180

Whitley co., Ky. V PA

Lexington Rasearch

Name, Formation.

101 .

Whitley county, formed in 1818 out of the western part of Knox, and named in honor of the great Indian Fighter Col. Wm. Whitley, was the 59th in order of formation.

Geography, Topography.

110, 120

Whitley county is situated in southeastern Kentucky adjacent to the Termessee line. Areally it covers 467.25 square miles. It is drained by the Cumberland River and its principal local tributaries, Laurel River, Jellico Creek, and Clear Fork of Cumberland. The district is mountainous, being a very maturely dissected area quite representative of the Kentucky portion of the Cumberland Plateau. Williamsburg, the county seat, with an elevation of nime hundred and seventy-five feet is centrally located on a low spur which merges into the flood plain of a great meander of the Cumberland river slightly below the mouth of the Clear Fork. Winding ridges surrounding rise to nineteen hundred feet, and adjacent to the Pine Mountain have elevations of twenty-two hundred and fifty feet. The minimum elevation, seven hundred and fifty feet, is found at the mouth of Laurel Creek at its juncture with the Cumberland, giving a maximum relief of fifteen hundred feet for the entire district. Local relief varies from seven hundred and fifty to twelve hundred feet.

WHITLEY COUNTY My, Follow

A tea made of chestnut leaves is good for whooping cough. Warts may be removed by tying as many knots in a string as there are warts, and then burying the string somewhere in the ground and not going back where it is. When the string rots, the warts go away. "Charm doctors" claim to be able to remove warts and moles. They just look the wart over, and sometimes rub their hands over it, and the rest you don't know.

WHITLEY COUNTY

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Mr. Hettie Taylor, Williamsburg, Ky.
Miss Emma Campbell, Williamsburg, Ky.

-22

Customs! Home making

Williamsburg, Whitley oo., Ky

Alice Baird WPA

Antiques.

Our county is modern in many respects. Manufactured articles have replaced the hand made furnishings of most homes, machinery and improved implements have taken the place of crude made farm tools, also trucks and cars have been ushered in where buggids and wagons once served the people. But there seems to be some thing antique in almost every home. The strange thing about it is that what was old fashioned and almost worthless twenty five years ago is most valuable today.

Sometimes it is an old fashioned chair or table that has been hand made by a relative or friend, and is often praced more t an any piece of furniture they have. Then maybe it is just an old pitcher, dish or crock that has been handed down from one generation to another. These are usually very odd in shape and size sometimes home made.

Some of the old time household recessities such as the spinning wheel, loom, reel and etc. are kept and prized by the owner.

The little spinning wheel or flax wheel which was a necessity in "Olden days" is today varnished and shined-up to be ornamental only, and has its place in the front room.

There are a few reels but not many. The old fashioned loom has not been handed down as a piece of furniture, iether useful or omnamental, because of its size. The work that was done on it and how it was done has been told and retold many times, so it is considered an antique in thought.

Alice Haird

The most unluable and most appreciated things are old poster bedsteadt and home made coverlets.

Genuine hand made old poster bed steads were usually made of oherry, walnut or maple and they are valuable and scarce. There are a few to be found yet.

The coverlets were made of wool or wool and cotton. They were usually blue and white, or red and white, and sometimes all three colores combined Years ago they were used as a necessity or rather a piece of necessary covering for beds. Now they are only used for a spread on a bed or lounge, and often they are just a keep-sake.

Reference source:

Mrs. Rachel Meadors, Williamsburg, Ky Mrs. T. Y. Daird, Williamsburg, Ky Miss Emma campbell, Williamsburg, Ky 4. 45.

Williamsburg, Whitley co., Ky

Alice Baird

Folkways, Homelife

Most of the dweling houses in our town are made of wood. There are some brick and a few of concrete blocks. In late years there has veen made a few from our natural stones. The business houses are most all brick. There are still many log houses in the country. The remainder are boxed houses, stripped or weatherboarded. The houses in town usually have from six to ten rooms. There is a living room, dining room, kitchen, bath, hall, and bed rooms to suit the conveniences of the family and guests. Some of these bomms have a library and sun parlor. The country houses average two to four rooms. some of them just have one big room, in this room they cook, eat, and sleep. The homes in Williamsburg are heated with gas and coal, some have furnaces and some grates. "any country people still use wood in the big open fireplace, tho some have coal to use.

