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MASON COUNTY MASON APP-KY/VERT

Mason County was named in honor of George Mason, a framer of the constitution, eminent lawyer, and statesman.

In 1930 the population of the county was 18,682.

The county is located in the northern section of the state and is bounded on the north by the Ohio River, on the east by Fleming and Lewis Counties, on the South by Fleming and Robertson Counties, and on the west by Robertson and Bracken Counties. In all it measures approximately 221 square miles. Today from an airplane it resembles a diamond.

The first white men on the soil of Mason County were Christopher and a boy sent out from England in 1751 to discover land on the Ohio River. They tested the soil, width and depth of the river and returned to Virginia through the Kentucky River Valley. Simon Kenton took possession of Mason County about 1775 and planted corn here but it was not definitely established until 1784 when fortified possession was taken.

The largest productions of the county are corn, wheat, hemp, tobacco, mules, cattle, and hogs. It is watered by Cabin, Bull, Kennedy, Limestone, Beasley, Lawrence, and Lee's and North Fork.

The principal towns in the county are Maysville, the county seat, Washington, the former county seat, Mayslick, Dover, and Gilmantown. Of these Maysville is the largest with a population of 6,557. The city was named in honor of John May who with Simon Kenton owned the land the city was built on. Until 1793 it was called Limestone, a name Captain John Hedge, early explorer, gave it.

The city is built on the banks of the Ohio River in the extreme northern part of the county on highways 68, 62, 10 and 11, and connected with its neighboring state, Ohio, by the Maysville-Aberdeen bridge. This bridge substantiates Maysville's claim as the gateway to the south from the north, a claim it has upheld for nearly 150 years. Highways 52, 41 and 62 traverse the bridge.

The Chesapeake and Ohio and Louisville and Nashville railroads serve the city. The Maysville Bus Company, the Blue Ribbon Bus Company, and the Southeastern Greyhound Bus Company lead to Maysville from distant parts of Kentucky, while the Buckeye Stage Company connects Maysville with Ohio over the new Maysville-Aberdeen bridge. All these have their depots at the intersection of Second and Limestone Streets. Highways 68, 11 and 10 are state roads in good repair. The other roads leading into the country are good country roads. Formerly there was an airport in Aberdeen, Ohio, directly across the river from Maysville but this has been discontinued. The nearest airport is Cincinnati, Ohio.

The surface of Maysville and vicinity is generally uneven; part of it is hilly and broken with a high healthful elevation. The landscape is varied and beautiful. The soil is deep, rich and highly productive.

There are two hotels in Maysville, the New Central on lower Market Street, and the White Manor on Second Street. The New Central is now owned and operated by Claude Watkins. There are 100 rooms, newly furnished that range in price from \$1.00 to \$2.50 per night. Private baths may be had if desired. The dining room in the hotel

is famous for its excellent food. Breakfast is served from 7 to 10, luncheon from 11:30 to 2:30 and the evening meal from 5:00 to 8:00. Storage may be had at a nearby garage. The White Manor Hotel is operated by Frank Cetter. It is modern in every respect. There are 30 rooms in this hotel and they range from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per night. Private baths may also be had here. The dining room is leased to Mrs. Kenton who serves excellent food. Garage accommodations may be had at a nearby storage garage.

There are no modern tourist camps in or near Maysville but accommodations may be had at Tourist Homes. Of these, Mrs. Tom Russell, Mrs. Chris Russell, Mrs. Goodwin, and Mrs. Philips are located in the central part of town. Their prices range from 75 cents to \$2.00 per night. Others are located throughout the county and city at convenient distances and sufficiently marked that tourists might find them. Mrs. Caroline Russell on Third Street across from the post office is affiliated with the AAA. She also serves breakfast and dinner. Her rooms rent for \$1.00 per night.

Limestone, now Maysville, had its beginning in 1748[?] when a block house was built by John and Edward Waller and George Lewis of Virginia. While this was the important entreport and place of debarkment for all the early settlers, none dared remain in this exposed position and moved back into the interior of the county to make their first settlements. Thus Washington and Kenton Station both overshadowed Maysville for a number of years. In December 1787 it was established as a town by the Legislature of Virginia. The first white trustees of the town were Jacob Boone, Henry Lee, Arthur Fox, George

Mefford, and Thomas Brooks. There were appointed to lay off in half acre lots 100 acres of land owned by Simon Kenton and John May. These lots were sold at public auction with the understanding that a residence be erected on them within five years. Thus the nucleus of the present day Maysville was formed. Charles Erb Wolf was the first mayor of the city.

With the settlement one began on the water front, the surrounding county sounded with the cry of many an Indian raid for they did not relinquish their favorite hunting ground so easily. Yet the lots were sold despite the fearful menace of the Indians and the settlement grew.

In 1787 Maysville, named in honor of John May, was established as a town by an Act of the Virginia Legislature. In 1805 it arrived at the dignity of a post town. Then it was deemed necessary to build a market house "as an evidence of progress and prosperity." It stood on Sutton Street between Second and Third Streets. In 1829 it was torn down and a new one erected on Market Street between Second and Third. The upstairs room was used as a council chamber and church and was the only public meeting place until the city hall was built. Within its walls the lectures of the Devine, politician, and statesman were heard. Between 1830 and 1833 during the epidemic of cholera it was used as a morgue. It was torn down in 1863 and replaced by an esplanade. At present a fountain marks the place of one of Maysville's most historic places.

The court house, an imposing colonial building, was erected in 1838 by Stanslaus and Ignatus Mitchell, Christopher Russell, and Len Purnell. It served as a city hall until the county seat was

moved to Maysville. It was without a clock due to no clock master living in Maysville until 1850 when a blacksmith made one for the court house at Flemingsburg and the people there thought it was not worth the price asked, and Maysville purchased it. It is made of wood and interesting too is the fact that it is still chiming the hours above the city.

On November 7, 1830, the first macadamized road in Kentucky was built between Maysville and the county seat, Washington. Later it was extended to Lexington, Kentucky. In constructing the road the trail made by the Buffalo while going from the Ohio River to the Licking near Blue Licks for salt. Before the macadamized road was built this trace had been widened, and called Smith Wagon Road from Maysville to Lexington. At that time this was the direct route from Florence, Alabama through Zaneville, Ohio on to Washington City.

Thus Maysville continued to come forward as a city. This is evidenced by the distinguished people who visited here. In 1825 LeFayette, his son, Colonel George Washington LeFayette, and Governor Harrow and Henry Clay were visitors here.

In 1830 Maysville, as a river town is said to have come into its own. Ferry crossed the river at Maysville and the steamboat Phoebus established a tri-weekly packet service between Maysville and Cincinnati. With the rapid growth of Maysville two elections were held to change the County Seat from Washington to Maysville. The fact that Maysville offered her new City Hall for a Court House, the proximity to the river with a fine harbor, and the steady development of the town no doubt influenced the voters to have the county seat removed. In 1848 Maysville, with a population of 1,750 boasted of a good fire department, market house, two newspapers, bank,

hemp market, two cotton factories, rope walks, three tobacco manufacturers, 4 plow factories, one saw mill, 3 saw mills, telegraph, and wholesale groceries. In 1853 the Maysville-Lexington railroad was opened.

Maysville's need for a public library was soon realized and James Warmald gave the ground where the Woman's Club now stands on Sutton Street. The building was erected by public subscription. At his death the estate was left to his two sisters their lifetime and was then to go to the library, about \$21,000.00. In 1913 the building the library, an old bank, was purchased and the library moved. Besides the quarters used for the library there are five apartments in this building and the income from these, together with the donations from both the county and city and private contributions, the library is supported. Here we find Simon Kenton's gun, Betty Lamp, and the last Indian scalp he took. Also many old Indian relics such as arrow heads and flints. An old drum used by a Mr. Doyle who was too young to fight in the Civil War was given to the library by a Mr. Dave Doyle at the death of his father. There are approximately 16,000 volumes in the library. Directly back of the library is an old grave yard. It is Maysville's first cemetery and the ground was given by David Boone. The library at the Maysville High School is outstanding. It meets the requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and secondary schools. The books are indexed according to the Dewey Decimal system. There are in the library over 1200 books. 441 are English, 315 in History, 190 in Science, and 314 in other subjects. Reference books of various kinds are being added to the library and a professional library for teachers has

been organized.

In 1891 the town of Chester was admitted to Maysville, thereby giving it its present size. This was followed by franchises for public telephone, gas and electric lights and other luxuries.

In 1798, Fielding Bradford, while waiting for a wagon to transport the printing material to Lexington, locked up the form for the first number of the first newspaper ever printed in Kentucky or any point west of Pittsburg, Pa. In 1814, the Eagle, the first paper published in Maysville was printed. It was originally the Dove which was established in Washington in 1808. Next came the Monitor, and many others until today Maysville supports three papers. The Bulletin was published in 1882 and is now owned by George McCarthy. The Ledger was published in 1892 and is now owned by Clarence Mathews. The Independent was first a weekly paper and became a daily paper in 1910. Purdon and Schatzman are the publishers. These are published daily, except Sunday, and reach practically every home in the City and County.

The Baptist Church in Maysville is located on Market Street. It was erected in 1836. The Christian Church, is located on East Third Street. It was dedicated in 1878. The First Methodist Episcopal Church South was completed in 1891. It is located on Second Street. The Third Street Methodist Episcopal Church on Third Street was built in 1847. St. Patrick's Catholic Church on Third Street was built in 1910. The First Presbyterian Church was built in 1850. It is on the corner of Third and Court Streets. The Church of the Nativity is on Third Street.

Third Street.

Due to Maysville's excellent access to the water front, industry was begun at an early date. About 1783 a law was passed establishing the Limestone Warehouse as the place to receive and inspect tobacco. This was the only one on the Ohio River and the greater part of the tobacco was sent to foreign countries.

W. W. Ball is the man who established Maysville as one of the first loose leaf markets. In 1904 he organized a company who had a redrying warehouse built and leased it to the American Tobacco Company. Later hearing of the success of the auction system in North Carolina, he had a similar warehouse built in Maysville. In 1909 the Tuckahoe, now Planters, was built. As the market grew additional houses were built until the number now has reached 14. The Kirk Breslin, The Independent - No. 1 and No. 2, The Burley, The Growers No. 1 and 2, The Banner, The Peoples, The Home, The Standard, The Wood, and the farmers are all serving the tobacco growers of this and adjoining counties every season. The R. J. Reynolds redrying plant in Maysville is one of the most modern and complete of its kind in the country. It operates during the entire season.

