

## THE POST OFFICES OF KENTON COUNTY

Kenton is Kentucky's ninetieth county in order of formation and, with a 1990 Census count of 142,000, its third most populous. It is separated by the Licking River from Campbell County from which all of it was taken by legislative act on January 29, 1840 when it assumed its present boundaries. Like Campbell, Kenton County's 163 square mile area has an undulating terrain with very arable uplands and productive strips of bottom land along its many streams. At least this was the case until the late nineteenth century when suburban development in the central and northern sections of the county took most of its land out of agriculture. With these Ohio and Licking River tributaries--notably Dry Run, Fowler's, DeCoursey, Bank Lick, Cruises, and Bowman's Creeks--most of Kenton's nineteenth century settlements and much of its early history were significantly associated. The county was named for the famed frontiersman Simon Kenton (1755-1836).

Also like Campbell County, Kenton has two county seats--the centrally located Independence, seventy three road miles north of downtown Lexington, and Covington, the county's largest city, on the Ohio River, across the Licking from Newport. While the county has twenty one incorporated communities, only nine had their own post offices and two still do. The rest have always been served by branches of the Covington office.

Most of the post offices described below are located by road miles from the court house in Independence. The first nine of these offices were established before Kenton was taken from Campbell County. Four of them ceased operation while they were still a part of

Campbell, though two were later re-established in other names.

The second class city of Covington had Kenton's first post office. Kentucky's ~~fourth~~ largest in population, the town developed from a two hundred acre tract between the Ohio and Licking Rivers early called The Point from which military operations against the trans-Ohio Indians were staged. Around 1790 Thomas Kennedy acquired this site that had been a part of George Muse's original 5,300 acre warrant, and within two years had built a home, landing, and tavern, and begun ferry service across the Ohio to the new city of Cincinnati. By the mid 1790s the local settlement was thus called Kennedy's Ferry.<sup>1</sup>

In 1814, 150 acres of Kennedy's land were sold to the brothers John S. and Richard Gano and Thomas D. Carneal on which they founded the town they named for General Leonard Covington. Covington, (ne 1768), a Marylander who had briefly represented that state in the U.S. Congress (1805-07), was mortally wounded in the battle of Chrysler's Field in November 1813. The new town's plat was recorded in August 1815, and its post office was established on October 3 of that year, with Henry M. Buckner, postmaster.

Though Covington was chartered as a city in 1834 it enjoyed only a modest growth until the last quarter of the century. Then a series of annexations contributed to an expanding population that peaked in 1930 at over 65,000. Since then, Covington has been losing out to its own suburbs and its population is now down to only 43,000.

The act creating Kenton County also called for the establishment of its seat at centrally located Independence. But in 1843 the new government, acknowledging the inconvenience of this site to the citizens of Covington, <sup>some ten air miles north,</sup> transferred governmental activities to the

city on the Ohio. Since that time, most of the county's governmental operations have been performed in Covington, now in a ten story office building on Scott and Third Streets, on the site of the old Federal Building and Post Office. Independence remains but the titular seat of the county with branch office functions in its own court house.

Kenton's second post office was Dry Creek which is said to have been on the road between Florence and Covington, some three miles northeast of the former and six miles from the latter. This is roughly the route of the present Dixie Highway (US 25/42). That would make the office, in intermittent operation between December 9, 1825 and late September 1866, somewhere in the present city of Crestview Hills. John G. Ellis may have been its first postmaster. However, the office could have been in existence, at this or another site, as early as 1821.<sup>2</sup> It was obviously named for its location just south of the head of the aptly named wet weather stream (aka Dry Run Creek) which joins the Ohio River just below the Boone County line.

As stated in the chapter on Campbell County, its seat of justice for a short time was located in the small settlement of Visalia. [veye/sāl/yə]. This vicinity, on the west bank of the Licking River, had been settled around 1800 by the Nathaniel Vise family. On 140 acres Nathaniel Vise, Jr. in 1818 laid out and founded the town that, by 1823, when the Campbell County seat was moved here from Newport, was known as Visalia.

The first post office to serve this area was also called Visalia, and operated from July 12, 1826 through October 1835. In 1859 the New Canton post office (which William J. Reddick had established

-4

on January 2, 1855 at the Covington and Lexington Railroad's new station of that name, a mile north) was moved to the Visalia settlement and, again as Visalia, operated till 1934.<sup>3</sup> Sometime after 1870 the station also moved to Visalia and also took this name. In March 1859 Visalia was incorporated, though this status must have changed sometime later for it was again incorporated, in 1976, as a sixth class city. Its two hundred residents now (1990) make their home in the area between Ky 177 and the river, some 7½ miles ese of Independence.

Kenton's second largest town (with a ~~1990~~ population of some 16,000) is the third class city of Erlanger between the Boone County line, Dry Creek and Carran Drive, and the Dixie Highway which divides it from its southern neighbor Elsmere. Its city hall is about 8½ miles nww of the court house in Independence.

This area was first settled. shortly after 1800, by Bartlett Graves. By the late 1820s it had become the crossroads community of Timberlake. This was named for Graves' neighbor, Dr. William Thornton Timberlake (1794-1857), who had also acquired considerable acreage on the south side of the present Dixie Highway, the first major road between Covington and Lexington, that Timberlake helped to build. Dr. Timberlake also established Timberlake, the first post office to serve this area, and was its only postmaster, from October 24, 1829 to mid July 1835.