The morning meal is called breakfast, noon meal, dinner, and the eyening meal is called supper. On special occasion the evening meal is called dinner. Country people prepare for the morning meal a heavy meal just as they would prepare for the remainder of the day. They have for the breakfast, ham, eggs, preserves, jellies, hot biscuits, fried apples, corn, fried chicken, gravy and coffee are usually considered a preparation for the morning meal. The noon meal is vegetables, meats, milk, butter, corn

Alice Baird

bread. Supper is the light meal of the day, with the left overs being used for this meal. Most all of the food in the country is home grown.

There are nine (9) doctors in our town and just one or two in the country around. Country folk use more homa made remedies than they do patented or doctor prescribed medicines Brown paper and vinegar are used for sprains brusies, Turpentine and lard is good to destroy lice and mites on fowns. It is also a good stock remedy. Some country folks say that mutton tallow is a good cold remedy, and the strange thing about it is, you grease the bottoms of the feet and get them good and hot in front of the fire to break up the cold. Whiskey and rock candy is good for coughs. Polk berries and whiskey are good for rheunatish Spring tonics are made out of sarsaparilla roots, wild cherry tree bark, red dogwood bark, poplar tree bark, and yellow root. boil all these barks and roots together and add whiskey, alcholor glycrine, others cut these items all up together and cover with water and add a preservative. Chestnut tree leaves made into tea is good for whooping cough, Warts are taken off by telling some one to tie as many knots in a string as there are warts and bury the string in the ground, do not go back to where the string is burried and when the string rots, the warts will disappear Corns, moles, and other abnormal growths can be taken off by charm. doctors. These doctors will say a few words and rub their hand on

Alice Baird

the wart or mole and it will disappear in a few days.

The frow is still used by men in the country who make boards. Some farmers still use the cradle in taking care of their wheat and oats. There are a few corn shellers in the country. Hearth side tools and utensils are about a thing of the past, for there are not many who cook on an open fire place now. There are not many old fashioned water buckets. Milk vessels and churns are brought up to the modern style. There are a few hand mills and water mills around in the county. Looms, spinint wheels, and frame are about all gone. There are a few kept just because they are antique. Company or strangers are helped at the table first, children wait until the second table is served. In town they eat in the kitchen if there are many guests at the dining table. If just one or two guests they come to the table with the others.

Old time skirts were 3 or 4 yards and sometimes more around the bottom, some put as many as a dozen gores in their skirts.

//Bodices were usually real tight. Young and old used to wear home made shoes, beaver hats, the beaver hats were worn more by the higher class than others. Galluses were knitted, men and women both wore big shawls years ago, old times sunbonnets were calles split bonnets because they had real thin little pieces of wood or card board between the layers of cloth in the head piece of the bonnet. Men now wear overalls or cover alls to

Alice Baird

work in. Some women in the country wear overalls as well as the men. The women in town wear smocks, some uniforms, and many of them just regular dresses. Country children and women go bare footed, but very few in town. Carpet bags are not used any more and I havent been able to find any from gone-by-days.

There are a few spring houses in the country. It is cool around a spring kakkax the house being built over or around tge spring and the water runs through it and keeps the foods and milk cool. Cellars are built in different places in the country sometimes they are built under the house and other times the are built close the house. The cellars are far enough under ground to keep the vegetables from freezing. country folks usually preserve meats by smoking them and keep them in a smoke house. Most people dry fruits and vegatables they keep them for winter use.

There are very few if any side saddles now. People who live along rough roads and those with little oney still travel on foot or in a wagon. Since there are good roads in many places, cars are fast taking the place of other vehickles.

Most all families have a clock but years ago dials and shadows were used in telling the time. Country folks are still inclined to go by the sun. They depend on it so much they can tell pretty well just what hour of the day it is.

Alice Baird

Reference Sources:

Mrs. Hettie Taylor, Williamsburg, Ky.
Mrs Martha Baird, Williamsburg, Ky.

Miss Emma Campbell, Williamsburg, Ky.

