They have gone into swamps and vanished away.

WHY WARFIELD GOT ITS NAME:

The old generation of people said that how Warfield secured its name, was by a battle that happened many years ago between the Indians and the white people or settlers. They came in and started to take the land, and at last they made a success. The Indians ran away somewhere else and began to make their settlement and to this day the white people has the land in possession.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE THICKET ROCKS:

These rocks are located on the head of a fork which is called the Thicket Fork. They are the largest rocks in a ten mile radius of the place where I live. These rocks are about one-half of a mile in length and they have in the summer on them what we call moss. It is a very pretty place to visit in summer.

They are about one hundred feet in height and made straight up and down. They are located just between two hills which we sometimes call points. Its temperature is changeable, different at almost all times. Caves are very popular they go every direction in this rock.
BATTLE HAPPENED AT WARFIELD:

This battle was connected with the Civil War of 1861 to 1865. They fought from point to point and there was a man in this battle by the name of Alley Richmond. He was a negro. He was one that fought in this battle, he fought from beginning to the end and came out alive. Then he lived at Warfield and later on told the story about the battle he fought in. It is handed down by tradition. He has been dead something like thirty or forty years and that is what gave Warfield its name.
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Warfield Anticline, structure</td>
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If a dog wallows three times in a yard, a stranger is coming or if it wallows with its head down the hill a friend is dying.

If one carries a hoe in the house he should walk back out backwards with it.

If a rooster looks in the back door and crows a hungry stranger is coming.

If you go somewhere and go in the front door you should go back out the same door.

If you kill a black snake and hang it up with its stomach to the sun it will rain.

If you rock a chair when no one is in it someone in the family will have bad luck.

If you find a pin with the point toward you, you will have good luck and if its head toward you, you will have bad luck.

Never sweep out from under a chair in which someone is sitting or he will never marry.

If you sweep out from under a bed of a sick person they will not get well.

The first whippor-will that you hear calling in the spring, make a wish and it will come true.

If a baby has thrash and you go to a neighbor's house and steal a disrrag and wash its mouth out, it will get well.

The seventh son of a family can cure the thrash by blowing in a baby's mouth.

If you catch a minnow and run it through a baby's mouth alive it will cure the thrash.

If someone dies and their neck stays limber another will die within a year.

If it rains in a graveyard before someone is buried, another will
die before the year is up.

Old people used to put brooms across the door to keep the witches out. It is bad luck to step over a broom.

If it thunders in February it will frost on the same date in May.

People used to put silver money in their churns to keep the witches from charming the milk.

If you sing in bed you will cry before the next day.

If you cry on your birthday you will cry every day during the next year.

If you sneeze before you eat you will see your sweetheart before you sleep.

The first one that leaves the graveyard after someone has died will be the next one buried there.

Put a horseshoe over the door and you will have good luck.

Rub a bean leaf over a wart and bury the leaf under a rock and the wart will gradually disappear.

If one kills a toad his cow will give bloody milk.

It is bad luck for a baby to look into a mirror before it is a year old.

It is seven years bad luck to break a mirror.

It is nine years bad luck to kill a cat.

Virgil Marcum, Paintsville, Ky.
In the year 1864, during the conflict between the north and south, a new citizen was added to the town of Warfield. His name was Alfred Richardson, a colored man. Heretofore the people would not permit negroes to live in Warfield.

Richardson was in a skirmish at Warfield and was listed among the northern people as missing. His leg was injured and he was in a serious condition. The good people living at Warfield had their sympathies stirred up by his condition and took him in and gave him food and medical attention until he was able to work.

At first the people thought they had done a Samaritan act, but as soon as Alf had a chance to prove himself, he was considered a blessing and not a curse. He became the paper hanger for the town. Then someone wanted to have his hair cut and Alf proved to be an excellent barber.

He rented a shop and went into the barber business and made a success. He owned considerable land, and other property when he died. He lived and died at Warfield, Ky., and was considered one of its most up to date citizens. He proved himself and was found worthy of his here. Alf Richardson. So hurrah for the person that is faithful over a few things.
Martin County was formed September 1, 1870 from parts of the counties of Pike, Johnson, Floyd and Lawrence. It was named for Col. John F. Martin who was born in Lee County, Virginia, October 11, 1811 and died in Prestonsburg, Kentucky, December 12, 1862. He was much interested in public life, representing his district in the Kentucky Legislature and his congressional district in Congress. He came to Floyd County, Kentucky in 1835.

Linden was settled in an early day by a Revolutionary War Veteran by the name of James Ward, who was one of Kentucky's famous hunters and Indian fighters. He was with Boone in many of the Indian battles and hunting expeditions and finally pitched his tent where the city is now located because the location being handy to the famous deer licks at the mouth of Salt Well Creek one mile up Middle Fork and one at the mouth of the Preece Branch one mile up Cold Water on Route 40. Near this place was also the famous Bear Hollow.

These statements are from the writer's personal knowledge, Sly's History of Big Sandy and from Grover Ward.
The little town of Warfield, Martin County, Kentucky, was so named because here occurred one of the major skirmishes in the war between the states. Warfield is much older than its name, being settled at a very early date. Some pioneers settled here because here were to be found some of the richest salt springs and coal veins in the Sandy Valley.

Warfield has a population of about 600, most of which is of Scotch-Irish and of English descent, who migrated from Virginia and the Carolinas. Its altitude is about 600 feet above sea level. This town is situated, overlooking the Tug Fork of Sandy River, 10 miles east of Inez, Kentucky and 22 miles north west of Williamson, West Virginia on the Norfolk and Western Railway and State Highway No. 40. In addition to the transportation of its railway, Tug River is navigable for small steam boats and barges most of the year. It has several beautiful residences, one church building, a Masonic and Red Man's hall, a modern garage and several business establishments.

The refreshing mountain air and beautiful scenery in the vicinity of War Field draw many tourists and is the scene of many picnicking parties during the summer season. Just across the river is the famous "Burning Springs" where many/ane strucken to look upon this natural phenomenon. It was also near this where two of Washington's helpers, when he was surveying west of the Alleghanies are said to have stopped and were so starved they were tugging and trying to eat leather straps with which they carried their loads, and being near the river they called it "Tug" and today it is called Tug River.

Warfield is in the heart of the coal mining industry of Martin County which produced 263,469 tons in 1935. Petroleum and natural gas also abound. Farming and fruit raising furnish a source of revenue to many citizens living
near this town. Warfield was built up around the famous salt works that were operated there for many years. The ruins of the old plants are a source of interest to those who visit the city. In 1870 when Martin County was formed, Warfield became the county seat of Martin County and remained so, until the people decided to move the county seat to Eden, which is the present county seat. Eden is usually called Inez, which is the name of the post office.

At Warfield is located a county high school with good buildings and recreation grounds for the students.

Eden, the county seat of Martin County, Kentucky, located at the junction of Cold Water and Middle Fork of Rockcastle Creek on State Highway No. 40, 23 miles east of Paintsville and 10 miles north west of Warfield, Kentucky. The town has an altitude of about 700 feet above sea level and a population of about 1,200 most of whom are English and Scotch Irish descent.