In 1904 the American Tobacco Plant organized a plant here, and succeeding this the J. P. Heizer and the Southwestern built a plant here. Thus we can easily see how Maysville became the second largest Burley Warehouse Market in the world.

The January Wood Cotton Mill is the pioneer industry in Maysville. Cotton spinning was in its infancy when the Maysville cotton mill was established in 1834 by William Shotwell. It is now owned by the Cochran family. At that time cotton was grown in the far south and brought to

Maysville by river. The celebrated Maysville brand of cotton twine produced by this mill has become widely known throughout the country. The mill employs some four hundred men and women, and the yearly payroll is approximately \$150,000.00.

The Maysville Brickyard, organized in 1894, and the Spar Brickyard, organized in 1904 have supplied Maysville and vicinity with material for many of its leading structures. The Ohio Valley Pulley Works, the largest manufacturer of pulleys for power transmission in the world is one of the most widely known and highly prized of Maysville's industries. It was established in 1895 by E. P. Browning and is still operated by his descendants.

Maysville's Milk Plant, a million dollar construction, pays \$750,000 per year to farmers, and the yearly pay roll is around \$50,000. The Carnation can factory has a yearly pay roll of \$1,000,000.

The J. F. Hardyman Construction Company is located in Maysville and has supplied building material for the homes in this section in the last few years. The E. K. Newell has also been an important contractor in Northwestern Kentucky since 1919. He has had the contract to pave many of the streets in Maysville.

The Weld Manufacturing Company is located in Eastland, a part of Maysville not included in the city limits. They manufacture automobile and bicycle accessories.

The H. S. Pogue Company opened its distillery in November 1876 for the first time and ran continuously until 1919, when prohibition was introduced. It remained idle until 1935 when the entire plant was rebuilt and reopened. The brand manufactured at this time was Maysville

Club, Old Timer, and today the new brand has not been named. This company employs approximately 50 persons.

The Maysville Ice Plant, located on Lexington Street, was rebuilt and modernized in 1931. It is a raw water plant and serves this and adjoining counties with ice.

Due to Maysville's location midway between Cincinnati and Lexington, it is too far distant to be hindered commercially and sufficiently near to enjoy the added cultural influence they offer. There are approximately 5 ladies ready-to-wear, 5 dry goods, 4 men's clothing, 5 shoe, 6 leading groceries, 2 wholesale houses, 2 hardware, 2 jewelry, 2 laundries, 2 feed stores, 4 drug stores, a meat packing plant, 2 florists and many other stores suitable to a town of this size. The Kentucky Power and Light, Maysville Water Company and Maysville Gas Company have an office here. There is also a stock yard located in Maysville.

The Chevrolet Garage, Keith and Keith, dealers in Buicks and Olds, and the Robertson Automobile Company, dealer in Plymouths, are all located on Second Street. Calvert and Buckley, dealers in Dodge and Plymouths, and the Ford Garage are located on Second Street.

The Rotary Club have a dinner meeting every Tuesday evening in the dining room of the New Central Hotel. The Lion's Club have their dinner meeting every other Tuesday evening at the Harbison on Third Street. The Woman's Club have a club house on Sutton Street where the old library was formerly located. The Garden Club, Junior Woman's Club and Business and Professional Club are also organized here. The Leslie Arthur Post of the American Legion has an armory at the intersection of Sutton and Third Streets. There is also an

American Legion Auxiliary in Maysville. These combined with the social clubs play an important part in the entertainment of the community.

Israel Donaldson was the first school teacher in Maysville. About 1790 he conducted a school in a log cabin on the lot where the present school building now stands. Interesting is the story of his adoption by the Indians. In 1792 he removed to Manchester. In 1817 the Maysville Seminary was built at public subscription on Fourth Street in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Dodson. Jacob W. Rand and William Richardson were the principals. Such eminent men as President U. S. Grant, Major General William Nelson, John I. Crittendon and Thomas H. Nelson, were educated. About 1860 this school was discontinued. In 1831 the Scarbough Insitution for girls was opened on Front Street in the home now occupied by the Misses Cartmell, who now have a private business school here. In 1852 The Maysville Literary Institute was begun on Fifth Street. There were no colored schools at this time. At present the Maysville high school is located on Limestone Street, and all the children in the city and Eastland, a settlement not included in the city, attend school here. The Forest Avenue, Sixth Ward, First District, and Central School are so located that all children are convenient to the graded school. At present there are 640 white children in the graded school, 185 in Junior High, 142 in the Senior High and 250 colored children in the grades and 100 in the high school. On the Fleming Road just outside the city limits, the John Fee graded and high school is located. All the colored children from the county are brought to this school after the eighth grade is completed and their tuition is paid by the county. Their

auditorium and gymnasium is also located in this building. The auditorium for the high school in Maysville is located on Second Street and the gymnasium on Third Street. These are connected to the high school building by an overhead passage. In Mason County there are ten consolidated schools. Seven of these, Minerva, Lewisburg, Mayslick, Washington, Sardis and Orangeburg are combined graded and high schools and are on the list of accredited secondary schools. Dover, Moransburg and Eastland are graded schools only. Dover students attend Minerva High School and Moransburg and Eastland students attend the Maysville High School. All of these children are transported to their respective schools by motor bus. There are also six colored graded schools in the county. There are approximately 2700 children enrolled in the county schools. St. Patrick's Graded and High School is located on Limestone Street. It is under the sponsorship of the Catholic Church. There are children enrolled there. Each of these schools have a library to meet the state educational requirements. The only extension courses offered in the county are held at the Maysville High School.

Maysville has a beautiful new swimming pool constructed by Mr. T. A. Duke, but due to the fee charged many people are still enjoying the Ohio River bathing beach. A few years ago Beechwood Park was an inviting place for picnics and outings, but since there is no longer a keeper on the grounds it has been very unattractive. However, the dance hall is still used for some of the social activities of the community. Coasting and ice skating are enjoyed on the open streets during the winter. There are three moving picture theaters here - one air conditioned. The Russell, located on Third Street has one matinee and two evening shows and on Sunday evening one show after the

churches have completed their services. A fee of twenty-five and thirty-five cents is charged. The Washington and Hollywood have one matinee and two evening shows and each charge twenty-five cents for any seats in the house. These are located on second street. The only Country Club in this and adjoining counties is located on U. S. 68 one mile from Maysville. The grounds and club house are well kept and attractive. There is an excellent ball room, tennis court and golf link, nine holes, here. A membership fee is charged and tourists wishing to play golf may do so by paying a greens fee of \$1.00. Nearly all of the schools have basket ball teams and each spring a tournament is held for the adjoining counties, and the winners are sent to the regional tournament. There is also a good ballroom at the American Legion Armory.

The Haywood Hospital, built in 1925, is located on Fourth Street. The equipment of this hospital is of the most complete and modern in hospital use. There are twenty-five patient rooms, beside the white ward and two large airy rooms on the first floor for colored patients. There are two large operating rooms on the third floor.

There are three banks in Maysville - the State National, the Bank of Maysville, and the Security Bank. In 1835 a branch of the old Bank of Kentucky was established in Maysville in the building now occupied by the Library. The vault is to be seen in this building at present. It is now the Bank of Maysville, located on Second Street. Mrs. Jane Moses has some checks from this bank in her possession. The State National Bank is the only National Bank in Mason County. It was begun in 1832 when the banking firm of

Pearce-Wallingford and Company was granted a national charter. It is located on Second Street in the central part of the town. The Security Bank is located in the central part of town on Second Street. It was organized after the Farmers and Traders Bank closed its doors and has only been serving the public a few years. Maysville has never had but one court house which was built in 1838 and is still serving the community. All of the civic buildings are on this lot but the county jail. It is located on Third Street below Sutton Street. The first jail was built in 1820 on Front Street near the Boone Tavern. In 1884 the present jail was occupied for the first time.

Interesting is the curio room in the Maysville Library. It is under the auspices of the Maysville and Mason County Library Historical and Scientific Association. Here may be seen many old and interesting curios that have been collected in this and adjoining communities. The old safe that was in the Washington Bank is in this room. The Librarian will gladly show this to any interested persons. Mr. Hickson was the first Librarian here and was very interested in the gathering of these articles.

Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton are among the early settlers of this city. Daniel Boone had read glowing tales of the fertile and beautiful land in this section and in 1776 he and Simon Kenton visited what is now Maysville. Simon Kenton did not at any time live in Maysville but his fort was only three miles from town on U. S. 68 and he was in the city many times. Daniel Boone assisted his cousin Jacob Boone to build the oldest house still standing in Maysville at the corner of Front and Limestone Streets.

Dickens, the Novelist, was to be entertained in Maysville at the Goddard House but the boat was detained up the river and he did not have time to go to the hotel, so the banquet was held on the boat.

U. S. Grant, who lived in Washington, three miles from Maysville, attended school in the building on Fourth Street now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Dodson.

Maysville was the home of U. S. District Judge Andrew McConnel January Cochran.

Maysville was the playground of General William Nelson and U. S. Johnson, who both lived near Washington.

Aaron Corwine was the only artist Mason County has produced. He was born on Jersey Ridge one mile from Maysville and some of his work may be seen at the Maysville Public Library. He traveled abroad after his health failed and when stricken ill was in Europe. He started his homeward journey but only reached Philadelphia when he died.

Lewis Collins, Kentucky historian, came to Mason County in 1814, and was a member of the staff of the Washington Union until 1820, and then for twenty-seven years proprietor and editor of the Maysville Eagle.

Judge John Coburn came to Mason County in 1794 and remained until his death in 1823. He was an ardent friend of Daniel Boone and was most influential in securing from Congress the appropriation of one thousand acres of land for the old Pioneer.

Judge Elijah P. Phister, one of the most eminent of Kentucky Judges, was born in Maysville in 1822.

Today many beautiful homes are to be seen in the residential section of Maysville, and among these are the following:

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Darlington E. Fee, located on the corner of Third and Sutton Streets. It was built in 1831 for William B. Phillips, second mayor of Maysville.

The home of Mrs. John C. Everett on Third Street was built in 1845 as a residence for Louis Pearce.

The home of Judge and Mrs. A. F. J. Cochran was built in 1838 by Judge Cochran's maternal grandfather, Andrew McConnell January as a residence for his family.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Hall was built in 1860 for James Hall.

The Hill House, formerly known as the Lee House, was built in 1840 by Pete Lee. This was the aristocratic place of the town and crowds from the south came here inroute to Blue Licks.

