

Muhlenberg County, Ky.  
(District 1)

Archaeology

Muhlenberg County agrees with the rest of the Green River Valley in its archaeological aspects. There is considerable evidence of prehistoric occupation represented by mounds, shelters and typical shell deposits of the Green River Valley Culture. However, more of the sites in the county have been mutilated or destroyed than is true of adjoining counties.

There are eleven sites in the county which have been reported. These are:

One mound on Batiste Creek.

"Indian Rock" on Mud River- shows carved hieroglyphics.

One mound at junction of Pond and Salt Lick Creeks-  
opened last in 1910

Two mounds about one mile east of Moorman.

Village or camp site two miles north of Bremen.

Camp site at Olive.

Burial field on Green River one and one-half miles north  
of Paradise.

Two mounds one and one-half miles east of Millport.

Several hominy holes near Belton.

One mound- large- near Murphy's Lake.

Burial field near Gus, Kentucky

There are evidences of stone burials over the county,  
especially noticeable at Harpe's Hill.

# "The Muhlenbergers" (1)

FRONTISPIECE OF MUHLENBERG COUNTY BY CURT A. ROBERT - PAGES 110-112.

~~SECRET~~

## Life in the Olden Days

When the first settlers came to look for homes in that portion of the State which is now Muhlenberg County they found the hills and valleys covered with one continuous forest. Gigantic oak, poplar, hickory, walnut, beech and many other species of hardwood trees flourished in great numbers, especially in the bottoms and valleys and on the north hillsides; tall pines stood on the cliffs overlooking Clifty Creek, and large cypresses shaded the banks of Black Lake. Little or no underbrush grew in this virgin forest. Men and women experienced no trouble in riding or walking under the trees. Wagons encountered few obstacles other than deep streams or steep hills.

The pioneers believed that the best land on which to settle was where good springs and running streams existed and where good timber for houses, fences, and fuel was plentiful. Wood and water they found here to their satisfaction, and in a territory they judged sufficiently large to provide them and their successors with "new ground" for many centuries. The supply of standing timber then seemed as inexhaustible as the water in the everlasting springs and ever-running streams. They did not imagine that the conservation of forests and the redeeming of the so-called "worn-out land" would, in less than a century, be among the problems of the day. Nor did they realize that they were treading on ground under which lay great deposits of coal, and that this coal would some day be developed and rank as the county's largest natural resource.

The Indians had, for more than a century, given up this section of the State as a place of residence, but had not abandoned it as a hunting-ground until a short time before the first white men began making their settlements. The few red men who were seen by Muhlenberg's pioneers were in all probability rovers, belonging to no tribe at all. In the olden days deer, bear, turkeys, and other game

were plentiful; wolves were numerous, and panthers although comparatively few, were likely to be encountered at any time.

Such, in brief, was the wilderness into which the first-comers penetrated to open up a new country and to establish homes and fortunes for themselves and for their children. In this vast forest the pioneers made their clearings, erected their houses, raised their crops, cut their roads, built their churches, put up their courthouse, reared their families, and blazed the way for posterity.

The providing of food and shelter occupied the greater part of the time of the first-comers. Self-reliance became of necessity a strong characteristic. Every family was thrown absolutely on its own resources, except in cases where two or more families came in a body and settled in the same place for mutual protection and assistance. Help of any and every kind was cheerfully given to neighbors; but neighbors were as a rule few, and in most cases the nearest lived several miles away. The men cultivated the crops, shot game for meat, and attended to what marketing there was of their scanty products. In the meantime the women not only performed the regular household duties, but also spun the yarn and flax and wove the cloth for most of the clothes then worn.

As the number of newcomers increased, the exchange of labor and products became more frequent and more practical, and pleasure as well as profit brought about a more frequent commingling of the people. Business and social, religious, and educational intercourse not only led to an exchange of views but also to the broadening of ideas. Nearly every farm became not only a place for work but also a social center. Those who lacked an interest in social, religious, or educational affairs and avoided these gatherings soon deteriorated, no matter how great their accomplishments or how high their social standing might have been.

Neighbors intermarried, and as every neighborhood was in social touch with those surrounding it, all neighborhoods, in time, were linked together. The German-Americans in the northern and eastern part of the county, the Virginians in the

middle section, extending from Green River to Pond River, and the Carolinians in the southern part, soon became more or less united into one settlement, with Greenville as its center. More than half of the citizens now living in Muhlenberg, who trace their ancestry to the pioneers of the county, are related, although in many cases this kinship has been lost sight of or is expressed in the vague term "some sort of a cousin from way back."

The early settlers in the county were of various extraction. Most of them were German, English, Scotch, or Irish descent. But since environment plays a more important part in the development of a people than the nationality of their ancestors, and since in the early days all were under the influence of the same surroundings, conditions, and laws, the pioneers soon drifted more or less into the same way of living and into the use of the same language and the same local forms of expression. A few of the pioneers were Germans, and a number were German Pennsylvanians and German-Virginians; but all traces of the old Vaterland customs and speech disappeared from Muhlenberg three or four generations ago. This change extended even to the spelling of the German names, most of them having been long since Americanized.

The Virginians and Carolinians of English, Scotch, and Irish extraction were more numerous than any other class of settlers, and their life, language, and laws prevailed to such an extent that their characteristics soon influenced the manners and customs of the entire population of the county. As time rolled on and new conditions presented themselves, new customs slowly developed, and as the customs of colonial Virginia and the Carolinas that had long prevailed in Muhlenberg passed into the days gone by, there gradually developed another American people - Muhlenbergers - who were not only among the earliest of typical Kentuckians, but whose descendants, changing with the times, are typical Kentuckians of today.

A large portion of Virginia's military grants lay in Kentucky south of Green River. A number of the first-comers and other pioneers, consequently, were people

who came to take possession of the military lands granted to them or to their fathers. Others traveled into this wilderness to buy offered tracts or to claim tracts they had bought. Some wandered here to settle on unclaimed public lands, or to "squat" on wild lands with a view of later obtaining a patent for their newly acquired farms. Some, stirred by the "call of the wild", came to hunt and fish. Others, drifting on the tide of adventure, indifferent about land or game, had - as a local expression puts it - "come to be a-ooming."

Many who had land warrants located them, irrespective of any other claim, on any ground that seemed desirable, for the country had not been surveyed and "sectioned" by the government. As early as 1775 Richard Henderson proposed that the lines run on the territory claimed by the Transylvania Company be made "by the four cardinal points, except where rivers or mountains so intervene as to render it too inconvenient." The neglect of Virginia to provide for the general survey of Kentucky, and the failure of the pioneers to adopt Henderson's idea, resulted in complications all over the state, many of which are still unsettled.

Many of the settlers employed professional surveyors, but more often had the tracts they intended to occupy laid out according to their own notions, independent of their neighbors' lines. However, most of the pioneers did their own surveying. Some, it is said, "ran their lines with grapevines, using a portable knot-hole for a transit, the sun for a compass, and a dogwood saplin' for a flag-pole." In modern parlance, it was "the Eye-See Way." They, like the professional surveyors, also established courses by planting stones and pegs or by making "a hickory on a hill," "a beech near a branch," or by blazing any convenient trees along a line or near a corner, or by following the meanderings of a stream. The old maps represent most of the military lines (lines bounding military grants) "as straight as an arrow," but many of such old lines are in reality, as one man expressed it, "as crooked as a dog's hind leg." The fact that many of these old calls can not be traced as originally run out has given

rise to the report that the description of a certain line in the county reads, "from a ben' in a creek, thence a kinder south-like forty poles, more or less, to a nigger in a fiel'."

Mr. R. T. Martin, speaking of the pioneers, said:

"The first settlers of Muhlenberg County were people of nerve, enterprise, and industry. They braved the hardships and obstacles of a wild and unbroken forest. They came, stayed, and conquered, and laid the foundation for future greatness. We have many advantages over our forefathers; they had only about two over us. They had a wonderful range for stock. Pea-vines were knee-high all over the county, fast canebrakes stood in many places, and there was always an abundance of mast. On all these the horses, cattle, and hogs fared exceedingly well. The other advantage was in the abundance of game, which supplied them with much of their meat and leather.

"Most of the pioneers had apple and peach orchards. Many of the apple trees planted by them produced fruit for thirty years, and some as long as fifty years. Dried apples and dried peaches were a commodity with the old settlers. Their cider and vinegar have never been equaled. Their whiskey, apple jack, and peach brandy, made at the various still-houses in the county, were according to all reports very fine.

"Their method of preparing meals was very different from that of today. Cooking was done in pots, skillets, and ovens around a large open wood fireplace. They beat and chopped their meat into sausage with cleaver and hammer made in the blacksmith shop.

"One of their great burdens was in their disadvantage as to transportation facilities. Most of the traveling was done afoot, on horseback, or in a public stage-coach. There were no two-horse wagons in those days. Ox-carts and ground-sleds were used for farm purposes. In nearly every neighborhood there were one or two six-horse wagons run by regular wagoners, who in the earliest times hauled

much of the produce to shipping points on the Ohio River, but about the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, when Kincheloe's Bluff was made a landing-place, all produce for the outside world was sent there, and later, after South Carrollton was settled, all the hauling was to and from that point."

In the early days, and even until comparatively recent times some of the farmers used a ground-sled or a "landslide" for short hauls. It was built on the principle of a sled, and so used during all seasons. The so-called "truck-wagon" was also frequently seen in the olden days. Its wheels were discs sawed from a solid black gum log, and were about two and a half feet high. It was usually drawn by a yoke of oxen. The owner lubricated the axles with homemade soap before starting from his farm, but after driving two or three miles and allowing the wagon to stand in the sun for a few hours the lubricant would waste away. On his return home the screeching of the old wagon could be heard for more than half a mile.

Many of the pioneer families not only "killed" or raised their own leather but also made their own shoes and harness. They went to the tanyards to have the hides tanned. The process of tanning required almost a year, and although the tanner often had hundreds of hides in his tan-pits at one time, he could "tell any man's hide" in his tanyard. No matter how much the "unhairing" and other processes may have changed the original skin, he would return to each customer the identical hide that had been brought months before. In payment for his work the tanner usually received one third of the leather.

Practically all the pioneers wore clothes that were made from homespun cloth. Flax was more or less extensively cultivated in the county until about 1850, but since 1870 this crop has not been raised. Flaxseed was usually sown on Good Friday. The plant cultivated in Muhlenberg was from two to three feet high, branching only near the top, and stood about as thick as wheat stalks. The harvesting began by pulling the plant out by the roots. It went through a number of pro-

cesses before the fibre was finally separated from the "bone." The women, after spinning this fibre into thread, wove it into linen. Their linsey or linsey-woolsey was a homespun cloth made of home-grown linen and home-grown wool.

A few of the pioneers, some of their children, and even some of their grandchildren, experimented with the raising of cotton in Muhlenberg. The local cotton crop was usually a very small one, although it is said that on one or two occasions it was greater than the local demand. (Note: Up to 1900 Mrs. Cynthia B. (J.K.) Gary raised all the cotton she used in her quilts, and ginned it with a device that resembled and worked on the principle of a clothes-wringer. In 1847 John Staples built a small public cotton gin near Friendship. A few years later he sold it to Thomas Terry, who moved it three miles west of Greenville; although a number of people tried to raise cotton during the Civil War, not enough was produced to justify the running of the gin. In 1870 W. H. James moved the gin to near Pleasant Hill Church (Russell Old Field), and after three years' trial sold it to E. V. Tate, who transferred the rollers, sweep, and other parts back to the Friendship neighborhood, where they were used for various purposes.)

Speaking to me of the old days, Judge David J. Fleming said:

"I have often heard my father, Samuel C. Fleming, tell of an incident that took place about the year 1815, or shortly after my grandparents settled in the Mud River country. Ammunition was scarce in those days, but game was plentiful and easily caught. My grandfather, David L. Fleming, had cleared a small field, in which he built a turkey-pen for the purpose of trapping wild turkeys. One day at dinner my grandfather told my father, then a boy of about ten, to go over to the turkey-pen after dinner and see whether any turkeys were in it. Shortly before supper father walked over to the pen, but found no turkeys nor any signs. On his return he followed a path through a strip of dense woods.



Soon after entering the woods he heard a noise like a crying child. He glanced around, and seeing nothing rushed home and told his father, who was then in the blacksmith's shop at work. The old gentleman remarked that he had often heard a "child" crying in the woods at night, but never before so early in the evening. Grandfather picked up his gun and followed the path leading to the turkey-pen. He entered the woods, looked and listened, and after hearing the expected cry hid himself behind a tree and from there mimicked the slowly approaching beast. When it came within safe shooting distance he blazed away and killed one of the largest "Tom" panthers ever seen in Muhlenberg County. The animal measured eleven feet from the end of his nose to the tip of his tail. Although I was not born until about eighteen years later, I remember using this old panther skin for a pallet."

No panthers have been seen in Muhlenberg since about the close of the Civil War, notwithstanding that even to this day reports are occasionally circulated that one had been seen, or rather heard, in the Clifty Creek country. Wolves, too, have long ago disappeared. The desire to exterminate wolves, and incidentally to receive the bounty paid for their scalps, resulted in a war on wolves that lasted as long as there were any to be killed. Any one producing the head of a wolf before a justice of the peace, stating under oath when and where he killed the animal, was granted a certificate to that effect. These certificates, upon presentation to the sheriff, were paid for at the rate of two dollars and a half for wolves over six months of age and one dollar for those under that age. A reduced facsimile of one of these certificates is here reproduced. (Note: In a bundle of old documents marked "Medley of papers" in the courthouse I found many "wolf-sculp" certificates. Four, selected at random, read:

"March 4th, 1800. This day came Jacob Wiley before me, one of the Justices of the Peace of Muhlenberg County and brought a wolf's head which appears over the age two years and took the oath prescribed by law. Given under my hand

Isaac Davis."

"I hereby do Certify that Sharp Garness Brought before me a Justice of thee peace for Muhlenberg County four Groan Wolf Sculps and proved them as the Law directs. Given under My hand thee 27 day of August 1800. W. Bradford, J. P."

"October the 7th 1805. Jacob Groves produced one grown woolfe skulp to me and proved it as the law directs. Charles Lewis, J.P."

"Muhlenberge Countey. This day about 2 o'clock I killed a large wolf and Jacob Short witness. November 23, 1805. Joseph Arnold, Sener.")

Great flocks of wild pigeons or passenger pigeons frequented Muhlenberg in the olden days. Up to about 1850 they were, on occasions, seen in great numbers passing over the country while moving from place to place or at some of the pigeon-roosts in various parts of the county. Since about 1860 none have been seen at all. That "they came by the millions and were killed with clubs by the thousands," and that while flying over the country "they hid the sun even more than the blackest cloud" and "turned day into night" is verified by many local traditions. Amos M. Jenkins, now eighty years of age, declares that wild pigeon meat was better than the best quail. One tradition is to the effect that in the olden times some of the farmers near Paradise fattened their hogs on them. A few places in the Pond River country and along Green River are still pointed out as old pigeon-roosts. However, all evidences of the presence of pigeons have long ago disappeared. (Note: Audubon, in his work on "Birds of America," publishes a sketch on The Passenger Pigeon (Vol. V, pp. 25-36). In this he relates that on one occasion in the autumn of 1813 he saw "immense legions" of wild pigeons passing over the country near the mouth of Salt River, and that they continued "passing in undiminished numbers . . . for three days in succession." "The air was literally filled with pigeons; the light of noonday was obscured as by an eclipse.")

In this same sketch he says that he repeatedly visited one of the roosting-places "on the banks of Green River in Kentucky." This particular roosting place was probably near the mouth of Green River, for there "two farmers from the vicinity of Russellville, distant more than a hundred miles, had driven upwards of three hundred hogs to be fattened on the pigeons, which were to be slaughtered . . . The pigeons, arriving by the thousands (shortly after sunset), alighted everywhere, one above another until solid masses were formed on the branches all around. Here and there the perches gave way under the weight with a crash, and, falling on the ground, destroyed hundreds of the birds beneath, forcing down the dense groups with which every stick was loaded . . . Thousands were knocked down by the polemen. . . . The pigeons were constantly coming, and it was past midnight before I perceived a decrease in the number of those that arrived. . . . No one dared venture within the line of devastation. The hogs had been pent up in due time. . . . The dead, the dying, and the mangled . . . pigeons were picked up and piled in heaps (the next morning) until each had as many as he could possibly dispose of, when the hogs were let loose to feed on the remained."

In his minute description of the adult male, Audubon says: "Length 16 1/4 inches, extent of wings 25 inches. . . . Bill black. Iris bright red. Feet carmine purple, claws blackish. Head above and on the sides light blue. Throat, fore-neck, breast, and sides, light brownish red, the rest of the under parts, white. Lower part of the neck behind and along the sides, changing to gold, emerald-green, and rich crimson. The general color of the upper parts is grayish-blue, some of the wing-coverts marked with a black spot. Quills and larger wing-coverts blackish, the primary quills bluish on the outer web, the larger coverts whitish at the tip. The two middle feathers of the tail, black, the rest pale blue at the base, becoming white towards the end."

The adult female: "Length 15 inches; extent of wings 23 inches. . . . The

colors of the female are much duller than those of the male, although their distribution is the same. The breast is light greyish-brown, the upper parts pale reddish-brown, tinged with blue.")

Probably the first store opened in the county was the one started by pioneers James Weir and James Craig in Greenville in 1799. After a time they dissolved partnership and James Weir and Oliver C. Vanlandingham conducted the store. In the course of a few years they dissolved partnership. Weir continued the business in Greenville, and Vanlandingham returned to his large farm near Paradise. Much of the merchandise brought from the East by old James Weir was exchanged for wild pork, rawhides, produce, and tobacco. These he shipped to New Orleans on flatboats, where he sold them for cash, with which he bought more goods in Philadelphia.

Harry Weir has in his possession an old ledger kept from 1813 to 1815 by James Weir, his great-grandfather, whose store at that time had already been moved from the log house on the west side of Main Street to the brick building on the opposite side and a little farther north, on what is now and has been for a century known as the Weir corner. South of the brick store and facing Main Street he erected, about the year 1816, a brick residence. Both houses are still standing, and are among the county's most interesting landmarks.