No railroads pass through the city, but connection can be made on the C. & O. at Paintsville or on the Norfolk and Western Railroad at Hermit, West Virginia, just across the river from Warfield.

Eden has one modern hotel, the "Inez Hotel" which gives to its patrons a hospitable atmosphere and home cooked food at a moderate price. The city has two excellent restaurants, three gasoline stations, two modernly equipped fire proof garages, the Inez Service Garage and the Cains Repair Garage, which have ample storage room for cars and trucks and do any and all kinds of repair work at reasonable charges.

About two miles out of town on Route 40 between Eden and Warfield, Ky., are the Sloan Tourist Cams, quite a nice place where travelers may rest and view the beautiful mountain scenery.

Eden enjoys a mild southern climate with long summers and generally has an open winter. The climate is considered one of the healthiest in the Eastern
United States, due to the abundance of pure water and mountain air. It has an abundance of rainfall and a variety of vegetation, flowers and trees.

As the years went by, Eden and surrounding county progressed in agriculture and fruit growing and the raising of live stock. Lumbering contributed substantially to its growth and at the present writing Eden is enjoying a boom in the gas industry, which holds promises to her citizens. The city has only one principal street, which runs the length of the town. It was laid out by James Madison Stepp with an old fashioned turning plow drawn by a yoke of oxen. This marked the course of the street, which ran by the contour of the hill. The town can boast several well built houses, made of frame, native stone and brick. Several merchantile establishments have sprung up, which have grown steadily. B. F. Richmond & Co. occupies a building covering an entire block built of native stone and beautifully arranged. Within the walls will be found a modern shoe store together with ladies and mens furnishings, a grocery store, a large hardware and furniture store, complete fruit store, and a whiskey dispensary and beer parlor. The city also has several other business establishments both wholesale and retail.

The Inez Deposit Bank, housed in a building constructed of native stone, does a thriving business and is considered one of the safest banks in the valley.

Notables: Eden's most noted resident is probably Grover Ward who claims to be the youngest grandson of the American Revolution, and an artist of no small mien, he displays great natural talent. Those who have seen pictures of the historical incidents of his hunter father and Indian fighting grandfather are convinced that behind these pictures is a keen mind. He has refused an offer of $5,000. for one of his pictures of Dan Patch, one of America's famous and best loved race horses. Mr. Ward is a historian. He has gathered invaluable information upon the early settlements and historical events connected with the Sandy Valley. He greatly enjoys reciting the stirring events related to
him by his father, the first settler of Eden. His father took part in the battle of Blue Licks and claimed to have fired the shot that killed Tecumseh, the great Indian Chief, who, with a drawn knife, was advancing on General Johnson who lay wounded on the field of battle.

Eden was the birth place of A. J. Kirk, a famous Circuit Court Judge of Sandy Valley and at one time Congressman from the 10th Congressional District of Kentucky. It was also the home of Pressley Blankenship, a Civil War Veteran whose wit and philosophy made him a highly respected citizen. Other veterans, were John P. Delong, Henry H. Freece and others of the 14th Kentucky and were in the Battle of Chickamauga and with Sherman in his march to the sea during the conflict between the states.

The Wilson Memorial Academy, a Presbyterian institution is also located at Eden. There is also a good high school and elementary school.

These statements are from the writer's personal knowledge, Ely's History of Big Sandy and From Grover Ward.
Martin County has a population of 3,584. The density per square mile being 0 - 40 from 1900 to 1930 but with a 25 to 50% increase in population. The negro population is less than 1% and has had a 90 to 100% decrease from 1900 to 1930. The predominating industry is farming: 50 to 70% of the gainfully employed being engaged in agricultural pursuits, 10 to 20% in mining and 0 - 5% in manufacturing.

The per capita valuation of all taxable property is under $500. The assessed value of land per acre with improvements in 1931 was $15. to $30.

The maximum per cent of families carried on direct relief by the K.D.R.A. from November 1932 to May 1934 was from 60 to 70 per cent. The amount of direct relief and work relief per capita given amounted to $18. to $20.

The bank deposits amount to $113,000, and the assessed valuation of the county is $1,130,220.

Map of Agriculture and Industry in the State of Kentucky. Copyright 1935, Karl Smith, Louisville, Kentucky.

Progress Report - State Planning Board of Kentucky.
Wild animals such as bear, deer, fox, coon, wolf, opossum, rabbit, squirrel and mink, wild turkey and quail were plentiful in Martin County in years past, but most of the larger animals and the turkey have entirely disappeared. There are still some coons, opossums, rabbits, squirrels and minks left.

The wolf possibly gave the early settlers more trouble than any of the wild animals, as they were very numerous and traveled in packs and very often attacked the stock and destroyed it, and sometimes have been known to have attacked men.

One man, Alden Williams, who was an expert hunter and could trail them for miles in the dry leaves and locate their dens and destroy the young and kill the old until they were finally exterminated from the county. Bears and deer possibly furnished the early pioneers and settlers more sport and excitement than any of the larger wild animals.

The bear was hunted and caught by different methods. The most primitive method used was a pen made from logs about 5x8 feet with a slide door in one side raised up so the bear could enter, and manipulated with a trigger or contrivance on the inside baited with a chicken to entice the bear in. When it would eat the bait it was so arranged that the trap would throw and let the trap door fall and close the bear up in the trap, so it was captured alive. Another way of catching the bear was with a large steel trap set in the woods, which the bear frequented. It was concealed so it could not be seen and the bear would step in it and be caught by one foot and captured or killed. Mr. G. C. Ward of Inez, Kentucky has one of these large traps now in his possession that was lost by a bear or some other large animal which was caught in it over one hundred years ago, but was found about thirty years ago and is still in fairly good condition. (Writer has just seen and examined it.)

Another and most effective way was with fire arms. The only gun
used in that day was the old flint lock rifle which was used by the pioneers with great effect and the hunter was so proficient in the use of it that they seldom missed the mark. The gun most used then was the Boon rifle and the Clivue and Armstrong.

The bear has been completely exterminated from this county. The last one killed was by a man by the name of Perry Gilmore at the Stafford Fork of RockCastle Creek in Martin County in his cornfield about 65 years ago.

The Hon. T. W. Newberry of Inez, Kentucky, giving his description of Mr. Gilmore killing the bear stated that Mr. Gilmore did not have enough lead to make a full sized bullet for his gun and slipped a bean into the moulds so the lead would make a full sized ball with which to kill the bear. The writer's grandfather Mr. James Ward killed a great many bears in Martin County in his day as he was one of the first settlers of this part of the state. His grandmother Ward has been known to kill more than one by herself.

