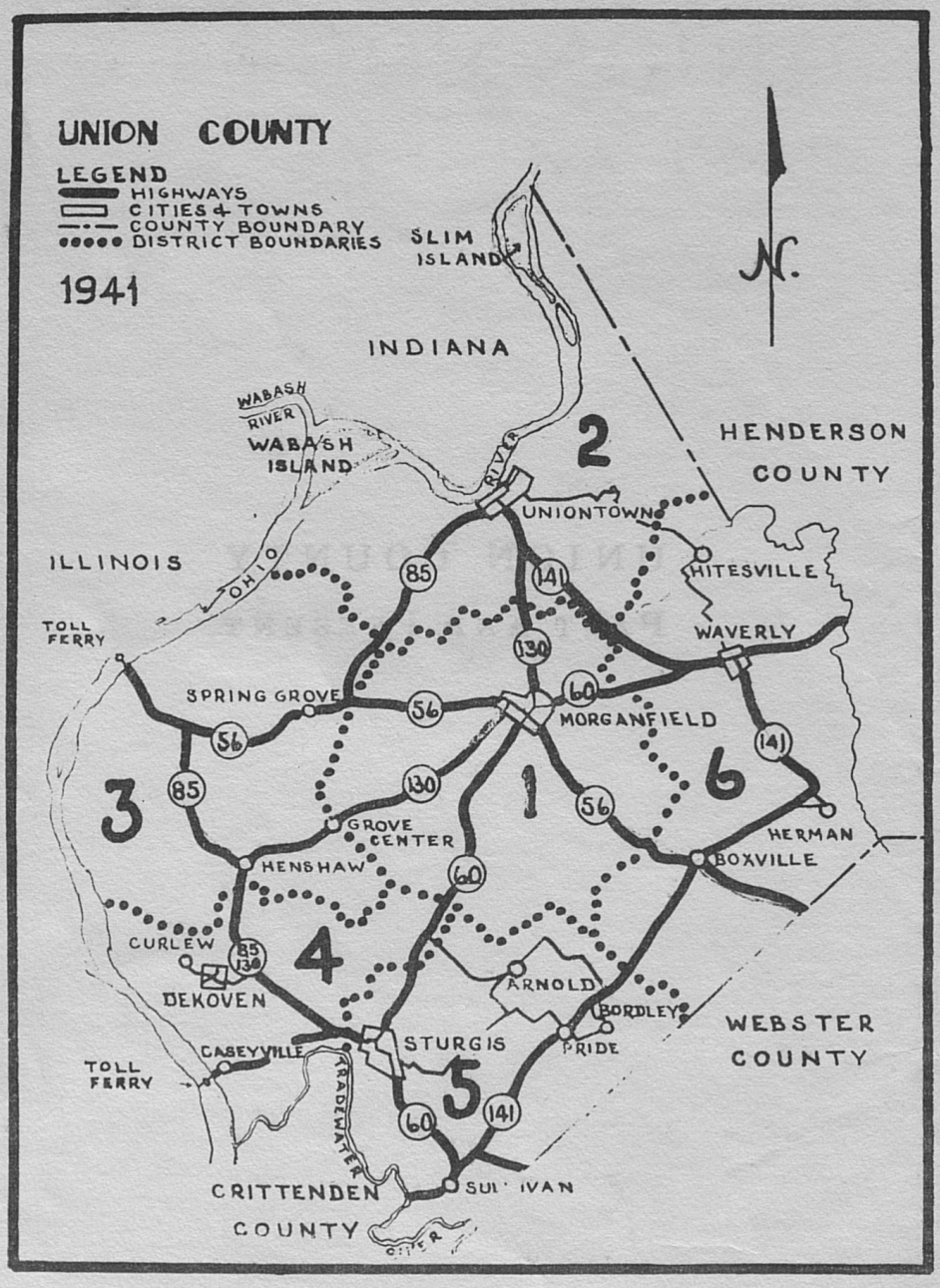
UNION COUNTY

Past and Present



MAP OF UNION COUNTY

UNION COUNTY
PAST AND PRESENT

Compiled by Workers of the Kentucky Writers' Project

Of the Work Projects Administration

AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES

ILLUSTRATED

Sponsored by

THE UNION COUNTY FISCAL COURT

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PREFACE

Representative of western Kentucky's counties is Union, the subject of this volume in the American Guide Series. It is typical for its location on a large, navigable river, typical also for its devotion to agriculture pursuits. It shares with several other counties of this section of the State the possession of a thriving coal-mining industry.

Its history, except during the Civil War period and when floods or other natural disasters have struck, is uneventful. Its people have worked hard, enjoyed simple pleasures, built their agrarian society without receiving, or seeking; fame or notoriety in the world outside.

Because of Union County's very adherence to the normal, its story may be a richer contribution to the whole body of knowledge of American folkways than if that story were a recital of spectacular events, studded with the exploits of celebrated men and women.

The Kentucky Writers' Project wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the co-operation of the sponsor of *Union County Past and Present,* Judge Earle C. Clements of the Union County Fiscal Court. We wish to acknowledge also our appreciation of the helpfulness of Mrs. B. G. Waller, Jr., and Miss Lila Holt, presidents respectively of the Morganfield and Sturgis Woman's Clubs, and the members of their advisory boards: Mrs. John Reburn, Mrs. Margaret Briscoe, Mrs. W. H. Waggener, and Mrs. J. Waller Taylor in Morganfield; Mrs. H. C. Dedman, Mrs. Dudley Peyton, and Mrs. Edd O'Nan in Sturgis.

A list of the many residents of Union County on whose stores of recollection and information the Writers' Project drew in assembling data may be found in the chapter of *Acknowledgements.*

Other important sources of material were the old *History of Union County,* published in 1886 by the Evansville, Indiana, *Courier;* L. and R. H. Collins' *History of Kentucky,* George Huston's *Memories of Eighty Years,* Fortescue Cuming's *A Tour to the Western Country,* county records, and old newspaper files.

The manuscript of *Union County Past and Present* was prepared under the direction of LaMar Hamilton, formerly of the Louisville staff of the Writers' Project. The research staff in Union County was headed by Sarah D. Young, Sturgis. Her

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The frontispiece map was re-drafted by H. Don Unland, of the Tennessee Writers' Project, from a map originally prepared by the Kentucky State Planning Board. We wish to thank William R. McDaniel, state supervisor of the Tennessee Writers' Project, for this contribution to the book.

WILLIAM R. BREYER,
State Supervisor,
Kentucky Writers' Project

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NATURAL SETTING

UNION COUNTY, with its broad expanse of gently undulating land, embraces 357.5 square miles on the western edge of the Western Coal Field. Along its northern and western borders, for a distance of approximately thirty-six miles, the Ohio River flows in long, majestic curves. On the southwest, Union County is separated from Crittenden by the Tradewater River; Webster County borders it on the southeast, and on the northeast lies Henderson, from which Union County was formed in 1811. On the opposite shores of the Ohio are the mouths of the Wabash and Saline Rivers and Shawneetown, Illinois, the rough-hewn portal of the Middle West in pioneer times.

The terrain is in general rolling to hilly, the lowlands being confined to the bottoms along the Ohio and Tradewater Rivers. A conspicuous range of hilly uplands stretches in a southeastern direction from Shawneetown to the Webster County line. Elevations range from a maximum of 600 feet on the ridges just south of Morganfield to a minimum of 315 feet above sea level at the confluence of the Tradewater and Ohio Rivers.

Geologically, the outcrops of the county consist of an alternating sequence of sandstones, shales, and coals included within the Pennsylvanian formation with a large amount of Pleistocene and Recent sands, clays, and silts along the river flood plains. In the southern part of the county there are massive, thick-bedded sandstones which are favorable for quarrying operations.

Mineral resources include coal, gas, and oil. The county has produced more than a million tons of coal in a single year, while oil in small quantities has been secured in the waters of Highland Creek at depths ranging from 600 to 800 feet in what has been regarded as the Cypress sandstone. Clays suitable for ordinary brickmaking are abundant, and the Ohio River affords an inexhaustible source of sand and gravel.

The county as a whole is well drained, the Ohio and Tradewater Rivers and their tributaries being the factors in the natural watering and drainage system of the district. Springs are numerous. A fine white sulphur spring five miles south of Morganfield has been a popular resort for many years; and on Highland Creek near Uniontown there is a spring from which tar

or oil flows in considerable quantities. Other springs in the county possess chalybeate of fine quality.

Along the 36-mile shore line of the Ohio are the river bottoms, a fringe of fertile flatland. Not far from the shore the ground rises, then dips; and inland from these ridges is a succession of sloughs, ponds, and shallow lakes. Their alignment follows substantially the curving course of the river, into which they cannot empty because of the higher ground nearer the river's edge.

In some of the sloughs and ponds the water is stagnant, in others it is clear. Among them, Dixon and Harding Ponds and Geiger and Morton's Lakes are best adapted to swimming and boating.

In places the strip of marsh land attains a width of more than three miles; but it narrows down to a quarter-mile at the downstream end, near the Crittenden County line. Several of the sloughs hold water throughout the year. They range upward in size from small mudholes to small lakes and their total area is about 25,000 acres.

When the first settlers came to Union County, they found cane growing in great abundance along the river front, furnishing a resort for flocks of passenger pigeons, wild turkeys, geese, and ducks, as well as for deer, otter, mink, wolves, wildcats, raccoons, and opossums. All these, common in the days when the great ornithologist, John James Audubon, wandered through this region, have now disappeared. Gone are the passenger pigeons, once so numerous that Audubon on his way to Louisville from Hardinsburg, in 1813, counted 163 flocks in twenty-three minutes. Gone, too, are the wild turkey, the prairie chicken, and the beautiful little Carolina parrakeet. But most of the songbirds have increased enormously. Those native to Kentucky, as well as migratory birds which follow the Ohio, Mississippi, and Tennessee Rivers are seen here in large numbers. It has been stated by the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey that observers in these river valleys probably witness the passage of a greater number and variety of birds than in any other river valley in the world.

Small mammals, including muskrats, squirrels, cottontails and marsh rabbits, raccoons, and opossums, exist in surprisingly large numbers. Occasionally mink and otter are seen.

Several species of fish of the kind common to Kentucky, such as bass, crappie, jack salmon, and catfish are found in the lakes, ponds, and rivers.

A small amount of valuable timber remains in the county and there are areas where second-growth timber is flourishing. The forest growths include hickory, walnut, sweetgum, sycamore, pecan, cypress, cedar, elm, oak, maple, beech, several varieties of ash and poplar, locusts, wild cherry, with occasionally a yellow button and chinquapin, catalpa, and coffeetree.

The soil of the uplands is loess, a yellow silt loam, thin where hilly, but deeper elsewhere. The soil of the bottoms is deposited and of more recent origin.

Union County is distinctly an agricultural community, few counties, it is claimed, having greater acreage of highly fertile land, four-fifths of the total acreage being classified as farm lands. Tobacco and corn, in which the county excels, are staple products, though all other crops usual in the State are cultivated.

The county is gridironed with well-surfaced highways reaching out in every direction. Along these roads are well-kept farms and spacious, comfortable homes which suggest the slow tempo and quiet peace of a prosperous, agricultural community. In these homes is written the story of several generations of men and women, since their pioneer ancestors followed Indian trails or floated down the rivers, cleared the forests, built their cabins, and played their part in founding a commonwealth.

The Islands of the County

Within that length of the Ohio River which forms the sinuous boundary of Union County lie two inhabited and cultivated islands: Slim and Wabash. They were somewhat important in the early years of navigation and doubtless witnessed scenes of violence and terror, for they were in proximity to up-river Diamond Island, the haunt of banditti, among whom the more conspicuous were the Harpes and the Masons, who attacked and plundered passing boats, frequently murdering both passengers and crews, until at length a detachment of Kentucky militia shot or dispersed them in a surprise raid—as related by Fortescue Cuming in his *Tour to the Western Country,* embracing the years 1807-9.

Slim Island (also known in the past as Eighteen Mile and Elk) is nine miles north of Uniontown. It is approximately three and one-half miles long, with an area of 565 acres. Although it was submerged under several feet of water during the flood of 1937, it is so high that the 1913 flood, less severe only than that of

1937, did not cover it. The main channel flows between the island and the Indiana shore.

On his way down the Ohio, Cuming stopped at this island, which he described as having a settlement at the upper end. Cuming also states that three miles below the island on the Indiana side, directly across from the mouth of Highland Creek, filled with drift, lived three families named Robinson, the first settlers in the district.

The first record of ownership was a deed of 1884 containing the names of Nunn and Duncan, the latter selling out to his partner shortly afterward. Nunn willed the island to a granddaughter, Mrs. William Elliott, Sr., who in turn willed it to her five children, the present owners. William Elliott, Jr., of Henderson, manages the island, which is planted in corn.

Since 1933, the overseer has been John R. Fenwick, who lives in a two-story frame house of twelve rooms. A two-story house of four rooms is occupied by Fenwick's Negro cook, and in the busy season by workers, for whom a Negro woman is employed to cook. The yearly average yield of corn is 20,000 bushels, but for 1938 it reached 30,000. The corn crib has a capacity of 18,000 bushels; the silo is 16 feet wide and 60 feet high; and the barn, with a shed on each side, accommodates 40 mules.

On the Kentucky side the channel is too shallow for the passage of barges, and it was necessary in 1940 to dredge the main channel. There is a tow head of seventeen acres near the island.

To visit Slim Island from Kentucky an appointment must be made with the overseer to meet one with a small boat, while from the Indiana side the clanging of a large bell announces the desire to cross.

Though under the jurisdiction of Union County, mail for Slim Island is addressed to Mt. Vernon, Indiana, from which place it is deposited in a box on the bank opposite the island.

About four miles down the Ohio from Uniontown, below Dam 49, lies Wabash Island at the convergence of three States. The largest island in the Ohio, it takes its name from the river which forms the boundary between Indiana and Illinois and which empties into the Ohio near the middle of the island.

Years ago, one might walk from Wabash Island to Kentucky but a deep, wide channel now lies between. An electric power line crosses the island, for lighting and the operation of small machinery.

Fortescue Cuming wrote that Wabash Island was five miles long, contained 3,000 acres and has a "wooded interior."* If the voyager was correct as to the area, the present 1,200 acres are a commentary on the ravages of the Ohio and Wabash Rivers.

When the cultivation of corn began is uncertain. Cattle were raised here first, with the old-time rail fence enclosing the pastures. Cultivation had to await the gradual clearance of timber, which was sold and shipped down the river.

Under the jurisdiction of Union County, Wabash Island is divided into three farms. Eighty bushels of corn to the acre have been grown. At present there are nine houses, three stock barns, and four corn cribs, the largest, with a capacity of 13,000 bushels, on the Waller and Sugg farm.

Once the island housed fifteen or more families, but the introduction of the corn-picking machine in 1938 has cut the population to one family and a few farm hands.

Among early residents were the Reburns, Burlisons, Jacobs, Breezes, Weedmans, Freeburgers, and Harrises. For some reason, doctors were never attracted to the island. An old Mrs. Kettles, steeped in the lore of ancient home remedies, long tended the sick.

The rivers have been a constant threat to the inhabitants and have taken their toll of lives, though, happily, they have often been cheated of their prey by an almost miraculous chance in the matter of rescues. In the severe winter of 1917 the island, for a few days, was cut off from the rest of the world because of the ice in the Ohio. The river finally froze until it could be crossed by cattle, hogs, and even wagons.

Education has not been neglected. In 1910, Miss Emma Whitworth started a shanty-boat school. The county school superintendent interested himself in its development, with the result that a building was erected in 1911 on ground given by Nace Waller on condition that it would revert to him in case the school discontinued. This happened in 1923, after years of support, the accumulation of a good library, and an attendance of from twenty to thirty pupils.

Afterwards the schoolhouse was the scene of religious services conducted by ministers from Uniontown and Morganfield, until it was destroyed by the 1937 flood, which reached past the second floor of many houses, destroyed large stores of corn, and killed two mules, sixty or seventy hogs, and several cows.

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PREHISTORIC TIMES

THE OHIO swings sharply southward along Union County's western line. Midway in this natural border, Indiana's famed Wabash River flows into the Ohio. The surrounding country, rich in archeological remains, was once occupied by the Mound Builders, an agricultural people, ancestral to the Indians, around whom a great deal of unnecessary mystery has been woven.

The chief evidence of their existence has been found in the numerous mounds they built for burial, religious rites, and other purposes — hence, the name "Mound Builders." These earthen piles, indicating the hand of man rather than nature, were hoary with age even when Boone came into Kentucky. The Indians of his time, when asked about them, replied: "Our people did not build them; they belong to a people whom our forefathers fought and drove from the territory; but whence these people came and whither they have gone, we do not know." The Mound Builders, however, were Indians themselves. The last permanent Indian residents of Kentucky, who left from 1650-90, were undoubtedly Mound Builders.

An early archeological excavator, Sidney S. Lyon, stated in a private letter that in no other region had he observed the work of the Mound Builders comparable in extent and importance to that found in Union County. Mr. Lyon, the first to explore systematically the mounds of this particular section, turned the first spade full in the cause of archeology in 1858, and in the late sixties he carried on even more extensive diggings under the patronage of the Smithsonian Institution which published his report in 1872. In the same letter he remarked that "If the ash beds, bone heaps, et cetera, are evidence of a formerly populous and settled country, it is to be found here. In my examinations I found nearly one hundred mounds in an area of a hundred acres." It has been stated by a number of older residents familiar with the county that there is hardly a farm in the county which has not yielded evidence of prehistoric occupation.

Mr. Lyon's excavations, as well as later ones, have archeological interest and some are sufficiently odd to excite the layman's curiosity A mound near Uniontown contained the skeleton of a man in a sitting posture and strewn around him were

many beautiful artifacts including notched flint implements, grooved stone discs, a copper awl, a copper disc covered with woven fabric, and a pottery vessel.

A burial mound on Lost Creek was built over a stone floor and included a five-foot pit filled with skeletons. A large number of intrusive burials had been made in this mound, some apparently quite recent, since copper bells, indicating contacts with the white man, were found in one. This was one of the rather infrequent occurrences of copper artifacts being found in Kentucky. This mound was later discussed in some detail by Col. Bennett Young in his book, *Prehistoric Men of Kentucky* (1910). On Lost Creek Mr. Lyon also reported a group of mounds consisting of forty-eight separate tumuli.

Another burial mound, on Buffalo Creek, four miles from Raleigh, contained bodies arranged in a circle like the spokes of a wheel. The heads pointed toward the center of the circle and the faces were turned toward the left side.

Excellent pottery has been found at a village site, traditionally associated with mounds now obliterated, at Ridley Pond, about six miles west of Uniontown. Among the many fine artifacts taken from the burial field on Grundy Hill was an excellent figurine of fluorspar.

There was once an Indian village or possibly a group of two or more villages extending along the banks of the Ohio River for two or three miles below Raleigh Landing. This site for many years was known for the abundance of artifacts found here. The statement in *The History of Union County* (p. 682) on archeological remains at Raleigh also indicates the extent of Indian occupation in that vicinity:

> In the aboriginal days Raleigh was an immense Indian cemetery. Every fresh cave-in of the riverbank disclosed bones that had lain years, perhaps centuries, in the tomb. In 1853, Mr. Calmes, in excavating for building purposes, found many skeletons, a babe was lying on the breast of one, probably its mother. Several large specimens of lead ore were found along with curiously ornamented vessels, that would hold something more than a quart. These vessels had little ears or handles that were very unique. Likenesses of duck bills, lion's and snake's heads, seemed to be abundant. These utensils seemed to be made of cement which had been prepared from pulverized muscle-shells and sand. They had undoubtedly been the handiwork of the Mound Builders because there are several mounds just back of Raleigh. . . .

Another large village, located on the bank of the Ohio River just above Uniontown, extended into the bounds of that town.

This has long been recognized as a prehistoric site. As far back as 1824 this site was mentioned by Constantine S. Rafinesque, Transylvania's somewhat eccentric professor of natural philosophy. Col. Bennett Young states that at this site was found a cache of 140 hornstone knives. This, perhaps, was one of the two caches also reported by Rafinesque—for one was reported as "near Uniontown." The other one was six miles from Caseyville. Surface material, particularly flint spawls, is still occasionally found on the Uniontown site.

It is locally related that Chickasaws and Choctaws occupied this village. These two tribes belonged to the Muskhogean linguistic stock. However, the Chickasaws inhabited the land west of the Tennessee River and the Choctaws inhabited the present State of Mississippi. Since they were neighbors, it is conceivable that they lived together; but both, especially the Choctaws, were out of their nation's territory.

Although Shawneetown, the best-known village site in this vicinity, is in Illinois, a sketch of its history is pertinent to the local tradition of Chickasaw-Choctaw occupation of the village near Uniontown. It suggests that perhaps the Shawnees also occupied the latter village.

Shawneetown was built, as its name indicates, by a small body of Shawnees, as a temporary village, after they had been driven out of Cumberland Valley, sometime after 1730. When George Croghan made his trip down the Ohio, in 1765, the village had already been abandoned. The site had been frequented ages before, however, for the salt springs which flow there. When Fortescue Cuming made his trip down the Ohio, in 1808, he reported that the town contained about twenty-four cabins and was a place of considerable resort on account of the salt works about twelve miles distant, "which supply with salt all the settlements within one hundred miles, and I believe even the whole of upper Louisiana."*

Two fairly important Indian trails crossed the present territory of Union County. One of these, the Russellville-Shawneetown Trail, connected the Indian villages of the mid-Cumberland Valley, near present-day Nashville and Clarksville, Tennessee, with the celebrated Cahokia group in what are now the suburbs of East St. Louis, Illinois. It continued westward about six miles

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from Dixon to Highland Lick, and from there through Henshaw in Union County to the Ohio River crossing at Shawneetown. A prong of this trail, which can be called the Dixon-Uniontown Trail, forked at Dixon in Webster County. It continued from Dixon to Morganfield, and then to Uniontown on the Ohio River. From there it led to the Indian settlements scattered up and down the Wabash.

Surface material and caches, as well as village sites and mounds, have been found in abundance in the county. Even in recent years Indian artifacts are turned up now and then.

I. R. Williams, Uniontown poolroom proprietor, was a more recent collector of Indian artifacts. His valuable collection was gathered almost entirely in Union County and after his death in 1932 it was given to the Western Kentucky State Teachers' College at Bowling Green.

One of the spots, where some aboriginal object is occasionally dug up, is known as "Indian Hill," near DeKoven. About a half-century ago, 1894 to be exact, M. E. Oglesby and William Keller were hunting on this hill when they noticed a depression in the earth. They decided to dig and were rewarded with a large piece of lead ore, some arrowheads, and a complete skeleton. Dr. J. D. Ames examined the bones of this skeleton and found that the nose had been broken and had healed crooked, and that a crack in the left temple was probably the cause of death. When measured, it was estimated that the Indian had been over six feet in height.

Another doctor, Joseph Hinton Hamner, of Spring Grove, was one of Union County's early amateur archeologists. About the time that S. S. Lyon was excavating for the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Hamner was digging in the mounds of the old Raleigh Precinct. The old *Union County History* (p. 686) reported that he had found "many aboriginal relics that are curious, and that throw considerable light upon the manners and customs of ancient Americans."

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNTY AND ITS GOVERNMENT

THE ORGANIZATION of all Kentucky counties is identical, and closely modeled after the Virginia county plan, which in turn was set up with the English county as its model. The county, as a unit of government, is older than either the state or city. Government was administered by the county in England at a very early date. Before the reign of Canute (1017 to 1035), marking the advent of Danish influence, the chief officer of the county was the Earldorman. His duties were wide in scope—presiding officer of the assembly, commander of the military forces, chief law enforcement officer and executive of the shire. During the reign of Canute a part of these duties were assigned to a new shire officer, the Seirgerefa (sheriff). He was made the chief law enforcement officer and the tax collector, and was made responsible for summoning the freemen for military duty.

Political changes were ushered in with the Norman Conquest in 1066. The Normans set up new courts, but the Anglo-Saxons sought justice in their own old tribunals that frequently continued *sub rosa*. This condition eventually developed a dual court system for the counties which survives to this day in the Kentucky judicial machinery. The circuit court is descended from the Norman court and the county court is the remnant of the Anglo-Saxon tribunal. Also under the Normans, the shire became the county, solely a change in nomenclature. Magna Carta, 1215, defined the rights of the individual freeman, but crown prerogatives continued an everpresent means of circumvention.

Royal control over the county was strengthened from the fourteenth century onward. Appointment of justices of the peace by the crown marked the establishment of a third system of county courts. These new judicial appointments were handed out freely by the Tudors and with them an ever increasing jurisdictional conflict raged. In the sixteenth century the military functions of the sheriff were delegated to a new county officer called the "Lord Lieutenant." This system existed until the enactment of the "Local Government Act" which provided for election of county councils that took over many administrative functions previously held by the sheriff.

From the standpoint of its distinguishing legal characteristics a Kentucky county is a subdivision of the State. The act which created Union County was passed by the General Assembly of 1811 and approved by Gov. Charles Scott, on January 15 of that year. The new county was carved out of the western part of Henderson County, and was described as "Beginning at the upper point of the Eighteen-mile Island (formerly called Elk Island, and in 1840 known to boatmen as Slim Island), on the Ohio River; thence a straight line to Highland Creek, one mile above Higgins' Hill, (Measured along the Meanders of the creek); thence up the said creek to the White Lick Fork thereof; thence a direct and straight line, by 'Harpe's Head,' to the line of Hopkins County; thence, with that line, to Tradewater River; thence, down the same to the Ohio River, and up the Ohio to the beginning." These boundaries are established by Section 1 of the Act which proceeds with provisions for the organization of the county government.

Section 2 directed that the justices of the peace named for the new county should meet at the house of Jeremiah Riddle, on the first court day, after the separation of Union County from Henderson took place. After having taken the oath prescribed by law and qualifying, the court was directed to induct the sheriff, administer his official oath, and approve an official bond for him. It also provided that the court should proceed to install the county clerk. Furthermore, this section of the act appointed Jonathan Ramsey, William Bradford, James Johnson, William R. McGary, and Charles Davis as commissioners to select a place for the permanent seat of the county government. Their qualifications, procedure, and compensation for this work were included in the act. The first Monday in the months of March, June, and September were fixed by Section 3 as the days for convening the circuit court of Union County.

The sheriff of Henderson County was empowered under Section 4 of the act to distrain property and collect from the citizens of the new county, for any public dues, taxes, and officers' fees, which accrued before Union County was formed and which then remained unpaid. This section also gave the county court of Henderson County the right to continue its jurisdiction over all actions and suits, either in law or equity, which were pending before it, at the time of the creation of the new county.

The cause for the separation of Union from Henderson, its parent county, was chiefly the remoteness of the area from the

county seat,—Henderson. Bad roads frequently prevented attendance upon court sessions and military musters from this isolated area. Military service was then general and compulsory.

Presley N. O'Bannon, a member of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly, led the fight for the passage of the bill creating the county. He was not a resident of the proposed Union County area but had come into possession of about 1,500 acres of land situated in that locality through his marriage to the granddaughter of Gen. Daniel Morgan, a hero of the Revolution. The tract embraced the land on which Morganfield was later laid out. Many of the leading citizens including Jeremiah Riddle, Hugh McElroy, Joseph Delaney, Fielding Jones, John Blue, Daniel McKenney, Robert Gilchrist, John Chapman, Joseph Owens, Samuel Givens, Samuel May, John Waggener, Samuel Casey, and others, gave able assistance in bringing about this separation and formation of the new county.

On January 25, 1811, ten days after the passage of the act establishing Union County, the legislature passed a companion measure providing for the establishment of courts in the new county. Under the provisions of these two acts, Governor Scott appointed the first justices of the peace, a sheriff, and a clerk for the county. The personnel of this first magisterial court was composed of Hugh McElroy, Joseph Delaney, Fielding Jones, John Blue, Daniel McKenney, Robert Gilchrist, John Chapman, Joseph Owens, Samuel Givens, and Samuel May. John Waggener was commissioned by the governor as sheriff, and Samuel Casey as clerk of the county.

The newly appointed magistrates met on May 11, 1811, at the home of Jeremiah Riddle, in their official capacity. The Riddle house stood on the present site of Morganfield. They administered, to each other, the oaths required by law to qualify for the duties of their offices. This done, the first court for Union County was convened. John Waggener then presented his appointment as sheriff, took the oath of office and executed a bond in the penal sum of $3,000, with Joseph Rives and B. Rives as sureties. Sheriff Waggener then moved the court to appoint Joseph Rives as deputy sheriff, which was done. The next step in organizing the county government was the appointment of Samuel Casey as county clerk. Casey presented his gubernatorial commission and was sworn in as first clerk of the new county. Henry F. Delaney was licensed and sworn in as the first attorney-at-law of

the Union County bar. The organization of the bench and the appointment of the county officers consumed the larger part of the morning and near noon the court adjourned until 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day. It reconvened at the home of Ebenezer Briggs. At the afternoon session the court appointed John Wheeler, Nathan Floyd, and Enoch Talbott as constables for Union County. The new court then granted a tavern license to James Lathan.

Meanwhile, the commissioners for the selection of a permanent site for the county seat were busily engaged in canvassing the locality to determine the best location.

The court next met on May 29, at the home of Riddle. At this second meeting the commissioners, who had been appointed to select the county seat site, made their report. They recommended the land occupied by Riddle, including the house in which the court was then sitting, as the proper location for the county buildings. The report further recommended that the Public Square should be laid out near the spring. The court accepted the commissioners' report and appointed Hugh McElroy, Samuel Givens, Joseph Delaney, Daniel McKenney, and John Blue as commissioners to decide upon the site of the Public Square; also, to draft a plan for the building of a courthouse, jail, and stray stock pen. These commissioners completed their work and presented their report and plans for the new public buildings to the court on July 23, 1811. Their plans were approved by the court, which at once appointed Daniel McKenney, Joseph Owens, John Blue, and Samuel Givens to represent the new county in the letting of the building contracts. The order of appointment stipulated that separate contracts should be provided for each building. It also specified that the jail was to be completed by the commencement of the April term of court, 1812. The other buildings were to be finished by the July term of 1812.

The land on which the Jeremiah Riddle home was located evidently belonged to Presley N. O'Bannon, because in August 1811, more than two months after the commissioners had selected the site on which Riddle's house stood, O'Bannon petitioned the court to establish the county seat on five acres of his land, exclusive of streets, alleys, the Public Square, and spring. Acting on the O'Bannon petition the court appointed Joseph Delaney, Hugh McElroy, Ebenezer Briggs, Samuel Givens, and William Dyer, as trustees to draw plans and specifications for the town.

On December 23, 1811, the commissioners submitted their plans and specifications to the court, which approved them and ordered them to be recorded.

The first courthouse was located on the north side of the Public Square. It was built of hickory logs, was one and one-half stories high, chinked and daubed with clay. It sat opposite the present courthouse, where the old Union County Bank building, now occupied by the Kroger grocery, stands. The jail, also a log structure, stood back of the courthouse on the same lot.

Nancy Huston Banks, in her novel *Round Anvil Rock,* graphically describes the first courthouse, which she refers to as "the Log Temple of Justice:"*

> The courthouse was a single large low room built of rough logs, and standing in the depths of the primeval forest. Great trees arched their branches over its roof and the immemorial "Oh, yes, oh, yes, oh, yes," went up through their heavy dark tops. It must have been strange thus to hear this formal summons before the bar of human Justice, strange indeed to see the precise motion of man's law in so wild a spot. Roundabout there still stretched the wilderness which is subject only to Nature's law — the one immutable law which takes no heed of justice or mercy; which recks neither man's need nor his deserts.
>
> The courthouse in the wilderness stood quite alone, with no other building near. There was not even a fence around it, nor so much as a hitching-post in front of the rude door which was rarely closed. Those who came — the judge, the jury, the lawyers, the clients, the spectators, all hitched their horses to the swinging limbs of the trees. The sole sign of man's handiwork, beyond the log walls of the courthouse itself, was a crude attempt at bridge-building. A creek ran between the courthouse and the home of Judge Knox, who was the Judge of court, and over this a few rough boards had been loosely laid across two rotting logs. The structure being both weak and unsteady, it was the judge's habit to dismount on coming to the bridge and to cross it on foot, leading his horse. It was then but a stone's throw to the courthouse, and as he was heavy, clumsy, and an awkward rider, he did not mount again, but walked on until he came to the spot where he always stopped to tie the bridle to the same limb. And there he invariably tied it in his absent minded way, without ever thinking or looking around to see if the horse was tied with the bridle. Sometimes he was and again he was not, for this was as that sagacious and dignified animal himself thought best. He commonly made up his mind upon this point, when they got to the bridge, where he could tell easily enough by the Judge's gait, in crossing over, whether or not it would be advisable to follow. If the horse then saw fit to turn back and go home, as a hint to the family to send for the judge at the proper time, he never hesitated to pull his head out of the old bridle which he could very easily. So that the judge sometimes went on and tied

*From *Round Anvil Rock* by Nancy Huston Banks. By permission of The MacMillan Company, publishers.

the empty bridle in the usual place, never knowing the difference while his horse calmly turned around and soberly walked back to the stable. Seeing him thus pass the window, the good people of cedar house sighed a little, and shook their heads, but they nevertheless always knew exactly what to do.

On this late October day, however, the horse followed the judge without demur, assured by his own observations that all was right. The judge, honest, simple soul, rarely failed to turn over a new leaf and make a fresh start on the morning after the meeting of the grand jury, which gravely and respectfully found an indictment against him almost as regularly as it met. He had already assessed and — gravely ordering it written up — paid his own fine on this occasion without a murmur, as he always did, and he was now quite sober and ready to resume his place on the bench. He had held it for a long time to the public satisfaction; and he continued to hold it for many years afterward with honor, ability, and distinction, notwithstanding these occasional lapses. His one weakness was of course well known but his profound knowledge of the law, and his unimpeachable integrity were still better known. It was said of him that he never had anything to say which could not be shouted out from the courthouse door. And these qualities were sorely needed on the bench of the wilderness, more sorely needed at this time than ever before or since.

It was not long before it became evident that a more modern and commodious courthouse was needed. In 1820, a new brick courthouse was built at a cost of $3,800. This building was used until 1872, when it was torn down to make room for the present structure. The first old log jail served the county until 1827, at which time a new brick jail, 20 feet square, containing one cell for debtors and another for all other offenders, was built and used until replaced by the present jail in 1870.

During 1811, Union County was divided into three precincts —namely, Morganfield, Ohio, and Liberty. By act of Legislature, approved January 17, 1818, Union Precinct was added, and in the same manner came Raleigh Precinct in 1836. In 1839, the Ohio Precinct became Francisburg, which in turn was displaced by Uniontown in 1840. Caseyville Precinct was established in 1839. Holeman Precinct was added in 1844, and in 1851, Hill and Waller Precincts were formed. Shiloh Precinct first appeared in 1869; Hill disappeared in 1870; and Boxville and Bordley were established in 1870; Waller disappeared in 1872, and Waverly, Salem, and Hitesville were formed that year.

In 1875, precincts, most of which have been preserved from 1875 until the present time, were numbered and named as follows: Precinct 1, Morganfield; Precinct 2, Uniontown; Precinct 3, Raleigh; Precinct 4, Caseyville; Precinct 5, Lindle; Precinct

6, Boxville; Precinct 7, Waverly; Precinct 8, Bordley; Precinct 9, Shiloh; Precinct 10, Salem; Precinct 11, Hitesville.

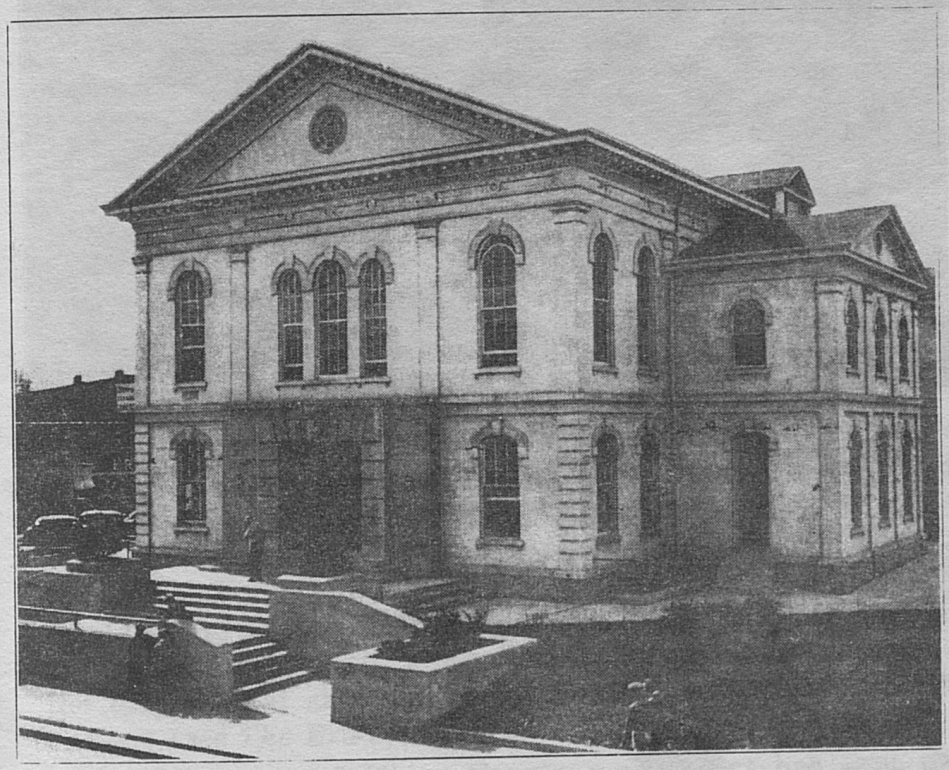
The act of January 15, 1811, which created Union County, provided for the holding of elections as follows:

> Section 5, And be it further enacted, that the citizens of the said County of Union shall vote for members to serve in the General Assembly, as joined with and making a part of the county of Henderson, in the same manner as heretofore, until the next apportionment of the ratio of representation by the legislature of this Commonwealth, except that the sheriff and justices of the said county of Union, shall take the polls and conduct such election; the sheriff, whereof, shall meet the sheriff of Henderson on Friday after the election shall have closed, at the courthouse of Henderson County; shall compare the polls, and declare the election accordingly. The said county of Union shall remain and be a part of, and belonging to the Sixth Judicial District; and the Circuit Judge of said district shall attend and preside in the Circuit Courts in the said county.

The election of today, with its elaborate election machinery, the voting booth, and the secret ballot, is vastly different from those held in the early days of the county's existence. Then many county offices were filled by appointment of the governor. This appointive system was modified by the State Constitution of 1851. Voting, until 1891, was open and by word-of-mouth. The voters came to the polling places and voted publicly for the candidate of their choice. All votes were entered upon the poll books as cast. The poll books of those days often contained irrelevant and amusing matter; for instance, a Union County pollbook for 1840 showed that the election judges still thought that Martin Van Buren was in the race for President.

The functions of the county government in the early years was comparatively limited; the population was sparse and industry was mainly agricultural. One of the most important activities then, as it is today, was the recording of deeds, mortgages, and similar instruments. The bulk of the litigation in court involved property rights, especially controversies over land grants, line fences, surveys, and like matters. Loans in that day, in the absence of banks, were made by individuals. An early mortgage recorded in Union County, quoted below, is descriptive of the nature of loans and the manner of securing their repayment:

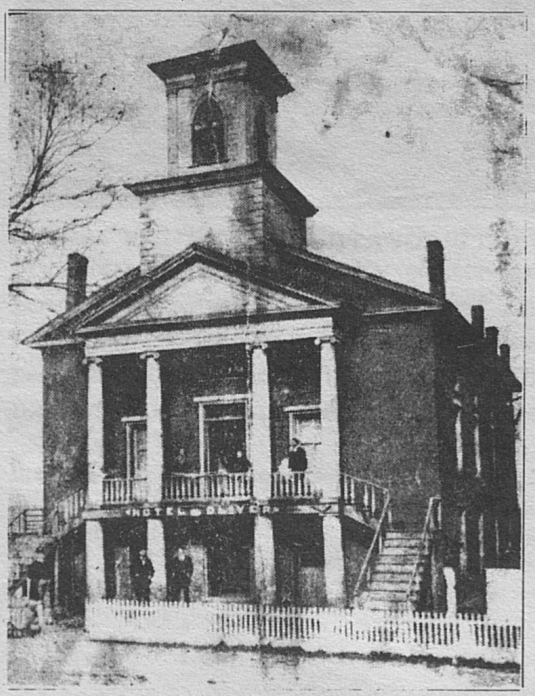
> I, Joseph M. Street, am indebted to John Rowan by my bond executed to him for $120.00 by my bond executed to Humphrey Marshall for $200.00 and assigned by said Marshall to said Rowan, by my bond executed to Alexander Marshall for $150.00 by the said Marshall assigned to said Rowan, and by my bond for $50.00 to a person whose name is not recollected and held by said Rowan assignee, upon all of which bonds there is



UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE



ANVIL ROCK, NEAR DeKOVEN



OLD UNION ACADEMY,
LATER HOTEL OLIVER,
IN MORGANFIELD,
RAZED IN
THE EARLY 1900'S

the interest due and running. The bonds are not now present but in the possession of said Rowan. To secure the payment of which bond I do hereby mortgage to said Rowan the following property viz: one negro woman slave of a yellowish cast named Dapheny about nineteen years old and her son Jack about fourteen months, one secretary, one table (large), one small table, two feather beds and their appropriate furniture, one set tea china and one set table china, one doz. knives & forks, one dozen large and one doz. small spoons, four trunks, one chest of drawers, one pair tongues & shovel, one pair fire dogs, one pot, one large pot, one Dutch oven, one skillet, one teakettle with every residue of my household and kitchen furniture, one barshear plow, one shovel plow, two pole axes, one pair iron wedges, two hoes, two pair chain traces, two leather collars, two pair of hames with all and every of my plantation tools and utensils also one gray mare, one gray horse one bobtailed bay horse and one other bay horse, one woman's saddle, one man's saddle, two cows and calves and sixty head of hogs, to have and to hold to the said Rowan his heirs and the aforesaid property from me and my &.

This mortgage to expire when the bonds aforesaid are paid off and not before. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this eighteenth day of June in the year one thousand eight hundred and eleven.

Jos. M. Street.

The creation and expansion of Union County government is entwined with the history of Morganfield, its county seat. Many interesting details of its growth and progress are set out in the chapter covering that subject, and are purposely omitted here. Many of the pioneers who settled the county and were instrumental in its establishment, assisted in laying its foundation and stimulating its growth. Their respective parts are dealt with in the biographical sketches of the county's outstanding pioneer citizens (*see The Era of Settlement* and *Biographical Sketches*).

The expansion of Union County government has kept pace with the development of modern industry. As commerce and industry flourished governmental functions broadened. Today, Union has forty-three separate and distinct county offices serving the needs of its people. These fall roughly into three classes —public justice, administration and law enforcement, and education and public welfare.

Public justice is meted out by a judicial system, composed of the circuit court, the county court, the quarterly court, the juvenile court, and magistrates' courts.

The circuit court properly belongs to the State judicial system. The constitution requires the establishment and maintenance of a circuit court in each county of the State, though two or more counties in which the circuit court is not in continuous session

may be formed into a judicial district. Union County is in the Fifth Judicial District composed also of Henderson and Webster Counties. The courts in these counties are presided over by the same judge and all have the services of the same Commonwealth attorney.

The Union Circuit Court convenes at Morganfield on the first Monday in February, the third Monday in March, the fourth Monday in May, the first Monday in September, the third Monday in October, and the third Monday in November and continues in session each time for twelve juridical days if business before the court so requires. Its jurisdiction includes cases arising out of land titles, liens on land, personal actions involving more than $50, and in criminal actions in which the fine upon conviction exceeds $20. The circuit court has appellate jurisdiction in civil cases when the amount involved exceeds $25, must hear appeals from county court judgment for over $50, and may hear appeals from justices' courts involving forcible entry and detainer proceedings. The circuit court has power to postpone judgments and place persons charged with crime on probation; to license newspapers; to appoint special guards for prisoners when necessary; to request a detail of State troops to preserve peace; to order commitments; to pronounce the death sentence upon conviction of felony where the penalty prescribed by law is death; to sell lands of dissolved religious or charitable organizations.

The circuit judgeship is an elective office with tenure of six years. The circuit judge is the presiding officer of his court and a conservator of the peace for his judicial district. He may call the grand jury into session whenever he deems its service necessary to restore or insure the public peace; and he may convene special and extra sessions of the circuit court.

A Commonwealth attorney is elected every six years in the Fifth Judicial District, election being contemporaneous with that of the circuit judge. It is the duty of the Commonwealth attorney, under the law, to attend each session of the circuit court of his district; to prosecute all violations of the criminal law of the State occurring in his district; to attend at the trial of all civil cases in the circuit court of his district to which the State is a party or in which it is interested directly, though for the trial of such cases the governor may appoint special counsel to work in collaboration with the Commonwealth attorney; to advise the State revenue department in regard to delinquent of-

ficial fees of his district; to collect all unsatisfied judgments in favor of the Commonwealth in his district; to prosecute delinquent attorneys-at-law of his district; to prosecute suits instituted by the State auditor for the collection of taxes due the State; to compel enforcement of the State game and fish laws and forestry regulations; to represent the State Board of Health in cases involving his district; and to prosecute violations of sanitation laws. If the Commonwealth attorney is a member of a law partnership no member of his firm or partnership is permitted to defend any person whom it is the Commonwealth attorney's duty to prosecute.

The Union Circuit Court Clerk is elected by popular vote for a term of six years, the election being contemporaneous with that of the circuit judge and Commonwealth attorney. He is required to maintain an office within two hundred yards of the courthouse. His duties are to record the proceedings of the circuit court; to certify a list of all claims approved by the Union Circuit Court and payable out of the public treasury to the State auditor within twenty days after the close of each court session; to preserve a record of every execution of the Union Circuit Court and the return of the sheriff thereon; to preserve a record of all sales under execution of the Union Circuit Court; and to issue summonses, and other processes for appearances before the Union Circuit Court. He may appoint deputies to assist him.

The Union County master commissioner is appointed by the circuit judge. The appointment is made for a tenure of four years. The duties of the master commissioner are to preserve a complete record of all cases referred to him by the circuit court; to enforce the orders of the circuit court in matters of judgments and claims in cases referred to him; to make all sales, unless otherwise ordered, under judgment of the circuit court; to convey property sold; and to make a report of the conduct of his office on the first day of each regular session of the circuit court. He may appoint deputies or a special receiver at the discretion of his court.

The Union County Court is presided over by the Union County Judge. It convenes on fixed days in each month and is a court of record. The jurisdiction of this court includes the probate of wills, the appointment and removal of personal representatives, guardians, committees, curators and other fiduciaries; the granting of liquor and drug licenses; and the hearing of bastardy

and sanity cases. The Union County Court has jurisdiction, concurrently with the Union Circuit Court, to try penal and misdemeanor cases in which the penalty, upon conviction, does not exceed a fine of $500, or imprisonment for more than twelve months. This court is charged with the care and custody of insane persons and their estates; may try cases involving violations of State game laws; has jurisdiction concurrent with circuit court over cases involving liquor law violations, and, concurrently with the magistrates' courts, in proceedings against constables for an accounting of money collected. The Union County Court has authority to hear land condemnation cases and has power to order reclamation of swamplands, to establish ferries and grant ferry privileges.