Boone's Tavern was built in 1815. It is the oldest house still standing in Maysville. It is located on Front Street two doors west of Limestone Street. Daniel Boone, who was a cousin of Jacob Boone, assisted in the work. Most of the clapboards were hewn by hand and may be seen on the side of the building. The first jail of Maysville was built in 1820 as an annex to Boone's Tavern.

The Old Goddard House, recently destroyed, was another old landmark. Between 1835 and 1865 it ranked as one of Maysville's best hotels. It was here that all the stages from out of town stopped. Due to its location near the landing of the boats, it also received all the patronage of those traveling by water.

Edgemont, located just off U. S. 68, is a residential section of Maysville. It overlooks the entire city and the Ohio River, and is sufficiently near the city to enjoy the privilege thereof. Many

beautiful homes are built here, among them D. A. O. Taylor, prominent physician. He is an ardent admirer of trotting horses and the owner of "Angel Child", who has won 25 of the 37 races she has entered. She was the former champion mare on a half mile track. He also has some horses on his farm in Mason County, but "Angel Child" and three other of Dr. Taylor's horses are in Lexington, Kentucky, in training. Interesting too is the fact that "Sweet Hearts on Parade" came from the Mad Lindsay farm near Lewisburg, Kentucky in Mason County. She was the champion five-gaited show mare in the U. S. for three straight years. The Lindsay's sold this horse when she was young.

Mr. T. A. Duke has recently purchased some thoroughbreds and has them in training at present.

WASHINGTON

Washington, the oldest town in the county, was established by an act of the Virginia Legislature in 1786. It is located on historic highway 68 four miles from Keysville. The altitude of Washington is approximately 800 degrees above sea level.

Washington had been paid off in 1785 on approximately 700 acres of land by William Wood and Arthur Fox, co-founders of the town. The first trustees of the town were William Wood, Baptist preacher, Arthur Fox, Edmund Byne, Edward Waller, Henry Lee, Miles Withers Conway, Daniel Boone, Robert Rankin, John Guthridge, and William Lamb.

In 1788 Washington was made the county seat. It grew rapidly and by 1790 the population of the town was 462, of whom only 21 were slaves. The town was no more than a canebreak, and there were 119 cabins scattered at intervals through the clearing. Mrs. Lucy Lee,

in her sketches of Mason County, described Washington thus:

"The people of Washington were aristocratic as well as democratic. Many intellectual men practiced at the bar. It became a great seat of learning having as many good schools as anywhere in the country. Hospitality was the law of the land."

In 1894 the first court house in the county was built in Washington by Lewis Craig, Baptist preacher from Virginia. It was a limestone building fifty feet long, twenty-three feet wide, and two stories high in colonial type with a large porch and huge pillars. The clerk's office, whipping post, and slave block were nearby. After the county seat was moved to Maysville, this building was used as a school. The McCurdy school was here and the boarding department was in the home across the street now owned by Mrs. Bealer Malone. This house was built by Dr. Basil Duke, early physician, and the first wallpaper in the county was used in this house. Dr. Basil Duke married a sister of Chief Justice Marshall. This court house building stood 115 years and perhaps would still be standing had it not been struck by lightning in 1909. The negroes were superstitious and when they were requested to carry water to save the building they cried: "Can't be done - lightning fire cannot be put out except with milk and there ain't no milk." Robert Rankin was the first clerk in Washington.

In 1790 Judge William Goforth, a visitor in Washington, a visitor in Washington, stated it was one of the most remarkable towns of the middle west. People came from Lexington to shop in its stores.

At an early date Washington was celebrated for its excellent schools. The most noted female school in the Middle West at that time was located here. It was under the supervision of Mrs. Louise Caroline

Warburton Fitzherbert Keats, sister of Sir George Fitzherbert of London and wife of Rev. Keats who was a relative of the great English poet, George Keats. The McMurdy school was held in the old court house building. About 1789 Franklin Academy, one of the first west of the Alleghenies was established here. Students from over Kentucky and the neighboring states attended school here. Albert Sydney Johnson attended school at the Man Butler School in 1811.

In 1797 and 1798 the Kentucky Palladium, one of the first newspapers in the state was published by Hunter and Beaumont. The Dove was published between 1808 and 1814. From 1814-1824 the Union was published. The Mirror published information regarding land grants at the time Washington was being settled.

In 1809 the first bank in Northern Kentucky was established here. General Henry Lee of Virginia was president. The building of brick construction is nearly one hundred years old and is for sale. It is owned by the Lane heirs. The door of the vault is most interesting and may be seen. This same bank was moved to Maysville after the county seat was taken from Washington. The safe to this bank is in the Maysville Public Library.

The post office, now weather-boarded, is located on U. S. 68 in the central part of the town. It is owned by Mrs. Nellie Wood Boggs, and the pigeon holes used in the post office are still in her possession. Mail was distributed to Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota from this point. At present the building has been marked by the Washington Study Club. Edward Harris, great grandfather of Albert Sydney Johnson was the first postmaster here.

The ground for the Baptist Cemetery and Church was donated by William Wood, the first minister of the church and co-founder of the town. It was called the Limestone church until the county seat was established. Some of the early settlers of the town were buried here. The Presbyterian church in Washington is 140 years old. They have had three places of worship, and are celebrating their centennial on June 7, 1936. The first Presbyterian church was built where the B. H. Gifford home now stands on U. S. 68, and near this house is an old graveyard where the first Presbyterian settlers were buried. The second church was directly across the street from the present frame building. It was a beautiful structure with a gallery for the slaves. A young minister placed here convinced the parishoners to build the present frame church. The present Christian church is near Larkin's store. It is a brick building, but at present there is no minister stationed here. The Methodist church, built in 1848, is also located on U. S. highway 68 and is the second building this organization has had in Washington. The First Methodist church was on York Street near Franklin Academy. There are two colored churches in Washington.

The first appropriation made by the Kentucky Legislature for fire protection was given to Washington. They received \$1,000 and built twenty-two wells. Early historians state this is the first water-works system west of the Alleghenies. Recently the Washington Study Club has restored three of these wells. These are to be seen in the central part of the town in the pavement. It is hoped that many more may be restored soon.

The first white boy born in Mason County was Colonel Joseph Logan, son of John Logan. He was born in McKinley's block house on

the Murphysville road. On this farm now known as the Hunter Farm was also grown the first wheat in the county. Half the men stood guard while the other half cut the wheat. The first white girl born in Mason County was Dolly Wood. Her great-granddaughter, Miss Mary Wood Taylor is still living in Washington and is at this time post-mistress of the Washington post office.

Dr. John Johnston; father of Albert Sydney Johnston, was the first physician in Washington. Their home is still standing within sight of U. S. 68, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy attempted to buy this home and have it as a historic shrine, but the offer was turned down. The United Daughters of the Confederacy have marked it. Doctor Thomas Nelson, father of William Nelson, general of the Union Army, was another physician in Washington. He and General Johnston were playmates together, attended West Point together, and led opposite armies at the Battle of Shiloh where General Johnston was killed. At present there is only one physician in Washington - Dr. H. E. Pollock.

About 1847 when the officials were contemplating moving the county seat to Maysville, an excellent hotel was built in a fatal attempt to keep the county seat here. This large brick building is now a general store in Washington, operated by P. Maher and son. The only other general store is directly across the street from the site of the old court house, and is operated by Larkin's. In 1847 when the county seat was moved to Maysville, Washington began to decline.

Another interesting land-mark around Washington are the remains of Simon Kenton's fort. He was the most famous of the pioneers who entered from the northern border, and was the first to take planting

possession of Mason County. He erected a station in 1784 about three miles from Maysville and two miles from Washington off highway 68, and named it Kenton Station. Near the station is Drennon's Springs that supplied the fort with water. From here, Simon Kenton acted as host to all the early settlers who landed at Limestone and were going into the interior to settle. He induced many worth while people to take up land grants in this territory, and when Washington was settled many of them moved there. He built above where the fort stood the first brick house in Mason County. Today, the improvements have been made on a part of the house, some of the original brick house has remained and the fort holes may be seen where they fought off the Indians. This home has been in the Chambers family for a number of years, but recently gone back to the Marshall heirs. The spring is still to be seen and the water is clear, cool, and inviting. A tablet has been erected at the intersection of U. S. 68, and the Kenton Station road to commemorate the first station in Mason County by the Washington Study Club.

The telephone exchange for the county is located in Washington. In this building, on U. S. 68, is a most interesting stairway that goes up the side of the chimney. Formerly this house was used as a tavern.

Today many beautiful homes stand to commemorate the once prosperous town. The oldest house in the county is located in Washington. It is now known as the Beckley home and was built by George Wood, father of Dolly Wood, the first white girl born in Mason County. The home now owned by the Misses Alice and Phoebe Forman and built by Captain Benjamin Bayless early in the 19th century is located on U. S. highway 68.

The Robert Taylor home, another landmark, is owned by some of his descendants. The post office is now in this building, and Miss Mary Wood Taylor is the post mistress. It is located on U. S. 68 near the site of the court house. It is a beautiful brick home. Governor John Chambers built the home owned by Mrs. L. C. Maltby. It is a short distance off U. S. 68 and is known as Cedar Hill. The old Marshall home where Harriet Beecher Stowe is thought to have conceived the book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" while visiting here is still standing. It also is on U. S. 68 and has been marked by the Washington Study Club. Harriet Beecher Stowe was in school in Cincinnati, Ohio with the Marshall's daughter and here for a visit, when she was taken to the court house to see a slave sale. Interesting is the story related by Fleming Bennett, who was a slave. He was traded with his mother from this house and was taken to Lexington, Kentucky, then sold to the Millers in Millersburg. After the slaves were freed he returned to Washington where he still lives. The Wood home, now the property of Mrs. Nellie Wood Boogs, was built in 1815 by Mr. Murphy, second postmaster of Washington. It is constructed of brick and has a beautiful doorway and an old-fashioned garden. The Marshall home, now the property of Miss Louis Marshall, is located off highway 68. It was built by Thomas Marshall, brother of Chief Justice Marshall, and is a beautiful colonial home that was included in the CWA project for preservation for posterity. The mother and father of Chief Justice Marshall are buried here in the family graveyard. Miss Lewis Marshall is the great, great, great grand-daughter of Tom Marshall, brother of the Chief Justice Marshall. The home of Judge William Reese is a beautiful brick building on U. S. 68 about one

mile from Washington, and was built by Judge Bady. The old Durrett home on the Clarke Run Road was built about 1615 and is still occupied by some of that family. His deed from Simon Kenton is dated March 6, 1801. The second oldest home in the county is on the Maple Leaf Road about three miles from Washington and one mile from Maysville. It is built from part of the flat boat that George Mefford, early trustee of Maysville, came down the river in with his family and household possessions. This house is now on the farm of Mr. John Cochran. The Alexander T. Marshall home was built in 1796 but was destroyed by fire and the brick was used to build the home of Mr. Ben Marshall about one mile from Washington. The old Thomas Forman home of stone was built in 1791 on the Murphyville Road. It is now owned by Mr. John Larkin.