The deer was once plentiful in Martin County and hunted extensively by the first settlers for food as it was considered to be one of the rarest meats to be found. It was no unusual thing to find an abundant supply of venison hams in the pioneer's smoke house or garret. It was a great sport and a profitable business to the early settlers of Martin County. In this county there are many salt water springs which the deer frequented as a place to get water and these places were called "Deer Licks". The hunter would go to these places and build blinds out of the bank of trees supported by poles large enough to conceal themselves. The blinds were located close enough to the place to shoot from. It had a door on the side, facing the lick and on the inside the man was prepared with a pine torch to make a light, and when the deer came to the lick for water they would light the torch and open the door and the sight of the light would blind and attract the attention of the deer so the hunter would have a good opportunity to shoot, and in this way many deer were killed. This method was considered to be the easiest way to get the deer. The hunter often found opposition at the lick, as the panther which roamed
the hills at this time was in the habit of watching the lick for the same
purpose and in some instances the hunter has been robbed of the game after he
had killed it. In some instances the women played no little part in killing
the deer. They have been known to use the rifle as effectively as the man and
on a few occasions have been known to rush on them after the hound had run
it down and killed it with an ax, stone or other weapon.

Probably the most fascinating way in hunting the deer was with a
pack of hounds whose music reverberated through the hills and valleys of Rock
Castle Creek for hours and sometimes days in their chase of the deer until
it, by sheer exhaustion would have to give up to the superior strength and
tenacity of the hound and became easy prey for the hunter. The deer, like the
bear has been long since completely driven from this county.

It has been over 50 years since the last wild deer was killed in
Martin County. The writer can faintly remember seeing the hounds chasing the
last one that was killed when he was a mere lad, over 50 years ago. It was in
the vicinity where Inez now is and was killed on the outskirts of the present
site of the town.

The fox is one of the notable of the fur bearing animals of
Martin County. The red fox is much sought after for its valuable furs. It is
also the most sly, cunning, and crafty of any of the wild animals, and
affords the hunter more pleasure, excitement, and sport than any other animal
that inhabits Martin County. There are quite a few foxes in this county yet,
which is the source of many a chase by the hounds of those who love the sport.

The fox is often a great nuisance to the farmer as it visits his
chicken roosts and carries off his chickens, and sometimes his pigs and lambs.
It also eats birds, and is considered one of the greatest destroyers of the
rabbit. The gray fox is a native of the hills and has similar habits to the
red fox. It is not as swift a runner as the red fox and cannot endure as much,
hence it does not afford quite as much sport as the red fox, neither is its
fur as valuable therefore it is not hunted as much.
The red fox is much hunted and sought after for its fur which sometimes is quite valuable. One man in Martin County has been known to catch as many as 40 foxes in one season, with a single pair of hounds. They also catch a great many with steel traps, but they have to use a great deal of tact when they trap for them. They use some kind of bait that they like and dig a loose place in the ground and take their steel trap and cover it over with dirt so it is concealed from the fox, and then they scatter the bait over the ground and when the fox finds it he proceeds to eat it and while walking over the bed to get the bait he steps into the trap and is caught. This probably is the most effective method of catching them.

Chasing the fox with hounds is a great sport. Different ones own several hounds and they meet on certain occasions and at specified places and have a chase and see whose hound is the fastest.

The raccoon, a beautiful small animal weighing from 30 to 50 pounds is a dark gray color with dark rings all over its body, extending to the tip of its tail. It does its foraging principally at night. It lives principally on corn, nuts, crawfish, and fish. It will travel the branches and small creeks sometimes for miles in pursuit of food and late in the fall of the year it often frequents the cornfields and eats and destroys a great deal of corn. It is frequently hunted at the corn field and the farmers usually have several coon dogs and often after dark he will take his dogs and go to the field in search of him and when they are successful in locating him the dogs soon put the coon up a tree and then the fun and excitement begins. The hunter usually takes along an ax and they lose no time in felling the tree and the dogs are so well trained that the moment the tree hits the ground they are at the top of it ready to engage the coon in a fight, which is usually quite interesting. The coon is a great fighter and if the dogs are not experienced fighters, they are sometimes bested by the coon and the hunter has to go to their rescue and kill it.

The meat of the coon is considered by many to be a fine dish,
I'm not sure what the content of this text is. It seems to be discussing animals and their behaviors, but I'm not sure I can accurately summarize it without more context.
The gray squirrel is more numerous than any other animal in Martin County. In fact you very seldom see any other kind.

In the early history of Martin County it was no unusual thing for the hunter to kill from 25 to 40 squirrels in a single day; its meat was perhaps more extensively used for food than most any other animal. It lives principally on nuts and berries and corn. It is one among the cleanest animals that live in the woods, hence it was much sought after for food. In the days of the early settler these were abundant and there were plenty of chestnuts, hickory nuts, beech nuts, and acorns in this county, of which the squirrel was very fond and would travel along way to get. It was no uncommon thing to find 10 or 12 in a hickory, mulberry, or chestnut tree, and the hunter with his old fashioned muzzle loaded rifle would have but little trouble in getting the most of them. It was customary for the farmer to go out before breakfast in the morning and procure the meat for the noonday meal.

The squirrels live in hollow trees in the woods and raise their young there. It is perhaps the most thrifty, thoughtful and energetic of any other of the wild animals as it invariably stores up its winter supply of food in the fall of the year.

It has been known to store away several bushels of nuts in a season. The squirrel makes one of the most desirable pets of any of the smaller animals, as it readily becomes accustomed to confinement. It is often confined in cages and can easily be taught to do many amusing tricks. In the course of time it becomes quite tame, and when liberated remains around the home for years and affords a source of interest as well as an opportunity of studying its traits and habits.

In years past squirrels were not protected by law and the hunter would kill them anytime of the year, hence they were very often recklessly killed and destroyed.
As the squirrel is very fond of the mulberry, which ripens in June that is an opportune time to get them. The hunter would locate a tree and conceal himself near by and wait for them to come to eat, and in this way he would kill a great many of them while they were young as this was the season when the young were just getting large enough to get out and forage for themselves. Another time for killing them was in the fall when the roasting ear was ripe and they would often visit the corn field and the hunter would find it easy to locate and to kill them. Still later they fed on nuts, and perhaps at this season of the year they are more hunted for food than at any other time, as they are fatter and more desirable for food. There is quite a number of squirrels left in Martin County.
elapsed before any effort was made in the further development of the oil business in Martin County. But many years later people from the oil fields of the east were attracted to this county and came here in the hope of finding rich oil lands, so about the year 1897 three people by the names of Teague, Pullium and Allen came into Martin County and leased several hundred acres of land on which to develop the oil resources.

The first well they located was about three miles east of Inez on Black Leg Creek a tributary of the cold Water Fork of Rock Castle Creek. In this well they struck considerable oil, but not in sufficient quantity to pay. They also found quite a lot of gas.

The next well they drilled was at the mouth of Burning Creek on the WVa. side of Tug River about two miles above the town of Warfield. This well proved to be one of the best gas wells in the county if produced seven million feet of gas per day. The pressure was so great that it blew all the tools and the cable from the well intact it was so great they were unable to control it. It continued to blow out and finally caught on fire and burned for several years, producing a light at night that could be seen for a distance of 12 or 15 miles. This created great excitement through this section of the state and to other states, people rushed into Martin County eager to take leases on the land for the purpose of drilling oil wells, with the expectation of striking a gusher at any time. The excitement was high and the consequences was that a fairly good sized oil boom was started but by this time most of the desirable property had been leased, and the excitement soon quieted down and the people resumed their normal activities in the drilling of wells.
After the strike at Burning Creek, they transferred the scene of their activities back to the center of Martin County. The most wells were located on the Salt Well Branch one mile south of Inez, they drilled two or three fine gas wells in that section which produced several million feet of gas per day. From that time they began locating and drilling wells throughout the eastern half of the county at a rapid rate.