The county judge is elected from the county at large for a term of four years. He need not be learned in the law, but he must be at least twenty-four years old and a resident of his county for at least two years before his election. He is a conservator of the peace. The county judge's official duties are to preside over the county court, the quarterly court, the fiscal court, and the juvenile court. By virtue of his office he is a member of the county budget commission and of the county board of health.

As presiding judge of the quarterly court, the county judge keeps a docket, order book, and execution book, and fixes a rule day for the return of executions and other processes. He may appoint a clerk for the quarterly court.

The county judge has extensive powers. He names the county road engineer by and with the consent of the fiscal court; a tax supervisor for each magisterial district of the county, who collectively comprise the Union County Tax Board; one or more commissioners of the poorhouse for the county; special commissioners; three members of the county library board; probation officers; from six to ten persons to serve as an advisory board to the juvenile court; inspectors for warehouses, and public administrators.

The county judge may appoint a judge to act in his absence. He may fill temporary vacancies in most of the county offices. He is a member of the County Building Commission.

Union County elects a county attorney quadrennially. His fees are prescribed and regulated by law. His duties are, roughly, comparable to those of the Commonwealth attorney but are limited to the county.

The Union County Court Clerk is elected for a term of four years. By virtue of his office, he is also clerk of the fiscal court, and of the juvenile court. The county court clerk is charged with the preparation and keeping of county records, the issuance of licenses, and the preparation of county reports to the State. He may appoint deputies to assist in his work.

The Union Quarterly Court is presided over by the county judge, and holds at least four sessions each year, but the county judge may hold monthly or continuous sessions if he so orders. The quarterly court has jurisdiction, concurrent with justices' courts, in all civil actions within the county for the recovery of money or other personal property where the value in controversy is $100 or under, and concurrent with the circuit court where the value is between $50 and $200. Appeals to the quarterly court may be taken from all judgments and orders of magistrates and fiscal courts in civil matters.

The juvenile court is presided over by the county judge, functions as a branch of the county court and has jurisdiction over all juvenile cases, including child neglect, delinquency and dependency. The clerk of the county court is clerk of the juvenile court but may designate a deputy to act for him.

A justice of the peace is elected from each magisterial district every four years. These justices are conservators of peace, with jurisdiction co-extensive with the county. By virtue of their office they are members of the fiscal court. Their duties are to hold court at least once each month at a fixed place in their respective districts; to solemnize marriages; to administer oaths; to issue summonses and other process; to hold inquests over dead bodies in the coroner's absence; to issue warrants of arrest for violation of criminal laws; to try petty crimes and misdemeanors, and keep a docket and execution book. They must make report to circuit court on the first day of each circuit court session.

The jurisdiction of the magistrates' courts is limited in degree but varies widely in scope. They have the same powers as the circuit court and quarterly court in civil cases where the amount involved is not over $100. Where the amount involved is not more than $50, they have the same powers as the quarterly court. In criminal cases where the fine is not more than $20, they have power to try the case to the exclusion of the circuit court, except on appeal. In criminal cases where the punishment is a fine of not more than $100 and fifty days' imprisonment, they have the

same power as the circuit court. They have authority to hear and determine distress warrants, attachments, forcible entry and detainer proceedings, and motions against constables. They may hold examining trials but must notify the county attorney so he can be present.

Administrative and law enforcement offices of the government of Union County have increased in number due to the increase of governmental functions in recent years.

The justices of the peace of the county, and the county judge who is presiding officer, made up the membership of the fiscal court. A majority of its members constitute a quorum for transacting business. It administers the fiscal affairs of the county, and has full authority and power to appropriate necessary funds for maintenance of the county government, and the public services it provides, and to erect and keep in repair necessary county buildings.

A sheriff is elected every four years, and is ineligible for re-election or to act as a deputy to his successor. His chief official duty is to serve the county as a peace officer. He may appoint deputies to assist him, or special bailiffs to execute process, but is liable on his official bond for the unlawful acts of such persons in the discharge of official duties. For two years after his term of office, he may collect distrainable fee bills placed in his hands for collection during his term of office. As the process server of all courts of record of the county, he must serve and return all warrants, court orders, writs, process, and notices that may be executed lawfully by him against any persons or property in the county.

A constable is elected in each magisterial district every four years. His jurisdiction is co-extensive with the county. The duties of a constable are such as to make his office comparable to that of the sheriff, though limited to the orders of the magistrate's court to which he is attached.

A jailer is elected every four years, but the General Assembly has the power to consolidate the office of jailer and sheriff. His duties as keeper of the jail are to receive and keep all persons lawfully committed. In counties of the population class in which Union County falls, and counties not having a continuous circuit court, the jailer is superintendent of the county buildings and property at the county seat.

The county coroner is elected for four years. It is his duty to hold an inquest on the body when the death of a person is known or is suspected to have resulted from unnatural causes, or without services of a physician, and in cases such as homicide, suicide, drowning, or other deaths of a sudden or violent nature, or if a person dies from a wound within ninety days after its infliction. In holding an inquest, he may order the witnesses to appear before the grand jury or court when he considers it proper.

When the office of the sheriff is vacant, or if the sheriff or his deputy is a candidate in any election, the coroner performs the duties of the sheriff in connection with such election.

The county road engineer is appointed by the county judge, subject to approval by the fiscal court, for a term of two years. He must be either a reputable civil engineer or a man who has had practical experience as a road supervisor or builder for two years, and must have passed a creditable examination before the State highway commission. The chief duties of the county road engineer are to exercise general control over all public roads and bridges within the county and keep these roads and bridges repaired.

A county tax commissioner is elected every four years and is eligible for re-election. Subject to the supervision of the State tax commission, he assesses the property in the county and prepares the assessment books.

The board of tax supervisors in each county consists of three or more members appointed by the county judge, but the number shall not exceed one for each magisterial district. Its duties are to assess intangible property which may have been overlooked by the tax commissioner. It is empowered to assess the property of persons failing to list their property with the tax commissioner, and it may increase or decrease assessments upon giving notice and hearing to the taxpayer.

The county treasurer is appointed by the fiscal court for a term of four years. The duties of the treasurer are to receive and give receipt for all money due from the several collecting officers or from any person owing the county treasury. The county treasurer may purchase outstanding road bonds issued by the county.

The county budget commission is composed of the county judge, the county attorney, and one member appointed by the fiscal court. The administration of the fiscal affairs of the county,

except those pertaining to education, is by the fiscal court, under an uniform budget. The State budget officer classifies the counties according to their population and expenditures, and all funds expended by the county are provided for by this budget from the revenue for each fiscal year. All claims approved by the fiscal court must designate the particular budget from which they are to be paid, and each county warrant must show the budget unit from which it is to be paid. All warrants or contracts paid by the county treasurer must be certified as being within the budget appropriation or such warrant or claim shall be null and void.

The county board of election commissioners is made up of the sheriff of the county and two voters, one from each of the two political parties which cast the largest vote in the State at the last general election. The latter are appointed each year by the State board of election commissioners. As one of its chief duties the board examines and canvasses the election returns of the county and gives certificates of nomination to those who have received the highest number of votes for the office sought. It appoints precinct election officers each year from among the voters in the precinct for which they are appointed.

County purgation officers may be appointed when the county executive committee of any political party having representation on the State board and county board of election commissioners shall desire it. In such cases the county board of election commissioners must appoint two officers for the precinct, and it is then their duty to purge the registration list in that precinct of names illegally registered.

County education and welfare offices are all comparatively young, and consequently their duties present a wider scope, and their discretionary powers are correspondingly broader.

The county school superintendent is appointed by the county board of education. He must hold a diploma or State certificate as required by the State board of examiners. He is the executive officer and secretary of the county board of education, and must attend all meetings except when the tenure, salary, or administration of his office is under consideration. He may advise the board on any question before it, but he cannot vote. His duties are such as to make him primarily responsible for the condition and conduct of the county's schools under the program sponsored by the State board of education.

The county board of education is made up of five members, one elected from each of the five school districts in the county for a term of four years. A board member must have completed at least the eighth grade in school. The duties of the board are supervisory, and in all questions their action takes precedence over that of teachers, principals, or supervisors. This board has plenary powers to establish, discontinue, or consolidate schools.

Each school subdistrict elects one subdistrict school trustee, who serves a four-year term. The trustee's duties are to advise with the county school superintendent on all matters pertaining to the general welfare of schools in his subdistrict; to exercise general control over the school property in the subdistrict, under general supervision of the board of education; and to nominate competent teachers for each teaching position in his subdistrict, to which the board of education appoints them.

The State board of health appoints, for a period of two years, three intelligent, discreet, licensed practicing physicians, residing in the county, who, together with the county judge and one person appointed by the fiscal court, constitute the county health board. It elects a county health officer who automatically becomes secretary and executive officer of the board. The county health board is duty bound to enforce the rules and regulations of the State board of health. Through this agency medical care is provided by the county for indigent persons.

The county health officer appoints the local registrar of vital statistics for each registration district in the county from a list of three names furnished him by the State registrar. These local or deputy registrars must report promptly to the State registrar any and all certificates of births and deaths occurring in their district. It is the duty of all attending physicians, midwives, nurses, heads of families, and undertakers, to certify to the local registrar all births and deaths at which they have officiated.

A poorhouse commissioner or superintendent can be appointed by the fiscal court. This court has full discretionary powers in matters pertaining to the care and maintenance of the county's paupers.

A board of drainage commissioners has been established in Union County under a State law which provides that in counties where public ditches, drains, levees, or other improvements of similar character are established, it is the duty of the county judge to call and preside at an election for each drainage district

of the county each year. At this time the taxpayers of each district elect a director to represent the drainage district on the board of drainage commissioners. The elections are held in the courthouse and are presided over by the county judge. The board may acquire, hold, encumber, sell, and convey such real estate and personal property as is necessary to the conduct of its affairs. It possesses corporate powers necessary for carrying on its work, including the right of eminent domain.

The Union County agricultural agent is employed under provision of acts of Congress passed in 1914, 1928, and 1930 for the carrying on of the co-operative extension work in agriculture, and the employment of extension agents. His work consists of giving instructions and practical field demonstrations in agriculture. It is carried on in such manner as is mutually agreed upon by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States and the Agricultural College of the University of Kentucky.

A home demonstration agent serves Union County under the same act that authorizes the county agricultural agent. The powers and duties of the home demonstration agent, like those of the county agricultural agent, depend upon agreements and regulations made by the United States Secretary of Agriculture, the trustees of the University of Kentucky, and the fiscal court. The fiscal court and county board of education may use such sums of money out of their annual funds as in their judgment are necessary for carrying on this work.

THE ERA OF SETTLEMENT

LIKE THE REST of Kentucky, which is nationally known as an old American stock State, the names of most of Union County's first settlers savor of Old England, Scotland, and Ireland. The quality of its settlement and development suggests, more than any other word in the English language, that of "yeomanry." There are no dramatic proportions; the permanent occupation of the land was seemingly uneventful; the pioneers who first pointed their plowshares into the virgin soil were unassuming in their ways. They cleared and tilled the land, and reared sizable families. Their children in turn married, and with each generation the land became more widely settled and stamped with the features of agricultural progress. Union County's was and is a society solidly and exclusively established on domestic virtues.

There were churches and schools; villages sprang up at convenient or determined points; crossroads stores sold dishes, tallow candles, cloth, coffee, sugar, salt, and the few other things that the farmers in the community found necessary to their simple way of life.

But there is a beginning to the story — there are the first travelers, the scouts and hunters, the land preemptors, and then the sturdy yeomen who, by hard labor and the fortitude of simple lives, moulded the agricultural design of the county. It is a story that in the main is akin to so much of the rural American scene, yet often different in meaningful detail.

Before the first permanent settlements were made in the territory now embraced by Union County, that restless, ever-moving frontier vanguard composed of adventurers, hunters, ne'er-do-wells, and fugitives filtered through the wilderness. Some stayed for a while and then either returned to the more settled communities or pushed on westward. In a sense they cleared away the primeval cobwebs.

Two Early Travelers and Several First Settlers

Fortescue Cuming, an Englishman who journeyed down the Ohio in 1808, wrote a journal recording his observations on the trip. He was not the first to jot down a description of the country

through which he passed. George Croghan, as early as 1765, passed down the Ohio, and on June 6 he noted that there were "several large fine islands . . . in the Ohio, opposite the mouth of the Ouabache (Wabash)." However, Cuming's account of the country bordering the Ohio was made at a time when numerous pioneering farmers and frontiersmen had already penetrated into the western wilderness, away from the river. His trip was undertaken partly to inspect some lands in Ohio which he had previously purchased in Europe, and with the situation and location of which he was "agreeably surprised." He wished, also, "to afford information to Europeans and Eastern men of a country, in its infancy, which from its rapid improvement in a few years, will form a wonderful contrast to its present state."*

Slim Island was the first of the several Ohio River islands mentioned by Cuming that came under the jurisdiction of Union County. He reported that it was three and one-half miles long and on its upper end was settled. He relates that on the Indiana side, opposite the mouth of Highland Creek, then blocked with drift, were three families of Robinsons—"the first settlements in that district." A short distance below Highland Creek, on the Kentucky side, Cuming reported a fine landing and two "beautiful settlements" owned by a Mr. Cooper and a Mr. Austin, as well as a frame house rented by a Mr. Gilchrist, identified as a temporary settler. This was the settlement that later developed into Uniontown. In the *History of Union County*, published by the Evansville (Ind.) *Courier* in 1886, it is stated, inaccurately no doubt, that "Robert Gilchrist settled at the mouth of Highland Creek in 1810. . . ." At the time Cuming was here there were several boats laid up at the mouth of Highland Creek. A number of families, then newly settled in the neighborhood, had been brought down the river in these boats. After passing on the north side of Wabash Island, five miles long and containing 3,000 acres, he and his party rowed past Brown's Island and the two uppermost of the Three Sisters and moored for the night on the Kentucky shore "just under the cabin and well improved farm of Peter Lash, who has been here four years, and informed us that there was a fine populous settlement of several families behind us."* On May 17 they passed the Third Sister and then moored and landed at Shawneetown.

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Military Grants: The Caseys and Riddles

Much of the land was first taken up under warrants granted for military services rendered during the Revolutionary War. These land grants frequently embraced wide acreage—often as much as 1,200 acres under a single warrant. In time some of the claims were allowed to lapse; others were sold intact or in part by the grantees. For instance, the old Hitesville Precinct, which took in a sizable piece of land, was originally contained in two or three separate military surveys. One of them was granted by the State of Virginia to a Colonel Grundy for Revolutionary War services. An adjoining tract was given to a Captain Thomas for similar services. The site of Morganfield was once part of a 1,500-acre land grant of Gen. Daniel Morgan, a Revolutionary officer. It was surveyed by Peter Casey in 1783 or 1785, but was never seen by its titleholder, and finally passed into the possession of Presley O'Bannon, the husband of General Morgan's granddaughter, Matilda Heard. Jeremiah Riddle, the agent of Mr. O'Bannon, settled on this land around 1802 and, therefore, is one of the earliest settlers of the county. He came from "an ancient family" that had long before migrated from England to Virginia. His mother was born in Ludlow County of that State in 1765. Jeremiah's wife was Polly, daughter of Frank Berry who served as a captain in the Revolutionary War.

One of the most important pioneer families of Union County was founded by Peter Casey, already mentioned. He was the son of Nicholas Casey, one of three brothers who came to this country sometime before the Revolutionary War. As their name indicates, they were as Irish as the shamrock. After completing the survey of some lands in this region, Peter Casey returned to Virginia. On his trip to Kentucky he located his own grant of land at the mouth of Highland Creek, on Casey Creek and on both sides of Tradewater River at its mouth—said to be 15,000 acres in all. From Virginia he soon afterwards returned to Harrod's Station in Kentucky, where he was engaged in fighting the Indians—being captain of a company of militia—farming, and operating a mill. Peter Casey continued living in the neighborhood of Harrodsburg until 1810, when with his wife he removed to Union County.

The Caseys were connected by marriage with a number of distinguished families. The wife of Peter Casey was Nancy Wag-

gener, daughter of Major Andrew Waggener who lived in Spottsylvania County, near Fredericksburg, Virginia. One of their sons, John Casey, who was born at Harrodsburg, attended school at Bardstown and did not move to Union County until 1820. In 1829 he married Mary Willis Lewis (*see Caseyville* and *DeKoven*).

Other Early Settlers

The greater number of Union County's pioneer farmers undoubtedly took up their land under the so-called "head-rights" law. A squatter could pick out an unoccupied piece of land, and by proving that he had actually settled on it—usually by making improvements—he could obtain title to it. Because of the breadth and liberality of this law, great injustice frequently resulted. Clearing was viewed by the courts as the leading improvement. Often heaps of brush were piled up and burned, thus giving the land a superficial appearance of being cleared, and in this way a single individual could gain possession of and title to large tracts.

Fielding Jones, one of the early and possibly the earliest permanent settler in Union County, was born in Virginia and is said to have come into this region as early as 1790 (*see Biographical Sketches*).

The Dyer family was established in Union County in 1804. William Dyer, the progenitor, was born in Virginia in 1780, and upon coming to Kentucky settled about one mile northeast of Morganfield where he lived until his death, in 1832. He was married twice and had nine children. His first wife was Gracie McGee, whom he married in Virginia before coming to Union County. Mr. Dyer has another claim to historical note: he was that important personage of earlier days—the community blacksmith.

Old William Dyer was known as an impulsive man who usually paid the price of his impulsiveness. A neighbor had a horse which broke into the Dyer cornfield much too frequently. Several times Mr. Dyer sent word to his neighbor to keep the horse from trespassing on his corn. Then, one day, Mr. Dyer, seeing the horse once again in his cornfield, went out and shot the animal, cooled off quickly and then sent the price of the horse to its owner.

Another early pioneer family of Virginia origin was established by Solomon Blue, born in Berkley County of that State in

1782. He came to Union County in 1803, fought in the War of 1812, and died in Morganfield in 1867. His wife, Mahaly Kenney Blue, was also a Virginian by birth. Family tradition relates that James Blue, the grandfather of Solomon, was with General Washington when Braddock was defeated.

Among noteworthy early settlers was Francis Ames who came to America from Staffordshire, England, in 1808. In 1811 he came to Union County, and purchased the old Phil Richard place, near Morganfield. Young Ames and his wife brought a few heirlooms, some household goods and several race horses along from Virginia. Francis Ames was a lawyer by profession, but he also engaged in farming and as a sideline bred and sold race horses, becoming successful in his professional and business ventures. His son, James Dolin Ames, was born on December 21, 1818. In 1832, when Francis was riding one of his thoroughbred horses in a race, his horse threw him off, killing him instantly.

The responsibility of managing the farm and educating her son devolved on Mrs. Ames. The boy attended school in Union County, then St. Joseph's College, Bardstown, and the Medical School of the University of Louisville. Upon completing his work in the medical school Dr. James Dolin Ames spent two years in hospital work and then returned to Union County to practice. He soon achieved an enviable reputation in his profession. In 1844, he married Marian Mitchell, and the couple became the parents of thirteen children, of whom three are living (1941). In 1898, when Dr. Ames died, there were 159 persons living in Union County who were related to him—134 of them were direct descendants.

The name Austin (sometimes Austen) first appeared in the records of Union County in 1820, when James Austin and his wife, Ann Howard Austin, settled on a farm west of Waverly, and there reared a family of six children—James, Mary, Victoria, Thomas, Margaret, and Joseph. James Austin, Jr., was for many years a magistrate in Waverly. Frank Austin served in the Confederate Army, and Joseph Austin was one of the organizers of the Bank of Waverly, in 1902, and its first president.

There is a tradition in the Austin family that James Austin, Sr., brought the first red clover seed to Kentucky. Another story tells of Union County's first kitchen range being owned by Thomas Austin, who married Ann Raley.

Thomas Barker and his wife, Sarah Barker, settled in Union County in 1812. Thomas Barker, the son of a Revolutionary soldier, was born in Virginia in 1768. He came first to Fayette County, Kentucky, and was married there about 1807. Mr. Barker operated a blacksmith shop, was a wagonmaker, did some farming and also cabinet work. The children of Thomas and Sarah Barker were Parthenia, Ann Evans, Marshall Mason, Caroline Walton, Sarah Isabella, Mary Ellen, Joseph Evans, and Thomas Hardin Barker.

Thomas H. Barker was born October 19, 1820. Though his schooling was very limited he appears to have succeeded in an exemplary manner. A long term as magistrate earned for him the nickname "Squire," which clung to him for the rest of his life. Most of the cotton raised in the vicinity was brought to Squire Barker's gin. Other equipment was on hand at the Barker place to card, spin and weave for patrons desiring these services.

Mr. Barker married Amelia Rachel Hosman, daughter of a Union County farmer, on April 1, 1846. The couple had two children, one of whom, William Thomas Barker, engaged in farming in Union County.

Benjamin Berry, a school teacher and farmer of Virginia and a Revolutionary soldier, with his wife came to Union County in 1800. Some years later he returned to Virginia and died there in 1814. His wife, Sarah, came back to Union County in 1819 or 1820, and died there in 1823. Their son, Martin Matthews Berry, was born two and one-half miles from Uniontown, on August 10, 1805. His public schooling lasted only about six weeks, but being studious and ambitious he acquired a great deal of general information, read law and established himself as a lawyer. At various times he held the offices of constable, police judge, city attorney, and magistrate of the Uniontown District. He built and operated a large tobacco warehouse and also conducted a drygoods and furnishings business. The wife of Martin M. Berry was Rachel Ferris Anderson, whom he married in 1826. Their children were Mary Morgan, William Franklin, John Thomas, Eliza, Sarah Ann, Helen Isabella, Nancy Emaline, Rachel Ferris, Martin Van Buren, and Carrie Berry.

Arnold Below, another early settler, was in Union County as early as 1820. He bought a lot in Francisburg at that time, and the family then was known as old settlers in the Boxville and Bordley neighborhoods. John L. Below lived in that section for

more than one hundred years. In 1836, two orphan children, Polly Newcomb and George Washington Newcomb, aged two and six, were apprenticed to the Below family. In the agreement of apprenticeship, the boy was to be taught the "arts and mysteries of farming and to be taught to read, [and] arithmetic to the rule of three." The girl was to be instructed in "the arts and mysteries of a seamstress and a spinstress," but nothing was said about book-learning.

John Brinson, who came from South Carolina, settled in the Boxville Precinct. There, in 1834, Mr. Brinson married Rebecca, a daughter of Asher Cox and Elizabeth Rose Cox. John Brinson's son, James Harvey Brinson, was born October 26, 1839. He served in the Union Army until discharged in 1863. In 1865 he married Margaret Caroline Sigler.

John Maxwell Calloway moved to Union County in 1873, from Bedford, Virginia. Mr. Calloway was a soldier in the Confederate Army and was with Lee at the surrender at Appomattox. He died in 1887, and was buried in the Long-Cralle Cemetery near Morganfield. Thomas William, oldest child of John Maxwell Calloway, was born in Virginia in 1853, came to Union County with his parents and married Maria Louisa Long in 1876. They had six children. The Calloways engaged in farming in the vicinity of Sturgis.

John Casey, son of Peter Casey, mentioned above, lived near Caseyville, where he had large farming and mining interests. It is said that he imported the first Durham cattle into the district. Two of his sons were among the first to enlist in the Confederate Army.

George F. Catlett, at one time sheriff of Union County, brought his family and slaves from Virginia to Morganfield in 1820. He lived in Union County until his death, in 1848.

Peter Catlett, postmaster at Morganfield from 1820 to 1824, was not related to George Catlett, and very little is known about him.

The Chapmans of Union County, another prominent early family, are descended from John Strother and Polly Casey Waggener Chapman. Mr. Chapman was born in Frederick County, Virginia, in 1784, and came to Union County when the first settlements were made in that area. The original Chapman property consisted of a large tract about two miles west of Morganfield and extended to the Spring Grove neighborhood. A

son, Thomas S. Chapman, born in 1811, was an outstanding member of this family. He was county clerk for eight years and was later elected county judge, an office he filled for four years. Thomas S. Chapman married Prudence Friley in 1834. Their son was Thomas Huston Chapman.

Edward Hanson Clements moved into the county in 1804 from Virginia. He settled on part of a land grant of several thousand acres lying about midway between Morganfield, Uniontown, and Waverly. This was land given to Colonel Grundy for services in the Revolution. A son, Patrick Clements, had two children, Samuel Lewis and Martin J. Clements. The latter, born in 1851, like his father was a farmer, and became an extensive land owner in Union County. He was educated in the county schools and attended college at Dayton, Ohio. For eighteen years he was president of the Farmer's Bank of Uniontown. This bank was organized in 1902, with a capital of $25,000. In 1910, it absorbed the Bank of Uniontown. Samuel Lewis Clements, also an extensive land owner, married Mary Catherine Cambron, whose mother was a niece of Colonel Grundy, the original owner of the lands occupied by the Clements family.

James M. Cooper moved from Crittenden County to Union County in the early 1860's. He was an engineer, and lived and worked at Casey's Mine, near Caseyville, until about 1872. After a short stay in Kansas, he returned and operated Casey's Mine until 1880. Besides being a mine owner and operator, Mr. Cooper owned land on Tradewater Creek, and operated drugstores at Sturgis and Caseyville. His wife was Mary Ann Cook. Will Cooper, a son, lives in Union County.

The Cruz family of Union County descended from Peter J. Cruz who settled there in 1820. Peter Cruz was born in Italy, but at an early age was placed under the care of Trappist Monks in France. Peter immigrated to America with members of the Trappist Order, and with the Monks came to Nelson County where he helped to build the Trappist Monastery, now known as Gethsemane. In 1820, he immigrated to Union County, settling about four miles from the present site of Uniontown. With his wife, Matilda, he lived in the county more than forty-five years. This couple had seven children who lived on what was long known as the old Peter Cruz farm.

Whether David and Jacob Carrier lived in Union County is not clear. However, each owned land there, for an act of the

legislature, session of 1834-35, was passed to correct the original surveys of land the title to which was vested in the parties.

The name Davis was brought to Union County by several different families, apparently unrelated. William Davis, born in Flemingsburg, Kentucky, came to Union County with his brother, Lewis, in 1819. The Davis brothers cleared land for cultivation and erected buildings. The brick house built by William Davis, one of the oldest in the county, is still habitable. It stands on State Highway 85, and is occupied by K. G. Davis, a great-grandson of the builder. William Davis was a successful farmer and reared a large family.

George W. Davis, born in Pennsylvania in 1813, was brought by his parents (Reese and Mary Davis) to West Virginia. In 1826, George Davis immigrated to Mason County, Kentucky. Then in 1853, with his wife, Elizabeth, he joined a wagon train bound for Union County. There they made their home the rest of their lives. Ten children were born to this couple. Howard M. Davis, one of their sons, was well educated and was admitted to the practice of law in Kentucky in 1878.

Benedict Davis came from Mason County to Union in 1853, where he bought 100 acres of land, and reared a large family. There were other families by the name of Davis who came into the county after the close of the War between the States, many of whom were descendants of Revolutionary soldiers, and some connected with the family of Jefferson Davis.

George and Sarah Delaney came to Union County early in the nineteenth century. Henry Delaney, a son, was born August 5, 1827. He married Elizabeth J. Otten, and four children were born of this union.

Early in the settlement of Union County, James Finnie, the father of S. S. Finnie, established a residence there in 1811. Silas S. Finnie was born in 1816, attended the local school, and while he was very young, the family moved to the neighborhood where Caseyville now is. Silas Finnie became a blacksmith, serving an apprenticeship in Louisville. His wife was Elizabeth Buckham. Eleven children were born to the couple. In 1882, Mr. Finnie was elected a school trustee, serving for three years. His father, James Finnie, died in 1820.

There are numerous families by the name of Floyd in Union County, most of them being farmers in the vicinities of Uniontown and Waverly. John Cecil Floyd settled at Waverly on 400

acres of land which he bought at two dollars an acre. Another was Henry Floyd who died many years ago at the age of 102.

Some time prior to 1847, Fital M. Garesche, a farmer, owned and resided on a farm in Union County, as is shown by an act of legislature authorizing sale of the land by his widow.

Frederick Geiger, Jr., born in Maryland, is credited with being the builder of the first steam gristmill in Union County. He came to the county in 1841 and settled near the lake that carries his name, acquiring title to much land in that vicinity, including the ground on which the Battle of Geiger's Lake was fought. His father, Frederick, Sr., served as a colonel in the Indian wars of the Northwest, participating in the Battle of Tippecanoe, and numbered among his friends Gen. William Henry Harrison and Daniel Boone.

John Samuel Geiger, son of Frederick, Jr., was born on a farm near Louisville in 1818 (*see Biographical Sketches*).

Another member of this family was Oakley Leonard Geiger, born in 1856 near Geiger's Lake, who received his medical degree at the age of twenty-one. Dr. Geiger's wife was Laura Bell Orr, whom he married in 1881.

The Givens family that finally settled in Union County were of Scotch-Irish extraction, its forbears coming from Ireland to America about 1738. There were several families in that group. Numerous members of the Givens families served in the American Revolution, and several were given land grants in the wilderness of Kentucky by Virginia. William Givens came to Fayette County in 1789, thence to Bourbon County in 1809, later to Hopkins, and finally to Union County. He was born in Virginia in 1762, and was married in 1789 to Rebecca Kenney. There were eleven children, several of whom settled in Union County. Elijah Lyle Givens, a son of William Givens, was born in 1803 and died in 1883. He married Mary Gillum Waller, in 1829. The couple had six daughters and one son, Thomas Robert Givens, born in Union County in 1842. T. R. Givens married Frances E. Williams in 1867, and they became the parents of two sons. Mr. Givens was the owner of many fine blooded horses, among them one named Button, said to have been undefeated in any county fair contest. During the War between the States, guerillas stole Button; but after the war was over the horse was recovered in Livingston County. Mr. Givens owned 205 acres of land in Union County

and was a successful farmer. A son, John Chamberlain Givens, served in the World War and died in 1938.

Samuel C. Graham, born in Virginia in 1770, came to Union County in 1803, and settled in the Raleigh Precinct. His wife was Elizabeth Noel, and he had two sons and five daughters. Samuel A. Graham, one of the sons, was born in 1815 on the old Graham farm six miles west of Morganfield. He married Susan J. Robertson about 1839. She bore eleven children. Mrs. Graham died in 1870. Samuel A. Graham then married Lucy Jennie Landrum, and to them two children were born. S. A. Graham died in 1895.

John Graham came into the county in the early 1830's, married Mildred Bohanan, and settled on a farm near Uniontown. Porter, George and John Graham were the sons.

Minor Griggs and his wife, Nancy, were born in Virginia, were married in Estill County, Kentucky, in 1819, and moved to Union County in 1825. Mr. Griggs died in the Hitesville Precinct in 1870. Clement Griggs, the father of Minor Griggs, came to Union County from Virginia with his son and died in Waverly Precinct in 1861, at the age of ninety.

John M. Griggs, son of Minor, was born in Estill County in 1824, being one year old when the family came to Union County. He married Matilda Bolds in 1848. Mrs. Griggs died in 1880, and Mr. Griggs then married Eliza Mildred Pritchett. He owned 180 acres of land and was a prosperous farmer for many years. Later he moved to Hitesville and opened a grocery store. With some knowledge of law, Mr. Griggs served as a magistrate for four years and as coroner for another four years.

Robert Gilchrist, mentioned by Fortescue Cuming as being a very early settler at the mouth of Highland Creek, at one time owned 4,000 acres of land in Union County. His only son was Page Gilchrist, who was the father of Arch and Enlow Gilchrist and Mrs. Ramey Sears.

John Monroe Hancock, son of John Hancock, was born in Virginia in 1816. John Hancock brought his family to Todd County, Kentucky. There J. M. Hancock married Catherine A. Frazier in 1845, and several years later moved to Union County. Upon the death of Mrs. Hancock in 1862, J. M. Hancock married Harriett Jeffries, by whom he had three children.

William Truman Harris was born March 1, 1816, in Nelson County, the son of Benjamin and Innocent Ann Wright Harris. His grandfather, Aaron Harris, had come to Nelson County from

Ireland. Benjamin Harris brought his family to Union County in 1827.

Young Truman was educated to the extent that he could "read and write and understand figures." He cleared and settled on 170 acres of land, and before his death, in 1860, increased his holdings to 500 acres. He married Virginia Pratt, daughter of James and Louisa Thompson Pratt, on February 28, 1837. Fourteen children were born of this union. Those who married and reared families in Union County were James W., Benjamin, Amos, Douglas, and Boyd Harris; Pamela Cromwell, Martha Texas Mattingly, Ellen Drury, Cassandra Phipps, and Jane Higginson. They and their descendants have been prominently identified with the social, religious, civic and business interests of the county. The family contributed liberally to the organization and support of McClure's (Methodist) Chapel.

The Hite (originally spelled Huets) family first settled in Union County about the middle of the nineteenth century. There were three brothers, George, Martin Lembert, and James, who came from Lorraine, France, possibly torn originally from their homes by the French Revolution. For many years the Hite family held an annual reunion in Peter Hite's woodland about five miles from Uniontown. About one hundred and fifty persons would usually attend these reunions. George Hite was married three times; his wives being Martha Fenwick, Mrs. Sue Charlton, and Helen Thomas. From these marriages there were twenty children. While his children were still young, George Hite gave each of them one hundred acres of land, and at his death they received 125 acres more or its equivalent in money or buildings. Jack Hite, a son of John S. Hite, and grandson of George Hite, served for many years as marshal of Uniontown, and as deputy jailer.

James R. Hughes settled in Union County on land granted to him for services in the War of 1812. He married Rachel L. Givens to whom a son, Samuel Casey Hughes, was born at Morganfield in 1826.

Samuel C. Hughes attended the local school, then went to St. Mary's College in Marion County, and subsequently Transylvania University. After completing his academic course, he read law with his uncle, Willis G. Hughes, and was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1856. Mr. Hughes began his practice of law with John W. Crockett, a prominent lawyer of the State. He married Judith Y. Martin, the daughter of Hudson and Elizabeth Martin,

and to them were born seven children. Mr. Hughes was the county judge during the War between the States and earned praise for his strenuous efforts to maintain the civil law. He died in 1895. William H., a son of S. C. Hughes, born in 1865, married Myrtis McCarley. Their son, William McCarley Hughes, born in 1899, married Katherine Hays.

Another Virginian who settled in Union County early in the nineteenth century was Harrison Holt who, with his wife Harriet, lived for many years in the vicinity of Morganfield. Harrison Holt died about 1841, leaving a son, Peter C. Holt, who was born in the county in 1826. Peter Holt married Sarah Reasor, daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Reasor, in 1853. Twelve children were born of this union. Peter Holt died in 1888.

George Huston, county judge of Union County in the 1860's, was born in 1821, in Daviess County, being the grandson of William Huston, a soldier of the Revolution (*see Biographical Sketches*).

The Lamond family in Union County had its beginning with J. J. Lamond, Sr., who brought his family into the county from Trimble County by way of the Ohio in 1855. His mother, Rebecca Boone Grant, was a niece of Daniel Boone. There were four children in the family when they came to Union County, among them J. J. Lamond, Jr., who was born in Trimble County in 1851. In 1893, Mr. Lamond moved from his farm to Morganfield where he engaged in the undertaking business with Forman Waller for thirty-two years, retiring in 1932.

Among the settlers who came into Union County during the decade before the War between the States were Jacob and Elizabeth Lindle, and their four sons, Alfred B., Edward M., George M., and Jacob William Lindle. Jacob Lindle died in 1856.

Edward M. Lindle was nineteen years old when he came into the county. He became a prominent farmer and one of the precincts of the county was named for him. His wife was Susan Hopkins, whom he married in 1860. Jacob William Lindle married Hannah Beasley and his brother, George M., married Annie Adamson. Both brothers reared large families in Union County.

In the winter of 1836, a caravan of some forty persons comprising the families of Arnstead Long, Jr., and Albert Long left Campbell County, Virginia, for a trek of more than 600 miles into Union County. Their father, Arnstead Long, Sr., was an officer

in the American Revolution. In payment for his military service, the elder Long was given a grant of several thousand acres of land in Union County, and on this tract the Long families made their home.

One of the commissioners who located the county seat was Hugh McElroy, who was born in Washington County, Kentucky, in 1795, and moved to Union in 1805. His wife was Barbara Guilkey. The only child of this couple was Hiram S. McElroy, born in 1800, a lawyer, who married Mary Clements. He died in 1877, leaving ten children. There are numerous descendants now living in Union County.

A family which contributed largely to the advancement of educational and cultural life in Union County was that of the Martins. John Martin, a farmer of North Carolina, whose wife was Harriett Hedden, came into the county about 1835, settling near Bordley. John Martin lived there until his death in 1876. Three sons were born to the Martins.

About the middle of the nineteenth century, William Muir, a farmer of Nelson County, and his wife, Mary, came to Union County. Mrs. Muir died in 1851 and Mr. Muir in 1864. Dr. Joseph Wilson Muir, their son, was born in Nelson County in 1838, and attended the common schools of that county for about six years. He came to Union for a short period in 1852, left the county and did not return until 1861, just at the outbreak of the War between the States. He was arrested by the Federal military authorities and detained for some time, but took the oath of allegiance to the United States and was released. In 1864, he married Pascal Sellers. Dr. Muir is said to have practiced medicine many years before entering a medical college. With this background of medical learning and practice he attended one term at the University of Louisiana and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine without further professional training. Dr. Muir owned and operated a large farm seven miles south of Morganfield.

Another physician of Union County was Dr. Charles Owen, born in England in 1810, who came to Union County in 1830 and settled at Bordley. He was the father of Glen, George Ann, Eugene, and Ada Owen. Eugene Owen became a Methodist clergyman, but when his voice failed him he entered the United States Secret Service. There are many descendants of the Owen family in Union County.

Mollie Payne was an eccentric woman who spent her life in Morganfield. She was married twice; first to a man named Ash, and then to a Mr. Moses. Mollie Payne was a friend of Col. William F. ("Buffalo Bill") Cody. It was Buffalo Bill who presented her with a beautiful tooled saddle, silver bitted bridle, and complete riding outfit. Her life was apparently beset by tragedy, for she died in a small house in Morganfield in abject poverty.

When Union County was created in 1811, there were about a half-dozen families by the name of Payne in various sections. One of the pioneers was John Payne, who came from Washington County at an early date and died in 1858 at the age of 72 years. Mr. Payne owned more than six hundred acres of land, a part of it being the present site of Waverly. He had a son, also named John, and a grandson, John Spalding Payne, who bred some of the finest horses in western Kentucky on the old home farm first settled by his grandfather.

The Pikes were among the early families of Union County, and there are still some in the county at the present time. Most of them were farmers in the Waverly and Uniontown districts, and several of them have held public office. Stephen Pike and his wife, Beatrice, settled on a farm in Union County in the 1830's. Another branch of the Pike family was established by Sylvester Pike, born in Meade County in 1830. His first enterprise in Union County was the burning of lime which he flat-boated down the river. In 1853, he purchased a farm and engaged in farming on a large scale. He also speculated and dealt in various kinds of merchandise. Eventually, he became the leading merchant in Uniontown and president of the bank there. Tom Pike, who lost a leg in a battle of the War between the States, later was clerk of the circuit court for many years. Benjamin Pike served as county assessor, and Sam Pike was constable and magistrate of Waverly for more than twenty years. One of the younger generation, Dennis Pike, fought in the Spanish-American War and served two years with the United States Army in the Philippines. The Pikes are Roman Catholics, and several of them, both men and women, have entered into the service of that Church.

In the first part of the nineteenth century, the Posey family, originally prominent Virginians of which Gen. Thomas Posey and Capt. John Posey were members, filtered into Kentucky and some of them settled in Union County. Lloyd Theophilus Posey, a lineal descendant of General Posey, was an Illinois lawyer, born

in Louisiana in 1817, and died in Shawneetown in 1862. He was a great-great-grandson of General Posey, the Revolutionary officer. L. T. Posey's son, Thomas Posey, was born in Illinois in 1851. He attended public school in Henderson, Centre College, and the Kentucky Military Institute, enrolling then in Princeton University where he was graduated in 1871 when only twenty years of age. Thomas Posey was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1873, but did not remain long in the legal profession. He became principal of Union Academy, Morganfield. Later he held the principalship of the Henderson High School. In 1872, Mr. Posey married Georgia Dixon of Henderson.

Among other early residents of Union County were the various members of the Pierson family, who are thought to have come from Virginia. Four brothers, Will S., Tilghman, Hosea, and Benjamin Pierson settled on Tradewater Creek near Caseyville. No dates are available, but Will S. Pierson became one of the wealthiest farmers and land-owners in the county. Tilghman and Benjamin were both Presbyterian clergymen, and Hosea a minister of the Methodist faith. A great many descendants of these four men are living in Union County. Will Wright Pierson, the youngest son of Will S., was a prominent farmer, banker, and business man in Caseyville, being instrumental in the founding of the bank there. Later in his life he moved to Sturgis.

When the formation of Union County was under way, a commission was appointed to locate the county seat. Morganfield, Uniontown, and Caseyville were under consideration. At Morganfield, Jeremiah Riddle, land agent for Presley O'Bannon, who was in the district as early as 1802, entertained the commission and prevailed upon them to report to the legislature that Morganfield was the ideal place for the county seat. There are a number of descendants of the Riddle family in Union County. A son of Jeremiah was named Henry, and his son, John G. Riddle, now lives on a farm about a mile east of Arnold Station. George Riddle, a relative of the family, entertained Abraham Lincoln at Morganfield during a political campaign before the War between the States (*see Morganfield*).

The Richards family is one of the oldest in point of residence in the county. Thomas Richards, son of Louis Richards, a Revolutionary soldier, was born in Virginia just before his father came to Kentucky, in 1800. Union County was then a part of Henderson. Near Boxville, the Richards family bought a large

tract of land which became well known as the Richards Farm. The elder Richards died on this farm in 1845 or 1846. In 1820, Thomas Richards married Margaret Givens. A son, Philemon, married Eliza Bell, of Union County, and to them seven sons were born. They all continued to live on the farm at Boxville. Philemon Richards' farm consisted of 345 acres, with an additional 310 acres held in trust for his sons. William Richards, a son of Philemon, was born and lived in Union County, where he owned and farmed a highly productive tract of 900 acres.

The Robertson family came into Union County early in the nineteenth century. Thomas B. Robertson, born near Washington, D. C., in 1808, came to the county in 1819, and there married Malinda Floyd in 1842. His home was one of the county's best, and he died there in 1877. Linn Boyd Robertson, son of Thomas, was born in Union County in 1855. He attended the common schools for eight years and then went to Evansville College where he was graduated with high honors. For several years, Linn Boyd and his brother, Posey, who was a merchant in Uniontown, ran one of the best farms in the county, each owning 140 acres. Many fine horses and mules were raised by the Robertson brothers.

The first house erected at Morganfield after the town was laid out was built by Ephraim Sellers (*see Points of Interest*) near the famous Morgan Spring which furnished water for the settlement. Isham Leonard Sellers, son of Ephraim, was born in North Carolina, in 1806, and was brought to Union County by his parents before 1811. He married Ellen Williams in 1826 and lived in Morganfield until 1842. In 1842, the Sellers family moved into the country where they remained until 1873. Returning to town, I. L. Sellers spent the remainder of his life there, being past eighty when he died. Isham L. Sellers was a cabinetmaker, schoolteacher, and farmer. At one time he was magistrate at Morganfield. George W. Sellers, another son of Ephraim Sellers, was the first child born in Morganfield after the town was laid out in 1811. He was a captain in the Confederate Army and after the close of the war he married Polly Ann Johnson. Mr. Sellers died in 1884, and was buried in the Sellers family cemetery near Seven Gums.

The Spalding family was prominent in Union County from 1820, onward. Ignatius A. Spalding, Sr., son of Ignatius Spalding and Jane Pottinger, came to Morganfield in that year. Mr. Spalding was born in Maryland in 1790, married Ann Huston in 1828,

and was one of the county's leading merchants. He was a member of the Third Constitutional Convention. He died at Morganfield in 1852. A son, Ignatius A., Jr., was born in Morganfield in 1833, attended the common schools and later St. Joseph's College, Bardstown. He married Susan A. Johnson in 1853. In 1867, Mr. Spalding was elected to the State senate. He was a courthouse commissioner, also one of the State road commissioners and was elected county judge. His sons were Jack Spalding, a lawyer, and Edward Spalding.

There were many descendants and connections of this family. Ignatius A. Spalding, Jr., died in 1913.

Samuel P. Spalding, son of Ignatius A., Sr., was born in Morganfield in 1825. He attended common school and then St. Joseph's College, Bardstown. In 1847, he went to Henderson and entered into a partnership with his brother, Robert A. Spalding, and David W. Cowan, in the drygoods business. At a later date, Mr. Spalding became a member of the firm of Spalding, Unset & Co., a large grocery concern in Henderson. He was also associated with other firms. His interests and activities increased and he became actively interested in the building of the Henderson & Nashville Railroad and in the Henderson gas works. He also purchased and worked coal mines known as the Hopkins Mastodon Coal Company, along the surveyed line of the Henderson & Nashville Railroad. This property was afterwards chartered under the name of the St. Bernard Coal Co. His first wife was Margaret Hanly, by whom he had three children. His second wife was Annie Berry, whom he married in 1855, and there were five children from this union.

Joseph Banner Sprague, born near Toronto, Canada, in 1801, was eighteen years old when he came south into Kentucky and settled in Union County. In 1819, he located on a farm northeast of Caseyville, and later was married to Missie N. Wallace. There were five children from this union. Mr. Sprague's second marriage was to Mary Henshaw. His third marriage was to Polexana Winstead, and there were nine children by this union. W. E. Sprague, one of the children of Joseph B. Sprague, married Julia Ann Davis in 1898, and eleven children were born to them. Joseph B. Sprague has numerous descendants throughout the county.

Another pioneer of Union County was William Sugg, a major in the War of 1812, who came to Kentucky at an early date, first locating in Henderson County, and then removing to Union

County in 1819. He bought over 300 acres of land from Fielding Jones and erected a log house. This house burned in 1855, and Major Sugg's mother, one hundred years of age, died from the effects of burns. Major Sugg married Christiana Dupree of North Carolina, and nine children were born of the union. He died in Uniontown, in 1866. Joel Dupree Sugg, a son, was born in Henderson County in 1808, came with his parents to Union County, and there married Barbara Ann Davenport in 1838. Six children were born to this couple. The Suggs have been among the most prosperous and influential families of the county for many years.

No pioneer family in Union County was more generally respected and beloved than the Taylors. The first of this name to settle in the county was Gibson Berry Taylor, born in Paris, Kentucky, in 1793. He was a sergeant in the War of 1812, a doctor, and for many years the only physician in Union County, where he took up his residence at an early date. Mrs. Taylor was Mary Rives, of Virginia, born in 1800, who died in 1874. Gibson Taylor died in 1861. Samuel Mitchell Taylor, son of Gibson Taylor, was born at Morganfield in 1827. Upon completion of his education he went to Arkansas to accept a position as overseer on the plantation of an uncle. He served in this capacity but a short time, returning to Union County where he remained with his father until the spring of 1849. Joining the California gold rush, with a party of thirty-six others, Samuel Taylor began an adventurous journey by wagon train which ended at Sacramento. In 1850, Mr. Taylor started digging gold on the Yuba River and after months of arduous efforts acquired a considerable fortune. Leaving California, he returned by ship to New York. Back in Union County, with the money received in payment for gold deposited at the Philadelphia Mint, he purchased 200 acres of land from his father. He cultivated this farm and also served as superintendent of the Mulford Coal Mines near Caseyville. In 1852, Mr. Taylor married Eliza M. Scantland, and this couple had twelve children. His later enterprises included the operation of a grain elevator and warehouse at Uniontown.