By 1877 the Cincinnati Southern Railway had been built through this area and a station was located where the tracks crossed the Dixie Highway. It was named Greenwood Station for Miles Greenwood of Cincinnati, the railroad's first president. The post office estab-

lished in this name by B. Frank Bedinger on October 29, 1877 became Greenwood Lake the following April, taking the name of the eight acre pond built by the railroad half a mile north of the depot-post office to supply the water for its steam engines. Actually, the pond was called Silver Lake for its silvery appearance, and this name was given to the station to avoid confusion with other Greenwood names borne by other stations on the line. But Silver Lake was disallowed for the post office which remained Greenwood Lake till it became Erlanger on May 20, 1882. By 1879 the Greenwood Lake name had also been applied to a small community providing summer residences to Cincinnati businessmen now able to commute by rail to their places of employment, four miles north.

Whence Erlanger: In October 1881 the newly organized Cincinnati New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railway Company was assigned the lease of the Cincinnati Southern which had fallen on hard times. Fifty one per cent of the CNO's stock was owned by a British syndicate controlled by Frederic Emile d'Erlanger (ne 1832), the German-born owner of a firm of Paris banks. As part of his effort to help the ailing rail line, he encouraged settlement along its Kentucky right-of-way. Thus began the intensive development of the entire area between Covington and Florence and led to the incorporation, in 1897, of the city of Erlanger.

Actually the community that was to become the city of Erlanger had been given this name before the local post office adopted it in May 1882. On July 1, 1920, the post office became a branch of the Covington post office and now serves the community from its city hall on Commonwealth Avenue.

Cloyd's Cross Roads and Sayers' were two shortlived and as yet unlocated post offices in the south central part of the county. The first was operated by James Cloyd from May 27, 1830 through October 1835. The other suggests a location somewhere on Sayers' Fork, a three mile long branch of Cruises Creek, that heads just northeast of Bracht. It operated from May 26, 1832 till early December 1835 with Henry Sayers as its only postmaster.<sup>5</sup>

Grants Bend of the Licking River and the area adjacent to it, some eight or nine miles south of downtown Covington, were served by four Kenton County post offices. The first, in operation from September 7, 1832 through 1850, was Barry and was probably on the road that is now Ky 177, just north of the Ryland Heights city limits. Thomas J. Hordern, its first postmaster, likely named it for then U.S. Postmaster-General William T. Barry of Lexington, a former member of the Kentucky Senate and the U.S. Congress and sometime Chief Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals.

On May 19, 1879 this office was re-established half a mile east of the old Barry site as Grants Bend to serve the nearby Kentucky Central Railroad station of Grants. Jacob Hempfling, its first postmaster, was succeeded in 1882 by the Michigan-born Peter McVean, who had settled in that area just before the Civil War, and ran the office through April 1898. McVean's successor, Elizabeth Hackett, had the office moved three rail miles north to serve Culbertson's Station and the new community of Springlake, assuming the latter name. In November 1900 the office was moved again, 0.3 miles north, where it continued as Springlake till 1968.

The Springlake name is merely presumed to have derived from an aptly named local feature of which nothing has been learned. It is not even known when and to what the name was first applied. Culbertson was probably named for the area family that had come from Ireland around 1813. William, a local cooper and horticulturist, was its best known member.

Grant's Station got its own post office again on December 9, 1911, but instead of postmaster Roy E. Anderson's preferred name Grants Bend it was called McVean, probably for his predecessor. But this office operated only through late June 1913 and the community and station are still identified as Grants.

The Grants Bend area was early named for the pioneer Campbell County Grants. W.S. Grant (ne 1807) still owned much of the land in the bend by the early 1880s. In 1961 the U.S. Board on Geographic Names officially corrected earlier government maps that had mistakenly identified the area as Grand Bend.

On January 8, 1834 David L. Fisk (ne 1800), a physician, gave his family's name to a post office he established on the present Ky 17, 10 3/4 miles south of the Independence Court House. Here the Fiskburg post office operated through June 1858. In July 1877 Dr. John F. Ellis re-established it as Fiskburgh to serve Charles E. Fisk's store and several other businesses and what may have been one of the region's largest tobacco warehouses. The office closed for good in May 1903.

Independence, the county's official seat, is now a fifth class city of some ~~10,500~~ residents centering at the court house on the corner of Madison Pike and McCullum Rd. (Ky 17 and 2045). A five

acre crossroads site nearby had been deeded in 1840 by John McCollum (sic) to be Kenton's centrally located seat, and its name marked the new county's independence from Campbell County.

What became the Independence post office on October 7, 1840 (with Thomas J. Hordern, postmaster) is said to have started as Everetts Creek on November 20, 1837 with Isaac Everett, postmaster. No creek by this name has been located and thus the site of this office is unknown. But since a mere five weeks later Everett had the office renamed Crews Creek suggests that it may have been on or near the stream, seven miles south of the court house, that to this day has been known as Cruises Creek. This creek, which heads just east of Walton and joins the Licking River at Morning View, was named for one of Anthony Wayne's officers who is said to have been killed by Indians on its banks.

In July of 1838 the Crews Creek post office was renamed Bagby for one or more local families who had given their name to the new voting precinct. Its location is also unknown.

Though Independence was incorporated in February 1842, it failed to develop beyond its small village status until the early 1960s when, to avoid Covington's southward encroachments, it responded to the request of its rural neighbors and began annexing large sections of central Kenton County. Today the city extends literally across the county, from the Boone County line to the Licking River, making it one of Kentucky's largest cities in area.

The shortlived (April 7, 1842 to July 1844) Licking Valley post office, with Thomas M. Clarkson, its only postmaster, has not been located. It could have been anywhere in the valley for which it was named.