In the main time the gas people laid a 10-inch gas line from Martin County to Catlettsburg and Ashland, Kentucky through which they furnished the natural gas that is consumed in those towns, and later on to Huntington, West Virginia and finally to Lexington, Louisville, Cincinnati and on to larger cities of the East.

So the gas industry has continued to increase in this county until at the present time there are over one hundred and fifty producing wells that produce over one hundred million feet of gas per day, or about 27 million dollars worth per year. So one can imagine the immensity of the gas resources of Martin County.

The gas industry continues to develop each day as they have just recently bought in one well just across the creek from Inez on the side of the hill facing the town that produces over a million feet per day. And are starting to drill another one just in the edge of town.

Martin County is considered one of the largest gas producing counties in the whole country.

(William Slone, Inez, Kentucky)
Bibliography:

Dr. Fred W. Powers, Ashland, Kentucky
1. Martin County is not famous for producing any outstanding breeds of stock nor plants. It is not outstanding for quality nor quantity production.

6. There are no farm organizations to promote expositions in this county, but the citizens are invited to enter their products in the Eastern Kentucky Fair at Paintsville, and the Kentucky State Fair at Lexington, Ky., each year.

7. No fresh nor cured meats are raised for export nor for local sale on a large scale. Meat for home consumption is produced.

8. There are no handicrafts producing articles for sale or export.

9. No useful nor unique article is produced for sale or export.

10. There has been very little or no literary work produced except a book of poems that will be explained under answer to question #17. The citizens of Martin County claim that the metal plow point was invented and first used in this county. The claim is that a man took a piece to an old iron kettle and beat it into a point, then shot a hole through it so that he could fasten it onto a wooden frame. Otherwise it is not known whether Martin County is the home of any other invention.

11. Industry: Martin County was the second in the state to produce natural gas and is believed to be one of the richest natural gas fields.

Martin County in early days was possibly the first county to manufacture salt. This salt plant was located near Warfield in Martin County and was operated by the John B. Floyd and Company a partnership, that in 1854 was incorporated and the name changed to Warfield Coal Mining Company and later changed to the Warfield Coal and Salt Company. This company operated until 1875 when the company failed. These companies were chiefly owned and operated by John B. Floyd and his brother. John B. Floyd was one time Governor of Virginia and Secretary of War about the time of the outbreak of the Civil War. Warfield Coal and Salt Company sold all rights and in 1882 it was taken over by the Tug River Coal and Salt Company, with J. A. Barrett,
a colonel in the Mexican War and a close friend of President A. Lincoln, as president. In 1892 Lewis Berger of Cincinnati, Ohio took over the operation and in 1917 the Buck Creek Coal Company received the ownership.

The Buck Creek Coal Company then leased part of the Company to Earlston Coal Company, which is operating it now. The remainder was sold to Heinten Coal Company, which failed. The Heinten Coal Company was then taken over by the Martin County Coal Corporation, who leased part to Warfield Coal Company, who is operating now. The remainder of the property was then sold to the Warfield Natural Gas Company who is also operating it now.

This is a history of the Companies active in the manufacturing of salt and mining of coal. The first of the companies listed above sold both salt and coal, but the latter ones quit the salt business as it was unprofitable. Some of these companies not only manufactured salt and coal, but also made dutch ovens, etc.

The natural gas is the greatest resource now and most all of the gas rights belong to the Warfield Natural Gas Company who maintain offices in Inez, the County Seat of Martin County.

There is some oil in small quantities to be found in Martin County. The largest well is located on Rock Castle Creek, about nine miles north east from Inez. This well produces about fifty barrels a day.

At one time the timber industry was one of the leading industries of this county, but now there is very little timber left to be cut however, there is very little timber left to be cut, there is a large copperage mill located just outside of Inez, on the Kentucky Route 40. Brick has never been extensively used or manufactured, but there are two buildings in Inez, built of native baked brick. The two that are built of this native baked brick are the Martin County Court House and the Presbyterian Church and Academy. The bricks for the court house were baked by J. S. N. Dickens of Boyd County, Kentucky out
of clay found near Inez, in 1876, the year the present court was constructed. The brick was baked in ovens located just outside the back entrance to the court house.

The brick for the church were also baked near Inez, but it was done by a construction company at a much later date. The clay used in the baking of these bricks were too sandy and are now crumbling and it is for this reason that bricks are not a profitable business in Martin County.

There are three large buildings in Martin County, built of the native stone. They are the Inez Bank, B. F. Richmond Building and a two story garage and residence building that is now being constructed. There is very little demand for the stone so no extensive quarrying is done.

12. The public records up until a short time ago were kept in very bad shape. Some were lost, some burned and some mysteriously disappeared. There were no fire proof vaults in Martin County to store the records in until about 1907 and even then it is doubtful if they were preserved as they should have then. Now the records are all typed and bound in heavy record books and stored away in thick walled vaults. All important papers are carefully filed away where they can be ready for the public.

13. No one has ever written the history of Martin County, that is no one has ever been known to have written it, but W. R. McCoy an attorney of some forty years practice in Martin County is probably the best informed citizen in the county and he states that he intends to write a history of the various families in Martin County, as soon as he can retire from active practice of law.

14. There are no newspapers located within Martin County, but in the neighboring county there are two good newspapers that carry articles about Martin County and the citizens of the county from time to time. Probably the most publicity Martin County ever received was when most of the nation's papers carried the stories of the famous "unknown tongue" cult slaying that occurred in Martin County.
There are no monuments or markers in Martin County except the stones in the cemeteries that show where the former citizens of Martin County lie at rest.

There are several small Indian mounds in Martin County, but they are scattered out and are of very small size compared to the others in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.

At one time there were several flint arrow and spear heads left by Indians, but all of these seem to have been plowed deep into the ground or carried away.

There are no known books published where the scene is in Martin County or the author from that county. Probably the best literary work of Martin County is a seventy page book containing 22 poems about the people and places in Martin County. This book was titled Big Sandy Poems and was written by Peter Clay over fifty years ago and was published and entered into the Library of Congress in 1890. In the preface Mr. Clay states that he didn't write these poems for fame, but that they were merely the product of his spare time.

In Peter Clay's poems you can easily interpret the thoughts that led him to write the poems. One of his poems was an "Ode to Eden". (Eden was the name of the county seat of Martin County until a few years back when it was changed to Inez.)

Mr. Clay is a descendant of the same family of Clays which produced Henry Clay, the great Kentucky peace maker. He was educated to be an attorney at the old A. & M. College or what is now Kentucky State University.

The first record we have of this section is when Dr. Thomas Walker went through on his return from an exploring trip through Eastern Kentucky in 1750. The first war that a Martin County man took part in was the war of 1812 and Ephraim Meadows was the only man to fight in it. A man by the name of Messers, from Martin County, fought in both the Mexican and the Civil War. Col. J. A. Barrett, a business man of Martin County was also a veteran of the
Mexican War. Martin County probably sent several of her sons to later wars, but no records of it are available.