Washington will celebrate its 150th anniversary June 6, 1936, and the people there are contemplating an elaborate celebration. The streets are to be marked as they were in the days when Washington was the leading town in this section. Many of the descendents of the early pioneers are expected to be present from far and near to participate in this celebration.

Mrs. Edna Hunter Best, whose "Sketches of Washington" will be off the press in May, lives in one of the old homes in Washington with her sister, Miss Pattie Hunter. This house was built by Charles Paxton, early in 1800 and has been the home of physicians for nearly a hundred years. Dr. James Taylor lived here before the Civil War, he was followed by Dr. E. G. Dimmitt who was succeeded by Dr. Joshua Barnes. Then came Dr. Alexander Hunter, who served the community

for almost fifty years. Dr. Hunter was the father of Mrs. Best and Miss Hunter. In this old home, with its quaint high mantels, Miss Hunter and Mrs. Best have a gift shop, located in the central part of town that will be interesting to tourists.

Among Washington's notables we have:

Albert Sidney Johnston, famous confederate general, who was killed in the battle of Shiloh. Born in Washington Feb. 2, 1802. He spent his boyhood in Mason County and received his early education in the schools of Washington.

Dr. Basil Duke, one of the most famous of early Kentucky physicians, came to this county in 1798 where he remained until his death in 1828.

Major General William Nelson lived in Washington during his boyhood.

Alexander K. Marshall, was a pioneer lawyer of Washington. He was a relative of the Chief Justice Marshall.

Dr. Charles Forman, prominent missionary to India, was raised near Washington on the farm now owned by George Krietz. In LaHoe, India there is a college named in his honor.

John A. McClung, author of Western Adventure, also lived in Washington. He married a sister of Albert Sidney Johnston.

Mayslick is located on highway 68 twelve miles south of Maysville. In 1930 the population was 227. There are no hotels in Mayslick, but it is sufficiently near Maysville that tourists may enjoy their modern hotels. Excellent food is served at Collins' store which is also the station for the Southeastern Greyhound Bus Company, the only bus transportation through the city. Communication may be made with the

Louisville and Nashville and Chesapeake and Ohio in Mayslick, and with the Louisville and Nashville at Helen Station, Kentucky, four miles from Mayslick. The bank of Mayslick is located here.

Mayslick was settled by John Shotwell, David Morris, Isaac Abraham, and Cornelius Drake in 1753. They came to Kentucky from Plainfield, New Jersey, and purchased fourteen hundred acres of land from John May. Lydia Shotwell, a single sister of Mrs. Isaac Drake, also accompanied these early settlers to Kentucky. It was soon learned that wild animals came to the spring near the settlement for salt and water and the settlement was named Mays'Lick, in honor of John May, and the spring located here.

Rude cabins were constructed each with its port holes and strong bars across the door. The roofs were of clapboard and the floors of puncheon. John Shotwell built a hotel in 1800, but it burned in recent years. Abraham Drake operated a store in the settlement.

Among the first teachers in Mayslick were Mr. McQuitty, who taught a small school in a log cabin on the creek that still flows through the town. In 1793 a Mr. Wallace taught here. He was succeeded by Mr. Hiram Hiram Curry. Today Mayslick has the first consolidated school in Kentucky and South of the Ohio River with transportation, and it was through the efforts of Mr. W. E. Pyles, a resident of this vicinity, that the project was brought about. Later a gymnasium was added to the building.

At present there are the Baptist, Christian, Presbyterian, and Catholic Church in Mayslick, and they are all located in the central part of town. The graveyard is on U. S. 68 just beyond the city. An old church that formerly was in the graveyard has been

moved to the adjoining farm of Mr. Gus Brooks and included in his barn. However, the logs are still to be seen.

As previously mentioned Mayslick and vicinity is a agricultural section, but there are two garages, one farming implement store, one bank, post office, six general stores and some good restaurants, in the town..

The Masioan, a weekly paper, was published here in 1912 by Mr. Thompson, but it was discontinued after one year and there has never been any other publication in Mayslick.

The Pyles Poultry Plant, located on his farm just three miles from Mayslick, has been popular for breeders of white leghorns the world over. For the past five years contest pens from this farm have been sent to the National laying contest at Auburn, Alabama, where competitors from the best breeders of the United States and England appeared. In 1925 and 1926 chickens from this plant were awarded first pen. That the renown of this plant is not confined to this immediate area is evidenced by the fact that shipments of leghorns are frequently made to Australia, Porta Rico, and many other foreign countires.

Among the notables coming from Keysville was Dr. Daniel Drake, world famous as a physician, professor and author. He was born in New Jersey and was brought to Mayslick when he was three years old.

The Sandford Ross home is outstanding. It is located on U. S. 68 in the central part of town. It is a log house weather-boarded, and was the Adrian Drake home.

Mrs. Maynard Davis' home, off 68 on Water Street is also a log house weather-boarded, but the date it was built is unknown.

Mrs. Gus Brooks has a brick residence on U. S. 68 just above the city that was built about 1800. It has been remodeled but some of the original home is still standing and it has been in their family a number of years.

Indian excavations have been made by representatives of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C., on the Fox farm outside Mayslick and numerous Indian relics have been found. Mr. Will Curtis, noted Kentucky Archeologist, and custodian at the Blue Licks State Park has also made excavations here and his findings are to be seen in the Blue Licks Battle Field State Park Museum, Blue Licks, Kentucky.

Germantown is located on highway 10 in the Mason-Bracken border line, about ten miles from Maysville and six miles from Brooksville. The Blue Ribbon Bus Company traverses highway 10 thereby placing it on a direct route with county seats. Railroad communication may be made at Maysville over the Chesapeake and Ohio and Louisville and Nashville Railroads.

The Alberta Hotel is located on highway 10. There are approximately one dozen rooms that range in price from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per night, with breakfast. There is a county high and graded school in Germantown, and transportation is furnished the children living in the nearby sections.

The Bank of Germantown is located here, in Bracken County. The building it is now occupying is its second home. The post office is on the border line. There are three general stores, one grocery store, three garages and a flour mill here.

This is strictly a farming section, and many of the retired farmers are living in the city. Germantown was laid off by Whitfield Craig in 1784. Formerly it was known as Buchanan Station and was palisaded. This is an incorporated town.

In 1849 The Masonic Lodge was organized here. In 1854 the lodge building was built. It was a three-story building and is on the Mason-Bracken border line. The lower floor was used for the town hall, the second floor for the public school, and the third floor for the lodge hall of the Masons and Sons of Temperance.

The grounds for the Christian Church was donated by J. D. Morford by deed dated January 19, 1829, to John Beckett, Ebenezer Thompson, James A. Holton, Joseph Frazee, James W. Coburn. This ground was given in commemoration of a son of Major John W. Morford's that had died. At present there is a Christian Church and two Methodist churches in Germantown, two colored churches - Christian and Methodist.

Germantown prospered due to its location as a short cut from central Kentucky to the Ohio River. With the advent of automobiles, the people go to larger centers to shop, thereby decreasing the importance of the smaller towns.

John Gregg Fee, founder of Berea College, was born two miles West of Germantown. He had an argument with his father over a negro slave woman and child he was selling, and at the sale, John purchased the slave. His father refused to give him a bill of sale for the slave and he was sent out of the state. He returned to Kentucky in Lewis County and went on to Madison County. Charles M. Gley gave him the ground where Berea College is built. He had it for negroes and

mitted alike. John C. Fee also founded the Hillsdale Church that was originally called the Free Church of Christ.

Near Minerva, on the Toban Farm, one may see the grave of Lewis Craig, a noted Baptist preacher. He brought the far-famed "Travellin Church" from Spottsylvania County, Virginia to Kentucky in 1731, an undertaking unique in history. The Bracken Association has marked his grave with a tablet. Lewis Craig's church is located in Minerva, but it is dilapidated at present.

The Coughlin home, on highway 10, was built by Dr. Alfred Pollock, James Pollock, and Dr. Isaac Pollock.

The Frazee Mansion, on highway 10, was built in 1795 by Samuel Frazee, intrepid Indian fighter and trusted scout for George Rogers Clark. Traditions state that the land was bought from the Indians with several hundred bushels of salt brought down the Ohio River on a flat boat. The brick for the house was burned on the place.

The Germantown Fair and Horse Show has been a point of interest in this section of Kentucky since 1854. It is held the last week in August every year. The grounds are located on highway 10 about one mile from Germantown. Livestock, horses, and poultry are displayed here and prizes are given the winners.

Dover is located off ~~xxx~~ highway 10 about three miles from Minerva. Orangeburg is off highway 10 about five miles from Maysville. Lewisburg is on highway 22 nearly six miles from Maysville. These are typical country towns and are connected closely with their county seat where most of their business is carried on. There are stores and schools in each of these towns.

MASON COUNTY

Box 3 File 22

COVER

COHIST

Data from the 1935 U. S. Farm Census indicates that the county's area is 145,280 acres with farm acreage listed at 147,708 acres, giving 101.7% of the acreage of the county in farms, the excess of farm acreage over approximate land acreage being due to the fact that the entire acreage of a farm is tabulated as in the county in which the headquarters are located even though a part of the farm may be in an adjoining county. The following table shows how the farm land was being used at the time the census was taken:

| Use | 1935 Acres | 1930 Acres | per cent | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| | | | Increase | Decrease |
| All land in farms | 147,708 | 138,279 | 9 | |
| Crop land harvested | 39,439 | 34,968 | 13 | |
| Crop failure* | 110 | 398 | | 72 |
| Crop land idle or fallow | 4,532 | 1,672 | 171 | |
| Plowable pasture | 85,063 | 84,479 | 0.6 | |
| Woodland pasture | 9,693 | 4,874 | 99 | |
| Other pasture | 1,611 | 6,274 | 74 | |
| Total pasture | 96,367 | 95,627 | 0.76 | |
| Woodland not pastured | 699 | 1,097 | | 36 |
| Total Woodland | 10,392 | 5,971 | 42 | |
| All other land in farms | 6,561 | 14,517 | 45 | |
| Land available for crops | 129,144 | 121,517 | 6 | |

* The acreage of crop failure does not represent the total acreage of crops which failed, but only the acreage of land in crops which and on which no other crop was harvested in 1934.