This ledger of long ago gives us some facts and figures pertaining to the olden times. It is a book about sixteen inches long, six inches wide, and more than two inches thick. Although its leather covers and its five hundred pages show their age, both are remarkably well preserved. The penmanship is good, and evidently by one Jacob Zimmerman. It contains the accounts of three hundred and twenty people, all of whom probably lived in Muhlenberg at the time the transactions took place. The first entry is dated August 5, 1813, and the last was made in August, 1815. All prices and totals are in English pounds, shillings, and pence, except the few connected with Eastern houses, the post-office, and

one pertaining to the sale of a slave, which are in dollars and cents. English money as a medium of valuation passed out in Muhlenberg shortly after 1815, and the dollar, which had been more or less extensively adopted as a standard since the days of the first settlers, became the sole standard in all financial transactions. The slave referred to was "one negro woman, Leah," bought on December 5, 1814, for \$350, by Jesse Murphy, who paid about half in cash and the balance in "pork and lard." Today the value of a pound sterling is a little less than five dollars, a shilling twenty-five cents, and an English penny two cents. However, the calculations in this ledger indicate that at the time of these accounts the value of a pound was about three dollars, which made the shilling fifteen cents and the penny a little more than one cent. The entries here given are copied verbatim and show the prices charged for goods. The first column represents the number of pounds, the second shillings, and the third pence. The items are taken at random and are confined to single purchases for when more than one article was bought the entry was transferred from the day book and the total recorded in the ledger as either "merchandise" or "sundries." Among the hundreds of single items are the following:

	Pounds	Shillings	Pence
4 lbs. sugar	0	6	0
1 lb. coffee	0	3	0
1/2 lb. Imperial tea	0	10	6
1 peck salt	0	4	1
7 bu. corn	0	10	6
1 qt. wine	0	9	0
1/2 gal. whisky	0	3	0
1 qt. rum	0	6	0
1/2 lb. alum	0	1	1
1 dose calomel	0	1	1

	Pounds	Shillings	Pence
1 bx. Antibillious Pills	0	1	6
1 bx. Itch Ointment	0	2	0
4 lbs. logwood	0	6	0
1 fine shawl	1	4	0
5 yds. calico	1	13	9
5 yds. muslin	0	11	13
1 wool hat	0	7	6
1 fine hat	1	10	0
1 fine hat to S. W.	2	14	0
3 yds. country linen	0	9	0
1 yd. crape	0	18	0
2 yds. flannel	0	18	0
1 paper pins	0	3	0
1 fine pair socks	0	6	0
1 handkerchief	0	3	0
1 pr. cotton cards	0	15	0
1 pr. wool cards	0	7	6
1 ax	0	16	0
1 carving knife	0	6	0
1 pen knife	0	3	9
1 mill saw	2	14	0
1 cythe blade	0	15	0
2 hoes	0	15	0
1 door lock	1	1	0
1 lb. nails	0	1	6
1 bridle bit	0	3	9

	Pounds	Shillings	Pence
1 pr. saddle bags	1	6	3
1 fine woman's saddle	5	8	0
1 fine man saddle	4	4	0
1 pr. shoes	0	9	0
1 pr. boots	3	12	0
1 thimble	0	0	9
1 pr. specks	0	6	0
1 gun lock	1	13	0
1 dozen flints	0	2	3
1 skillit	0	12	0
1 spelling book	0	1	6
1 hymn book	0	6	0
1 Esop's Fables	0	2	3
2 vols British Poets	0	11	3
1 Bible	1	1	0
1 quire paper	0	2	3

Tobacco was the principal crop raised for the market, and was in many cases the source of most of the farmer's "cash." According to the Weir ledger the price paid for tobacco in 1813 and 1814 varied from twelve to fifteen shillings per hundred pounds. The account kept with George Davis shows that he bought merchandise and also received cash at various times, for all of which he received credit as follows:

"August 27, 1813. By 3687 lbs. tobacco at 12 s. £22 2 s. 6d.

March 19, 1814. " 1949 " " " " £11 19 s. 10 d."

Benjamin Coffman is credited with "Four hogs, tobacco weighing 4954 at 15 s. = £37, 5 s. 1 1/2 d."

Samuel Duke is credited with "3734 lbs. tobacco at 12 s. = £22, 8 s. 17 d."

Four others sold their tobacco to Weir - Thomas Hesper, Edmond Hopkins, Benjamin Johnson, and Christian Peters.

Comparatively few men settled their bills by paying the actual cash. A number of pioneers bought large quantities of goods and in many cases paid for them with some of their home products. From among the various credit items I gather the following:

David Campbell is credited with among other things: "By 121 1/2 gallons whisky, £22, 15 s. 7 d." and "By Four barrels to hold it, £1, 4 s."

James Corder: "By a spinning wheel, £1, 4 s."

Abraham Dennis: "By 550 lbs. pork, £4, 2 s. 6 d."

Leroy Jackson, on December 23, 1814; "By 6 1/4 lbs. butter, 4 s. 9 d."

John January is credited: "By one buro, £5, 8 s."; "By letter box, 6 s. 9 d.", "By hinges, 1 s. 6 d."; "By framing two pictures, Perry and Lawrence, 9 s."; "By mending wagon, 12 s."; "By one dressed deer skin, 6 s."

Alney McLean's account has among its credit items: "By cash and pork, £22, 2 S. 10 d."; "By Fees up to this date, £14, 5 s."; "By cash, £39, 5 s. 9 d."

Presley Pritchett is frequently credited, "By 12 wool hats, £14, 1 s."; "By working over my hat, 4 s. 6 d."

Thomas Pollard: "By one dose calomel, 1 s."

Ezekiel Rice: "By blacksmith bill, £2, 18 s. 9 d."

John E. H. Rogers: "By 1/2 doz. razor strops, 10 s. 6 d."

Mathias Zimmerman: "By one boat, £30; and "By one 40 foot boat, £24."

Henry Phillips and Thomas Glenn are each credited: "By Orleans boyage, £3."

Jeremiah Langley is credited for trips to Lewisburg and Hopkinsville and trips from Shawneetown and Henderson. William McCommons evidently made a number of trips between Greenville and Shawneetown. David Robison made a number of trips to and from Lewisburg.

In the olden days many of the people exchanged their products for various things



in the store, just as butter, eggs, poultry, etc., are now exchanged by some farmers for articles sold by the merchants.

Abraham Dennis exchanged "chickens" for "one oz. barks, 3 s."

Mitchael Lovell exchanged "11 yards linnen" for "one fine dressed bonnet, 1l, 3 s."

James McCown exchanged "12 lbs. sugar" for "one wool hat, 12 s."

George Miller exchanged "feathers" for "Ballance spoon, 4 s. 6 d."

Matthew Rice's account is debited: "Sundries, per his mother," and credited "By midwife fees, 13 s. 4 1/2 d."

Charles Vincent exchanged "Five yards linnen, full," for "Sundries, 10 s."

These items give a wonderfully intimate glimpse into the everday life of these people and let us see, as it were, in actuality how they lived.

A grist mill was regarded by some of the pioneers as a greater necessity than a store, a courthouse, or a professional physician. Corn was the first crop raised by the pioneers, and has been one of the principal products ever since. Cornmeal was the pioneer's most essential food. Going to mill to have the corn ground was always looked forward to with great expectancy, for the mill was, in olden days and even until recent times, the best place to hear the latest news. Every farmer had occasion to go or send to the mill many times during the course of a year, for he usually took no more than a bushel or two of corn or wheat at a time. As a rule the bag into which the grain had been placed was thrown across the horse's back and used by the rider as a saddle.

All the mills in the olden days were run by water-power or horse-power. When wheat was ground it was bolted by hand-power. Grinding was a slow process, and men were obliged to remain around the mill until their "turn" was ground. This time was usually spent in hearing and telling the news. Every man waited and got his cornmeal or flour from the grain he took to mill. Now he can get his "turn" without delay by taking some of the "grinding" that is carried in stock by the

millers.

Reverend G. W. Ford, writing to me about the old Staples Mill in the Friendship neighborhood, says:

"My grandfather, J. B. Staples, ran a horse-power mill in which wheat and corn were ground. Across the road he ran his turning lathe and cotton gin. It would take from an hour to an hour and a half to grind a bushel of corn. I remember hearing him tell of a little incident that occurred at his mill one day. A tall, bony young man, always hungry, rode to the mill and being a little late quite a number of turns were ahead of him, so he had to wait until his time came. It was late in the afternoon when his corn was poured into the hopper. While it was being ground he stood at the meal spout and caught the fresh meal in his hand and ate it as it came slowly from the burrs. Grandfather watched the young fellow for a while and then asked him, 'How long could you eat that meal.' and he answered, 'Until I starved to death!'" (Note: Laborn Ford, the father of Reverend G. W. Ford, was born in North Carolina in 1811, settled in Muhlenberg in 1838, and died near Friendship in 1897.)

In 1840 Ford married Lucy Ann Staples, daughter of John Burton Staples, who was born in Virginia in 1785, came to Muhlenberg in 1835, and died near Friendship in 1867. The Staples Mill, near Friendship, disappeared many years ago, but the farm on which it stood is still known as the Old Mill Place.

Mr. and Mrs. Laborn Ford were the parents of Mrs. Virginia Ann (David M.) Durham, Mrs. Arritta (J. B. Browning, John Laborn, Samuel Henry, Reverend George William, James Riley, Napoleon Monroe, and Laborn ("Sonny") Ford.

Reverend G. W. Ford was born in 1853 and married Susan Eliza Allen, daughter of William Booker Allen, who came to Muhlenberg in 1845, raised eighteen children, and died near Friendship in 1900, aged eighty-six.)

Preparing corn for the mill was a comparatively simple affair. After it had

been gathered and sufficiently well dried it was shucked and then taken to the mill, either on the cobb or off. Wheat, however, in the olden days required a more complicated process. The wheat was cut in the field with the old-fashioned scything cradle and then either bunched or swathed on the ground. This was done by one man. Another man followed, binding the wheat into bundles as fast as it was cut. Two good hands could cut and shock about seventy-five shocks a day. These shocks stood in the field until they were thoroughly dry. They were then hauled and stacked near a plot of level ground. When the time came to separate the wheat from the straw and chaff, the farmer would decide on one of the processes.

Following one method, he built a rail pen, some three feet high and near to his wheat stack. He covered the top of this enclosure with other rails laid side by side, and then placed some of the wheat from the stack on this platform of rails, laying the heads close together and all in one way or direction. Then he proceeded to flail out the grain on the pen with a hickory pole about eight feet long and the thickness of an average man's wrist. The farmer had previously prepared this pole by beating a wide band around it about two feet from the end, which was done with an ax or hammer, to make the stick bend easily without breaking. With this limber-ended pole he flailed out his wheat by striking heavily on the bundles. This knocked out the grain, which then fell to the ground through the cracks between the rails.

In following the other method the farmer took a hoe and scraped off the top of a level piece of ground and formed a circular space some twenty or twenty-five feet in diameter. He made the ground inside the circle perfectly level and smooth and tamped it down as solidly as possible. The dirt scraped off was banked up in the shape of a circus ring around the prepared yard. Then the farmer took enough of the sheaves from the stack to make a batch. The bundles were laid down as closely as possible, with the heads pointing toward the center of the ring and the

butt-ends against the ridge. When this outer row was laid, another was made by turning the butts toward the center of the circle and lapping the heads just over the heads of the first layer. This left a space of from eight to ten feet in the center of the yard, which was reserved for the purpose of piling the grain. The farmer now brought two horses into the ring, put a boy on one, and let him lead the other. The horses walked around and around until they had "tramped" out the grain. They were then led out, the straw was raked away and thrown on the outside of the circular ridge, and the grain and chaff were piled in the center of the yard. This process was repeated until all the wheat had been "tramped out."

After the farmer separated the grain by either of these two processes he ran it through a wheat fan. This fan was something like the one now used for cleaning wheat preparatory to sowing it, except that it was much larger and more heavily built. The wheat and chaff were thrown into the hopper of the machine, which was run by a crank turned by one man. This work was kept up until all the wheat was fanned out, sacked, and stored away. The grain was still mixed with more or less chaff, but this was then the only way they had to clean it.

Some of the old-style mills were run for many years; others were in operation only a short time. Some were well known, others were not. Among the comparatively few that are still occasionally recalled in local traditions are Tom Wagoner's Mill, at Findley's Ford on Long Creek; Hancock's Mill and Reno's Mill, on upper Pond River; Clark's Mill or Needham's Mill, on Pond River near Millport; Turner's Mill, on Log Creek; Calvert's Mill, near Black Lake; Morehead's Horse Mill, near what is now Central City; Weir's Mill, on Caney Creek; Leonard Stum's Mill, above Paradise; Henry Stum's Mill, in Paradise, later known as Kirtley's Mill; the Ely Smith Mill, on Pond Creek near Paradise, which was established in 1796 and a few years later became the Elias Smith Mill, and in 1850 the Smith Brothers Mill, by

which name it was known until 1896, when it quit running; Haden's Mill, in Paradise; Brewer's Mill at the mouth of Mud River; Forgy's Mill and Barr's Mill, on Mud River; Taggart's Mill, near Hazel Creek Church; Staples Mill, near Friendship; Martin's Mill, on Jarrell's Creek, and Cooksey's Mill, on Clifty Creek.

Other water and horse mills were erected in various parts of the county, but all, with the exception of Cooksey's Mill, have either been abandoned or have been replaced by small steam saw mills, most of which are now prepared to grind corn on Saturdays. However, the greater part of the flour and cornmeal now consumed in the county is ground at the few steam mills, that run every day and confine their work to the grinding of wheat and corn.

In 1848 Edward R. Weir, Sr., set up the first steam mill. It was a saw and grist mill, built on the banks of Caney Creek about a mile and a half north of Greenville, on what is now called the Central City Road. A number of other steam mills were established shortly after.

Cooksey's Mill, the only survivor of the old-time grist mills, was started about the year 1810 by Alexander McPherson and some of his neighbors, who built an overshot wheel and ran a mill on the site that has ever since been used for "grinding." They were succeeded by Henry Myers, who converted the wheel into an undershot. Shortly after the Civil War the original building was torn down and a new house erected with a turbine water-wheel. Cooksey's Mill still grinds at least once a week. Now, as in years goneby, "turns" are carried there and are paid for in "toll." Cooksey's Mill and other grist mills of old, like "the mills of God," though they grind slowly, "yet they grind exceeding small" - and exceedingly well. The old-fashioned stone burrs still work in the old-fashioned way, grinding out the old-fashioned cornmeal by slowly crushing the grain, without heating and robbing the meal of its natural flavor.

In the olden days, as now, Greenville was the center of the county from a business and social standpoint as well as from a geographical standpoint. From

its beginning it was the county seat. The courthouse and Russell's Tavern, both of which were of logs, formed the nucleus of the new town of Greenville. The town was slow of growth. It is probable that not only the small population of the county but the lack of good roads limited the early development of the county seat. Then, as now, all roads in the county led directly or indirectly to Greenville, but then, more than now, the roads were well nigh impassable at some seasons of the year, and it was no easy matter to get into or out of the county seat. Except in the Long Creek country and south of it there is no stone suitable for road building, and the problem of good wagon-roads was therefore a serious one for the pioneers, and is still for the citizens of today. The streets of Greenville were unpaved mud roads.

In 1800, according to the census report, Greenville's population was 26; in 1810 it was 75; and in 1830 it had grown to 217. In 1830 there were probably fewer than forty residences, business houses, and mechanic's shops in the town. The location of some of these was, according to tradition, as follows:

The John January house was near the southwest corner of Main and Hopkinsville Streets. The homes of Ezias Earl and John Walker were on the south side of Hopkinsville Street. Edward Rumsey then lived on the west side of Main Street near Hopkinsville Street. James Weir's store and his residence stood where they are still standing, on Main Street south of the courthouse. On the west side of Main Street, opposite Weir's store, stood his tobacco and storage house. On the northwest corner of the public square, not far from the log courthouse, stood the "old brick bank" building.

Among the houses on Main Street opposite the courthouse, facing its main entrance, were Russell's Tavern and a few stores. Isaac Bard lived on the northwest corner of Main and Main Cross Streets. Doctor Robert D. McLean's office was on Main Street a little north of Bard's. Opposite Doctor McLean lived Doctor Thomas Pollard. North of Pollard's house was a wool-carding factory. On Main

Cross Street, near where the Y.M.C.A. now stands, lived Alney McLean. A short distance north of McLean's house, near a good spring, was a tanyard. The Charles Fox Wing home was on the southeast corner of Main Cross and Cherry Streets. Across the street and west of Captain Wing's home was the home of his brother, John Wing. On the east side of Cherry Street, a few hundred feet north of Main Cross Street, stood the Greenville Seminary, and near it a small graveyard. About two hundred yards east of Weir's store stood the Presbyterian Church. E. M. Brank lived about a half mile from town on the west side of the Rumsey road, and about a half mile farther down this road was Weir's Mill on Caney Creek.

Although the county's leading lawyers, physicians, and merchants lived in Greenville and were extensively identified with the growth of the county seat and the development of the county, they were by no means the only prominent men in Muhlenberg in the olden days. In the Pond River country, the "Dutch Settlement," the Green River and the Long Creek countries, as well as in and around Greenville, there lived many men who were in their day among the county's most intelligent and influential citizens.

Samuel Russell was Greenville's first postmaster. He was appointed April 1, 1801, and served until October 1, 1809, when he was succeeded by Parmenas Redman. Later James Weir became postmaster at Greenville. It was at Weir's store that for many years the pioneers received and sent their mail. Weir's store was for more than half a century the principal headquarters for Muhlenberg men and women who had things to buy, sell, or exchange. Among their many customers were old Revolutionary soldiers and men who had fought in the War of 1812.

Such business as must be transacted in the courthouse made it necessary for many people living in and out of the county to frequent the log "Temple of Justice." Of those who were compelled to remain in town many were the guests of friends; others stopped at the Russell Tavern. All, no matter whose guests they might be while in town, congregated during a few hours each day at the Russell

Tavern or "The Hog Eye" tippling house. There they not only heard the news from other sections of the county and the outside world, but also had many opportunities to quench their thirst.

Practically every man, and woman living "out in the county" had occasion, or at least a desire, "to go to town" one or more times during the year. Some went for business, some for pleasure, some for "business and pleasure combined." Many arranged to make their trips to town on county court days. In the olden times county court days were "big days" in Greenville, and are such even to this day. Then as now, of the number of people who went to Greenville on county court day only a few had court business to attend to. Some went to trade, some to meet friends and discuss business or social matters with them, some to "swap" horses, and some "to see what was going on."