At the junction of the present Ky 17 and 14, 8½ miles south of the Independence Court House, was Piner's Cross Roads. Here a post office in this name was established on August 31, 1847 with H.H. Mullins, the first postmaster. He was succeeded in September 1851 by James G. Piner. The office closed in June 1858. It was re-established on April 18, 1891 by James B. Piner to serve a store, tobacco warehouse, school, and the nearby Goshen Baptist Church. As Piner's Cross Roads, the preferred name, was too long, the office operated simply as Piner till it closed for good in mid May 1903.

Latonia Springs, the popular nineteenth century summer resort, with spa and hotel, was on the corner of the Highland and Madison Pikes in what is now the Lakewood section of Fort Wright. It was developed by Ralph Letton of Cincinnati after he had acquired the site in July 1829 from William Curry, Jr. At first it was called Lettonian Springs but this was soon corrupted to Latonia. In July 1832 Letton sold much of the land including the hotel he had built to Elisha Morgan. In the early 1840s, from Morgan's heirs, Dr. Stephen Mosher acquired the spa and ran it till 1866 when he sold it to a Cincinnati firm. It began to decline soon afterwards. The springs themselves dried up shortly after 1900.<sup>6</sup>

The name's derivation is still an enigma. Though most area historians believe, but for no reason at all, that it was named for Leto (whose Roman name was Latona), the mother of the classical god Apollo, I cannot help wondering if Letton hadn't named it for himself.<sup>7</sup>

The first post office to serve the resort was Bank Lick named for its site on the west side of the Bank Lick Creek which joins the Licking River three miles east. Aylett R. Critchfield and Elias

S. Ellis were its first postmasters. Dr. Mosher took over the office in December 1854 and, by March 1858, had its name changed to Latonia Springs. It closed in late April 1874, about the time the spa was losing its appeal. By 1870 the local community was known as Whitehouse, and this name (though spelled as two words) was given to the new post office that storekeeper George Waldmann alone operated between February 1, 1876 and late April 1879.<sup>8</sup>

On April 10, 1886, Frederick A. Cox opened a post office on the Bank Lick Pike (now the Madison Pike or Ky 17), about one mile north of the springs. This he inexplicably called Honesty. In August 1893 John Weisenberger moved the office 2½ miles south to the community of Sanfordtown (centering at the present Ky 17 and I-275 interchange, at the southern edge of Fort Wright), which name it then assumed. Despite its curious spelling, an obvious error, the latter was most likely named for the Covington descendants of Gen. Thomas Sandford (1762-1808), who had represented that district in the state legislature and, from 1803 to 1807, in the U.S. Congress. His son Cassius was a Covington banker, city councilman, and mayor.<sup>9</sup>

Some twelve miles up Bank Lick Creek from the springs, and 3½ miles southwest of the Independence Court House, was another Bank Lick post office that served an L&N station of that name from February 8, 1870 through November 1905. Zacharia Herndon, the local storekeeper and railroad agent, was its first postmaster. The aptly named creek itself heads just north of Walton and extends for about twenty miles through a fairly wide valley to the Licking River in South Covington.

The two Staffordsburg post offices served an area four miles southeast of Independence and three miles west of the Licking River. Storekeeper John Carroll opened the first office on August 28, 1850. From June 1851 till early the following May the office was inexplicably called Beauford. It continued as Staffordsburg till it closed in late August 1855.

The second Staffordsburg post office was opened by Pendleton Northcutt on December 29, 1890 to serve an already established village of nearly a hundred residents centering at the junction of the present Rt. 1303 and the Old DeCoursey Road. It closed in January 1902. Both offices are said to have been named for Nathan Stafford, a local blacksmith.

Neither the Weaver's Mill post office nor the mill it undoubtedly served have been precisely located. It may have been in the vicinity of Maurice Station. But this office probably holds the record in Kentucky for having the most postmasters in the shortest period of time. From December 30, 1850 through April of '51, four men (George A. Yates, James Scott, Elijah Yates, and Solomon Wayman) served in this capacity.

At the mouth of Fowlers Creek, a Bank Lick Creek tributary, was the Fowler's Creek post office. It was established by Joel Dedman and operated from January 29, 1855 till May 1866 when postmaster Paul Waite had the name changed to Scott. It continued to serve this small village, also known as Egelstonville, through August 1917.

The creek was probably named for John Fowler who ran a salt works on Bank Lick at least by 1796. Scott may have been named for the descendants of James Scott who had a home in the vicinity of Maurice

Station, a mile and a half north. Hiram W. Egelston, an Indiana-born store and hotel owner, had succeeded Waite as postmaster in 1869. Nothing but some homes now marks the site, unidentified on contemporary maps, three miles north of the Independence Court House.

The village of Morning View has one of the county's four active post offices. It is at the northwest corner of Ky 14 and 177, 1 3/4 miles ~~sse~~ of the Independence Court House, <sup>and</sup> just west of the L&N tracks on which it had long been located. While the local Covington and Lexington (later Kentucky Central and L&N) Railroad station was established in 1855 as Mullins Station for George H. Mullins, its post office, with Mullins as its first postmaster, opened on October 5th of that year as Morning View. Railroad officials are said to have been more impressed with the early morning view of the nearby Licking River from the site of the new depot than by the more prosaically named station. By 1880 the station and the community growing up around it had taken the Morning View name. The Post Office Department's preference for one word post office names did not prevail in this case, and while in 1895 the office became Morningview, it soon returned to the two word spelling it still bears.

Three rail miles north of Morning View is another rail station and the fourth of Kenton's active post offices. It was named for the county itself. Like Morning View the station and community it served began with another name--Benton. This probably honored Mortimer Murray Benton, a Covington lawyer and the first mayor of the larger town, who had helped the Kentucky Central Railroad secure its charter. The Kenton post office was established on February 3, 1858, with

James M. Crisler, its first postmaster. The station did not assume this name until the early 1890s. After several site changes, the post office is now located at the southwest corner of Ky 177 and the Old DeCoursey Road, nine miles southeast of the Independence Court House.