Alice Baird

(H) WPA

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Customs: Cures

CLAY COUNTY

Ralph Holcomb

Many mothers in this country believe that a tea for their young offspring is very necessary for their health. The tea is composed of the following
herbs: Rattleweed, sassaparilla, mullin, burdock, and cherry tree bark.

Williamsburg, Whitley County, Kentucky.

Customs.

Folkways, Homelife

Most of the dwelling houses in our town are made of wood. There are some brick and a few of concrete blocks. In late years there has been made a few from our natural stones. The business houses are most all brick. There are still many log houses in the country. The remainder are boxed houses, stripped or weatherboarded. The houses in town usually have from six to ten rooms. There is a living room, dining room, kitchen, bath, hall, and bed rooms to suit the conveniences of the family and guests. Some of these homes have a library and sun parlor. The country houses average two to four rooms. Some of them just have one big room, in this room they cook, eat, and sleep. The homes in Williamsburg are heated with gas and coal, some have furnaces and some grates.

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Willaimsburg, Whitley County, Ky.

Alice Baird

Reference Sources:

Mrs. Hettie Taylor, Williamsvburg, Ky.

Mrs. Martha Baird, Williamsburg, Ky.

Miss Emma Campbell, Williamsburg, Ky.

Local History,

Milliamsburg, Whitley co., Ky

Agico Baird

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Forkways, Historic.

Because of the Location and late development of Whitley county, there were not many slaves here. But some of the prominent families had negroes.

There was no auction block where slaves were sold publicly, but there were slaves and slave drivers would collect up the slaves and take them other places and would sell them.

Most of the families who had slaves, would have cabins for them to live in. In some cases they were well fed, clothed, and had good treatment in every way, but in other cases they were treated more like animals or beasts. It has been told that some masters would whip their slaves until the blood ran from the strips and gashes in their backs then they would have them stand in barrels of salted water, so as to keep blood poision from setting-up in the wounds.

After the Civil war, the ones that had good masters stayed on with them, while others settled in little homes of their own.

In some cases, in the families te daughters were each given a colored maid when they married. These maids were not to be sold but were to be kept in the family. There are not many colored people in Williamsburg, and most of them came from other states or at least other counties.

Agioe Baird

There is a report of adjustmit a General of the State of Kentucky for years 1861-1866, in the Whitley county court house at Williamsburg, Ky.

There also is another report in this court house of the Civil
Wer, compiled and edited by Abner Harris, compiler of war Records.

There is a history of Whitley county in the Workd War 1917-1919 in the clerks office at Williamsburg. It was prepared by miss Martha Mason and Fred P. Caldwell, state was historian.



"Aunt Julia" "arcum, a nationally known woman member of the G. A. R. was given a Military Funreal May 8, 1936 at the Christian Church in Williamsburg, Ky. This 91 year old woman member for the Grand Army of the Republic died early Saturday morning at her home on Main Street. She had been ill since last November, her strength gradually failing after an attack of pneumonia. She was the only woman in the United States to get a Government pension as a fighter. Members of Whitley Post no 58, the American Legion, were paylearers, and a special detail from company D 149th infantry formed the Military escort. A letter from President Roosevelt to "Aunt Julia", written only a few weeks before, in which he expressed concern over her igness was read.

At the conclusion of this service in the church, the casket was draped with the flag of the United States and borns to Highland Cemetery for burial. As the body was lowered into the grave, two buggers selected from the local Bey Scout Troop, sounded taps for "Aunt Julia".

It was in the fall of '61 that she earned her own pension

She was only sixteen them. Hiram Marcum, her father and his

family lived in Scott county, Tennessee. Marcum was a leading

organizer of an underground railroad that slipped union sympathisers

north to where they could join Lincoln's army. and his home was

an important depot. Word of Marcum's work got to southern officers

Winjaimsburg, Whitney co., Ky

Agloe Baird

and they decided to put an end to it.

It was not a regular army unit however, that got to the marcum home first, a party from the southern camp decided to take matters in their own home and surrounded the marcum home at two colock in the morning. Threats were shouted as the men closed in on the place one 200 pound giant broke into the house. One of the first had left the others and the marander grabbed her in the tarkness.