Other meetings, besides those that took place in Greenville, around the mills and in the stores, offered the pioneers an opportunity to intermingle. Public speakings, militia musters, picnics on the Fourth of July, and, after the battle of New Orleans (January 8, 1815), the celebrations on the eighth of January, brought together many people from all parts of the county. House-raisings, log-rollings, hog-killings, quiltings, wedding celebrations, harvesting, hunting, fishing, shooting-matches, frolics, dances, fiddlers' contests, and racing, also, served as a blender of the early settlers. However, churches and baptizings, camp-meetings and buryings, brought them in closer and more intimate touch with each other than any other form of gathering.

Many of the first-comers were more interested in religion than in any other one subject. Their fathers and many of the pioneers themselves were Revolutionary soldiers, and had fought for political and religious liberty. Liberty stood foremost among their thoughts and deeds. Thus the church established by the pioneers near Murphy's Lake was called by them New Liberty - now known as Old



Liberty. They were willing to continue to devote their time and fortunes, and even to sacrifice life itself, for the liberty that had been won not many years before. A spirit of altruism prevailed in those days. The patriotic pioneer did not dream of the probability of an age of dollars - an age characterized by its selfish men who with little thought of honor or justice accumulate or try to accumulate a fortune, and look on the making of money as the only victory in life. When in 1812, and again fifty years later, volunteers were called for, men responded with a patriotic spirit and unselfish motive.

To the pioneer the Bible was as symbolic of political and religious liberty as was the Flag. (Note: Mrs. James Duvall, of Greenville, a great granddaughter of pioneer Samuel Allison, has in her possession a Bible published in 1815 by M. Carey, Philadelphia. It is a large, well-printed volume, bound in calf. It was published by subscription, and in it are given the names of the subscribers (about six hundred and fifty) then living in Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois, and other sections of the West. The fact that these men subscribed for a Bible of this character indicates that they were men who appreciated good books and could afford to buy expensive volumes. Eighteen Muhlenberg men appear among the names of the subscribers to this Bible: "Samuel Allison, John Bone, William Campbell, Hugh Carter, B. Coffman, W. Campbell, Abraham Dennis, Samuel Drake, John January, I. Langlis, Job. Matthews, Solomon Rhodes, D. H. Stephens, Thomas Salisbury, James Wier, Charles F. Wing, Lewis Webb, J. Zimmerman." Those who could read were sure to read the Bible often. In the beginning, when as a rule farms were far apart and church houses, in most locations, were impracticable, religious exercises were held in turn in the homes of the pioneers. These services were conducted in English. In some homes there were no Bibles other than German - copies that had been brought by the German-American pioneers - nevertheless the services were conducted in English. Henry Rhoads, it is said, frequently addressed audiences and read chapter after chapter from a German Bible, translating them into English

with more grace and rapidity than some of his contemporaries who on other occasions read a Bible printed in English.

Hazel Creek Baptist Church was organized December 2, 1798, and was the first church organized in the county. This is not only the first but also the oldest church organization in Muhlenberg. Furthermore, it is the only church in the county of which a history has been published. In 1898 Professor William J. Johnson, who then lived near Wells, printed a seventy-page pamphlet entitled "History of Hazel Creek Baptist Church." This church, like many of the other early churches, became the mother of other organizations. Relative to the twelve churches originating from Hazel Creek, Professor Johnson says:

"In 1799, twelve members were authorized 'to continue an arm at George Clark's on the west side of Pond Creek,' which doubtless led to the formation of Nelson Creek church, June 10, 1803. June 1, 1805, eighteen members were dismissed from Hazel Creek church to form Midway church, now Monticello. August 2, 1806, eighteen members were dismissed to form what is now Cave Spring, near Pond River, on the road from Greenville to Hopkinsville. Cypress Church, McLean county, was formed from this church in 1808. Antioch, Todd county, was formed from this church, and also Whippoorwill church in the year 1819. May 6, 1820, the arm known as Hebron (now Mt. Vernon) was made a constituted body. In 1840, thirteen members from this church formed new Hebron church (Muhlenberg). Ebenezer was organized with twenty-six members from this church, January 3, 1851. Macedonia was formed from this church on November 22, 1856. New Hope church (Muhlenberg) was formed of material mostly from this church, in 1858; but is now extinct. Sugar Grove was constituted with twenty-five members, mostly from this church, in January, 1873."

It may be well to add that the Hazel Creek congregation built its first house in 1800, its second in 1807, and its third in 1857, all of which were of logs. Its fourth (the present) building was erected in 1906.

Mount Olivet (three miles northeast of Central City) is probably the oldest Methodist church in Muhlenberg. Mount Zion (one mile east of Central City) is among the oldest Presbyterian organizations. Although Mount Zion was organized as early as about 1802, the congregation, it is said, did not erect its first house until about twenty years later. As a rule, the church houses built by the pioneers were union churches - that is, buildings erected jointly by two or more denominations, who conducted their services independently of one another. In Greenville, up to about 1825, the academy building served the purposes of a school and a union church. As far as I have been able to ascertain, the Presbyterians of Greenville were the first in that town to erect a building of their own. I tried to procure data relative to the early history of all the old churches in the county, but an investigation showed that in only a few cases had the old church records been preserved.

In religion, as well as in politics and business, the pioneers of Muhlenberg were always conservative. The "Great Revival" of the first part of the last century, that spasmodically stirred what was then called the West, did not throw many of the people of Muhlenberg into "jerks" and other mysterious "exercises." In Kentucky its effect was felt more in the southern and central sections of the state.

This "Great Revival" began in Logan County in 1799, under the ministry of John McGee, of the Methodist Church, and his brother William McGee, of the Presbyterian, and soon spread over the state. Tradition says that the local men and women who had gone to Logan and Christian counties to attend these great camp-meetings were the only ones affected by the "exercises."

Reverend Barton W. Stone (who married Elizabeth Campbell, daughter of Colonel William Campbell) in his "autobiography," published in 1844, says that while at Greenville in July, 1801, he heard of the wonderful things taking place at some of the revivals in other sections of Kentucky. He and his wife "hurried from

Muhlenberg" immediately after they were married, and went to Cane Ridge, Bourbon County, to see and study the extraordinary phenomenon. His description of the "bodily agitations" is the best that has been written. Had any of these "exercises" taken place in Muhlenberg he in all probability would have stated the fact in his book.

Peter Cartwright in his "autobiography," published in 1856, also gives an interesting account of these revivals, but refers to Muhlenberg only once. Commenting on the widespread effect of one of his great camp-meetings held some time during the year 1812, while he was riding the "Christian circuit," so named after Christian County, he says (page 122): "From this meeting a revival spread almost through the entire country, and great additions were made to the Methodist church. This circuit was large, embracing parts of Logan, Muhlenberg, Butler, Christian, and Caldwell counties in Kentucky and parts of Montgomery, Dixon, and Stewart counties in Tennessee."

It is more than probable that Peter Cartwright conducted a number of meetings in Muhlenberg. Tradition, however, tells of only one place where he do so - the Old Camp Ground, located north of Cleaton and near the Greenville and Seralvo Road. Tradition has it that he preached there not only once but often, and that all his meetings were well attended. One of Peter Cartwright's personal friends and disciples in Muhlenberg was Reverend Silas Drake, one of the best-known local Methodist preachers and circuit riders, and of whom the following characteristic incident is related:

Preacher Drake was opposed to the wearing of things that were more ornamental than useful, declaring that such apparel was indicative of pride, and that "ear bobs are the devil's stirrups." One day, while addressing a crowd at an arbor meeting, he observed a woman with large bows of ribbon on her bonnet. He called

her by name, reproved her, and told her that such bows were of absolutely no use. She, without hesitating, retaliated by saying, "Neither are the buttons on your coat sleeves or on the back of your coat!" He immediately pulled off his coat, cut off the buttons referred to, and never afterward wore a coat with buttons sewed on the sleeves or back. (Note: Reverend Silas Drake was a son of pioneer Albritton Drake, a Revolutionary soldier who settled in southern Muhlenberg in 1806, where he died in 1834. Albritton Drake married Ruth Collins. They, as already stated, were the parents of Reverend Silas, Mosley Collins, Reverend Benjamin, J. Perry, Edmond, and William. Reverend Silas, Moseley Collins, and Edmond Drake married daughters of pioneer Micajah Wells. Reverend Silas Drake was born in 1790 and married Patsy Wells; he preached for a half century, and in the meantime farmed in the Long Creek country, where he died in 1858. J. Perry Drake married Priscilla Buell, who was a sister of General Don Carlos Buell's father. The parents of General Buell died while he was still a child, and the rearing and educating of young Buell was assumed by his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mr. J. Perry Drake, who were then living in Indianapolis. J. Perry Drake was a Mexican War soldier and a well-known Indiana lawyer. One of his daughters, Elmira Drake, became the wife of General W. T. H. Brooks of the Federal Army.)

No matter whether affected permanently, temporarily, or not at all by the "Great Revival" or any other revivals, all of the early settlers exercised more or less influence over their contemporaries and descendants. However, it is an indisputable fact that many, if not most, of the good influences exerted by the early settlers were due directly or indirectly to the work of the women of the community. Written records as well as local traditions fail to give the women who lived in the olden days the credit they deserve for their moral and religious influence. They always showed courage on trying occasions. They were the doctors of the times, and in some instances the sole preservers of hard-earned

homes or farms.

In the olden days, as now, the foundation of the career of every man and woman depended largely on the training received in youth from his or her mother. The control of many mothers was confined to their own family fireside, where while also attending to their domestic duties they were not only mothers to their children but often assumed the duties of school-teacher. In many cases the mother, a grandmother, or an aunt was the only guide through the "three R's" the child of an early settler ever knew. The influence of some mothers was felt far beyond their own home and neighborhood. Local public schools were few and far between. Post-primary schools were not established until the middle of the last century.

Among the best known and one of the noblest of the pioneer women of Muhlenberg was Mrs. Tabitha A. R. Campbell, "the Mother of Greenville." Local tradition still tells many interesting things regarding Mrs. Campbell's great work in the moral and religious upbuilding of the new county and her deep interest in social and educational affairs. Her path through life was followed by her four daughters and her son. The same can be truly said of many others of the pioneer mothers of Muhlenberg, who although now perhaps forgotten, yet who in their day smoothed the rough paths over part of which many of their sons and daughters of the present generation are still treading. They were of that strong and generous type of pioneer women, great in virtue and sacrifice and deserving to have their names inscribed on a monument erected to the Mothers of Muhlenberg.

On most of the old farms in Muhlenberg one can find small groups of old-time graves, where rest those who lived during the days of the early settlers. Public cemeteries were adjoining their church lot before 1870. Many of the old graves in these private burying-grounds are marked with crude and unlettered rocks.

Most of them, however, are identified by slabs of lettered sandstone; a few are of white marble. In some sections, especially in the southern part of the county, a large number of the old graves are marked with stone box-covers placed over them many years ago. These covers were made of slabs of dressed sandstone erected either in the form of a long, narrow box, or in the shape of a stone coffin. They were placed over the graves as markers, and not - as is now sometimes stated - to prevent animals from digging down to the buried body. The custom of constructing these vault-like grave-covers was introduced by the pioneers and prevailed to a great extent during the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century. Very few graves were marked in this solemn and picturesque manner after the year 1850.

The olden days were the heroic age. What Judge Little has said in summing up the men of Kentucky and their life in the early days is particularly applicable to the men and women of Muhlenberg: "Existing conditions produced a type of men surpassed by no other time or country . . . . Without contrasting them or measuring them by a common standard, it is conceded that the type of the pioneer differs from his descendant of the third and fourth and subsequent generations. The latter, with less daring, is more intelligent, with less vigor lives longer, with less fortitude is more patient, with less activity accomplishes more. To the pioneer belongs the warrior's aureol - to his descendant the moral and intellectual achievements of peace.

" 'Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war.' "

Rothert "PP. 1-7"

Muhlenberg county was so called in honor of General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, an officer of high distinction and patriotism in the American Revolution.

General Muhlenberg made two trips to Kentucky in 1784, but did not see any part of that section which fourteen years later was formed into a county and named after him. It is more than probable that he did not visit any section of the Green River country. His life, however, is part of the history of Muhlenberg County, not only because the county is a namesake of his but also because many of its pioneers fought under him in the Revolution. General Muhlenberg's career is woven into the history of the Revolution and into the history of the nation during the first quarter of a century following that struggle. A volume entitled "The life of Major-General Peter Muhlenberg, of the Revolutionary Army," was published in 1849 by Henry A. Muhlenberg, a nephew of the distinguished soldier. From this work I gather the following facts:

Reverend Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, the father of General Muhlenberg, emigrated to Pennsylvania from Hanover, Germany, in 1742. He founded the Lutheran Church in America, and died at Trappe, near Philadelphia, on October 1, 1787. His son, J. Peter G. Muhlenberg, was born at Trappe, Pennsylvania, on October 1, 1746. At the age of sixteen Peter was sent to Halle, Germany, to be educated. While in Europe he incidentally gained a little knowledge of military drills that was, in later life, of great advantage to him. In 1767 he returned to America and became a minister in the Lutheran church, serving as a pastor to various congregations.

Previous to the Revolution there was a union of Church and State in Virginia, where the Church of England was established by law; "and in order that the rector could enforce the payment of tithes, it was necessary that he should have been ordained by a Bishop of the English Church, in which case he came under the provision of the law, although not a member of the established church." To meet these difficulties Muhlenberg decided to be ordained in the official church. In 1772 he went



to England where he was "ordained by a Bishop of the English Church," and then returned to Virginia and preached at Woodstock until the Revolutionary War broke out. In the early part of 1776 he organized a regiment of soldiers, the Eighth Virginia, known as the "German Regiment." He participated in the fights at Charleston and Sullivan's Island. On February 21, 1777, he was made brigadier general and took charge of the Virginia line under Washington, and was in chief command in Virginia in 1781 until the arrival of Baron Von Steuben. He was in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth, and was also at the capture of Stony Point. He was second in command to LaFayette in resisting the invasion of the state by Cornwallis. He took part in the siege of Yorktown, and was present when Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, 1781. On September 30, 1783, he was promoted to the rank of major-general. A few months later the army was formally disbanded, and he returned to his family in Woodstock. In November he moved to Trappe and shortly afterward made Philadelphia his home.

In 1784 he made two trips to the Falls of the Ohio, to superintend the distribution of lands in Kentucky granted to himself and other officers and soldiers of the Virginia Army. His diary kept on these trips shows that he did not go down the Ohio below Louisville. In the fall of 1785 General Muhlenberg was elected Vice-President of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin being at the same time chosen President. He was re-elected to that office every year until 1788, when he was chosen one of the members of the First Congress to serve from March 4, 1789 to March 4, 1791. He also served in the Third Congress and in the Fourth Congress. His brother, Frederick Augustus, served as Speaker of the First Congress assembled under the Constitution. In February, 1801, General Muhlenberg was elected United States Senator from Pennsylvania. On the 30th of June, 1801, having been appointed Supervisor of Internal Revenue for Pennsylvania, he resigned his seat in the Senate. In July, 1802, he was appointed Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, which office he held up to the time of his death, October 1, 1807. He is buried at Trappe, Pennsylvania, where

rest also the remains of his father.

His biographer, commenting on the career of General Muhlenberg, says:

He was one of those characters which in a revolution always finds the level. He was by nature a soldier....He entered the church, doubtless with as sincere and honest purposes as any of her ministry, but the agony of his country called him from the altar with a voice that touched every chord of his soul. The time for fighting had come-- the time to try men's souls. His whole heart was with his country; rebellion against tyrants was obedience to God, and so feeling and so thinking, he went forth from the temple to the field. He was brave and generous to a fault, a proper brigadier to Greens, who loved him. Cool in danger, sound in judgment, indifferent to fame, zealous in duty: these were his distinguishing traits as a soldier. His virtues in private and political life were all cognate to these.

Such, in brief, was the career of General Muhlenberg. Many interesting incidents occurred during his life, the details of a number of which are recorded in his biography. Among them is the dramatic event that took place at Woodstock, Virginia, in the early days of '76. Times, as Muhlenberg was wont to remark, had been "troublesome," and the colonies were preparing to declare and fight for their independence. Muhlenberg was appointed colonel of the Eighth Regiment, which was then far from fully organized. His acceptance of this office necessitated his resignation as pastor of his churches. The scene that took place when this "fighting parson" delivered his farewell sermon is thus described by his biographer:

Upon his arrival at Woodstock, his different congregations, widely scattered along the frontier, were notified that upon the following Sabbath their beloved pastor would deliver his farewell sermon. Of this event numerous traditionary accounts are still preserved in the vicinity in which it took place, all coinciding with the written evidence. The fact itself merits a prominent place in this sketch, for in addition to the light it sheds upon the feelings which actuated the American people in the commencement of the Revolutionary struggle, it also shows with what deep

earnestness of purpose Mr. Muhlenberg entered upon his new career.

The appointed day came. The rude country church was filled to overflowing with the hardy mountaineers of the frontier counties, among whom were collected one or more of the independent companies to which the fore-thought of the Convention had given birth. So great was the assemblage that the quiet burialplace was filled with crowds of stern, excited men, who had gathered together, believing that something, they knew not what, would be done in behalf of their suffering country. We may well imagine that the feelings which actuated the assembly were of no ordinary kind. The disturbances of the country, the gatherings of armed men, the universal feeling that liberty or slavery for themselves and their children hung upon the decision the colonies then made, and the decided step taken by their pastor all aroused the patriotic enthusiasm of the vast multitude, and rendered it a magazine of fiery passion, which needed but a spark to burst into an all consuming flame.

In this spirit the people awaited the arrival of him whom they were now to hear for the last time. He came, and ascended the pulpit, his tall form arrayed in full uniform over which his gown, the symbol of his holy calling was thrown. He was a plain, straightforward speaker, whose native eloquence was well suited to the people among whom he labored. At all times capable of commanding the deepest attention, we may well conceive that upon this great occasion, when high, stern thoughts were burning for utterance, the people who heard him hung upon his fiery words with all the intensity of their souls. Of the matter of the sermon various accounts remain. All concur, however, in attributing to it great potency in arousing the military ardour of the people, and unite in describing its conclusion. After recapitulating, in words that aroused the coldest, the story of their suffering and their wrongs, and telling them of the sacred character of the struggle for which he had unsheathed his sword, and for which he had left the altar he had vowed to serve, he said "that, in the language of Holy Writ, there was a time for all things, a time to

preach and a time to pray, but these times had passed away"; and in a voice that re-echoed through the church like a trumpet blast, "that there was a time to fight, and that time had now come!"