The shortlived Brown's post office (July 28, 1863 to late August 1864) with Winder F. Williams and Richard Brown, postmasters, has not yet been located. Brown or his family could have been its name source.

The even shorter lived Cruiser Creek (April 29 to early December 1868) with William J. Stephens, postmaster, is assumed to have been located somewhere on or near the creek its name was obviously corrupted from.

The fourth class industrial and railroad city of Ludlow, with a <sup>2000</sup> ~~1990~~ population of some <sup>4,200</sup> ~~4,300~~, overlooks the Ohio River and Cincinnati and is just west of the Covington city limits. It centered on a 1,200 acre military grant to Gen. Thomas Sandford that was later acquired by Thomas D. Carneal who built on the site a large mansion called Elmwood Hall for the local elm trees. In 1827 Carneal sold his estate to an Englishman, Thomas Bullock, who had ambitious plans for a model-town he would call Hygeia for the Greek Goddess of health. These plans were soon abandoned, and in 1831 the site was acquired by Israel Ludlow, Jr. who soon laid out and developed the town that bears his name. Its growth was later assured with the building of a bridge across the Ohio and the location there of Cincinnati Southern Railroad yards and maintenance shops. In February 1864 the city of Ludlow was chartered by the Kentucky legislature

and on August 22nd of that year the Ludlow post office was established with John McCormick, postmaster. Since the close of the post office in October 1906, the city has been served by a Covington branch.

On October 11, 1872 John Moss, a local hotel owner, became the first postmaster of the South Covington office serving the aptly named suburban community growing up at the junction of the Kentucky Central and Louisville Cincinnati and Lexington (later L&N) Railroads, three miles south of downtown Covington. In May 1880 Moss had the post office name changed to Milldale, the name of the local precinct, that had been taken from a large mill just south of the junction.

After a brief interruption in mid 1887, the Milldale post office was reopened by Robert Lee Bird, M.D., whose proposed name Latoniaville was disallowed for it was too similar to that of the Lawrence Co. office of Leotonia. But in July 1900 (Leotonia had closed in January 1892) the Milldale office was renamed Latonia for by then the community had become the city of Latonia.

The new city and its post office and rail station had been named for a nearby race track that was opened in 1883 by the Latonia Agricultural Association in an area once called The Flats and is now the site of the Latonia Plaza shopping center. The track, in turn, had been named for the springs (see above).

In 1909 Latonia became a part of Covington and its post office became a Covington branch. Some 15,000 residents in this area between Bank Lick Creek, the Licking River, and Ky 17 still proudly refer to their community as Latonia.

This name was also applied to another post office, operated at an unknown site between June 2, 1878 and June 1880 by Ellen O.

O'Neill, and to the sixth class city of Latonia Lakes. This community of some ~~400~~ residents is just southeast of the junction of the Taylor Mill (Ky 16) and Lipscomb Roads. Originally a community of summer cottages on three lakes created for water activities, it was incorporated in 1953. Two of the lakes are gone and most of the cottages are now the permanent homes of working class Covington suburbanites.

The residential community still called Ryland dates back to an 1850s Kentucky Central station on the grounds of the present Ryland Lakes Country Club, two rail miles north of Visalia. It was probably named for James W. Ryland, a local landowner, who later petitioned for its post office that operated only between October 7 1873 and mid April 1879 (with John M. Mendenhall, postmaster). This is not to be confused with the sixth class city (with a ~~1990~~ population of ~~200~~) of Ryland Heights, one mile north.

The St. Johns (Orphan) Asylum between Orphanage Road and I-275 gave its name to a post office at the junction of the old Lexington Pike (now the Dixie Highway) and Buttermilk Pike, about where the fifth class Lakeside Park's city hall is located. This office, with Thomas Hale, its first postmaster, operated between March 1, 1876 and early April 1894.

We may never know if Florida's Key West was the name source of the post office that served the community and railroad station of Bracht. But it did, from May 4, 1877 till mid February 1910, with Benjamin Quick, its first postmaster. It was first located in the vicinity of the junction of the present US 25 and Ky 14, 1 1/4 miles ssw of the Independence Court House, and later at the Bracht Station, half a mile north. The Cincinnati Southern (CNO&TP)

Railway station, an important livestock shipping point, was named by the railroad for Maj. F.B. Bracht, of nearby Grant County, the Provost Marshal in Lexington during the Civil War.

Ransom C. Pruett's (1840-1911) store on the present Pruett Road (Rt. 2045), between DeCoursey Creek and Ryland, and 4½ miles east of the Independence Court House, was the site of his Pruett post office which operated between August 24, 1887 and mid September 1907.

Three miles south of the Independence Court House, at the junction of the present Ky 16 and 17, is the extant hamlet of Nicholson. On land once owned and occupied (ca. 1814) by pioneer Elijah Williams, Harry C. Nicholson, M.D. petitioned for a post office. It was named for him and operated from December 22, 1888 through September 1907. John W. Sanders was the first of its five postmasters.

The Atwood post office, which Thomas A. Bird established on June 19, 1890, was named for Atwood Bird, an Independence banker, whose Virginia-born maternal grandfather, Robert Stephens, had first settled the area around 1813. The office, which closed in January 13, <sup>1907</sup> and the small community it served were on the present Ky 17, 2½ miles south of Nicholson.

A local family apparently gave its name around 1860 to the small settlement of Morgansville on the present Moffet Road (Rt. 2042), some seven miles sse of the Independence Court House. However, its post office was not established till March 14, 1891 when Laura Francis Morgan became its only postmaster. The office closed in September 1905.