This tabulation shows the approximate per cent of increase or decrease in the various farm uses over a five-year period. Crop failure and woodland not in pasture show a decrease of 72% and 36% respectively, while all other items show an increase, with all land in farms having an increase of 9% and land available for crops with an increase of 6%.

MASON COUNTY

Box 3
File 22

Consolidated

EDUCATION

Perhaps no section of the State has played a more vigorous part in the story of Kentucky's schools than has Mason County, which now has a consolidated system of schools unrivaled in the State.

All of the county schools are on a 6-6 plan, with two years Junior High and four years Senior High work. The county will have approximately 160 eighth grade graduates in 1937. All of the county High Schools are accredited, with Mayslick and Minerva having AA rating. There are 10 white consolidated schools and 4 colored schools in the county system located as follows:

| Name | No. | W | C | Teachers | Grades | Transported elsewhere |
|-------------|-----|----|---|-------------|--------|---|
| Washington | 1 | " | | 9 | 1-12 | |
| | 1 | | " | 1 | 1-8 | |
| Mayslick | 1 | " | | 11 | 1-12 | |
| | 1 | | " | 3 | 1-8 | |
| Dover | 1 | " | | 4 | 1-8 | High School to Minerva |
| | 1 | | " | 1 | 1-8 | |
| Minerva | 1 | " | | 9 | 1-12 | |
| | 1 | | " | 1 | 1-8 | |
| Sardis | 1 | " | | 6 | 1-6 | High School to Mayslick |
| Lewisburg | 1 | " | | 8 | 1-12 | Colored to Mayslick |
| Orangeburg | 1 | " | | 8 | 1-12 | Col. to John G. Fee School Maysville |
| Rectorville | 1 | " | | 4 | 1-8 | High School to Orangeburg |
| Moransburg | 1 | " | | 4 | 1-8 | H.S. to Maysville & Minerva |
| Eastland | 1 | " | | 12 | 1-9 | 10,11,12 to Maysville (Contract) |
| TOTAL | 14 | 10 | 4 | 76 W 5 C | | |

Every child in the county system has free transportation the exception of one colored school which has no transportation. The first Consolidated School in the county which was also the first in the State was built at Mayslick in 1909, and the first Transportation was also at Mayslick, in 1911. There are 43 school busses in the county, the majority of which are modern school buses in good repair under contract to provide this service. All hard surfaced roads are covered by busses. Approximately \$27,000 is spent for transportation in the county, this sum being raised by a local tax in each district to take care of transportation. This levy varies from 25¢ to 50¢ on the \$100.

The U. S. Census gives the following Statistics on school attendance in the county for 1930:

| | School Attendance |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total 7 to 13 years inclusive | <u>3499</u> |
| Number attending School | <u>2396</u> |
| Per cent " " | <u>95.9</u> |
| Total 14 & 15 years inclusive | <u>681</u> |
| Number attending school | <u>584</u> |
| Per cent " " | <u>58.8</u> |
| Total 16 & 17 years inclusive. | <u>675</u> |
| Number attending school | <u>355</u> |
| Per cent " " | <u>52.6</u> |
| Total 18 & 20 years inclusive | <u>1066</u> |
| Number attending school | <u>221</u> |
| Per cent " " | <u>20.7</u> |

The latest school census of the county (1936) shows there are now 3324 children between the ages of 6 and 18 inclusive in the county.

Mason County ranks 28th in Illiteracy in the State. Statistics show that illiteracy has decreased only 1.8% in the county between 1910 and 1930. The following tabulation of the U. S. Census report gives figures showing the Illiteracy situation in 1930:

Education (cont'd)

COH T

| | Illiteracy |
|--|--------------|
| Total Population 10 yrs. old and over | <u>15225</u> |
| Number illiterate 1930 | <u>874</u> |
| Per cent illiterate 1930 | <u>5.7</u> |
| Native White 10 yrs. old and over | <u>13128</u> |
| Number illiterate 1930 | <u>546</u> |
| Per cent " " | <u>4.2</u> |
| Negroes 10 yrs. old and over | <u>2005</u> |
| Number illiterate 1930 | <u>320</u> |
| Per cent " " | <u>16.0</u> |
| Decrease in per cent of illiteracy 1910-30 | <u>1.8</u> |

Lack of food and clothing are accredited to being the most formidable obstacles to school attendance.

The school buildings of the county are in good repair. Nine of the ten white schools are brick and the High Schools are modern buildings in good repair.

The valuation of real estate in Mason County, outside of Maysville, for school purposes is approximately \$709,000,750. The total amount of money expectant for school purposes from county sources is \$58,352; from state per capita, approximately \$39,600; from Smith Hughes funds, \$4750; interest on bank deposits, \$100. Total received from county, state, and all other sources, \$105,500. The county tax rate for the year 1937-38 is 50¢ on each \$100 taxable property for school purposes.

The Maysville city school system consists of four white schools and one colored school. The John G. Fee Industrial School (colored) is on the 8-4 plan. This building was finished in 1931 and is a modern brick building. The white schools are on a 6-3-3 plan including one Junior and one Senior High School, which is given the highest school rating. Courses given in the High School are regular Academic courses and Commercial courses that meet college entrance. Citizenship courses requiring the same number of units for graduation designed for students do not plan to enter college. Then courses are offered in Art, Music,

Education (cont'd)

Commercial Subjects, Home Economics, etc., and in Trade and Industries.

The children receive a certain amount of religious education through the following activities:

Every Christmas every child hears at least one sermon and one program.

The various ministers of the city are used in the assembly periods. There is one Junior High, one Senior High, and one united assembly each week.

Study groups are conducted by the Faculty in which every child in the Junior and Senior High Schools are reached.

The grade children receive religious instruction by the teachers through the opening exercises.

The tax rate for city school purposes is \$1.04 on \$100 federation. Plans are under way for a building project of \$30,909 to enlarge the High School plant which will add six new rooms to the present plant. A new Trade High School building is needed which would meet the needs of the ever increasing group of students entering vocational fields.

The school has its quota of sixteen N. Y. A. students filled. This includes 12 white and 4 colored students.

Mason County had the following students from the county registered in College for the 1934-35 term:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Eastern State Teachers College | <u>13</u> |
| Morehead State Teachers College | <u>6</u> |
| Kentucky State Industrial College | <u>3</u> |

Mason

Dora Niskey

Box 3 File 22 241

Name

FOLKLORE

COHIST

Asa Pearl, Washington, Kentucky, a negro about seventy-five years old tells how his mother was married under the old and new constitution thus:

"My mother was married twice, once under the old constitution to my father by jumping over the broom stick but after the new constitution came out this wasn't any good any more so she married George Best under the new constitution and my father married another woman under the new constitution."

Mrs. Edna Hunt Best of Washington, Kentucky, told of a silver cup that was given to her daughter, Sara Miller Best, by her great uncle. It was buried with other silver in Tennessee and the Southern soldiers of whom her Uncle, Mr. Miller, was a member, dug it up so the Northern soldiers could not find it. When these soldiers divided the silver this cup was given to Mr. Miller.

Mrs. W. L. Yellman, while traveling North became acquainted with a Mrs. Oro, whose grandfather, Edmund P. Denton, was at one time a resident of Maysville. In the course of conversation it was known that Mrs. Yellman was from Maysville and Mrs. Oro related the following incident. From a child she could remember her grandfather taking her on his knee and singing the following song.

"Which away Dick
Which a way Dike
I'm going down to Maysville
To work on the pike."

There was more to the verse but Mrs. Oro had forgotten it. It is believed that this song was begun when so many people were inquiring the way to Maysville to work on the Maysville-Lexington turnpike.

A Civil War Story: (This was related by Mrs. W. L. Yellman, Haysville, Kentucky.)

COHIT

Near Leonardstown, Maryland, Col. Benjamin Quinn Harris owned a large plantation of several thousand acres, known as Eldenboro. He was also a large slave owner and they worked the land. Among these was a certain William McCarthy, a young slave. At one time Col. Harris had a criminal slave among his and he was given the privilege of either selling him to work in the Southern cotton fields or having him hanged. He chose to sell him and the family of the slave was given the privilege of going with him if they so desired. They departed for the South, and a few days later William McCarthy disappeared from the plantation. It developed that he was picked up and returned and upon questioning, his master learned that he was in love with the daughter of the criminal slave and had made an attempt to follow them.

Another story regarding William McCarthy was related by Mrs. Yellman. After the slaves were freed, William went with the carpet-beggars to Louisiana and there he prospered so that he became a member of the Legislature. Many years later he came back to visit Eldenboro and the Harris's in a Prince Albert coat and silk hat. He stepped from his buggy and knelt before Mr. and Mrs. Harris who had now grown very infirm and did not recognize him until he inquired, "Bossy, don't you know me?" After this he corresponded with a granddaughter who lived with the Harris's, but then ceased. The family gradually sold off the land in an attempt to be self supporting and finally deeded Eldenboro to the caretaker with the understanding that they were to take care of them until their death. Then a letter came from William McCarthy inquiring for his former master. The granddaughter wrote regarding their losing Eldenboro and he immediately wrote saying, "Why

didn't you let me know for I could have bought Eldenboro, and Old Bossy need never know that he didn't own it."

COHIST

James Campbell, an early resident of Maysville, took his family on a trading expedition to New Orleans. They loaded their flat boat with articles not to be had in that section and made their way down the Ohio River. This was a very dangerous trip filled with many hazards and it usually took a year to make the journey. On the return trip Mr. and Mrs. Campbell were stricken with yellow fever near the coast of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and their thirteen year old son was compelled to take charge of the ship. He made his way to an island off the coast of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and hid the boat in the underbrush. The mother died and was buried on the island, but the father recovered and the homeward journey was continued. The island was known as "My Wife's Island" until the government surveyed the islands along the Mississippi and this island was named. Mrs. Yellman, who related this story did not know the name of the island at present.

