

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Place Names in Boone County

by

William Fitzgerald

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WILLIAM FITZGERALD
31 DORTHA AVENUE
FLORENCE, KY.

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BOONE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Unfortunately, our illustrious ancestors did not realize that they were leaving footsteps on the sands of time and that we, their offspring, would be interested in their good works.

We are able to take what records they did leave and to put the parts together. It is too bad we cannot communicate with the departed pioneers and get some answers.

The County was, of course, named for Daniel Boon. It is probable that he came into the area once. A survey of the Big Bone area is credited to him. He was up, or rather, down the Licking River on several occasions.

Tanner's Station was named by and for Rev. John Tanner, the first settler of Boone County. He was here before 1790, probably in 1738 or 1789. He left shortly after 1792. I have a book in preparation on him.

The first settlers in Boone County were Scotch-Irish and English. Many had come from Virginia or from Pennsylvania, by way of Virginia. The names of places in the home-land were dear to them and they used them. It is not possible to say why certain places were so named; except that the name had some fascination for the people or that it was a reminder of home.

Petersburg, established by John J. Flournoy, was one of those names we cannot find reason for.

Craig's Camp undoubtedly belonged to John Craig. He gave land for the beginning of Wilmington, later called Burlington. Again, there is no trace of the origin of the names. There was a Wilmington in Campbell County, so named in or before ~~1792~~ 1794.

James Taylor, who established Newport, in 1795, laid out the town now called Taylorsport.

Constance. Again, no evidence.

Abner Gaines built the big house at Walton now occupied by the Gault Antique Shop. The community was first called Gaines Cross-Roads. I have maps on which it was so designated. Legend has it the Captainship Walton gave Abner Gaines financial assistance in building the house. I find no record of the Captain; but it seems logical that the town was renamed for him.

Communities were called by certain names by the residents. Later, when Post Offices were established, some names were changed to avoid duplication or for something more dignified or to honor someone.

Hebron was once called Briar Thicket and Tailholt. When Hopeful Lutheran Church "swarmed" and Hebron Church was formed the Hebron Lutheran Church in Virginia, the parent church of Hopeful, gave some financial assistance to the new church. So, the name Hebron was given to the church and the community assumed the name.

I doubt if any naming or renaming was made a formal event. It just happened over a period of time.

Union, Idlewild (there are several spellings), Verona, Francisville, I cannot locate.

There was ^{an} Hamilton Family at Landing. It was once a thriving community because of the steam-boat landing. It was incorporated as just Landing. Belleview is shown on some early maps as Bellville. It was on the land of John Grant. Perhaps someone knew the French word for pretty or beautiful and so named the town. When Post Office came the Bellevue in Cappbell County made a change of name necessary. It seems logical that it was named for John Grant.

Florence you probably have from the booklets.

Limaburg was at times Needmore and Florence Crossroads or just Crossroads. In 1884 a Post Office was established. The name of Lima was suggested as some of the residents were from there. However, to avoid possible confusion Limaburg was ~~xxxxxx~~ agreed upon.

Thomas Bullitt was one of the early surveyors send to survey the Ohio River. I have a deposition dated in 1802 stating that men of Thomas Bullitt's company came up Sand Run Creek and Surveyed for a site called Bullittsville. ~~Later the place is referred to as Bullittsburg.~~ I have heard the name Bullock's Bottoms used. I can not find and evidence to support this and consider it a mis-pronunciation.

There were Bullocks at later dates.

There was a community called Tousey Town at the mouth of Taylor's Creek. Named for Tousey who owned much property there.

Richwood may have been a descriptive name. There was a family named Rich.

Devon I do not know about.

*In home an other deposition of the same date
called, to see*

On Frogtown Road were many ice-ponds, where ice was cut in winter. Some was hauled to Cincinnati. These ponds had gold fish and other small fish that were sold for bait. There were some such ponds at Lookout Heights at the top of the big hill as one goes into Covington. These ponds, naturally, were occupied by many frogs, for which there was a market. Frogtown may have seemed a good name at the time.

Duck-head I do not know about. Nor McVile.

The 1883 Atlas shown a Gainesville at about the present location of Idlewile. There have been enough ~~Ganlies~~ families in the county to have named many places.

Rabbit Hash you have in the booklets. One guess is as good as another.

Pleasant Ridge was probably a descriptive name.

Normansville and Hathaway were probably named for families.

Beaver or Beaver Lick was no doubt named for the stream which was named for the beavers inhabiting it. However, I have never established the fact that there were many beaver here.

A Lick is a place on a stream or other place where saline or mineral water seeps to the surface and runs over the surface of the ground. Animals come to lick the salt. Early settlers made salt there or use the salt water to cook food.

Look up the Mary Ingles story about Big Bone. Its name seems self explanatory.

Dry Creek is low much of the time. It is very steep and water runs out quickly. Sand Lick or Sand Run, Mud Lick, Steep Creek, Landing Creek seem self explanatory.

Taylor Creek named for Rev. John Taylor, a partner of Rev. John Tanner.

Woolper for John David ~~Woolper~~ Woolpert (there are several spellings) He owned the whole bottom of Petersburg. John Tanner and John Taylor bought it from him.

Middle Creek and Second Creek were probably so named to help locate them.

Gunpowder I cannot explain. I do not find record of any powder being made. Perhaps its violent nature suggested the name.

Sugar-Tit also called Sugar-Teat. I am told that a lady went to the store there to get some sugar. Unable to get as much as she needed told the neighbors, or someone, that the store didn't have enough sugar to make a "sugar tit".

I do not know for whom Elijah Creek was named.

The present Petersburg -Hebron- Constance road is referred to in the 1883 Atlas at the Mitchellville-Bry Creek Road. I do not, at present, know about Mitchellville.

Fowler's Creek, McCoy Fork, and others were probably named for people living along them and some research might find them.

In a deed for some property in the Big Bone area I have reference to "Chicken Town"

Salem and Bethel probably have church significance.

The people who established Hopeful Lutheran Church had about 100 years of discouraging experiences in Virginia and the name expressed their ~~xxxx~~ attitude. (no doubt)

Point Pleasant, Pleasant Valley, Gimlet Gap seem to be descriptive.

There is a Wicked Creek in North Bend.

North Bend and East Bend, Split Rock are descriptive.

I have never been clear on the name Commissary. ^{Why} ~~who~~ should a store be called a commissary in a civilian community?

In the 1883 Atlas gives the names of the streets of Burlington as Water, Torrid, Washington, Gallatin, Temperate, Orient, Nicholas, Garrard, Jefferson.

Petersburg has Washington, Mill, Broadway, Tanner, Market, Main, Grant, Water.

Taylorsport has Water, Vine, Elm, Walnut, Locust, Maple.

McVille has Front, Center, Main, Vine, Scott.

Bellevue has Front, Sycamore, Main.

Florence has Center, Oblique, Shelby, Girard, Banklick. Youell.

Walton has a High Street

In 1806 the Town of Caledonia was formed on the land of John Grant. No other record of it. Probably became Bellevue.

In 1815 a town was established on the lands of Col. Edward Meeks on the Ohio River and Middle Creek Bottoms to be known as Mt. Vernon. This became Bellevue.