Crescent Springs, another of Kenton's fifth class suburban communities, centers on Ky 371 (the Buttermilk Pike), just north of Inde-



pendence. This too began as a station on the CNO and TP (earlier the Cincinnati Southern) Railway around 1890 and was named for the springs that supplied the water for area farmers and the railroad alike. The Crescent is said to have referred to the railroad's nickname "The Queen and Crescent Route" applied after 1881 when the line linked Cincinnati (called "the Queen City") and New Orleans (called "the Crescent City"). The post office was established on September 25, 1891 on the Old Buttermilk Pike, just south of the tracks. Eliza Bird was the first postmaster. The city, incorporated in 1857, now has a population of over 27,200.

The short-lived (February 16, 1892 through January 1893) McGill post office was between DeCoursey Creek and the DeCoursey Pike at the southern edge of the present sixth class city of Fairview. It was named by and for its only postmaster John Milton McGill, though his preferred name was Taylor for his neighbor Robert Taylor or the nearby Taylor voting place.

The CNO and TP's Buffington Station, named for George N. Buffington, its resident agent, maintained its own post office, also called Buffington, from June 1, 1893 through February 1910. Just a third of a mile from the Boone County line (and 5½ miles northwest of Independence), it had only two postmasters--George W. Harrison and George Buffington himself.

Just below Ludlow is the Ohio River town and Kenton's ~~first~~ class city of Bromley. One of the county's oldest towns, it was laid out and named in 1848 by Charles Collins, a pharmacist, who had come from the Kent County (England) town of Bromley, ten miles south of London. <sup>10</sup> Bromley was already in use by an Owen County post office

when the Kenton town sought an office of its own. The new office was called Mullinsville and operated between March 3, 1899 and December 1907 with Carolina Bert and James A. Leonard in charge. Bromley was incorporated in May 1890 and now has some 1,150 residents. A recent attempt to merge with Ludlow was unsuccessful. The Mullinsville name remains un-derived. There were no known local families of this name, but I wonder if it could have honored the Covington banker and distiller, Alfred R. Mullins (ne 1846), then one of the county's wealthiest residents.

The post office of Towers served a small village on the Taylor Mill Road (Ky 16), three miles southeast of the court house, but now partly included in Independence's corporate limits. It refers to a tower built in the late nineteenth century on land owned by a George White. The post office, which opened on April 9, 1900, with John Walker Harris, the first of its two postmasters, was to have been called White's Tower but postal authorities, in their simplification kick, shortened the name to Towers and thus it operated through September 1907. A 1964 decision of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names legitimized the by-then acceptable though ambiguous White Tower which now identifies the place on published maps.

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Of Kenton County's forty post offices only those serving Covington, Independence, Kenton, and Morning View are still active. Five more currently incorporated communities had post offices that have since closed. Several places are now served by Covington branches. Most of the county's offices once served viable villages.

Twenty two offices were named for local or area families or individuals. Three bore the names of famous but not local persons. Two were descriptive. To nine were transferred the names of nearby features (four streams, two structures, a mill, a springs, and a race track). One was named for the county. Another had sentimental or political significance to the namers. One had two probable origins--local springs and the railroad that had located a station there. One name origin (that of Key West) is not yet known, and five places (Cloyds Cross Roads, Sayers', Licking Valley, Brown's, and Cruisers Creek) have not been precisely located.

Five post offices have names not originally intended for them. Nine served communities with other names. Seven had name changes.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Covington's Kennedy's Ferry is not to be confused with the Kennedy's Ferry on the site of the later Belmont and Mentor in Campbell County.
2. The 1821 starting date is given by Alan H. Patera and John Gallagher in their Checklist of Kentucky Post Offices, Lake Grove, Oregon: The Depot, 1989, P. 24.
3. No one knows why the post office and station were called New Canton, much less Canton. Obviously Canton alone was unacceptable since it was already in use by a Trigg County post office.
4. An article in the June 6, 1902 issue of The Kentucky Post reported an unsuccessful attempt to change the name of the Visalia community to Bethsalia, the name of a local summer camp, to avoid confusion with Versailles, the Woodford County seat. (Jim REIS,

- Pieces of the Past, Covington: The Kentucky Post, Vol. 2, 1991, Pp. 10-11.)
5. Current maps obviously err in spelling the stream's name as Sawyers. The Sayers name is still applied to a family cemetery just east of US 25, south of Bracht.
  6. Dr. Joseph Gastwright, "Latonia Springs" in the Papers of the Kenton County Historical Society, Vol 1, 1990, Pp. 26-28.
  7. If Ralph Letton was the source of the original name, couldn't its corruption to Latonia have been influenced to some degree by that of the classical goddess?
  8. Could this have been named for George F. Whitehouse, a wholesale grocer in nearby Milldale?
  9. Yet the Lake Atlas (1883) identified an A.P. Sanford as a Kenton County-born farmer living just west of the junction of the present Kyles Lane and the Bank Lick (Madison) Pike (Ky 17). And B. F. Sanford, the New York-born editor of the Cincinnati Weekly Enquirer, lived a short distance south.
  10. The merger of the English Bromley and other local communities in 1965 created the Greater London borough of Bromley with a population now in excess of 300,000.

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10. WPA--Federal Writers Project, manuscript on Erlanger, ca. 1940.