Her scream brought Julia carrying an axe she had "Grabbed up"

He threatened to kill her then, and she turned and hit him with the axe. The man fired his rifle. Julia felt a flash of pain and saw in the dim light that a finger was gone. With her good hand she continued to swing the axe, fighting for her life in the dark. With a bayonet he stabbed her in the face, piercing her skull and putting out an eye, but she kept on fighting.

Her farher found the intruder dead and the girl nearly dead from her wounds and fright.

As soon as Julia cold be moved the family moved to Kentucky where the father joined the Union Army and went to his death in battle. In Kentucky the home where July was staying was burned by confederates and a shot that killed a cousin grazed her scalp. In spite of her experiences, she spent much of her time visiting soldiers camps, encougaring the boys.

Agios Baird

In 1884 Wiss Julia was granted a punsion by a special Actof Congress

She spent most of her life in patriotic and religious work with only

one eye remaining she had read the Bible 400 times. On patriotic

anniversaries she alsays had her whole house and lawn decorated with

flags.

She was known thru the Kentucky Hill country during the World War because of her practice of meeting troop trains and giving the soldiers a send off. Many of the boys in France wrote home to "Aunt Julia". Miss Marcum who for twenty years was secretary and treasurer of the Williamsburg G. A. R. Post, was the only feminine member of that organization of Union Veterans.

The pentioned "Ex-Soldier" observed her 91st. birthday anniversary last Hovember, and messages came to her from the "boys" she fought with in 1861 and the younger ones she encouraged on their way to war in 1917. (This information was obtained from page 1, of a Whitley Republican published Thursday, May 14, 1956.)

Reference sources:

Mrs. Julia Hoffman, Williamsburg, Ky

Mrs. Verna Denham, Williamsburg, Ky

Hattie Bradford (colored) Williamsburg, My

raura ges (conored() Winniamsburg, Mye

Alice Baird

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Customs: amusements

Years ago work and play were combined in many cases. This custom has changed a great deal. The old time log rellings, bean stringing, cotton pickings, corn shucking all brought a merry time as well as the work they accomplished. The corn shuckings have always been more popular than any of the other fall gatherings and still are. Since there has always been more corn raised than anyother one crop, has caused this.

These corn shuckings are always in the fall just after gathering the sorn before putting it in the crib for winter. The old custom was to put ajug of whiskey in the bettom of the pile of corn. Many men liked their dram, and a jug to pass around after the work was one of the treats of the day.

There were different races during the day. Sometimes men we ld try to see who could shuck a bushel of corn the quickest. Then there was a race to see who could find the most red or speckled gover ears of corn. A red ear counted ten, and a speckled ear counted five. The game was a hundred points. Many times two or three hundred bushels would be shucked in one day.

Women were always invited along with the men to these corn shuckling and they played a big part on these days. The women folk of the home had the shuckings often planted a quilting for them. So when the

Alice Baird

showed the results of the days work they also could show theirs.

There was always some good cooks in the bunch and they would prepare a good dinner, the dinners always boasted its chicken and dumplings many times turkey, and always country ham and sausage. Vegetables fruit cake and pies had their place also.

After the days work came the fun, there was either a candy party or a dance.

It is a candy party and they made candy for the whole crowd.

most of the time it was called "tuf jack" out of molasses, or some

times it was pull caddy made from sugar. A lot of the fun was in the

making. After it was cooked it had to be kneaded and worked to make

it lighter in color and brittle. The young folks in the crowd had the

time of their life when they got their hands in the candy.

dence as hard as they had worked that day. The dance would last until mid night and sometimes longer. This custom has out lived many others for we still have corn shuckings in the rural sections.

Customs: Annualment, Breakettes, Margant Bishop,

They'd come after the quiltin's wuz over, and then we'd all dance.

That's when we'd do some of our courting.

(see then this for rouver

Alice Baird

WPA

FOX HUNTING

Years ago Fox Hunting was one of the greatest winter sports men had.

It also offered a way of getting some extra cash during the cold months.

When farming had past for one year, and not begun for the next.

In the earlier days there were plenty of both grey and red foxes in the county. Often the men would bunch-up as it was called, and take their dogs and go to the woods and stay all night, or until after mid-night.