The first representatives of the Waller family in Union County were John and Mary Small Waller, who came into Kentucky about 1784 from Fredericksburg, Virginia, settled in Washington County, and moved to Union in 1805. They lived in the Waverly section, and were parents of a large family. The descendants of their ninth child, Aaron Waller, were the most numerous and

most influential among those in the county retaining the family name. Aaron Waller lived on a farm west of Morganfield. He married, first, Elizabeth Rives, then Mary Allison Givens. Thirteen children were born of these unions, and all resided in the Morganfield district. They were Mary Gillum, Joseph Burwell, Thomas Small, Elizabeth Ann, John Givens, William, Elijah Lyle, Nathan J., Matthew Robb, Gibson Taylor, Margaret Rebecca, Robert Aaron, and James Kenny Waller.

The Wallers were among the incorporators of the first bank in Morganfield, afterwards named The Bank of Union County, and several of them held various public offices. The Waller Building, owned by the T. S. and M. R. Waller estate, opposite the courthouse in Morganfield, is built on a lot which has belonged to the family for more than one hundred years. When the Peoples Bank and Trust Company was organized, James Kenny Waller became president. In the roster of county officials, government employees, educational, religious, civic, military, and social organizations are found the names of many of the Waller family.

Benedict and Elizabeth Wathen became residents of Union County some time prior to 1837, when a son, E. H. Wathen, was born. This son was for many years identified with the history of the county. He was educated at St. Mary's College, married Marye Payne in 1857, and became the father of five children. He served as a captain in the Confederate Army. In 1875, Capt. E. H. Wathen bought the flour and gristmill known as the Southern Mills, which he managed in connection with his farm of about 500 acres. He was noted as a breeder of fine stock.

Another Wathen family moved into Union County in 1853. It was that of Joseph and Ann Wathen. Joseph Wathen engaged in farming until his death in 1856. James E. Wathen, a son of this couple, was born in Marion County in 1833. When he came to Union County in 1853, he became a brickmason, in which trade he was very successful. He served in the Confederate Army throughout the war, and then returned to his trade at DeKoven.

In 1856, William Watkins and his wife, Cordelia, born in 1833 and 1835, respectively, set sail from Liverpool, England, reaching Philadelphia after six weeks. The spirit of adventure called them into the interior, and in a few months more the family, which included two small daughters, Virginia and Emma, found their way to Uniontown, Kentucky. Here eight more children were born to this couple. In Union County, William Watkins became

interested in farming and mineralogy, and was so well informed as to be considered an authority on many subjects. The Watkins were charter members of the Little Union Baptist Church, of which Mr. Watkins was an officer until the time of his death.

The Young family was a prominent one in the first part of the nineteenth century. Judge Milton Young at one time farmed extensively in Union County, was county judge, and served Henderson County as State representative. Judge Young was a man of superior intellect and ability. In 1862, loyal to the Union cause, while on a train en route to Frankfort to throw his influence and services with the North, he was suddenly taken ill and died before reaching his destination. Thomas Brown Young, a son, was born on his father's farm in Union County, in 1844. When Thomas was quite young, Judge Young's family moved to Henderson where they built a handsome residence. Thomas attended the Henderson schools, and was a student in the University of Toronto, Canada. He returned to Union County and took up his residence in Morganfield, marrying Fannie Harral. They had five children. For many years Thomas Brown Young engaged largely in grain farming and was one of the largest cattle and hog dealers in the western part of the State. He owned and lived in a handsome home in Morganfield.

John Munley Young and his wife, Katherine Tandy Young, are also listed among pre-War settlers of Union County. They came from Carroll County about 1849, bought a tract of land near Morganfield, and spent the greater part of their lives there. They reared a family of twelve children. One son, John William Young, is still living, and a number of descendants reside in the county.

Among Union County's noteworthy settlers of the first decade of the nineteenth century were Daniel McKenney who, in 1804, settled about nine miles west of Morganfield; Isaac Sibley, who settled about five miles northwest of Morganfield, in 1805; and William Kabowen, who settled near Wabash Island, 1809. About a half-dozen of the settlers during this same decade bore the family name of Berry: Benjamin, who settled near the mouth of Lost Creek; Joel, Reuben, and Peter, all of whom came in 1804; and Capt. Frank Berry, who came in 1809.

Some of the settlers who came the next decade were John McKinney, who resided near the present site of Uniontown about 1810, and William Cockrell, who settled near the Shawneetown Ferry in 1812.

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

UNION COUNTY, like most of Kentucky, was a "house divided against itself" during the War between the States. In the election of 1861, when "Union" and "States' Rights" delegates were chosen for the Border States Convention at Baltimore, the county was then decidedly "Unionist" in its sympathies. When the sword was drawn to settle the differences between the Northern and Southern States, many of the men who had voted for the Union afterwards entered the Confederate Army. Confederate sympathizers then appear to have been well in the majority. In home-front actions, and in the sentiment that found expression at that time and later, the Southern cause received more vigorous support. Col. N. B. Forrest, of the Confederate Tennessee Cavalry, made a trip through this part of the country in the latter part of November and the first part of December, 1861. Morganfield and Caseyville were two of the points visited "at all of which places the people met us with smiles and cheers, and fed and greeted us kindly." Lt. Col. Samuel F. Johnson, of the Fifty-second Kentucky Infantry (Union), reported in a letter dated Hopkinsville, July 13, 1864, that "it will take tremendous efforts to clear up this country"—of which Union County was a part.

This seeming shift from the cause of "Union" to "States' Rights" was partly due to the ownership of slaves. In 1860, out of a total population of 12,791, there were 3,105 slaves—or a ratio of slightly more than three whites to one slave. This was a greater percentage than for the State as a whole. In this respect Union County was more of a slave-owning county than the Bluegrass counties of Anderson, Owen, and several others, and as much a slave-owning county as Mercer and Harrison. It had a far greater percentage of slavery in relation to its total population than adjoining Crittenden County, but a much smaller percentage than Henderson County.

Fighting in Union County consisted chiefly of skirmishes. There were numerous skirmishes at Morganfield, the county seat; and Caseyville, on the Ohio River, was the scene of war moves on two or three occasions. The first skirmish in Union County took place at Morganfield on September 1, 1862, when

Confederate troops under Brig. Gen. Adam R. Johnson defeated a Union detachment under General Shackelford.

In a summary of the principal events of military operations as given in the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* for the period from June 10, 1862, to October 30, 1862, there are three references to points within Union County—one at Uniontown and two at Morganfield. Other wartime activities included the stationing of troops in the county, Union military surveillance, and occasional plundering.

The early activities of the conflict gave to residents in various parts of the county, especially along the river, a taste of war. Caseyville, for instance, seems to have been a "bread-basket" point during the earlier part of the war. Lieutenant Colonel Peckham, with three companies of the Eighth Missouri Infantry (Union), and Lieutenant Tobey, of the Chicago Light Artillery, went to Cave-in-Rock at the end of November, 1861. Upon the arrival of the gunboat *Conestoga* they proceeded from this point to Caseyville. The Confederates had already left the vicinity and were then said to be twenty or more miles distant and were pushing southward. Lieutenant Colonel Peckham reported:

> It was apparently with no intention of blockading the Ohio that the enemy ventured upon its banks. A very large crop of hogs is now ready for the market, and it is to secure this crop that they are found in the region of the Ohio. They have driven off many already, but a large number still remain. They had in an inclosure, some 3 miles from Caseyville, a lot of 60, which I secured, and turned over to Colonel Cavanaugh, of the Sixth Illinois Cavalry, now stationed at Shawneetown. I am led to believe that a large business of salt is being done by rebels via Caseyville and Cave-in-Rock. It is known that vast quantities of goods find their way to Nashville through that section of country, of which Caseyville is the leading point.

In July, 1862, all the inhabitants of Caseyville, except three who fled, were taken prisoners by a Federal gunboat. All but nineteen were afterwards released and these were taken to Evansville, Indiana, as prisoners. Several months later Federal military authorities levied contributions amounting to $35,000 on the Southern sympathizers in and within a ten-mile radius of Caseyville, presumably to reimburse Unionists for the depredations of guerrillas.

One of those frequent interventions in the constituted order of things occurred during the summer of the same year when Circuit Judge W. P. Fowler refused to comply with dictation from Union military authorities and was arrested and ordered

to Paducah. Also, in 1862, John Samuel Geiger, up for re-election as circuit court clerk, was ruled out of the race, arrested, and taken to Henderson. John W. Foster, later United States Minister to Spain, was then the dictator and terror of this part of the country. George R. Knott, a relative of Gov. Proctor Knott and a Union man, was Geiger's opponent and, of course, was elected.

Later, when Foster was ordered to the front and Confederate General Johnson came into the region, the order of things was changed. He sent word to Circuit Court Clerk Knott instructing him to vacate the office immediately, otherwise he would be treated to several applications of prison meals. He pointed out to him that he had not been constitutionally elected and that Geiger had been defeated only by the intervention of Federal bayonets.

Mr. Knott heeded Johnson's suggestion that it would be best for him to give up his commission. He packed his baggage and, refusing to await the coming of the Confederate general, left for Uniontown. When he arrived at this point, he sent back to Geiger the keys of the office, but immediately informed Circuit Judge Fowler that it was vacant and asked him for advice on the course to pursue. Judge Fowler, without hesitation, appointed him to the office, but advised him to go to Louisville and, if possible, have the appointment ratified by Union Gen. Jerry Boyle, then military governor of Kentucky. General Boyle promptly ratified the appointment.

The late Mrs. Bettie Taylor Lamond, then a school girl, related one of the skirmishes at Morganfield as follows:

> I was on my way to school with my older brothers, when we saw a small company of Confederate soldiers riding into town. As we had no fears on account of the Confederates, we stopped to watch them ride by. Suddenly from around the corner came a body of Federal soldiers. Immediately they began firing. In my terror I climbed a near-by fence and laid down, trying to hide in the tall weeds. That was the most exciting time of my life. My brothers had scattered in all directions and it was some time before we found each other. The battle lasted but a few moments and, when over, it was found that four Confederate soldiers had lost their lives.

The letter of Lt. Col. S. F. Johnson, already mentioned, also gave some particulars that indicates the seriousness of the minor operations in this region which were then largely intended to prevent Confederate recruiting and gathering of supplies. Relating his encounter with a Confederate force of about 150 men at Morganfield, Johnson reported that he killed five of these and

captured two more "whom," he said, "I intend to kill." The next day, July 15, he came upon this same force, now increased to over 300 men, at Geiger's Lake. "They fought us desperately for over an hour," he said, "and then fled, breaking up into small squads, thereby making it impossible to pursue them successfully." According to Johnson, at least twenty-four and possibly thirty Confederates were killed, but only one of his men.

The summer of 1864 was the most eventful during the course of the war for Union County. Operations, largely of an offensive nature, by Confederate Gen. Adam R. Johnson brought Federal forces under Lt. Col. S. F. Johnson and Gen. J. M. Shackelford into action. Two of the most important engagements within the county took place during this period. One was at Geiger's Lake where a minor battle was fought, and at Uniontown where a running fight led to quick capitulation by the Federal troops. Also, during the summer of 1864, there were three skirmishes at Morganfield, and in at least one of these Johnson's Confederate Cavalry was repulsed.

Lt. Col. S. F. Johnson, in his letter of July 13, 1864, reported that Morganfield was the headquarters of the guerrillas in this section of the country. He wrote, ". . . they are hid around in that neighborhood, and I would, therefore, prefer having the greater part of my men there so as to hunt them to their dens." On May 6, 1864, according to the chronology of Collins' *History of Kentucky,* fourteen so-called guerrillas were killed and thirteen wounded near Morganfield. Several months later a scouting party of the Forty-eighth Kentucky Infantry (Union) captured a so-called guerrilla camp and stores, killing one and taking seven prisoners.

Colonel Cunningham, commanding Negro troops at Paducah, made a raid into Union County on June 7 and impressed a boatload of Negroes into Federal service. He was accompanied by two gunboats to "help persuade the owners to consent" to such service. More than a hundred were taken and of these twenty-seven were appropriated from various owners in Uniontown.

There is rather a somber note to end the events of 1864—a small item of no particular importance as far as Union County is concerned. The tide of war had turned unmistakably against the Confederacy in the fall of this year. Yet Collins, in his chronology of Kentucky, reports that on October 27 hundreds of Confederate recruits passed through Morganfield to join Con-

federate Gen. Hylan B. Lyon, successor to Confederate Gen. Adam R. Johnson, who was blinded in action.

Several weeks before the "battle" of Uniontown about three hundred Indiana militia, or at best, sixty-day men—that is, men who were enlisted for that period—had been sent to Uniontown. They were, as one old-timer of Union County commented, preachers, lawyers, and doctors, and with them there were a few rough characters. This detachment was in command of Colonel Farrow.

On the day of the fight the Federal troops had just eaten dinner, and a detail of six pickets for the afternoon had been sent out on the old Morganfield-Uniontown Road. The relief reached the picket line about a half-mile from town, just as the advance guard of a Confederate column from Morganfield began firing upon them. The Confederate advance guards and the Union pickets fought for a few moments when the former retired to their main column, which soon came up at a gallop, and drove in the pickets.

Both parties now began maneuvering for a cornfield south of town. The Confederate troops under Gen. Adam R. Johnson gained it and began driving the enemy through the woods toward town. In Uniontown the Federal troops assembled in a brick house belonging to a Mr. Williams. From here they intended to make a sally, but the piece of artillery that General Johnson had with him was fired, and they surrendered. Two Federal soldiers were killed and twenty-seven were wounded. One of those killed, Captain Howard, was admiringly remembered as a "first-class whist player." The twenty-seven wounded Federals were paroled and sent to Evansville on a passing steamer. It was reported that several of these men died en route or after they reached the hospital. Seven Confederate soldiers were also wounded.

The "battle" of Geiger's Lake began when Gen. Adam R. Johnson, with about one hundred men, mostly Union and Henderson County boys in training, made a dash upon Uniontown and captured about nine hundred stands of arms. General Johnson and his men then retired to Geiger's Lake and encamped. Gen. J. M. Shackelford, who was lying at Caseyville with a considerable force of Federal troops, mostly infantry, started out to the lake for the purpose of capturing the entire force. James Wathen, of Company G, First Kentucky Confederate Cavalry, and in civil life a brickmason of DeKoven, learned of Shackelford's designs

and rode in hot haste to the Confederate camp to give the alarm. The ever-ready Johnson immediately dispatched most of his available force out on the road to meet General Shackelford. Col. Bob Martin had charge of this detachment which numbered about eighty men. This left a small force in the camp. One report says fifteen, another says fifty, but Reuben Reasor (1834-1927), who related the details of this story, says there were twenty-eight, counting General Johnson. Most of these men, it seems, were left behind on account of sickness. Shackelford, however, did not approach the camp in the direction that Colonel Martin had left it and, consequently, he surprised the Confederates left behind. When General Johnson saw the Federal troops approaching, he gave his men all the loaded guns they could carry and, taking shelter, opened heavy fire. The Federals quickly broke and fled. Johnson, knowing the limitations of his small force, crossed to the opposite side of the lake. Shackelford, quickly rallying his men, returned toward Johnson's encampment.

In the meantime, Colonel Martin, hearing the firing, headed toward the camp and advanced alone to reconnoiter the enemy's position. His horse was shot from under him and he returned to his men, remounted, and led them against the Federal troops. Shackelford was advancing upon the vacated camp along the shore of the lake and Martin was advancing toward it from the opposite direction. General Johnson, with his contingent, was still across the lake, expecting pursuit by the Federals.

While this was taking place, a soldier named Robinson came into camp and, seeing all of his comrades gone, supposed that very soon the Federals would enter and capture all the arms. He thereupon started throwing the guns into the lake. The lake bank was rather steep and it was quite simple to pitch the muskets into the water as they were stacked near by.

When Colonel Martin and his men came up, they brought their artillery piece into play against the advancing army. His men were protected by their position under the bank, and they poured such rapid and telling volleys that the Federal force was permanently routed and fled in confusion to Caseyville. It was in this engagement that General Shackelford was shot in the heel as his army retreated. Mr. Reasor said that as far as he knew there were no Confederates killed or wounded.

The war gave rise to those incidents and stories which, somewhat embellished no doubt, have kept alive many of its more

touching aspects. Some have probably become as much fiction as fact. One of these concerns a very small girl who, through sympathy, became something of a guardian for the slaves of her neighbors. This story relates that there was at all times plenty of food in the slave cabins, but the section in which they lived suffered much abuse from soldiers of both armies. The little girl was saddened by the suffering of the "darkies," and she became very kind and generous to them.

There was particular need for such a protector, for near the close of the war there arose in this section the "Patrolers," or, as they became known, the "Pater-rollers." They were mostly civilians who organized for the purpose of keeping the Negroes in check and preventing an uprising among them. It is said that they did much to restore peace and order. There were also the guerrillas who went through the country foraging for food, destroying everything they could not use, and spreading terror everywhere.

It was one or the other of these groups that called for constant vigilance on the part of this little heroine. As she was a favorite with all, even the "Pater-rollers" and the guerrillas, her ears were always open. Whenever she would overhear a plot to raid a certain place, she would run to the Negroes calling as she went: "Hide your meat, hide yourselves, the 'Pater-rollers' are coming." When the "Pater-rollers" arrived, there would be only empty cabins.

Another story is told by J. I. Kellen, of Caseyville. In the early days of the war, T. B. Clore, a Confederate soldier, had gone by muleback to Commercial Point (Union County) on business. When he returned to his home, near Caseyville, he was told that Federal soldiers were destroying his riverfront corn crop. He started off hell-bent on stopping them, and was whipping his mule and yelling at the top of his voice. He made so much noise and the mule kicked up so much dust that the soldiers thought a whole army was after them and took to their boats and were away before they realized they had been chased away by a lone man on a mule.

Still another tale relates that a young Confederate lieutenant, aided by a sole Negro, rode into town, probably Uniontown or possibly Morganfield, and announced that they were the vanguard of a large Confederate force lying just outside town. The

seventy-five Union soldiers surrendered, stacked their arms and managed to get across the river, much to the amusement of the lieutenant and his aide.

One of Union County's most colorful wartime characters was a woman who, though not to be mentioned in the same breath as the "Maid of Saragossa," is a heroine of more feminine stripe. By her selfless devotion to the needs of men in the command with which she became identified, she has earned a memorable place in the annals of this war. She was Mrs. Betty Taylor Phillips, wife of Capt. William S. Phillips, of Uniontown. On September 14, 1861, she joined her husband, then a lieutenant in the Fourth Regiment of the Kentucky Confederate Infantry, at Camp Boone. From that time until the close of the war she served with equal pride in the modest tasks or the valiant endeavors of this military command. After an engagement she would remain behind to attend to the wounded. She was once advised to go to Glasgow to procure a pass to Uniontown. When she appeared before the Federal commander there, instead of getting a passport, she was arrested as a spy and subjected to many indignities. Such incidents were frequent in her wartime career. Mrs. Phillips was ever ready to exert her influence or use her ingenuity in procuring food, clothing, and delicacies for the sick and wounded whom she nursed. If a soldier needed a garment, she made it herself, and she never showed favoritism; for the most obscure private was given the same attention as an officer. Many a poor fellow who overflowed with happiness upon receiving a letter from home would call Mrs. Phillips and give vent to his feelings by reading it to her. When the war came to an end, she had in her possession the flag under which the regiment had first gone into action. She brought it home with her, but a short time before her death presented it to the Adam Johnson Camp of Confederate Veterans. After the camp disbanded the few veterans left gave the flag to the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and it is now in the Confederate Historical Room in the Old Capitol Building (Kentucky Historical Society) at Frankfort.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE CHIEF NATURAL RESOURCES of Union County are its fertile soil and rich coal deposits that underlie the major portion of the area. The coal deposits, together with the commercially less important brick and tile clays that occur within the county, are so situated as to be easily accessible either to rail or river transportation. The major products of the more than 1,300 farms find a market in near-by Evansville or the more distant markets of Louisville, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, or East St. Louis.

AGRICULTURE

The first wave of settlers, reaching Henderson County in the early years of the nineteenth century, consisted largely of farmers from North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland who brought with them the social customs and the economic system of the Middle and South Atlantic States. Accompanied by their slaves, they overspread the rich, rolling lands to the west of Henderson, principal settlement in the region. In 1811 this newly settled area was separated from Henderson County and became the County of Union. The Federal Census of 1820 credited the new county with a population of 3,470, the result of fifteen or twenty years of active migration and settlement.

The new settlers found a country well-forested with oak, poplar, black and white walnut, ash, hickory, sweetgum, cottonwood, wild cherry, sycamore, and other trees indicative of a "strong" soil—the kind of soil they were seeking. The surface of the land was level in the bottoms, and gently to heavily rolling in the higher lands which comprised the major portion of the area.

The bottoms, less easily cleared than the uplands and subject to overflow from the floodwaters of the Ohio River, were constantly fertilized by the rich deposits left by the receding floods. This promise of inexhaustible fertility led many, as the years passed, to settle on the benchlands beside the Ohio, the Tradewater, and Highland Creek, where today's cornfields attest the wisdom of those who first subdued the lowlands.

The high, rolling lands adjacent to the valleys of the streams offered the farmers, accustomed to the thin soils of the Atlantic

Coastal Plain, a peculiar attraction. In late geologic times, dust storms similar to those which long ago created the deep wind-blown soils of the loess regions west of the Mississippi, deposited over the rock and soils of Union County a blanket of surface soil from ten to thirty feet deep over the entire area. This soil, so formed, was found to be extraordinarily rich in the foods necessary to the growth of all agricultural products, and its depth gave assurance that the land would not "wear out"—an assurance that, in spite of too long-continued year-after-year cropping, with its resultant sheet and gully erosion in some areas of the county, still holds good.

The Pioneer Period of 1805-35

The first settlers followed the pioneer's axiom of "git, an' while yer gittin', git a plenty." Land was cheap, the promise of rising land values good, and the early farms consisted of great tracts of forests with little, slowly-expanding clearings scattered along trails that in time became highways leading to the early-day churches, villages, river-landings.

The expansion of the farmed area of the county is typical of the process by which the forest becomes, in the course of two or three generations, agricultural land differing in its appearance from original prairie only by the presence of aged and scattered trees, reminders of the great battle fought and won in the subduing of the land. First, as the clearings grew, the trees were girdled and the underbrush cut and burned to make room for the crop that was planted in the "deadened" timber. Then, during the "slack season," came the removal of the standing timber, a wasteful process of cutting, piling, and burning the trees not immediately necessary to the erection of buildings, the making of fences, and for use as firewood. This waste, apparent to the present generation, seemed to the pioneer a necessary part of the development of the country; was incidental to the best utilization of its soil and manpower.

Much of this labor was undertaken and accomplished with the crudest of tools. The modern plow did not appear until about 1830. The cradle was invented in the 1820's. Ax, maul, wedges, broadax, crosscut saw, ripsaw, were the tools with which the forest was subdued. Sleds, useful both in summer and in winter, carts, wagons, oxen, horses, mules, each and all played their part.

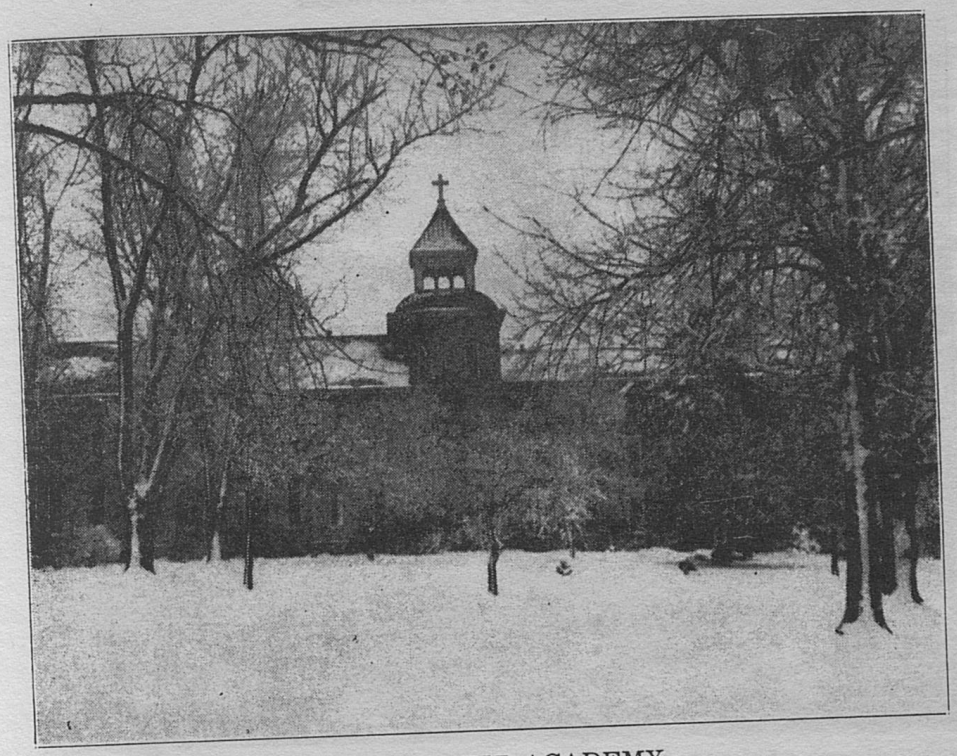
Not to be forgotten are the hogs, sheep, and "horned cattle" of that early day. Hogs early took their place in the agricultural economy of the county. They ran wild in the woods, save for somewhat indeterminate claims to ownership asserted at "hog killin' time." During the winters they huddled for protection in pens or straw sheds; during the remainder of the year they foraged among the oak, beech, and hickory groves, fattened, were slaughtered at home, and became an important part of the rapidly growing stream of commerce that was, as early as 1810, moving down the Ohio to the river landings of the lower Mississippi. Sheep furnished homespun clothing and, now that the deer were growing scarce, an occasional feast. Extra wool had a market value that fluctuated widely. Cattle, Longhorns, and the early-day Shorthorns from the pastures of Maryland and Virginia, furnished milk, meat, leather, and power on the farm.

Poultry consisted of a few dunghill fowls. Wild bees furnished much of the "sweetnin';" whatever they lacked, maple syrup and sugar, or the luxury of cane sugar, filled up.

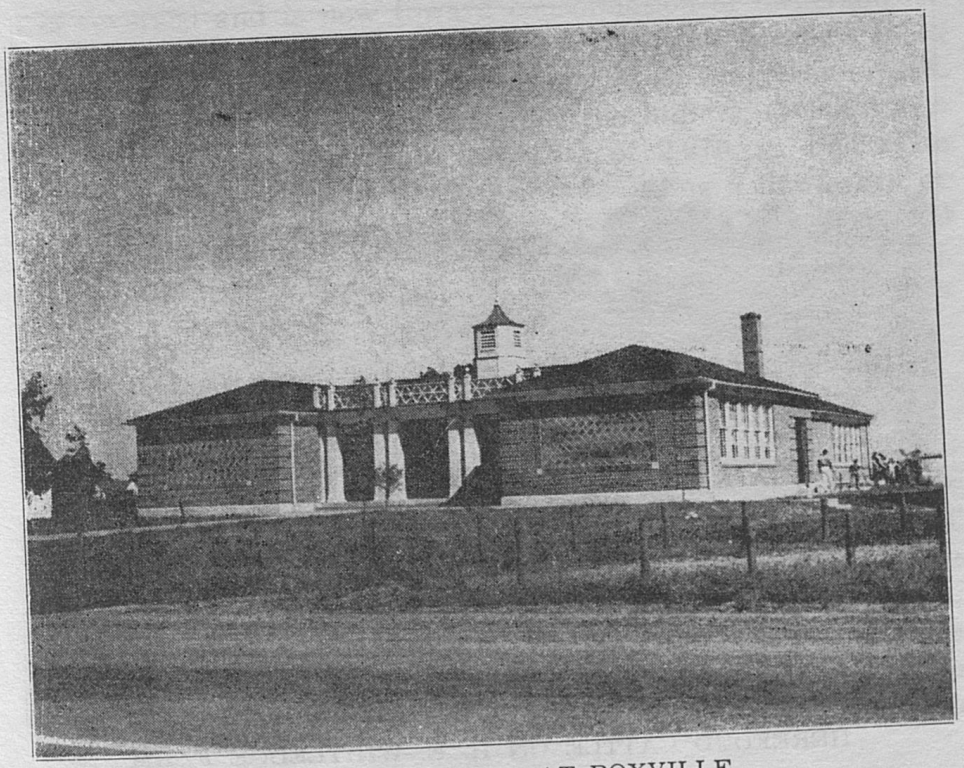
Corn was milled for meal; wheat and buckwheat for flour. The fence rows and edges of the clearings furnished fruit—blackberries, strawberries, and hazelnuts—together with nuts of the hickory, walnut, and beech—a plentiful supply for the entire family.

By 1830 more comfortable homes had succeeded the original cabins. There were deposits of brick-quality clay, and sawmills were doing a local business. Stoves had not yet made their appearance; the cooking being done in deep and wide fireplaces over wood fires burned down to glowing embers. Candles of tallow or lard lighted the homes. Books were rare, and education was a prized possession, eagerly worked for. Outside of church services, occasional weddings and "buryings," and dances, the social life of the neighborhood was uneventful and meager. The daily labors of the farm and home were plentiful and exacting.

So passed the pioneer phase of Union County development. During this period, which extended into the middle 1830's, the farmer computed his gains, not in dollars of net income, but in acres cleared, in added buildings and equipment, and especially in increased numbers and market quality of livestock. These formative years were essentially a period of estate development, with an eye to the future division of the estate between the numerous offspring of the original pioneers.



ST. VINCENT ACADEMY



MODERN SCHOOL AT BOXVILLE



ED. RAPIER FARM, WAVERLY



HEREFORD CATTLE ON H. E. WHITLEDGE FARM
NEAR UNIONTOWN

The growth of the county during these years was steady and rapid. Henderson County, which at the beginning of the century embraced what later became Henderson, Hopkins (1806), Union (1811), and Webster (1860), had, in 1800, a population of 1,468. In 1810, with Hopkins set apart, the remaining Henderson County recorded a population of 4,703. Ten years later Union alone had 3,470; in 1830 the population of Union stood at 4,764, in 1840 at 6,673, in 1850 at 9,012, and at the outbreak of the War between the States it reached 12,791. This was a population growth based almost wholly upon agriculture and its attendant business and industrial life—the general stores, smithies, wagon-works, mills, and like accessories to the farming business. That the land was still held in large estates as late as 1850 is revealed by the census of that year, which listed 681 farms in the entire county, embracing 52,453 acres of improved and 141,403 acres of unimproved land—a total of 193,856 acres—a figure not again reached until 1890, and topped but twice since, in 1900 and again in 1910. This early maturity of total farm acreage, and the increasing number of farms revealed by later census reports, tells a story of the breaking up of the earlier estates into smaller and still smaller farms until, in recent years, since 1900, the trend has reversed and is now toward consolidation of ownership or operating control. With substantially the same acreage as in 1850, the number of farms grew from 681 in that year to 848, in 1870; to 1,881, in 1890; reaching the highest division into independent units ever recorded, that of 2,279, in 1900. The census of 1910 reported 1,840 farms, revealing a downward or consolidation trend which was apparent in 1920, with 1,809 farms; again continued, in 1925, with 1,469; yet again, in 1930, with 1,342; finally, in 1935, showing a slight upward turn to a total of 1,347 farms.

Growth Prior to the War

This discussion of farm acreage, which, on the whole, has been static for approximately a century, leads up to the major changes within that acreage since the first farm census, that of 1840, revealed that Union County was at that time among the leaders in livestock, corn, tobacco, dairy, and orchard production. More than 7,000 cattle, 6,300 sheep, 3,700 horses and mules were reported. Chief livestock interest centered in hog raising, the report showing more than 26,000 swine within the county. Corn

had reached almost a half-million-bushel production, and tobacco already exceeded 612,000 pounds. The absence from this official report of barley, buckwheat, and hops is noted. County production, taken as a whole, was still on a well-distributed subsistence basis, with tobacco and livestock already the leading sources of farm income. Especially revealing is an item of $22,278, the value of "home-made or family goods" produced in the census year of 1839.

The 1840's were marked by continued growth of the livestock industry, increase in corn production, a marked decrease in tobacco, and first mention of clover in the census reports. A quarter of the farming area of the county was already cleared. Production for home use continued. Cattle, sheep, wool, and especially hogs, recorded as numbering 38,177 in 1849, were the chief sources of income.

The fifties were years of marked progress throughout all Kentucky. Union County shared in that progress. The improvement in quality of livestock that began in the Bluegrass with the introduction of the Shorthorn, prior to 1820, reached Union County in that same period or shortly thereafter, and its pastures responded in a steadily increasing area of cleared land and a narrowing down of that portion still in timber. As an indication of the growing importance of the farmer, a bank, the first in the county, was organized in Uniontown by Munsie Higginson at the beginning of the decade. During this decade many of the earlier farm homes were replaced by more modern structures, of which numerous examples still stand, indicative, in their spaciousness and architectural simplicity, of the high scale of living reached before the War between the States.

In the fifties slavery reached its maximum development. A quarter of the total population were Negroes; the men, when not otherwise engaged in routine farm duties, were employed in the never-ceasing job of clearing the land; the women helping with the housework, which still included spinning and weaving for the needs of the household.

Farming in the 1860's and 1870's

Rural Union County, like the rest of the State, was divided over the slavery issue that reached a climax in 1861. Out of a total population of less than 13,000, some 3,000 of whom were slaves, about 400 men joined the contending armies. Of this total

fifty enlisted in the Federal armies while the rest served under the Confederate banner. Considering the small number of farms, this enlistment, small as it now appears, touched closely the lives of every family in the county and left effects which were to be lasting.

These effects of the War between the States are clearly discernible in the census reports for the year 1869. While the farms had increased, the numbers of hogs, sheep, horses and mules showed a decided decline to offset which the major cultivated crops—wheat, corn, and tobacco—and the acres of improved land showed a striking increase. The improved acreage now equaled 72,600 acres as against 52,000 in 1850—indicating that the labor system which followed the freeing of the slaves was now evolving. The ex-slave was given the use of land, free for a term of years, on condition that he clear it; or he was given land already cleared on the basis of a share in the crop if he furnished seed, tools and labor; one-half if the owner supplied these necessities. Cash rental was also employed in rarer instances. Thus was set up, between 1865-70, the tenant system that, with certain modifications, now obtains. The first effect of this change in the farm labor situation was to decrease the help available in connection with livestock farming, and so to force a decrease in the number of livestock kept on the farms. Pastures were diverted to the growing of wheat, then high in price as a result of a current European shortage, and to the growing of corn which, during the seventies, rose from 771,000 to 1,663,000 bushels. Wheat, a mere 12,000-bushel crop in 1849, was an 83,000-bushel crop in 1869, and a 539,000-bushel crop in 1879. Meanwhile, tobacco, to which the newly-cleared land was usually cropped, rose spectacularly from less than 500,000 pounds in 1849 to 2,096,000 in 1869. This trend, which continued into the present century, was marked by a material increase in the number of individual farms.

By the end of the seventies, livestock farming had become readjusted to the new conditions. The census reports for 1879 show that cattle had passed the 12,000 mark, a record high for the time, and that hogs, with a count of 39,643, had surpassed the previous high established by the census of 1850 of more than 38,000. Sheep, 5,500, had not recovered their old-time popularity, but horses and mules had nearly doubled in numbers during the

decade. Particular attention had been given during the seventies to improvement in the breeding of cattle, sheep, hogs, and mules; and the thoroughbred had not been neglected.

The estimated 1879 value of the 1,696 farms of the county was $3,537,180; of the livestock, $638,852; of the total farm production of that year, $1,043,140. Agricultural development, though greatly improved by the general use of the modern plow and the reaper, represented an investment of $195,464, or a mere $115 per farm—less than one-fifth the amount deemed essential to the proper handling of the up-to-date Kentucky farm of the fifties.

Turn of the Century Changes

In 1883 a county fair that was to be held annually until 1930 opened its gates and began preaching, by the example of annual competition for the best in agricultural products, the gospel of better farming.

The agricultural picture of the eighties and nineties was one of continued progress along livestock lines. The census of 1889 showed more than 14,000 cattle, more than 7,600 horses and mules, more than 32,000 hogs. Sheep, after a decade of disastrous wool prices, were in disfavor. A two-million-bushel corn crop, and a four-million-pound tobacco yield topped all previous production records. Land showed a marked increase in value, $5,983,660, as against preceding census estimate of $3,537,180.

A marked diversification of agricultural interests is recorded in the census of 1910. Mules, 4,093 in number against 5,026 horses, exceeded the latter in total value by a slight margin; their combined value exceeded $1,000,000. The estimated value of all domestic animals was in excess of $1,622,000. Dairy cattle now entered the record, together with whole milk and butter marketing. Mention of poultry and eggs, of goats, bees, apples, peaches, plums, cherries, and strawberries serves to widen our idea of the varied character of Union County farm life in the nineties. One hundred forty-five farms were buying fertilizer, used in tobacco production. Feed was a considerable item of farm expense. Timothy and clover were the standard haymaking grasses. It was during the first decade of the present century that the farms began their recession in numbers from their high of 2,279, recorded by the 1900 census, to 1,840 in 1910.

The "Good Roads" Era

Material changes in farm life marked the first two decades of the present century. The automobile appeared, and the good roads movement got under way. A full line of modern farm machinery and equipment, including the tractor, the cream separator, the silo, the tedder, the individual lighting plant, and other labor saving tools and conveniences of agriculture, made its bid for farmer approval. The effect of a growing deficiency of lime and phosphorus in the otherwise rich soils was more fully appreciated, and the use of commercial fertilizers on tobacco crops continued to increase. Rotation of crops after a standard pattern that included legumes and the plowing up and later re-seeding of old pastures became an accepted practice. Farmer interest centered more and more in livestock improvement, and farm incomes depended mainly upon the price of hogs, of beef cattle, and to an increasing degree upon dairy income and the sale of spring lambs, with tobacco the outstanding cash crop.

The effects of the land boom of the war years were especially felt by those who bought or extended their holdings during that period. Nevertheless, the average farmer survived both the inflation that boosted the total estimated value of farm lands, exclusive of buildings, from $8,768,092 in 1910 to $15,663,122 in 1920; then plummeted back to $6,506,448 a half-decade later, to recover by 1930 to a valuation estimated at $9,835,849, including farm homes worth $1,380,295. That all did not escape the effect of these violent fluctuations is seen in the decrease in number of farms from 2,279 in 1900 to 1,347 in 1935 — a movement effected mainly by the inclusion of small farms within stronger adjacent units. This transfer of ownership was accompanied by a decline in the total farm population and by a material increase in the amount and value of farm equipment, which now began to include farm tractors, silos, and trucks adapted, among other uses, to livestock delivery direct to packing centers.

The 1940 Farm Picture

The current farm picture is that of a prosperous rural community engaged primarily in the production of livestock, with cash crop sales, even that of tobacco, incidental to the major industry. The Henderson market affords a sales outlet for tobacco. Surplus crops, which include corn and hay in excess of local needs, are shipped by rail to central grain and feeds mar-

kets. Cattle, which include the Hereford, Shorthorn, and Aberdeen-Angus beef breeds, hold the distinction of being free, since 1926, of all scrub bulls. At that time Union became the first county in the United States to establish cattle breeding on a 100 per cent purebred bull basis. The effect of this advanced position is seen in the quality of the cattle trucked and sold at the age of from sixteen to eighteen months, chiefly on the Evansville, Indiana, stock market. High grade Hampshire and Southdown lambs, dropped in time to reach the highly desirable spring lamb market, also find sale in Evansville. Hogs, with the Duroc breed leading in favor, but with the Spotted Poland-China and Hampshire also popular, are finished at from six to eight months and trucked to Evansville. Barred and White Rock chickens are the basis of a considerable and growing income from eggs and poultry. A material part of all poultry products is "graded out" in exchange for merchandise found in local stores. An expanding volume of milk is entering into cheesemaking.

Eighty per cent of the land within the county has been cleared and is now in production. Less than 10 per cent of the area still remains in timber. More than 40 per cent is currently cropped. One-third of the acreage is devoted to pasture. Even with the marked decrease in the number of farms shown since 1900, the farms are still small, averaging 135 acres in extent. Stock farms are larger with an average acreage in excess of 200. The all-grain farms are somewhat under that figure. Many fall below 100 acres in extent. Two-thirds of the entire farm investment of the county is devoted to stock and general-purpose farming. The ratio of mortgage-free farm property is, roughly, six out of every ten farms. Tenancy, on the increase since the 1900-1940 period, now about equals in numbers owner-managed farms. Of the tenants, those operating on shares or upon a cash-rental basis slightly outnumber the croppers, whose interest as a rule is confined to a limited acreage of tobacco or some one of the other cash crops.

Cropping practices have recently moved in the direction of soil conservation and soil building. The soils subject to erosion, as most of the area is, are growing an increasing acreage of alfalfa, lespedeza, or other crops of similar character. The checking of incipient gullies, long practiced, has recently been supplemented by Civilian Conservation Corps demonstration work in terracing, strip-cropping, and other modern methods of

soil control. Agricultural training and education for the future farmers of the county is given by the high schools. Nearly three hundred boys and girls are enrolled in 4-H Club work including calf and pig projects for the boys; clothing, foods, canning, and room improvement for the girls. Advanced instructions along similar lines, through the medium of the Future Farmers of America, is open to the farm youth of more mature years.

The rural social life is neighborly. The homes possess the ordinary comforts of life, and many of its luxuries. There is a high appreciation of the value of culture. Radios, current magazines, the daily papers, are usually found. The optimism of Union County farmers is well expressed in the words of a tenant farmer living near Morganfield. In speaking of life on the farm as it appealed to him in 1940, he said:

> It is a good life, free and independent. When I go out to work I know what I want to do and I am free to work as I see fit. I am waiting for no inspector, who does not know as much about it as I do, to walk up and tell me to do it some other way. It is restful inasmuch as I am not repeating, but go from one kind of work to another.
>
> Handling stock is great. How I enjoy watching them grow!
>
> As to food, one may have the choicest without depending on someone else to bring it to you. Should company drop in and find one unprepared, instead of running to the grocery for a steak, eggs or milk, I go to the smoke house and cut a ham or to the chicken yard and wring a chicken's head off, to the hen house for eggs and to the spring house for milk and butter. Soon we have an appetizing meal prepared, without having to count the cost.
>
> I think children reared on a farm have many advantages that town children do not have. Their contact with nature, learning to handle the stock, long walks in the fields and woods, games in the barn on rainy days; riding saplings, and the joy derived from attending school with the children of the community whom they see only occasionally, well compensate them for the loss of the so-called advantages of city life. . . . Upkeep on a farm is pretty high right now, but with all that, I will take farm life in preference to any other life on earth.

In this statement C. T. Newman expresses the viewpoint of progressive Union County farmers.

Rural Electrification and Master Farmers

The outstanding advance in agriculture and farm life during recent years has been the introduction of electricity to rural sections. Under the Rural Electrification Administration, created in 1935 by executive order of President Roosevelt to extend electrical facilities to rural areas theretofore without them, the

Union County Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation was incorporated in June, 1937. It received from the REA an allocation of $100,000. A second allocation of $155,000, for supplemental lines, was made in October, 1937, but subsequently was rescinded by the REA.

Because of an insufficient number of members along the lines proposed by the local organization, the Rural Electrification Administration, in January, 1938, declared the original project impractical. It sent Walker D. Brightwell as its representative to assist in developing a project that it could approve.

In April, 1938, a revised project was approved; and three months later staking was begun. John R. Hardin was engaged as project superintendent. The construction of one hundred miles of line was completed November 22, 1939, energized to serve 201 members of the corporation. The construction of an additional sixty-five miles of line, for 130 members, was approved by the REA, and $65,000 was allotted for these extensions.

At the suggestion of the Rural Electrification Administration, the board of directors of the Union County Cooperative Corporation on May 13, 1939, agreed to consolidation with the organization in Henderson County, to effect more efficient operation. Six months later the membership of the Union County corporation ratified the articles of consolidation; and the Henderson-Union Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation supplanted the two county corporations December 1, 1939.

By August 1, 1941, five hundred families in Union County were being served by the new lines. Main lines extended then from Morganfield to Boxville to the Spencer neighborhood; from Boxville to Waverly; from Boxville to Sturgis to Henshaw; and from Morganfield to Uniontown, to Spring Grove, to the junction of Highways 56 and 85.

Among the honors that have come to Union County in recent years has been the election of two of its farmers to the select company of "Master Farmers." Membership in this national honorary organization is granted only for high achievement in the field of agriculture.

The first Union Countian to be thus singled out was Charles Meacham, Jr., chosen in 1935. His record as a pioneer in the breeding of lespedeza, his active membership in the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, and his four years' service as president of the Kentucky Seed Improvement Association, which in-

cludes experiments in corn breeding, were mentioned as his qualifications for the honor.

In the winter of 1939, at the Farm and Home convention held in Lexington, Jim Will Hancock became the second farmer of Union County to receive the accolade of the "Master Farmer" title.

INDUSTRIES

The industrial life of Union County is, and has been, dependent either upon its agricultural development or else upon the development of the coal deposits that underlie the major part of the area.

Lumbering

Much of this development was incidental to the clearing of the land that steadily went on between 1805 and 1865, then increased in tempo until its completion shortly after the turn of the century. At the beginning of this century, timber had only slight commercial value but, as revealed by the census of 1840, a market had by that time arisen. In 1839 the sale of 7,871 cords of wood was recorded. Undoubtedly this refers largely to fuel sold to steamboats moving up or down the Ohio. No mention is made of the lumber that was sawed long before that time for use locally in the construction of homes and other buildings.

Commercial lumbering, as popularly defined, dates from the seventies. Between that time and the end of the century a number of sawmills were busy working up into lumber the local timber that now had become valuable. Some of these operators, as the Alloway Lumber Company, established near Sturgis in 1881, extended their operations to take in timber floated down the Tradewater River. During the height of the land clearing and logging movement, as many as a dozen or more commercial lumber- or planing-mills are known to have been in operation. With the falling off of this business, between 1900 and 1910, lumbering lost its local significance, and the lumber business has since continued on a consumer-supply basis.

Milling

What has been said of lumbering is true also of flour milling and other forms of manufacturing, including the early-day making of chairs, spinning wheels, and other necessities. Meal, flour, and feed grinding during the pioneer period was for local

consumption. This was followed by a period of activity in local flour milling incident to the expansion of wheat growing in the years after the War between the States. In the seventies a flourmill was in operation at Waverly, and in the nineties a flourmill at Sturgis was selling its products throughout the South and East. But more recently, since the building of better highways, the advent of better transportation, and the recession of wheat growing, this activity has been followed by a steady decline in that branch of industry. But one flourmill, known as the Ohio Valley Grain Company, is now (1941) operating. Its products, the materials for which are locally grown, are transported by truck throughout Union, Henderson, Webster, Hopkins, Caldwell, and Livingston Counties. Numerous elevators now care for the excess grain offered at local shipping points.