KENTON COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES

- ✓ 1. COVINGTON- (in Campbell Co.) 10/3/1815, Henry M. Buckner (?); 9/18/1817, Robert Perry.... 4/8/1826, Alexander Connely (sic); (into Kenton Co.) 5/18/1841, Hamilton Martin; 6/23/1845, Arthur Critfield (?).  
A P O
- ✓ 2. DRY CREEK- <sup>Est. 1821</sup> (in Campbell Co.) 12/9/1825, John G. Ellis; (into Kenton Co.); 7/10/1845, David Lindsay; 8/22/1851, Thomas R. Lindsay; Disc. 8/14/1858; Re-est. 9/14/1858, Robert H. Perry; Disc. 10/6/1859; Re-est. 6/4/1866, Elijah K. Herndon; Disc. 9/27/1866;
- ✓ 3. FISKBURG- (in Campbell Co.) 1/8/1834, David L. Fisk; 6/3/1840, Samuel Sargeant; (into Kenton Co.); 8/18/1841, Augustus B. Regnier; 12/7/1848, D.L. Fisk; (~~around the time of the Civil War it began to be known as Fiskburgh~~) Disc. 6/30/1858; Re-est. 7/2/1877(?), John F. Ellis; (by this time, it was known as Fiskburgh); 6/24/1886, John Frazier.... 4/1/1887, James Tungate; Disc. 5/5/1903, effective 5/15/1903 (mail to DeMossville);
- ✓ 4. EVERETTS CREEK- (in Campbell Co.) 11/20/1837, Isaac Everett; name changed to Crews Creek, 12/27/1837, Isaac Everett; name changed to Bagby, 7/6/1838, Thomas H. Hordern; name changed to Independence (in Kenton Co.), 10/7/1840, Thomas J. Hordern; 1/15/1841, Samuel N. Taylor.....  
A P O
- ✓ 5. LICKING VALLEY- 4/7/1842, James M. Clarkson; Disc. 7/3/1844;
- ✓ 6. PINER'S CROSS ROADS- 8/31/1847, H.H. Mullins; 6/19/1848, Gabriel M. Mullins; 9/9/1851, James G. Piner; 11/24/1852, Meramen Hightower; 7/21/1853, John Ellis; 10/12/1854, Gabriel M. Mullins; Disc. 6/30/1858;
- ✓ 7. BANK LICK- 3/2/1848, Aylett R. Crichfield (?); 7/19/1848, Eliad (?) S. Ellis.... 12/21/1854, Stephen Mosher; name changed to Latonia Springs, 3/1/1858, Stephen Mosher; 8/26/1864, Wm. W. Mosher.... 3/1/1869, Dannis (?) O'Neil; Disc. 9/19/1869; Re-est. 9/20/1869, Wm. Girvin; 3/20/1871, James Cruikshank; Disc. 4/30/1874;

- ✓ BARRY PO. <sup>9/7/1832</sup> (see camp. co. listing) w. of Lick R. (see Burr map)
- ✓ Sayers' PO 5/26/32
- ✓ Cloud's X Rds. 5/27/30

✓  
KENTON COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (2)

✓ 8. STAFFORDSBURG- 8/28/1850, John Carroll; name changed to Beauford, 6/18/1851, Thomas T. Mann; name changed to Staffordsburg, 5/7/1852, Robert B. Holliday; Disc. 8/23/1855; Re-est. 12/29/1890, Pendleton Northcutt; 5/22/1893, Cornelius Burke.... 6/23/1898, Elijah P. Northcutt; Disc. 1/3/1905, effective 1/31/1905 (mail to Kenton);

✓ 9. WEAVER'S MILL- 12/30/1850, George A. Yates; 2/3/1851, James Scott; 3/8/1851, Elijah Yates; 4/11/1851, Solomon Wayman; Disc. 5/1/1851;

✓ 10. NEW CANTON- 1/2/1855, Wm. J. Reddick; 10/16/1855, John Morris; 10/7/1856, Alexander M. Sanders; 8/27/1858, George G. Watson; name changed to Visalia, 2/8/1859, George G. Watson; 9/4/1860, Wm. Threlkeld....

Disc. 1934

✓ 11. FOWLER'S CREEK- 1/29/1855, Joel Dedman; 2/14/1857, Campbell J. Wayman; 1/22/1858, Jonathan McFan; 5/29/1865, Paul Waite; name changed to Scott, 5/8/1866, Paul Waite; Disc. 4/5/1869; Re-est. 5/4/1869, Hiram W. Egelston; 4/24/1884, Clarence E. Quick; Disc. 8/31/1917 (mail to Independence);

✓ 12. MORNING VIEW- 10/5/1855, George H. Mullins; 7/31/1860, Stephen R. Garrison....

APU

✓ 13. KENTON- 2/23/1858, James M. Crisler; Disc. 11/9/1858; Re-est. 2/25/1859, Samuel F. Roberts; 8/10/1860, Walter Stewart.... 4/2/1869, J.R. Wright; Disc. 4/6/1870; Re-est. 4/21/1870, Robert H. Read; 4/8/1874, Whiting W. Spilman....

APU

✓ 14. BROWN'S- 7/28/1863, Winder F. Williams; 3/9/1864, Richard Brown; Disc. 8/26/1864;

or 1866 (P+G)



✓  
KENTON COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (3)