19. Nothing of importance has attracted state wide nor nation wide importance.

20.

21. The largest stream near Martin County is the Tug fork of the Big Sandy River which flows between Martin County and the state of West Virginia. At one time house and steam boats were active on this river, but now the roads, automobile, railroads, etc., have improved to such an extent that it does not pay to operate river boats of any size. About all of the boats that can be found on the river now is the flat bottom boats that are used for fishing, and short river trips. Most of the roads in the county are common county dirt roads that are practically impossible in winter and dusty in the summer. Except for the Kentucky Highway Route #40 that runs east and west across the county connecting West Virginia and various points of Kentucky. This highway is kept in good condition, the year around.

The beauty of the county lies in her scenery as it doesn't have any points of very important historical interest. For hiking you can follow any of the roads that wind throughout the county and see many beautiful scenes.

22. There are very few amusement or athletic facilities in this county. A few outdoor basketball courts, a few tennis courts, are about all.

23. No manufacturing is done in Martin County.

24. In Martin County there are two high schools one of which is located at Warfield and the other at Inez, The high school attendance for the Warfield High School is 95 and 115 for the Inez High School. In the county there are also sixty-two elementry schools, fifty of which are one room
schools and twelve are either two, three, or four room schools. At the
beginning of the 1935-36 school there was a total of 3,250 enrolled and out
of this many the county had a regular attendance of 2,600.

Located in Inez is the Inez Presbyterian Academy, a school carried
on by the Presbyterian Church under the supervision of Rev. J. P. Courtney.
This academy is only fourteen years old and has seven seniors in the high-
school department to graduate at the end of the 1935-36 term. Beginning
with the 1936-37 term, however, the school hopes to be incorporated and
able to offer a two year college course.

25. There are very few collections of books in this county, the largest
probably being that of Rev. J. P. Courtney, principal of Inez Academy.

26. There are no paintings by famous people in the county.

27. There are no museums nor private collections of note to be found
in the county.

23. Martin County is chiefly composed of ranges of hills covered with
scrub forests. Martin County is located in the foot hills of the Cumberland
Mountains. All of these hills are colorful and scenic, except in the winter.

29. There are game preserves, fish-hatcheries, large stock farms,
and experiment stations in Martin County. A proposed game preserve will
include part of the northern section of the county.

30. At the present time there is no incorporated towns in Martin
County. Up until a few years ago Eden, now Inez, was incorporated, but in
order to take advantage of the State Highway the corporation was dissolved
and the name changed to Inez. Inez is a commercial town located on the
Kentucky Highway No. 40.

In Inez there are three garages, two restaurants, one drug store,
one bank, one post office, three general stores, one service station, two
grocery stores, one wholesale grocery, one hardware, one dry goods store,
five churches, two schools, etc. plus about sixty homes, two of which are
used as hotels.
Martin County has not produced a citizen who has become famous. Some of the leading citizens of Martin County are or were: A. J. Kirk, Attorney of Inez and Paintsville, that in his latter years represented this district in the United States Congress.

M. C. Kirk, although he held no high political offices, was a trustee of Eden, and member of the state General Assembly. He was an attorney and practiced many years in both Eden and Paintsville.

W. R. McCoy of Inez is today one of the leading lawyers in Eastern Kentucky. He has practiced for about forty years and been successful. Mr. McCoy is not only a good lawyer, but he is probably the best informed man in the county.

Lewis Dempsey is probably one of the, if not the wealthiest man in the county. For years he was president of the Inez Bank, but due to old age and poor health he was forced to retire.

There are several outstanding families in the county, that hold various county offices and it seems as though where an early inhabitant held an office a long time ago, their descendents hold one now. For example Phillip Cassady was the first County Court Clerk and today Rush Cassady is the County Court Clerk and U. G. Cassady sheriff of the county. The Stepp family is another leading family in the active life of Martin County, the first County Judge of the County was a Stepp and today the Circuit Court Clerk and the Magistrate from District No. 1 are both Stepps.
"J. R. McCoy, an Attorney of Martin County who is about sixty years of age and has long been a resident of Martin County."

Martin County Court Order Book No. 1

Inez Academy Catalogue for the year 1922-23

Kentucky State Planning Board reports of June 30, 1935

History of Kentucky, Volume one by Connelley, published 1922

John Johnson, Martin County Superintendent of Schools and long time resident of Martin County.

Rush Cassady, Martin County Court Clerk and lifelong citizen of Martin County.
Pioneers in every sense of the word, and profoundly religious, it was many years before the first settlers of the Big Sandy Valley began the erection of their first church houses. The first serious concern of these hardy pioneers was to get enough dwelling houses, which were built of rough hewn logs from the forest, to meet the growing demands of a rapidly increasing body of immigrants.

Fortunately, a fine old custom of the valley and time made churches something else than an absolute necessity.

Every dwelling was in a sense a church where daily prayers were said. Frequently large gatherings were held either inside the residences during the inclement weather, or outside in shady groves along the creeks or rivers when the elements were propitious.

The first inhabitants of the Big Sandy Valley region were almost without exception Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians. Other denominations were scarcely represented.

THE EARLY METHODISTS:

The Big Sandy River circuit makes its first appearance in the minutes of the Methodist church in 1809 when it is noted that the Rev. Benjamin Edge is appointed to this district, with James Yard, who was a middle-aged man, Presiding Elder. Cornelius McGuire, a local preacher having preceded the Rev. Edge by a decade or more, was the first to introduce Methodism in the Big Sandy Valley.

He came from Tazewell County Virginia, with the first settlers prior to the beginning of the nineteenth century, and in company with seventy-five other settled on the Big Sandy River in that region which extends from where Pikeville now stands to the mouth of John's Creek in Johnson County, a distance of thirty-five miles.
The records show that the first Methodist Society was organized by Mr. McGuire at the house of Henry Stratton in 1793, and consisted of Corneilius McGuire and wife, William J. Mays and wife, Henry Stratton and wife, a number of laymen, John, Auxiers, and others. It was about the time of the war of 1812, that the Big Sandy Circuit was established in the southern province of the Methodist Church.

One of the first ordained preachers to ride this circuit was Rev. Marcus Lindsey, who was a devine of talent and culture. He made a lasting impression throughout the region. Following him, about 1834 the Rev. William B. Landrum took up his among the people of the rough and sparsely settled country.

In these early days Bishop Hubbard R. Kavanaugh preached many times in the lower part of the Big Sandy Valley. Other local preachers were Rev. A. D. Callihan, Methodist, who lived in Ashland, the Rev. James Pelphrey, Baptist, of Johnson County; and the Rev. Wallace Bailey, Baptist of Harrison County. All were notable preachers during the first half of the nineteenth century. The Rev. John Jordon, Benjamin P. Porter, Andrew Johnson, George V. Price, and Godwin Lycans, all Baptists, began their noteworthy backwoods service about the year 1850.