The sermon now finished, he pronounced the benediction. A breathless stillness brooded over the congregation. Deliberately putting off the gown, which had thus far covered his marital figure, he stood before them a girded warrior; and descending from the pulpit, ordered the drums at the church door to beat for recruits. Then followed a scene to which even the American Revolution, rich as it is in bright examples of the patriotic devotion of the people, affords no parallel. His audience, excited in the highest degree by the impassioned words which had fallen from his lips, flocked around him, eager to be ranked among his followers. Old men were seen bringing forward their children, wives their husbands, and widowed mothers their sons, sending them under his paternal care to fight the battles of their country. It must have been a noble sight, and the cause thus supported, could not fail. Nearly three hundred men of the frontier churches that day enlisted under his banner; and the gown then thrown off was worn for the last time. Henceforth his footsteps were destined for a new career.

This event occurred about the middle of January 1776; and from that time until March, Colonel Muhlenberg seems to have been busily engaged in recruiting. After the great impulse already received, it is natural to suppose that his success was rapid; and such accordingly we find to be the fact. It was probably the first of the Virginia regiments ready for service, its ranks being full early in March. By the middle of that month he had already reported this fact to the Governor, and received orders to proceed with his command to Suffolk. On the 21st the regiment commenced its march for that place.

A little less than a half century after the death of General Muhlenberg, and about five years after his biography was written, a poem, based on the incident that took place at the church in Woodstock, was published by Thomas Buchanan

Read. This poem, "The Rising" is printed in McGuffey's old Fifth Reader, where most of us have read it, and from which I quote a few lines.

Out of the North the wild news came...  
And swelled the discord of the hour...

The pastor rose; the prayer was strong;  
The psalm was warrior David's song;  
The text, a few short words of might--  
"The Lord of hosts shall arm the right!"

When suddenly his mantle wide  
His hands impatient flung aside,  
and lo! he met their wondering eyes  
Complete in all a warrior's guise..

The enlisting trumpet's sudden roar  
Rang through the chapel, o'er and o'er..  
And there the startling drum and fife  
Fired the living with fiercer life...

"Who dares"--this was the patriot's cry,  
As striding from the desk he came--  
"Come out with me, in Freedom's name,  
For her to live, for her to die?  
A hundred hands flung up reply,  
A hundred voices answered, "I!"

General Muhlenberg was less than forty years of age when he left Virginia and returned to Pennsylvania where he spent the last twenty-two years of his life in the upbuilding of his native state and the new nation Pennsylvania has expressed her appreciation of his great work by placing a statue of him in Statuary Hall, Washington, D. C. His memorial stands in the southeast corner of the Hall, and although a graceful piece of work, the sculptor, Blanche Nevin, evidently was not familiar with the stature and physiognomy of her subject. Muhlenberg's biographer and other writers describe him as "tall in person," which statement is verified not only by paintings now extant but also by tradition. Nevertheless the sculptor represents Muhlenberg's height as not much more than five feet. His face, in this marble statue looks more like that of a poet or musician, and not like that of a preacher and still less like that of a soldier. On the base of the statue is carved the name MUHLENBERG; the pedestal is marked PENNSYLVANIA.

In October 1910, the German Society of Pennsylvania erected a statue to General Muhlenberg in Philadelphia on the City Hall Plaza. It is a good likeness and a masterly piece of work by J. Otts Schweizer of Philadelphia, one of the foremost sculptors in America. A portrait of this statue is here reproduced. Every detail of this fine work of art is true to its subject and is based on paintings and descriptions still preserved.

The relief on the face of the pedestal of this statue is by the same artist, and is probably the best work of that character in the country. The elevations are so delicately balanced that the depth of the church with all pews and people comes within a thickness or height of only an inch and a half. The scene represents Muhlenberg in the act of finishing his farewell sermon. The church depicted is the old one in Trappe, near Philadelphia, which has been preserved unchanged since the middle of the 18th century, and is the same in which General Muhlenberg and his father often preached.

In the Pennsylvania Capitol a large painting was recently finished by Edwin A. Abbey, symbolizing the "Apotheosis of Pennsylvania." Among the celebrities who appear in this large picture is General Muhlenberg.

Such, as I here give it, is a glimpse of the life of the man after whom Muhlenberg County is named, and also a glimpse of the esteem in which he was and still is held. As already stated, General Muhlenberg probably never visited any part of the county that now helps perpetuate his name, nor even saw any part of the Green River country. Nevertheless, pioneer Henry Rhoads, in 1798, very fittingly procured for the entitlement of the county the name of the man who was a friend, pastor, and general to many of its earliest settlers.

#### Footnotes.

The pronunciation of the name of the county doubtless gave rise to the difference among early historians as to the correct spelling. Lewis Collins, 1847,

followed the pronunciation, and spells the name uniformly Muhlenbrug; Richard H. Collins 1874, corrects the error when referring to the man but not when referring to the county, and this error has been repeated in his various editions. The name is also occasionally misspelled in some of the early maps and county records, but never in those of later day. The proper spelling of the name is as here given.

This and other incidents in the life of General Muhlenberg are the subject of a number of poems written in German by German-Americans. Among them are the following which are published in the records of the German Society of Pennsylvania, and for copies of which I am indebted to Mr. C. F. Huch, of Philadelphia, the custodian of the archives of that organization: "Peter Muhlenberg" and "General Peter," by Joseph Zentmayer; "Muhlenberg" by F. Moras; "Peter Muhlenberg" by Phillip Haimbach, and "The Farewell Sermon" by William Miller. Mr. Huch also informs me that General Muhlenberg is the subject of two dramas that were written in German and are occasionally produced by German dramatic companies: "Peter Muhlenberg, or Bible and Sword," in five acts, by Frederick H. Ernst, of New York, and "Cowl and Sword, or General Muhlenberg" by Victor Precht.

Jesse McPherson was probably the first of the first comers who settled in the southeastern part of the county. According to one tradition he arrived upon the scene before either Pond or Cansy stations were started. It is said that during 1790, or before, he left his wife and two or three children in Virginia and came to Kentucky and while looking for a place to settle selected a tract of land three miles from what later became the town of Cansy or Rosewood. He spent the winter and spring clearing two fields, one near the foot of a cliff facing a valley leading to Clifty Creek, and another on the top of the same cliff. In the meantime he lived in his "cave hut" near his bottom field. This improvised house was made by erecting two short walls of logs in front of a small cave at the foot of the cliff, and placed in such a way that the top of the concave opening in the cliff served as a roof and the rock wall of the cliff and the two log walls served as walls to the "cave hut". The following summer, after having set out a crop of corn in each of his fields he returned to Virginia for his family. He brought them to Kentucky and they lived in the "cave hut" until a log cabin on the bluff was finished. A few years later, or about 1800, he began building the spacious house known as the Jesse McPherson house, now occupied by William H. Pearson and his wife, the latter a great granddaughter of Jesse McPherson. The logs used in the construction of the cave hut have long ago disappeared, but the rock roofed cove in Cave Hut Cliff has for more than a century been used as a hay bin.

#### Cave Hut cliff

Jesse McPherson was one of Muhlenberg's best known pioneers. When the county was organized he was appointed one of the justices of the peace. He ran a tannery, horse mill, and distillery for many years. Tradition says that he feared nothing. On one occasion his neighbor Billings was attacked by a bear whose cub he had taken. McPherson, hearing the cry for help, rushed to the rescue and killed the animal with a hickory club. A few years later McPherson took a trip to Arkansas, and upon his return showed Billings some hickory nuts he had brought



from that state. Billings suggested that they plant one of the nuts where McPherson had saved his life from the ferocious bear. This was done, and today a large hickory tree, standing near the Cave Hut Cliff, marks the spot where, as one of the local oracles puts it, "Billings came near getting the stuffings squeezed out of him by a big bear."

Jesse McPherson was born in Virginia, February 15, 1765, and died May 14, 1849. His wife was born February 16, 1772, and died August 25, 1822. Both are buried near their old home near Rosewood. They were the parents of seven children, all of whom lived in the southeastern part of Muhlenberg county, where they were well known citizens: Lewis, John, Alexander, Amos, Alney, and Jesse McPherson, and Mrs. Nancy (Samuel) Davenport.

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Muhlenberg Co.

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THE OLD MILITIA MUSTER

Up to the year 1850 every man in Kentucky considered himself a soldier, and was so considered in the eyes of the law. Until the Third Constitution was adopted, every male citizen from the age of 20 to 45 with a few exceptions, was on the enrolled militia and reported at a mustering place on specified dates and there took part in military drills. Such was the law old Virginia inherited from England, and it was also the law when Kentucky became a state, and, as before stated remained a law until 1850. Today every able bodied man from 18 to 45 years of age is enrolled as a soldier of the U. S. under compulsion to respond if called upon in time of war. If he does not belong to the regular army or navy, or is not a member of the national guard, he then belongs to the reserve militia.

Previous to about the year 1820 the militia muster was a gathering of citizen soldiers who met for the purpose of drilling and all devoted their time while on the muster grounds to military exercises conducted according to military tactics. However, about 5 years after the second war with England, interest in the military features of these gatherings began to decline, and during the second quarter of the century all of the musters were more or less a farce.

The law required all able bodied men, with a few exceptions to report for duty at the musters, and imposed a fine for non-attendance. The company musters usually took place in April, June, August and September; the battalion usually in May, and the regimental in October. In the early days a company consisted of from fifty to one hundred men, including officers; two to four companies constituted a battalion, and two to four battalions formed a regiment. The number of men in these various organizations was governed principally by the extent of the population in the locality.

Among the many places in the county on which companies met to drill were:

The Courthouse yard, the Russell Old Field, the Andy Craig place, Kincheloe's Bluff, Morehead's Field (now Central City), the George Clark place, Thomas Sumner's farm, the Solomon Rhoads farm, the Hunt Old Field, William Bell's, the Vanlandingham Old Place, the Jim Taggart farm, Wyatt Wells', the Mosley Collins Drake farm, Old Liberty, Mike Lovell's, Old Millport, and the Gish Old Field. Up to about 1820 most of the battalion and regimental drills took place in Greenville. After that time the place of rendezvous for the men in the southern part of the county was changed to the Russell Old Field, southeast of Greenville, near what is now Pleasant Hill Church. In the meantime regimental musters also took place on the Gish Old Field, south of Bremen, and other fields in the northern part of the county. These two regiments, it is said on several occasions drilled together on the Russell Old Field.

Very little documentary data bearing on the early history of the militia in Muhlenberg is now extant, and as far as I am aware none exists pertaining to its later history in the county. An old commission, still preserved, shows that William Bradford was among the first local men to serve as a captain. Others may have been appointed at the same time, but none preceded him. He probably later filled other positions in the militia. A photograph of the Bradford commission is here reproduced. On the back of the original is written: "Muhlenberg County, Sct. This day came William Bradford before me, a justice of the peace for said county, and made oath as Captain of the Militia company. Given under my hand this 20th day of February, 1800. William Bell."

From a few of the other commissions still preserved I gather the following facts: Charles Fox Wing was "appointed Lieutenant in the 24th regiment of Militia, on August 2, 1799"; Alney McLean was appointed Ensign in the same regiment on the same date; Lewis Kincheloe on September 30, 1800, was "appointed Lieutenant-Colonel commandant of the 40th regiment of Militia to fill the vacancy occasioned by the

resignation of Wm. Campbell, Esquire." Wm. Bell, on Feb. 9, 1801, was "commissioned Paymaster with the rank of Lieutenant in the 40th regiment." Lewis Reno, on May 24, 1802, was "commissioned Ensign in the 40th regiment. Thos. Randolph, on March 22, 1803, was "commissioned Captain in the 40th regiment."

A certificate of exemption, written on letter paper, reads: "Kentucky. At a court-martial held for the 40th Regiment of Militia in the County of Muhlenberg on the 24th day of May, 1802: Ordered, that Geo. Lovelace be and he is hereby exempt from military duty in future for and on account of his having his arm broke. A Copy Test. Chas. Fox Wing, Judge Advocate."

An official notice, written on a small piece of paper and addressed to Captain Samuel Weir, reads:

Battalion Order, March 12, 1811.

Sir: You will have your Company parade at Solomon Rhoads's on the 17th day of May next by ten o'clock in order to hold a Battalion Muster. You will also have your Company parade in like manner at Wm. Bell's on the 2nd day of Oct. next in order to hold a Regimental Muster. The Drill Muster will be held on the last Wednesday and Thursday in Sept. next at Wm. Bell's. The Court of Assessment of fines will be held also at Wm. Bell's on the last Monday in Nov.

Thomas Bell, Majr. Comdt.

1st Battalion of the 32nd Regt. K. M.

As already stated, from about the year 1825 until the law abliging all men to drill was abolished, the musters were more or less a farce. The laws regulating the militia of the Commonwealth were amended and changed so often that, as a consequence, they became more complicated than the maneuvers were unmilitary. Humphrey Marshall, in 1824 ("History of Ky." Vol. 2, page 14), wrote: "It is in vain to suggest that neither officer nor soldier will ever trouble himself to know the law, when it may, and probably will, be changed before he has an opportunity of reducing his knowledge to practice." Musters became gatherings in which everybody participated, regardless of age or social position. The men who attended were not so much prompted by a desire

to drill, and thus live up to that article of the Constitution, as they were to take advantage of the chance to mingle with the crowd of men, women and children, renew old friendships, make new ones, hear the news, see races, trade horses, partake of a good dinner, and incidentally have a good time at "the big to-do."

The military features of these affairs grew insignificant as compared with those of their social, political, and business nature. The ordinary picnic basket was too small for these gatherings. Trunks and boxes packed with fried chicken, boiled ham, roasted pork, pies and other edibles with coffee pots and whiskey jugs, were brought to the place of rendezvous in wagons, and everybody was welcome to their contents. Gunsmiths were in abundance. Since the greater number of people came in wagons or on horseback, there was necessarily a large aggregation of horses, from colts and two year olds down to worn out plow horses and from carefully groomed quarter-nags to neglected horses whose tails and manes were filled with burrs. This led to the appearance of blacksmiths, who repaired wagons and shod horses. It also resulted in much "horse swapping" which in turn gave occasion for betting and horse racing. The combinations led to drinking and frequently drinking brought on "fist and skull fights" and other disturbances.

In those days, as in the earlier days, every man furnished his own gun--muzzle-loaders of any sort, flintlock rifles, muskets, shotguns, or horse-pistols. Those who had no firearms to bring or who had forgotten them would enter the drills with a trimmed sapling or cornstalk--consequently the name, the Cornstalk Militia.

When the captain was ready to order his company into ranks he usually mounted a convenient stump, rail fence, or empty barrel and called out: "Oh yes! Oh yes! Oh yes! All you who belong to Captain so-and so's company (giving his name) fall into ranks and parade!" The "Oh, yes," it might be well to add is derived from the old French "oyez" -- "hear ye." Hence the Court of Oyer and Terminer--to hear and to finish. If the captain's first order failed to move his men he would again appeal to them--"Everybody in my company, off the fence there and fall into line! Now come

one, men, come on, everybody, and let's get started with our revolutions!" After all, or nearly all, of his company had responded to his call, he ordered "'Tention, the whole!" after which most men gave him more or less attention. Right or left dress was usually lengthened into the command to "Look to the left and dress!" or right, as the case might be. "Stop!" or "Hold!" was the command for halt. It is also said that although keeping step was a matter of indifference or beyond the control of some of the privates, they were nevertheless permitted to remain in ranks and follow as best they could or would the drills.

Company, battalion, and regimental drills were conducted on the Russell Old Field from May to Oct., making a total of at least six different musters on that tract every year. It became a great gathering place, especially when a Big Muster (a battalion or regimental drill) was scheduled. Horse races on such occasions were then by far the most prominent feature on the program and they soon became more frauds than the drills were farces. In fact, the Russell Old Field is even today more frequently referred to as the Old Russell Race Track than the Old Russell Muster Field, although no races have taken place there since the days of the militia muster.

The Russell Race Track and muster grounds, like every other historic place in the county is subject of many absurd tales. One of these pertains to the threshing of wheat. In the early times one of the methods the farmer employed to get his wheat out of the chaff was to "tramp" it out. He located a stretch of ground that would pack solid. On this he built a ring fifty to one hundred feet in diameter. After scattering his wheat on the inner edge of this circle he walked his horse over it and thus trod out the grain. On some farms this was done on the wooden floor of the barn. At any rate, the story is told that after the Russell Race Track was finished a certain farmer brought his wheat, stock and all to the track on a race day and scattered it over the course, and that while running the races the horses trod all the grain out of the chaff, thus relieving the raiser of that wheat of any further work except to "rake up the golden grain."

All the traditions regarding this old Muster Field Team with romance and comedy, except one--the killing of Isom Sheffield by Bob Jenkins. This tragedy took place in the fall of 1842 and during the time the Regulators were hunting down the outlaws. It is said Jenkins was in sympathy with the Regulators and that Sheffield disapproved of some of their work. These two men had argued this question on several occasions, and their disagreement soon developed into enmity. Both came to the Big Muster. Jenkins was sitting on a log when Sheffield, who was approaching from the rear, either by accident or intention hit Jenkins with a sumac stick. A few short words had passed between them an hour before, and now the provocation for a fight presented itself. After a short but fierce struggle Sheffield ran away from Jenkins, some say because he feared the many friends of Jenkins who had gathered around, while others declare he ran to get a weapon concealed in his wagon. Jenkins highly infuriated, followed him with an open knife in his hand. When Jenkins had gotten within a few feet of his antagonist and was ready to make a stab, Sheffield tripped on a root and fell. Jenkins immediately thrust his knife into Sheffield's back, killing him instantly. Jenkins surrendered to the authorities, gave bond, and the following year, was acquitted on the plea of self-defense, but some years later was shot from ambush.

After this fatal event the preachers and church people began a campaign against the meetings on the Russell Muster Field. For a year or two, the races were discontinued but soon large and reckless crowds gathered again and things went from bad to worse until 1850, when the militia musters were discontinued throughout the State.