- ✓ 15. LUDLOW- 8/22/1864, John McCormick (sic); Disc. 11/30/1865; Re-est. 1/4/1866, John McCormack (sic); 7/7/1871, Erastus C. Hankins.... 1/14/1898, Thomas Mason; Disc. 10/30/1906, effective 10/31/1906 (mail to Covington);
- ✓ 16. CRUISER CREEK- 4/29/1868, Wm. J. Stephens; Disc. 12/9/1868;
- ✓ 17. BANK LICK- 2/8/1870, Zacharia Herndon; 3/27/1879, Mason McCarty.... 10/15/1904, Daniel M. McCarty; Disc. 11/8/1905, effective 11/30/1905 (mail to Walton, Boone Co., Ky.);
- ✓ 18. SOUTH COVINGTON- 10/11/1872, John Moss; 6/15/1874, Homer H. Hunter.... 11/7/1877, John Moss; name changed to Milldale, 5/3/1880, John Moss; 7/20/1885, Wm. H. Rowe; 8/3/1885, George Mason; Disc. 6/10/1887, (papers to Scott); Re-est. 9/5/1887, Robert Lee Bird; 8/14/1889, John Moss.... 7/3/1897, Charles M. Horton; name changed to Latonia, 7/30/1900, C.M. Horton; 11/26/1901, John Moss.... 3/31/1908, Edward S. Morrison; Disc. effective 7/31/1909 (mail to Covington);
- ✓ 19. RYLAND- 10/7/1873, John M. Mendenhall; Disc. 4/15/1879;
- ✓ 20. WHITE HOUSE- 2/1/1876, George Waldmann; Disc. 4/28/1879;
- ✓ 21. SAINT JOHN'S ASYLUM- 3/1/1876, Thomas Hale; 3/20/1877, John Grees.... 4/17/1886, Samuel Cogswell; Disc. 12/13/1888 (papers to Erlanger); Re-est. 1/28/1889, Maurice Bisong; 5/1/1893, Jacob C. Hawer; Disc. 4/4/1894 (mail to Erlanger);
- ✓ 22. KEY WEST- 5/4/1877, Benjamin Quick; 9/1/1879, Benjamin W. Stansifer.... 3/11/1908, Ford C. Johns; Disc. 2/15/1910 (mail to Crittenden);
- ✓ 23. GREENWOOD STATION- 10/29/1877, B. Frank Bedinger; name changed to Greenwood Lake, 4/8/1878, Wm. L. Bedinger; 4/13/1880, Benjamin S. Culvert (sic); 8/30/1880, H.E. Johnson; 10/4/1880, Benjamin S. Calvert (sic); name changed to Erlanger (but doesn't indicate when).... 3/20/1882, George M. Bedinger; 3/19/1888, Edgar L. Garvey.... 8/22/1913, Helen L. Gurney; Disc. 6/30/1920 (mail to Erlanger Branch of Covington P.O.);

Timberlake's  
10/24/1829, Thomtn  
Timberlake; Disc  
7/20/1835



✓  
KENTON COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (4)

- ✓ 24. GRANTS BEND- 5/19/1879, Jacob Hempfling; 3/6/1882, Peter McVean; 4/28/1898, Elizabeth (sic) Hackett; name changed to Springlake, 6/15/1899, Elizabeth Hackett; 10/1/1909, John F. McCormack....  
Disc. 1968
- ✓ 25. LATONIA- 6/2/1878, Ellen O. O'Neil; Disc. 6/22/1880;
- ✓ 26. HONESTY- 4/10/1886, Frederick A. Cox; 7/22/1891, George G. Watson; name changed to Sanfordtown, 8/21/1893, John Weisenberger; 1/29/1898, Victoria Coombs; Disc. 6/15/1912 (mail to Covington);
- ✓ 27. PRUETT- 8/24/1887, Ransom Pruett; Disc. 9/13/1907, effective 9/15/1907 (mail to Visalia);
- ✓ 28. NICHOLSON- 12/22/1888, John W. Sanders; 4/6/1893, John Mires; 1/23/1896, Charles Nicholson; 9/29/1900, Robert C. Pope; 7/31/1902, (~~John W. Harris~~) Wm. W. Bird; 7/9/1903, John W. Harris; Disc. 9/12/1907, effective 9/30/1907 (mail to Visalia);
- ✓ 29. ATWOOD- 6/19/1890, Thomas A. Bird; 4/12/1893, John C. Williams; Disc. 12/24/1907, effective 1/15/1908 (mail to Morning View);
- ✓ 30. MORGANSVILLE- 3/14/1891, Laura F. Morgan; Disc. 9/2/1905, effective 9/30/1905 (mail to Morning View);
- ✓ 31. PINER- 4/18/1891, James B. Piner; 12/8/1893, Elmer B. Stansifer.... 1/16/1902, Wm. W. Rich; Disc. 5/5/1903, effective 5/15/1903 (mail to DeMossville)
- ✓ 32. CRESCENT SPRINGS- 9/25/1891, Eliza Bird; 12/15/1892, Mary (or May-?) H. Walton.... 1/14/1915, Rose Wahl; Disc. 9/14/1918 (mail to Erlanger);
- ✓ 33. MCGILL- 2/16/1892, John M. McGill; Disc. 1/27/1893 (mail to Milldale);

25

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KENTON COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (5)

- ✓ 34. BUFFINGTON- 6/1/1893, George W. Harrison; 2/21/1895,  
George N. Buffington; Disc. 2/28/1910 (mail to Erlanger);
- ✓ 35. MULLINSVILLE- 3/3/1899, Caroline Bert; 9/29/1900, James  
A. Leonard; Disc. 12/13/1907, effective 12/15/1907 (mail  
to Covington);  
= Bromley (P)
- ✓ 36. TOWERS- 4/9/1900, John W. Harris; 6/12/1903, Mary J. Hall;  
Disc. 9/13/1907, effective 9/30/1907 (mail to Visalia);
- ✓ 37. McVEAN- 12/9/1911, Roy E. Anderson; Disc. 6/30/1913 (mail  
to Springlake);