Distilling

Another industry based directly upon grain production was that of distilling. In 1871, at a time when the county was heavily engaged in wheat production and prices for that commodity were steadily falling, a distillery was built near Uniontown. This was destroyed by fire in 1872. Three Negroes, accused of setting the fire, were hanged by a mob. During its short existence, the distillery had established a demand for its products in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.

In 1891 a second distillery was built, again near Uniontown, at a cost of a million dollars, and great cribs were erected for the storage of corn. The plant, owned by the Mutual Distilling Company, manufactured "Belle of Union County," "Diamond Washer," and "John L. Givens" whiskies. The product was put up in ash barrels, charred especially for that purpose. A warehouse having a capacity of 50,000 barrels was used in connection with the plant. Barns and pens for the fattening of as many as 2,000 cattle and 2,200 hogs at a time were a part of the property. When working at full capacity, 300 men were employed, working in three eight-hour shifts of 100 men each. Electrically lighted at a time when such lighting was rare, the plant was a beacon known to all who traveled the Ohio. It was dismantled in 1908 and its machinery removed to Louisville.

Tobacco Market

In 1860, in connection with the marked enlargement of the tobacco acreage, a warehouse for the buying and stemming of

tobacco was built in Uniontown and continued in operation until about 1910 when it was discontinued and the market removed to Henderson. Other markets developed locally and vanished, leaving to Uniontown and later to Henderson the rehandling of the tobacco crop.

Coal Mining

Next to agriculture, coal mining is the chief industry of the county. Twelve seams of bituminous coal, having a maximum combined thickness of forty feet, underlie practically the entire area. This coal is of excellent quality, with low sulphur content and high in heating value. Its chief present-day demand comes from dealers handling steam and domestic coals. In connection with coal, oil has been found; but neither oil nor gas has been developed commercially. However, prospecting still continues.

The development of coal mining dates from the 1840's. Prior to that decade the industries of the entire Ohio and lower Mississippi region depended for their limited supply of coal upon the output of western Pennsylvania mines. A source of supply closer to the consuming centers on the lower Mississippi was greatly desired.

The story of the finding of coal on the banks of the lower Ohio, and its development commercially as related by Lucien Drury, now deceased, began when John Tyler, tenth President of the United States, found a vein of coal in land that he had acquired in western Union County. In the words of Mr. Drury:

> It all began when the President tried to collect a debt owed by a resident of Virginia. The President sued and got judgement. The defendant owned some land in Union County, left to him by his father, a Revolutionary War soldier. Tyler sent the suit to Judge George Huston of Morganfield, who levied it against the land, comprising 1,666 acres, above Caseyville, near DeKoven.
>
> In 1846, Tyler came to Union Co. to see his property. Noticing out-croppings of coal he returned to Virginia, where he interested friends in developing a mine. There were four men who were interested; J. M. Smith, C. M. Mathias, Wilson Corprew and David Conn; they accompanied him on his second trip in 1851. The deeds signed by Tyler are now in the new county court house at Morganfield, under date of 1853.
>
> The new owners organized the Kentucky Coal Co. opened a mine and began operation and continued to mine coal until the Civil War. During the war the mine was closed and subsequently destroyed by Federal troops.
>
> Shortly after the opening of this mine they began to think about a name for this new town. There were so many curlew birds around this mining camp that they decided to name it Curlew. . . . This mine was reopened in 1902 and was known as the Bell Union Coal and Coke Company. . . .

In the 1920's this property was operated as the Cooperative Company. In 1931 the mine was closed and dismantled. The output at this time amounted to between eight and nine hundred tons per day. The buildings were subsequently sold or moved away and all that remains of old John Tyler's venture today is a church and a few houses.

Another mine antedating the War between the States was developed by the Highland Coal Company at Uniontown. In 1858 mining privileges to 4,000 acres of land were acquired, and a six-foot seam was opened. This mine became famous for the quality of its coal, known as the best in the Ohio Valley. In 1865 this mine, like the Curlew, was destroyed as a part of military operations.

In 1859 a second mine at DeKoven, in the neighborhood of the Curlew, was opened. This mine, the Shotwell-Morehead, in recent years a subsidiary of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, passed into the hands of Dr. Percival G. Kelsey, of Henderson, in 1874. About it and its owner revolves much of the industrial and transportation history of the next quarter of a century.

Under Kelsey's leadership a railway, known as the Ohio Valley Railroad, was chartered in 1882 and built during 1885-86, for the purpose of bringing into production the extensive coal fields within the county.

Incidentally, this road, now part of the Illinois Central System, greatly stimulated land clearing and the general development of modern agriculture throughout the entire area. A branch from Morganfield to Uniontown followed. The later extension of the Louisville & Nashville northward from Madisonville to its present junction with the Illinois Central completed the present rail facilities of the county. Save for the coal workings earlier developed along the river, and for more recently developed mines served by truck delivery, the mines, past and present, are adjacent to these railroads, and dependent upon them for access to other than local markets.

This adventure into railroading followed other coal mining developments. In Uniontown, where a mining venture of the 1850's had ended about 1865 with the destruction of the mine by fire, a second mine, the Kingston, was opened in 1880. It originally employed a force of less than a dozen men, and its output was consumed locally.

In 1882 a mine was opened, by Harbard Bennett, on the Alloway farm near Commercial Point. This mine, the "Alloway," at first produced for the local trade. In 1884 David Sullivan bought the leasehold and a chute was built from which the coal hauled by wagons to that point could be loaded direct to waiting vessels.

A later venture, typical of the vicissitudes of mining, was that made in 1902, by Rosser Calloway, now residing in Sturgis. As a boy of fifteen he began pit-mining coal on his father's farm, midway between Sturgis and Sullivan. He dug and sold an estimated 1,000 tons the first year. Three years later young Calloway leased the mine, and after eleven years of operation bought the coal rights, operated as owner until 1920, and in that year sold the mine. Ten years later he repurchased and refitted the property. In 1936 the power-house and tipple were destroyed by fire. Later rebuilt, its production in 1938 was 25,000 tons.

With the advent, in 1886, of the railroad, the mining industry developed too rapidly to be followed in detail. In the early 1900's Uniontown became the center of a mining and shipping business that extended from Louisville to New Orleans. The third of the Uniontown mines, "Old Southland," as it was known, continued in operation until 1926, yielding as high as 150 tons daily. The mine is now in ruins. The "Interstate," fourth of the Uniontown mines, now in operation, opened in 1920, became in 1936 the property of the Highland Creek Coal Company.

The Morganfield area was opened in 1902 by the sinking of a shaft which struck the No. 11 seam at a depth of 225 feet. The Maginnis Coal Company, the present operator, specializes in domestic coal.

Of the many mines that, since the fifties, at one time or another have operated within the county, few remain in production.

During the years between 1885 and 1935 communities dependent solely upon mining came into existence, prospered, faded. Differences between capital and labor were not unknown. A strike in 1924 and the lessened demand of the early 1930's brought almost complete disaster. The closing of mines at Waverly, Curlew, and DeKoven has resulted in a considerable loss in population. The path of recovery is slow. But by far the greater part of the mineral wealth of Union County—wealth measured, tested, and available—remains.

River Transportation of Coal

Prior to the coming of rail transportation, coal mines of commercial importance were necessarily restricted to the vicinity of the river. The coal was mined in the usual way, screened at the mine tipple, and then run from the mine down to a river tipple in coal cars from which it was discharged direct to barges provided for the purpose of transport to markets up or down the river. Chief of these markets was Memphis, Tennessee, a southern terminal and distribution point.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century a barge loading point on the Ohio near DeKoven, known as the "upper tipple," was operated in connection with the Curlew mine. It was owned by the Kentucky Coal Company and, after 1886, by the Ohio River Coal Company. In 1898 a small group known as "River Combine," consisting of W. H. Brown and Sam Brown and Sons, bought the Curlew and its tipple and expanded the business. A fleet of boats comprising the steamers *Greyhound, Young, Painter No. 2, Judge McClure,* and *Rescue* operated out of this point. For their use a large dock was built, and eight houses, including a boarding-house for employees, gave the tipple the appearance of a busy port. A small steamer was used to make the tows.

The standard coal boat of that time had a cargo capacity of 1,000 tons; the barge, 600 tons. The *Nelly Brown,* a steel-hulled towboat of the Curlew mine fleet, sometimes towed as many as twenty barges—a matter of 13,000 tons pay-load cargo. In contrast with this the *Peter Sprague,* largest towboat on the Ohio, held the record for tows moving downstream—sixty barges, or a pay-load movement of 37,000 tons.

Other boats blazoning the initials "R. C." on their stacks and on their barges, as belonging to the River Combine fleet, were the *W. W. O'Neil, Alice Brown, Sam Brown, Charlie Brown, Joseph B. Williams, John A. Woods, The Cruiser,* and the *Mariner.* These boats operated on the Ohio and lower Mississippi Rivers from Pittsburgh to New Orleans.

The new steel tipple of the Curlew Mine, built in 1914, was wrecked by an ice gorge in the spring of 1918. Thereafter river transportation was discontinued, and the business transferred to the railroad.

The West Kentucky tipple, situated below Caseyville and similar in purpose to that already described, belongs to the present

era. Built in 1903, it serves the Western Coal Fields, distributing their output by barge to receiving and distributing points on the Ohio and Mississippi. The largest tow ever sent out by this company was one of thirty-five barges averaging 600 tons each—22,000 tons pay-load—moved in 1907. Under present-day conditions of controlled water-levels, smaller fleets are made up at Caseyville, and combined into larger tows at Paducah, general assembly point for traffic bound for the Tennessee or to points either northward or southward of Cairo.

TRANSPORTATION

Union County, bordered on the north, west, and southwest by the Ohio and Tradewater Rivers, was served with transportation during its first seventy years by the succession of rafts, flatboats, keelboats, river steamers and tows that, up to 1886, made possible its commercial contact with the outside world.

River towns—Uniontown, Caseyville, Raleigh, Locust Port, and Commercial Point—were visited by boats that, especially in early days, did a thriving commercial business with farmers and merchants. Wharf boats served as temporary warehouses for the transfer of goods. Outgoing shipments ranged from turkeys and hogs, herded along roads leading from the farms, to whisky and other manufactured products of the area. The imports included bar iron for the blacksmith shops, window glass from the Pittsburgh area, and other necessities from the near-by industrial Bluegrass region or from the Atlantic coast, as well as fabrics and furnishings imported by way of New Orleans from the looms and factories of western Europe.

Frequently, in the earlier years, farmers with a joint cargo of considerable value did not wait for the river boats that offered irregular service, but built their own boats, loaded them with their merchandise, and made a one-way voyage to Memphis, New Orleans, or some lower Mississippi market town. There the crude boats were broken up and sold, and their crews returned, either working their passage northward by river or "hoofing it" overland. In 1870 and after, a packet running between Cairo, Illinois, and Evansville, Indiana, brought daily mail service to all intervening landings. During the years that followed the War between the States, show boats, among which were the *Cotton Blossom,* the *Golden Rod,* the *New Sensation,* and the *Princess,* brought the floating theater to the river landings.

Meanwhile, the development of land transportation was slow. Impeded by rivers that had to be forded, and by dense canebrake that covered the lower lands, the roads followed the lines of least resistance which frequently led to their location along routes badly adapted to transportation purposes. Combined with this initial handicap was an insufficient road fund, the poll tax amounting to but 37.5 cents in 1836.

George Huston, of Morganfield, in his *Memories of Eighty Years* describes the main-traveled highway that, in 1835, crossed Union County. In that year he was a thirteen-year-old boy leaving home for the first time to go to school in Morganfield. Of that trip he says:

> The only way I could go to Morganfield was by mail wagon. At that time there was a mail route by land from Louisville to Shawneetown, Illinois, and John Collins of Henderson was contractor to carry the mail over this long, rough route. Hillery Kibby well-known to the old citizens, was a driver for Collins from Morganfield to Owensboro, going up one day and down the next, and resting over Sunday.
>
> Hillery Kibby's conveyance was a broad, shallow box, roughly fastened over the forewheels of a light wagon and drawn by two horses. Two hoop poles arched above the pine supporting a cover of cotton cloth, and two planks served for seats. There were no springs of any kind. It was arranged with Mr. Kibby that he was to come to our house and to have breakfast and that he should take me to Morganfield. Mr. Kibby came at the appointed hour; there was already one traveller on the "jumper," as the mail conveyance was called, and they reached our house very early.
>
> After breakfast mother wrapped me up very carefully, with warm socks over my shoes and a heavy blanket around me over my coat. Then we got aboard, took our seats on the boards and started for Green River, which was two miles away. The day set was Saturday, the 21st day of January 1835. For well do I remember the date as a new departure in my voyage of life.
>
> There had been a heavy rain the night before; the roads were very muddy and had been trampled deeply and cut up, and the sudden cold of the morning had frozen them hard and fast. The sharp points of frozen earth made it rough traveling without springs. It was jump, jump over the frozen ground. I remember a remark of the traveller who said: "I have just found out what the cover is for; it is to hold us in."
>
> When we reached Green River the water was high and the current was strong. We crossed at Calhoun's Ferry, and our means of crossing was a row-boat, and while we were going across I was detailed to hold the horses. The ferryman, Mr. Kibby and the traveller took the oars and by pulling up stream near the shore in deep water for a long distance and then, by main strength, crossing the river, we managed to land not so very far from the right place.
>
> We then boarded the "jumper" again and were off for a long day's journey over a bad road. We changed horses every ten or twelve miles. If

I remember correctly, there were then but two post offices on the whole route of sixty odd miles; one at Henderson, then a small place where we had dinner at Spidell's famous old tavern, the other the ancient hamlet of Smith's Mills.

Mr. Collins, the contractor, had given orders to all of his drivers that they were never to pass any one on foot without offering a free ride. This liberality was taken advantage of, and during the day we had frequent additions to our crowded box. After a miserable day's ride and an hour of cold darkness, we were ferried over Highland Creek, and it was well into the wintry night when we first saw the lights of Morganfield, and I was delivered at my aunt's door. I was so tired and cold and stiff that I could hardly walk, but my aunt soon restored me, and when at last she tucked me in bed I fell asleep without rocking.

Fifty years later (1886) conditions had improved. Culverts then crossed all ditches, and all streams were bridged. The main roads were well graded, and those originally badly laid out had been relocated. Still another half-century and the county reported, in 1936, thirty miles of pavement on US 60. The connecting road, running north to Uniontown, and other main highways of the county had been black-topped. Inter-connecting highways were in process of preparation for further improvement, much of which is, in 1941, completed. However, much of the county is still lacking in all-weather roads.

The railroad era, postponed until the eighties by the presence of river transportation, began in 1886 with the opening of the Ohio Valley Railroad. This enterprise was intended primarily to afford transportation to coal already being mined, as well as to prospective coal mines not accessible to barge movement. The stimulating effect upon agriculture, however, was direct and immediate. Lumbering attendant upon land clearing went forward at a rapid pace until, early in the 1900's, practically all of the merchantable timber had been removed and the land had become agricultural. These changes brought the rails a permanent income outside of that incident to mining. In June, 1898, the old Ohio Valley Railroad passed, by lease, into control of the Illinois Central.

Early in the 1900's the Louisville & Nashville Railroad built northward from Providence to Morganfield, giving Union County its second railroad and, save for minor changes, the rail facilities of the county were complete. Direct mail connections with all trade areas previously served by river had been established, and new marketing areas opened up. The Morganfield branch, after three decades of service, was recently abandoned.

In these same eventful years came the telegraph, the telephone, and rural mail delivery. In the 1910's and 1920's the automobile arrived, and toward the end of this period bus transportation extended the facilities for travel. Still more recently the radio has brought the outside world to a majority of the homes within the county.

BANKING

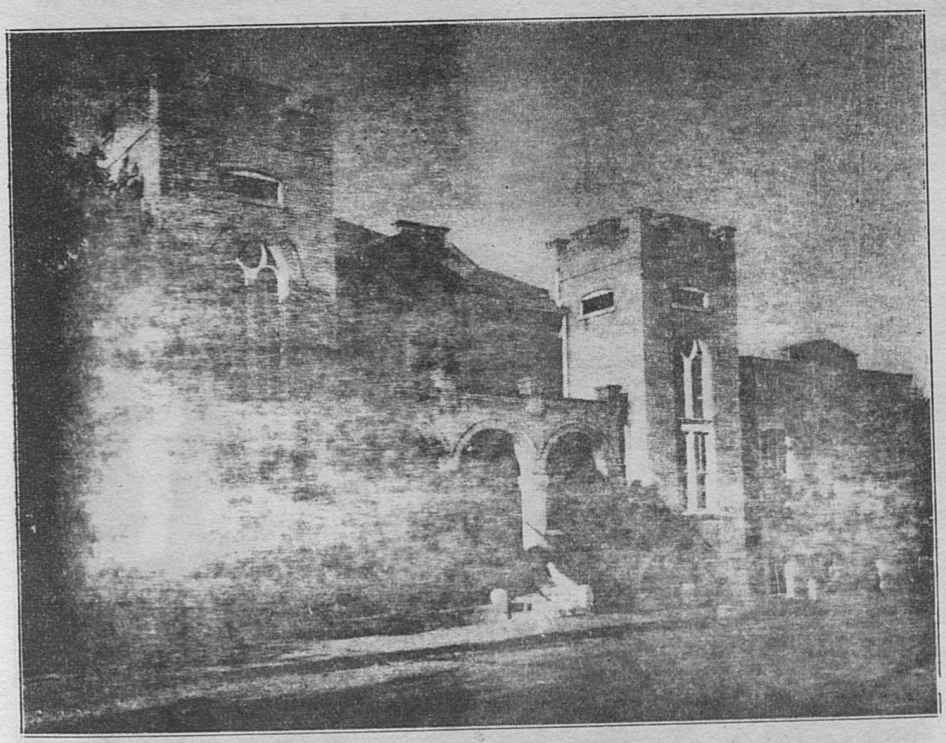
Any story of the agricultural and industrial life of Union County would be incomplete without mention, however brief, of the part played by its banking institutions.

The banks doing business within the county had at the closing of business on June 30, 1940, total deposits amounting to $2,291,-275.82. This represented a gain over the preceding year of $32,434.88. These banks are located in Morganfield, Uniontown, Sturgis, and Waverly. They represent seventy years of co-operation in the upbuilding of the business life of the communities they serve.

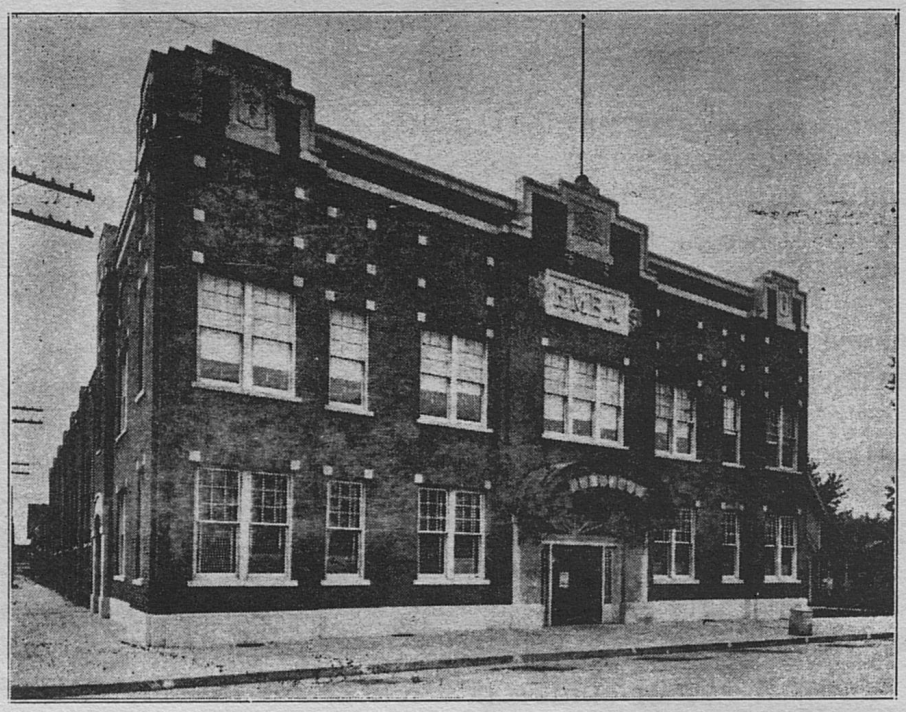
Prior to the War between the States, in the absence of legally organized banks, the ordinary banking needs of the community were covered by the local merchant. The "bank" conducted at Uniontown during the fifties by Munsie Higginson was, doubtless, of this earlier mercantile character, for so well did the local merchants meet the banking requirements of the growing agricultural community that not until 1869 was a charter issued for a Union County bank. The legislature of that year granted to George Huston and associates, of Morganfield, a charter for a bank which was opened in 1870 and reorganized, in 1874, as the National Bank of Union County. Huston, the original organizer, remained in active charge of the bank's offices until his retirement in 1888, when he was succeeded by R. A. Waller. The bank was reorganized in 1920 and again in 1929 when, after consolidating with the Peoples Bank and Trust Company, it emerged as the present-day Union Bank and Trust Company, of which J. K. Waller is (1941) president, and L. B. Waller, cashier. The Higginson bank and a successor, conducted by a Mr. Van Carman, served the banking needs of Uniontown until 1880, when Sylvester Pike (*see Biographical Sketches*) organized a bank that was followed, in 1899, by the National Bank headed by Martin Morgan. In 1902 the present-day Farmers Bank was char-



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, STURGIS



STURGIS BAPTIST CHURCH



E. M. B. A. BUILDING, STURGIS



AMERICAN LEGION COMMUNITY BUILDING, STURGIS

tered, and in 1911 it absorbed the Morgan institution. Its present officers are C. P. Cottingham, president, and Sam Clements, cashier.

Among the early banks was one at Caseyville owned by W. W. Pierson and T. N. Givens who, in 1886, the year the railroad first entered Sturgis, set up a branch bank in that newly founded town. Seven years later the Caseyville office was moved to Sturgis, and the business was incorporated as the State Bank of Sturgis. In 1937, after nearly a half-century of business activity, it closed its doors.

Present-day banks of Union County, in addition to those already mentioned in connection with Uniontown and Morganfield, include the Bank of Waverly, the Farmers State Bank of Sturgis, and the National Bank of Morganfield. The Waverly Bank, of which C. M. Hancock is president and W. S. Kellen, cashier, and the Sturgis bank, organized in 1902 as the First National and reorganized in 1916 as the Farmers State Bank, serve their respective communities. George T. Nunn is president of the Farmers State Bank, and Frank Steelman is its cashier. The National Bank of Morganfield, organized in 1904 by John M. Crowe and associates, shares with the Union Bank and Trust Company the banking business of the county seat. Collectively, these institutions meet in an adequate manner the present banking needs of Union County.

EARLY CHURCHES

NOT FAR BEHIND the first settlers in Kentucky came the frontier church. Methodist circuit-riders and Presbyterian and Baptist pastors began to preach the gospel in Union County soon after the first cabins were built. Religious services were at first held in settlers' cabins, but in mild weather the "cabin preaching" was supplemented by camp meetings.

The zeal and fervor of the first pastors and circuit-riders, however, was met by pronounced indifference to religion on the part of the people in general. Morals were at a low ebb when, at the end of the century, a "profound awakening," accompanied by a wave of religious fervor, swept over the entire State and adjoining territory. This revival movement originated in western Kentucky in the camp meetings of the McGhee brothers, one a Cumberland Presbyterian and the other a Methodist. Meetings in Logan and Webster Counties and later at Nazareth, in Union County, attracted large crowds, at times so great that two or more preachers addressed the congregation simultaneously. Everything was of a primitive nature; crude benches were erected in a shady grove, and tents and cabins were used to lodge those who wished to remain for all the services, which usually lasted several days. At night, the scene became indescribably weird. The grove, illuminated with the flickering light of candles and torches, resounded to the impassioned exhortations of the preachers, the distressed cries and moans of the penitent, and the songs of praise of the saved. Excitement rose to a high pitch of religious fervor and emotionalism.

One eyewitness of these meetings wrote, ". . . the pointed and earnest manner with which the preachers exhorted the people to repentance, prayer and faith, produced the most awful sensations in the minds of all present, and resulted in the conversion of large numbers. . . . Few, if any, escaped without being affected. Such as tried to run from it were frequently struck on the way, or impelled by some alarming signal to return. No circumstance appeared more striking than that numbers would fall and remain unconscious of external objects for hours together." The result of such meetings was a pronounced increase in church member-

ship, particularly among Baptists who, by 1820, had more members than all other denominations combined.

The first Baptist congregation recorded in Union County was organized at the home of Henry Morris, near Highland Creek, six miles from Morganfield, on March 17, 1812. This congregation, known as "Old Highland," was organized by John Bourland, Job Hobbs, John Welden, and John Grantham. Other charter members were Henry and Jane Morris, Sarah Wade, James Davis, John Buck, Aquilla Davis, and Frances and Mary Berry. Services were held at the homes of members for several years, and not until about 1818 was a church building erected. John Grantham was the first pastor, followed by William C. Buck, who served this and other congregations until 1835, when he removed to Louisville.

Old Highland congregation was instrumental in organizing other Baptist churches in Union County; among these was Little Bethel, formed in 1820. Charter members included William Hammack, Jeremiah Collins, Elizabeth and Christopher Young, Asher Cox, Peggy Young, Sarah Collins, Charles Buck, and William C. Buck, who served as pastor. In 1824 Old Highland congregation assisted in the organization of a church at Morganfield and, in 1848, one at Uniontown. By 1879, when the Union County Association of Baptists held their first anniversary, there were nine churches in the organization with a membership of 526.

Court records of Union County show that Claiborne Duval, a Methodist clergyman living near Morganfield, was performing marriage ceremonies there as early as 1815. In 1820 Duval gave a plot of ground three miles from Morganfield upon which was erected a rude log church called Duval's Chapel. This is said to be the first Methodist Church in Union County. Members of the original congregation included N. G. and Susan Floyd, William and Lucinda Sale, Claiborne Duval, Jane Duval, Elizabeth Dillon, Jane Coleman, Catherine Edwards, Harriet Holt, S. A. Graham, and J. J. Williams. The log structure served the congregation until about 1855, when a more commodious building was erected. This church, known as Antioch Methodist Church, has been rebuilt several times and still serves a rural community.

The Morganfield Methodist Circuit was organized in 1828, and became the center of the denomination's work in Union County. In 1841, the Morganfield Methodist congregation, whose $2,000 brick building had been completed shortly before, was

separated from the circuit. This church numbered among its charter members James R. and Rachel Hughes, J. M. and John F. Cromwell, Margaret Perry, Elizabeth Parker, Eveline Marshall, Mahala Berry, and H. W. Waggener. The first pastor was Edwin Roberts.

An old chronicler records that "the church had improved wonderfully during this year (1848)—one hundred and five white and five black members had been added;" but unfortunately one "erring sister" had been expelled for having dancing in her home. The same writer reports that when the question was asked as to what was being done for the "pastoral instruction" of the children, it was said, "the preacher had distributed *Caper's Catechisms.*" During the early years, pastors and circuit-riders were paid for their services in provisions. One record states that the pastor had received as his salary during the current year, "125 bushels of corn, 900 pounds of pork, 200 pounds of beef, 3 bushels of salt, 100 pounds of sugar, 40 pounds of coffee, 2 pounds of tea, and 20 pounds of tallow." During the War between the States it was reported by the Rev. John Randolph, in charge of the circuit, that such was the excited state of the public mind that little could be done in a religious way. "Congregations are small," he said, "and it is with difficulty that the attention of the audience can be secured, even after it has assembled."

By 1894, the congregation in Morganfield had outgrown its building and in that year a new church was built across the street. It was a brick structure costing $14,000. It was still in use in 1941. A Sunday School room was added in 1912.

About 1835, a Methodist congregation was organized at Uniontown, the original members being George and Dulcinia Brown, William Fightmaster, Louise Graham, and Susan Berry. The first church, erected in 1874, was constructed of brick at a cost of $3,800.

Methodist societies were organized at other places in the county; among these was one at Caseyville, probably soon after 1837, when the town was incorporated. Services were held at first in old Union Church, but later a small frame church was erected on Rock Street. The great flood of 1884 washed this building from its foundation and the little church floated away down the Ohio River with its bell tolling mournfully. During the same year this church was replaced with a small frame building, still in use

Before 1818, there were not more than a dozen Catholic families scattered throughout Union County. These were visited, probably at long intervals, by Fathers Nerinckx and Badin, of Nelson County. In December, 1820, a colony of nuns from the mother-house of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, in Nelson County, journeyed 150 miles on horseback, with all their belongings sewed in a tow-cloth apron, to Union County. Here on a small farm, which had been donated to Father Nerinckx, they began the establishment of a school. This primitive institution, known later as the Academy of St. Vincent and often spoken of as "Little Nazareth," consisted of cabins and a chapel constructed of logs. The Catholic population in Union County had been considerably augmented at this time by those who had moved here from Washington, Marion, and Nelson Counties. To this little log chapel at St. Vincent, these people were wont to come when a traveling priest came that way to say mass.

In 1824, Father Elisha J. Durbin, from the College of St. Joseph at Bardstown, came to assume jurisdiction over western Kentucky. To this young priest, then only twenty-four years old and recently ordained, was entrusted the pastoral care of the Catholic population of the entire region extending from the Ohio River to Tennessee, and from the line of Jefferson County to the Mississippi. Equally dependent upon him, in all spiritual emergencies, were the Catholics living in the counties that bordered the northern bank of the Ohio in the states of Illinois and Indiana. When Father Durbin reached the seat of his mission near Morganfield, in Union County, he found the little log chapel at St. Vincent the only structure for Catholic worship between the line of Breckinridge County and the Mississippi River. Here he preached his first sermon after his arrival. Within two years after assuming the duties of his mission, Father Durbin had built, near the site of the old log chapel at St. Vincent, a new brick church called the Sacred Heart. This building was used until 1855 when a larger and better appointed edifice was erected.

The second church built by Father Durbin was St. Ambrose, Henshaw, Union County, erected about 1834 on a 200-acre grant of land from Thomas Cropper, of Virginia. This church, known as "Lower Chapel," was attended by Father Durbin or his assistant until 1860, when it was transferred to the pastorate of St. Agnes at Uniontown. Services at Uniontown were held in the homes of parishioners until 1860, when St. Agnes Church

was built. This little brick edifice, known as Winter Chapel when the larger church was erected across the street, still stands. The new church of St. Agnes, dedicated in October, 1893, is in Romanesque style.

Not until 1878 was St. Ann's Church at Morganfield completed, services before that time being held at the home of I. A. Spalding, Jr., and at that of his father, I. A. Spalding, Sr. The site for the church was the gift of the younger Spalding.

The Catholics of Waverly and the surrounding region, while accustomed to worship at Sacred Heart Church, St. Vincent, had long desired a church of their own more conveniently located. Through the efforts of Father McNeil, a new parish was organized at Waverly, in 1909 and, in 1910, St. Peter's Church was dedicated. This building, destroyed by fire in 1923, was rebuilt a year later.

Presbyterians were among the earliest of the religious sects to arrive in Kentucky and it was among them the revival movement first showed itself. Because of doctrinal differences they failed to profit by the revival spirit as other denominations had done, and their growth was slower in the early years. Several churches, however, were a direct outgrowth of the camp meetings held in Union County during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The Cumberland Presbyterian churches of Caseyville and Sturgis developed from the yearly meetings held at Nazareth campground, two and one-half miles northwest of Sturgis, on Cypress Creek. This camp meeting held an important place in the religious life of the community for many years. In 1833 a small frame church called Mount Ephraim was erected at Nazareth by the Cumberland Presbyterians. Members of this church, who lived at Caseyville, later organized a congregation which held services in the old Union Church of that place until about 1860, when a small frame church was erected. This building is still in use. A Cumberland Presbyterian church, also a branch of the Mount Ephraim congregation, was erected at Sturgis in 1866.

In September, 1839, the Rev. John J. Pierce, a Presbyterian minister, and B. F. Spellman organized a Presbyterian congregation in Morganfield. Members of this first organization included William H. and Elizabeth Adair, Eliza T. Cromwell, Jonathan R.

Hughes, Sarah McCoughtry, Susan Holt, Elizabeth Graham, William Gardner, and Barbara McElroy. Services were held in a small brick building known as Union Academy, on South Morgan Street, until 1843, when a building designed to combine a church and a seminary was erected. This was used until 1872 when the present church was built. A Presbyterian congregation, organized at Uniontown in 1851, held services in a tobacco factory for several years. In 1877 a small church was erected.

The Christian Church, founded in Kentucky by a former Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Barton W. Stone, is another of those religious organizations which took root in the revival meetings of the McGhee brothers in Logan County. Stone attended these meetings and was so impressed he organized a camp meeting of his own, at Cane Ridge Meeting House, Bourbon County. As a consequence of this meeting, described as the "most remarkable assemblage ever known on the continent," Stone, with his entire congregation, withdrew from the Presbyterian fellowship and organized an independent church to which he gave the name Christian. Later, in 1832, Stone merged his organization with that of Alexander Campbell since the two men found themselves in agreement in all essential doctrines. Campbell called his church Disciples of Christ, but the Kentucky branch of that organization has retained the name Christian.

The first church of the Christian denomination in Union County came into being in 1838 under the leadership of one Elder Graham of Illinois. The first meetings were held at the home of Isham Sellers and later at that of Daniel Hopgood. In 1844 a lot was secured and a small frame building erected. This served the congregation until 1894, when a larger and more commodious brick building was dedicated. When the Christian congregation was organized at Uniontown, services were held at first in vacant buildings and after 1848 in the Baptist Church which was free for the use of all denominations. During the War between the States services were conducted regularly by a chaplain in the Confederate Army. In 1893 the congregation dedicated a new building. In addition to Morganfield and Uniontown, Christian congregations were organized during the latter half of the nineteenth century at Cypress (later Sturgis), Caseyville, Shiloh, Bordley, New Liberty, and Seven Gums.

St. John's Episcopal Church at Uniontown was built about 1870, though a congregation had been organized at a much earlier date. Before the church was built, the few Episcopalians in the community held services in the Baptist church. In 1882 the new church was consecrated by Bishop T. U. Dudley, at that time assistant bishop of the Diocese of Kentucky.

There were few Negro churches in Kentucky until after emancipation, Negro slaves generally attending the churches of their masters. A gallery was usually set aside for the use of Negroes. Sometimes services were held in schoolhouses or vacant churches where Negro preachers were in charge. There is record of a Negro slave, Andy Parker, being licensed to "exhort" in Union County in 1850. It is stated that this old preacher was noted for piety and for labors among his people. Today Negroes of Morganfield have four churches: the Missionary Baptist, Freewill Baptist, Methodist, and Church of God. Uniontown has three, the Mount Pleasant Baptist, built in 1879; the Methodist, organized in 1872; and the Colored Sanctified Church.

SCHOOLS

MEASURED by modern standards, the pioneers were often unlettered, but they brought with them to Kentucky the old Saxon regard for the value of education. Wherever they felled the forests and erected their homesteads, a cabin was set apart for a school, often within the stockades.

One of these, the first school in Kentucky, was within the fort at Harrodsburg in 1775, before either a church or court of justice had been opened. It was taught by a woman, Mrs. William Coomes, whose only textbooks were paddle-shaped pine shingles inscribed with the alphabet, and the Bible. Col. Robert Patterson had scarcely completed the blockhouse at Lexington when a teacher was engaged to conduct a school within the fort. At McAfee's Station, near Harrodsburg, John May opened a school in 1777. At Logan's Station, at Boonesborough, and other settlements, pioneer educators taught while the war whoop of the Indian might still be heard.

Log schoolhouses built by neighboring farmers sprang up in widely scattered points throughout Kentucky. Teachers were expected to instruct their pupils in "reading, writing, and cipher-ing to the Rule of Three." Sometimes they knew little more than their pupils, those who were esteemed the highest being of the "old walloping kind," who could administer the birch rod with the greatest dexterity. They were paid in tobacco, buffalo steaks, or bear bacon. Schoolrooms were unsightly and cheerless, with small windows, clapboard roofs and doors, puncheon floors and, across one end, a great fireplace. It was the duty of the older boys to cut the logs for fuel and to carry water from the spring.

The earliest school in Union County of which there is record was opened in Morganfield in 1812-13 and taught by Aquilla Davis who was also postmaster (1814-20). The little log building stood in the northeastern part of the town "on the edge of the old graveyard." Davis subsequently taught several terms in this building.

Following Davis, a man by the name of Boice taught school in a log cabin in another part of the town.

As late as 1832-35 the log schoolhouses were still in use in Union County, according to George Huston who came to Morganfield to attend school because of "superior opportunities" for education. In his "Memories of Eighty Years" he describes the log schoolhouse in Morganfield:

On the following Monday morning after my long, hard journey, I gathered up my Murray's Grammar, my Dilworth's English and Arithmetic (all in pounds, shillings and pence), my paper, my home-made ink and my good goose quills, to be made into pens. Prepared with these I then went to the schoolhouse. This building, built of logs and with a single room perhaps twenty feet square, was also used as a place of worship, there being no church in the village. Our seats were made of small poplar trees cut down, split and hewed on top, with auger holes beneath the ends and legs inserted in these holes, without backs or supports of any kind. Part of a log was cut out on one side of the wall and glass inserted in the space to give light. Holes were bored in the log below the little window, wooden pins were driven in these holes and a broad plank laid on these pins constituted the writing desk. The schoolhouse and its appointments did not indeed seem to me much of an improvement upon the Craven Boswell's school, though this was in an older and better settled and richer community.

I had hardly taken my appointed place before I noticed a little black eyed girl with curly hair who sat on the bench behind me. She was the prettiest child I had ever seen, but much smaller than myself, and five years younger, so that she seemed a mere baby to me, for I was then a big boy of thirteen. But I hated her at sight for she stuck a pin in me at the first chance. Little did I then think that in after years my destiny would be so linked for life, for better or for worse, with this little vixen. I soon learned that her name was Sally Brady, and I hated her all the more as I came to see how petted and indulged she was as the only daughter of a prominent citizen, the leading physician of the county.

Our teacher's name was John Dickey, and he had a flourishing school of some twenty pupils, about all the children then living in and around the village of Morganfield. Looking back, I think he must have been a good teacher for his day, perhaps considerably above the average, although his methods seem strange and awkward. We were required to memorize an assigned lesson of some dozen lines every night, and to recite this next morning from memory. To a child with untrained mind this was no small matter. In addition, we had reading, spelling and writing, which was a specialty then. Our teacher prided himself on his great skill in making and mending pens, for he had all that to do. He would head a sheet of writing paper with a pithy sentence as a copy for us to imitate. We, with a straight edge and a piece of lead, would rule lines to write by, for ruled paper was then unknown.

After attending school for some time I grew ambitious to stand at its head, and this I could have done but for one other pupil. The hardest lesson was the recitation of mornings from memory and on this I turned

down and kept down the half dozen in our class, with the single exception of Mariah Delaney. She could always turn me down, and continued to do so as long as I was in school, notwithstanding my utmost efforts.

In these days we school children celebrated the 8th of January with more enthusiasm than we did the 22nd of February, for that was the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, then the recent and great event. Andrew Jackson was then the president, and to us a greater man than George Washington. During the first summer of my school days at Morganfield an event, which was very important to the school, and in a way to the whole community, came off. This was a foot-race that our teacher made up, arranging the race with a young blacksmith named Silas Finnie on one side and himself on the other, to run fifty yards for a purse of twenty dollars in gold — a large stake for those days. Regular training was resorted to. I remember how deeply impressed I was by the fact that Mr. Dickey wore around his ankle heavy bars of lead. Judges for the race were carefully chosen and formally appointed, and when the contest came off a large portion of the inhabitants of the then sparsely settled country was present. Betting was rife and ran high, and the school children loyally staked their all on Mr. Dickey. I had sixty two and a half cents, and I bet every cent on the teacher. Mr. Dickey triumphed, to our unbounded delight and pride, and it has appeared, to me, in after life, wonderful that all the school did not turn out gamblers.

In the meantime, numerous private academies sprang up throughout the State, flourished for a time, then ceased to exist. Soon after the establishment of the county an act to establish an academy in Union County was approved by the General Assembly and, from proceeds from the sale of lands donated by the State for school purposes, the first brick schoolhouse in Morganfield was erected in 1821 on a lot donated by Presley O'Bannon. The building was burned before it was occupied, but the State again appropriated 2,000 acres of land to the use of the academy and, in 1828, a new building, called Union Academy, was completed. The price of tuition was $6 for the lower branches, $8 for medium, and $10 for higher branches for a term of five months. Trustees at this time were Robert Gilchrist, James Townsend, Isaiah Williams, Samuel Casey, Hiram Givens, and George Catlett. Old records show that the Rev. Alexander Curry was one of the first teachers, and that at the end of the first term he received "the cordial thanks of the board and of the parents and guardians of the pupils whom he has had in charge for the faithful performance and discharge of the duties as their instructor." In 1840 a resolution was passed by the board to employ "a competent teacher of English and Latin at a salary of $600 a year."

In 1854, the trustees delivered the house and grounds of Union Academy to the trustees of the common schools "to be used and occupied as a schoolhouse for common school purposes, under the common school law." How long Union Academy remained under the common school trusteeship is not definitely known.

About 1870, the trustees sold the Morgan Street property and purchased from the Presbyterian Church its building on Main Street, which served the academy for many years. The name was changed at this time from Union Academy to Collegiate Institute, and the school divided into three departments—collegiate, academic, and primary. Maj. J. S. Austin was principal from 1871-76, and reported to the trustees at the end of the term, June, 1872, that "the moral tone of the school was good, and out of 131 students not one had been dismissed or severely punished." Major Austin endeavored to introduce military training into the school but, finding it unpopular, soon discontinued it. The teachers paid rent for the school, kept the building in repair, and had "what was left" of the money taken in by subscription from the students. This old academy, where many Morganfield citizens received their education, ceased to operate in 1892, when the present public school system was inaugurated.

The first public school in Morganfield was built in 1892, and was for the use of both the grade and high school pupils. In 1910, a separate high school was erected, with the addition of a gymnasium and an auditorium in 1927. In 1939-40, a new high school was built and equipped at a cost of more than $100,000, and the old building became a grade school. In connection with the school there is a library for the use of the students. The school offers special courses in industrial arts, home economics, commercial subjects, vocational agriculture, and the fine arts. A high school band was organized in 1932.

St. Ann's, an elementary Catholic school, is operated by the Sisters of Charity for boys and girls of the Morganfield parish.

St. Vincent Academy, situated on a 400-acre tract five miles from Morganfield, is one of the State's leading religious institutions, whose story dates back to the very beginning of Union County. First known as Little Nazareth, St. Vincent was established by a colony of nuns who set out, in 1820, from the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, near Bardstown, and journeyed 150 miles on horseback to Union County. Here, on a

small farm which had been donated to the church, these pioneering women began the establishment of a girls' boarding school. The original buildings consisted of cabins and a chapel constructed of logs. These served for a number of years until the first permanent buildings of brick were erected. It is said that the nuns burned the brick in their own kiln and then trundled them in wheelbarrows to the brickmason who did the construction work. In 1856 a substantial brick building was erected at a cost of $22,000. This was added to from time to time; a guesthouse of two stories was completed in 1870, and a building which includes a chapel, a music room, and an art room, in 1878. Today the stately three-story brick buildings surrounded by century-old trees house a coeducational graded school and an accredited high school for girls.

In the early years schools of Caseyville and Mulfordtown were taught wherever a vacant house could be secured. The seats were so uncomfortable that children often brought with them their own little chairs and tables. It was said that the end of the school term resembled a general "moving day." One of the early teachers, Miss Emma Kerney, related the following incident:

> At the beginning of the school, a small boy who was a cripple as a result of a broken back, came with his slate and pencil. The bell rang, the children came in, found their seats and began work. Soon George picked up his things and said, as he started to leave the room, "Good-by, Miss Emma, come and see us sometime." I said, "Son, you are not leaving now are you? We have just begun work." George answered, "These seats are too hard and there are no pictures or paint on the walls. If you ever get this ugly house fixed up, let me know and I might come again sometime." With the help of the children I soon had some pictures hung. When I had secured a comfortable seat for George, I went to his home and told him we had fixed the room for him and wanted him to come back. He came and finished the term.

Old records show that Mr. and Mrs. Benedict Wathen on January 8, 1840, deeded to the school trustees of Caseyville a brick building, "to be used five days a week for school purposes and two days a week for religious services."

In the winter of 1882 Charles B. Hatfield opened a subscription school at Caseyville. By the end of the third year, enrollment had increased sufficiently to justify the employment of four teachers. The floods of 1883 and 1884 rendered the building unsafe, and it was deemed expedient to secure another building. Through the

efforts of Mr. Hatfield and a committee of citizens, ground was secured and a schoolhouse erected high above floodwaters on a hill between Caseyville and Mulfordtown. This school, which combined grades and a high school, continued successfully for many years. It was always known as "The Hill." Today high school students in Caseyville attend the Sturgis school.

The first school in Sturgis, established in 1888, was a private subscription school taught by Miss Nora Beard. Prior to this time the children of the Sturgis area attended schools at Commercial Point and at Cypress. In 1906 Sturgis had its first public school, a two-story, twelve-room brick building on Lee Street, between Tenth and Eleventh. In 1911 it became an accredited high school, adding manual training, domestic science, and physical training to the curriculum. A new high school building was completed in 1921; it became the Junior High School in 1937, when the new Senior High School was erected. This building contains sixteen classrooms and a gymnasium.

The Ohio Valley College was founded at Sturgis in 1895 by the Baptists of Union County. The building, a two-story brick, stood on a gently rolling, tree-shaded campus of twelve acres. In addition to a regular college department, the school included teacher-training, commercial courses, and music. A dormitory, called the McGill Home, was erected in 1907. From the first the college had a struggle for existence and finally, in 1914, closed for lack of funds. The building was dismantled and the material used in the construction of the First Baptist Church of Sturgis. The dormitory was sold for a private residence.

Uniontown had no public schools, according to records, until 1872, when, at the request of the Rev. G. A. Vantroostenberghe, pastor of St. Agnes Church, St. Rose Academy, a coeducational grade school, was established by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. In 1905 a new brick building was completed and the name changed to St. Agnes School. A high school was opened in 1922 in the little brick chapel opposite St. Agnes Church. The flood of 1937 rendered the high school building uninhabitable and Father A. H. Tompkins undertook to erect an addition to the grade school which would accommodate high school students. As no funds were available, he requested from every man in the parish a donation of fifteen days' work or the equivalent in money. In December, 1938, the new building was completed.

The first public school building in Uniontown was erected in 1890, and an addition built in 1895. Harkins Hall, a new gymnasium, built with the aid of the Works Progress Administration, honors Prof. Otis Harkins, superintendent of Uniontown public schools.

In 1908 and 1909, Union County schools improved materially when State funds were increased and State and county funds were combined and distributed on a basis which equalized opportunities for each county.

In 1937, the Sturgis city schools merged with the county school system, thereby coming under the jurisdiction of the county school superintendent. A year later the Morganfield schools consolidated with the county school system, thus bringing under one central head all schools in the county except the parochial schools.

In 1941, there were twenty elementary and three high schools in the county.

MORGANFIELD: THE COUNTY SEAT

General Information

RAILROAD: Illinois Central. Two local freight trains, one southbound at 9:10 A.M., one northbound at 3:45 P.M. Both carry passenger coaches.