This was a happy night for many hunters, they would go into the woods with the dogs and get the fox started and then the fun began. If it was a bunch just out for the race they would probably stay all night. Each man could tell the howl or bark of his dog, and if his dog was houling farthest around the mountin he was sure he had the best dog. If they stayed they would rake up a big bunch of leaves and crawl into them, and go to sleep, then wake up the next morning to find it had snowed and the leaves over them were covered.

Years ago men usually wanted the chase and the fox too. In the case of this the men divided and stationed themselves along the path which they expected the fox or goxes to go. There were so many that they needed to be killed, for they destroyed fowls and smaller animals also. The state or country paid a ransom for killing them. When they killed a fox they kept the scalp and presented it to the proper authority and they were paid a \$1.00. Then the fur was worth for about .75 or \$1.00

Alice Baird

The Ellisons, Stanfills, and Foleys were among the main hunters in Whitley county. They lived some distance from the mountians where hunting was best. So they would ride their horses to the foot of the mountains or to some distance grounds and there tie-up their horses until the hunt was over.

Wm Ellison who was a prominent hunter during the later part of the ninteenth century did die while gone fox hunting. Mr. Ellison and a Mr. Stanfill had gone hunting on Buck Creek mountian near what is now Saxton, and Ellsion hitched his horse at the usual place. But Mr. Stanfill rode on some distance farther.

They had agreed to meet at a certain gap in the mountain when the hunt was over. So after the race Mr. Stanfill went to the place agreed on but Mr. Ellison wasn't there. Stanfill called and called but Ellison didn't answer, but a dog would howl in that direction when Stanfill called. He recognized the howl as that of his partners dog. He knew there must be something wrong and went at once to see.

When he got to his place found Mr. Ellison sitting on the ground leaning back against a tree dead. He had his gun lying across his lap, he had his dog at his side, and his horse standing close by.

This was in the year of 1898, on the date of February 25.

Reference sources.

Mrs. Josie ?Gordon, Williams burg, Kentucky
Miss Bertha Anderson, Williamsburg, Kentucky

Alice Baird WPA.

ANCIENT FIRE

Matches are one of the most common things we have in this day and age.

But seventy-five (75) or One hundred (100) years ago they were not had or

used by country people of this section. As a result people tried to keep

fire in some form the year around.

In winter a big wood fire was kept day and night and in a big open fire place the fire was also kept burning. In summer after a meal was cooked, either on a stove or an open fire place, the fire coals while red hot were covered up with ashes, and in this way a fire was kept from one day until the next. Because there were no matches it was necessary to keep this fire burning always, but if the fire went out, it was also necessary to go to a meighbor house and borrow fire. This had to be a quick errand therefore, the saying of "Did you come to borrow fire" originated.

If the fire went out and there weren't any neighbors around they had to make fire by some means.

One way to do this was to take an Indian Arrowhead or flint and knock some chips or sparks off of it with some hard tool, such as a knife or chisel as the chips or sparks of fire fly if caught on punk it will take fire very easily and burn. Punk is a soft spongy like substance that grows on the inside of trees in the woods. It is usually found in a worm hole or some kind of a cavity. After it is taken from the tree it becomes very dry, and was used to catch the sparks on and it would burn.

Another way of starting a fire was with an old fashioned spinning wheel, and some copper thread. This copper thread was made by dipping a soft

Alice Baird

sewing thread into a strong lye made of wood ashes, and then dipping it into a solution made of copperas and warm water. A supply of this copper thread was usually kept on hand to be used in cases of emergency. To produce the fire the spinning wheel was banded, and the thread was wrapped around the whirl. Then the wheel was turned so fast the thread got hot enough to ignite and burn into pieces. The burning ends of the thread was quickly put into punk or cotton and powder. In either case fire was started.

It is traditional that Indians started their fire by putting a spike or some pointed metal object in a slender piece of wood about a foot long. Then they put the point of the object into some substance that is easily fired next they took their bow and wrapped the string og it around the piece of wood. This made the bow in a horizontal position while the wood and metal piece was perpendicular. Some time they placed a solid, heavy ixximment object on the top of the wood, and the bow was moved back and forth in a sawing motion very rapidly. This caused the metal piece to whirl around at such a speed that fire was soon ignited at the base

Coal oil the fore ru ner of electricity was as scarce as matches years ago. Lanterns and lamps were also unknown. So far the need for a light in the house a fire was built in the fire place or home made candles were used.