Besides these preachers who lived in and rode the Big Sandy Circuit, there were a number of others, Burwell and Stephen Spurlock, who lived on Twelve-pole Creek in Virginia, now West Virginia and the Rev. Philip Strather, a native of Carter County, who frequently came into the Big Sandy district to hold their meetings.

It is said that one of the most eccentric and interesting of the early Baptist preachers was the Rev. Henry Dixon, who was quite as good a fiddler as a preacher. The fact that he always opened and closed his services with his own music in a country where music of any kind was appreciated made him unusually popular. The life of the preacher riding the Big Sandy Circuit in the early days was an exacting one.
For his outfit he usually had a good horse, saddle, bridle, a comfortable suit of clothes and a warm overcoat. Usually he was equipped with a pair of saddle-bags in one of which he carried such changes of clothing as he needed, and in the other a small Bible and hymn book. He liked with the people to whom he ministered, and was treated as one of the family. His journeys, always lonely and fatiguing, took him through wild and unsettled regions. He stayed wherever night or storm overtook him, and no cabin was too small or poor to show him welcome and hospitality. For many years the Little Sandy and Big Sandy Circuits were combined, and when the Rev. Kavanaugh, later Bishop Kavanaugh, first rode through this rugged and unsettled district, there were no established roads or other lines of communication. Nothing that could easily be called a road existed between the mouth of the Big Sandy River to the settlements on up to its source. Trails or mere bridle paths only were to be found along the streams and rivers, and the entire country was practically a wilderness.

The Big Sandy Circuit extended from the mouth of the Big Sandy River, south to the headwaters in Pike County and covered all the territory which is now included in Greenup, Lawrence, Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Morgan, Johnson, Martin, Floyd, Knott and Pike Counties. There were twenty-four preaching places, and each place had to be filled at least ever four weeks. The work was divided between Bishop Kavanaugh, and Luke P. Allen who was the senior preacher of the region.

It is interesting to note that no preacher of this early period considered his equipment complete without a small marking iron. This tool consisted of a sharp pointed iron rod about six inches long, and was used to mark a tree usually, a beech at the fork of the path, so there would be no trouble in finding the way thereafter. This method of tree marking was in the nature of blazing, except that it was not done with a hatchet. It is strange to learn that these men-ither forgot
to mark the trail or marked it incorrectly, and thereby frequently confused themselves. There is many an incident where the preacher was entirely thrown off his regular route, because of their failure to mark the trees correctly.

About the time Mr. McGuire was engaged in completing the organization of the Methodist society in the vicinity of the mouth of John's Creek, Mr. William Buchanan, a native of Pennsylvania moved to the Big Sandy Valley and settled on the Kentucky side about sixteen miles above the mouth of the river. Buchanan post office still marks the locality. He was a Presbyterian and one of the first of this denomination in this section. The Rev. John Johnson succeeded the Rev. Edre in this district, and organized a Methodist society in the northern part of the valley, where a church was built on a lot donated by Buchanan in 1846. Shortly thereafter another society was formed at the house of Charles Hires one mile above the mouth of Big Sandy, close to the river bank, an land later owned by William Hamton. From 1816 to 1836 the dwelling of Mr. Hires was used as a regular chapel. Subsequently the home of Mr. Hamton was used. About the middle of the century a church was built jointly by the Methodists and Presbyterians.

In 1812 a Methodist society was farmed at John Burgess's, eight miles above Louisa.

About the same time another was organized at the mouth of Paint Creek, in the house which was later occupied by Moses Preston.

Preaching was also held in the homes of Hezekiah Borders and Judge Borders.

The Prestonsburg Methodist society which was formed about this time was generally held at the home of Harry B. Mayo, and later at the home of Linnie Mayo. Soon thereafter a society of Methodists
was organized at Pikeville, and then at adjacent points along the river under the direction of ordained itinerant preachers, chief among them was the Rev. Kavanaugh.

**BAPTIST SOCIETIES AND CHURCHES**

Although the Methodists were undoubtedly the first to effect a permanent organization in the Big Sandy Valley, they were but slightly in advance of those settlers professing the Baptist faith. The United Baptists as they were called, were composed of a large association of local societies, which were known as the Union, Big Blain, Joint Union, Upper Fork of Saint Creek, George's Creek, Rockcastle, Silver Creek, Little Blain, Tom's Creek, Pristonsburg, Zion, Hoods Fork, "the Creek, or Wining Springs Churches. Many of these infant Baptist societies were formed very early in the nineteenth century. In this association of churches, the Rev. John Borders was one of the most active and able preachers. The Rev. William Wells, Cornwallis Bailey, James Sulphrey, and James Williamson who served from 1825 until after the middle of the nineteenth century, were calabarers with Rev. Borders. These hardy preachers of a day not all but forgotten were strong minded picturesque characters. Their whole-soiled practical religion was thoroughly in keeping with the times and the region, and their visits were regarded as a treat, breaking the social monotony and isolation of log cabin life.

To the pioneer, the circuit rider was the personification of faith, integrity, endurance and frugality. These self-evident traits, so much admired by all people, were brought out in the early preachers by the Big Sandy circuit itself. The precipitous cliffs, the natural cave break, the flooded stream, the uncharted
forest, the beasts of prey and the occasional stalking savage, all made for strength of character. Preacher and parishioner fareing alike developed a strong unity of feeling.

The clothing of the settlers for the most part was taken from the gray and red buck that roamed the hills.

Articles of "home spun" were added to these, and gradually became more common. The bread baked in an open fire, was simply made from corn meal, which had been beaten in a mortar by hand. The meat of the time was bear, venison, turkey, and squirrel. To these were added wild honey, tree or maple sugar, sorghum and berries.

Many of the settlers made their own liquor, which stood for the times as well as hospitality, intemperance, however, was uncommon, and disorderly conduct was almost unknown.

The early Baptists of the Big Sandy Valley as elsewhere in the state, were distinguished by the titles regular and separate.

The separate Baptists were more extreme Calvinists than the regular Baptists, they refused to adopt any creed or confession of faith and were constantly changing in their doctrinal views. Although the regular and separate Baptists of Virginia and North Carolina finally adopted the Philadelphia confession of faith almost unanimously, thereby paving a way for an easy union between them, this did not occur in Kentucky. The freedom of many of the Baptists of early times may be seen in a number of primitive customs which prevailed among them. Some of these were taken from other religious societies, and some were necessarily expedients of the times, which have since been improved upon or eliminated. The ceremony of "laying on of hands" was in common use among the early Baptists of the Big Sandy Valley. Probably several centuries old, it was logically the equivalent of extending the right hand of fellowship to persons...
after baptism, and has long since been discontinued. "The washing of the feet" still spoken of as "Feet Washing" was a common ceremony among the early Baptists of the Big Sandy Valley. The custom still persists. It prevailed to some extent among the Regular Baptists, but was practically a part of the ceremony among the separate Baptists. In these early days quarterly meetings were frequently held during the summer months, at which times all of the members of a certain group of churches would congregate at one place to enjoy an extended preaching.