BUS LINE: Greyhound Line. Schedule: northbound, 7:00 A.M., 11:15 A.M., 2:45 P.M., 8:05 P.M.; southbound, 12:10 A.M., 9:15 A.M., 3:35 P.M., 7:35 P.M.

TAXIS: 25 cents within the city limits.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Two hotels.

RECREATION: Legion Park has swimming pool. One motion picture theater and one bowling alley. Boating and fishing in Morton's Lake on State Highway 56 near Morganfield.

LIBRARY: Free Public Library open three afternoons a week.

NEWSPAPERS: The *Union County Advocate* is published each Thursday. The Evansville *Courier* and the Louisville *Courier-Journal* arrive ir Morganfield at 7:30 A.M. daily.

LIQUOR REGULATIONS: Morganfield has four licensed package liquor dispensaries.

In those expansive days when the Kentucky Legislature created, on the average, a new county every year, the selection of its seat of justice was always a memorable occasion. It was necessarily one of the first steps in the permanent organization of its government. Union County's act of incorporation named six men to act as commissioners for this purpose, and they were directed to meet at the house of Jeremiah Riddle on May 27, 1811. This was also the day specified for the convening of the first court of the new county, and undoubtedly a small crowd was gathered for the occasion.

A space had already been cleared around the large spring on a tract of land which had passed into the hands of Presley O'Bannon through his wife, who was the granddaughter of the Revolutionary War General, Daniel Morgan. When the commissioners, or at least a number of them, together with the justices of the peace and others, met at the larger of the two springs in Morgan's field, they were so pleased with the place that they favored it as the county seat. It was in their opinion "the most available" spot and they recommended "that the Public Square should be near the spring." However, a committee, to be composed of a minimum of three of the following five men, was appointed to determine the site for the Public Square: Hugh

McElroy, Samuel Givens, Joseph Delaney, Daniel McKenney, and John Blue. This same committee was entrusted with the task of drawing up a plan for the erection of the public buildings of the new county.

According to a traditional off-the-record story, the exact spot for the courthouse was determined by a cane which one of the commissioners hurled into space. In the unhurried manner appropriate in the sparsely settled country of that day, these gentlemen, undoubtedly with plenty of noncommissioned company, had talked and walked, and, it is said, imbibed Jeremiah Riddle's liquor. Somewhat fatigued and feeling the effects of their drinks, they sat down. Someone suggested that the Public Square should be determined by throwing a cane into the air, and where it fell—there the courthouse would be erected. It was done and, so the story goes, the decision of the cane was accepted.

There are two slight variations in this story by way of additional and somewhat different detail. One version relates that Riddle's Spring had been decided upon as the site of the first county seat, and that it was changed to Morgan's Spring, its present site, a little later, when Presley O'Bannon opened a couple of hogsheads of whisky and got the authorities to change their vote. Another version relates, with more truth than the other stories, no doubt, that there were three places under consideration—Morganfield, Uniontown, and Caseyville. The men went to Morganfield first, and there Jeremiah Riddle entertained them and kept them so well supplied with liquor that they never left to see the other places, but went back and reported to the legislature that Morganfield was the ideal place for the county seat.

It seems that the location of the county seat was not definitely accepted for a couple of months after the first meeting of the commissioners appointed for this purpose. More than likely there was some doubt about the availability of the land. In July, 1811, the court, in session again, received a report on the public buildings to be erected and gave new instructions to the commissioners. Then, in August of that year, "Mr. O'Bannon petitioned the court . . . to establish a town on his land, which was to be fifty acres in extent, exclusive of the streets, alleys, Public Square, and spring." These were to be Mr. O'Bannon's donation.

At any rate, on December 23, 1811, a town plan based upon O'Bannon's terms was presented to the court and approved. The

streets then laid out were named for those active in the organization of the county and its seat of justice. The central street, running east and west, was called Main Street. The one south of it was named O'Bannon Street, and the one north of it McElroy Street. The central street running north and south was named Morgan Street, the one east of it Delaney, and the streets west of it were named Townsend and Hughes. After six or eight months the apostrophe and the letter "s" were dropped from the name of the county seat and "Morgan's field" thereafter became Morganfield. James Townsend surveyed the fifty-acre town site and laid out its original plan. The first town trustees, appointed by the court, were Joseph Delaney, Hugh McElroy, Ebenezer Briggs, Samuel Givens, and William Dyer.

The spring at which the commissioners met was situated at the west corner of Main Street and Spring Alley. The site is now a vacant lot between the fire department and the former location of the old Hanger house. In the early days the spring was the source of all the water needed for cooking, drinking, washing, and watering the stock. It was walled up at an early date and its top was covered with a large flat rock with an opening for drawing the water, the overflow draining into a watering trough. It was used for years until it was drained when a well was sunk for a flourmill near by.

A Mere Group of Rude Log Houses

In the leisurely manner of the pioneer days, Morganfield took on the aspects of a rustic county seat—a log cabin capital. As yet the surrounding country had hardly been reclaimed from the wilderness. Up the river at Henderson, seat of the county from which Union had been taken, the Transylvanians were already beginning to shape a more pretentious society. But the note of affluence that they struck during the decade 1810-20 by the erection of a brick courthouse and other edifices, imposing for that day and country, as well as the note of gentility in their general manner, found no immediate echo in Union County.

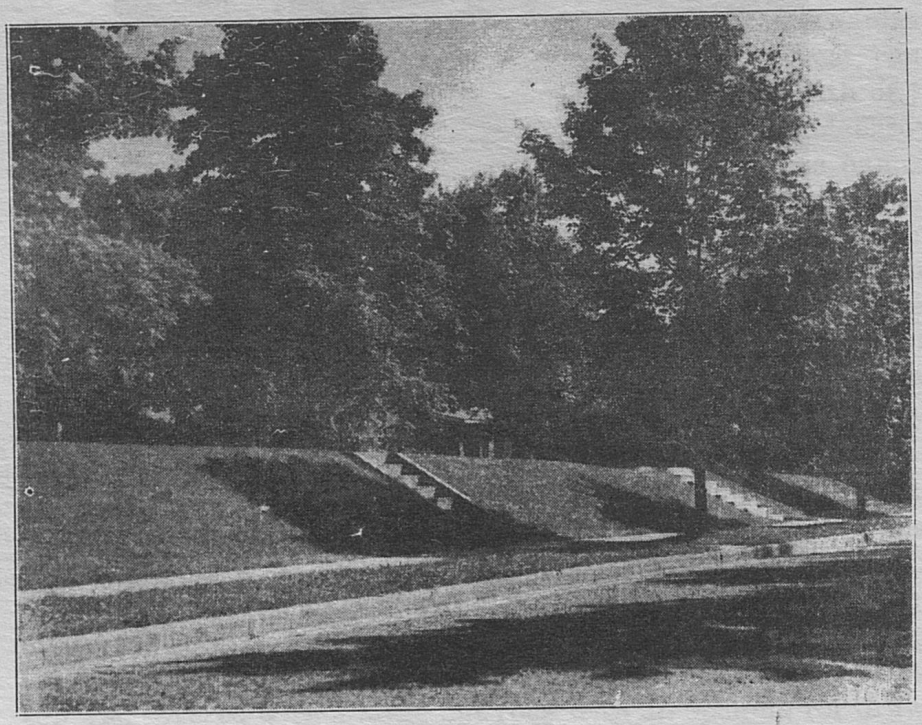
The same commissioners whom the court ordered to fix the site for the Public Square were also instructed to draw up a plan for the erection of the public buildings—a courthouse, jail, stock and stray pen. The committee reported to the court, which reassembled on July 23, 1811, and Daniel McKenney, Joseph Owen, John Blue and Samuel Givens were appointed to let separate



WALLER HOUSE, HOME OF COL. AND MRS. H. L. THRELKELD, MORGANFIELD



ROSS SPALDING HOME, NEAR UNIONTOWN



RESIDENTIAL STREET, MORGANFIELD



LIBRARY AND WOMAN'S CLUB, MORGANFIELD

contracts on August 1, 1811, for the erection of each of the public buildings. The jail apparently was considered the more urgent need as it was ordered to be completed by the April term, 1812, while the other buildings did not have to be finished until the July court, of 1812.

The first courthouse was located on the north side of the Public Square, opposite the present building. It was a one and one-half-story house of chinked and daubed hickory logs, measuring 26 by 20 feet. The jail was also a log structure that depended upon the goodwill of its occupants for effective incarceration.

Jeremiah Riddle was the first resident of the newly established town, since he had already lived on the land of O'Bannon a number of years and continued to do so afterwards. Ephraim Sellers, the first to settle in the village after it became a town, was a native of North Carolina. He located, in 1811, in a log cabin near the spring. This cabin was later owned by Dr. E. Matthews. One of the first establishments opened for business was a tavern kept by Henry Tucker. Two men who, in other connections, figure prominently in Union County's pioneer history, the already mentioned Ebenezer Briggs and Peter Casey, were also early tavern-keepers. John Pierson was the first village blacksmith, and the first general store was opened by a man named Frazer.

The postoffice at Morganfield was established on March 23, 1813, with Ebenezer Briggs as the first postmaster. He was succeeded in 1814 by Aquilla Davis, who also filled the position of village schoolmaster.

Postage rates in effect at this time suggest the comparatively primitive conditions of those early years. The charge for every letter that consisted of a single sheet of paper was eight cents for 40 miles or less; ten cents for distances between 40 and 90 miles; twelve and one-half cents from 90 to 150 miles; seventeen cents from 150 to 300 miles; and twenty-five cents from 300 to 500 miles. For every double letter consisting of two pieces of paper the charge was doubled for the same distances, and for every triple letter, or three pieces of paper, the charge was tripled, and so on in the same proportion.

Although there are no records showing from what points Morganfield received its first mail service, it was on three routes in 1824. One was from Elizabethtown, through Big Springs, Hardinsburg, Patesville, Owensborough (*sic*), or Yellow Bank,

Smith's Ferry, Henderson, and Smith's Mills to Morganfield, and then on to Mount Zion and Shawneetown, Illinois—a total distance of 150 miles once a week. The second route was from Morganfield to Mount Vernon, Indiana, 20 miles once a week; and the third route was from Russellville through Greenville, Madisonville, Belleville, to Morganfield; 101 miles once a week. In 1827, the earliest year for which such data is available the net receipts for the Morganfield postoffice were $203.81. Eight years later they were approximately the same.

A Village of More Permanent Appearance

Morganfield's first schoolhouse, a log building with the crude appointments of the frontier era, was also erected during the period 1812-13. It was probably the same log schoolhouse or one similar to that described by George Huston (*see Biographical Sketches*) in his "Memories." The Union County Academy, a more ambitious educational undertaking, similar to those started in numerous counties, was completed in 1821. It was a brick structure, 50 by 25 feet and two stories high. Shortly after its completion the Academy building was burned. The spirit of the academy movement in Union County seems to have languished for awhile and then it was renewed in 1825, when the State Legislature authorized the issuance of a land warrant or warrants not to exceed 2,000 acres of public domain. The money realized from the sale of this land was to be used for the rebuilding of the "Seminary at Morganfield." However, it was not until 1828 that the Academy was rebuilt and ready for use.

In the fall of 1821 the State Legislature approved an act incorporating into the town limits fifty acres of land belonging to Samuel Givens, Jeremiah Riddle, and William Spalding.

The first steps toward the establishment of churches in Morganfield were not taken until 1824, when a Baptist congregation was organized. The Methodists undoubtedly organized a church about the same time, for in 1828 the town became the center of the circuit for the county. The Methodists, however, had been served as early as 1820 by Duval's log chapel about three miles from Morganfield. In 1838 the Christian Church was established in Morganfield, and the following year the Presbyterians organized a congregation which used the small brick building of Union Academy for services.

The first brick house in the town was built by James Holloway, and the second by James Townsend. In 1812 the father of Gen. Ormsby McKnight Mitchel started a two-story house north of the spring. He died before it was completed and Isham Leonard Sellers' father finished it (*see Points of Interest*). Two other old houses were built by Mr. Sellers on Main Street; one a building east of Wathen's drugstore, the other directly across the street.

The crude public buildings erected in 1811-12 were soon found inadequate for the needs of the fast-growing county. As a consequence, in May, 1818, the court appointed James Townsend, Daniel McKenney, Josiah Williams, Samuel Casey, or any three of them, to draw up a plan for a new courthouse. The commissioners, empowered as before to decide upon the exact spot in the Public Square for the new building, selected the site of the present courthouse. The building was completed in 1820 at a cost of $3,800. It was a brick structure, erected only half a decade after Henderson County's brick courthouse and, for the day and place, it was considered comfortable and commodious, remaining in use for more than a half-century.

The log jail erected in 1812 either proved more satisfactory than its description indicates or prisoners were few and far between. Not until 1827 is there record of its replacement. During this year a brick jail, 20 feet square, and containing two separate apartments, one for debtors and one for criminals, was erected.

One of the principal outdoor sports in the early history of Union County, as in many other parts of the State, was horse racing. One of the early tracks was located on the Payne farm near Morganfield; another at Hoe Cake, a small settlement near Raleigh. It was on this latter track that the blooded horse of Francis Ames, a pioneer lawyer, bolted the track and threw his rider who was killed instantly.

In 1832, the old track on the Payne farm was extended to Morganfield, thereby making it a one-mile straightaway. Another track was located on the farm of Tom Richards three and one-half miles from Morganfield and still another at the Sulphur Springs resort, then owned by Sam Holeman.

Great sport was derived from these races and much money expended. Among the fine horses owned by John and Sam Piper were those named Woodford, Gray Sal, and Little Fraud. The

Piper brothers, who bred and trained horses for the race track, lived on a farm adjoining that of George B. Simpson near Grangertown.

"Shinplaster" Money and the Notorious Waring

George Huston in his *Memories of Eighty Years* has given a pen picture of "banking" in the early 1830's and, apropos of this "banking," he also relates an incident that occurred in Morganfield involving the infamous Col. John U. Waring. Colonel Waring, a lawyer of more than ordinary ability, was the owner of real estate in Union, Franklin, Woodford, and Fayette Counties. He was probably the richest man in Kentucky and a constant defendant in criminal cases. He was always armed and seemed not only ready but eager for trouble. Here is Mr. Huston's story:

There was nothing like a bank in Morganfield, and the local methods of banking were most primitive. My first recollection of this kind belongs to my school days in Mr. Dickey's school. At this period Mr. Joshua Davis was one of the principal citizens and had long been a director of the bank of the commonwealth. The bank was located at Frankfort, the state capital. But Mr. Davis resided at Morganfield, and, like all the men of large affairs in that day, he issued paper money of his own and put it into local circulation. He had no bank building nor any place of business, but he caused to be made and issued individual bank notes for six and a quarter cents, for twelve and a half cents, and for eighteen and three quarter cents. These were know as "shinplasters" and were current and accepted without question throughout the village and county. There was no other change, except the silver cut money and that was scarce. One day, coming from school, I saw a man ride up in front of the courthouse and heard him accost Mr. Davis, who was just crossing the road, — "Here Davis," called the man on horseback, roughly and loudly, "See here! I want you to redeem all this stuff"; holding up a well filled reticule.

"You know the custom, Colonel Waring," replied Mr. Davis quietly.

"Be quick about it sir! Be quick!" shouted Colonel Waring.

Mr. Davis said he would settle with him during the day, and with that the two men parted. I stood still, watching to see what would follow — all eyes and ears, now that I knew who the man on horseback was. For John U. Waring was, then the most feared man in Kentucky, and held in terror throughout the whole state. He had been in innumerable personal difficulties and had recently killed a man at Frankfort. I remember thinking that Mr. Davis was very brave to face him calmly and steadily as he did. After an hour or more both the men reappeared and together entered the store and went into the back room where I followed them at a respectful distance to look on, watching and listening. Here they sat down beside a table, and Colonel Waring immediately turned his big black reticule inside out, pouring on the table a great heap of shinplasters issued by Mr. Davis. The money was all crumpled up like dried leaves but Colonel Waring went on

straightening it, counting it and laying it in dollar piles, the whole amounting to eighteen or twenty dollars, as nearly as I can remember.

Mr. Davis sat waiting patiently till the colonel had finished, and then he in time began to empty his own pockets which were stuffed with similar shinplasters which had been issued by Colonel Waring. It afterward appeared that Mr. Davis had used the customary time that he had asked for in making a complete, though hurried, round of the whole village and collecting every note issued by Waring that was anywhere to be found. With this collection and the help of an eight dollar note of Colonel Waring's — borrowed from someone — the debt was paid with a balance in Mr. Davis' favor. [pp. 76-77]

Of other banking and money customs of the day, Mr. Huston wrote:

There was in those days a current joke that the local bankers had no funds in cash except cut money, and that they never had more of that than they could put in their shoes for safe-keeping, over night. This was said of John C. Rieves, with great enjoyment by his old friends, when he left Morganfield to go to Washington, D. C., to assume an important office under Jackson's administration. [p. 77]

A few silver dollars remaining in the county were generally cut up into change. Any one having a silver dollar would take a straight edge, and with it would subdivide the dollar by marks into eight equal pieces, and then by aid of a chisel and hammer cut it into triangular pieces called "bits." These were in common use for change. Whole silver dollars were very rare. [p. 35]

Lincoln's Speech in Morganfield and the 1840's

In retrospect, the biggest event of this period was a political speech by Abraham Lincoln, the only political speech, it is said, that he ever delivered in Kentucky. It was in 1840, the year of the famous presidential race when cider flowed freely and the slogan, "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," was on the tongue of every Whig. "Tippecanoe" was Gen. William Henry Harrison, military hero of a brush with some Indians in Indiana, and also remembered for praiseworthy service in the War of 1812. Harrison and Tyler were Whig candidates for President and Vice President. In this campaign Union County was largely Whig. Therefore, when word reached Morganfield that a stump speaker of that persuasion, Abraham Lincoln by name, was to hold forth at Shawneetown, Illinois, a short distance down the river, a delegation was sent to the rally to seek his oratorical services.

A small parade, including Lincoln and some of his friends, left Shawneetown, ferried the river, and then started on to Morganfield. Along the way it probably grew in size, for it meant there

would be "big doings" in Morganfield. The cavalcade converged on Courthouse Square where a curious and interested crowd awaited the speech of the tall young orator from Illinois. What Abraham Lincoln said was undoubtedly the Whig "line" of that campaign and, more particularly, what might interest a group of farmers of the western country.

The best remembered incident of this day concerns the cannon which was brought along to fire a salute. It was set fast against a tree, and George Riddle stepped up to do the honors of firing it for the occasion. Since no provision was made for the rebound, the cannon was literally blown to pieces. Mr. Riddle, the master of ceremonies, was injured, but tradition relates no other casualties. The breech of this dismantled cannon was long used as a door stop in the James G. Taylor store at Morganfield. When Dr. Louis A. Warren, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Lincoln authority and collector, visited Morganfield, about 1921, it was given to him. The breech was afterwards placed in the Lincoln Memorial Home at Hodgenville, Kentucky, and is now in the museum of the Kentucky State Historical Society at Frankfort. The barrel of this cannon served as a corner marker on the G. D. Robertson farm, near Morganfield, until about 1922, when it was stolen.

The old hotel in Morganfield, where Mr. Riddle entertained Mr. Lincoln and his Whig friends from Illinois, still serves the public as the Kentucky Hotel.

The aftermath of this story occurred almost a quarter of a century later. George Riddle became an ardent Confederate when the War between the States broke out. His fervor or activities, or both, soon landed him on Johnson's Island as a prisoner. Remembering the campaign of 1840, and his hospitality to the cub politician of that year, he wrote to Lincoln, as his descendants remember, in the following vein:

"After my compliments, I would say that in 1840 I had you in tow at Morganfield, Kentucky. I put you and your friends up at the best hotel in town, and it cost me about thirty dollars. Now you have me in tow, and you are not treating me as well as I treated you. If you cannot do any better, send me home to my wife." Mr. Riddle was released.

The physical appearance of Morganfield was considerably improved during the forties. The Methodist congregation erected a $2,000 brick building at the corner of Morgan and O'Bannon Streets in Morganfield.

The Presbyterians, apparently not to be outdone by the Methodists, erected a building in 1843 combining a church and a seminary; then, the following year the Christian congregation purchased a lot and erected a small frame building which was used until 1894.

A note of what was then modern industry was introduced into Morganfield when, in 1842, the first steam gristmill was built at the corner of McElroy and Townsend Streets by John F. Cromwell.

Ex-President Tyler Visits Morganfield

Morganfield was also visited during the 1840's, not by a future President of the United States, but by a former President. After serving out the term of Harrison, John Tyler turned to his property affairs. Among these was a debt against a Virginian who had inherited from his father a Revolutionary War land grant in the lower part of Union County. Tyler accepted this land for the debt and, in the summer of 1846, came to Union County to see the tract and to straighten out a disputed boundary.

George Huston, a young lawyer of Morganfield, was employed as counsel in the case which involved only a few legal investigations. As Huston related (pp. 132-135) in his "Memories," Tyler, who spent a day and a night at his home, "came on horseback, wearing leggins that were covered with mud, as indeed, he was himself, being well splashed from head to foot."

The following day Huston and Tyler set out in the first new buggy that Morganfield ever saw, to inspect the land in question. On the way they met Benedict Wathen, a highly intelligent and cultured gentleman whose land adjoined Mr. Tyler's. These three were shortly thereafter joined by Tilghman Pierson, a famous early surveyor who had been requested to be present. Since he was reputed to know the lines of every boundary in the surrounding country, it was largely upon his knowledge that the settlement of the dispute depended.

As Huston continues the story, all of them exerted every effort to find a certain mulberry tree which bore the mark of the original survey:

> Mr. Pierson led us straight to the corner where to his certain knowledge the mulberry had stood formerly, and he accurately pointed out the converging side lines and the exact spot where the corner was, but he could not find the tree itself, or any trace of it. After a long and futile search

and discussion, I went home with Mr. Pierson to dinner, while Mr. Wathen invited Mr. Tyler to go home with him, which he did, with the understanding that I should call for him on the way home. But the surveyor and I had hardly finished our noonday meal when a messenger came after us in a great hurry from Mr. Wathen's with the information that the mulberry corner was found. This was astonishing news to Mr. Pierson and myself, and we started immediately for the land, wondering what had been discovered. Upon our arrival the President and Mr. Wathen led us proudly to a mulberry tree standing some sixty or eighty yards from the real corner.

"Why there's nothing here," [Mr. Pierson] said in perplexity, turning to Mr. Tyler. "But look, look up there," said the President, pointing to a spot high up on the trunk of the tree. "There are the corner marks."

The surveyor stared at him blankly for a moment in silent amazement and turned again bewilderedly to stare at the mulberry. And then it suddenly dawned upon him that this statesman, who had been chief executive for our nation, and this educated gentleman, who was considered one of the county's most learned men, both believed that a surveyors mark, made at the customary height of five feet, had grown up with the tree till it had moved some ten or twelve feet. When he fully grasped the situation the surveyor fell down and fairly rolled over in paroxysms of laughter. Mr. Tyler looked at him in amazement.

"What's the matter with the man?" he asked rather stiffly.

I explained as well as I could for laughing myself, telling him that Mr. Pierson was naturally surprised and amused that so great and wise a man as the President of the United States should not know so simple a fact as that a mark on a tree never gets any higher than when it was first made, no matter how much the tree may grow in height.

"Is that so?" exclaimed Mr. Tyler, and then he, too, laughed at his own blunder.

It was at this time that the coal industry, largely through the interest of ex-President Tyler, was started in Union County. When on this trip he noticed the coal outcrops on his land and upon his return to Virginia organized a coal company (*see Economic Development*).

Morganfield Reawakens After the War

Morganfield had drifted along somewhat aimlessly for a half-century when the War between the States broke out. During the war, the town was the scene of a half-dozen skirmishes, and occasionally it was disturbed by rumors of invading or marauding forces (*see War between the States*). Significant of the manner in which the war affected the county seat was its loss of population. In 1860 the population was 460 and in 1870 only 300. This was not peculiar to Morganfield, as the population of all the towns in the county dropped during the decade of the war.

The war undoubtedly aroused Morganfield from its apathetic ways, for after the uncertainties of wartime had cleared and there was a more peaceful outlook, its citizens turned to tasks of civic improvement. A movement was set afoot in 1869 to re-incorporate the town with a councilor—instead of a trustee—form of government. Before this the government of the town was quite informal and haphazard. What few improvements were made were financed principally from licenses for saloons which were numerous for the population. A new charter was granted on March 16, 1870, and provided for five councilmen. They had to be owners of real estate in Morganfield, could not be liquor dispensers or keepers of "billiard saloons," and could not be under twenty-five years of age.

Morganfield's new charter was based upon one previously granted to Uniontown and found "in some former volume" of the acts of the Kentucky General Assembly. J. A. Herndon, who attended to the matter, employed as copying clerk a young woman. He gave her specific instructions to cross out the name "Uniontown" wherever it occurred and write in the word "Morganfield." At one place, however, she failed to do this. The young woman, in copying another part of the Uniontown charter, made an error which added to the curiosity value of this charter. At one place it stated that realty could not be sold except by a vote of the *six* councilmen. She was unaware, or failed to remember, that the Morganfield charter provided for only five councilmen, and the word "six" remained unchanged.

These mistakes went unnoticed or uncorrected into the published *Acts* of the Kentucky General Assembly for 1869-70, and were not corrected by the State Legislature until the following year. An act, approved on March 10, 1871, provided that "wherever the word 'Uniontown' occurs in said charter the same be stricken out, and the word 'Morganfield' be inserted in lieu thereof" and that "the fourth section of said act be so amended as to authorize the sale of land upon the vote of five councilmen; and that the word 'six' in the latter part of said section is hereby stricken out, and 'five' inserted in lieu thereof."

Section 6 of the charter enabled the council, among its other "sanitary powers," to regulate the storage of gunpowder and the construction of chimneys. Common to all, or nearly all such charters, was the provision for the suppression of tippling and bawdy houses. The bonded indebtedness of Morganfield under

this charter was limited to $25,000; its maximum tax levy was $2; the poll tax was $3; and its dog tax, $5.

Although incorporated in the spring of 1870, the new municipal government was not organized until November 9, 1871. The above mentioned act of 1871 authorized the presiding judge of the Union County Court "to appoint the councilmen for said town, who shall hold their offices until the next regular election at which a police judge and town marshal may be elected." The five councilmen so appointed were Dr. E. Matthews, S. C. Hughes, Ken Chapeze, D. H. Hughes, and M. R. Waller. Joshua D. Hughes was appointed clerk and treasurer; James H. Marshall, police judge; and W. T. Taylor marshal. D. H. Hughes was elected president of the council, a position he held many years.

An event of commercial importance for Morganfield and the county as a whole at this time was the issuance of a charter for the first regular Morganfield bank. In 1869 the legislature granted a charter to George Huston and associates. This bank was opened in 1870 and in 1874 was reorganized as the National Bank of Union County. Huston managed the bank until 1888 when he was succeeded by R. A. Waller.

In 1879 burglars robbed this bank of several thousand dollars. No trace of the money was ever found. The burglary was generally thought to be the work of the James brothers or members of their gang of outlaws, who were making frequent raids in Western Kentucky about this time.

Again in 1890 this bank was robbed of $3,000. It was the custom of the employees then to close the bank at noon for lunch, when all the money was supposed to be put in the vault. Some of the employees, however, regarded this as needless or too much trouble, and it was during one of these noon hours that the bank was entered from the rear and the money taken. It was the general impression at the time that the thieves knew the money was left out and could be taken easily. Although no trace of the culprits was ever found, it was the general belief that local persons committed the theft.

County Seat Feud and New Buildings

Union County started a little war of its own about this same time. The only casualty was Uniontown, then justly ambitious to take Morganfield's place. After a half-century of use, the old courthouse building, erected in 1820, no longer adequately served

its purpose, and was something of an eyesore as well. Agitation for new county buildings, therefore, became insistent after the war. Upon the basis of this a strong movement was begun to have the county seat changed to Uniontown. It was a growing and prosperous river community more than twice the size of Morganfield.

There was a counter movement, equally strong, to keep the county seat at Morganfield. The movement for removing it was so alarming that a newspaper, the *Union County Advocate,* was started in Morganfield for the express purpose of keeping it at its present site. In 1871, the county election for the Kentucky House of Representatives was almost wholly upon the issue of moving the county seat. John Will Dyer, the grandson of one of the first trustees of Morganfield, was Morganfield's champion. He conducted his campaign with great zeal and was elected. In the legislature he worked earnestly for the passage of a bill that would settle the dispute, and on February 9, 1871, an act was passed leaving the county seat at Morganfield. After this feud was settled, plans were made for the erection of a new courthouse. The fiscal court did not meet, however, until May 1, 1871. At this meeting the motion of James M. Lamb to erect a building at a cost of $25,000 was carried. Although this amount was smaller than that mentioned by two other persons, a later motion by M. M. Berry for an additional $5,000 was passed.

The board of commissioners chosen to investigate the cost and other details of a suitable building reported on October 2, 1871, that the approximate cost of such a building would be $60,000. The court, upon deciding to appropriate this sum, stipulated that it was not to be exceeded. When the building was completed in September, 1872, it had cost $58,067.77.

It was, in the often repeated phrase of that day, "an elegant structure." The two-story brick building, among its many other "elegant" features, was surmounted with a tower containing a clock and a bell. The old clock, taken down when the courthouse was recently remodeled and enlarged, started marking time in 1873. It became a familiar and fixed part of the order of things in Morganfield and was respected even in its last years when it no longer kept reliable time. When the workmen were dismantling the gigantic timepiece they discovered the following information: "Building Commissioners of Union County, Kentucky: I. A. Spalding, J. F. Cromwell, J. S. Sale." The clock was

manufactured by Fultonson and Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The bell, made of copper with silver alloy, sounded the time of day on the hour, and weighed over a ton.

A new jail, containing the jailer's apartment, was completed in October, 1874, at a cost of $26,536.48. It was just south of, or in the rear of, the courthouse. The interior was of iron, and two stories of cells were arranged in the center of a large room. Although the courthouse and jail entailed a considerable debt, it was liquidated in a surprisingly short time.

One of the more significant and more lasting events of the late seventies was the passage, on December 6, 1879, of a set of twenty-five laws entitled "Ordinances of the Town of Morganfield." Most of them are the customary laws of a municipality, but several of them seem somewhat curious today. A fine not to exceed $25 could be imposed for discharging firearms—except on January 1, February 22, July 4, and Christmas Day! An ordinance that suggests one of the mischievous pastimes for small boys at that time was the one carrying a fine not exceeding $10 for shooting those little rubber slings called "nigger killers." Another ordinance, somewhat unexpected, provided for fines from $2.50 to $60 for selling unwholesome food. One of these laws, which drew so much criticism that it was later amended, prohibited hogs from running at large. The following men were councilmen at the time these ordinances were passed: D. H. Hughes, I. A. Spalding, M. R. Waller, Cromwell Adair, and John M. Waggener.

The new courthouse and jail and the erection in 1878 of a church building for St. Ann's Catholic congregation greatly added to the physical attractiveness of Morganfield. This is the same church building, repaired and remodeled, still used by the Catholics of Morganfield and vicinity.

Morganfield's Boom Begins

When the Tenth U. S. Census was taken in 1880 the town had a population of 744, or double that of the previous census. Though still "boomless," Morganfield was coming of age.

The great railroad year of 1872 left Morganfield the center of a dirt road domain. Various attempts to start a railroad about this time, principlly to exploit more fully the rich coal deposits, were unheeded. Local jealousies and lack of public foresight were stumbling blocks. After all, Union County was agriculture-

minded. Then, too, the county's long riverfront with ports like Uniontown, Caseyville, and several lesser ones was considered too strong a competitor by interested capitalists.

Nevertheless, there was something astir and, though belated, it was realized in the next decade. The *Union County Advocate,* under the able editorship of Judge John Samuel Geiger, had become a progressive force. But, above all, there were strong proponents of the modern trend—men like J. K. Waller and J. G. Taylor, who founded a local telephone company in 1885 and installed the first telephone in Morganfield that year. (The first commercial telephone exchange in the country had been opened in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1878.) The same company that installed the first telephone also introduced electricity to Morganfield for the first time in 1886. This was seven years after the invention of the incandescent lamp. These interests were later sold respectively to the Cumberland Telephone Company and to David Rhea.

The new mill built in 1884 was prospering. The old mill building, built in 1860 over the mill works installed at an earlier date, was burned down in 1881. At the time it belonged to J. H. Fink. The *History of Union County* gives this description of the new mill:

> Thomas Kersey was the senior partner, and Frederick Cromwell . . . the junior partner in this firm. The building is two stories and a basement. The boiler is fifty-horse power; cylinder is ten inches in diameter, with a two and a half feet stroke. There are three buhrs — one for corn and two for wheat. The capacity of the wheat buhrs is fifty barrels of flour in twenty-four hours. The meal buhr can turn out two hundred seventy-five bushels of meal in a day. There are three brands of flour — two fine and one common; and bolted and unbolted meal. The cost of the mill, as it now stands, is about $7,800.

Eighteen hundred eighty-six, remembered nationally as the year of the Haymarket Riots in Chicago, was the turning point in Morganfield's history. In many ways it was a predictable year. J. K. Waller had been elected mayor and that was a good sign. He was something of a master of ceremonies in a program that gave top billing to the name of Dr. P. G. Kelsey—for it was Dr. Kelsey who brought the railroad to Morganfield in 1886. He was manager of the Shotwell Coal Mines and the railroad to him was primarily the solution to a coal mining problem. Transportation for coal mined some little distance from the river was

impossible on dirt roads in winter and in rainy weather, and during the best weather it was expensive when compared with transportation costs for coal mined on or near the river. The resulting idleness of the miners during a considerable part of the year was also something of a problem to Dr. Kelsey.

Undaunted by the failure of other companies, he entered boldly into the organization of the Ohio Valley Railroad Company in 1881, and in April, 1882, he was granted a charter by the Kentucky Legislature. The route was through Henderson and Union Counties by way of Henderson, Corydon, and Morganfield, with Evansville as its northern terminus. Construction was started on the road at Henderson in October, 1885, and on March 1, 1886, the railroad had reached Corydon. A month later it had reached Waverly, and on May 1 the O. V., as it was popularly known, reached Morganfield.

Another important event of the year was the founding of *The Morganfield Sun.* This was the second weekly founded in the county seat and one of several then being published in the county. The establishment of a newspaper either heralded or shortly followed the arrival of the railroad in towns all over the country, and Morganfield was no exception to this pattern.

The Sun was first established in a small building which was later torn down for the erection of a livery stable, and was then removed to a building that stood where the present City Building stands. About a decade after its establishment a brick structure was erected on the site of the present postoffice as the permanent home of *The Sun.* Charles F. Hart, the founder of *The Sun* and also its editor and manager for almost forty years, came to Morganfield as a lad of eighteen. For a long time the newspaper came out on Fridays, then became a semi-weekly and later it changed back to a weekly. The subscription price ranged from $1.50 to $2 a year.

The first *Sun,* issued on December 10, 1886, carried several news paragraphs that gave some idea of the kind of expansion that took place during this period. Plans were being made to open Court Street to the railroad, and readers of the new paper were informed that "A handsome structure will be erected by the O. V. people in place of the building now used, which will be torn down. The plans for the new structure are already made, and work will commence as soon as the street is opened." Another paragraph related that the new street to be opened to the

railroad would be plank along its entire length, and that another walk would be started about January 1, 1887, down Morgan Street to a point beyond the brickyard.

At this time, as reported in *The Sun,* the brickwork on J. K. Waller's new drugstore was almost completed and the roof was soon to be put on. Morganfield at this time claimed a distinction which undoubtedly was best appreciated in muddy weather. It was "the only town in this section" which ran "free busses from the hotels to the trains." Naturally, compliments were due to the "enterprising landlords."

Later issues of *The Sun* carried those brief and seemingly unimportant news items that suggest the light color and the warm human qualities that were and still are characteristic of life in a small town. "A street fakir with a cure-all oil, two musical coons and a tooth-pulling attachment" who "made merriment for the people Saturday" was reported in the issue of May 6, 1887.

Charles J. O'Malley (*see Biographical Sketches*) was always good for a sentence even if nothing more than the bare statement that he "was in town this week." The first issue of *The Sun* had carried an appraisal of O'Malley as "a probable legislative candidate. . . . In addition to possessing a fine poetic nature, Charles' administrative ability and native shrewdness are his other chief characteristics, and of such are the best legislators made." On July 25, 1890, he and Dr. Frank Rhea were reported as "considering the advisability of starting a monthly literary magazine at Hitesville . . ." The only drawback, as reported by *The Sun,* was the necessity to secure 500 subscribers.

The Boom-Time Decades

The arrival of the railroad introduced a more modern tempo into the life of Morganfield. During the next three decades the foundation of the contemporary scene was largely laid. A number of small business houses, still in existence, were then established. Brick and concrete were giving the business section of town a more permanent and solid appearance. Morganfield's boom decades were also marked by great home building. Coal miners built comfortable little homes, while merchants built more substantially in one or the other of the town's two new subdivisions.

One of the firms established at this time was the Alhorn brickyard. The two cousins, Charles and F. Alhorn, who started the manufactory were German immigrants, said to have come seeking civil liberties in the United States. The brickyard was opened on ground near the present building of the Christian Church. In 1890 Charles Alhorn sold his interest to the late Robert M. Young, and in 1893 M. R., Matt M., and Collins Waller bought this half interest. The firm of Alhorn and Waller moved in 1910 to Uniontown where it is at present located.

It was in the two decades after the arrival of the railroad that Morganfield made its largest population increases. In 1880 the population was only 744, but in 1890 it had increased to 1,094, and in 1900 to 2,046, the largest numerical gain in its history. In 1910 the population was 2,725, a figure which was not exceeded until 1940. In perspective, Morganfield had reached a point of comparative stability by 1910. Since then losses and gains have been slight and are more related to general conditions than to the town's resources, its location, or to such things as a technological lag.

Morganfield's water supply was still coming from private wells and the public spring when the railroad reached Morganfield. In 1890 *The Sun* reported that Thomas Markham had graded the public spring lot for $40. Then, in 1892, the same men who introduced the telephone and electricity, J. K. Waller and J. G. Taylor, undertook the construction of the town's first waterworks. However, after retaining an engineer and contracting for the construction, the project was turned over to Morganfield as a municipal enterprise. Water was first obtained from near-by mines, but since 1928 it has been piped from the Ohio River at Uniontown, where the municipality of Morganfield owns and operates a plant.

Other important events of these years included the erection of a public school building in 1892 and the establishment of the Peoples Bank and Trust Company in 1893. This bank was first located on Main Street near the public spring, but was soon moved across the street, opposite the courthouse.

Two new mines, opened about 1902, in the Morganfield area, helped continue the expansion started in 1886, and another bank, the National, was organized by John M. Crowe and associates in 1904.

Several of Morganfield's leading business and civic leaders, imbued, no doubt, with the expansion spirit of the day, became interested in a railroad scheme about 1904. Southeast of Morganfield there was the prosperous coal mining town of Providence, and to the west and across the Ohio River in Illinois was Shawneetown, an important commercial point. Providence was connected with the L. & N. R. R. which continued in a southeasterly direction from there. Shawneetown had a railroad connection and Morganfield was connected with Henderson, Evansville, and Louisville. The missing link in this network, as conceived by these men, was a line from Providence to Shawneetown, or more especially to Morganfield. It was an ambitious undertaking, and the day was carried largely by enthusiasm. One of the enthusiasts was the seemingly irrepressible J. K. Waller who wrote frequently to Milton H. Smith, president of the L. & N., trying to arouse interest in the proposed line, but to no avail.

Lee Howell, freight agent at Evansville, became interested in the project, and on one occasion J. K. Waller and T. B. Young went to Evansville to discuss its prospects. Howell thereupon secured free transportation to Louisville for them. After a three-hour conference, Young and Waller came out with a contract. They returned to Morganfield and organized a company with the former as president, the latter as secretary, and a board of directors. The Morganfield & Atlanta, as this line was first named, was incorporated in 1905, and by the articles of its charter was authorized to construct a railroad from Morganfield to connect with the L. & N. R. R. at some point (Providence) in Webster County. During its first years a half-million dollars in bonds were floated to finance it.

The annual report of the Railroad Commission of Kentucky for the year 1905 commented on the proposed M. & A. R. R. as follows: "This railroad will traverse the best portion of western Kentucky and when completed will be one of the best small lines in the State."

While work was progressing on the line, an attractive, modern depot was constructed in Morganfield. The Morganfield & Atlanta, a line of 25.35 miles, was opened for traffic in April, 1906. Mr. Smith, of the L. & N., of which this new line was a subsidiary, gave free transportation to all the prominent men along

the route of the M. & A. R. R., and one of the biggest crowds that ever congregated in Morganfield celebrated its completion.

After operating a short time as the Morganfield & Atlanta, this line became known as the L. & N. For many years freight and passenger trains traveled this road several times a day and it was not until the coal mines closed down and good highways made motor trucking often a more satisfactory method of transportation that this road ceased to be as useful as in its first years.

If any of Morganfield's more critical citizens may have believed that the town was content to remain a somewhat raw agricultural center, the gala opening of the three-story brick Opera House in 1905 probably helped to dispel such an idea. Money was a means to the better things of life and the leading men and women turned out in "formals" to witness Victor Herbert's *The Fortune Teller,* a big-town stage production.

The Pre-War Decade: 1907-17

The purchase of an automobile by T. M. Dyer added an ultra-modern touch to the streets of Morganfield about 1907. At this early date, when the automobile was first being introduced to the nation, many people refused to ride in such contraptions and nearly all turned out to watch its sputtering progress down the streets. It was a sight that caused children to perch themselves on fences and other vantage points in order to get a *safe* and better view of the "horseless buggy." No doubt Mr. Dyer was greeted with the then current derisive cry, "Get a Horse!" Soon afterwards, two of Mr. Dyer's fellow townsmen, Cash Thomas and W. C. Mauzy, purchased automobiles.

Morganfield, unlike Uniontown, has been decidedly free from catastrophes. The one and only important exception was the great fire of 1910. On the night before Easter of this year a fire originating in the Green River Department Store, a chain outfit, destroyed almost a city block. Among the buildings destroyed or greatly damaged were the Morganfield Opera House and the three-story brick Masonic Building. The fire swept across McElroy Street and burned the Baptist Church and parsonage. Upon investigation it was discovered that the fire was of incendiary origin and when apprehended the incendiaries were tried and sent to the penitentiary. The front wall of the so-called Opera Building, with its arched doorway, still stands, and the building of which it forms the facade is still occupied (1941). However,

1910 was not altogether a year of destruction, for Morganfield's first separate public high school was completed at this time.

Another invention that was introduced to Morganfield several years later was the motion picture. The first picture with a plot, *The Great Train Robbery,* was shown in various parts of the country in 1903, but it wasn't until 1912 that the Hart Brothers established their nickelodeon in town. The sheet of scenes was run off into a bushel basket, and the light on the screen had a decidedly bluish color. The shows lasted fifteen minutes in these infant days, and, as the early name nickelodeon implies, the price of admission was five cents. It is said that the first feature shown in Morganfield was based on the Harry K. Thaw case.

The World War and the Twenties

When the United States entered the World War, the local scene was naturally dominated by national events. The history of the town during this period, therefore, is similar to that of innumerable towns, small and large, all over the country. Locally, individuals who volunteered or were drafted for military service became the center of interest.

An American Legion post was organized in Morganfield one year and one month after the ending of the war. It was first called the Union County Post, but it was shortly afterwards renamed the Griggs-Alvey Post No. 48. Both of the Union County men for whom the post was named died in France: Private Willie Griggs (1895-September, 1918) from influenza at Hospital 78 in France, and Private Thomas Earl Alvey (1894-July 21, 1918) in action near Berzy LeSec.

The Morganfield Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, had been organized previously, in 1915, with Mrs. J. T. O'Nan as first president. It has continued active through the years. In 1922 another organization of patriotic purpose, the Henry Helm Floyd Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized, largely through the efforts of Mrs. Lula Robertson Prentice. It has maintained an active existence ever since, and in 1941 had a membership of twenty-two.

A seemingly unimportant event was the establishment of the first beauty salon in Morganfield in 1920. This was a sign of changing times. The Jazz Age was on its way—and Morganfield had its Smart Set.

In 1920 KDKA, America's first professional broadcasting station, announced the election of Warren G. Harding to the Presidency of the United States. The following year Dr. D. C. Donan, of Morganfield, bought and assembled the parts of a radio. This was the town's first set. It had three sets of earphones, as reception was then exclusively by earphones.

Two of the most outstanding physical additions to Morganfield during the post-war decade were the erection of a gymnasium and an auditorium on the high school campus in 1927. It was also during this year that *The Morganfield Sun,* leased two years before to V. L. Spalding, was sold to the publisher of the *Union County Advocate,* and the two papers were merged under the latter name.

Nineteen hundred twenty-nine was the most eventful year of the twenties—one now remembered principally as the beginning of the country's worst depression. During the year many of the townspeople heard their first "talkie" at the Morgan Theater. In 1929 the Morganfield Woman's Club, organized the year before, was received into the Kentucky Federation. This was also the year that the Peoples Bank and Trust Company merged with the Bank of Union County and thereafter became known as the Union Bank and Trust Company.

A Decade of Physical Improvements

In the decade marked at its beginning by one of the nation's most devastating depressions and at its close by the inauguration of the national defense program, Morganfield followed the line of development that characterized the country as a whole. It was a period of great physical improvements and civic advancement. In many respects it was a testing period of American democracy, and for that period it unquestionably held its own in meeting contemporary challenges.

The history of Morganfield for this period then is the local detail of that national pattern which is the story of new schools, of new and re-made roads, new postoffices and courthouses, new sewerage systems, new streets and the innumerable buildings and improvements which fall into the category of "public."

The first Negro high school in Union County was established at Morganfield in 1930. It was named for the Negro poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar. Students from other parts of the county attend this school. In more recent years it has been remodeled and

improved in appearance; enrollment has increased, and the school—as Dunbar High School—has made a name for itself in athletics. The school has an organized fifteen-piece band and a chorus which sang over WGBF (Evansville) in 1941.

The first public school for Negroes in Morganfield was a graded school established about 1870. Before this there had been a subscription school for Negroes.

In July, 1935, Morganfield became one of the innumerable CCC towns. A camp was established just outside the city limits on the Beaver Dam Road. A twelve-acre tract, after being rented during the first year, was purchased from Parker and H. Q. Offutt. The camp soon after its establishment had ten typical CCC buildings with accommodations for 200 men and for a directing personnel of ten to fifteen. The enrollees were boys and young men until 1937 when the camp was turned over to war veterans and, in September, 1940, Camp Morgan was turned over to Negro CCC boys.

One of the most worthwhile civic improvements undertaken at this time was the American Legion Park that was begun in October, 1935. Originally sponsored by the Griggs-Alvey Post in co-operation with the Works Progress Administration, it later enlisted the aid of the city and the public schools. When dedicated in December, 1938, the project had cost about $25,000, almost half of which was furnished by WPA. The park with its twenty-six acres has a woodland tract of fifteen acres that is ideal for picnics, a community house, an athletic field, and a swimming pool, thereby considerably adding to the recreational opportunities of Morganfield and the surrounding communities (*see Points of Interest*).

The first of the several public buildings to be constructed in Morganfield was the Postoffice Building. Financed by a grant of funds under the Public Works Administration, it was begun in 1936 and completed about a year later at a cost of approximately $60,000. It is a modern red-brick structure just off the business center on North Main Street. The dedication of this building on Saturday, July 10, 1937, was a red-letter day for Morganfield. A large throng gathered for the speechmaking and otherwise made the day much more than just the ordinary Saturday holiday.