James Weir, in his boyhood days, saw the decline of the old militia muster, and in 1850, shortly after he wrote "Lonz Powers," saw its final fall. He frequently attended the drills on the Russell Race Track. Observations made there and at Old White Plains in Christian county suggested, it is said, much of what appears in his chapter on the old military muster. Historians generally either refer simply to the old-time military musters, or in the course of a few words vaguely suggest what they were. The following satirical description, taken from "Lonz Powers" is probably the only thing of its kind ever written, and deserves to rank among Ky. classics:

Every nation has a memorable day--a day of songs and rejoicings. With us the 4th of July, 22nd of Feb., and Christmas, are all holidays, or days of joy and pleasure. But of all the grand days in this marital old Commonwealth of ours, those set apart for militia training are (at least in the estimations of militia captains) the grandest and most exciting. If you should happen within ten miles of a militia muster on one of these eventful days, every step you took, and every object that met your gaze, would remind you of war, with its glorious and thrilling panoply, its noise and wild tumult. Boys, negroes, and men, on foot and on horseback, in cart, wagon, and carriage, single, double, and treble, are crowding from every direction and hurrying with anxious speed toward the scene where mimic battles are to be fought and won. Old shotguns, rusty rifles, long-untried fowling pieces, cornstalks, and hickory sticks are in great demand, while the Sunday fineries, drawn from their secret hiding-places, adorn the marital forms of their proud-treading owners. Cider-wagons, ginger cake, apples, whiskey, and all the other et ceteras of the camp, are rushing pellmell into the place of rendezvous. Arriving at the parade field, your ears are greeted with every imaginable noise--the squealing of pigs, heighing of chargers, barking of dogs, braying of asses, laughing of happy negroes, and hoarse commands of military chieftains being mingled together in the most harmonious concord of discord. Jingling spurs, rusty sabers, black cockades, and the fierce little red plume, everywhere meet your wandering eye and fill up the interstices of this moving, animated scene.

Such an exhibition of warlike, enthusiasm might have been seen, if you had only been present, dear reader, at Pleasant Grove, on the morning after the night described in our last chapter. Noise and wild confusion were the order of the day. The thrilling fife and a cracked drum were pealing forth their stirring notes, and calling loudly upon the brave sons of old Ky. to shoulder their arms and sustain the glory of their ancestors. Generals, colonels, majors, captains (we have no lack of titled gentry in Ky.), and privates were mingled together in a confused mass, talking, laughing, shouting, swearing, drinking, and every now and then taking a pleasant knock-down merely to vary the bill of entertainment, keep up the excitement, and cultivate a proper military



ardour. Candidates were there, too (like all other aspirants for office) shaking hands, treating, speaking, and making known to the warlike assembly the past, present, and future (they were no prophets, merely reasoning from cause to effect) glory and renown of Ky. and her gallant sons. Horse racing, cock fighting, rifle shooting, wrestling and boxing upon this occasion, all had their votaries, and all were busily engaged in their respective amusements. Babel, in her palmyest day, was a mere "tempest in a teapot" compared with a militia muster in the backwoods of Ky. The Carnival at Rome or the ancient Saturnalia of the Romans, in the very height of their revelling, would be tame and insipid when placed in juxtaposition with such an occasion. We know of nothing that can be compared, for noise and wild confusion, with a regiment of boisterous, merry, reckless militia, along with their chivalrous leaders, adorned with flowing red sash, bullet button coats, tin-foil epaulets, and stiff, raged, red plumes, just preceding or succeeding "the training."

But suddenly a great change comes over the moving, tossing mass gathered on the battlefield at Pleasant Grove. Some order (a devilish little, by-the-by, if it can be called order at all) takes the place of the late disorder, and a comparative calm--in a figurative sense--settles down upon this raging storm. The commanding officer of the day, stripping his saddle of its red girth, belts on his trusty, trenchant blade, dons his swallow-tailed blue, adorned with bullet-buttons and red tape, borrows the best charger he can find, scrambles on his back with the assistance of a stump or a kind hand, and, when once safely morred, waves his plumed beaver around his warlike head, and shouts his orders to parade. Now comes a busy, stirring, wild, and moving panorama. Men, before ignoble and unknown from the common herd, draw from their bosoms, pockets and hats the red plume and sash (that is, if they are so lucky as to have any), and soon become the leaders and chieftains of the day. A fierce struggle now commences who shall get their companies first formed into a line, or who shall first gain a preemption right to the shade of a tree, under which to marshal and form. Although each company has, or rather has had at some former time, a captain and inferior officers (for they often assemble on parade-ground without any), in reality every man in the

corps, being fully competent to command, takes the responsibility of giving orders.

It may be thought an easy matter by the inexperienced to form a company of men into a straight line; but if it is so, our militia captains have never discovered that fact. They commence at one end of the winding line and with threats, entreaties, and much trouble get a tolerably fair and straight row, especially if there be any corn-ridges in the immediate neighborhood, but, unfortunately, before they reach the other extreme, their soldiers having a predilection for Mahometanism, are generally in a crescent and then they are compelled to begin afresh. And thus we have seen them go on for hours and hours, and at last end their labours, now being in much better array or condition than at the beginning of their arduous and impossible undertaking. Tall, low, long, short, thin, and fat, old and young men and boys, clothed with fur and wood caps, and no hats at all; cloth coats and jeans, calico and linsey, and no coats at all; boots, shoes, and moccasins, and no shoes at all; new and old pants, white, black and striped, and no pants at all; shirts ruffled and unruffled, white, black, green and gray, cotton linen, and calico, and no shirts at all--are all mingled together in the most beautiful and checkered confusion, giving a motley and ludicrous appearance to the ununiformed, straggling, and crooked corps.

The officers are generally the most silly and ignorant men of the community, for none but such will seek a command in so farcical a concern as a militia company; and most frequently elected, as the saying is, unanimously, for they are considered most "unanimous fools," and no one will vote either for or against them. As for a knowledge of military tactics, they never dream of any such a thing. They are unable (with a few exceptions, of course, to form even a straight line, unless they have the assistance of a ditch or a corn row, and as for giving any other orders save "About face!" to which they add "right!") "March!" it is a thing not only unknown but unheard of. These who can read are accustomed to carry "Scott's Tactics" in their pockets, from which they read out the different commands or manoeuvres, but as for knowing what is then to be done, after spelling through the various movements, they don't think of such a thing, for it is none of their business. They are placed there to give the

orders, and it is the duty of the company to obey; and if they fail to do so, then it is their own fault, for their skilful captains have read out all the necessary instructions as plain as Scott himself could give them.

We know of but one real, genuine, whole-souled, praiseworthy militia captain, and he has now left the country and moved to Arkansas. He was a glorious, jolly fellow, that old captain of ours, and if ever a military leader deserved a monument of brass, he was that one; and he will give a ten at any time we are called on towards bestowing that honour of his memory. He was, during his soldiering life, the most popular chieftain of the age--always exception Old Hickory and his sons, the young Hickories--and we shall venture to say his company was the most numerous and well attended of the regiment, so long as he was permitted to drill under his own laws and in his own spirited way.

His mode of operating (and we make it known for the benefit of martial spirits) was to form his corps as near into a straight line as possible; but he only attempted this difficult manoeuver once a day, and that very early in the morning, for after that, not even with the assistance of a fence or ditch could he keep them either perpendicular or rectilinear. Then marching at the head of his brave companions, he opened with a vigorous pursuit of the enemy, and at a suitable and convenient spot, made known to him by his spy (for he always threw out an advance guard), he generally discovered the foe, disguised and changed by the fairies into a half dozen blue or red (most frequently red) pails, and well filled with mint julep, a ladle in each (a trick of the enemy to induce a charge) and commanded by that old bruiser and men-overthrower John Barleycorn, always ready and willing (like Wellington at Waterloo) to be attacked. There is no shrinking or giving back in John, and, like Old Zack, the word retreat is unknown in his tactics, let the enemy be ever so fierce and numerous.

Our gallant captain was one of the same sort, a real Murat for daring charges; and forming his men into platoons of six--for he scorned to take advantage of his superior number--led them manfully to the contest, full upon the battery of the foe, although ready to pour out destruction upon himself and followers. "Make ready!" was his

hoarse command, and down went the dippers; "Take aim!" and up they came on a level with the mouth; "Fire!" and away goes the liquid stream, not of fire but of firewater, down the thirsty throats of his soldiers. "Next platoon, march!" (there was no pricking of bayonets to urge them on); "Make ready, take aim, fire!" and thus each individual of the band had an opportunity to display his nerve and steadiness under a point-blank shot from the stubborn foe. Nor was our noble captain content with battling this little squad, of the enemy, for, like a true hero that he was, he allowed the foe to send after fresh ammunition, and bring up the reserve, squad after squad, and still continue the fight, showing no quarter and asking none, until he alone of all that gallant corps is left standing to face the "red coats." "I see them on their winding way," was the favourite air of this righting band of heroes, and many a battle have they fought with the "Britishers," as the red pails were called, when spirited on by this good old tune.

The followers of the captain, unlike other militia, were far more steady when going into the fray than when coming out. We remember you well most jovial son of Mars, and wherever you may be now, and whatever may be your fate, we will never cease to give you honor, although you were a militia captain. We have fought and have been defeated under your banner, but never disgraced, for, like conquerors, we always slept upon the field of battle and close around the battery of the enemy.

The marital farce is now over; the red plumes have vanished, the bullet buttons are numbered among the things "that were," and bright sabers no longer glitter in the sunbeams. They who but a moment since lorded it over their fellow-men, dubbed as generals, colonels, majors, and captains, and as grandly and gloriously as Napoleon and his marshals, or the Grand Turk and his pachas, are now but common citizens, without command, and no longer in authority; and (what is still worse for them) liable at any moment to be soundly thrashed by any of the sovereigns they may have been so unfortunate as to insult during the drill!--a privilege not unfrequently enforced, very much to the discomfort of the gallant commanders.

The soul-inspiring drum and fife have ceased, and the old forest no longer echoes back the martial roll. Boys, negroes and stragglers, wanting the excitement of

military music, and glutted with warlike pageantry, are now making hasty preparations for departure. Cider-barrels and cake baskets are empty; and their happy owners and vendors, shaking their swelling purses, go on their way rejoicing. All are now gone, or preparing to leave, save those brave spirits who intended to sleep upon the field and upon their arms, for the very simple reason that they have fallen victims to Bacchus and are unable to leave.

And such is a militia muster--a great, grand, sometimes laughable but always silly farce, and not only tolerated, but legalized and even commanded by our laws. Yet do we suffer, and like good citizens obey--three times annually leaving our labor and business to undergo this most absurd of all absurdities, a "militia training."

#### Footnotes.

The Russell tract was first settled by John C. Russell, who moved on it about the year 1805 and remained there until 1820. After he moved to Todd County his level fields and abandoned houses were used for mustering purposes for many years. John C. Russell represented the county in the Legislature from 1807 to 1809. He was a liberal and kind hearted man. His farm, in its day, was one of the best equipped in the county. No traces of his large log residence can now be seen. Even the ruins of the old stone milk house have almost disappeared.

WPA  
Bird C. Greer - 2/10/41  
D. Mitchell - (Type)

MUHLENBERG COUNTY

Murphy's Lake, ... is in the Pond River country, about twelve miles southwest of Greenville. This ... lake is about three miles long ... and is only from forty to fifty feet wide. It is a part of the old Pond River bed and meanders for some three miles in Pond River bottom, at a distance of about half a mile from the river itself. The lake proper consists of two long, deep bends of the old river, connected by a number of smaller and shallower crooks. ... The upper of these two bodies of water is known as Fisherman's Bend or Big Bend, and the lower is called Big Bend. The Murphy's Lake bridge crosses one of the shallow lakes that help unite the two bends.

... Murphy's Lake was so called after Jessie Murphy, who was born in 1781, settled near the banks of the lake about the year 1805.

Ref. Hist. Muhlenberg Co. (Wilson)

ern Kentucky as early as 1771, and pioneers followed a few years later.

Local records show that as early as 1784 a few German-Virginians came into the Western part of Kentucky which now is part of the northern section of the Muhlenberg County. People from Virginia followed brave pioneers to Muhlenberg County. After building temporary homes at Caney Station in the year 1795, they started the town of Greenville in 1799. Greenville today is the county seat of Muhlenberg County.

Muhlenberg County was a part of the original Logan County which was formed from part of Lincoln County, one of the three original Kentucky Counties. Logan became a county in 1792, the year Kentucky became a state.

#### General

This Green River country was settled by the Revolutionary War soldiers who fought with General Nathaniel Greene and General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg and were given military land grants in this area.

General Muhlenberg probably never visited any part of the county that *was named after him*

Henry Rhoads or Rhodes "the God-father of Muhlenberg County", was a member of the legislature when the county was established. He was largely responsible for the naming of his county after his pastor and former war time commander. Rhoads who undoubtedly did more for the forming of this new county was buried near Browder in 1814.

Some of the earliest families to live in what is now Muhlenberg County were Arnold, Baker, Barkley, Bowman, Coffman, Danner, Dennis, Engle, Evans, Frazier, Geibel, Gish, Gossett, Gross, Hamm, Hunsaker, Hunt, Kimmel, Landis, Martin, McPherson, Miller, Moore, Myers, Neff, Newmeir, Koffsinger, Overhultz, Penrod, Oates, Rhoades, Richard, Shanks, Shaver, Shultz, Stoner, Stover, Stump, Turner, Vaught, Weir, Wiley, *Welborn*

Otto A. Rothert, in A History of Muhlenberg County, writes that George R. Clark, after building Fort Jefferson below the mouth of the Ohio River, "proceedèd with two men on foot to Harrodsburg. They crossed the Tennessee River, met a few hunters and trappers, and then continued their tramp through the territory which later became the original Logan County." This

Also, in 1790 John Dennis came to this area and built a large three-room house. Many meetings were held at his home. It was also a stage coach stop.

Jesse McPherson was one of the first-comers. He settled at Cisney or Rosewood.

General William Russell was granted the land on which Caney Station and Greenville were built.

General William Campbell was a first-comer to Greenville. He was the hero of King's Mountain in 1780 where he defeated the British.

This story proves that the settlers here were still fighting Indians to protect their homes when Kentucky was getting established as a state.

On June 1st, 1792, the long struggle for statehood ended. The District of Kentucky had been composed of three counties when the first convention assembled on December 27th, 1784. These were Fayette, Jefferson, and Lincoln counties. Eight and one-half years later, when the state was formed, it included nine counties: Fayette, Jefferson, Lincoln, Nelson, Bourbon, Mercer, Mason, Woodford and Madison.

Many determined men went through the struggle and many never saw the goal. A hard hold of firmness, and loss of life brought Kentucky to statehood.

Central City has had four names and they are Moreheads Horse Mill, Stroud Station or Stroud City, Owensboro Junction, and Central City. When first founded, what is now the I.C.R.R. was being built. Coal mining followed shortly after. The farms of John Stroud, C.S. Morehead, and Joseph Settle complete most of what is now Central City. At the time when there were no railroads here, Central City was called Moreheads Horse Mill.

NAMING THE TOWN. An act on April 19, 1873 was approved to incorporate and establish the town of Stroud City. Legislative acts regarding the regulation of the town were passed on March 17, 1876 and April 24, 1880.

By an act approved February 11, 1882 the name was changed to Central City.



3x5 ✓

South Carrollton was founded in the year 1838. It had been laid out by John Pentress on the old Randolph farm where a tanyard had been operated for many years. The town was incorporated in 1849.

South Carrollton's first hotel was White Hall and its second hotel, "Our House" or the Lovelace Tavern. This was a river town of importance, with the mills, shops, stately homes and a fine college.

The West Kentucky Classical and Normal College developed from an earlier institution established in 1873 by Dr. Wayland Alexander. As long as he remained at its head, it was one of the most flourishing schools of the entire Green River Valley.

If houses could talk, the former home of Dr. Alfred Metcalfe Jackson could tell many stories. From its location on a bluff overlooking Green River from the North and South, a commanding look of the river could almost take one's breath away. This house could tell the story of the river days if "The Three Brothers, and the Bowling Green" and many other old steamboats that plied the river from Evansville, Bowling Green, Louisville and as far away as Philadelphia. Freight from Eastern cities and elsewhere came down the Ohio and up the Green where it was unloaded- hauled overland to Russellville, Greenville, and many other points because of the deep water along the shore.

It was at South Carrollton, during a storm that the Steam Packet, Bowling Green struck a submerged rock, March 31, 1920 and sank. Because of the cost of salvage involved, the owners decided not to raise this sternwheeler, built in 1904.

Sent by Alex. Cathey  
11/25/72

Another sternwheeler that would make stops at South Carrollton and other Green River landings was the "Evansville". She carried a Mockingbird whistle that identified from all others. She could wail like a wild cat or whistle out tunes like "Old Black Joe". After years of service on the Green, Barren, and Ohio Rivers in late July of 1931, it was completely destroyed by fire at the Bowling Green landing.

During the Civil War General Thomas Crittenden moved his Union forces, namely the 11th Kentucky Infantry to South Carrollton. The 42nd Indiana Regiment and the 6th Artillery Battery were also stationed there according to Catherine Merrill's book, "The Soldier of Indiana."

The 42nd Indiana Regiment found unparalleled mud at South Carrollton on a hill at the edge of town. Trenches were dug, trees were cut down, timber or poles were sharpened at the ends and placed in the ground at angles to spear the enemy in case of night attack. Trenches are still visible and bullets up to a few years ago were found occasionally. Most of the bullets found were from across the railroad, where they may have had a rifle range. Trenches are located on the old Noblett farm or the Devine place today.

No actual fighting took place here as the forces were ordered back to Calhoun.

these ancient mound dwellers were ancestors of the American Indians or a race that became extinct. (Phila, Academy of Natural Science.) One of the nearest examples of shell mounds can be found across the Green River from the T.V.A. plant at Paradise. There can still be found mussel shell and flint rock but geologists and a W.P.A. work crew in 1939 systematically removed most of the worthwhile shell, bone, horn, and flint artifacts that remained of the 880 burials that were excavated. Elsewhere in the county, tracks of domestic animals in sandstone, carved markings on rocks, additional mounds containing skeletons were found.

With a few exceptions the early settlements were made up of German-Americans, in and around Bremen, the Northern and Eastern parts of the county. Virginians in the Central part and settlers from the Carolinas in the Southern part. The area of the county is 302,090 acres. Elevation ranges from 387 to 750 feet above sea level. Muhlenberg County has had its share of exciting events, some of the so-called true stories are often hard to believe. For example, whether General Don Carlos Buell, civil war veteran, actually rode his old army horse, Shiloh, down the 60 or more stone steps at the old Airdrie Furnace. General Buell, who had led union forces at Perryville and had brought in re-enforcements to help Grant at Shiloh. Spent his last 35 years in the Airdrie or Paradise community.