Besides affording a wide expression of religious feeling at a time when the Big Sandy Valley was but sparsely settled, these quarterly meetings formed a real and much needed social diversion for the young folks as well as their elders. Within the Presbyterian Church organization the Synod of Virginia, listed among the others, the Presbytery of Transylvania. This backwoods province included the adjacent regions of Eastern Tennessee, Southwestern Virginia and the Big Sandy Valley. Though there were a few scattered Presbyterians in eastern Kentucky early in the 19th century, they were unable to form well organized churches. It was for this reason that the growth and expansion of the Presbyterian organization in the Big Sandy Valley region came many years after that of the Methodist and Baptist Churches.
A DESCRIPTION OF SALT PETER ROCK:

This rock is located on the Peter Cave Fork of "olf Creek, about one mile up the creek it contains salt.

The height of it is about twenty-five feet and is about fifty feet in length.

This rock is located just on the top of the point about two hundred feet from the creek or water that flows. The temperature is different almost all the time. The rock doesn't contain any cave at all.
Sept. 14, 1938.

Fred Eichelberger
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Sir:

For reply to yours of the 12th instant would say that the County Seat of Martin County was originally named Eden. When they attempted to establish a post office in that place it was their intention to call it Eden but found that there was already a post office in the state by that name. The then post master at Louisa, Ky. named the post office Inez after his daughter, Inez Frank. The town continued by the name of Eden and was incorporated by that name by a session of the Legislature 1887-1888 as I recall. The charter was surrendered a few years ago and since that time the town has been called Inez the same as the post office.

The town of Warfield was established early in 1860. George R.C. Floyd and his associates acquired title to what is known as the Ben Say Grant and established the town of Warfield, drilled a salt well, put in salt works, opened up the coal and mined and shipped the coal by water. George R.C. Floyd was a brother of John B. Floyd of Virginia and who was secretary of war as I understand at the out break of the war between the states. Floyd was possibly one of the stock holders of the Warfield Coal & Salt Co. These properties passed from the Floyds and their associates to the Barrets. James A. Barrett was a colonel as I am advised, in the Mexican War, later a banker in Springfield, Ohio, and later acquired the Warfield properties and settled in Warfield a few years after the close of the Civil War. The Warfield Coal & Salt Co. was sold out and Barrett and his associates bid it in and organized the Tug River Coal & Salt Co. This Company continued to own the property until about 1892 as I recall when the property was sold under a decree of the United States District Court for the purpose of settling certain bonded indebtedness. Lewis Burger of Cincinnati, Ohio became the purchaser at a commission sale and continued to own the property until his death, and it developed in some way that he only owned 1/3 undivided interest and that Catherine M. Briggle owned a 2/3 undivided interest. The Burger & Briggles sold considerable of these properties to the Buck Creek Coal Co, and a few years ago sold the remainder of these properties to the Warfield Natural Gas Co.

A skirmish was had in the town of Warfield during the war between the states, but the town had been established, the mines opened, and salt works put in prior to that time.

I hope this information will be sufficient for your needs. Very truly yours,

W.R. McCoy
September 12, 1938

Mr. W.P. McCoy
Inez, Kentucky

Dear Mr. McCoy:

The Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration is preparing a Kentucky Guide Book which includes a tour through Martin County.

In the matter of the name of the county seat of Martin there is some confusion which you may be able to straighten out for us. It is this, that the name of the county seat is Eden and that the Post Office there is Inez. Other data gives the county seat as Inez. Which is correct?

If the name was changed from Eden to Inez do you know when and why the change was made? Was the name Inez adopted as a tribute to some local person?

This tour will enter the State at Warfield. How did that community get its name? When was it first settled? Has it always been known as Warfield? The data on hand here indicates that the place took its name because of a Civil War skirmish on the site of the town, yet it appears the town was settled long before 1861.

Any information you may be able to supply will be most highly appreciated. An enclosing self addressed envelope for your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Fred Eichelberger

Fred
General Description. Martin County is situated in the extreme eastern part of the State with Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River separating it from West Virginia. It was created out of parts of Pike, Johnson, Floyd and Lawrence counties in 1870, only 4 counties having since been added to the group composing Kentucky. The county was named for John P. Martin, who was said to have been greatly beloved by the people of the mountains and who took a prominent and active interest in political affairs of his district from 1840 to 1860. The county's area is 145,280 acres, identical in size with Mason County. Elevations attain something like 1,500 feet above sea level.

Population. Latest estimates of the Census Bureau give the county 7,654 inhabitants. There were said to be less than half a dozen negro inhabitants in 1920. The number of males between 15 and 44 years of age was 1,342. The number of females within the same age limits was 1,218.

Mineral Resources.* The rocks of Martin County—sandstones, sandstone conglomerates, sandy shales, shales, and coals—are referable entirely to the Coal Measures (Pennsylvanian). With the exception of a general distribution of outliers of the Allegheny capping the higher ridges, in the southern and northern parts of the county, the surface consolidated beds in this district fall within the Pottsville series. The flood plain of the Tug Fork and the lower waters of its branches contain unconsolidated sands, gravels, clays, and silts of Recent and Pleistocene age.

The surface structural aspect of Martin County is broadly anticlinal. Specially a two-pronged broken plunging arch, known as Inez-Warfield anticline, stretches into the district from West Virginia on the east and is met by the Paintsville and Grassgy Gap anticlines reaching into the county from the west producing a low anticlinal saddle on the upper waters of Rockcastle Creek. The southern flank of the Warfield component of this conspicuous arch is broken by the Warfield fault, a normal fracture widely recognized throughout West Virginia as associated with the Chestnut Ridge disturbance extending many miles northeastward into Pennsylvania. The displacement along the Warfield fault in Kentucky varies from 25 feet to 125 feet. It is readily seen in the Tug Fork valley about a mile above Kermit.

The sub-surface structure (Big Lime-Mississippian) is in effect a somewhat intensified reproduction of that seen at the surface and mapped on the Fire Clay Coal (Pottsville). Anticlines and synclines indicated by the Coal Measures are somewhat heightened in angle on the lower datum due to two factors: (1) thickening of the Coal Measure sequence to the southeast, and (2) pre-Pennsylvanian folding of low angle along similar axes to those occurring in the Coal Measures. As mapped on the top of the Big Lime, the Paintsville anticline extends eastward as far as the headwaters of Little Elk Creek with well defined doming closure two miles south of Inez. The south flank of the Warfield anticline becomes greatly steeped exhibiting dips of 125 feet to the mile immediately south of the Warfield fault. Another outstanding feature on the lower structural platform is the Long Branch Dome which appears with closure of about 75 feet near Nangatuck.

The normal regional dip of both surface and subsurface measures in the northern part of the county is to the north into the northeastern Geosyncline of Kentucky so evident in Lawrence County. South of the Warfield anticline, the regional dip of the surface beds is to the southeast into the Eastern Kentucky Geo-syncline which passes through central southern Martin County along a line of strike north 50 degrees east, following somewhat generally the main waters of Wolfe Creek which is in effect surficial geosynclinal drainage. The subsurface Mississippian, Devonian, and lower Paleozoic Measures fail to indicate the presence of a local Geo-syncline, and with ever steepening angles of dip plunge successively southeastward under the southern central Appalachian coal field.