The remodeling and enlargement of the courthouse during the late thirties by the WPA has contributed most strikingly to

the physical appearance of the town. The brick courthouse, resplendent in white paint, is said to be the second largest in Kentucky. The addition was made by constructing wings, in the same style of architecture, across the rear of the building.

The outside brick work was tuck pointed and painted, and all woodwork, coping, eaves, and sashes repaired and repainted. Asbestos shingles were used in re-roofing the building. Winding staircases, with slender iron banisters, lead to the second floor from each side. Stairways and hallways are floored with terrazzo surfaced concrete, while offices are floored with asphalt tiles. In the vestibule there are partitions of glass brick, and bronze lamp fixtures flank the doorways.

The addition and remodeling cost approximately $60,000, and when it was completed, even to landscaping, in the fall and winter of 1940, it gave Union County one of the most imposing and up-to-date courthouses in the State.

In 1938 a number of rural schools in the upper part of the county were consolidated with the Morganfield schools, in consequence of the incorporation of Morganfield schools into the county educational system. As a result, conditions became crowded in both the graded and high school, and additional space became necessary. With the aid of PWA, a modern high school building was erected in 1939 on the corner of the lot with the other school buildings. The new high school building, dedicated in February, 1940, is a two-story brick building with nine class-rooms, a study hall, library, and office. It was completed and fully equipped at a cost of $100,147.47.

It is necessary to turn back the pages of Morganfield history to well over a century ago for contrast and perspective for a more recent event. The Kentucky Legislature in 1819-20 passed an act incorporating the Union Circulating Library Company, a private organization, but there is little evidence that it ever played a marked role in the early life of the town. Its charter mentioned some of the county's most outstanding citizens of that day: Thomas Fletcher, Edward Willett, Aaron Silver, George Catlett, Joshua H. Davis, Henry F. Delaney, Samuel Casey, Hugh McElroy, and Hiram Givens. Undoubtedly they hoped to keep the little village abreast of the time, for the establishment of library companies, principally on paper, was then pretty much the vogue.

The establishment of a public library in 1929, therefore, was an innovation for Morganfield. In that year the Morganfield Woman's Club installed, in a downtown office, a small collection of books as a start toward a free public library. It was augmented from time to time by books from the State Traveling Library. So enthusiastic was public response to this through the next decade that the club, on June 12, 1940, was able to open formally its attractive library building. The edifice, made entirely of stone quarried and cut in Union County, was built with the assistance of the fiscal court and the National Youth Administration.

The Woman's Club was a pioneer also in efforts to obtain a health unit for the county. The unit was established in 1929.

Another event of some little civic importance—and outside this pattern of building and rebuilding—was the founding of an American Legion Auxiliary in 1934. This organization contributes to many worthwhile causes, and, as its name implies, it functions as an auxiliary to the Griggs-Alvey Post of the American Legion. In one day during the 1937 flood the auxiliary raised $1,250 in a Red Cross drive of which it was the sponsor.

All of Morganfield's new buildings, however, were not of a public character, or sponsored by some civic-minded organization such as the Woman's Club. A theater building of modern construction and with a seating capacity of 500 was completed in September, 1936. The following year a modern red brick building was erected for the printing plant and offices of the Munford Publishing Company, publishers of the *Union County Advocate,* which today has a circulation of about 2,250. (The *Advocate* was voted, in 1941, the best weekly paper in the State.)

The opening of a small surgical hospital in Morganfield, less spectacular than the construction of new buildings, promises to be of great value to the community. Dr. Darrell L. Vaughn took over the second floor and part of the first floor of Morganfield's National Bank Building in the spring of 1940 and converted the space into a small but well equipped hospital. There are three offices and a waiting room on the lower floor and nine rooms upstairs. Seven of these are furnished with standard hospital beds. The operating room has the most modern equipment, such as an X-Ray machine, fluoroscope, and electric knife, and is equipped for infra-red therapy.

Glancing Back

In glancing back, the story of Morganfield, like that of many small towns of the South and Mid-West, unfolds in a slow and orderly fashion. Morganfield went through a mild boom—thanks to the railroad and coal—but it has always maintained a certain dignity. The county seat left the rowdier aspects of Union County's "railroad and coal age" to other communities. The Opera House expressed the best aspirations of the town during the "boom times."

Although the town has captured the urban note today, it is still linked closely to farming, for the founding of the town and its development through the years has been a reflection of an agricultural society. Its business places look to the farmer and a great many of them handle the products of agriculture. In this respect, Morganfield cuts a fine figure as the county seat of a solid yeomanry. Centrally located, above flood water, with a substantial citizenry, undisturbed in its pursuit of practical things—in all these lies the future as well as the past of Morganfield.

STURGIS: TOWN OF KING COAL

General Information

RAILROAD: Illinois Central. Two freight trains, one southbound at 10:30 A.M., one northbound at 2:30 P.M. Both carry passenger coaches.

BUS LINES: Greyhound Line. Schedule: northbound, 6:45 A.M., 10:55 A.M., 2:25 P.M., 7:50 P.M.; southbound, 12:25 A.M., 9:40 A.M., 4:05 P.M., 8:05 P.M. Private bus line between Sturgis and Providence leaves Sturgis at 7:00 A.M., 12 noon and 4:00 P.M.

TAXIS: 25 cents within city limits.

ACCOMMODATIONS: One hotel.

RECREATION: Two motion picture theaters and a bowling alley. There is some dove, quail and rabbit shooting.

LIBRARY: Free Public Library open five afternoons a week.

NEWSPAPERS: Sturgis *News* is published each Thursday. Evansville *Courier* and Louisville *Courier-Journal* arrive in Sturgis between 7:00 and 8:00 A.M. daily.

LIQUOR REGULATIONS: Liquor is sold only on doctor's prescription.

A new design was introduced into the pattern of town-building in Union County when Sturgis was founded in 1886. The river made Uniontown, and the needs of local government made Morganfield, but the railroad and coal—those twins of nineteenth-century industry—made Sturgis. In each of these towns, the motive of its founding, woven into the pattern of its development through the years, has given it a distinctive atmosphere. With due allowance for size, Sturgis is predominantly industrial in tone and tempo. Easy-going, well-ordered, clean—but nevertheless industrial.

Early Coal Mines and the Establishment of the Town

The prospects for coal mining were bright when the Ohio Valley Railroad through here was projected in the early 1880's, and in a short time they blossomed into several promotional schemes. The history of the town begins in 1886, when the Cumberland Iron and Land Company, the first of these, was organized. The railroad, under construction from Henderson to Princeton, reached Morganfield on May 1, 1886, and before the end of that year passed beyond the site of Sturgis. At the time it was being built through this section the site of Sturgis and its environs was a pastoral scene, but in a short time the well-

improved farms that skirted the banks of Tradewater River and extended beyond in rolling acreage were transformed into streets and town buildings—into the activities and the high expectations of black diamond bonanza.

Coal mining had already been started in this region. In the spring of 1882, Harbard Bennett opened a mine on Thomas B. Alloway's farm near Commercial Point. Two years later this mine was sold to David Sullivan. It was also in 1884 that John Tate and Michael Fleig opened a mine on the farm of H. J. Wallace. Nearly all the coal from these mines was sold to near-by farmers until D. A. Brooks of Caseyville started buying it to sell to the steamboats. The coal was loaded on barges in Tradewater River at Commercial Point, a river landing a short distance southwest of Sturgis and five miles from the confluence of the Ohio and Tradewater.

Other pertinent events, however, preceded the establishment of Sturgis by the Cumberland Iron and Land Company. In 1886 the mining interests of the Ohio Valley Railroad and Mining Company were organized separately into the Ohio Valley Coal and Mining Company of which Samuel P. Sturgis was secretary and general manager.

Mr. Sturgis in his own name purchased options on several farms, embracing 600 acres in all, adjacent to the right-of-way of the railroad. The farmers were loath to part with the right-of-way. Caseyville, a prosperous little river town five miles away, was a good outlet for their produce. The Cumberland Iron and Land Company, also incorporated about this time with Dr. P. G. Kelsey, the promoter of the railroad, as president, and Col. Jordon Giles as secretary-treasurer, was organized for the special purpose of buying this land for a proposed town. The company also bought land at Sullivan, Aurora, Blackford, and Marion, and in the vicinity of Sturgis. Although it was composed mostly of Henderson and Corydon men, several prominent Union County citizens became investors: S. K. Sneed, Sylvester Pike, and Charles L. King.

After considerable negotiations, the Cumberland Company secured the options held by Mr. Sturgis. Colonel Giles, who became the company's resident manager, platted the town, and the streets were laid off and graded under his direction.

Sturgis, according to one version, was named not for Samuel P. Sturgis, but for his sister, the wife of Dr. Kelsey, who before

her marriage was Miss Alida Livingston Sturgis. It is said that Colonel Giles, who also named the town, wished to honor Mrs. Kelsey in this way because she had been very kind to him at the time of his wife's death in Louisville, and because, for many years, she and Dr. Kelsey had made him a welcome guest in their home.

Old Homes and the First Four Years of Growth

The Casey house, now the Berry home, on Sixth Street between Main and Monroe Streets, is the oldest farmhouse still standing within the confines of Sturgis. It was built in 1874 by Captain James W. Finnie of War between the States note, who left it to his only daughter, Attaway Finnie, who married Peter Casey, the grandson of the pioneer of that name. It was included in the original purchase of the Cumberland Iron and Land Company. The house was sold in 1908 to Mrs. A. J. Berry and has been the home of her youngest son, Jesse Jones Berry, for almost two decades.

The Quirey home, on Kelsey Street between Ninth and Tenth Streets, was also a farmhouse at the time Sturgis was established. It was first purchased by Colonel Giles and was then a three-room cottage, but he enlarged and occupied it for many years. Colonel Giles, whose only child by this time had grown to manhood, was very fond of children. He often entertained a party of youngsters in his home, and some, now mature men and women, still remember the big red velvet carpets on the parlor and dining room floors. The second story was added after it was bought by O. C. Quirey.

The first three homes built in Sturgis were erected by the Cumberland Iron and Land Company on Monroe Street between Second and Third Streets. Originally four-room frame cottages, they have been remodeled and are now owned and occupied by Rudy Riggs, Leslie Coffman, and Mary Bell Simpson.

Sturgis developed rapidly during its first years. Wilson Lamb transferred his newspaper, *The Enterprise,* from Caseyville to Sturgis in 1886. The town trustees gave him several choice lots as an inducement to establish his paper in the town. When Mr. Lamb was elected mayor in 1890—the year the town was incorporated—he sold the paper to William Joseph Bishop, Edward Barkley, and Herbert Mosgrove. It remained under their ownership and management until 1900 when it was taken over by Jesse

Edmunson. The year before this the name of the paper was changed to *The Democrat*. In 1887 the Cumberland Iron and Land Company erected for their offices a two-story brick building at Adams and Sixth Streets. The postoffice was established in 1888 with Steve Hammack as first postmaster. This was also the year that the first school, a private subscription school conducted by Nora Beard, was opened. The first high school, also on a subscription basis, was conducted by C. B. Hatfield. Before this, the few children in the Sturgis community attended school either at Commercial Point or at Cypress.

A Baptist congregation was constituted in 1888 in the Odd Fellows' Hall with twelve members. The first pastor was the Rev. J. B. Haynes. The church united with the Ohio Valley Baptist Association during the same year and reported at the time twenty-three members enrolled, and $100 raised for the pastor's salary. The church building, dedicated in 1891, was erected on a lot donated by Colonel Giles.

A congregation of Methodists, also organized in the late 1880's, worshipped in an old frame building on Washington between Seventh and Eighth Streets.

An Eventful Year — 1893

The first public school in Sturgis was established in 1893. "The Little Red School House," as it has been tritely called, was a two-room frame building that stood at Main and Ninth Streets. The first teachers were Boyce Taylor, now a Baptist minister, and Annie Long, now Mrs. C. H. Wilson. Only $66 was available for the monthly salaries of the teachers during the first year. Mr. Taylor would teach for no less than $50 a month. The trustees asked Miss Long if she would teach for a salary of $16, which she agreed to do.

It was also in 1893, a year after the adoption of a new State Constitution which classified cities of the Commonwealth according to size, that Sturgis adopted a board of trustees form of government, the chairman occupying the same position formerly occupied by the mayor. The first board was composed of George B. Simpson, Hampton Granger, Porter Graham, and Sherman Davis; J. J. Bradburn was chairman, L. L. Hill, clerk, and J. S. Wilson, city treasurer. Wood Omer was the first town marshal, and A. J. Berry and William Joseph Bishop served successive terms as police judge from 1891 to 1899. J. Mack Thompson was

judge of the police court and Bert F. Wallace was city attorney. Mr. Thompson later resigned and was succeeded by J. H. Beard.

A bank was established in Sturgis in 1886 by Thomas N. Givens and W. W. Pierson as a branch of their Caseyville bank. In 1893 the Caseyville Bank was moved to Sturgis and re-incorporated as the State Bank of Sturgis with W. W. Pierson as president. Mrs. C. T. Wallace (nee Pattie Pierson), the bank's cashier, is said to have been the only woman holding such a position in the State of Kentucky at that time.

About 1893, or shortly thereafter, the edifice now used by the Christian Church in Sturgis was built. The imposing two-story red-brick building, at Seventh and Adams Streets, has a full basement, and the windows of the main auditorium depict biblical scenes.

This Christian congregation antedates the memories of the oldest inhabitants of Sturgis today. One of the early church buildings was the Old Cypress Church situated on a beautiful knoll just across the creek from the site of Sturgis. This may have been a union church since it was designated for "Christians Only," by which, in the broader sense of the words, "Christians" would have included other denominations. On the other hand, it may have been a special notice that it was not a union church, but one of the Christian denomination. A new house was erected for this congregation on a gentle slope on the Sturgis side of the creek in 1859. The church building has been remembered chiefly because it had a little dry spot around it during the flood of 1884, while the house that occupied the church site in 1913 was under two feet of water, and in 1937 under four or five feet of water.

Some Early Business Houses

Saloons and funeral parlors were two businesses usually established in boom or prospective boom towns of the West and Mid-West before the ink was dry on the town plat. The founders of Sturgis, as far as saloons were concerned, had other ideas. The charter of the town, approved by the State on May 3, 1890, forbade the sale of "spirituous, vinous, or malt liquors . . . within the corporate limits of said town, or within one mile thereof, except by druggists," and it provided as a fine for the breach of this law a sum not exceeding $100 and not less than $50. However, beer is now sold.

R. L. Holt and William Reasor opened a funeral parlor in conjunction with a furniture store in 1890. They had previously attempted to buy out W. J. Bishop, who operated an undertaking establishment in a little building on Main Street. When Mr. Bishop refused to sell, they moved into a two-story building on the corner of Sixth and Main Streets owned by W. H. and J. T. Holt, where they sold furniture and held funerals. Their old-fashioned hearse was drawn by a fine span of horses, which they afterwards sold for $300.

The Palace Hotel, the first of the three brick buildings in town, was erected at Fourth and Main Streets by the Cumberland Iron and Land Company. The other two brick buildings, also erected by this company, were located on Adams Street. As a result, some of the merchants establishing themselves in the town set up their business on Main Street, while a few went over to Adams Street. Charles Collins and Davis Ray opened a grocery store and J. W. McClellan and J. S. Wilson opened a drugstore. "Bud" Shackelford and D. A. Ramsey owned the first furniture store in Sturgis. One of the first, if not the first, carpenters and cabinetmakers in Sturgis was J. H. Beard, who came from Dixon in 1887. The town's first photographic studio was operated by a Mr. Brown.

As the population increased, the number of business houses also increased until both sides of Main Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets were lined with frame business houses. However, the two brick business buildings erected on Adams Street by the Cumberland Iron and Land Company continued to attract business to that street, and in the next two decades Adams Street had completely replaced Main Street as the business section of the town. Most of the new business houses on Adams Street were of brick. By 1913 there was not a single business house on Main Street.

The Half-Decade at the End of the Century

One of the outstanding events of the nineties was the founding in 1895 of the Ohio Valley College, or, as it was better known, the Sturgis Academy (*see Schools*). The cornerstone of the college's two-story brick building was laid on June 11 of that year in the presence of several thousand people. The school, sponsored by the Baptist Associations of Union County, was opened in the autumn. It offered courses in teacher-training, commerce,

and music, as well as regular academic courses of college level.

The first telephone in Sturgis was also installed in 1895. The same Morganfield men—Henry Hughes, J. K. Waller, and Jim Taylor—who had undertaken a similar enterprise in their home town, together with Henry Dunnavan of Evansville, Indiana, organized the company. Jack Waller of Sturgis was the first manager and Miss Ethel Finnie the first operator. The Cumberland Telephone Company took it over in 1908, and in 1926 it became a part of the Southern Bell system.

In 1898 the firm of Alloway Brothers, dealers in lumber and building materials, moved to Sturgis and established their business at their present location.

The decade 1890-1900 was a boom decade for all of Union County. Sturgis had a population of 327 in 1890 and in 1900 it had increased to 1,258—a greater population increase than Morganfield made during the same period. In less than fifteen years after its founding, Sturgis in this respect very nearly equaled Uniontown. By 1900, the business section contained a variety of enterprises—drygoods, furniture, hardware, farm implements and carriages, hotel, bank, millinery, groceries, undertaker, blacksmith and machine shops, drugstores, barber shops, restaurants, livery stable, physicians' and dentists' offices, produce houses, brick and tile plant, jewelry and optician's establishment, and the Sturgis Milling Company.

Coal Companies — Entrance and Exit

Most of the early, significant history of Sturgis centers about the organization of several coal mining companies. Since the town was founded in the heart of a coal mining area, it was in the nature of things that coal should play the leading role.

As the mining property about Sturgis was developed and as it changed corporate hands during the early, seemingly uncertain years, the officer-personnel of the companies also changed. New men, some of them from fairly distant points, came on the scene. Thus, there was a small group of Nashville men who early became interested in the mining prospects of the area.

For this reason, the history of Sturgis is in part a roster of the names of these men and corporations, and their activities. Most, if not all, of these names are meaningless to the outsider and some even to the younger generation of Sturgis and vicinity; a few are familiar only to the old-timers. Yet many of these men

contributed in a very real sense to the development of Sturgis, and for that reason are well worth recalling. At the top of the list, and in addition to those already mentioned such as Kelsey, Sturgis, and Giles, there were such men as Charles F. Richardson, C. H. Wilson, and Charles Boettger.

In 1890 Colonel Giles secured several thousand acres of coal lands in the vicinity of Sturgis and organized the Sturgis Coal and Coke Company. He interested several Louisville men and together they put up the capital for sinking a shaft and installing the first mining machinery in Union County. The first coal was shipped by rail in the spring of 1892. A Mr. Mills was the first president and George McCartney, of Bowling Green, Ohio, the first superintendent of the Sturgis Coal and Coke Company.

After operating a few years, this company went into the hands of a receiver, but was bid in by seven of the old stockholders when offered for sale, and was reorganized as the Tradewater Coal Company. J. L. Frankel and Frederick Renz, both of Louisville, became respectively president and secretary-treasurer of the new company. Mr. Frankel moved to Sturgis and built the beautiful home on Main Street now owned by Harry Culley.

Another and somewhat earlier mine, opened by James Wardlow, of Tennessee, in the spring of 1890, was purchased in the winter of 1891 by the Cumberland Coal Company, a promotion of W. W. Smith and Isaac Reese, of Nashville. Shortly thereafter, C. H. Wilson, representing Smith and Reese, came to Sturgis from Nashville. A switch was built connecting the mine with the Ohio Valley Railroad. Mr. Wardlow remained as superintendent for the first year and was then succeeded by George McCartney, who resigned from the Sturgis Coal and Coke Company. After two years he resigned on account of ill health, and was succeeded by C. H. Wilson as superintendent. In the spring of 1895 a railroad was built to the Ohio River and a barge line was put into operation for shipping coal to Nashville and Paducah. The properties of the Cumberland Coal Company were sold in the fall or winter of 1898 to the Paducah Coal and Mining Company, which was formed by Mr. Reese. Mr. Wilson remained superintendent until July, 1899, when he joined W. W. Smith, associate of Mr. Reese in the Cumberland Coal Company, and Dr. George H. Price, both of Nashville, in the promotion of the Bell Coal properties.

This property again changed hands in 1903 when it was bought by Thomas A. Nevins, of New York, and operated as part of the

U. S. Gas and Coke Company. J. L. Nicholson, of Pennsylvania, was sent in as superintendent, and Mr. Boettger became mine foreman. An experienced river man, D. A. Brooks, who had previously succeeded Mr. Wilson as superintendent, was put in charge of the river equipment.

The West Kentucky Coal Company and the Strike of 1905

The most important of all the numerous transactions in coal mining properties was made in January, 1905, when a newly formed corporation, the West Kentucky Coal Company, purchased the holdings of both the Tradewater Coal Company and the U. S. Gas and Coke Company, and later acquired other coal mining properties. (The Paducah Coal and Mining Company had previously sold its holdings to one of these corporations.)

The West Kentucky Coal Company was organized by the North American Company of which it became and is still a subsidiary. The North American, formed in 1890, is a holding company, principally of utilities, and owns all the common stock of the West Kentucky, which is incorporated in New Jersey. The present chairman of the board of directors, Harrison Williams, who is a large stockholder, is married to Maria Strader Bush, of Lexington, Kentucky.

The first president of the West Kentucky Coal Company was a Mr. Gardner of New York, mining engineer for the corporation. The first mine superintendent was Mr. Boettger. Mr. Gardner's stay in Sturgis was brief. He came to Sturgis in a private coach, all his meals were served to him on the train, and he slept on the train. He was made president, it is said, because he was a man especially fitted to buy up coal rights in this section and put the company on a paying basis.

The Strike

The two mines purchased near Sturgis in 1905 by the West Kentucky Coal Company, now Mines Nos. 1 and 2, were union operated and were "closed shops." In September of that year, however, the new corporation announced that it was not joining the Operators' Association, which meant that the company was no longer operating on a union basis. Wages were not affected at this time. The local of the United Mine Workers of

America called a strike, and the West Kentucky immediately brought in workers, mostly from the South, to work in the mines.

Temporary quarters were built near the mines and food delivered to the camps from the company's store in Sturgis. Company guards were placed at the mines and on the streets of Sturgis. A powerful searchlight and a machine gun were mounted on the tipple of Mine No. 2. The searchlight cast its beam for several miles and was often turned on travelers along the roads at night, causing an uneasy feeling to exist in the surrounding community.

During the summer of 1906, wheat was being threshed on a near-by farm and at night the threshing-machine was usually covered with canvas. One night the searchlight was being played over the surrounding country when its beam caught this bulk. Apparently the guards thought that a group of union men, waiting to cause trouble as the night advanced, had improvised quarters there. The machine gun on the No. 2 tipple was turned on the supposed trouble makers, but when morning came only the machine, riddled by bullets, was found.

On Christmas Eve, 1906, a group of union men were in a poolroom located in the Voss Building on Fifth Street. Quinn Moore, chief guard for the West Kentucky Coal Company, and Henry Delaney and a Mr. Daugherty, his assistants, approached the poolroom and began to shoot through the windows. The men inside began to fire back at the West Kentucky guards. Of the union men, Bill Malloy and Bill Gray were killed, and Sam Barnaby later died of wounds he received. Quinn Moore was shot through the leg, Henry Delaney shot in the arm, and Daugherty was killed. Two other men, Harvey Springer and Bill Gooch, also lost their lives a short time later.

There were court trials but no convictions. The poolroom killings did not end the labor tension in the community. The strike continued as far as the union was concerned, and labor disagreements lasted for several years more. Labor organizers come to Sturgis occasionally but the events of 1905-6 still spell failure.

Post-Strike Development of the West Kentucky

The output of coal during the first years of the West Kentucky's operation, when compared with later production, was small, being only about 90,000 tons per year; and there was then

little river equipment. Two new shafts, No. 8 sunk in 1910 and No. 9 sunk in 1913, later added greatly to the company's output. No. 8 is located about one and one-half miles west of Sturgis, just off the Sturgis-Henshaw road (Ky. 85), and is still operating. This mine is connected with the I. C. R. R. by a switch, and coal is shipped both north and south. No. 9 was about two miles northeast of Sturgis. A general merchandise store was located near by, a mining camp was built, and a switch connecting the mine with the Illinois Central R. R. at the Sturgis mines was laid down.

The opening of the two new mines near Sturgis was the beginning of the program of comprehensive expansion which has characterized the West Kentucky Coal Company. New shafts were sunk and small mining towns with company stores were built near them. Various types of real estate were acquired, and several department stores and a drugstore were built in Sturgis. In this way the company entered many spheres of the life of the community.

In 1916 the executive personnel of the company was again changed when Charles F. Richardson (*see Biographical Sketches*) became president of the West Kentucky Coal Company. He was an exponent of friendly employer-employee relationships and when he moved to Sturgis he expressed the wish to become personally acquainted with every employee of the company. In 1918, two years after he became president, he introduced an employer-employee co-operative system, called the Employees Mutual Benefit Association (E.M.B.A.)

The history of Sturgis was a corporation kaleidoscope until 1905 when the West Kentucky Coal Company was organized. The town had already started rounding itself out as a modern community before this. The local newspaper was almost of voting age in 1905, and the town college and the telephone exchange were a decade old. A bank, a hotel, and the other businesses usually found in a town of its size had been estabished.

Civic and Social Development of the Community

Sturgis was not all business during these early years, however. There were the social and civic aspects of the community's life. Fraternal organizations were formed. A Masonic lodge, known as Kelsey Lodge No. 659, was chartered in 1891 with Thomas N. Givens as first master, and the following year a chapter of Odd

Fellows was chartered. In membership and prestige the Odd Fellows and Masons soon became the largest and most important of the local lodges. In March, 1900, eight years after being chartered, the Odd Fellows were able to buy the two-story brick building of the Cumberland Iron and Land Company, and in 1922 the Masonic Lodge had 212 members, almost all of long standing.

An early cultural influence in the town was the Bon Ami Club, organized in 1900. Its members were schoolteachers and other young women seeking to continue their education. The club conducted lyceum courses, brought a number of popular entertainers and lecturers to Sturgis and gave socials. Among the entertainers was a quartet of singers; and A. W. Hawks, the humorous Baltimore lecturer, was carried for two seasons. A Mr. Copeland, locally remembered as a popular lecturer of the day, was engaged for a lecture. The house was full, everybody waiting expectantly, but no lecturer appeared. Later it was learned that he went to Sturgis, Michigan, instead of Sturgis, Kentucky. Their programs were held in a store room, that was formerly used as a drugstore, naively called an opera house because it had been furnished with a stage and chairs. The "opera house" occupied the site on Main Street where the house built by J. T. Holt, for more than fifty years a drygoods merchant of the town, now stands. The life of the Bon Ami Club, however, was short. Teachers were called elsewhere, and the changing interests of other members caused its discontinuance in 1902.

Another club organized at this time was composed of young girls and was known as the Priscilla Club. The principal activity was sewing and doing fancy work. Although the members soon outgrew their problem of passing their time in a worthwhile manner by marrying, they continued as a social club, and today they occasionally contribute to worthy causes, such as Christmas baskets. When Sturgis celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary the women of the Priscilla Club, dressed in the costumes of 1900, gave a musical selection, "There's An Old Spinning Wheel."

A gala affair still remembered was the carnival week sponsored by the Sturgis Red Men in the summer of 1905. Frank James, brother of the outlaw Jesse James, entered into a contract with W. W. Wynns of Sturgis agreeing, for the sum of $200, to assist the latter in organizing and conducting the carnival program. A picturesque and spectacular feature was the "Western Parade," in which men mounted on fine horses rode alongside

a covered wagon train. Frank James, who, together with John Winston, led the parade, wore a large-brimmed black hat and the traditional Western boots and spurs, and was mounted on a spirited black horse. At the conclusion of the parade there was a sham battle between "Indians" and the "Western immigrants." This was an exciting event and was watched by the immense crowd that turned out for the day. A street fair also was held during the carnival. On the last day Mr. James' horse threw him and he sprained his ankle. The contract between Frank James and W. W. Wynns, now in the possession of the latter's widow, also carried a guarantee on the payment of the $200 by W. W. Pierson, president of the Bank of Sturgis.

Another organization indicative of the interest of Sturgis in the "finer things of life" was the concert band formed in 1908 by H. D. Holt and Jones Berry. The band, uniformed in blue with black braid trim, regularly played at the Union County Fair and Fourth of July picnics over the county, for local parades, and for the ceremonies of such holidays as Memorial Day. One of its more important public appearances was made at the Democratic National Committee meeting in Louisville, in 1910. The band also played for the celebration held at the dedication of St. Peter's Catholic Church at Waverly. Raymond M. Benedict was the first director. Louis L. Talbott and Thomas C. Montgomery also served as band directors at various periods during the band's career.

The Sturgis Concert Band was disbanded in 1938 upon the formation of the school band, its last public appearance being at the American Legion Fourth of July picnic of that year in Sturgis. H. D. Holt and Jones Berry were the only charter members left when the band gave way to the younger generation. H. D. Holt, Jr., accepted his father's drum and until his graduation was one of the school drummers. He passed the drum on to his sister Barbara, who put aside her clarinet to succeed her brother as one of the school drummers.

Other Developments in the Decade, 1900-10

Other events of 1905, although not as spectacular, were of greater importance than the carnival of that summer. J. L. Frankel, president of the Tradewater Coal Company, was granted the first franchise for an electric light and power company in Sturgis, in 1905. It was sold during the same year to the West

Kentucky Coal Company, which operated it as the Sturgis Electric Light Company until 1926.

The Magazine Club, a study club for women, organized in 1905 by Mrs. Louise Maxwell, of Paducah, is still in existence. In the horse and buggy days elaborate refreshments were served but it has now become a "tea and cracker" club.

Another organization that contributed in a worthwhile manner to the community life of Sturgis was the Y.M.C.A. It was established sometime around the turn of the century by P. C. Dix, who was then State Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. About 1905 or 1906 a Y.M.C.A. building, a two-story brick, was erected with funds raised by public subscription. A barber shop occupied the front part of the first floor and in the rear there was a large, well-equipped gymnasium. The reading, assembly, and bathrooms were on the second floor.

Sturgis was becoming civic-minded in other respects than the organization of clubs and lodges. In the summer of 1905, its Board of Trustees purchased a four-acre tract from the Cumberland Iron and Land Company and set it aside as a municipal park. It was named Forest Park but through the years it has become known simply as City Park. When it was acquired by the town there was already a City Park—a small triangle of land on Main Street opposite the old Palace Hotel. The town pump, enclosed by a shed, was located here, and band concerts and outdoor meetings were once held here during the summer months. The old City Park is now occupied by the town's water tower, and its name taken over by Forest Park.

Numerous buildings, especially residences, were constructed during the decade 1900-1910. Sturgis was becoming more attractive and solid in appearance. The second public school building, a two-story twelve-room brick with full basement, was erected in 1906 on Lee between Tenth and Eleventh Streets. The following year, McGill Hall, a two-story brick dormitory building, was built on the campus of the Sturgis Academy. The Goad home, at Main and Eighth Streets, was built in 1903. It is a two-story, fourteen-room frame house, and is still the largest residence in Sturgis. The furnace and bathroom of this house were the first in the town. W. B. Goad, who built it, is a "gentleman farmer." He also owned the town's first automobile—and has never learned to drive!

Other homes built about this time that added greatly to the "home atmosphere" of Sturgis were: a two-story frame house at Washington and Seventh Streets built by Will Reasor and now (1941) owned and occupied by Sam D. Martin; a two-story frame house at Kelsey and Seventh Streets built by Fred Alloway, Sr., and now owned and occupied by Mrs. W. W. Wynns; a two-story frame house on Main Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets now owned and occupied by George Davis; a two-story frame house at Main and Eighth Streets built by W. F. McMurray and now owned by his estate, and divided into two apartments; a two-story brick house at Fourth and Monroe Streets built by J. A. Ellis and now owned and occupied by C. W. Pugh; a two-story frame building at Grant and Eighth Streets built by Peter Marquardt and now owned and occupied by his daughter, Justine, the wife of Dr. G. B. Carr.

No account of the building-up of Sturgis during its first quarter of a century would be complete without mention of the man who had more to do with it than any other single individual —T. M. Chancellor. A native of Spencer County, Indiana, Mr. Chancellor moved to Caseyville, where he farmed and worked at his trade.

In 1886 he came to Sturgis with Jim Anderson, a contractor who brought a group of men from Caseyville to build a granary. This granary was built near the end of the railroad and the men camped under a boxcar the first night. Mr. Chancellor is said to have built the first house in Sturgis and in 1900 he was said to have built two-thirds of the buildings of the city and aided in building nearly all the others.

Churches, an Ice Plant and a Theater

Two new church buildings were erected in 1911. The Methodists built an imposing red-brick structure with a belfry at Tenth and Adams Streets. Since its remodeling in 1935 this building has remained unchanged. The first Methodist Church has a parsonage at the corner of Ninth and Kelsey Streets.

The other church erected in 1911, the red-brick building at Ninth and Kelsey Streets, was built by the Presbyterians and is still used. The Presbyterian Church of Sturgis traces its origin to the camp meetings held by the McGhee brothers in 1824 at Nazareth, two and one-half miles from present-day Sturgis. Sometime later a church building was erected on the camp meet-

ing site. In 1866 fifteen members withdrew from this body and organized the Presbyterian Church south of Caseyville. This group later moved to Sturgis and erected a building which was sold in 1906 when the congregation united with the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Sturgis was founded in 1906 or shortly thereafter when about half of the members of the regular Presbyterian congregation already organized refused to consent to the merger that took place at that time. The dissenting body erected a church building at Fifth and Main Streets in 1910. This building, a red-brick structure with arched stained-glass windows and full basement, is still in use.

Later events, in keeping with the trend of the times, included the establishment of the town's first ice plant in 1911 and a motion picture theater in 1913. Walter John Kern, who built and operated the ice plant, was an electrical engineer connected for about ten years with the Electric Light Company at Owensboro, Kentucky. In 1910, after being in business a number of years for himself as an electrical contractor and a dealer in electric supplies, he built the Green River Light and Water Company at Calhoun, Kentucky. He sold this company during the same year and moved to Sturgis where he soon made a name for himself as a business man and a civic leader.

The motion picture theater established in 1913 by E. L. Rakes was the second one in town, the first being operated by Woodford Smith about 1909. Mr. Rakes' first machine was an old Edison projector, and the first theater was in the Barkley Building, but it was later moved into one of the Long buildings on Adams Street and named "The Princess."

Those early days of the movie were a far cry from the air-conditioned theaters of today with their upholstered seats and uninterrupted shows. Then, after the show had jerked along for a while the film would break. There was time out for repairs and finally the show would start again. A few more feet of film would be run off and it would break again, or perhaps the projector would break down this time. Such delays were not then considered annoying but were considered an inevitable part of a most royal form of entertainment.

In the early days "light bugs" flew between the projector and the screen and were magnified many times on the screen. Sometimes the greatly enlarged shadows of these insects almost broke

up the show because the audience insisted on making them a funny feature of the show.

The bugs were nothing but sorrow to Mr. Rakes, however, for, in addition to getting in his eyes and down his collar, they often clogged up his projector and made it necessary to stop the show in order to clean it out.

Mr. Rakes now laughs in recalling an incident of his first year in the show business. He was showing *The Sinking of the Titanic*, and his hall was jammed, with as many people waiting on the outside. After the first show the crowd was slow in getting out. The outside crowd began to clamor to get in, and the inside crowd tried to get out. The door was blocked and in the midst of this confusion a practical joker yelled, "fire! fire! The house is on fire, run for your lives!" The result was a stampede. People were knocked down and trampled over by the crowd. One man jumped through a large plate glass window, and when the panic had subsided the hall was a complete wreck.

In years of service Mr. Rakes, who came to Sturgis as a young man to work in the mines, is one of the town's oldest business men, for he opened one of the first, if not the first, photographic studios in 1910.

The Flood of 1913

The history of most towns, small and large, seems to be marked at irregular intervals by catastrophes of one sort or another—fires, floods, and cyclones. Sturgis has been no exception. The superstitious can make something out of Sturgis' year of catastrophe—for it was 1913.

There was first of all the great Ohio River flood of that year. Early in January, 1913, the weather became unseasonably mild and rain fell continuously for days. The ground soon became so water-soaked that brick pavements started to sink and when bricks were stepped on they sloshed and rocked in the mud.

It soon became evident that a flood was in the making; water was rising slowly in Tradewater River and in all the creeks surrounding the town. And the rain continued. Low lots in Sturgis were soon covered with water. Flood stage was reached during January, but the water receded in February. Then incessant rain came again and on April 6, the crest of the 1913 flood, which set a new record, was reached. The water reached Twelfth Street on Adams, Ninth Street on Main, and covered practically all that

part of Sturgis known as the Crossroad section, while Boxtown, the Negro section, was almost completely inundated, and its residents were cared for in the mining camps of the West Kentucky Coal Company.

J. S. Hancock said of the 1913 flood:

> It was very inconvenient for me. I lived on Pike Street in Sturgis, but was farming land on the T. K. Cissell farm in the Commercial Point section. At first I walked to the place where the water covered the road and was rowed across in a small boat, which was kept there for that purpose, but as the water became higher I was finally forced to board a skiff at the Illinois Central Depot in Sturgis and was landed in the front yard of the Cissell place. I made the trip over each morning and back in the evening for the duration of the flood, without a single ducking, which I considered very lucky.

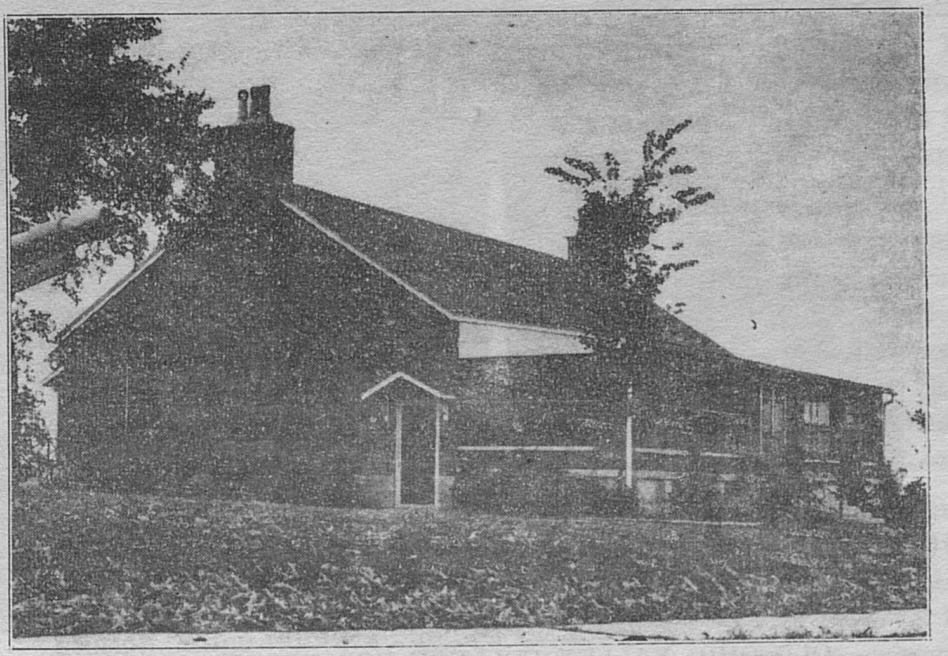
Mrs. Agnes Perkins tells this flood story. Her father-in-law, B. F. Perkins, who lived on a farm in the flooded area near the city limits, delivered milk and butter to customers nearer the town. He delivered his produce in a skiff at first, but when the water became higher he found this impractical. He rigged up a rope across the limbs of a tree, pulley style, and tied the buckets containing milk and butter to one end of the rope and the customer pulled the other end of the rope and drew the produce to his side of the water. In this way Mr. Perkins did not miss a single delivery during the flood.

Of course, there were also the pathetic incidents of the flood. Mrs. Perkins also tells of a Negro woman, who for the first time in her life had accumulated furniture of which she was proud, especially feather beds and a piano. The Negro woman remained in her home as long as possible hoping to save her prized furniture. When she was forced to leave she was not allowed to take any of her furniture, although it was placed on trestles. The water reached it, however, and when she returned after the water had receded she found her piano in pieces and scattered over the house and her feather beds ruined.

A grim incident of the flood was the burial of H. L. Gatton, who died at his home in Sturgis on April 1, 1913. One of his last requests was that he be buried beside his wife in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, two and one-half miles from Sturgis, near Sullivan. It was necessary for the funeral cortege to go part of the way in boats in order to reach the burial place. The first boat carried the casket and several men. A strong wind was blowing and the overloaded boat began to sink. It seemed certain that the



AMERICAN LEGION PICNIC, LEGION PARK, MORGANFIELD



COMMUNITY BUILDING, LEGION PARK, MORGANFIELD



CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL, STURGIS



OLD OHIO VALLEY COLLEGE DORMITORY, NOW THE
S. W. T. WALLACE HOME, STURGIS

boat would be overturned, but the quick action of the men saved the casket from the muddy flood waters.

When the men reached the Illinois Central Railroad trestle over Cypress Creek they found an un-submerged spot where they put on hip boots. They then carried the casket across the trestle, the supports of which were greatly weakened by the surging waters. The trestle was covered in part with water up to the knees, and one man walked ahead with a stick to touch the rails as he went along so that the procession would not step off into the deep water on each side of the railroad bed.

Relief during the flood was administered by the Red Cross. Many still remember as impressive the sight of Red Cross boats flying an American flag and the Red Cross emblem, and laden with food and clothing for flood refugees. These boats came on Wednesday of each week from Shawneetown, Illinois, the central distributing point for the section.

The Fire of 1913

On Sunday night, July 7, 1913, many of the churchgoing people of Sturgis were assembled at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for a Children's Day program. Only a few numbers had been given when the cry of "fire" was heard. No one stirred until a flame, visible from a church window, leaped into the air. It then became evident that E. Segrove's drugstore was on fire. Men with stores on this street began to leave the church, and in a few minutes the entire congregation became panic stricken and the church was emptied.

As there was no fire department a bucket brigade was organized, but it was soon apparent that the whole business section would burn unless something miraculous happened, for most of the store buildings adjoined each other. The stores were thrown open and everybody went to work to save all they could. Dry-goods, groceries, furniture, in short all the stock handled in these stores, was piled up helter-skelter in a vacant lot on Main Street.

The whole town was threatened. The shingle-roofs of houses some distance away caught fire and it was only by co-operation of the whole population that the fire was confined to the business section. Some families bundled their clothes, placed them on the ground, and covered them with wet blankets. Many people carried valuables tied up in an apron or handkerchief, and one

woman was seen with her valuable papers in a flour sack thrown across her shoulder.

After what seemed hours of panic the fire burned itself out. Every building on each side of Adams Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets was burned, and also several buildings on Fifth Street. After the shock had worn off, the city came to life as if awakening from a night of nightmarish slumber. Temporary places of business were established, and in a few days the debris was cleared away and Sturgis hummed with rebuilding. New business houses were built and in a few months goods salvaged from the fire were moved from churches, basements, and other places of storage into new stores. Sturgis rebounded optimistically from catastrophe—the new buildings were all bigger and better; and business, instead of waning, seemed to take on new life.

One of the buildings destroyed by the fire was that of the Y.M.C.A. Enough insurance was carried on it, however, to replace it with a one-story building. In 1926 this latter building was sold to Math Rich and Herbert C. Dedman and the money from its sale was divided among the churches and civic clubs of Sturgis. Several of the charter members of the Sturgis Y.M.C.A. were Ben Dyer, Dr. B. F. Humphrey, and Clarence Wilson. J. M. Stone, now secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Hardware and Implement Association and the source of this information, was for many years president of the Y.M.C.A. here. After the 1913 fire the Y.M.C.A. discontinued its religious activities.

One of the new buildings erected after the 1913 fire and completed in 1914 was that of the Odd Fellows. It was a two-story brick erected at a cost of $17,000. Of this, only $5,000 was derived from insurance on the old building. As in the case of the other building, the lower floor was divided into store rooms that are rented by the lodge. The office of the Sturgis police judge is in the rear of this building facing Sixth Street.

It was also about this time that Sturgis installed its sewer system and laid down a considerable footage of concrete streets.

The Pre-War Years: 1914-17

Another loss to Sturgis shortly after the 1913 fire was the closing of the Ohio Valley College. The school had struggled along from the very beginning and, in 1914, because of lack of funds, the college was closed and its building dismantled. The materials were used in the construction of the First Baptist

Church at Eighth and Adams Streets. The dormitory building, sold for a private residence, is now the Wallace home.

The college campus was platted and sold at auction. Three auctioneers were engaged for the occasion and the population turned out as if it were a Fourth of July celebration. The lots were sold but large-scale building did not begin immediately. At the time of this sale, there were only four houses on the four blocks in which the campus was located.

The First Baptist Church, in which materials from the Ohio Valley College were used, is one of the most striking buildings in Sturgis. Its exterior is veneered with glazed white brick and its arched windows are amber-stained.

The Sturgis Parent-Teacher Association was organized in 1915. During the first year, under the leadership of Mrs. E. H. Long, its first president, it started a movement to beautify Sturgis, sponsored the first of the Christmas parties for needy children, made up Christmas baskets, and served school lunches. In other respects it has performed functions similar to those of P.-T. A. organizations elsewhere in the country.

Other events of these years preceding America's entry into the World War included the rechartering in 1916 of the First National Bank, organized in 1902, as the Farmers State Bank. Shortly before or during the war the Cumberland Iron and Land Company, which had already sold their mining rights to the West Kentucky, sold their lots in Sturgis to a company of five Sturgis men: Ben Dyer, W. W. Wynns, C. H. Ellis, and Drs. J. O. McCauley and B. F. Humphrey. After these lots were auctioned off the company was dissolved.

The old town pump in the original City Park, now almost forgotten, was kept busy for many years. It was not until 1917 that Sturgis had a modern water system. The plant was built by the West Kentucky Coal Company for industrial purposes, and at one time, when all the mines of the company were being worked, its output reached 500,000 gallons per day. The pumping station and the reservoirs were located on the old Caseyville-Sturgis road (Ky. 85-130) near the bank of Tradewater River. Beneath the brick pumping station, a 30 by 50 brick building, there is a 90,000-gallon clear well. The two filter units have a capacity of 1,500 gallons each, and there is a low lift supply pump of 850 gallons and a delivery pump of 425 gallons. The old wooden tanks still stand but they have now been replaced

by a concrete basin. The electric power is furnished by the Kentucky Utilities Company, which purchased the water system in 1926. Z. Wayne Ellis has been in charge of the plant since it was built.

World War

The entry of the United States into the World War in April, 1917, brought about an increase in coal production for the Sturgis community, but in other respects its history affords no local variations from the events and feelings that were nation-wide at this time. The town's two women's clubs took up war activities. The Magazine Club disbanded in order to allow its members to devote all their time to Red Cross work while the Priscilla Club merely suspended its activities.

A Red Cross Chapter was organized in July, 1917, with Charles A. Ellis, chairman, C. D. Burdick, treasurer, and Mark E. Easton, secretary. In the first Red Cross drive the chapter was being organized and did not raise any funds. In the second war fund drive, May, 1918, the Sturgis chapter raised $9,801.66. Various kinds of garments, including pajamas and knitted wearing apparel, and dressings were made by the Red Cross. Since surgical dressings were made in a special way, an instructor was sent from Evansville. Mrs. J. J. Rudy, of Sturgis, was in charge of surgical dressings.