Naturally, we have to believe that it was Ephriam Brank, ( a native of Greenville,) along with other Muhlenberg countians that helped Andrew Jackson defeat the British forces at the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812. According to British dispatches the Kentucky sharpshooter identified as Brank, as if he were almost calling his shots, picking off officer after officer. This and marksmanship of the other riflemen stopped the British Regulars for an American victory. During the Civil War period, John Hunt Morgan, General Buckner and Nathan Bedford Forrest moving troops through the county at different times caused excitement enough but not anything like the excitement caused by the Home Guard or militia actions, during the war.

Quantrall and his Guerrilla <sup>Raiders</sup> reportedly made a dash through this section during this period. Some of his ex-members returned for a return engagement in the form of Frank and Jesse James when they robbed the Dovey Mine at Mercer in 1881. Their timing was evidently off. Missing the scheduled pay train their efforts amounted to a few dollars and a gold watch. Another civil war incident was where General Thomas Crittenden had moved his union forces - namely the 11th Kentucky Infantry - to South Carrollton. The 42nd Indiana Regiment and the 6th artillery Battery were also stationed there according to Catherine Merrills book, The Soldier of Indiana.

The 42nd Indians Regiment found unparalleled mud at South Carrollton, on a hill at the edge of town. Trenches were dug, trees were cut down, timbers or poles had been sharpened on the ends, and were placed in the ground at an angle to spear the enemy in case of night attack. Trenches are still visible and bullets up to a few years ago were found occasionally. Most of these across the railroad, where they may have had a rifle range. (From the old Noblett farm - or Devine place today.)

General Buell

Jesse James

DuPont

with headquarters in Wilmington, Delaware. Coleman DuPont was president of its huge powder company from 1902-15 and United States Senator until 1928. But before that time and until 1892 lived here in Central City where the DuPonts operated the Central Coal and Iron Company. The city election of that year, according to some was costly. Although apparently well liked, Coleman DuPont lost the election for mayor. He left Central City sometime afterward. There has always been a possibility- good or bad- that with all the qualifications- coal, water, power, the two railroads, adequate population, that Central City, known earlier as Moreheads Horse Mill, Owensboro Junction or Stroud City might have been one of the key centers in the DuPont System.

C.C. name

Central City began about 1870 on farms owned by Charles Morehead, John Stroud, and Joseph Settle. The settlement grew up around a mill located about where the First National Bank ~~was located~~. The settlement grew up around a mill located about where the First National Bank is today.

3x5 ✓

In 1871 it was known as Owensboro Junction with George Shaver being named the first postmaster. In 1873 the town was incorporated as Stroud City. In 1882, by legislative enactment, the name was changed to Central City. *named after the Dupont Central Coal and Iron Co*

Most of the written history that we have of our county has been compiled by the late Otto Rothert, and a few others like Mrs. Harralson who has contributed a great deal. Seven years ago a young county wide Historian group was organized with most of the members from the Central City area. There are other active groups in the various schools throughout the county. The local chapter meets in the city library with Mrs. Vonnie France and myself (Alexander Cather) as sponsors or advisors. Larry Stone and the Times Argus has helped us get our initial start. We're affiliated with the State Historical Society and the Young Historians Group. Members range from 9th graders to Seniors.

One of the objectives of this organization is to fill in the gaps from the 1910-12 period where Mr. Rotherts Muhlenberg County History left off. If anyone else has any old papers, letters or stories that would help us in this type of research, we would appreciate it very much.

burned in 1907. The historic mansion stood in a beautiful park near the top of Airdrie Hill, on which the town was built. The landscape viewed from this spot, up and down Green River and across the stream and overlooking the farms and forests in Ohio County, is an unusually beautiful one. The riverside paths so winding paths are rampant with ivy and honeysuckle, the foot-bridges have disappeared, and what was once a shaded lawn is now overgrown with wild weeds and bushes.

On the narrow strip of land between the water's edge and the top of the hill, and running parallel with the river, are now found the only evidences of the old iron works and old mines. Among the cedars and the sycamores are the ruins of a large brick chimney. Here and there, protruding from the ground, can be seen traces of old stone walls that remind one more of the work of prehistoric mound-builders than of an abandoned well, and another like a mere hole in the ground. Once there was an opening on the hillside leading into the abandoned drift mine, known as the "McLean Old Bank," it looked like the entrance to a cave that had never been explored.

The stack of the furnace still stands, a majestic old pile, fifty feet or more in height. But the days of this picturesque landmark are evidently numbered. Near the stack is the Stone House, whose massive walls seem able to defy storm and sunshine for many years to come. This house, used in former times for machinery, is a sandstone structure three stories high, fifty by twenty feet. The wooden floors and window frames have long ago fallen away.

Old Airdrie is rotting away slowly. In the history of Airdrie it tells of the town on the hill and the park between the river and the stone buildings and the furnace. The park is in great need of care today. It is a mass of vines and trees which have grown over the years.

The hill above the furnace was the location of the town which consisted of 25 or more houses. There is a long flight of stone steps ascending from the furnace and the building that is left to the hill where the houses once stood. Standing at the edge of the hill or at the top of the steps you are about level with the stone structure. The P&M Coal Company, occupying much of the nearby area has landscaped some of the country side.

In the house is a shaft which is now not more than 10 ft. deep has filled up with trash. The walls are 3 or 4 ft. thick with holes hollowed in them where wooden beams once supported the second and third floors. The old mine tunnel can no longer be found.

Muhlenberg County has had its share of exciting events, some of the so-called true stories are often hard to believe. For example, whether General Don Carlos Buell, civil war veteran, actually rode his old army horse, Shiloh, down the 60 or more stone steps at the old Airdrie Furnace. General Buell, who had led union forces at Perryville and had brought in re-enforcements to help Grant at Shiloh spent his last 35 years in the Airdrie or Paradise community.

General Buell died at Airdrie November 19, 1898, and his body was sent to the Belfonte Cemetery in St. Louis.

Many changes have taken place in the Airdrie community--a short distance away the \$183,000,000 T.V.A. steam plant is one of the new show cases competing with the huge stripping shovel approximately the height of a twenty story building for attention--this giant shovel with its big 115 cubic yard dipper that can daily uncover almost twice its 18,000,000 pound weight in coal. It has surpassed even the greatest coal producing dreams of General Don Carlos Buell.

OLD AIRDRIE

from Alex.  
Cather, 8/1977.

Airdrie and its iron furnace were built in 1855 by R.S.C.A. Alexander, and since that time it has been one of the most interesting places along the Green River. General Don Carlos Buell made it his home in 1866, and continued to live there until his death in 1898.

Alexander believed that the Scotch were the most competent iron workers in the world so he brought many of his former employees and their families to the new Airdrie in Kentucky. Evidently they didn't realize that the ore here required a different treatment so after three or four unsuccessful attempts the furnace was discontinued.

The hill above the furnace was the location of the town which consisted of 25 or more houses, a hotel and a store. After the war, the Airdrie Petroleum Company was formed to drill for oil. General Don Carlos Buell leased 17,000 acres from Alexander Interest for that purpose but after coal had been discovered in such abundance gave up his lease for Airdrie Furnace and 1000 acres of land.

No trace of the buildings that were built on Airdrie Hill can now be found. Some of the houses were carried off in the shape of lumber others tumbled down years ago and rotted away. The Buell residence erected by William McLean many years before Airdrie was started, was not only the largest and oldest residence in the place but was also one of the last to be destroyed. It burned in 1907. This historic dwelling stood in a beautiful park near the top of Airdrie Hill on which the town was built. The landscape viewed from this spot, up and down Green River and across the stream,

overlooks the farms and forests of Chic County. The winding paths are covered with ivy, honeysuckle and other under growth - the foot bridges have disappeared.

On the narrow strip of land between the rivers' edge and running parallel with the river are now found the only evidence of the old iron works. Among the cedars and the sycamores are the ruins of a large brick chimney. Here and there protruding from the ground can be seen the old stone walls of the fortress-like "old prison" or machinery house. This hand hewn stone building and fortification-like walls resemble to some extent an old deteriorating Medieval castle. Once there was an opening on the hillside leading into the abandoned drift mine, known as the "McLean Old Bank". It looked like the entrance to a cave that had never been explored. This has been levelled and filled in by bulldozers.

The stack of the furnace still stands 50 feet or more in height. Near the stack is the Stone House, whose massive walls seem able to defy storm and sunshine for many years to come. This sandstone structure three stories high, 50 by 20 feet wide, lost three wooden beams, floor, and window frames long ago.

There is a long flight of stone steps leading up to the upper level above - standing at the top of the steps you are about level with the stone structure. Gulf Oil Company's P. and M. Coal company occupying much of the nearby area has landscaped much of the countryside.

In the large building is a shaft, now not more than 10 feet deep which is partially filled with trash. The walls are over three feet thick with holes hollowed out where heavy wooden beams once supported the second and third floors.

Muhlenberg County has had its share of exciting events, some of the so called true stories are often hard to believe - for example, whether General Don Carlos Buell, Civil War veteran, actually rode his old army horse, Shiloh, down the 60 or more stone steps at the Old Airdrie entrance. General Buell led Union forces at Perryville and brought in reinforcements to help Gen. Grant at Shiloh.

For a few months in 1884 a few prisoners were used to quarry stones for the new prison at Eddyville but other stone was discovered just as good in Lyon County and the prisoners were moved to the new quarry.

General Buell died at Airdrie November 19, 1898, and his body was sent to the Eelfonte Cemetery in St. Louis.

The T.V.A. Steam Plant is one of the show cases competing with a huge stripping shovel approximately the height of a 20 story building. This giant shovel with its big 115 cubic yard dipper that can daily uncover almost twice its 18,000,000 pound weight in coal. This is only one of the examples that has Muhlenberg County generally the number one coal producing county in the nation. It has surpassed even the greatest coal producing dreams of General Buell.

T.V.A.'s Paradise Steam Plant when it was launched into service in 1963 was the largest electrical generating plant in the world. It isn't today with the advent of nuclear power.

Paradise for example, supplies most of its electricity to the T.V.A.'s seven state power grid. Power can be transmitted just about anywhere.

The three huge water cooling towers 437 feet in height, the three smoke stacks from 650 to 800 feet in height, along



with the rest of the power plant forming the science-fiction like apparition on the landscape. This has a lot to do with drawing travelers from the Western Kentucky Parkway and elsewhere to view Paradise's T.V.A. plant more closely.

## MUHLENBERG COUNTY NO. 1 COAL PRODUCER

There have been many coal mines in this county over the past two hundred years. The Mud River mine, although never a large one, was considered the oldest in the county. Probably Civil War veteran James B. Ryan did as much as anyone to develop this coal field. Up to this time, coal had been transported by wagons and barges. A railroad track was then built to it from Penrod. This No. 6 coal was known far and wide for its quality.

Another early Muhlenberg County coal mine was the Alvey McLean Mine opened up about 1820 below Paradise. McLean and his son, William, were two of the first to realize the importance of coal as fuel in Western Kentucky.

From 1820 to 1965, over 151 mines operated in the county. During the peak years, over 26 mines were operating at one time. Some of these were the W. G. Duncan Coal Companies at Graham and Luzerne; the W. A. Wickliffe Coal Company at Browder; the Greenville Coal Company at Powderly and Martwick; the Kirk Coal Company at Kirk, near Beech Creek; the Beech Creek Coal Company at Beech Creek; the Black Diamond Coal Company at Drakesboro; the Crescent and Rogers Brothers Coal Companies at Bevier; the Madison; Gibraltar; Brownie; Nelson Creek; Holts; Galena; and the Central Coal and Iron Company in and around the Central City area. Other mines were the Shearn Coal Company at Belton, Oakland, Liberty, and Advance at Hillside, Dovey, Mercer, Pacific (Morgan), and

Gibraltar Coal Companies at Mercer on the Illinois Central Railroad; Green River Collieries or Mogg at Moorman; the Bevier Coal Company at Cleaton, the Lan Coal Company at Bevier; Kentucky midland at Midland, and the Moody Mine at South Carrollton.

Henry C. Thompson and his brother, James, owned at least six different mines at different times between Drakesboro and Central City on the L and N Railroad. These were Elk Valley, Sunrise, Kentucky Wash Coal, Peanuts, Diamond Block, and Trama.

Coal companies operating in the County more recently have been Amax Coal Company, Ayrgen, Gibraltar, Island Creek's Crescent Mine in the Brier Creek area, Kirkpatrick Mining Company at Caney Creek, Peabody's River Queen (deep and strip mine), Peabody's Sinclair Mine near Drakesboro, Peabody's Star Mine near Central City, the Pittsburg and Midway Mine near Paradise, the Wright Coal Company near Beech Creek, and Badgett Mine Stripping Corporation Venture Mine.

Muhlenberg County led the nation in 1975 as a coal producer. Of the 144 million tons mined in Kentucky in 1975, Muhlenberg produced 22 million tons plus; this figure was up from approximately 21.8 million in 1974. Other leading counties were Pike, Harlan, Hopkins, Ohio, Union, Martin, Breathitt, Perry, and Letcher.

In an early geological survey of Kentucky, it was stated that in Muhlenberg County's estimated 400 square miles- about 2/3 or 270 square miles is underlaid with No. 9 and No. 11 coal. These two veins, having an average thickness of from 10 to 11 feet, could produce an estimated 10,000 tons to an acre, assuming that the coal is fairly uniform.

In 1975, Western Kentucky mined 56,356,000 tons. The Western Kentucky Coalfield produced 1,157,000 tons of coal during the week ending December 18, according to the U. S. Bureau of Mines. The week before, the tonnage was 930,000 tons. The total Kentucky production for the two periods was 3,066,000 and 3,072,000. West Virginia's production for the two weeks was 2,383,000 tons and 2,129,000 tons.

Leading coal producing states are Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Virginia, Indiana, and Alabama.

Four of the 17 worst coal mine disasters during the twentieth century occurred in Muhlenberg County. On the fourth day of August, 1917, West Kentucky Coal Company's No. 7 mine at Clay, Webster County, 62 miners died. On the first day of February, 1910, No. 3 mine, W. A. Wickliffe Coal Company at Browder, Muhlenberg County, 34 died. On the tenth day of February of 1909, at the Moody Mine, South Carrollton, 10 died. On the seventh day of August, 1968, at Peabody's River Queen, underground mine, 9 died. (A three-way tie for 13th). On the sixteenth of February, 1926, at Nelson Mine, 8 died.

The West Kentucky and Muhlenberg County Mines in the top fifty of 1973--nation-wide:

- No. 4 Peabody's Sinclair - strip
- No. 6 Peabody's River Queen - strip & deep
- No. 12 Amax Ayrgen - strip
- No. 16 Peabody's Vogue - strip
- No. 18 Peabody's Ken - deep and strip
- No. 23 Peabody's Homestead - strip
- No. 41 Pittsburg and Midway Colonial-strip
- No. 46 Island Creek Hamilton - deep

Catler

8/77

# SIMON BOLIVAR BUCKNER

BUCKNER FURNACE

Generally when most people think of iron furnaces in the county they think of Old Airdrie on Green River, not too far from T.V.A.--but there is another old furnace called the Buckner furnace or the Old Stack.

The late Otto Rothert took the Buckner-Churchill Estate, the location of the furnace, and landscaped it into the name he gave it -- Forest Retreat. At it's height there were over 500 different varieties of plants and shrubs, wildlife of many different species -- peacocks would move majestically through the avenues of trees -- it was something to see.

Much of the 2000 acres or more of timberland has been cut over thoroughly in recent years. The once great estate has been sold by Walter Sergeant, Owensboro oil man to Jack Wathen of Madisonville for some \$175,000.00.

The Buckner family came to Muhlenberg from Hart County in 1837. Aylett Buckner and his partner Churchill organized the Green River Manufacturing Co. Capital of \$1,500,000. They erected their iron furnace 5 miles south of Greenville near the junction of Pond Creek and Salt Lick Creek. They had many difficulties with the native ore -- a two story 10 room house was built by the Buckners in 1838. A store, office building, a stone milk house, a grist mill near the stack, many cabins for negro and white laborers. The hauling of the pig iron to Kincheloes Bluff or South Carrollton, a distance of 18 miles over new and rough roads -- to Green River -- and steam boats involved an enormous expense -- so the furnace was abandoned in 1842.

The stack was built at the foot of a hill. It had a double wall of local sandstone hooped by 6 iron bands -- forming a massive tower about 80 feet high, 40 feet wide at the base, 25 feet across the top. Alfred Johnson, Garland Craig and Thomas Welborn did the stone work. Today the front view shows the expert masonry work done--from the rear--a great deal has collapsed.

Simon Bolivar Buckner was born in Hart Co. April 1, 1823. He served as a clerk at the furnace. While employed at the Stack, Simon B. Buckner often went to Greenville, the county seat, with some 300 inhabitants. There he came under the influence of Charles Fox Wing who for 56 years had been the County Court Clerk. He taught a large Sunday-School class that Bolivar was a member of.

Buckner had been attending Christian Co. Seminary in Hopkinsville when he heard that there was a vacancy to be filled from his Congressional district to West Point. His academic training helped him get the appointment. He entered July 1, 1840. He later expressed his opinion that being a resident in the county two years helped him determine his destiny.

Quite often when people remember Buckner they think of him as a governor of Kentucky. Perhaps but definitely as being involved in creating for Grant the unconditional surrender term that was associated with him the rest of his days. Generals Floyd and Pillow turned the command of Fort Donelson over to General Buckner and escaped. Buckner wrote to Grant asking for peace terms. Grant's historic answer has gone down in the annals of American history, "No terms except an unconditional surrender can be accepted."

1375 ✓  
CENTRAL CITY

Central City has had four names and they are Moreheads Horse Mill, Stroud Station or Stroud City, Owensboro Junction, and Central City. When *after John Stroud who first had a farm here* first founded, it was at the crossing of the Owensboro and Russellville Railroad and the Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad about 35 miles from Owensboro, Ky. At the time when there were no rail roads here, Central City was called Moreheads Horse Mill.

HORSE MILL. Flat surface of ground was selected and was scraped clean. The loose dirt being removed and being used as a bank formed a circle similar to a circus ring. After which it was covered with sheaves of grain, placed head on head around the circle in the path of two horses which were later guided over the pathways thus tramping out the grain. The process was repeated and the grain stalks rearranged until all the grain was recovered after which another process of blowing out the chaff was used.

FIRST CHURCH. The first church was a "Union Church", that is a church where preachers from all the different denominations represented took alternate Sundays in which to speak. The denominations represented were Christian, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Cumberland Presbyterian. The Methodist were the first to separate and form their own church. The others separated in the following order: Presbyterian, Cumberland Presbyterian, Christian, and Baptist.