About 1830, John Campbell, another great uncle of Mrs. Yellman, left Maysville, Kentucky on horseback to visit his lead mine in Galvin, Illinois. He made the trip with practically no trouble although it was a very dangerous journey, but upon his homeward journey his horse was stolen while he slept, thus leaving him without any way to travel. He walked and walked until he became very hungry, and then only found an Indian camp. He scouted around trying to learn if it would be safe to go to the camp and ask for food. He discovered that all the men were away and only the squaws and children were in camp. He asked for food and they were very leary about giving it to him. Finally he received a very delicious serving of

Box 3
File 22

soup and just as he was enjoying it an old Indian man came stumbling into camp demanding food, as he was starving. The squaw very calmly said, "Well, I don't know whether there is another pup left in the kitchen and if there is I will fix you a bowl of soup also. (This was also related by Mrs. W. L. Yellman, Maysville, Kentucky.

COHIST

The Gretna Green of America:

An old man known as Massie Beasley lived in Aberdeen, Ohio, directly across the river from Maysville, Kentucky in an old home known as the "Gretna Green of America!" Many Maysvillians and others from this section of Kentucky and Ohio were married by Massie Beasley, especially those who eloped, for any amount from \$25.00 to a peck of apples. Between 1870 and 1892 Massie Beasley married 7,228 couples. When Maysville residents would see a couple they suspicioned were going to be married, they would follow in another skift to witness the ceremony. After Massie Beasley died his son-in-law began marrying people and it was only then that it was discovered that neither Massie Beasley or Mr. Shelton, his son-in-law, had any right to marry persons. The State of Ohio at first decided that they would declare all these marriages void and have the couples married again, but as the persons had scattered to the four winds, it was useless, so they declared all the marriages of Massie Beasley valid and the son-in-law was not permitted to perform any more ceremonies.

"BUFFALO TRACE," WADSWORTH HOUSE, MAYSVILLE.

"Buffalo Trace" received its name from the fact that the buffalo's made a path or trail through the old place when going from Blue Lick to the Ohio River to slake their thirst.

COPIST

The house was built in 1862 by W. H. Wadsworth who was a prominent lawyer and represented that district in Congress. His grandson, Henry Wadsworth of California has inherited the place which is occupied only during the summer months by Mrs. James E. Threlkeld, who is an aunt of Mr. Wadsworth's, and her daughter Miss Hilda Threlkeld who make their home in Louisville during the winter months.

The long driveway which winds its course up the steep hill from the Lexington Road, is bordered on either side by massive oaks which are descendants of the unforgettable "Charter Oak," made famous during the War of the Rebellion, by Captain Harry W. Wadsworth.

The house of Gothic style of architecture, is built of bricks with stone trimmings. Has centre hall down, also up stairs. There are two rooms on either side of the hall on the first floor with the kitchen in the rear of the dining room. There are six bedrooms on the second floor. The rooms are large and have high ceilings. The walnut woodwork used in the house was made from timber on the land. Many acres once surrounded the house. There is a Georgian Marble mantle in the library. There are handcarved mantels now painted white, in the other rooms.

The flower bordered driveway completely encircles the house, which commands a magnificent view of the lowlands and the Ohio River as well as of the surrounding hills.

(Description given by Mrs. James E. Threlkeld 1544 Eastern Parkway, Louisville.)

Box 3 File 22

ABERDEEN, OHIO, A GRETNA GREEN OF MASON COUNTY.

COHIST

Aberdeen, Ohio, has long been known as the Gretna Green of Mason County, Kentucky. A new bridge has recently been completed which links Maysville on the Kentucky side and Aberdeen on the Ohio side where for many long years a ferry carried travelers safely across. Between 60 and 70 years ago old Squire Beasley resided at Aberdeen and was famous for marrying couples at any hour of day or night, with no questions asked and no license. When he heard a call outside his house at night he would come to the window in his nightrobe and ask the couple below their intentions; when they replied that they wished to be married he would ask their names. He would then repeat the names adding "I pronounce you man and wife, leave a dollar under the frontdoor mat," then he would slam down the window."

(An old Maysville resident related this story to me.)

THE GERMANTOWN ROAD VIEW.

The Germantown road, west of Maysville, which winds its way up hill with several horseshoe curves commands a view of the Ohio River and the valley which is said to be unsurpassed for beauty by any thing of its kind in the entire world.

MASON COUNTY

Sent to
Box 3 File 22 Hon COHIST

GEOGRAPHY

The present county of Mason lies in the northern section of the State, and is bounded on the north by the Ohio River, on the east by Fleming County, on the south by Fleming and Robertson, and on the west by Bracken. It was established in 1789 and was named in honor of George Mason, a distinguished statesman of Virginia.

The county was formed from the then county of Bourbon and was originally much larger than at present, comprising all of the present counties of Bracken, Campbell, Carter, Fleming, Greenup, Johnson, Lawrence, Lewis; and parts of Floyd, Morgan, Nicholas, Pendleton, and Pike. However, the present county contains only 227 square miles and ranks 94th in size as compared with other counties in the State.

It is drained by the Ohio River and the North Fork of Licking River and their local tributaries.

TOPOGRAPHY

The central and southern parts of the county are undulatory to rolling. The elevation is 466 feet as one enters the inner valley of the North Fork of Licking River below Lewisburg approaching the Bracken and Robertson County lines.

A very great contrast topographically to this inland country is evidenced, however, as ^{one} nears the Ohio River northward bound. Here late Pleistocene dissection has resulted in immediate relief of 300 ft.

Maysville has an elevation of 524 feet, while the uplands of the county in the vicinity of Washington, Dimmit, and Helena rise to elevations of 850 and 900 feet, giving a regional maximum relief of about 375 feet for the entire district.

GEOLOGY

The hard rocks of Mason County consist of limestones, sandstones, and shales of the Cincinnati and Silurian divisions of the Paleozoic. Occasional small Pleistocene (Canadian) igneous and metamorphosed erratics are found in this region, evidently sourced from glacial outwash or ponding, while the flood plain of the Ohio River reveals a sequence of unconsolidated alluvial sediments of Pleistocene and Recent age.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN MASON COUNTY AS MARKED ON MAP

Nora Niskey
691

COHIST

Box 3 File 22

(5)

1. Limestone, now Maysville, where court house is located on the corner of Court and Third Streets. Limestone had its beginning in 1748 when a block house was built by John and Edward Waller and George Lewis of Virginia. This was the important port and place of debarkation for all early settlers but none remained in this exposed position and moved back into the interior of the county to make their first settlement.
2. Kenton's Station located on historic highway No. 68 three miles from Maysville and two miles from Washington. It was settled by Simon Kenton, the most famous of the pioneers who entered from the northern border, and was the first to take planting possession of Mason county. Kenton Station was erected in 1784 and from here Simon Kenton acted as host to all the early settlers who landed at Limestone and were going into the interior to settle. The springs that supplied the fort with water is still to be seen. Simon Kenton built near the location of the fort the first brick house erected in Mason county. Part of this house is still standing and the fort holes are still to be seen. This home is now the property of the Marshall heirs. On U. S. 68 at the intersection of 68 and the Kenton Station Road may be seen a marker erected to the memory of Simon Kenton by the Washington Study Club.
3. Washington settled by Arthur Fox is three miles from Maysville on U. S. 68. This settlement was originally known as Fox Station. In the central part of town may be seen the lot where the first court house was located in Washington. There is a monument in this lot to mark the site of the first court house.

Box 3
File 22

COHIST

4. The old Marshall ^{house} ~~home~~ is located on historic 68 in the central part of town. In this house now owned by Mr. Amos Case Harriet Beecher Stowe is thought to have conceived the idea for the book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Harriet Beecher Stowe was in school in Cincinnati, Ohio, with the Marshall's daughter and came to Washington with her on a visit when she was taken to see a slave sale at the court house. Interesting is the story related by Fleming Bennett, who was a slave. He was traded from this Marshall home with his mother and taken to Lexington, Kentucky, where he was sold to the Miller Family at Millersburg, Kentucky. After the slaves were freed he returned to Washington where he still lives.
5. The Lewis Marshall home is located a short distance off highway 68 in Washington. This home was built by Thomas Marshall, brother of Chief Justice Marshall and is a beautiful colonial home that was included in the G. W. A. project for preservation.
6. The first post office west of the Alleghenies is still standing in Washington. This building is located on U. S. 68 in the central part of Washington and is the property of Mrs. Nellie Wood Boggs. It has recently been marked by the Washington Study Club. The pigeon holes used in the post office are still in the possession of Mrs. Boggs. This building is log, now weatherboarded and is not opened to the public for inspection.

COH 1

Box 3 File 22

7. The gift shop, operated by Mrs. Edna Hunter Best is located in another of the oldest houses in Washington on U. S. No. 68. Mrs. Hunter also has her copies of the Pamphlet "Sketches of Washington", that she has recently written, for sale.
8. The first bank west of the Alleghenies is still standing in Washington on Highway No. 68 and is now the property of the Lane heirs. This bank was established in 1809. The door of the vault is most interesting. The home is now a private dwelling.
9. The Maltby home, now known as Cedar Hill, was built by Governor John Chambers about 1816 and is located a short distance off highway No. 68 in Washington.
10. McKinley's Block house was located on land now the property of Mr. Charles Hunter and is on the Murphysville road about eight miles from Washington. The first wheat grown in Mason county was raised on this farm. Half the men stood with uplifted guns to ward off an indian attack while the others harvested the wheat. The first white boy born in Mason county was born in the log house, long ago destroyed.
11. The old grave yard at Washington is located off highway No. 68. The land was donated by Arthur Fox, preacher and co-founder of the town. Many of the early settlers are buried here.
12. Meford's Station, located on the Maple Leaf road about four miles from U. S. No. 68, was built from logs that were included in the boat that the family used in coming to Kentucky. The house is on land now owned by Mr. John Cochran.

Box 3 File 22

13. Home of Basil Duke, one of the early physicians of Washington, is located a short distance off highway No. 68 in Washington. The home was used for a dormitory when the school was located in the old court house building.
14. Mayslick, settled by John Shotwell, David Morris, Isaac, Abraham, and Cornelius Drake in 1788. These men came to Kentucky from New Jersey and purchased four hundred acres of land from John May and named their settlement in his honor. It is located on U. S. No. 68 approximately twelve miles from Maysville.
15. The oldest home still standing in Mayslick is the property of Mr. Sandford Rolph. It is a log house, now weatherboarded and is located on U. S. No. 68 in Mayslick.
16. Clark's Station is now near the Louisville and Nashville railroad. It is another of the early settlements in the county.
17. Lee's Station. Was located between Maysville and Washington and was settled by General Henry Lee in 1785 and in 1874 was still the home of his descendents.
18. Lewis Station, known now as Lewisburg is located on Highway No. 11 approximately nine miles from Maysville.
19. Old Cemetery in Mayslick. It is located on U. S. No. 68 and many of the early settlers of Mayslick are buried here. The old church building that for many years served as a place of worship on the cemetery grounds has been removed to the farm of Mr. Gus Brooks and the material has been included in a building on this farm.