One hundred nine men having Sturgis as their postoffice address were in the American Expeditionary Force. Of these, three—Louis Bingham, Thomas B. Moore, and Henry Eldridge Riddle—were killed in action. Six Sturgis men were enlisted in the Navy during the War. William McKinley Sizemore (*see Biographical Sketches*), a private in the U. S. Marines, received the Croix de Guerre with Gilt Star.

The American Legion and the Kiwanis Club and Bridge

The post-war period was something of a "lodge and club age" in America. As such H. L. Mencken and his followers derided it, one or two playwrights satirized it, while the lodge members themselves had a good time and at the same time did a greater or lesser amount of good for the community. It was during this period that long-established fraternal organizations took on new life and several new organizations were founded.

In the larger cities imposing buildings were erected in the middle and late twenties by many of these lodges and clubs. That was part of the picture of prosperity in which they figured. Of course, the banks started taking over many of these "palaces of good fellowship" shortly after the Wall Street crash sounded the tocsin of depression.

In the way of new organizations there was first of all the American Legion which mushroomed all over the country. The Riddle Post was organized in 1920 in Sturgis and named for Henry Eldridge Riddle, the first Sturgis boy to die in the World War. It has contributed in many ways to the betterment of the town, especially in more recent years.

The American Legion Auxiliary of Riddle Post at Sturgis was organized April 13, 1921. It was the first Auxiliary in the county and one of the earliest to be established in the Second Congressional District. It has contributed much to the educational, religious, and social life of the town.

A post for Negro veterans, the Farley-Price Post, was established in 1922 with a membership of thirty. Since there were not enough Negro veterans in either Union or adjoining Crittenden County to form separate posts, a two-county post, embracing Union and Crittenden, was organized. After several years, members of the post dropped out or moved away and the post was disbanded. It was not until 1937 that it was reorganized. James McGee has been the only adjutant of the post since it was first organized. The first commander was Grover Tucker and the present (1941) commander is Buster Wallace, with Everett Hughes as vice-commander. The charter of the Farley-Price Post calls for fifteen members and it now has twenty-one. This post has the highest rating of any in Kentucky for percentage of membership in excess of charter requirements.

Another organization which has contributed to the progress and welfare of Sturgis is the Kiwanis Club. It was organized in November, 1921, with fifty-three members, and the following May it was chartered. Walter J. Kern, then retiring from his first term as Mayor of Sturgis, was first president.

As in the rest of the country, the Sturgis Kiwanis is a businessmen's club, the objectives of which are good fellowship and various kinds of charitable and civic activities. Since 1920, when the first troop of Boy Scouts was organized in Sturgis, the Kiwanis has been their sponsor or co-sponsor. It started the

Union County Fall Festival, has contributed generously to many other worthy causes, and has taken a special interest in underprivileged children.

The bridge across Tradewater River near the mouth of Cypress Creek connecting Crittenden and Union Counties at Sturgis was built in 1921-22 partly through the initiative of the Kiwanis. In recognition of this fact it has since been known as the Kiwanis Bridge. It cost approximately $20,000, of which $15,000 was supplied by the fiscal court of Union County and $5,000 by the fiscal court of Crittenden County—proportions determined by the tax valuations of the two counties.

E. Jeffery Travis, Crittenden County Judge, gives a few interesting sidelights on the movement to build this bridge:

> Five of the magistrates [of Crittenden County], the county attorney and one-half the town of Marion were "agin" it when we left here for the joint meeting with the Union County Fiscal Court. The joint meeting of the two courts was held under the shade trees in John Coker's front yard. The Bell Coal and Navigation Company, headed by C. H. Wilson of Sturgis and a Mr. Herbert, who was at that time superintendent of the company, contributed the sand and gravel needed for the sub-structure. William Berry, judge-elect of Union County, myself and Esquire R. L. Holt had a meeting before our terms began and agreed that the bridge was one thing we were going to have before our terms had progressed very far and we did.

Ted Stanton, Sturgis newspaper man, and C. H. Wilson, representing the Bell Coal and Navigation Company, were sent to Washington, D. C., at the expense of the company to obtain a permit from the War Department.

Events of the 1920's

The two most outstanding buildings erected during the postwar expansion were a new high school and the E.M.B.A. Building. The high school building which was completed in 1921 is now the Sturgis Junior High School.

The Employees Mutual Benefit Association is the organization of the employees of the West Kentucky Coal Company. In 1928 this association erected at Adams and Sixth Streets a two-story brick building with stone trim. The facilities of the building are varied and ample, and it soon became the center of much of the town's life. There is an auditorium with a stage and a seating capacity of 1,500 that is also used for athletics, principally basketball. The second floor has a well-equipped electrical kitchen and also an auditorium, with a seating capacity of 400, that is

used as a dining hall. The building also has six business offices, including those of the E.M.B.A.

Outside of a mine explosion, the history of Sturgis during the twenties was rather uneventful. A movie house was started in 1920 by the Lindle brothers, but after being operated seven years it was discontinued. In 1922 the Bennett-Winston store building was burned and in 1926 the West Kentucky Coal Company sold the Sturgis Electric Light Company to the Kentucky Utilities Company, its present owner.

One of the greatest disasters in the history of the western Kentucky coal fields occurred on the morning of June 8, 1925. Approximately 125 miners had gone to work at 7 o'clock in Mine No. 9 of the West Kentucky Coal Company, located about one and one-half miles northeast of Sturgis. Shortly thereafter an explosion took place, and seventeen miners were entombed. The others came up out of the mine. After some delay a rescue squad was made up under the leadership of Neal McCann, mine superintendent, and ventilation was restored. But when the seventeen men were reached they were dead. The explosion was caused by gas and dust ignited by an open light of one of the miners. The mine was closed in 1930 because of its gaseous condition.

In 1924 the Sturgis *News-Democrat,* then owned by Ted Stanton and Sam Ezell, was discontinued. The town was without a newspaper, for thirty days, for the first time in its history. J. A. Anderson, who brought his job printing press from Clay, Kentucky, was the next newspaper publisher in Sturgis. He sold out in 1929 to L. C. Benard of Chicago, Illinois, who published the paper until 1932.

The Woman's Club, organized in 1925, is on a par as far as public service is concerned with the Riddle Post of the American Legion and the Kiwanis Club. When it was founded there were twelve members, and Mrs. Jones Quirey, who has since moved to Texas, was president. It was founded with two purposes, first, to start a study club for the women of Sturgis, and second, to establish a library for the community. A beginning was made toward the library in 1927 when a book shower netted ninety volumes, but it was more than a decade before it was housed in its own quarters and had grown large enough to be called a library instead of a book collection. Another interest of the Woman's Club has been the City Park which it has beautified by

having trees planted, walks laid, a bandstand built, lights installed, and, jointly with the Music Club, a fountain erected.

The Music Club was organized January 4, 1926, with Mrs. C. H. Wilson as first president and a membership of thirty. Its objective is the promotion of good music "throughout the land."

Union County Fall Festival and the Early 1930's

Sturgis ever since its establishment over a half-century ago has been noticeably business-minded. When compared with Morganfield, mellowed and Southern in its atmosphere, Sturgis is almost "Yankee." When the Union County Fair that was held at Uniontown died a natural death, Sturgis business men lost little time in starting the Union County Fall Festival which now takes its place. It was first held under the sponsorship of the Kiwanis Club, unmindful of the depression, in 1931, and has been held every year since except in 1935 and 1937, making the 1941 Fall Festival the ninth. The festival, held for three days in the early fall, is an agricultural exhibit in which prizes are given. The exhibits include various sorts of foodstuffs, including such things as preserves and pies, products of the farm, eggs and livestock. A program of varied entertainment is also included.

In 1932 the owners of the Long Building, where Mr. Rakes' movie house was located, decided to operate a movie theater for themselves, remodeled the place, and installed new and modern equipment. Mr. Rakes thereupon moved "The Princess" into the Simpson Building.

Another event of 1932 was the sale of the Sturgis newspaper by L. C. Benard to E. C. Calman who changed its name to the Sturgis *News*. Mr. Calman immediately modernized the plant and the make-up of the paper. Today (1941), with a paid circulation of nearly 3,000, it is one of the leading weeklies in the State.

The establishment of a hospital in Sturgis has been of great benefit to the community and surrounding territory. Dr. G. B. Carr took over the two-story frame building at Seventh and Main Streets in 1933, and two years later it was incorporated. It furnishes hospitalization to the employees of several coal and fluorspar mines in Union and Livingston Counties and also to the general population. The Sturgis Hospital has the distinction of being the first hospital in the State to adopt the benefit plan of monthly payments.

The Greatest of the Ohio River Floods — 1937

Throughout the Ohio Valley, 1937 was a tragic year, for the greatest flood in its history took place in late January and early February. Three-quarters of Sturgis was under water, only sixteen city blocks escaping serious inundation. Hundreds were forced from their homes, and damage was almost beyond estimate. In some cases entire houses with their furnishings were lifted off their foundations and washed away. Household furnishings were destroyed by water in countless homes which otherwise withstood the flood. Those driven from their homes were cared for by more fortunate neighbors or relatives, until the Red Cross came forward to furnish organized relief.

In addition to local victims, all the miners from No. 2 and No. 8 mine camps of the West Kentucky Coal Company and also a large number from the Bell mines section in Crittenden County were cared for. Shelter, food, and, when necessary, medical attention were given to all who needed it. Although Sturgis was not under martial law, the Red Cross, at the request of city officials, took over the direction of the various functions of government.

Twelve boats, made at the local lumber yard, were bought by the Sturgis Red Cross Chapter, and operated by volunteers. Coast Guard cutters were also sent to Sturgis. These boats made daily trips to Caseyville, taking clothing, food, and fuel, sent by the Red Cross to the refugees in that section.

Even though refugees swelled the population of Sturgis by 1,000 and already approximately 2,100 citizens were crowded into sixteen blocks, there was no epidemic and practically no sickness.

As the water receded, the Red Cross Chapter, together with the city health department, assisted in cleaning up flooded properties and in many cases helped to move people back into their homes. The National Red Cross sent workers to supervise rehabilitation and to make grants to the unfortunate who had no one to provide the means of recovery from flood losses. During and after the flood $75,000 was expended directly and through grants by the Red Cross.

One of the stories of the 1937 flood, somewhat typical of innumerable others, relates that one morning while the water was rising a call came to relief headquarters asking that a doctor be sent to a certain place and that he stop at Holt's drygoods store

to purchase two suits of women's warm underwear and one man's suit. When the doctor arrived he found an elderly man and his two sisters, who had been exposed to the water until they were in need of medical attention. They lived near Commercial Point, and were so sure the water would never reach them that they refused to leave their home, although a boat had been sent for them before this time. When the rescue party reached them, they were in water to their knees, but still refused to leave unless the rescuers promised to go back and get their organ. The old women were picked up and placed in the boat; the man then followed, but it was too late to rescue the organ.

Aftermath of the Flood: 1937-38

The flood was naturally followed by a program of building and rebuilding. Homes were repaired, some new ones were built, and a few other new buildings rose shortly afterwards.

A new senior high school building, with sixteen classrooms and a gymnasium, was completed in 1937. It was also in 1937 that a building and lot were donated to the Sturgis Boy Scouts. The building was renovated and has become an important asset to their organization.

Another event of the flood year, outside of this program of building, was the closing of the State Bank of Sturgis.

A new meeting house was erected by the Church of God in 1938. It is a one-story white frame building with basement on Monroe between Third and Fourth Streets. This Church of God congregation was formed in Grangertown in 1920 and removed to Sturgis about 1930. Its first church building was so badly damaged by the flood that a new building was necessary.

The Sturgis Woman's Club Building, modest by comparison with the imposing auditoriums and elegant club rooms in larger cities, was established as such in 1938. The club has received $600 from the Y.M.C.A. fund and with it they bought a one-story concrete garage on one of Dr. B. F. Humphrey's Seventh Street lots. About $350 was spent in equipping the rooms for library and club purposes. The Woman's Club Library, established in 1927, now (1941) has approximately 800 books and a minimum monthly circulation of 500. Every three months it receives fifty books from the State Traveling Library.

The Junior Woman's Club, youngest civic organization in Sturgis, was established on November 28, 1939, with Mrs. J. B. Hale as the first president.

1940: Semi-Centennial of Incorporation

In 1940 Sturgis, *as an incorporated city,* was fifty years old. An appropriate celebration was held in the E.M.B.A. Building in the morning and evening of May 2, the date set by the Kentucky General Assembly a half-century before for the beginning of the corporate existence of Sturgis. Instrumental and vocal selections were presented and speeches were made, and a parade was formed in the early afternoon. All the various organizations in the town took part in this celebration, which was an example of the civic-mindedness of Sturgis. During the morning program in the auditorium, George S. Wilson of Owensboro and G. Talbott Berry related the history of Sturgis by dividing it in half at the year 1913; and at the evening exercises, O. H. Wilcox, mayor of Sturgis, cut the town's birthday cake.

During the program in the E.M.B.A. auditorium several guests whose efforts have helped to make Sturgis what it is today were recognized by Mayor Wilcox: Walter Talbott, Frank Alloway, W. B. Goad, Frank Holt, Nora Beard, who taught the first school in Sturgis; A. J. Winston, S. E. Cooksey of Evansville, Indiana, W. E. Sprague, one of the oldest pioneers of the community; B. F. Hall, who has been owner of a business establishment for a longer number of consecutive years than any other man in Sturgis; "Aunt" Fannie Brooks, colored, who cooked for the first surveyors who laid out the city, and "Aunt" Annie Robinson, colored, who cooked for the first restaurant and first hotel. Aunt Fannie, it was pointed out, "also washed the first clothes Chief of Police J. L. Shackelford ever wore."

The Sturgis American Legion Post and its Auxiliary, like the Woman's Club and the Kiwanis Club, also have continued to play a worthwhile role in the social and civic life of the community. Their home in City Park was dedicated in 1930, and in 1940 in co-operation with the city of Sturgis it sponsored the Community Building in City Park. The building, completed in the late fall of 1941, is a two-story structure, 40 by 50 feet, of native stone with a back wall of brick. Work on the Community Building was done by boys and young men from National Youth Administration rolls and was built under NYA supervision.

Another building erected in 1940 was the Tabernacle Baptist Church on Adams Street. This church was constituted in 1934 with sixty-seven members and is a member of the Little Bethel Association. Completed at a cost of $22,000, it is a two-story red brick building of simple construction. It has a basement, stained glass windows, and behind the pulpit in the main auditorium is the baptistry above which hangs a painting of a baptism.

During the last half-decade Sturgis has been lifted almost literally "out of the mud." Approximately twelve miles of streets were graded. drained and surfaced at a cost of $165,000 by the WPA in co-operation with the property owners. In addition to the blacktopped street, Sturgis has nearly two miles of concrete street, which principally include the routes of the two highways (US 60-Ky. 85) through the town.

Conclusion

Sturgis, the newest and second largest community in Union County, has characteristics that are evident in its history and noticeable in the contemporary scene. It is a club- and business-minded town, yet markedly a working man's town. For this reason its values are largely practical and immediate. The encrustations of the past have not overladen or burdened the present, and genealogy has not hit the pioneer or first families. Sturgis has a larger number of substantially built brick churches. several of simple but artistic style, than most towns of its size. It is also noticeably a town of one-story frame houses, and three-fourths of the homes are owned by their occupants.

As a small town the growth of Sturgis was rapid during its early years, the population increasing from 327 in 1890 to 1,258 in 1900. Since 1910 the population has increased between 300 and 400 every decade: 1910, 1,467; 1920, 1,750; 1930, 2,154; 1940, 2,321.

The West Kentucky Coal Company still looms large on the local scene, for Sturgis as an alert modern town is inseparable from it. The West Kentucky employs 1,500 miners, 535 of them working in the Sturgis mines. In addition, there are approximately 100 employees in the local stores and offices of the company. These stores include furniture, drug, clothing, and grocery stores, the last two known as the "company store" being located in the large two-story brick building at Adams and Sixth Streets.

Sturgis both in its business and social life naturally reflects the coal market of the West Kentucky like a barometer. When its business is good, Sturgis hums along like a top, and when it is dull the business of the town is also slack. At the present time (1941) the increased demand for coal caused by the national defense program has resulted in giving the miners one more working day a week than previously. This, then, is the outlook, optimistic at least in a more immediate sense, upon which the history of Sturgis is concluded.

UNIONTOWN: DOWN ON THE OHIO

UNIONTOWN was once a bright little jewel of a town that, together with many similar places, dotted the green-clad shores of the Ohio in its halcyon days. But its modest luster has been dimmed by the passing of that epoch which nourished it, first as a frontier settlement and later as a thriving, ambitious river town. No longer do the packets and keelboats ply the turgid waters of the Ohio and the Mississippi. In their place today are the barge trains, those dinosaurs that carry the cargo of heavy industry.

Although considerably frayed by the floodwaters of the Ohio in recent years, Uniontown, like an old aristocrat, still clings to the "olden ways and the decaying manor house," content to laze out the days and to remember. There is, indeed, much to remember. There were the earliest days of the white man's entry into the country when it was only a spot in the unbroken forests. It was then known to rivermen as "the mouth of the Highland," the name of the creek that gave it location, or as "the Rocks," after those giant chunks of sandstone that rear up like monster sentinels along the riverbank a short distance below Uniontown.

It was here amid these rocks that someone, seemingly of classic mind, dreamed of laying out a town to be known as Carthage. When Fortescue Cuming came down the river in 1808 there was only one house at the Rocks, but on the site of Uniontown, where he noted the "fine landing," there were, he wrote, "two beautiful settlements owned by Messrs. Cooper and Austin, and a framed house rented by . . . Mr. Gilchrist, a temporary settler."*

As in 1808, when Cuming observed "several boats laid up here, which had lately brought families down the river . . ."* the mouth of the Highland continued to be a fairly important point for the landing of river-traveling immigrants. It was taken for granted that one day it would become a town of some note, for there were certain natural advantages that made it a likely spot for commerce and business. But for a decade after Cuming's visit it remained little more than a frontier outpost. Settlers came to take

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up land and till the soil, not to build towns and engage in manufacturing and commerce. These came later as the land was peopled, and necessity gave birth to such enterprises.

Chartering of Francisburg, Locust Port, and Uniontown

Then, in 1819, the Kentucky Legislature granted a charter for the establishment of a town at this point to be named Francesburg (*sic*). Benjamin Berry and Peter Casey, as stated in the act of incorporation, owned the land upon which the town was to be built, and from the wording of the charter it seems to have been surveyed already and laid off in convenient streets and lots. Such optimism and speculative foresight characterized that period.

If the town was established at this time, its government, in all likelihood, was not organized immediately after the approval of its charter, for this document made the election of its five trustees dependent on the residence in the town of "fifteen white males above the age of twenty-one." The charter also empowered Benjamin Berry and Peter Casey to designate the public house at which the election was to be held, and they were instructed to post notice in writing at the door of some public house ten days before the election.

By the powers of this charter the trustees of Francesburg could not impose a fine exceeding $5 for a breach of any of their bylaws or ordinances; trustees were to serve one year in office and were instructed to "designate the place . . . at which their successors in office shall be elected."

The origin of the name Francisburg, or Francesburg, is still something of a mystery, as it is not known for whom the town was named. In the 1819 act of incorporation it was spelled with an "e" and for this reason may have been the name of the wife or one of the daughters of Benjamin Berry. More likely than not this was a misspelling. In 1811 *Francis* Berry, Sr., sold to William Berry part of a tract of land that had originally been granted to Andrew Waggener by the Commonwealth of Virginia. In all likelihood, therefore, the town was named for Francis Berry, Sr.

A second act of incorporation, this time for Francisburg (*sic*), was passed by the Kentucky Legislature and approved on January 17, 1839. This means that if Francisburg was organized as a trustee town on the basis of the 1819 act, apparently it did not retain its corporate character continuously during the intervening twenty years.

It was also in 1839 that a charter was granted for the adjoining town of Locust Port. The existence of these towns side by side and their incorporation within a month of each other suggests some sort of previous competition and explains the quarrel that took place later. The establishment of new voting precincts about 1839 may also have had something to do with the incorporation of the two towns at this time.

Apparently Locust Port had already been laid out, for the charter speaks of "the plan formed and laid down by [the] proprietors and entered of record in the clerk's office of the Union County Court. . . ." The land upon which the town was established belonged to Peter and Philander Berry, but Peter Berry, like Peter Casey in the case of Francisburg, seemed to have taken no active part in its affairs. At any rate, he was not one of the five trustees appointed by the legislature. These were Philander Berry, John F. Cromwell, William David, Philip Boone, and William O. Cromwell. Shortly after the chartering of Locust Port, Enoch James and William David of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, bought the Berry land and became proprietors of the town.

Tradition traces the establishment of Uniontown to a quarrel between William David, of Locust Port, and Isham Bridges, of Francisburg. These two men were on the verge of settling their differences by a duel when a friend of both interfered and succeeded in settling the dispute without bloodshed. It was at this time—and apparently it had something to do with the dispute—that the plan for uniting the two towns was proposed and agreed upon, and in the 1839-40 session of the Kentucky General Assembly an act was passed uniting the two towns. Because of the happy solution of the contention between these two rival towns the newly incorporated place was named Uniontown. The present Division Street formerly separated the two towns.

Among the powers granted the seven trustees of Uniontown by its first charter was the right "to contract for the sinking of wells," and "the power to levy and collect from the owner or owners or managers of all exhibitions of animals and shows of every description within the limits of . . . town, any amount not exceeding fifty dollars for each show or exhibition. . . ." It is interesting to note, since such powers implied the existence of certain practices, that the charter also gave the trustees, "power to pass bylaws to suppress racing or running of horses within the limits of . . . town. . . ."

The Role of the River

The life of Uniontown during those leisurely, carefree days was redolent of the river. Steamboats carrying the varied commerce of an expanding continent tied up at its wharf to load or unload; pleasure-seeking travelers and business-bent merchants peered over the boat railings of the deck or came off board to stretch their legs and get the feel of land again, while a few of them stopped over at the old Riverside Hotel.

Uniontown became a shipping point not only for a large part of Union County but also for Hopkins, Webster, and the near-by sections of Henderson Counties. Turkeys, hogs, and cattle were driven or hauled to the pens at Uniontown, while corn was brought in wagons to await shipment to some point up or down the river; and, when its coal mines were developed, it became a fueling station.

But the river was not all profit and romance. River shipping was hazardous, especially during the early years, and many lost their lives, their money, and their cargo—sometimes all three. A news item in the *Memphis Enquirer* of September 29, 1847, suggests the dangers and dark mysteries ready to beset the unprepared:

> Daniel Williams of Union Town, Ky., with a flatboat loaded with Irish potatoes, cattle, etc., was found dead in his boat this morning, at our landing. An inquest was held over his body, and the jury report "death from appoplexy." The fact of his being robbed, however, and other circumstances (having sold out the better part of his load, and there being no money on his person), would lead to the impression that he must have been murdered.

The memories of the river that Uniontown cherishes are not those of river desperadoes, but of the warm, colorful days when the packet was at the height of its glamor; memories of days spent on the levee watching colored roustabouts chanting folk songs and spirituals and lazily loading up the boats, and of steamboats with parting blasts surging back into the river—the whitecaps splashing and breaking against their sides.

The town's first ferry, as nearly as it can be determined, was run by John Graham, who was also a hotelkeeper. Frederick Wolfin, a shoemaker by trade, is said to have built the first wharfboat in Uniontown in 1846. Mr. Wolfin emigrated from Germany in 1839 and settled in Uniontown during the same year. In 1841 he married Rebecca Dyer, daughter of William Dyer, progenitor of the Union County Dyers. The Wolfins went to

Louisiana in 1852, but returned in a few years and settled permanently in Union County.

The social life of the town also was touched by the river. Boat officers and their crews were good customers. Sometimes there were dances on board the boat in the large dining hall or in the captain's quarters. More frequently, the Riverside or the old Commercial Hotel, as it was called in those days, was the scene of large parties and dances. The old Commercial, a large two-story frame building that stood on the site of the present waterworks contained, besides its large parlors and dining-room, a billiard parlor, saloon, and everything expected in a first-class hotel of the day.

Show boats occasionally provided the town with entertainment, and storeboats that plied the Ohio and Mississippi and their tributaries would tie up at the wharf, their wares attracting housewives and thoughtful husbands for miles around. The river brought new friends and acquaintances; it created a colorful lore, brought news and topics for conversation. But above all it was a natural avenue for a seemingly endless procession of commerce.

Uniontown, for all the lustiness of rivermen and riverways, apparently did not follow the wicked ways of Shawneetown, down the river on the Illinois shore, or that devil's resort, Natchez. There were enough God-fearing, respectable people in the town in 1835 to form a Methodist congregation and, in 1848, the Baptists, undoubtedly organized much earlier, erected a church which was free for the use of all denominations. Congregations of other denominations were also formed about this time or even earlier.

Union County's first newspaper was established in Uniontown in 1855. If there was another one before this there is no known record of it today. This newspaper was owned by George N. Proctor and John Hancock and edited by Jasper Keys, the latter from Ohio. It is not known how long the paper was published. Robert Marshall Wilson, later prominent in the affairs of the county, became general utility man at the age of eighteen years. In 1862 he was made deputy sheriff of Hancock County.

Mr. Proctor, part owner of the paper, owned about five or six hundred acres of land near Waverly. Another one of his claims to historical note rests upon the fact that at eighty years of age he

married again and in due time his wife presented him with twins. Nothing is known today of John Hancock.

The Burning of the Pacific

Through the passing years the river has carried to the doors of Uniontown both good fortune and tragedy with a like indifference. On Sunday, November 18, 1860, the town witnessed a tragic and spectacular event with the burning at its wharf of the steamer *Pacific*. This heavily-loaded packet was taking on coal about 6:30 p. m., when Kansas Sheaffer, then a boy, standing on the bank with his father and mother, noticed that the packet was brilliantly illuminated. He called it to his parents' attention and they stood debating whether the boat was on fire or not. Then, suddenly, the flames shot high into the air between the smokestacks. Before it was hardly noticed, even by the men in the hold, crackling flames were leaping from the hay that had been stacked near the boilers, and in a short time the most resplendent and popular of the New Orleans packets became an inferno. Panic broke loose. Hysterical passengers added their cries to those of the fire-crazed stock below deck. The cables holding the *Pacific* fast were burned, and a fairly strong wind blowing from the shore pushed the boat to leeward, leaving those who were still on board trapped. A few of the passengers, fatigued by travel, had already retired and, by the time they knew what was happening, the boat was too far out for other than stout-hearted swimmers to dive into the icy water and swim ashore. Among those who were seen to jump overboard were three women passengers, one of whom was saved. The steamer *E. H. Fairchild*, bound up at Uniontown, came alongside the burning boat as soon as possible and remained there to relieve its distress.

Captain William Lamb, the *Pacific's* veteran commander, went down with his ship. He devoted himself to saving others until he could hold out no longer, then he slid down the derrick fall at the stern, expecting to find a boat there. It had been taken, however, and Captain Lamb clung to the tackle as long as possible. Finally, when a colored man pushed an oar toward him, he missed it and drowned.

In a very short time the boat was burned to the water's edge. The wreck, licked with wind-whipped flames that sizzled as the water came over its sides, floated down the river and lodged on the Indiana shore just beyond the point below town. Next day

the *Fairchild* brought the officers and crew of the *Pacific* back to Louisville, where most of them lived, as well as many of the surviving passengers.

Other News of an Eventful Year

Other events of 1860 were auspicious. Several months before the disaster of the *Pacific,* a bank was chartered by the Kentucky Legislature. Undoubtedly the banking before this time had been of the personal and mercantile type; therefore, the newly established Farmers' and Merchants' Savings Institution was the town's first regular bank. Hull Higginson, one of the commissioners appointed to obtain subscriptions, conducted the bank during its first years. It was authorized by its charter to have a capital stock of not less than $150,000 nor more than $200,000, divided in shares of $1,000 each. This bank served not only the needs of Uniontown but also the surrounding agricultural communities. A later banking establishment was known as Cartmell, Higginson and Co., and a directory of Uniontown in 1880 lists N. Cartmell and Co., as successors of this bank. One of the earliest, if not the earliest, local newspapers was the *Uniontown News* mentioned in the Savings Institution's articles of incorporation.

The erection of St. Agnes Catholic Church in 1860 added to the events of this year. Catholic services were held in private homes for several decades previous to this. Uniontown now had two church buildings.

War and the Period of Expansion that Followed

At the beginning of the War between the States, Uniontown was the largest town in the county. In 1860 the U. S. Census reported a population of 1,046. During the war the prosperous little river town was the scene of several skirmishes (*see War between the States*) and, like Caseyville farther down the river, it was occasionally the scene of operations of Federal gunboats. An old frame building in which John Graham kept hotel was shelled during the war. Though battered by bullets and washed and warped askew by high water, it was still standing in 1886 when the *History of Union County* was published by the Evansville *Courier.* (This is the same John Graham who is said to have run a ferry.)

One of the many stories that either originated in the war or later became connected with it, concerns the house now occupied by Robert T. Wathen. It is part of that local tradition which,

embroidered with myth during the course of the years, lives and flourishes on such things as haunted houses and other occurrences savoring of the supernatural. The Wathen house, a two-story frame building, is two and one-half miles from Uniontown on the Morganfield Road. A gang of counterfeiters once operated here, according to this story. They are said to have been engaged in the business quite extensively, but during the war the house was raided by soldiers or the sheriff of the county. Another version of these counterfeiters relates that they operated sometime before the outbreak of the war.

Another story of the war concerns a jewel theft. The Masonic Lodge of Uniontown purchased some jewels for $30.50 shortly after it was chartered in 1851. During the war these were stolen by a Negro soldier who offered them for sale to a druggist in Vincennes, Indiana. The druggist, who was a Mason, questioned the Negro and learned that they had been stolen from the lodge in Uniontown. After writing to the secretary of the Uniontown lodge he returned the jewels, and they are still in use today.

The war seemed to have an adverse effect on Uniontown, for in 1870 the U. S. Census reported a population of only 896, a decrease of 150. However, the decline was temporary and the town almost regained its loss by the end of the decade 1870-80, when the population was 1,015.

One of the first buildings erected in Uniontown after the war was St. John's Episcopal Church in 1870-71. This new church, which served a congregation organized at a much earlier date, was not consecrated until 1882.

The opening of a distillery in 1871 at Uniontown occurred at a time when the county was growing a considerable amount of corn and the price was steadily dropping. The distillery was destroyed by fire the following year and three Negroes, accused of setting it on fire, were hanged by a mob. Uniontown whisky, even during that brief period, became known in some of the eastern cities. (If this distillery was not rebuilt after the fire, then a new one was built shortly afterwards, for in 1876, when the *Kentucky Gazetteer and Business Directory* was published, Lancaster & Spalding were listed as distillers. It is possible that the information given in this 1876 publication had been gathered before the burning of the distillery.)

After the war there was no regular ferry service at Uniontown until Captain Barney Bowers established it in 1873. The power

for his boat, an open-railed barge, sixty-five feet long and twenty feet wide, was supplied by two mules named "Buck" and "Jute." They turned the large sternwheel by going around in a circle as old-fashioned sorghum mills and hay baling machines were operated.

On one occasion, while crossing the river, a large steamer almost ran the ferry down in midstream. The captain of the steamer yelled, "Why don't you blow your whistle?" "I haven't got a whistle, but I got a damn good club," shouted the ferryboat captain as he flourished a good-sized club.

In the winter of 1873 a boat outfitted as a photographic studio tied up for the season at Uniontown. This boat visited all the towns along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. R. M. Wilson, who had come to Uniontown almost two decades before, and had worked on the county's first newspaper, was the boat's proprietor. It seems that he went on to Morganfield where he worked on the *Union County Advocate.* He returned to Uniontown in 1874 and since the community was then without a newspaper he started the *Union Local.*

There is another version, slightly different in its chronology, of Mr. Wilson's newspaper career. The old *Union County History* relates that he came to Union County on June 5, 1873, and took charge of the *Union County Advocate,* and that on January 1, 1874, he bought it out and moved to Uniontown where he established the *Union Local.* Herbert Wilson, the son of R. M. Wilson, relates, however, that his father really came to Union County on the photographic boat.

Two other noteworthy events of this decade were the establishment of St. Agnes Parochial School in 1872, and the erection of a small Presbyterian Church in 1877. When organized, in 1851, the Presbyterians started holding services in a tobacco factory.

When the *Kentucky Gazetteer and Business Directory* was published, in 1876, Uniontown's commercial and professional life was quite varied. Its population was only about 1,000, yet tobacco, pork, corn, cattle, and country produce were listed as its principal exports. Coal was said to exist "in almost inexhaustible quantities, not only under this village, but throughout the county. . . ." There was a stage to Henderson via Morganfield, express, and daily mail.

Charles B. Anderson, one of the town's several druggists, was also the Uniontown postmaster; Alonzo Hatfield was police

judge, and Anselm Clark, marshal. Thomas Haywood and Hultz & Cyle were listed as fish dealers. There were two tobacco stemmeries, one operated by J. V. Cartmell and the other by R. H. Soaper and Company. Leaf tobacco was handled by Adams and Company. The town's milling plant was operated by W. M. Rathman. "Wharfage and commission" was listed as the occupation or business of J. C. Hamilton.

In addition to such other enterprises as general stores, groceries, hotels, livery stables, harness and saddlery stores, there were blacksmiths, a brickyard operated by Joseph Vogle, and a distillery operated by Lancaster and Spalding. The town's undertaker was Nathan L. Critser. Shoemakers included Candiz, George Lowe and Dugald McKeller. One dentist, James Hill, and four physicians—Green G. Boyle, William Cross, J. T. L. Jenkins, and Logan H. Robinson—were listed. There were three lawyers practicing in the town—Martin M. and W. Franklin Berry, and H. M. Haskins. Women's hat needs were well cared for—Mrs. Josephine Adkinson, Mrs. Kate Campbell, and Mrs. Julia Reiff conducted millinery establishments.

When the *Atlas of Henderson and Union Counties* was published in 1880, several new names and business establishments came to notice, while others seemingly underwent some changes, at least in nomenclature.

G. H. Chapman put out his shingle for medical practice. R. W. Crabb & Company dealt in stoves, queensware, pumps, mantels, and gates. C. I. Mattingly made boots and shoes, "wedding boots and fine shoes" being a specialty. The David Brothers' establishment, listed as a general store in 1876, dealt in corn, wheat, coal, lumber, and agricultural implements—a combination which suggests at least occasional bartering. Thomas J. Below's advertisement for the Commercial House stated that it kept "night watch for all passing boats," giving Uniontown a distinctive river note. It was also in 1880 that Sylvester Pike, a greenback speculator, organized Uniontown's first modern bank.

Whatever destruction Uniontown may have suffered during the War between the States was greatly surpassed in a single day in 1884. February 19 of that year began as a beautiful day, so warm and clear that it seemed like spring. The town was then under floodwater, the crest being eight feet at Second and Main Streets. Something of a holiday spirit prevailed and many people were out in boats enjoying the best of a bad situation on a de-

lightful day. Then, about 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon, a heavy storm rolled in from the west. The force of the wind was terrific, and in a very short time it had demolished many homes and buildings.

During the flood of 1884, "Hamilton Hall," a building used for general community purposes, was destroyed.

The belated building of a railroad through Union County in 1886 was a shadow of coming events—for the railroad passed Uniontown by. The effect on its favorable economic position was not immediately felt, but eventually the railroad superseded the river as a carrier. Therefore, 1886 was an important year for the town in a negative sense.

The Last Decade of the Century

The completion of a comparatively large distillery in 1891 (*see Economic Development*), twenty years after the establishment of the first one, was Uniontown's contribution to the industrial life of the nineties. This was an event which overshadowed others of greater import, such as the erection of a public school building in 1890. Reuben Gold Thwaites mentioned this distillery in 1894 in his book, *On the Storied Ohio*.

The ferryboat continued to figure in the annals of the little river town. Ferry service and local point-to-point shipping was sufficiently profitable to supplant old "Buck" and "Jute" with the steam-powered *Georgia* in 1893. The new steam ferry was designed, built, and operated by Captain Styles.

The "Little Captain," as Styles was known, despite his 290 pounds, was always at his post and, although he had only one eye, he handled himself and his boat remarkably well. He was rough in his ways and full of practical jokes, yet liked by everyone. One of his greatest sports was to pitch boys unexpectedly overboard into the cold river.

Once when the river was at flood stage, Captain Styles made a trip to Wabash Island for some corn. He landed at a crib where the shellers had left a large pile of floating cobs. The boat came in close enough for a man to jump from the boat to the corncob pile and tie the boat. The captain shouted to one of his men to "jump out and make a line fast around that tree." His man jumped before thinking and went under. When he bobbed back up he shouted, "Oh, Captain, this darn cob pile is afloat."

One of the most attractive edifices erected in the nineties was St. Agnes' second church building, dedicated in 1893. The structure, built in Romanesque style, is still in use. The older church is now known as the Winter Chapel.

The newspaper established in 1874 by R. M. Wilson also underwent some changes in the nineties. Its name was changed to *Uniontown News* in 1894, when it was leased to the firm of Wilson and Below. After a year, it was sold to Crowe and Rhea, both good newspapermen, under whose management the newspaper and printing plant reached their most flourishing condition. It was at this time that the name was changed to *The Telegram*.

An event of consequence in the economic life of the town was the establishment of a newly organized bank. This was the National Bank founded by Martin Morgan in 1899. During this decade the population of Uniontown increased almost 50 per cent. In 1890 it was 1,037, and in 1900 it was 1,532. Prospering with its river trade, Uniontown was still the most populous place in the county.

The Tide Turns

Never were conditions quite as rosy for Uniontown as at the beginning of the century. A distillery, which hired as many as 300 men at a time, a flourmill, coal mines, and a well-tilled, well-stocked agricultural community extending for miles behind it made it an important, if minor, center for commerce from Louisville to New Orleans. Perhaps this was the reason that the Farmers Bank, the second one in town, was established in 1902.

In 1901 Captain Styles sold the *Georgia* to the Ragland brothers, of Shawneetown, and its successor, the *New Haven*, was jointly purchased by the old captain and J. W. Pfeffer. It was a small steamer, somewhat in the style of its predecessor.

Soon after the *New Haven* was taken into ferry service at Uniontown, it carried the first automobile to cross the river here. When Captain Styles sighted the "horseless buggy" on the Indiana shore, he shouted to his crew that he saw a buggy running away. The boat landed at the dock and the owner of the automobile asked what the charges were. The captain replied, "five dollars." The owner complained, saying that it was no more than a horse and buggy. The captain answered, "Yes, but I am taking a chance on being blown up." He then ordered everyone on board to refrain from striking matches.

In December, 1905, during floodwater, the *New Haven* went about five miles up Wabash River for a cargo of corn. They landed and intended to load and return before the ice grew too heavy, for the Wabash was running thick. When the barges were finally loaded, the captain found they were ice-bound. For ten days the old captain, Pilot Dunbar, Dave Strouse, and two colored boys whiled away the time waiting for the river to break.

When Captain Styles died, in 1907, his place was taken by John Styles, his son, who bought the *Toney,* a gasoline ferryboat six feet wide and twenty-four feet long.

In 1906 Dr. Frederick Thompson became rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Uniontown. The following year he established a school for postulants for the ministry. The school, which continued for only four years, was held in the church rectory at first but was later moved to the old Piland Hotel building. Students came from many States in the Union. The Rt. Rev. Norman Buistead, Bishop of Tokyo, the Rev. Claude Crookston (Father Joseph), who is now (1941) head of the Little Portion Monastery of the Order of St. Francis on Long Island, and the Rev. Edward Thurlow, missionary to China, were students in this school.

The Telegram, like the ferry, continued to change hands. John Berry purchased the paper in 1895 and became its editor. In 1905 he sold it to V. L. Spalding, a teacher in the local high school. Mr. Spalding's first venture as a publisher was short-lived, for after one year he sold his interests to T. C. Williams in order to engage in newspaper work elsewhere. Noel Berry succeeded Mr. Williams in 1908, and Madden Green took charge of the paper in 1910. Six years later (1916), V. L. Spalding returned to Uniontown and again purchased *The Telegram.*

A curious situation was taken into court by the city government of Uniontown in the early 1900's. For half a century, due to the changing current, there had been a gradual and constant recession of the Ohio River from its southern bank at Uniontown and a corresponding accretion at the point where it receded. The ownership of this land was contested in the county court and was taken from there to the circuit court and then to the court of appeals. At the time the case was being tried in court there were forty to fifty acres, but it has increased until today Uniontown has a 100-acre farm that has cost it nothing but the cost of litigation. It is rented and planted in corn annually, and the pro-

ceeds go into the city treasury. By the decisions of the courts, any land forming between the city and the river becomes the property of the city.

The river, however, has also decreased the land area of Uniontown. The old river landing was above the town, and at one time there was room to turn a six-horse team in front of the buildings that stood here fronting the river. This caved into the river many years ago.

Uniontown reached the height of its development during the first decade of the century, and it was during this decade that it slipped from this peak. Perhaps the greatest blow to its economic life occurred in 1908 when the Mutual Distilling Company dismantled its plant and removed the machinery to Louisville.

In 1910 the firm of Alhorn and Waller, makers of burned clay products, moved from Morganfield to Uniontown where it had bought the plant of the Uniontown Brick Company. The products of this company consist of building brick and building and drain tile. Practically every farm in the county has used drain tile from Alhorn and Waller, and the company has furnished tile and brick for nearly all the important buildings constructed in whole or in part of this material—the courthouse, postoffice, and City Park buildings in Morganfield; schools and homes in various parts of the county and in adjoining counties.

In 1911 the National Bank was absorbed by the Farmers Bank, which has since remained the town's only bank.

The removal of the distillery, together with a few smaller losses, were at least partly responsible for the decrease in Uniontown's population from 1,532 in 1900 to 1,356 in 1910.

About 1912 Uniontown also lost its tobacco stemmeries. The western Kentucky "Tobacco War" of 1906-8 was the first disturbance. Then a newly enacted tariff law discriminated against stemmed tobacco bound for export, and the overseas corporations withdrew from the field and left the farmers in control. The latter, now finding stemming unprofitable, largely abandoned that practice and reduced the number of buying markets. One of those retained and strengthened was that at Henderson, which largely replaced the small stemming floor markets scattered throughout this section. Union County farmers went with the times and from then on they used the Henderson market. The stemmeries had provided seasonal employment for many in

and around Uniontown and, therefore, its chief loss was that of employment.

As in most small towns of its size, Uniontown remained very much alive in its civic and social activities. In 1908 a council of the Knights of Columbus was organized. Lodges of this sort invariably play an important role in the social life of a community. Dances, picnics, dinners, and excursions are a part of their yearly program and contribute appreciably to the variety and flavor of small-town life. This has been true of the Knights of Columbus in Uniontown. In 1913 the Knights of Columbus Council erected, on a lot next to the Farmers Bank, a brick building costing $11,000, the lower floor being rented for a store room.

From War to Depression

With the entry of the United States into the World War, the pattern of life in Uniontown, as in all parts of the country, was dominated by national affairs. The departure of men for training camps and for service in France, together with world-shaking events, was of prime concern.

During the war Uniontown had two large fires. In September, 1917, the so-called Opera Building, which housed the municipal offices, a grocery store, and had on its second floor an auditorium used for shows, school exhibitions, and other public affairs, was burned. Another fire, larger and more spectacular, occurred the following year when a lumber yard belonging to the Greenwell brothers burned. It was a windy day and the yard was near the residential part of the town and only about one block from its business section. Uniontown had no waterworks as yet, and a bucket brigade fought unflaggingly to prevent the spread of the fire. The yard was completely destroyed, but little other damage was done.

When the U. S. Census was taken in 1920, Uniontown had a population of only 1,094, a decrease of almost 300 since the last census. This loss, largely attributable to the war, was regained in part during the next decade for, in 1930, Uniontown had a population of 1,235.

The Parent-Teachers Association of Uniontown, organized in 1900, has been one of the most active and helpful in public affairs. The first gymnasium was built through its influence; it has equipped playgrounds, bought curtains for the auditorium and gymnasium, furnished a rest room for teachers and pupils, and

now (1941) is the sponsor of a school lunch project for undernourished children under the Work Projects Administration.

The Parent-Teachers Association of St. Agnes Parochial School, organized in 1925, has been one of the most active social organizations in recent years. By means of jitney suppers, bingos, bazaars, burgoos, and other types of socials it has been able, among numerous other things, to convert the old Clements House into a high school building, buy typewriters for the school's commercial course, and improve both the Sisters' Home and the school. Part of their program is financed also by the dues of members, who sometimes number ninety during the year.

The post-war period of prosperity was uneventful in Uniontown. New equipment for the ferry service at Uniontown, constructed about 1927, included two docks at both landings, ferry barges sixty feet long and thirty feet wide, and the *Rambler,* a Diesel-motored craft, sixty feet long and eleven feet wide.

A Decade of Destruction and Building

More than any other equal span of time the thirties were a decade of destruction and rebuilding for Uniontown. It was ushered in by a depression; then, during a half-decade interval, the town was visited first by a tornado and then by a flood.

The tornado came about six o'clock Monday evening, March 21, 1932, sweeping down Second Street and on through Boxtown, the Negro section, into the bottoms, destroying property along its path. The old Piland Hotel was demolished and two people, A. H. Piland, eighty-three, and John Shanks, sixty-five, were killed, and a woman was seriously injured. This tornado did not touch any other place in Union County.

The great flood of 1937 almost wiped Uniontown off the map. At its crest of fifty-four feet, the water was twenty feet at the corner of Main and Second Streets. By the time flood water had covered all but a few roofs, everyone had left town. Evacuation took place mostly in cold rain, and presented a picture of desolation. Some walked, lugging clothes and bedding; more fortunate ones rode in conveyances of all kinds, and a few were carried on cots. After a short period of makeshift and suffering, a refugee town was built on the uplands. The Red Cross, the American Legion, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Works Progress Administration came to the rescue. The needy were clothed and fed, and places were provided for sleeping quarters.

As dismal as evacuation had been, the homecoming after the water had receded was even more distressing. The flood wreckage and litter presented a sorry spectacle. What was left of the town seemed hopeless, and there was talk for a time of rebuilding on the hills fringing Uniontown on the south. A committee of Uniontown citizens went to Washington to secure Federal aid for this purpose, only to learn that there was no authority for re-locating flood-wrecked homes.

Nothing ever came of this plan, and gradually the town has been built back largely as it was before the flood. Most of the buildings that collapsed or were damaged have been rebuilt or repaired. Some have better homes than they had before the flood. During the rehabilitation period, about $175,000 was spent in and around Uniontown.

Plans have been made to build a levee and flood wall around the town, as has been done in innumerable towns, large and small, along the river. Details of this flood wall have been blue-printed and when the city complies with its part of the contract the project will be started.

The school gymnasium collapsed during the flood. In the spring of 1937 a new gymnasium, "Harkins Hall," was built by the Works Progress Administration at a cost of $28,000 under the sponsorship of the Board of Education. It was named for Otis Harkins, in recognition of his twelve years of untiring service as superintendent of the public school. The flood also destroyed the plant of *The Telegram* and caused damage estimated at $5,000. Since then it has been published by contract in the office of the Munford Publishing Company, in Morganfield, with Joseph Spalding, son of V. L. Spalding, as editor and publisher. By comparison with the flood, other events that made headlines during the decade seem of minor importance.