The leading mineral resources of Martin County are bituminous coal and natural gas. In this district out of a series of about 12 coals, the following are the most important: Warfield,
Williamson, Fire Clay, Winifred e, Buff a l o Creek, Peach Orchard, Broos, and Richardson. During the year 1925 there were 438,076 tons of coal produced and exported from Martin County.

This district comprises one of the oldest and most important natural gas fields of Kentucky, the producing area being designated as the Inez gas field which extends from the vicinity of Kermit in West Virginia westward throughout the heart of central eastern Martin County. Commercial quantities of natural gas are produced at depths ranging from 750 to 1,500 feet, principally from the Salt (Pennsylvanian) Maxon, Big Lime, Big Injun and Berea (Mississippian) "Sands." The Ohio slate and the Corniferous limestone (Devonian) are also productive of natural gas but up to the present have been rather infrequently drilled. Natural gas development began in Martin County in 1881. In the peak year 1914 open flow measurements from 92 wells in Martin County amounted to a daily 90,000 M cu. ft., and maximum deliveries of 18,000 M cu. ft. per day were being made. This large gas production was then utilized by several public utilities lines particularly those extending to Lexington, Louisville, Ashland and Cincinnati, and other cities. Natural gas is still being delivered to these lines from Martin County wells but in somewhat decreased amounts. Oil has been secured in commercial quantity in one or two indexing wells in this county, but has never been commercialized due to the importance of the region as a gas producing district. Carbon ratio is shown by coals and ranges about 60%.

Transported sands suitable for general construction purposes are available from some flood plain deposits of the Tug River, and also from channel deposits of Rockcastle and Wolfe Creeks. A surface structural map (1923) keyed on the Fire Clay coal with 10 foot contour intervals, and a subsurface structural map (1924) keyed on the top of the Big Lime with 10 foot contour are available. The district has been surveyed topographically on the Inez, Naugatuck and Harold quadrangles, (scale 1:62,500). The geology and mineral resources of this county have been described by the Kentucky Geological Survey in a number of separate reports—no unit county reports of Martin County having been prepared.

Bonded Indebtedness. Citizens in 1921 authorized by bond issue the expenditure of $150,000 for highway development.

Surface and Soil. The surface is extremely hilly throughout the county, with the valley bottoms restricted in size, narrow and meandering. Less than 20,000 acres represented crop lands harvested in 1924. The area in pasture lands amounted to 38,158 acres. The upland woodlands aggregated 41,299 acres.

Water Supply. Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River and Wolfe and Rockcastle creeks, along with their tributaries, water and drain the various sections of the county.

Industries. Agriculture and stock raising combine to produce the largest revenue of any of the county's industries. Coal mining is a close second. Sheep, cattle, hogs and horses, along with the diversified crops, are the chief products of agricultural enterprises. Timbering was once almost in the lead among the industries. There are sold to yet large areas of white and chestnut oak, poplar, ash, beech, linn, hickory and walnut, marked by trees of medium size. As indicated under "Mineral Resources," Martin County has long been widely known for its production of natural gas. Champions of the district declare the workings of the past have barely touched the pockets of gas that lie beneath the surface. Oil similar in quality to that found in the Pennsylvania field, it is said, has been discovered in various sections. It is marketed from a well near Pilgrim. There is a refinery for the manufacture of gasoline near Warfield.

A unique enterprise has been started at Davella, in the southern part of the county. Mountain plants are gathered for sale to wholesale florist establishments. Holly, holly, poinsettia, foxtail, fennel, holly, oak and various other plants adapted to decorative purposes are thus marketed.

Crops. The corn crop in 1924 amounted to 127,772 bushels. The harvest of white potatoes was 18,981 bushels. Twenty-seven thousand bushels of apples and 4,772 bushels of peaches were gathered. Cattle accounted for more than one-third of the $167,072 representing the total valuation of the county's livestock in 1026. Mules were valued at $42,355, and horses at $30,710. Poultry and eggs brought about $50,000 for the year 1024.

Transportation. The county has no railroad within its borders, excepting a branch of the Norfolk & Western Railroad 2 miles in length, extending from near Kermit, W. Va., to Himlerville. It is utilized as a coal bearing road. Closest stations at present for passenger, freight and express service are Kermit, on the Norfolk & Western, and Richardson, in Lawrence County, on the Big Sandy Division of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad.

Highways. The Garrett Highway, crossing the county from Warfield on the eastern border, through Inez, the county seat, to the western border line, is in course of construction. The section west of Inez was graded and drained in 1027, and similar progress, it is expected, will be made on the road east of the county seat during 1028. When completed through counties to the westward, this important highway will give the district an outlet to central and western Kentucky by way of Mt. Sterling. The road will cross the Mayo Trail near Paintsville, in Johnson County.

Tourist Attractions. Completion of highways will place before tourists many scenic attractions in this county. The section along Middle Fork of Rockcastle Creek between Inez and Davella is described as a hunter's paradise where small game abounds.

Educational. Two high schools and 31 white elementary schools, with 63 teachers, accommodate the school population of the county, the children in the county schools being graded numbering 2,774, according to the census of 1026. No private schools or colleges are located in this county.

Cities and Towns. Inez, the county seat, is formally known as Eden, a name yet applied to it by many of the older citizens. It has about 500 inhabitants. It is a banking town with several general stores. Himilerville is also a banking town. A monthly newspaper is published here.

Opportunities. Coal, oil, gas and timber are things in which capital may seek investment with possibilities for rich reward, it is claimed. There is declared to be an abundance of native labor which may be enlisted in various projects. Soil and climate are both adapted to fruit growing, it is pointed out, and this industry, as well as poultry and stock raising, may well engage the interest of investors. Facilities for reaching markets will be at hand early in the future, it is cited, with the completion of highways and possible penetration of the territory by railroads.

Citizens of the county point out that exceptional opportunities are offered in Martin County for the establishment of community center schools where the youth of the territory may be trained to make rustic furniture from the native woods, or develop such crafts as weaving, rug making and quilting, in conjunction with their academic training.

References. Inquiries for specific information regarding the county may be addressed to:

Parnell Crum, Notary Public, Davella.
Natural Gas:

In the field notes recorded by George Washington in his survey of Tug River is the fact that he discovered a burning spring bubbling up out of the water near Warfield, Kentucky in 1766. Attracted by the gaseous odor it produced he and his engineer stepped as near as possible to the burning water and fired his cap and ball pistol directly over the top of the bubbles. A flame shot up ten feet high above the bubbling water and continued to burn in spite of all their efforts to extinguish it thus giving it the name of "Burning Spring". This led finally, to the boring for oil at this spot a great many years later. At the depth of one thousand feet they found a "gusher" well, but not oil as they had expected, but natural gas. This well is only 60 miles from Ashland, and is still producing after having yielded untold millions of feet of gas since 1900. It is piped through large mains and brought to Ashland and piped throughout the city for both commercial and domestic purposes.

Mr. A. C. Campbell, a retired banker, promoted the introduction of Warfield Natural Gas products into Ashland. There was erected on the west side of the Ventura Hotel at that time (as well as now) a three inch gas pipe reaching far above the top of the building and on the gas opening day it was lighted by a Roman candle being shot off after the gas was turned on.