## Kenton Co. communities

- \* 1. Covington (city) ⊙
- \* 2. Dry Creek (dpo)
- \* 3. Fiskburg(h) (dpo) (com) x
- \* 4. Independence (co. seat) had been Bagby; before that Crews Creek; before that Everetts Creek ⊙
5. Licking Valley (dpo)
- \* 6. Piner's Cross Roads (dpo) → Piner
- \* 7. Latonia Springs (dpo) had been Bank Lick
- \* 8. Staffordsburg (dpo) had been Beauford; before that Staffordsburg (com)
9. Weaver's Mill (dpo)
- \* 10. Visalia (dpo, com.) had been New Canton ⊙
11. Scott (dpo) had been Fowler's Creek
- \* 12. Morning View (dpo) (com) ⊙
- \* 13. Kenton (dpo) (com) x ← Benson (com)
14. Brown's (dpo)
- \* 15. Ludlow (dpo, com) ⊙
16. Cruiser Creek (dpo)
- \* 17. Bank Lick (dpo) (com)
- \* 18. Latonia (dpo and com) had been Milldale; before that S. Covington
- \* 19. Ryland (dpo) (com)
20. White House (dpo) aka Latonia Springs
21. Saint John's Asylum (dpo)
22. Key West (dpo) = Brecht (dta) (com)
- \* 23. Erlanger (dpo) had been Greenwood Lake; before that Greenwood Sta. (city) ⊙ ← Timberlake (po)
- \* 24. Springlake (dpo) had been Grants Bend
25. Latonia (not #18, above) (dpo)
26. Sanfordtown (dpo) had been Honesty (com) x
- \* 27. Pruett (dpo)
- \* 28. Nicholson (dpo) (com) x
- \* 29. Atwood (dpo) (com)
30. Morgansville (dpo)
- ~~31. Piner (dpo) (com)~~
- \* 32. Crescent Springs (dpo) (com) ⊙
- \* 33. McGill (dpo)
- \* 34. Buffington (dpo)
35. Müllinsville (dpo) = Bromley (com)
- \* 36. Towers (dpo) aka White Tower (com) ⊙
- \* 37. McVean (dpo)
38. Lakeside Park (com) ⊙ x
39. Highland (com)
- \* 40. Taylor Mill (com) ⊙
41. Summit Hills Hts. (com)
42. Sunny Acres (com) x
43. Crestview Park (com) ⊙ x
- \* 44. Crescent Park (com) x
- \* 45. Lakeview (com) x
46. Fairview (com) x
47. Rosedale Park (com. and rr sta.)
48. Lamb (com)
- \* 49. Latonia Lakes (com.) ⊙ had been Taylor Mill (not. #40, above) also  
Oakdale (com)
- \* 50. Parkers Grove Ngrbr.
- \* 51. Ernst (com) [in cov.]
52. Rouse (com)
53. Nash (com)
- \* 54. Beech Grove (com)
- ~~55. White Tower (com)~~
- ~~56. Staffordsburg (com)~~

- \*56. Dudley Pike Ngbr.
- \*57. Elsmere (com) ⊙
- \*58. Forest Hills (com) had been Cloud City ⊙ X
- \*59. Ft. Mitchell (com.) ⊙
- \*60. Ft. Wright (com) ⊙ incl. Lookout Hts.
- 61. HappyHollow Ngbr.
- \*62. Kenton Hills (com)
- \*63. Kenton Vale (com) X
- ~~64. Lookout Hts. (com) X~~
- 65. Maurice (com) X (rr)
- \*66. Park Hills (com) ⊙
- \*67. South Ft. Mitchell (com) (now Ft Mitchell)
- 68. South Hills (com.)
- \*69. West Covington (com) (now in cov.)
- 70. Winston Park (com) ⊙ X
- \*71.<sup>35</sup> Bromley (com) ⊙ = Mullinville
- 72. Edgewood (com) ⊙
- \*73. DeCoursey (com) ⊙
- 74. Winston Hills Ngbr.
- 75. ~~Niehelsen-(com)~~ White Villa (com)
- ~~76. Oak Ridge (com) aka Latonia Lakes~~
- 77. Ricedale (com)
- 78. Pye (com)
- \*79.<sup>22</sup> Bracht (com) (rr) X = Key west
- 80. Dutch Town Ngbr.
- 55 81. Alexander (com)
- 82. Oak Island Ngbr.
- 83.
- ~~84.~~

Ngbr = 5 (excluded)

N T = (72)

⊙ = sample  
X = reserve

M. Ladd

KENTON COUNTY

Dry Creek in Kenton County, is remarkable for the fact, that, after a heavy rain, it is so flush and high, that it cannot be forded, but in a few hours it runs dry, or so nearly so, that hogs will be seen where it was deepest, turning up the rocks in search of craw-fish. *Red. Collins Vol. II*

*Kenton  
Cox.*

✓ Fort Mitchell - During the war between the States, when confederate forces, in 1862, were threatening an invasion of the North, General Lew Wallace - author of Ben. Hur and commander of the Union forces assigned to the defense of Cincinnati, - led 15,000 men across the Ohio on a pontoon bridge of coal barges. A series of defensive earthworks were erected and were under the direction of Professor Ormsby Mitchell, and were called by his name.

*Ref. Key. Guide*

M. Ladd

Kenton County

BANK LICK is a beautiful stream, emptying into the Licking river, 5 mi. from its confluence with the Ohio, in Kenton Co. This stream received its name from the early settlers, and its banks have undoubtedly been trodden by Boone and Kenton.

Ref. Collins Vol. II - page 454 or 442 (1.)

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DEVOU PARK, COVINGTON, KENTON COUNTY.

✓ Devou Park, entrance Western Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets donated to the city in 1910, is a 550-acre nothing wooded park that looks down from the knobs directly upon Covington, Ludlow and the Ohio River. Thirty miles of bridle path, athletic and picnic grounds, and a lake, public golf course, target range, and natural amphitheater are distributed among the hills and valleys.

Devou Park was the gift of Charles and Wm. P. Devou in memory of their parents.