If people traveled at night a torch was made of pine and carried. If a bunch or crowd of folks were going some where a torch was tied on a long stick and some one in front carried this light.

Alice Baird

The topch was held high above the heads of the procession, and it shows for a great distance. It also cause the wild animals to flee and made travel safer.

Reference sourde:

Mrs. Josie Gordon, Williamsburg, Ky

Mrs. F. M. Thomas, Williamsburg, Ky

Mr. T. Y. Baifd, Williamsburg, Ky.

CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK

Cumberland Falls State Park 18 miles from Corbin on State Highway

90, is composed of 500 acres of virgin forest, mountains, streams and cataracts, the gift in 1930 of Senator Coleman T. Du Pont and citizens of the

community. The total area contains a tract of wild, rugged rocks and

rough mountainous country cut by the Cumberland River, which threads its

way through the hills over a rocky course, and, coming to a wide rock

cliff in a wild and beautiful gorge, plunges over, then rushes on in

whirlpools and rapids. Immediately behind the falling sheet of water

there is a cave in the surface of the rock; it is possible to go almost

across the river by this passage through an arch formed on one side by

the rock and on the other by the flashing waters.

In addition to the scenic falls which are 68 feet in height and 125 feet in width, the Cumberland Falls State Park has many other points of interest and attractions such as Lovers Leap, Natural Bridge, High Bluffs, Little Eagle Falls, Lookout Point, Valley of Rocks, and a beautiful and varied flora.

Half a mile down the river, Little Eagle Falls, small but picturesque, surrounded by heavily wooded hills, was said to have been guarded
day and night by the Indians as a place of worship, in defense of which
the Indian battle of Shiloh was said to have been fought. On the south
side of the river is a cliff walk, a narrow ledge high above the water
which winds around the shoulders of the hill until it reaches the top
where a shelter house is located. Native trees and wild flowers may
be studied while following the foot trails and bridle paths along the
ravine and mountain sides.

A fine growth of yellow pine crowns the ridges, whole on the steep slopes and ravinos leading down to the river a mixed forest growth of such trees as hemlock, tulip, magnelia, cak, sweet gum and holly are found, the holly being particularly abundant and of very large size. Dogwoods, azaleas, rhododendron, spicebush, stewartia, the viburnums, blueberries, shrubby St. Johnswort and strawberry bush are among the many plants to be found.

The cataract comes into view from several points on the trails, which are cut through the timber and underbrush on the steep level of the stream.

Moonbow Inn. During the full of the moon Cumberland Falls presents a moonbow, a spectrum conjured in the mist - one of the rare occurrences to be seen on this continent. The old inn at the falls takes its name from this phenomenon. It has been recently remodeled under the supervision of the State Park director and care was taken to retain the atmosphere of the sixties when it was built.

The National Park Service under the Department of the Interior has put into the park many improvements cansisting in the main of a bath house with a bathing beach; water and sewerage system; shelter houses with open fireplaces; Du Pont Lodge and 16 log cabins, five of which contain living rooms with fireplace, two bedrooms, bath and kitchen; a custodian's lodge and service building; pionis areas with tables, seats and overs; 25 miles of trails winding through the area; lookout tower, bridges, and parking space for 600 cars.

Du Pont Lodge, named in honor of Senator Coleman T. Du Pont, is situated on a ridge overlooking the Cumberland River, one mile from the falls. It is built of natural wood and stone and has every convenience.

The Cumberland National Forest of 900,000 approved acros encircles Cumberland Falls State Park protecting it from despoliation. Miles of trails and gravel roads are to be placed in this forest, together with fishing reservoirs and observation towers. Thousands of acres along the river are filled with virgin timber and a variety of wild game.

Here in the park is provided a natural refuge where deer, black bear and smaller fur-bearing animals, as well as wild turkey, quail and waterfowl may find a native home safe from molestation. Here too the camper, the student, the nature lover, may find opportunity for sport, study or solitude amid beautiful, primeval surroundings.