Box 3
File 22

COHIST

- 20. Fox Field. Many excavations have been made on the farm by the Smithsonian Institute and other noted archaeologists. Some of the relics are to be seen in the Blue Licks State Park, Blue Licks, Kentucky.
- 21. The Old Reliable Germantown Fair and Horse Show. The grounds are located some ten miles from Maysville on the State Highway No. 10. The fair is held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the last week of August every year. This fair has been a point of interest every summer since 1854. Livestock, horses, and poultry are displayed here and prizes are given to the winners.
- 22. Lewis Craig, Baptist Preacher, is buried on his farm near Minerva. This farm is now the property of the Tobin family. Lewis Craig introduced the "Travelin Church" from Spottsylvania county, Virginia to Kentucky in 1781. The Bracken Association has marked his grave with a tablet. Lewis Craig's church is located in Minerva but at present is dilapidated and not in use.
- 23. Germantown, located on Highway No. 10 on the Mason Bracken border line approximately ten miles from Maysville and six miles from Brooksville. Germantown was laid off by Whitfield Craig in 1784. Formerly it was known as Buchanan Station and was palisaded.
- 24. The oldest house in Mason county is now the Dave Bookley home in Washington on U. S. No. 68. It was built by George Wood, the father of Dolly Wood, the first white girl born in Mason county.

Box 3
File 22

COLLECT

25. The Pyles Poultry Plant is located on Highway No. 68 approximately three miles from Mayslick and nine miles from Maysville. This plant has been popular for breeders of white leghorns the world over. For the past five years contest pens from this farm have been sent to the National Laying Contest, at Auburn, Alabama, where competitors from the best breeders of the United States and England appeared. In 1925 and 1926 chickens from this plant were awarded first pen. Shipments have been made to Australia and Porto Rico, and many other foreign countries.
26. The Public Library in Maysville, Kentucky. This is the only public library in the county and is located on Sutton Street in Maysville, Kentucky. James Warmold gave the ground where the Woman's Club now stands for a library. The building was erected by public subscription. At his death the estate was left to his two sisters their lifetime and was then to go to the library, about \$21,000. In 1913 the building adjoining the library, an old bank, was purchased and the library moved. Here we find Simon Kenton's gun, Betty lamp, and the last Indian Scalp he took. An old drum used by a Mr. Doyle who was too young to fight in the civil war was given to the library by a Mr. Dave Doyle at the death of his father. There are approximately sixteen thousand volumes in the library. Directly back of the library is an old grave yard. It is Maysville's first grave yard, and the grounds was given by Daniel Boone. Interesting also is the curio room in the Maysville Public Library. It is under the auspices of

the Maysville and Mason County Library Historical and Scientific Association. Here may be seen many old and interesting objects that have been collected in this and adjoining counties. The old safe used in the Washington Bank, the first west of the Alleghenies, is also to be seen in this room.

27. Maysville Country Club is located on U. S. No. 68 one mile from Maysville. It is the only country club in this and adjoining counties. There is an excellent ball room, tennis court, and nine hole golf course here. A membership fee is charged and tourists wishing to play may do so by paying a small greens fee of \$1.00.
28. The Mayswood Hospital is located on Fourth Street in Maysville. It is modern and well equipped in every respect.
29. Boone's Tavern was built in 1815. It is the oldest house still standing in Maysville. It is located on Front Street two doors west of Limestone Street. Daniel Boone, who was a cousin of Jacob Boone, assisted in this work. Most of the clapboards were hewn by hand and may be seen on the outside of the building.
30. Aaron Corvine was the only artist Mason County has ever produced. He was born in Jersey Ridge one mile from Maysville and some of his work may be seen in the Maysville Public Library. He traveled abroad after his health failed and when he was stricken he was in Europe. He began his homeward journey but only reached Philadelphia when he died.
31. The Hill House formerly known as the Lee House, was built in 1840 by Pete Lee. This was the aristocratic place of the town and the people from the

Box 3 File 22

COHIST

south stopped here enroute to Blue Licks. This house is now an apartment house located on Front Street at the intersection of Front and Second Streets.

32. U. B. Grant attended School in this house, now the home of Dr. J. A. Dodson at the corner of Fourth and Limestone Streets.
33. Edgement, the new residential section of Maysville is approximately one mile from Maysville within site of the Highway. Many of the beautiful new houses of Maysville are being constructed here.
34. In October, 1785 the Indians took sixty horses from a station near Limestone, now the present site of Maysville.

Ky. S-600.
Buck pond?

File

Neville S. Bullitt

Box 3 File 22

POINTS OF INTEREST: THOMAS MARSHALL HOUSE

COHIST

5

Thomas Marshall House, in Washington, Mason co., Ky. is now owned by Miss Louise Marshall, Washington, Ky. This House was built in the latter part of the 18th century by Capt. Thomas Marshall, a brother of Chief Justice John Marshall. Their father and mother lived and died here, and are buried in the family burying ground near the old house on the hill. Capt. Thomas Marshall is buried there also. He was born in Fauquier co., Va., in 1761, was a Revolutionary soldier and first Clerk of Shenandoah co., Va. He came to Ky. in fall of 1788 or spring of 1789. He became the first Clerk of Mason co., Ky. 1789 and continued in that office until his death, March 18, 1817. He was a member of the Second Constitutional Convention of Ky., in 1799, from Nelson co.

The house is two stories and attic, with basement under N. side only. The foundation is of stone and the walls of brick. Floors are of ash boards of random width. Basement floor is earthen. The roof originally of hand split yellow popular shingles, is now of galvanized iron.

The building has been re-modeled several times and undergone radical changes. It is now in a bad state of repair. No modern conveniences are to be found in it except electric lights and a warm air furnace, both of which were recently installed.

The kitchenette, evidently older than the rest of the house, was built first, perhaps, as a part of some other structure occupying the present site, or it may have stood alone. The large open fireplace indicates that this must have always been a kitchen. This old kitchen fireplace, originally on the S. wall, was later turned around and used for the dining room when that part was built. The same chimney serves the fireplace in the bedroom over the dining rooms.

Box 3
File 22

COHISI

It is not known just when the original structure was built, but the parlor, with rooms above, was added about 1800. The stairs are especially fine, particularly the newels, which differ slightly in design. The parlor mantel was transported from the E. on mule-back over the mts. to grace its present location.

MASON COUNTY

Box 3 File 22
COHIST

PUBLIC HEALTH

The county Health Department was organized in 1917, and is the second oldest in the State. It has a full time personnel consisting of one doctor, five nurses (six after July 1), and two sanitary inspectors. It also has a part time dentist and a part time operator. The aims, broadly, of the department are to prevent sickness, to postpone death and to aid in bringing about a happier and more prosperous life by assisting in keeping its supporting population alive and well---the prevention and control of communicable diseases being one of its fundamental functions.

The fact that in 1931 there were 45 children immunized against diphtheria and January 1, 1937 the tabulation showed 2344 immunized in the county gives an idea of the growing interest in the department.

The following is a tabulation in which figures for specific diseases per 10,000 population are given for 1912 and 1933, for both Mason county and the State as a whole:

| Disease per 10,000 | County | | State | |
|------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | 1912 | 1933 | 1912 | 1933 |
| Tuberculosis | 25.27 | 8.45 | 20.56 | 8.59 |
| Typhoid | 6.04 | 4.21 | 3.32 | 1.20 |
| Malaria | | | 0.77 | 0.29 |
| Pellagra | | 0.53 | 0.49 | 0.48 |
| Poliomyelitis | 0.55 | | 0.16 | 0.11 |
| Diarrhoea & Dysentery | 0.93 | 2.63 | 6.45 | 5.26 |
| Deaths from all causes | 170.3 | 140.0 | 129.01 | 108.0 |

A higher death rate for Mason County than for the State as a whole is due to the fact that the registration in a number of our mountain counties is very poor, showing only a very small percentage of actual deaths. The tabulation of a large increase in the number of cases of Diarrhoea & Dysentery in 1933 over 1912 is due for one thing to poor registration in 1912, and, too, at that time cases were often classed under some other heading, where now they are found to belong under Diarrhoea & Dysentery.

The death rate has been greatly decreased among children and young people, but the county death rate continues high because of the old population. More than 50% of deaths during the past year were people above 60 years of age, and a large per cent of these were over 80. Because of this condition, the fight will have to be strong against preventable diseases to hold the death rate at its present level.

The City School system has a Physical Education and Health Department such as is found in but a very few schools in the State. A teach-

er is employed who does nothing but take care of this department. She visits every room of the elementary schools once each week and supervises games, dances, etc. by planning the work for a week with the teachers. She has classes three periods a week for the Junior and Senior High School girls in which they take up team games, relays, rhythmic games such as tap dancing, social dancing, folk dancing, etc.; and sport games such as tennis, horse shoe pitching, deck tennis, etc. The County Health Department cooperates with this department by giving the girls examinations to decide whether or not they are physically able to participate in the activities of this Department.

The boys of the Junior and Senior High Schools have a man Physical Education Director.

The County Health Department also cooperates with the city school in making examinations of the children and prescribes for cases unable to pay for a doctor's service. The city takes care of such cases requiring Hospital service.

When a child is out of school because of illness he must have a certificate from the Health Office before he can reenter school.

The fact that the members of the full time personnel drove 33,470 miles on official business during the year 1936 goes to show that the Department was on the job for the county as well as for the city of Maysville.

Mason has the best hospitalization of any county in the state with the exception of Fayette and Jefferson counties.

General health conditions in the county are good, however, there is an urgent need for a county or district Sanitarium where tuberculosis cases may be properly cared for. In spite of the absence of recognized facilities for the isolation and institutional care of cases of tuberculosis, the department has struggled with the problems of case findings, early diagnosis, and medical and nursing supervision. The following is a summary for 1936 of efforts for tuberculosis control on the county:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Individuals admitted to medical service----- | 59 |
| Individuals admitted to nursing service----- | 348 |
| Physical examinations in clinics----- | 42 |
| X-ray examinations----- | 97 |
| Clinic visits----- | 34 |
| Visits to private physicians----- | 32 |
| Field nursing visits----- | 459 |
| Office nursing visits----- | 49 |
| Admissions to sanatoria----- | 2 |
| | |
| Tuberculin tests under 15 years----- | 215 |
| Positive reactors under 15 years----- | 41 |
| Reactors x-rayed under 15 years----- | 15 |
| Tuberculin tests over 15 years----- | 514 |
| Positive reactors over 15 years----- | 166 |
| Reactors x-rayed over 15 years----- | 82 |

MASON COUNTY

Box 3
File 22

COH T

RURAL HOUSING

The majority of Mason County runs above the average in Rural Housing, with second and eighth magisterial districts running far below the rest of the county in housing value average. The eighth district includes the small towns of Deitrich, Plumville, Rectorville, and Orangeburg. The worst housing conditions in the county are found in Eastland, a little settlement of about 800 just outside Maysville city limits. This settlement is made up of (using a local expression) the "scum of the earth", brought in from surrounding counties a few years ago to work in some new factories that were being opened in Maysville. Many of them have to live on about two days work per month.