NAMING THE TOWN. An act on April 19, 1873 was approved to incorporate and establish the town of Stroud City. Legislative acts regarding the regulation of the town were passed on March 17, 1876 and April 24, 1880. By an act approved February 11, 1882 the name was changed to Central City.

Highway  
markers.

1202 JONOTHAN E. SPILMAN  
(Greenville, US 62, Muhlenberg Co.) Across street from Branding Iron

Birthplace of Kentucky lawyer, minister, and composer. While at Transylvania Law School, 1837, he wrote the music for Robert Burns' "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton," best remembered of his seven melodies. An adaptation of this music used in one of the tunes to "Away in a Manger," words by Martin Luther. Lawyer 18 years. Became minister when 46. Born 1812. Died 1896.

761 MUHLENBERG HERO  
(Greenville, US 62, Muhlenberg Co.) In front of Greenville Telephone office

Site of home of Ephraim M. Brank, 1791-1875. Born in North Carolina and came to Kentucky about 1808. Lieutenant, Kentucky militia, sent by Gov. Shelby in response to call of Gen. Andrew Jackson for troops to repel British at New Orleans. On Jan. 8, 1815 Brank's daring coolness on breastworks at battle inspired Ky. and Tenn. riflemen to crucial defeat of the British.

614 FORREST RECONVOITERED  
(US 62, Greenville Courtyard, Muhlenberg Co.)

CSA Gen Nathan Bedford Forrest and cavalry came here 3 times on reconnaissance missions from Hopkinsville. Captured USA arms and equipment here, Nov. 24, 1861. Moved through here Dec. 28 on way to victory over larger USA force at Sacramento and returned for camp here that night. Jan. 1862, here to burn Pond River bridges, delay Union army.

821 MUHLENBERG COUNTY  
(Greenville Courtyard, US 62, Muhlenberg Co.)

Formed 1798 out of parts of Logan and Christian counties. Named for Gen. Peter Muhlenberg, 1746-1907, of Pa. Ordained minister, 1768. "A time to preach and a time to fight." Entered Revolutionary Army as Col. Eight Va. (German) Regt. Active from 1776 to surrender of Yorktown, U.S.

Congress. Senate. Collector of Customs, Phila. Many from his regiment pioneered

## The Harpes

• During the early 1800's, the Kentucky frontier was terrorized by two savage outlaw brothers, Micajah (Big) and Wiley (Little) Harpe.

They had come into Kentucky about the year 1802 from North Carolina and left a trail of blood across the state. Most of the robberies in the Green River Valley Country at that time were credited to the Harpes.

• Local tradition passed down and written in Robert's Muhlenberg County History stated that Big Harpe crossed Pond River and was killed in Muhlenberg County, near what has since been called or known as Harpe Hill. An oak tree that stood there until 1910 had always been pointed out as the tree under which the pursuing party had killed Big Harpe.

Little Harpe managed to escape, but Big Harpe's head was cut off and placed on a pole near the big oak tree as a warning to outlaws.

• It is thought that one of the hideouts for the Harpes was on the farm later owned by W.L. Winebargers wife's family since the early 1800's.

The cliff above Harpe's Cave is ideally located for a lookout. From it can be seen miles of the Pond River Bottoms Country, and from another point a few yards away the large valley to the East can be seen.

• Strip mining has changed a great deal of the country in this area. Boatyard Creek near Harpes Hill was where pioneer, William Oates and others built flat boats to ship produce to New Orleans and elsewhere.

• For many years the story could be heard that the Harpes had buried their stolen treasure near the road beside the big oak tree or close to their cave hideouts.

Repeated efforts to find the stolen treasure have been made, but it was never found.



Place Names of Muhlenberg County

385 ✓

Robert Muhl. Co. History

Penrod was named after ~~Pebias~~ Pentod who settled in this area in the 1790's. At first it was called Home Valley later Allbritton. Before that, Laurel Bluff was the nearest post office. HYW. 431-S.E. Muhlenberg.

Lamy Stone Times Argus

Martwick was named for two Greenville coal operators, Charles Martin and W.A. Wickliffe. N.E. Muhlenberg.

L. Stone

Graham was named for another Greenville miner-owner, William Graham Duncan Sr.

Robert

Depoy, formerly Gordon's Station was named for the late Elmer Depoyster, an early Illinois agent there. On ICRR.

Bill Wood

Browder got its name from an official of the Owensboro and Nashville Railroad (L&N) W.F. Browder, Russellville lawyer for L&N. Jct. 431&70.  
5-1-1910 MINE EXPLOSION 34 Killed

Old Timer

Lynn City, a planned town that never reached its expected greatness. (Near Millport)

Robert

Central City got its name from the DuPont Central Coal and Iron Company. Earlier it had been called Morehead's Horse Mill, Owensboro Junction, and Stroud City. I.C.R.R. & L&N crosses (43).

L.S

Powderly was named for Terence Powderly, a labor union leader. Central part of County-Hwy. 62.

Robert

Mercer, Dovey, McNary, and Morgan were named after coal mining families. On ICRR.

MOORMAN,

Gishton and Weir were named after pioneer families.

L.S

Mondray, near Drakesboro, was simply Raymond (Kirpatrick), coal operator, reversed.

Robert

Mt. Pisgah Church first met in old schoolhouse, present site called Charley's Chapel - was changed to Biblical Mt. Pisgah.

Cather  
7/25/72

✓ Rothart

Rosewood was formerly called Cisney after a pioneer family that lived there. South-Central Part of County

Ebenezer- Early church membership started from Hazel Creek-was given Biblical name of Ebenzer.

✓ Rothart

Nelson Creek, Beech Creek, and Hazel Creek were named after the small streams in the community.

✓ Molly Hunter

South-Carrollton-incorporated in 1849. The town itself, located on the west bank of The Green River laid out by John Fentress on the old Randolph farm, where a tanyard had been operated for many years. L & N-HWY. 431 N.E. part of county. John Fentress named the growing village Carrollton after his first grandson Carroll. McCown (son of Lewis McCown and Melvina Fentress) later the South was added to distinguish it from Carrollton in Northern Kentucky.

✓ Bill Wood

Nonnel, coal mine town on the L&N was named after John Lennon, a L&N maintenance Supt. spelled backwards.

✓ Rothart

Airdrie, incorporated in 1858, was named after a town in Scotland where most of the early settlers came from. The old iron furnace, built in 1855, still remains a picturesque ruin. It was located about a mile below Paradise on the Greenville River. Very little evidence that a village of some 200 people ever ~~Existed there~~.

✓ Mrs. Harshman

Skilesville, on the south bank of Green River at Lock and Dam #3. It was named after James R; Skiles according to Rotherts History who introduced the 1st steamboat upon the Green River. Only a hand ful of houses today are at the mouth of Mud River. It was once called Model Mills.

✓ Mrs. Harshman

Bevier was named after R.S. Bevier of Russellville, 1st president of the O & N, later L&N.

✓ Rothart

Drakesboro was built around 1882. It was centered around a store started by Frank Rice and for a few years was called Ricedale. In 1888 the place was incorporated and named Drakesboro in honor of William Drake, one of the first comers to this community.

✓ *Lenore BAUGH*  
Gus was named after Gustie Waggoner who had a store and postoffice out from Penrod near the Butler County line. S.E. part of county.

✓ *L. McCleary*  
Ennis was named after Homer Ennis Sumner who started the post office there in 1903. The post office was closed August 25, 1967. Hwy. 70.

✓ *H. PARSONS*  
Beechmont for many years was known as Beech Creek Junction with the address, Browder, Ky., but on December 16, 1949, the post office was established from a name submitted by Mrs. Bernice McLemore. Hwy. 431.

✓ *M. Wells  
R. Forsythe*  
Belton was named after a Tom Bell who owned quite a bit of property in that area. Up until that time it had been called Yost, a post office official from Cincinnati, Ohio who had approved of the post office.

✓ *L.S.*  
Luzerne was named after Luzerne, Pennsylvania where the Duncans and other Scotch families lived before coming to Muhlenberg.

✓ *L.S.*  
Dunmor was named

*possibly named after an early Virginia Colonial Governor Lord John Dunmore*

✓ *Robert*  
Bremen - earlier or sometimes was called Bennettsville - a post office was located in Arnold Bennetts store and blacksmith shop. It was the pioneer, Peter Shaver who named this town Bremen after his fathers birthplace, Bremen, Germany. This community was called the "Dutch settlement" for the German-American pioneers who settled there.

✓ *Robert*  
Greenville, Muhlenberg County seat received its name from the expanse of green treetops, according to one version. The most acceptable account was that it was named after General Nathaniel Greene, Revolutionary War hero. The town started at Cane Station approximately a mile away from permanent town started in 1799.

✓ *Robert  
J. H. Buchanan*  
Paradise was built on land first settled Leonard Stum and his sons. They operated the first ferry. The story is told that a family was coming up the Green River on a flatboat. Their baby was very sick so they tied up at Stums Landing for the night. Next day the baby had recovered. The parents were so pleased that they thought the landing was Paradise. After the Mexican War, the place had been called Monteray but in 1856 it was incorporated as Paradise. The T.V.A. steam plant was

started in 1959. That was undoubtedly the reason for the ending of Paradise, once a busy river town on the Green River. The Paradise post office opened in 1852 and was closed in 1968.

W.L. Winebarger

Rotherts History and Dee Brown author of Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee wrote about this. Harpe's Hill, in the western part of the county. During the early 1790's, the Kentucky frontier was terrorized by two savage outlaw brothers, Micajah (Big) and Wiley (Little) Harpe. Local tradition passed down and written in Rotherts Muhlenberg County History stated that Big Harpe crossed Pond River in 1799 and was killed in Muhlenberg County near what has since been called or known as Harpes Hill. His head was cut off and placed on a pole, as a warning to outlaws. Harpes Cave and lookout nearby was thought to be one of the hideouts.

G. Taylor

Lewisburg, or Kincheloe's Bluff, on Green River (one of the five towns referred to by Lewis Collins), was a landing-place before 1798, and according to one tradition was declared "a port of entry" about 1800. James Weir, and practically all the other pioneer merchants in the county, received their merchandise from the East at the "Bluff," and also shipped their produce, hides and pork south from there. When Seatonsville South Carrollton was started this town became a ferry crossing. It never became large as expected.

Rothert

Earles, which was maintained in the S.W. Earle residence until about 1860, when the office was moved two miles south to the store of Thomas C. Summers, where it was continued under the old name of Earles until 1910, when, after rural free delivery Rout No.1 was established, the post office was abandoned.

Rothert

Mercer and Nelson Station post office, which were then where they are now; Painstown, which ~~(were-then-where)~~ was about two miles east of Nelson Station; Riverside, which was a small mining town on Green River about five miles above Paradise.

W.L. Winebarger  
Rothert

It may be well to add that about the middle of the last century there was a post office in the Harpes Hill country known as Unity, one of at the Hugh W. McNary place called Ellwood or McNary's.

J. Mc Pherson

Millport, originally was located on the Green River approximately a mile from the present site. An Anton ~~Bracken~~<sup>BRUNCKEN</sup> operated a water powered mill there. Later the town gradually moved to the present location taking its name with it.

Cecil Handrick

Cleaton - The postmaster of this L + N Coal mining town W.R. Walls named the town after his wife Hester Cleaton Walls

Mrs Reis

Mogg. After the death of Mr W.P Robertson a Mr. Mogg of Indianapolis bought the Coal rights. This small Coal mining community was given the name of Mogg - on the L + N Railroad and Hwy 431.

Muhlenberg Co. communities

- \*1. Greenville (co. seat) ⊙
- \*2. South Carrollton (com. & po) (po) had been Lewisburgh ⊙ — but not same side.
- 3. Mill Port (sic) (dpo) (com) X
- \*4. Bremen (com. & po) ← Rennettsville ⊙
- \*5. Skilesville (dpo) (com) ← model miller X ⊙
- 6. Hamburgh (dpo)
- \*7. Pond River Mills (dpo) had been Unity
- 8. Hannibal (dpo)
- \*9. Paradise (dpo) ~~had been Airdrie (com)~~ ⊙
- 10. Lead Hill (dpo)
- 11. Laurel Bluff (dpo)
- \*12. Earle's (dpo) (com) X
- 13. Dead River Mills (dpo)
- 14. Rosewood (dpo) (com) X cisney dpo. ⊙
- 15. Model Mills (dpo)
- 16. Sulphur Springs (dpo)
- 17. Wickland (dpo)
- 18. Luro (dpo)
- \*19. Central City (com. and po) had been Stroud; before that Owens-borough Junction ⊙
- 20. Nelson (com. & dpo) had been Richmond Mines; before that Nelson X
- \*21. Hillside (com. & dpo) ~~had been~~ Mercer Station ⊙
- 22. Painestown (dpo) moved from
- 23. River Side (sic) (dpo) ngbr
- 24. Indian Rock (dpo)
- 25. Gordon (dpo)
- 26. McNary (rr, dpo) had been McNary Station (com)
- 27. Jile's Creek (dpo)
- 28. Dupont (dpo) had been Ham
- \*29. Bevier (dpo) (com) ⊙
- \*30. Penrod (po and com) had been Albrittain ← Home valley ⊙
- \*31. Drakesboro (po and com) had been Ricedale ⊙
- \*32. Belton (po and com) had been Yost ⊙
- 33. Dunmor (po and com) ⊙
- 34. Bertram (dpo)
- 35. Paceton (dpo)
- ~~36. Cisney (dpo)~~
- 37. Craig (dpo)
- 38. Gishton (dpo) (com) X
- 39. Mud River (dpo)
- \*40. Depoy (po and com) ⊙
- \*41. Powderly (po and com) ⊙
- \*42. Moorman (po and com) had been Godman ⊙
- 43. Hazelton (dpo)
- 44. Horeb (dpo) (com)
- 45. Olgie (dpo)
- 46. Weir (dpo) (com) ⊙
- 47. Wells (dpo)
- 48. Moore (dpo)
- \*49. Luzerne (dpo) aka shibo (com) ⊙
- 50. Bancroft (dpo) (com)
- \*51. Cleaton (po and com) ⊙
- 52. Ennis (com. & dpo) X
- 53. Odien (p.o. est. but never in op.)
- \*54. Graham (dpo) (com) ⊙
- 55. Jagoe (dpo) (com)
- \*56. Browder (com. & po) ⊙
- \*57. Beech Creek (po and com) ⊙

- \* 58. Gus (dpo) (com) (o)
- 59. Mercer (dpo) (com)
- 60. Brucken (dpo)
- 61. Knightsburg (dpo) (com)
- 62. Midland (dpo) had been Wheeler (com) X
- 63. ~~Phillips~~ (com) & dpo) Phillips Store (com)
- 64. Waine (dpo)
- \* 65. Martwick (com. & dpo) (o)
- 66. Weatherford (dpo)
- 67. Juleon (?) (dpo)
- 68. Pathfork (dpo)
- 69. Tarma (dpo)
- \* 70. Mogg (dpo) (com) ← X
- 71. Harpes Hill (settlement)
- 72. East Union (com)
- 73. Vaneyville (com)
- \* 74. Mondray (com)
- 75. Bards Hill (com)
- 76. Hoecake(s) Corner (com-?)
- 77. Fern Cliff Village (com)
- 78. McDonalds (com)
- 79. Pendleys Store (com)
- 80. Vicks (com)
- 81. Beltco (com)
- 82. Dick (com)
- 83. Five Spot (com)
- 84. Bethel (com)
- 85. Brier Creek (sic) Ngbr.
- 86. Island Ngbr.
- 87. Spring Ridge Ngbr.
- 88. Sunnyside Ngbr.
- 89. Forest Grove Ngbr.
- 90. ~~Riverside-Ngbr.~~
- 91. Cherry Hill (com)
- 92. Green River (com) ← X
- 93. ~~Riverside Ngbr.~~
- 94. Beech Creek Jct. (com) (o)
- 95. Beechmont (com) (po) ← (o)
- 96. Cedardale (com)
- 97. Diamond Block (com)
- 98. Friendship Ngbr.
- 99. Jernigan Chapel Ngbr.
- 100. Liberty Hill Ngbr.
- 101. Pleasant Hill Ngbr.
- 102. Hughes Kirk Ngbr.
- \* 103. Nonnell (com) (o) aka Elk Valley, PO = Tarma
- 104. Peanut (com)
- 105. Sunrise (com)
- 106. Dovey (com)
- 107. ~~Merehead (com)~~
- 108. Morgan (com)
- 109. Prospect Ngbr.
- 110. Stringtown (com)
- 111. Sharon Ngbr.
- 112. Vernal Grove Ngbr.
- 113. Yeargins Chapel (com)
- 114. Greens Chapel Ngbr.
- 115. Rice Ngbr.
- 116. Lone Star Ngbr.
- 117. Prowse Ngbr.

- 118. Ebenezer (com)
- 119. Elk Valley (com)
- 120. Drake (com)
- 121. Holt (~~ap~~) (com)
- 122. Rhodes Chapel (com)
- 123. New Cypress (com)
- 124. Rowe Ngbr.
- 125. Bivens Ngbr.
- 126. Everett Ngbr.
- 127. Jason Ridge Ngbr.
- 128. Jenkins Store (com)
- 129. Little Mt. Ngbr.
- 130. Tooley Ngbr.
- 131. Carters Creek Ngbr.
- 132. Leigh Ngbr.
- 133. Hazel Creek Ngbr.
- 134. Union Ridge (com)
- 135. Mud River Union Ngbr.
- 136. Murphy (popr)
- 137. Stewart Corner (popr)
- 093. Another Stringtown (com)
- 138. Green Brier Ngbr.
- 095. Dixon Store (com)
- 036. Myers Chapel Ngbr.
- 090 \*139. Airdrie (dpo that was later moved to Paradise) (com-ext.) (1)
- 107. ~~140.~~ Lynn city ~~x~~
- \* 139. Lewisburg (Kincheloe Bluff)

Ngbr = 29  
 Poest = 1  
 Popr = 2

} excluded

NT = (107)

(1) = sample  
 x = reserves



MUHLENBERG COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES

- ✓ 1. GREENVILLE C.H. 4/1/1801, Samuel Russell; 10/1/1809, Parmenas Redmon; 7/28/1812, James Weir....

AP0

Disc 1827, Re-est. 1830 (p. 9)

- ✓ 2. LEWISBURGH- 1/1/1805, James Weir; 10/1/1812, John Fisher....  
5/7/1847, Abel Vaughn; name changed to South Carrollton,  
11/14/1848, John V. Fentress; 5/12/1851, John E. Reno....