Housing values by Magisterial Districts is indicated by the following tabulation from the 1930 Census:

| Magisterial Dist. | No. of farms | Ave. value of Farm Dwellings |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 10 | \$ 3060 |
| 2 | 3 | 833 |
| 3 | 264 | 1388 |
| 4 | 321 | 1048 |
| 5 | 249 | 2069 |
| 6 | 187 | 1881 |
| 7 | 247 | 1561 |
| 8 | 267 | 931 |
| Total | 8 | 1548 |
| | | \$ 1445 |

This tabulation shows that outside of First District(Maysville), the highest value of farm dwellings is found in Fifth District, however, some rather old and run-down dwellings are found in some of the little towns of this District.

MASON COUNTY

SANITATION AND STREAM POLLUTION

Box 3 File 22
COHIST

The sewage collection and disposal system of Maysville is of the poorest type and quite inadequate for the needs of the city. All sewage, including refuse from factories, is dumped into the river, not treated. Stream pollution throughout the county is bad with no control and everything is dumped into the streams.

The County Health Department has done much for general sanitary conditions throughout Mason County. In 1935 a survey of the existing sanitary conditions in every home in the county was made and the work tabulated for future reference. Every year a complete inspection of school plants is a part of the routine service of the Department. The results of the inspection under the White House Conference Ideals was very gratifying, showing that the school plants in Mason County were in good condition.

In the rural areas, 5% of the homes have water works with indoor toilets, 40% have sanitary toilets, the majority of the remainder have the old type toilet, while some have none.

There were four town surveys made during the past year in the interest of better sanitary conditions. Maps showing sewer connections, approved toilets, cess pools, septic tanks, and insanitary toilets will be made from the surveys.

The Health Department has made an effort to clean up restaurants in Maysville during the past year. The majority of restaurants have declined in sanitation to a very low ebb. However, with continuous effort of the department there has been much improvement.

MASON COUNTY

Box 3
File 22
COHIST

SOILS

The soils of Mason County have been classified in the following types:

| <u>Soil</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Maysville limestone | 50.0 |
| 2. Richmond " | 25.0 |
| 3. Eden shale & sandstone | |
| 4. Small amt. Alluvial | 25.0 |
| 5. Trace of Cynthiana | |
| Total | <u>100.0</u> |

1. The Maysville limestone occupies about one-half of the county's area and extends from the northwest through the central to the southern portion of the county. It is intercolated with some shale and is very fossiliferous. It is found mainly in a belt encircling the Eden shale, but gives rise to better agricultural country than does the Eden shale, and has a resemblance in topography and in soil to the Inner (Lexington) Bluegrass Region.

2. The Richmond is found in the eastern and scattered through the north central portion of the county. Its strata may aggregate 250 feet. On account of its argillaceous character it does not, as a rule, give rise to as good agricultural land as does the Maysville.

3. The Eden shale which is found in a small portion in the southwest and a little along the northern portion of the county is a soil consisting largely of shale intercolated with thin layers of limestone. It is commonly called "blue clay" and "soapstone". On account of its prevailing shaly and siliceous character the Eden is rather poor agricultural land.

4. There is a very small amount of Cynthiana found in the northwest which does not, as a rule, form as good soil as the underlying Lexington, yet it is of similar character and but little inferior in fertility. Towards the north along the river where it thickens, it includes beds of diverse lithological composition and fossil content.

5. The small amount of silurian in the extreme east is a magnesian limestone, somewhat sandy in appearance and reddish in color.

Although some of the types embracing the smaller percents of the soils are slightly inferior agriculturally, practically the entire

SOILS(cont'd)

Box 3
File 22
COHIST

county is suited to all kinds of general farming.

Long rotation has held erosion in the county to a minimum with only a small per cent damaged by erosion, this being due to mismanagement.

MASON COUNTY

Box 3
File 22

CONFIDENTIAL

URBAN HOUSING

Maysville has many fine residences, a number of which are quite old. With the exception of the slum areas, most of the residences and their surroundings are in an excellent state of repair, and even in the slum areas may be found a number of well-kept homes and lawns. The recent flood damaged some of the homes in the flood area, but most of them are in process of repair.

A housing survey of a number of Kentucky cities including Maysville was made through the K.E.R.A. This survey shows that Maysville has 4 slum areas with 813 residences-buildings, having a total of 966 dwelling units. There are 918 families in these slum areas with a total population of 3431. The average monthly rental per dwelling unit in all slum areas is listed at \$11.62.

The average cost of all slum areas per square foot is listed at \$.12 and the total cost of purchase of recommended slum areas is placed at \$523,000. In addition to this, other major costs incidental to slum clearance and low cost housing projects, such as filling in low areas, construction of sewers, etc. was put at \$180,000, with the number of dwelling units to be built at 600, and costing \$900,000, making a total cost of the slum clearance project at \$1,603,000.

Town of Washington

Box 3
File 22

COHIST

In the year 1790 the town of Washington, three and one half miles south of Limestone, now Maysville, in Mason County, overshadowed the latter town. Then Washington boasted 700 inhabitants and its schools were among the most noted in the Colonies. It was called "A Cultured Paris in learning." Washington has fallen into utter neglect and decay. But in many of the crumbling houses there can be found chimney mantels imported from Europe over a hundred years ago. They are doubly works of art, now, but mute witnesses of the splendid place Washington occupied in Colonial days.

Washington was the home of Col. Thomas Marshall, father of Chief Justice John Marshall, who as General Washington's friend, was also one of the mighty heroes of the Revolution. Here sleep, three Tom Marshall's, a Colonel, a Captain and a General.

The first school at Limestone was in the old Waller blockhouse, a double log structure with pallisaded walls and court. Limestone's first structure, also became its first school house. In this building Isreal Donaldson taught the first school at Limestone. The old blockhouse stood at the southwest corner of Second and Limestone streets and was removed about 1810 and a large brick warehouse erected in its place.

This warehouse for the sale of wood, tobacco and grain, also contained a dungeon in the basement where negro slaves were kept in chains, for barter or sale. Some years ago this old warehouse was torn down and the present magnificent high school building was erected on the identical spot where Isreal Donaldson taught the first school, nearly a Century and a half ago.

Box 3 file 22

Bird C. Greer.

COHI T

Of his coming to Limestone, Donaldson wrote in 1842 as follows
 "In May, 1790, I took passage on board a flatboat, at Kingstown, on
 the Ohio side, for Kentucky, and arrived at Limestone on the first
 night of June. I got into a public house but was unable to procure
 food, fire or bed and no nourishment but whiskey. A number of us
 that had landed that evening spent the night sitting in a room which
 was a grand one for those days.

There had during the spring been a good deal of mischief done
 on the river, but we saw no Indians. There were in our company
 landed at Limestone 19 boats, I think. Major Parker, of Lexington
 was our Admiral and pilot.

During the summer of that year I taught school in what is now
 called Maysville. During the winter of 1790 - 91, I became acquainted
 with Nathan Massie, and in the spring of 1791 I came to reside in his
 little fort, at Manchester, O., in the then country of Hamilton,
 Northwestern Territory. At this time there was very little law or
 gospel in the territory and the usual mode of settling disputes was
 by a game of fisticuffs; and at the close sometimes a part of a nose
 or ear would be missing; but a good stiff glass of grog generally
 restored harmony and friendship."

In April, 1791, pedagog Donaldson was captured by the Indians just
 above Manchester, on Donaldson Creek named in his honor. The story
 of his escape and his journey to Cincinnati, thence back to Maysville,
 forms one of the most interesting narratives in the History of the
 early settlements.

Box 3 File 22
COHIST

Donaldson's textbooks were the New Testament, Pilgrim's Progress, Dillworth's Speller and "Bradford's Almanac" printed in Lexington in 1788; the latter also containing "Many profane and vulgar jokes", made in Philadelphia. "Poor Richard's Almanac," was then the classic vade mecum.

A Kentucky historian, writing of education in the old days, says: "Poor Richard's Almanac" was to the pioneer cabin what the newspaper is to the modern home." It is interesting to note that with little training, poverty, lack of books and lack of school facilities, and teachers the people should have made such early efforts to become educated.

(The Register of the Ky. State Historical Society, Frankfort, Ky. Vol. 15, Jan - Dec. 1917).

Even in the pioneer era a great deal of merchandise found its way down the Ohio. and through Limestone over the Lexington road to the interior. Much freight also came from New Orleans - then a Spanish settlement. But the bulk of the trade was from the East. As early as 1790, we read of "A fleet of nineteen boats" piloted by Major Parker of Lexington. A favorite and authentic jingle of the time read "Where are you from? Redstone. What is your lading? Millstones. What is your Captain's name? Whetstone. Where are your bound? Limestone".

"In the earliest wills and inventories recorded, there is constant mention of velvet knee breeches, silver shoes and stock, and knee buckles, bibles and dictionaries. So even in their buckskins the pioneers did not forget the niceties of life in Virginia.

W. H. ...

Box 3 File 22

4

COHIST

John Robert Proctor.

B. Cedar Hill, Mason Co., 1844.

Educated private tutors.

To University of Pa. 1863.

Quit to join Confederate army.

Became lieut. of cavalry until 1865.

Engaged in farming after war.

To Harvard University camp in Ky. in 1874 as ass't. to Dr. Shaler.

Took special course at Harvard.

Later appointed Ass't. on Ky. Geological Survey at Frankfort.

Director of Ky. Geological Survey and Commissioner of Immigration from 1880-1892.

Following friction with Governor's office on Civil Service ideas, quit and was appointed to U. S. Civil Service Commission by President Cleveland in 1893.

On 10th anniversary of service presented with loving cup by President Roosevelt and others who had served under him on Civil Service Commission.

Died 10 days later (1903).

Became author of considerable reputation.

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