So. Carrollton was down stream from Lewisburg

AP0

- ✓ 3. MILL PORT (sic)- 1/27/1829, Willis Morgan; Disc. 5/1/1833;  
originally on Green R. Later moved to present site 1 mi. away
- ✓ 4. BREMEN- 2/9/1832, Peter Shaver; 3/10/1851, Benjamin F. Arnold  
(by now into McLean Co.) (Soon back to Muhl. Co. and then  
back to McLean Co.) Back into Muhl. Co. on or before 2/12/  
1861, ~~B.F. Arnold~~ John W. Morehead; 8/27/1861, B.F. Arnold;  
10/3/1861, Thomas Martin; (into McLean Co. 7/5/1862); 2/7/  
1865, John W. Morehead; (into Muhl. Co. on or before 1/24/1866,  
Jesse S. Hill; 11/9/1866, David W. Grundy....

AP0

- ✓ 5. SKILESVILLE- 6/18/1840, Jacob Luce; 1/18/1843, Wm. L. McDowell;  
(to Butler Co. but d.k. when nor how long it stayed there....)  
Re-est. in Muhl. Co. 6/4/1878, Wm. M. Greenwood; 10/21/1878,  
George M. Kimmel; Disc. 6/24/1881; Re-est. 2/13/1885, Geo. M.  
Kimmel; 10/25/1888, George Q. Fleming.... 8/8/1907, Cordelia  
Holder; Disc. 10/15/1907, effective 10/31/1907 (mail to  
Rochester);
- ✓ 6. HAMBURGH- 8/10/1844, Henry Myers; Disc. 2/14/1845;
- ✓ 7. UNITY- 11/27/1844, John S. Eaves; Disc. 5/23/1849; Re-est.  
9/25/1849, John S. Eaves; name changed to Pond River Mills,  
10/28/1852, James S. Eaves; 1/22/1855, Richard B. Earle;  
near McNary 4/15/1858, David Clark; 6/25/1861, W.A. Eaves; Disc. 8/11/  
station 1861; Re-est. 8/7/1862, John S. Eaves; Disc. 4/15/1863;
- ✓ 8. HANNIBAL- 8/19/1847, E.H. Glascoke (?); Disc. 12/8/1847;

pencil comments  
from A/ef. Cather 8/8/1977.

✓

MUHLENBERG CO., KY. POST OFFICES (2)

- ✓ 9. PARADISE- 3/1/1852, Robert Duncan; 12/31/1853, Wm. N. Wand; name changed to Airdrie, 3/21/1856, Samuel S. Heath; name changed to Paradise, 5/26/1859, Jared Brown; 8/10/1861, Elvis G. Neel.... 1/16/1865, Joseph Fox; Disc. 11/30/1865; Re-est. 1/19/1866, Andrew Duncan; 4/21/1871, Robert E. Glenn....  
Disc<sup>Nov-</sup> 1967
- ✓ 10. LEAD HILL- 4/22/1852, James B. Hancock; 2/11/1859, Wm. W. Hancock, Jr.; Disc. 5/8/1862; Re-est. 5/20/1862, Daniel Gates; Disc. 11/30/1865; Re-est. 4/2/1866, Wm. G. Jones; Disc. 4/6/1867;
- ✓ 11. LAUREL BLUFF- 5/1/1852, Samuel Turner; 11/27/1863, Jesse B. Taggart.... 10/20/1881, D.L. Tolbert; Disc. 7/5/1882 (papers to Albrittain); *Later period*
- ✓ 12. EARLE'S- 7/20/1852, Samuel W. Earle; 12/7/1858, Thomas C. Summers.... 2/20/1907, Charles B. Summers; Disc. 7/15/1910;
- ✓ 13. DEAD RIVER MILLS- 7/20/1852, John S. Eaves, Jr., Disc. 10/28/1852;
- ✓ 14. ROSE WOOD (sic)- 9/5/1854, Thomas Greenwood; Disc. 10/24/1855(?); Re-est. as Rosewood, 6/17/1879, Jesse Keith; Disc. 11/21/1879; *once called Cisney*
- ✓ 15. MODEL MILLS- 3/5/1855, James G. Myers; 1/29/1856, Levi Cowen; 2/1/1856, John L. Roark; Disc. 6/22/1859; Re-est. 2/8/1860, James G. Myers; Disc. 11/30/1865; *later called Smilesville*
- ✓ 16. SULPHUR SPRINGS- 5/9/1855, Absalom J. Rhoades; 9/3/1861, Jesse Y. Jackson; Disc. 5/8/1862; *once e. of Rosewood on cliff Creek near the Carver settlement*
- ✓ 17. WICKLAND- 4/15/1856, Charles B. Wickliffe; Disc. 9/20/1859;
- ✓ 18. LURO- 7/13/1858, James W. Rice; Disc. 7/6/1860;
- ✓ 19. OWENSBOROUGH JUNCTION- 8/7/1871, Geo. G. Shaver; 8/21/1872, Willis Kittinger; 7/15/1879, John W. Hudson; name changed to Stroud, 2/24/1880, James Alcorn; name changed to Central City, 4/10/1882, Jos. Alcorn; 12/17/1885, Jos. H. Short....

MUHLENBERG CO., KY. POST OFFICES (3)

- ✓ 20. NELSON- 8/14/1871, David Rhoads; 1/30/1874, Theodore Bentley; name changed to Richmond Mines, 3/1/1875, James B. Parkes; Disc. 8/20/1875; Re-est. as Nelson, 12/2/1875, Theodore Bentley; 9/27/1877, Wm. Sharp....

Disc 1952

- ✓ 21. MERCER STATION- 6/3/1873, Wm. Mercer; 1/15/1878, John H. Brizendino (?). . . . 8/23/1888, Timoleon Y. Foster; Disc. 10/1/1891, (mail to Greenville); Re-est. 11/28/1891, James W. Lam; 2/27/1899, Wm. Tyldesley; name changed to Hillside, 3/3/1904, Wm. Tyldesley; 4/7/1909, John M. Oates....

Disc 1936

Named for coal operator's family

- ✓ 22. PAINESTOWN- 8/26/1873, George Paine; Disc. 1/30/1882, (papers to Nelson); 2 mi. E. of Nelson Sta.

- ✓ 23. RIVER SIDE (sic)- 8/27/1873, John D. Dashiell; Disc. 4/29/1875; 5 mi. above Paradise on Green R.

- ✓ 24. INDIAN ROCK- 7/7/1874, Burton W. Hall; Disc. 11/19/1874;

- ✓ 25. GORDON- 8/31/1874, Charles G. Barclay; 1/25/1875, James S. Quinn; Disc. 4/23/1875;

- ✓ 26. McNARY STATION- 4/3/1878, Silas Carr; 10/15/1878, Edward Gordon.... 3/25/1881, George J. Briggs; name changed to McNary, 11/29/1882, George Briggs; 1/24/1883, George J. Briggs....

Named for Hugh McNary in the Harpes Hill area

Disc 1937

- ✓ 27. JILE'S CREEK- 11/7/1878, Joseph Jile (?); Disc. 5/? /1879;

- ✓ 28. HAM- 3/8/1881, Matthew Ham; name changed to Dupont, 5/31/1881, Richard J. White; 3/14/1882, Wm. M. Johnson; Disc. 4/11/1883, (papers to Nelson);

- ✓ 29. BEVIER- 3/29/1882, Rob't. Wickliffe; 8/7/1889, Wm. M. Moore....

Named for R. S. Bevier Pres. of the O + N (later L + N) RR

✓

Muhlenberg Co., Kv. post offices (4)

- ✓ 30. ALBRITTAIN, 5/6/1882, Albrittain J. Drake; 9/27/1882, Adrian D. James; 1/8/1885, Henry C. Penrod; name changed to Penrod, 5/19/1885, Henry C. Penrod; 3/27/1889, W.H. Hoskinson....  
APO
- ✓ 31. RICEDALE- 10/2/1882, Francis M. Rice; 3/27/1889, Wm. H. Hunter; name changed to Drakesboro, 6/27/1889, Wm. H. Hunter; 11/4/1890, James T. Pierce....  
APO
- ✓ 32. YOST- 3/6/1883, Thomas J. Leigh; 2/4/1888, John M. Jackson.... 6/18/1918, Mrs. Ethel Z. Forsythe; name changed to Belton, 7/1/1926, Mrs. Ethel Z. Forsythe;  
APO
- ✓ 33. DUNMOR- 5/14/1884, James W. Clark; 2/10/1887, Wm. H. McReynolds.... 2/26/1891, John W. Dunn; 3/17/1892, Thomas J. Beasley....  
APO
- ✓ 34. BERTRAM- 5/27/1884, James H. Eades; Disc. 1/23/1889 (papers to Greenville); *in the Bethel chur. area on the old Greenville-Rumsay Rd.*
- ✓ 35. PACETON- 6/12/1884, Robert Pace; 6/12/1889, Mark J. Lile.... 11/27/1891, Robert Pace.... 4/14/1906, Geo. H. Knight; Disc. 11/1/1906, effective 11/15/1906 (mail to Bancroft);  
*near old Liberty*
- ✓ 36. CISNEY- 11/24/1884, James H. Smith; 6/14/1889, Wm. H. Jenkins .... 4/17/1909, George B. Cisney; 12/13/1912, H. Wesley (~~William~~) Williams; Disc. 12/15/1915 (mail to Yost);  
*Later called Rosewood*
- ✓ 37. CRAIG- 2/12/1885, G.L. Craig; Disc. 12/2/1885, (papers to Yost);
- ✓ 38. GISHTON- 2/19/1885, Dan'l. J. Gish; 2/20/1885, Geo. R. Vickers; .... 9/20/1912, Wm. T. Humphrey; Disc. 11/30/1912 (mail to Central City);

✓

CO.  
MUHLENBERG/ KY. POST OFFICES (5)

- ✓ 39. MUD RIVER- 11/16/1885, Edwin D. Payne; 10/17/1887, Wm. H. Gordon, Jr.; .... 9/25/1903, Wm. T. Hall (?); Disc. 4/22/1904, effective 5/14/1904 (mail to Penrod);  
*named for river*
- ✓ 40. DEPOY- 8/9/1887, James T. Spurlin; 4/11/1890, Thomas B. Davis....  
*I called Gordons Sta. Then renamed for Elmer DePoyster, I CRR agent* APO
- ✓ 41. POWDERLY- 1/14/1888, Wm. H. Smith; Disc. 8/7/1888 (no papers sent); Re-est. 4/29/1890, John E. Spargo; 6/6/1893, John D. Longish....  
APO
- ✓ 42. GODMAN- 3/4/1890, James A. Hendricks; 5/1/1900, Mary A. Hendricks; name changed to Moorman, 3/29/1907, Mary A. Hendricks; 2/16/1910, Harry B. Daniel....  
APO
- ✓ 43. HAZELTON- 6/30/1892, Wm. H. Bard; Disc. 1/29/1902, effective 2/15/1902 (papers to Depoy);
- ✓ 44. HOREB- 8/25/1893, James A. Miles; 5/6/1899, David M. Walker; 2/11/1902, Thomas M. Swiney; Disc. 8/17/1906, effective 9/15/1906 (mail to Weir);
- ✓ 45. OLGIE- 10/31/1893, John G. Crick; Disc. 12/8/1896 (mail to Clifton);
- ✓ 46. WEIR- 5/1/1894, Finis M. Johnston; 7/8/1904, Frank K. Jameson; 1/8/1914, Lizzie B. Jameson; Disc. 6/30/1915 (mail to Greenville);
- ✓ 47. WELLS- 4/27/1900, Laura A. Mohon; 6/8/1901, Herschel L. Mohon; .... 1/19/1912, Ellis Underwood; Disc. 7/15/1913 (mail to Yost);

✓

MUHLENBERG CO., POST OFFICES (6)

✓ 48. MOORE- 9/18/1900, Alanson L. Moore; Disc. 9/26/1902, effective 10/15/1902 (papers to Earles);

✓ 49. LUZERNE- 12/22/1900, Andrew W. Duncan, ineligible; 1/14/1901, Wm. G. Duncan; Annie M. Jones in 3/19/1912;

... Disc 1951

✓ 50. BANCROFT- 7/16/1901, Stella W. Shelton; 3/29/1907, Lula E. Harris;.... 8/6/1913, Colins B. Pittman; Disc. 3/31/1916 (mail to White Plains);

✓ 51. CLEATON- 8/31/1901, Wm. R. Walls; 12/20/1904, Thomas J. Boswell....

AP0

✓ 52. ENNIS- 4/14/1903, Isaac P. Sumner; 2/19/1918, Ezra E. Barrow....

named for Homer Ennis Sumner Disc 8/25/1967

✓ 53. ODIEN- 5/20/1903, Wm. J. Tipton, order rescinded 6/5/1903;

✓ 54. GRAHAM- 1/30/1904, Wm. Williamson; 1/30/1912, George H. Hailey....

named for Wm. Graham Duncan, Sr.

AP0

✓ 55. JAGOE- 10/5/1904, Andrew J. Phillips; Disc. 2/10/1910 (mail to Bremen);

✓ 56. BROWDER- 6/15/1905, James E. Reynolds; 10/31/1908, John D. Longest....

AP0

✓ 57. BEECH CREEK- 7/12/1906, Anderson D. Kirkpatrick; 4/4/1914, Herschel L. Mohon....

named for creek then passing thru area

AP0

✓

MUHLENBERG CO., KY. POST OFFICES (7)

- ✓ 58. GUS- 6/17/1907, Gusta L. Wagoner; 5/10/1912, John M. Sumner;  
Disc 1955
- ✓ 59. MERCER- 12/10/1907, Joseph C. Brooks; 10/17/1912, Arthur Bennett....  
Disc 1933 for coal mining family
- ✓ 60. BRUCKEN- 1/25/1908, Robert L. Jackson; 3/2/1902, Charles D. Templeton; 2/12/1907, Albert W. Brucken; 7/21/1919, Henry B. Arnold; 5/5/1924, Mrs. Sarah B. Nelson; Disc. effective 1/31/1925 (mail to Moorman);
- ✓ 61. KNIGHTSBURG- 1/27/1908, Perry W. Knight; Disc. 2/28/1914, order rescinded 2/27/1914 (sic); 8/28/1915, Fred M. Knight; 4/27/1922, Charles H. Brown; Disc. effective 5/31/1923 (mail to Rochester);
- ✓ 62. WHEELER- 2/24/1908, Wm. B. Noffsinger; name changed to Midland, 12/14/1908, Wm. B. Noffsinger; 3/8/1912, John W. Arnold.... 12/8/1916, Charles L. Nicholls; Disc. effect. 11/28/1924 (mail to Central City);
- ✓ 63. MILLPORT- 7/16/1910, George Phillips; Disc. 10/31/1910 (mail to Sacramento); Re-est. 3/23/1915, John E. Holmes; 4/22/1920, Grover C. Phillips....  
Bruncken ran a mill on Green R. later the town moved about 1 mi. taking name of it. Disc 1957
- ✓ 64. WAINE- 12/29/1910, Edward McClellan; Disc. 10/31/1911;
- ✓ 65. MARTWICK- 3/15/1912, Arthur C. Howard; 3/29/1917, Elsie C. Puryear....  
Disc 1962 RB (1962-1974)
- ✓ 66. WEATHERFORD- 10/19/1912, A.M. Scott; 1/9/1914, James M. Weatherford; Disc. 6/30/1915 (mail to Patrons);

✓

MUHLENBERG CO., KY. POST OFFICES (8)

- ✓ 67. JULECN (?) - 8/12/1913, Percy E. Hill; Disc. 6/15/1914  
(mail to Ennis);
68. PATHFORK - 5/24/1916, Park L. Taylor;
- ✓ 69. TARMA - 12/8/1919, James B. Torbert; 1/24/1924, acting,  
4/4/1924, Rufus K. Hardison; 6/5/1925, Newton J. Milburn;  
9/2/1927, Lula F. Wilburn (sic); Disc. effective 11/30/  
1931 (mail to Drakesboro);
- ✓ 70. MOGG - 10/30/1920, Carl A. Reis;

... Disc 1935



Willett, April 20, 1922.

PLACE NAMES covering every part of every State in the Union. giving the origin and significance. with reference to authorities quoted

WILLIAM GLADSTONE STEEL

APR 25 1922

Eugene, Oregon, April 14, 1922.

Postmaster,  
Greenville, Kentucky.

Dear Sir:-

For many years I have been preparing a work on place names of the United States, their origin and significance, but Kentucky is not well represented, so I am trying to add materially to the list of names for that state. Will you help me? If you cannot give the desired information, will you kindly refer this letter to some one who can?

Can you tell me who bestowed these names, or any of them, when and why they were selected?

- |               |   |             |   |
|---------------|---|-------------|---|
| Bancroft      | - | Long Creek  | - |
| Beech Creek   | - | Lynn City   | - |
| ✓ Belton      | - | Luzerne     | - |
| ✓ Bremen      | - | McNary      | - |
| Browder       | - | Martwick    | - |
| Brucken       | - | Mercer      | - |
| Caney Creek   | - | Midland     | - |
| Cisney        | - | Millport    | - |
| Central City  | - | Mogg        | - |
| Cleaton       | - | Moorman     | - |
| Clifty Creek  | - | Nelson      | - |
| Depoy         | - | Paceton     | - |
| Drakesboro    | - | Paradise    | - |
| Dunmor        | - | Penrod      | - |
| Elk Valley    | - | Powderly    | - |
| Ennis         | - | Tarma       | - |
| Graham        | - | Weatherford | - |
| Gus           | - | Weir        | - |
| Knightsburg   | - | Ycst        | - |
| Jarrels Creek | - |             |   |

the present of the towns are named after men of that name

most of the towns are named after men of that name

*a creek*  
*Thos. Bell*  
*W. F. Browder*  
*A Mr Brucken*  
*a creek*  
*Mr. Ainsley*  
*center*  
*a creek*  
*Mr. Depoy*  
*J. N. Drake*  
*name in Scotland*  
*a Mr. Knight*  
*Mr. Jarrels*  
*scotch name*  
*old man McNary*  
*W. A. Wickliffe & B. E. Martin*  
*a Mr. Mercer*  
*old man Pace*  
*Steam of West*  
*Mr. Penrod*  
*J. G. Powderly*  
*Mr. Weatherford*  
*Mr. Weir*

Very Sincerely,  
W. G. Steel

And any others that may occur to you.