The construction in 1934-35 of an $85,000 waterworks system, a joint RFC-PWA project, gave Uniontown its first sanitary water system. Shortly thereafter a $7,000 sanitary sewerage system, constructed by the WPA, was completed.

Uniontown Today

The year 1940 was a centennial year for Uniontown, marking the anniversary of its incorporation. It was also a census year and its population, despite the flood of 1937, was 1,327, an increase of almost 100 in the ten-year period. It is interesting to

note that for more than three-quarters of a century Uniontown's population has changed only slightly, and it has now, seemingly, reached a point of comparative stability. The town has had its boom, profited from the river commerce and travel of past decades, and otherwise enjoyed the age of decentralization, but it has been pretty severely buffeted through the years also by floods, tornadoes, and fires. Today, Uniontown has settled down to a more prosaic pattern of life—"tending its own little garden."

The only boat that stops at Uniontown now (1941) is the *Cotton Blossom,* a show boat that has seen much better days. For twenty-five or thirty years the *Cotton Blossom* has stopped here regularly to present *Lena Rivers, Trail of the Lonesome Pine,* or *Ten Nights in a Barroom.* Very small crowds attend the performances which even the least critical consider mediocre—a contrast to earlier years when capacity audiences dressed in their best clothes turned out for what were considered good shows.

The town has its unemployment problem, for the only large employer is the Highland Creek Coal Company. Farm work also provides sporadic jobs for many, and the Wabash Grain Elevator here is the largest in the county. Otherwise, Uniontown is a town of small stores. It has a bank, a drugstore, and the other businesses that customarily serve a town of about 1,400 people. There are two saloons and two dance halls.

In churches, Uniontown makes a good showing; for there are six churches for whites and three for Negroes. Fraternal orders having lodges here are the Masons, Knights of Columbus, Odd Fellows, and Order of the Eastern Star.

Since the Union County Fair is no longer held, Uniontown's greatest annual event now is the barbecue given by St. Agnes Church. Old friends and relatives come back for the occasion; old-timers recall the days when the entire levee was covered with freight, when the pork house was lined with carcass and cut, and a hundred kegs of beer were unloaded each week on the wharf. Memories of the distillery, the flourmill, and the tobacco stemmeries may carry with them a note of nostalgia. But, like so many little towns along the big rivers, the honeymoon was over when the railroad, the modern highway, and the truck relegated the packet to the romance of America's continental development. Now the river is only a mark of the town's location and, like the expanse of water that moves on by its side, Uniontown, too, moves on in the same placid fashion.

CASEYVILLE

CASEY was a name that loomed large in the early history of Union County. Peter Casey, patriarch of the family, was the discoverer, with his eldest son, Samuel, of coal at DeKoven (*see DeKoven*). After surveying land in what is now Union County in 1785, Peter Casey returned to Harrod's Fort, where his second son, Nicholas, was born in 1799.

At about the time, in the middle 1820's, when Peter and Samuel Casey were making their investigation of the possibilities of coal at DeKoven, Nicholas Casey landed his flatboat in a wilderness of canebrakes near the confluence of the Ohio and Tradewater Rivers, in the extreme southwestern part of Union County. His intention was to establish a ferry and woodyard there; he remained to become the Admirable Crichton of a temporarily thriving settlement. His woodyard and ferry—complete with boathouse—soon became a reality. In 1828 he dug the first icehouse between Louisville and New Orleans. Presently boats bound up and down the river began to tie up at Casey's Landing for provisions.

Casey's Landing became the town of Caseyville by action of the State Legislature in 1837, largely through the offices of Nicholas Casey, who was serving in the Assembly at that time. The act appointed him one of the first trustees; empowered male inhabitants of the town thereafter to elect trustees, defined the duties of trustees and other town officers, and limited their taxing powers.

Nicholas Casey also served for twenty years as a magistrate, in which capacity his rulings, according to contemporary chronicles, were characterized by wisdom and practical justice.

Later legislative action established a police court at Caseyville, provided for election of a police judge, town marshal, and treasurer; established streets and alleys of the town, and empowered trustees to license coffee-houses. In 1872 an act was passed to regulate the sale of "spiritous and vinous liquors" in quantities less than a quart within a mile of Caseyville. This law was strictly enforced for a time, but later some irregularity in the voting was discovered and the law became inoperative.

Because of its advantageous location on the Ohio and Tradewater Rivers, Caseyville developed rapidly. Successive disastrous floods, however, reduced the prosperous settlement to but a ghost of its former self. Population statistics credit the town with 623 inhabitants in 1860. Forty years later this population had dropped to 217, a level at which it remained until 1930. In the last decade its decline has been rapid, the 1940 census crediting it with but 67 inhabitants, and giving it the distinction of being the smallest incorporated town in the State.

At one time, though, Caseyville was credited with being the most prosperous community in Union County, having a hotel, three general stores, two drugstores, two grain dealers, a dealer in agricultural implements, a hardware store, two blacksmith shops, a grocery, two livery stables, three shoe shops, a wagon shop, an undertaker, a distillery, a butcher shop, a tobacco stemmery, a cooper shop, a harness shop, a flourmill, a barber shop, two millinery shops, a bank, a newspaper, and a number of beautiful residences. At that time all the river bottoms from the slough above the town to the mill below were lined with business houses and residences. Today (1941) the only surviving business establishments are two grocery stores, a restaurant, and a beauty parlor.

Educational advantages came early to Caseyville, school being held first in one place, then another, wherever a vacant room or house could be secured. These were primitive affairs with seats of rough planks, and often the pupils furnished their own little tables and chairs. In 1840, "Caseyville Academy" had its beginning in a brick building deeded, with its lot, to the school trustees by Mr. and Mrs. Benedict Wathen. It was stipulated that the building was to be used five days a week for educational purposes and the remaining two days for religious services.

In 1881, when Charles B. Hatfield, a student at Vanderbilt University, came back to his home town, Caseyville, it was suggested to him that he open a subscription school there. Upon returning to Nashville to resume his studies, he engaged in correspondence with prominent schoolmen and agreed to open a subscription school the following spring. This school flourished from the beginning, moving to larger quarters in its second year. Within three years the enrollment had increased to 35 pupils, with four teachers employed in the primary, intermediate, and high school departments. The floods of 1884 damaged the school

building to such an extent that, although repairs were made, the school was not considered safe. At this time Mr. Hatfield began agitation for the establishment of a consolidated school for Caseyville and Mulfordtown. Through the co-operation of the local newspaper and aided by private pledges this school became a reality in 1886 and operated for several years.

The present school in Caseyville is also the result of the persistent efforts of Mr. Hatfield. Established in 1920, this school had an enrollment of 70 pupils in 1940. Transportation to the high school at Sturgis is furnished Caseyville students.

At one time Caseyville boasted five churches, including two for Negro inhabitants. Today only one is left, the Methodist Church, which was established in 1869. It was on the Morganfield circuit for a number of years, and was then transferred to the Henderson district. First services were held in the old Union Church, but later a neat frame building was erected on Rock Street where many revivals were held. During the flood of 1884 this church was washed from its foundation and floated down the Ohio River with its bell tolling. A new structure was soon erected, and in 1923 this church was made a station. Financial conditions, however, prohibited paying a full time minister, so the church again joined the circuit. The Rev. Frank Cox, Sturgis pastor, now gives the Caseyville church the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The present church was damaged by the 1937 flood, but it was soon repaired, and on December 24, 1939, the installation of the first electric lights was celebrated at the community Christmas tree.

Among the early industries of Caseyville were a woolen mill and a tobacco factory. The woolen mill, which flourished during the early 1880's, bought wool directly from sheep owners, made it into yarn, and manufactured jeans, blankets, socks, and other articles. With the decline of the town the mill was discontinued, and the building was dismantled almost fifty years ago. The tobacco factory occupied the largest building in Caseyville, a three-story structure, and during the flood of 1884 this building furnished the only available storage place above flood waters. Again during the flood of 1913 it was used as a storage house and as living quarters for flood refugees. The only industry operating in Caseyville at the present time is the Union Sand and Gravel Company, established in 1936. This company owns a stern wheel towboat and three wooden barges. About 400 tons of

sand and gravel are pumped daily from the river, towed to Caseyville, and then trucked to their destination.

During Caseyville's "boom days" it possessed a thriving newspaper and also a bank. The newspaper was discontinued a number of years ago, and in 1893 the Caseyville Bank was moved to Sturgis, where it was incorporated as the Bank of Sturgis.

The road from Caseyville to Sturgis was in bad condition until a few years ago, being flooded during heavy rains and making travel impossible, but with WPA aid this road has been topped with river gravel, making travel between the two towns possible in all kinds of weather. A ferry operates from Caseyville across the Ohio River, connecting on the other side with a highway leading to St. Louis and Chicago. This ferry operates twenty-four hours daily and makes an average of twenty-five crossings a day.

Visitors to Caseyville are often told of a day in 1862 when, during the War between the States, every citizen of the town, except three who escaped, was taken prisoner. All of these were released but nineteen, who were held as prisoners at Evansville.

Also of interest to Caseyville visitors is a natural rock formation known as Anvil Rock. This strange formation, isolated on level bottom land, is fifty feet high and twenty feet wide, the projection or spur being shaped in the form of a blacksmith's anvil.

Mulfordtown, known as the "high water suburb of Caseyville," is within the corporate limits of the town, and the road from Caseyville to DeKoven runs through its principal street.

DEKOVEN

COAL was King in DeKoven until 1924. For nearly a century, through a succession of mining ventures each inheriting resources from its predecessor, King Coal not only built a prosperous town but extended its influence to education and religion, erecting schools and churches. But the monarch abdicated abruptly in an uncompromising and rancorous atmosphere of wage differences between company and union. In the intervening seventeen years DeKoven has become a drowsy little town of 296 people (1940 census).

The business section and a few homes are situated on level ground, but many houses are perched atop the surrounding hills. Others cling to hillsides so precariously that it seems the slightest wind must blow them off. But these old houses were sturdily built and are still habitable.

One house is unique for having been built in the opening of the old Mulford Mine, with a large room covering the mine entrance, which serves as a cellar. Built in 1870 by Dr. B. M. Long, it is a large two-story frame structure in the side of the hill, making both stories accessible from the ground.

In 1827 Peter Casey (who already, in 1785, had surveyed land here granted him for services in the Revolution) told his son, Samuel, that all signs pointed to the presence of coal in the vicinity. Father and son completed their survey and returned to Virginia, where they revealed their findings to friends.

One of these was a youth named John Willworth who, according to DeKoven tradition, was the son of an English father and a French mother. He became a member of the party of explorers and surveyors who came by flatboat down the Ohio to Evansville, Indiana, and thence to the present site of DeKoven. The local story relates that Willworth, impressed by the beauty of the hills and valleys and their resemblance to the European countryside in which he had been reared, uttered the words "de koven," translated locally as "among the hills."

However, "de koven" is not French but apparently Flemish, its source closer to the German "Kopf" and the Dutch "Kopp," meaning head or, more freely, hill, than to the French language.

It is possible that Willworth's European background was Belgian rather than French. On the other hand, DeKoven's hills are considerably more precipitous than the gently undulating Belgian terrain. At any rate, "DeKoven" the new settlement's name became.

Verifying the theory of the existence of coal, the prospectors cleared and staked off a small tract of land and built a cabin or two. But lacking the means to open a mine, they soon returned to Virginia, all but Willworth who went on to Pittsburgh. He later returned to Kentucky and was superintendent of mines in DeKoven for some years.

In 1843 a mine was opened, only to be abandoned as unprofitable. However, a settlement was established on the ridge up what is now Hines Creek, called Coon Ridge for the abundance there of raccoons, which the men hunted for their meat and fur. This settlement, really the beginning of DeKoven, was located behind the present Hines brothers' farm about a half-mile from where the town is located now.

From 1847 to 1849 three wagon mines were opened. A cholera epidemic broke out in the latter year, taking many lives, among them the promoter of the latest mine.

The next attempt at mining was made in 1859 under the management of J. A. Shotwell. A stationary engine replaced mule-drawn cars; but lack of capital for development kept wages low, added to which low water in summer and ice in winter caused frequent shutdowns, bringing debt and poverty. During these trying times the Rev. Edd Thixon, a Methodist minister, in order to keep his family from starvation, collected historical data and sold it to a writer who was preparing the first history of Union County.

By 1872 it was clear that the development of DeKoven's mineral resources could be made possible only through the use of outside capital. In that year a group of Eastern men obtained a charter from the Kentucky Legislature to organize the South Kentucky Coal Company, later changed to the Ohio Valley Coal and Mining Company, with Dr. P. G. Kelsey as vice president and general manager. They acquired the Shotwell mine and resumed operations.

One of the obstacles to Dr. Kelsey's progress was his inability to induce capitalists to build a railroad through Union County. So he devised a plan for getting coal to the river more expedi-

tiously. The method of transporting coal to the river for shipping then was by mule-drawn cars, much too slow for the heavy demand. To solve the problem, a road-bed was built high enough to be clear of floodwaters and about a mile of miniature track laid from the mine to the river. A dummy engine was placed on the track with Tom Byron the first engineer. This made DeKoven the first town in Union County with a railroad leading from its limits to a designated point. Captain Daniel Finnie had charge of tipple and river fleet. The usual run was now 1,300 bushels of high grade coal per day. At last mining was proving a profitable business.

Meanwhile, other activities had not lagged. There were farms and truck gardens, sawmills and a brickyard. Ben McKinley ran a harness and saddle shop; Frederick C. Boettger was a mechanic and blacksmith, James E. Wathen a brickmason. Leopold Harth had a grocery and butcher shop and Henry C. Spencer was proprietor of a hotel. The postoffice was established in 1871 with Warren Howell as postmaster.

Previously the mail was brought by boat to Caseyville, then passed through DeKoven and Commercial Point to Morganfield by horseback. Often, when the water was high, the mailsack was strapped to the carrier's back, and he swam his horse across Eagle Creek flats to get the mail to its destination.

As long ago as 1847 several public wells were dug under the supervision of J. C. Penman. Only one survives near the center of DeKoven. Referred to as Penman's Well, it is the windlass type about six feet in diameter and ninety feet deep, walled with smooth rocks. The old iron-bound bucket has long since vanished and whoever wants water must furnish his own bucket.

In 1883, Jim Bell, then a small boy, fell into this well. In a yard near by, Minnie Eisenbarth, his playmate, heard his terrified screams. Jumping the fence, she reached the well, lowered the bucket and told the frightened child to climb in and hang on. Before anyone was aware of what was happening she had drawn him to safety.

Today there is also a mineral well in DeKoven excelling the water of Dawson Springs in medicinal qualities. People come from surrounding towns and from Evansville to get this water, which is free.

On a hillside near the Penman Well a one-room school was built in 1847. It was used also for religious, social, and fraternal

meetings. Early teachers were Judge Thomas J. Clark, Zed McMacin and Dede Ball. Present-day inhabitants who recall their schooldays there are Miss Rose Boettger, Mrs. Hattie Demey, and Will and John Syers. Before the building was traded to the coal company for lumber to build the new schoolhouse (1888) Misses Urla Hagan and Ellen Birch were the last teachers. The Reelus Denny family now (1941) lives in the old school building.

Many of the early settlers were Germans, coming, as early as 1843, directly from Germany, a few stopping temporarily at Pittsburgh, others at Evansville.

There was no rough element in DeKoven, as in so many mining towns. The citizens were peaceable, law-abiding, and hospitable. Their chief indoor amusements consisted of story-telling, card playing, musicales, and dancing.

Geiger and Curlew Lakes were ideal for camping and fishing. The dense undergrowth of the near-by Ohio River bottoms made hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals a profitable as well as enjoyable sport. By 1893 shooting matches were popular in DeKoven with turkey and other fowl the prizes, providing Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's dinners. Clay pigeon shooting arrived in 1901. Other sports were cock-fighting and baseball. DeKoven's first team was the Gangals; so called because the captain, J. C. Durick, was a maker of liniment in which he used a powder taken from gangal root.

In 1881 Dr. P. G. Kelsey found support for his dream of a railroad through Union County—and almost as if to celebrate such an auspicious happening, the DeKoven Concert Band was organized with twelve members under G. W. Noggle. It soon disbanded. But as if its fortunes were tied to those of the railroad, it was reorganized in 1884 with striking uniforms of navy blue, gold buttons and braid, and with a decorated wagon to bear the musicians to concert engagements.

But to return to the railroad. Dr. Kelsey interested Capt. Sam Brown, a wealthy mine and barge-line owner of Pittsburgh, who was already planning to build a railroad from Evansville, Indiana, to Princeton (since become a part of the Illinois Central System).

Captain Brown underwrote bonds for building the Ohio Valley Railroad. Larger than Dr. Kelsey's, his conception was of a rail connection between the rich coal deposits of Kentucky and the Ohio River, with the added intention of developing large mines

along the route. The slow growth of the O.V.R.R. and the backward development of the country it traversed was all that prevented the immediate realization of Captain Brown's vision. He lived to see its logic substantiated in the organization of the Cumberland Iron and Land Company in 1886, with offices at Sturgis.

During 1883 when construction of the O.V.R.R. began between Henderson and Corydon, Captain Brown personally supervised details. Work progressed rapidly and by 1885 a large freight depot had been completed and a passenger depot was being erected. The following August the first train passed through DeKoven.

The old South Kentucky charter (1871) for the railroad which failed, the charter obtained in 1872 by Dr. Kelsey as desirable for his long contemplated railroad, in 1886 was amended by the State Legislature and became known as the Ohio Valley Railroad Company, in the same year becoming the Ohio Valley Railroad and Mining Company, and finally the Ohio Valley Coal Company.

Captain Brown resigned as president. Dr. Kelsey became president and general manager. Other officers and directors were Jordon Giles, secretary-treasurer, C. C. Genung, assistant superintendent, S. L. Campbell, auditor; Sam and Harry Brown, James F. Clay, S. H. Lambert, and Arthur Cary, directors.

DeKoven was now a division of the O.V.R.R., with offices here. There were about sixty houses, postoffices, a large drug and department store owned by the company, and privately owned stores and places of amusement, with a population of about 250.

DeKoven waxed prosperous and its future seemed secure. In gratitude for benefits received a revival was held. This resulted in so many converts that the Union Church, made up of all denominations in town, was forced to leave the old one-room schoolhouse, which had seen its birth, and hold services in the Masonic Hall, built in 1877 by Masons who before that year had attended Lodge Number 168 in Caseyville.

Then began the benevolence of the coal company. Through Dr. Kelsey, it completed the efforts of the school committee to raise money, by donating lots for the site and furnishing the rough lumber from Dr. Kelsey's sawmill. A neat frame structure, 40 by 60 feet, with a belfry, it was completed in 1888.

The Church of Christ held services in an old schoolhouse in Independence Valley, a mile from DeKoven, until July 15, 1905, when Henry Rehm deeded it a lot. The congregation solicited funds and the frame church was completed the same year. The first pastor was Harvey Nelson, the present (1941) one is Robert Witt.

In 1909 the Methodist Church was built on lots deeded it by the company which continued to furnish light and make repairs until 1924, when the company ceased operations at DeKoven. Since that time the church has been supported by tithes, birthday offerings, freewill offerings, and special donations. Under the leadership of the Rev. Leonard Banks, its attendance is the best of any church in town.

Prosperity continued until the closing of the Shotwell Mine. In 1894 a new opening was made. Named No. 9, it was located a mile from the old mine near the railroad, which necessitated the extension of the dummy line, the building of a new tipple, and the opening and enlarging of the old tipple on the railroad. All previous mines had been aired by furnace; this became mechanically aired by fans. In 1903, the owners began a system of improvement, not only in the extensive mine itself but upon the dummy line, river fleet and general equipment. The company was making huge profits and was planning regular employment for the large force of miners, on the strength of which new and better homes were built.

In 1911 the Pittsburgh Coal Company took over, the change proving of little concern to the workers since profitable operation was continued for six years. Everywhere during the World War mines ran night and day, and DeKoven enjoyed her greatest era. An even newer impetus was given when in November, 1917, the Madison Coal Corporation, of Chicago, acquired the mine, changing its name to No. 11. Ninety-three tons was the average daily run. Enlarging and modernizing all mine property began. Up-to-date houses were built and old ones were repaired.

The Red Cross did fine work under the supervision of Rica Rehm and Carrie Pogue. Without facilities for a sanitary workroom, it was not permitted to make bandages, but its workers knitted socks and sweaters for the men at the front and made clothes for the Belgian children. The company gave the proceeds from an entire day's run, while its employees gave a day's wages to the Red Cross fund.

Calamity struck DeKoven in the 1918 influenza epidemic, greatly decreasing its population. The three doctors of the town all became ill. Doctors from towns near by came to help, until they too were stricken. People were dying at such an alarming rate that the president of the coal company, A. J. Morehead, conferred with the State Board of Health. In response a doctor and two trained nurses arrived. With the improvement of sanitary conditions and quarantining of all those infected, the epidemic was finally checked.

Undaunted, DeKoven continued to progress. Houses were in great demand, land agents began to buy unproductive farm lands and sell them for town lots, and a building boom was on. Many beautiful homes were built, larger and better business houses were erected. At this time, besides the large company general store, DeKoven had ten business houses, three churches, a commodious two-story brick school building, three barber shops, a postoffice, bakery, skating rink, two halls, poolrooms, an ice cream parlor, a public tennis court, and various other places of amusement. High school students began to leave school and go to work in the mine.

During the school year of 1919-20 a Parent-Teachers Association was formed with Mrs. Grant McKeehan as president. The association raised half of the money needed to build the school gymnasium, and continues to furnish half its upkeep.

A 4-H Club, to teach girls sewing, cooking, and home improvement, was organized in 1920-21 by Miss B. Keeler, first Home Demonstration Agent of Union County.

Then came the downfall of DeKoven. No one could foresee what was to follow the wage scale parley of April, 1924. There were 300 men on the company's pay roll, which amounted to $40,000 every two weeks. Tonnage per day averaged 1,600. Through its elderly president, A. J. Morehead, the company informed the union delegation that, what with the overhead so high (it was easier, he said, to buy elsewhere than to produce) and the competition from near-by mines so keen, it was impossible to pay the wages demanded. The delegates were unyielding. Mr. Morehead pointed out to them that he didn't have to operate, the mine already had paid for itself, but out of consideration for the town's welfare he would continue, if the men would only listen to reason. At the height of the tension one of the delegates (now deceased) shouted some epithets at the old man, where-

upon Mr. Morehead cried: "Let the damn thing (the mine) fill up to the grass roots."

No one believed he meant it, but he did. All mining activities ceased. Equipment and property were sold. Coal rights were leased to the West Kentucky Coal Company of Sturgis. The mine opening was sealed, and today moss and flowers grow around the opening of No. 11. All that is left to signify that this was once a mining center are parts of the boiler, a few torn down coke veins, and a few scattered slack and ash piles.

The land and houses that were not sold by 1930 were bought by Hope and Croit Yates. Property that cost $3,000 in 1923 sold for $275 in 1940. People were forced to leave DeKoven and seek employment elsewhere. Population dwindled so that in 1935 the high school reverted to the county, and students are forced to go by bus to Sturgis.

After this the flood of 1937, as a disaster, was only an anti-climax. Water crept into a few homes but receded before serious damage was done. For some time DeKoven was without mail. Several families were forced to vacate by boat. People in the low lands near DeKoven suffered considerable property damage and loss of livestock.

In 1938 the I.C.R.R. moved its depot and freight house. What had once been a division is now only a flag station. As the railroad put river traffic out of business so did the transfer truck and bus injure the railroad.

Quite a contrast is presented by the good roads of 1940—surfaced partly from the proceeds from the home talent plays put on by the DeKoven Civic Club of which Louise Boettger is president—and the muddy roads of 1924. During the winter of that year, J. E. Reynolds, teamster, had to use four large draft horses to pull a half-wagonload of flour from Sturgis to DeKoven. Roads were so muddy that the citizens of DeKoven had to leave their cars parked on Highway 85 and walk a distance of a mile and a half. If a doctor were called he had to leave his car and walk, unless someone met him with a horse.

But in 1935, with Union County Fiscal Court aid supplementing the efforts of citizens, a farm-to-market road was built. Known as Old DeKoven Road, it starts in DeKoven near Boettger's Hall and extends to Highway 85. In 1938, part of another road was completed and graveled. And the next year a spur was extended to the postoffice intersecting the old DeKoven Road,

forming a "Y" in the town. This road has been completed and partly graveled and is known as the DeKoven-Curlew-Caseyville Road, since it passes Curlew and connects with Highway 30 in Caseyville. When a few minor details are finished this road will be accepted by the State as a highway, thereby completing a chain of highways in Union County.

An electric line was put through DeKoven in 1939. The DeKoven Homemakers Club, formed in 1935 by Sadie Wilgns, Home Demonstration Agent, with Mrs. Joe Van Cleve as first chairmen, still carries on, under Mrs. Earl Erwin. Its function is to encourage better living conditions in the home, economy and practical use of such resources as the people have, and personal grooming. The club now has seventeen members.

SULLIVAN

VIEWED from a hillside a mile away, Sullivan gives the impression of being a larger town than it actually is, an impression that may have a tendency to revive when one learns that this community operates its own telephone system.

It is situated about five miles southeast of Sturgis, where State Highways 85 and 141 enter US 60. Years ago, enough people were living here to enable three coal mines to operate: Calloway's, Lamb's, and the Huckleberry. Today, with a population little changed from the 1930 figure of 200, the number of business houses, many of them surviving from the past, seems unusual.

There are two large general stores, one operated by George Munn and Son, the other by Edgeworth Whitecotton. In a new and modern building T. E. Hammack and his son, Earl, run a service station and carry on a limited trade in groceries. Tom Brantley has one of the most up-to-date auto repair shops in the county and sells new cars. Charlie Christison has been a blacksmith here for years and, aside from his shop's ability to turn out all sorts of woodwork, he has in the same building a gasoline-run mill which, in the spring, is kept busy grinding feed for the farmers in the surrounding country. There are two restaurants, in one of which the bus lines maintain a ticket office, and a roadhouse. The last hotel in town was conducted as a tourist home until recently; but it is now closed except a single office in it, occupied by the town's only physician, Dr. Riche Park.

One of the first centers in the Sullivan district was a store and postoffice called Eberly, near the estate of the late S. W. T. Wallace. The Bethany and New Harmony Baptist churches considered merging and building here, but the plans did not materialize; and the churches were built instead at Pond Fork and Rock Springs, two and a half and four miles away respectively.

The other early focal point of this section was Lindle's Mill, on the road to Caseyville, two and a half miles from where Sullivan now stands.

In the late 1860's a railroad through that section of Union County was projected. Enthusiasm rose so high that the people of Caseyville and Lindle voted bond issues of $60,000 and $15,000

respectively to finance the undertaking. The bonds, bearing interest at 8 per cent, payable semiannually, were floated and sold by the promoters of the railroad, who retained the controlling interest.

The venture was a bubble on the flood of railroad security flotation and speculation of those times—a mere strand in the pattern the larger designs of which included the Vanderbilt-Gould-Fisk railroad battles, the Credit Mobilier, and, three decades later, the war between James J. Hill and E. H. Harriman.

The project, called the Shawneetown and Madisonville Railroad, was a failure.

So anxious were the Union Countians for the railroad that they voted a tax to liquidate the bonds without insuring that the tax would not be collected if the railroad failed to materialize. The company did only enough work to force the people to pay the tax. From Grangertown, about nine miles away, the work was undertaken in the general direction of the postoffice at Eberly. After only a little work, the barn at Grangertown which housed the mules used on the job was leveled by fire. The railroad company went bankrupt in the panic of 1873 and the project was abandoned. All the taxpayers received was an embankment—called a road-bed—parts of which may still be seen on the Poplar Ridge and George Davis farms.

After $48,000 in taxes had been collected from the people of Caseyville and Lindle and impounded for interest payments, the bondholders brought suit in circuit court to recover the tax money. The court ruled in favor of the bondholders and dissolved an injunction to restrain the sheriff from collecting further taxes. The court of appeals affirmed the judgment of the lower court. The sheriff resigned rather than collect the tax; and his successors who tried it met the citizens' loaded guns. A minor revolution was averted only by the refusal of the magistrates to assess levies to meet the bonds. Some forty years later a compromise settlement of 25 per cent plus accrued interest was reached. The total settlement was more than the face value of the bonds.

Several years after the first failure another railroad project was launched, this time by the Ohio Valley Railroad. Track had been laid already to DeKoven, also in the western end of the county, from Henderson, and it was proposed to extend it to Marion. The people of the countryside, having been once bitten, were now twice shy. For they forced the company to make the

railroad an actuality before John F. Quirey and Joe McGraw would give it a deed to the right-of-way into what is now Sullivan.

The survey was made and the work completed to the crossing, called Quirey Station, which had two houses, a store, Quirey School and, in the vicinity, scattered farmhouses. Here the railroad was forced to stop by the refusal of another Quirey, Tom, to release enough of his land for a right-of-way. The company retaliated with a threat to stop the trains running from Morganfield to Quirey Station. Marsh Quirey brought legal pressure to bear on the railroad, and the trains continued to run. But the other obstacle still had to be removed. The combined interests of the Sullivan brothers effected this.

In 1887 A. M. (Mike) Sullivan bought a 1,188-acre tract of timber. His brother, Frank, ran a store in the village, probably a commissary operated in connection with the lumbering activity. His family's business being dependent on the railroad, Frank Sullivan bought Tom Quirey's land and gave the right-of-way to the railroad. Gratitude, together with a tendency of the postal authorities to confuse the name Quirey with a town upstate named Quincey, inspired the townspeople to rename the town and Sullivan it became in 1887.

Business, stimulated by the railroad, flourished and became a magnet to attract the life and activities of surrounding settlements to Sullivan. From Lindle's Mill the Presbyterian congregation moved in and erected a frame building in 1899. The Missionary Baptist Church of Sullivan was organized and entered the Ohio Valley Baptist Association October 17, 1905, erecting a neat frame structure. It now has a parsonage, and shares the time of a pastor, the Rev. Z. T. Connoway, with the Zion Baptist Church at Pride.

The high school at Pride served the students of Sullivan from 1935 to 1937, when it was closed. Sullivan students now attend the high school at Sturgis, which served Sullivan also for years before 1935.

WAVERLY

WAVERLY is an unassuming community rather spaciously but indifferently spread out on both sides of the ribbon of concrete that curves into the town from the east and cuts it in half. It has the placid and informal qualities as well as the physical appearance of a village, and as such it has always kept one foot firmly planted on the near-by farm. Frame houses of plain construction predominate, giving the town a simple and unpretentious air. Practicality has ever been its keynote, and beauty for its own sake has been subordinated to utility.

Even in the rosiest days Waverly and the surrounding agricultural community seldom strove for magnificent estates. Several residences of impressive size and construction were built in the Waverly precinct and in the adjoining Hitesville precinct many years ago, but the chief goals have been the acquisition of more land and the maintenance of a well-stocked, well-tilled farm. One of the farms of Jim Will Hancock, one of Union County's two Master Farmers, is located in the Waverly agricultural community (*see Economic Development*). There are numerous fine farms near by, such as those of P. S. Roberts, Mary L. Hite, F. W. Cruz, Ed. Rapier, Tom Denton, and Robert Denton.

The town bears the marks of its age and decay as lightly as it accepts the new home or the latest mechanical innovation. There is rust on the metal sheeting of the old flourmill, and there are blighted, washed spots over on the railroad side of town. But the town seems to ignore such things. The leisurely work-a-day world, with its prosaic accomplishments, seems to suffice as a way and a philosophy of life.

Waverly has declined somewhat in population in recent years, but that ribbon of concrete, which has taken something out of the town, also has carried it to the very doorstep of Morganfield and has linked it with Henderson, and Evansville, Indiana. The town has settled back content to be what it now cannot help being—"just a place to live."

Electricity (1925), a traffic semaphore (1938), and dial telephones (1939), have in recent years introduced a modern note into the easy tempo of the community's life.

Waverly, too, has its memories of more ambitious and more prosperous days. When the price of hogs was up, and the corn crop was bumper, Waverly blossomed, for the farmer could pay a good price for the comforts of life. Winter days brought the leading planters around roaring grate fires to talk of making Waverly a more prosperous place, of building a church, and of bringing in a big mill. It was during these years that many of the town's more lasting features were developed. The railroad was woven into the picture of Waverly more than half a century ago and St. Peter's Catholic Church has given this picture some dignity for three decades, while a bank has given it prestige and more independence.

Although Waverly is not a place of imposing buildings, there are those innumerable touches of personality, both of the past and present, that complete the picture by adding variety and depth. In the early days there was that colorful ex-slave, "Old Dread," who used to plow with a horse and a cow hitched as a team. The two front rooms of the log house which he built are still standing and are part of the home now owned by C. J. Cruz.

Today there is that picturesque character E. J. "Uncle Lish" Hancock who for months went around Waverly, Corydon, Morganfield, and vicinity salvaging bottles and tin cans to build his odd fairyland house. Uncle Lish, who once started a "tin-can house" in Desert Center, California, made his rounds in his picturesque rig of a four-wheeled pony cart pulled by either one or all of his three goats, Jiggs, Maggie, and Rose.

The Waverly community is the birthplace of Charles J. O'Malley and Ormsby McKnight Mitchel (*see Biographical Sketches*), and for many years it was the home of Drs. Henry Frank Rhea and Herman Rhea, Jr.

Dr. Frank Rhea was a provincial poet whose efforts, marred by literary affectations, frequently appeared in newspapers in this section of the State. His brother, Dr. Herman Rhea, Jr., who first practiced in Waverly after receiving his medical degree, distinguished himself in his profession and later moved to Louisville.

Waverly was founded about three-quarters of a century ago on part of what was known as the "Big Spring Tract" which extended along Casey Creek and from the creek to Smith Hill. The "Big Spring" for which this tract was named was the principal source of water for many of the farms before wells were

dug. It is still used, for watering stock, on the J. C. Roberts farm. Its location, just out of town, probably determined the site of the Byrne and Byrne mill.

The history of Waverly extends back to a much earlier date. Even before a hut had been built the place was known as "The Crossroads," because the Henderson-Beaver Dam Road crossed the Madisonville Road here.

When John and Arthur Donnelly and their mother came along the Madisonville Pike peddling their wares about 125 years ago, they pitched their tent at the crossroads here and set up store. The brogue of the old country was still thick on their tongues. Business must have been at least fair for they soon built a little log cabin for a store and then a log house where they lived for about two years. During this time the Crossroads was known as "Donnelly's Store." The Donnellys, however, sold out after several years, and sought greener pastures and the crossroads was then called "Paynesville," for Jack Payne (1776-1858), an early Maryland-born settler.

It was not long after the Donnellys set up store that the crossroads began to show signs of developing. Nathaniel Floyd built a small log house opposite Donnelly's Store and used it as a store for a year or so. Both the Floyd and Donnelly properties were later bought by Samuel Willett. They were then sold to Horace Bell, who used Donnelly's store as a cabinet shop. Wash Abell of Marion County, the community's first blacksmith, next bought the old Floyd store and used it as a blacksmith shop. The home which he built here is still (1941) standing and is occupied by George Smith and his sisters. After a few years this property was sold to John Smith, who succeeded Wash Abell as the town's blacksmith, and Gilky Rice. Thomas Smith, son of John Smith, assisted by John Scott and Samuel Hosbach, also was the blacksmith for the community for many years. The Smith heirs still own the property but the old blacksmith shop is gone.

Another business house was built here about 1835 by Dr. John S. Cheshire, a son-in-law of Jack Payne. The timber for this building was hand-hewn and whipsawed. It was a solidly built, wind-proof house, and was later bought by Jim Roberts, the only tailor in Waverly's history. Mr. Roberts rented it out as a store. It was torn down by George Smith in 1939.

About 1840 Dr. William Dunham, the community's first physician, settled here. Others of the profession who followed him in later years were: A. J. Abell, Herman Rhea, Sr., Herman Rhea, Jr., a Dr. Boyle, J. T. Jenkins, T. J. Newman, R. N. Alvey, J. B. Nearey, J. E. Johnson; and today Waverly has Dr. W. H. Hardesty and Dr. T. P. Gray.

The Big Spring tract of land, upon which the upper section of Waverly is built, was thrown on the market in 1869 or 1870 with Hugh McElroy as the agent. The land was divided into farms of 125 acres, and at the Crossroads thirty lots of one acre each were laid off and sold to the highest bidders. Mr. McElroy wanted to give the budding town a suitable name for the postoffice which it would have. The Crossroads was too commonplace, and he decided upon the name of Waverly, presumably for Waverly Greathouse, a New Orleans nephew.

The place remained without a postoffice for four or five years after its establishment. The mail was usually delivered to Morganfield, and on Sundays Father Durbin would bring it to Sacred Heart Chapel and distribute it. It was not until 1875 that the people of Waverly took steps and succeeded in having a postoffice established.

The future of the town seemed rather promising in a modest way shortly after it was laid out. E. A. and D. O. Byrne were shipping a steam-powered flour and cornmill from St. Mary's in Marion County. Its destination was their father's farm at Highland Church, but a group of Waverly citizens, seeing the advantages of such a mill for the town, raised a thousand dollars to pay the owners to locate it in Waverly. It was known as the Big Spring or Waverly Mill during its operation, although the company name was Byrne and Byrne. The Big Spring Mill was converted into a distillery in 1874, but after making fifty barrels of apple brandy it went into bankruptcy. Somewhat later it was again used as a distillery and about a thousand barrels of whisky run off, when Sylvester Pike, Uniontown banker, had to take back the property for the fourth time. Mr. Pike sold the property again and the machinery was moved to Morganfield where it was used in the Kelsey and Cromwell Mill.

The blunt historian of the *Historical Atlas of Henderson and Union Counties,* who dismissed DeKoven as "an unimportant postoffice in Union County," wasted no words on the Waverly of 1880. His summary of the place reads: "Waverly, in the northern

part of Union County, tri-weekly stage to Henderson, Morganfield and Uniontown, contains three general stores, two drug stores; two blacksmith and wagon shops; one fairly flourishing mill and one shoe shop." One of the druggists was G. T. Mattingly who, in 1878, took over what is said to have been the first drugstore in the town, opened some years before by Dan Brown.

The center of town and its growth in a particular section has changed several times. There was first of all the Crossroads, and then, after Alex and Charles King built a store in the last lane that branches right from US 60 approaching Morganfield, the town grew along what is still known as Main Street. Later, when Austin, Biggs, and Franey bought and enlarged a building on the old highway, it became the main store and the center of town. When the railroad arrived and a depot was built about a quarter of a mile away, the town developed in this section. As William Thomas Barker, the local historian until his death in 1939, related: "When the railroad came through the residents moved the town where they could watch the trains roll by." It was at this time (1906) that the department store owned by Joe Austin and Dr. J. E. Johnson was moved from the old part of Waverly to a point nearer the depot. Later, as highway travel became increasingly common, and therefore important, the center of the town shifted over to its present location, along US 60. The department store mentioned above moved once again—for the third time. It occupies a brick building facing US 60, and is now operated by W. R. Johnson.

Waverly had undoubtedly grown slowly through the years when the first separate population figure of 179 was given for the town in 1880.

In 1884 Phillip Greenwell started a small cornmill which, during its many years of operation, changed hands as frequently as the Big Springs or Waverly Mill. The biggest event during the 1880's was the arrival of the Ohio Valley Railroad from Henderson on March 31, 1886. The railroad did not boom the town, however. No newspaper was started, no mines were opened, and no new agricultural industries established. The population increased to 241 in 1890, a normal gain during the decade 1880-90. A flourmill was established in the town in 1896 by Tom Culver. It was later owned and operated by his two sons, Ed and Ran, and finally burned.

Waverly was still little more than a crossroads, however, until the first decade of the twentieth century. The establishment of a bank in 1902 gave the town more definite character. The favorite story of old Mr. Barker was the origin of this bank:

> It was in my drugstore that the bank of Waverly was born. The cashier of the Uniontown bank (Sylvester Pike) kept after me to take in some deposits for his bank. He gave me a small safe and my drugstore became a branch of the Uniontown Bank. We didn't change the store furnishings at all. I just did the banking business over the same counter that I used to hand out the pills. But people in Waverly liked the arrangement so well that nothing would do but what they must have a bank of their own. So we organized one.
>
> The bank was first located in the crossroads section of town. Four years later, after the town had moved off and left the bank, the directors decided it might be a good idea if they moved the bank too.

Two years after the founding of the bank a coal mining company was organized by a home committee, consisting of Dr. J. E. Johnson, president, William T. Barker, secretary, and other prominent citizens including Samuel R. Hamilton, John T. Payne, and John B. Cruz. Ben Hancock superintended the sinking of the shaft and R. A. Gardner became the engineer. Sam Pike, magistrate of Waverly at that time, also played an important part in the undertaking.

The difficulty of obtaining coal in bad weather, when the roads were sometimes almost impassable, was partly responsible for the opening of the mine. During the peak of business the mine employed about a hundred men. It was sold first to a Chicago enterprise, and later resold frequently. Finally it went into "the red" because of mismanagement and was closed in 1923, after the cyclone of that year blew down the tipple and other buildings. It was operated again in the mid-twenties but was finally abandoned in 1929.

Until 1910 the people of Waverly and the surrounding country —predominantly Catholic—attended Sacred Heart Church at St. Vincent Academy, a short distance from Waverly. A year or so before, several men in the community, including William T. Barker, John Payne, and Samuel R. Hamilton started the movement which led to the establishment of St. Peter's Church and School in Waverly. On the evening of February 8, 1923, shortly after the church and school had been freed of debts, they were burned. A new plant combining church and school was begun almost immediately, and in the summer of 1924 was dedicated.

Father P. J. McNeil, who had come to Waverly in 1909 as the congregation's first pastor, left the parish later in 1924.

Among the recent (1937) business establishments opened at Waverly is a hatchery. The incubators, which have a capacity of 10,000 eggs, are located on the Wheatly farm one mile from Waverly. The machine-age has contributed only one new type of business to the town—the ubiquitous service station, of which there are four in Waverly.

The population of Waverly in 1910 as given by the U. S. Census, was 311, and during the next decade it increased to 475—the largest population in its history. During the next two decades it decreased from this figure to 445 and then, in 1940, to 323. Perhaps that decline is the "handwriting on the wall." Practically every crossroads has had its day. Many of them never developed beyond the general store, while others grew up and boasted a flour and cornmill, a church, a graded county school, and the stores in keeping with the community's size and wealth. Waverly has all of these and also most of the modern conveniences. It is a crossroads that partly succeeded. The farm land surrounding it is still good; then, too, Waverly remains a "good place to live."

VILLAGES AND HAMLETS

Arnold Station

UNTIL 1906, Arnold Station existed only as a settlement of a few farmhouses. In that year the Morganfield & Atlanta Railroad came through, and since most of the right-of-way obtained was on the farm of Newton Arnold, the name Arnold Station was given to the community.

A railway depot was built. Sam and Fred Arnold and Bain Holeman established a general merchandise business. They bought and sold poultry and served as agents in the sale of hay and grain shipped from this locality.

But Arnold Station prospered for only a few years. Business had ceased to flourish long before the discontinuance of the railroad, in 1940. Now it has reverted once more to its pre-1906 status of a farming community.

Bordley

Bordley is seven miles east of Sturgis, near the Webster County line. Once an important trade center, it has declined since 1905, because the Illinois Central Railroad missed it by two miles. Some of its houses were moved intact to near-by Pride, which was on the railroad. Today its trading centers have dwindled to one store, conducted by W. A. West. There are about a dozen houses, most of them homes of farmers, and one church.

There is agreement that Bordley began as a postoffice a couple of miles from the present site but disagreement as to the year and the source of the name. Some say that the postoffice was established in 1828, with William Ross as the postmaster, and that he named it for a friend in England. Others insist that the postoffice dates back only to the early 1840's, and that until then mail for the district was addressed in care of Bordley Ross. It is possible that the village took Ross' first name rather than his last because it sounded more impressive.

On the other hand, his name does not appear in the list of early settlers: William Anderson, Matthew Christian, William Charles Ross, Gaiah Potts, Charles Sullivant, Jesse Smith, John Martin, Samuel Dial, Silas Foster, Aaron Lambert, and John P. Below.

By 1858 James P. Woodring and Jacob Strouse had built and opened a store on their land, to which the postoffice was presently moved. By this time Charles Ross had become postmaster.

The Mart brothers came to Bordley before the War between the States and established a mercantile business that survived past the turn of the century. Richard A. Mart bought 114 acres of land from W. L. Williams in 1860, and William J. Mart bought other land soon after. They became a power in the community: Richard served as postmaster and became a leader in the Masonic Lodge; William was a promoter of and elder in the Christian Church. Each built himself a fine frame residence.

They held an advantage over competitors by having their own teams and wagons to haul goods, especially tobacco, to and from the river point of Caseyville.

The town had its blacksmith shop and gristmill. John Christian built and managed a two-story frame hotel—long since torn down. There was always one doctor here and sometimes as many as three: J. F. Lynn, J. W. Watson, William R. Watson, Roland Martin. One store carried a stock of drugs in addition to other merchandise.

In the early days newspapers were brought by boat to Caseyville and thence by carrier to Bordley, H. E. Richey of Sturgis, who was reared in Bordley, recalls. The day of the newspaper's arrival was always looked forward to eagerly, and a group of townsfolk would select one of their number to read it aloud.

Bordley enjoyed considerable prosperity until the War between the States, when the predatory practices of the armies wrought such havoc that the merchants moved away and did not return until the conflict ended.

Bordley's first church apparently was a log structure built in 1843. The site was reserved in a deed of sale of 1850; and a second church was erected on the original site in 1863. A deed of March 3, 1869, refers to it as Zion Baptist Church. It was abandoned when the Zion congregation moved to Pride in 1919.

The members of the Christian Church also worshiped here at first, but later, under the leadership of William J. Mart, erected a frame building at a cost of $1,200.

The old log schoolhouse, known as Woodring School, on what is now Highway 141, has been abandoned and the pupils go to Pride. High school students attend the high school at Sturgis.

The postoffice was discontinued in 1906 and a rural route from Clay established.

Boxville

Boxville, about seven miles east of Morganfield on Highways 56 and 141, is a thriving village with a population of 250. The old store buildings have either burned down or been torn down, to be replaced by more modern ones. It is fighting bravely against the threatened extinction of the time-honored general store, brought about by automobiles and good roads which make the larger centers so accessible for shopping. In recreation, also, Boxville is trying to hold its own, with a community building, at which various entertainments are held, including, in season, basketball and occasional home talent plays. The Boxville Homemakers have added much to the welfare of the community.

Boxville got its name in this way: Lincoln Agin moved into the community and set up as a shoemaker in a house of such size and shape that people called it the "box" house. But success at his trade won him respect, and when in the 1850's Agin, along with David Springer, bought the first five acres for a contemplated town, it was thought fitting to name it "Boxville."

Springer started a blacksmith shop and the Need brothers a general store. David Bridges erected a store building, the upper part of which the Odd Fellows rented.

In 1870 Agin built a tobacco factory, long considered the finest in the county. Additional stores appeared under the ownership of James Taylor, Spencer Sigler, and Henderson Raley.

At this time shooting matches were a sport in the community which held their popularity through the early 1900's. A match was held in 1876 at the home of Thomas Lambert just outside Boxville. The choicest parts of a sheep were the graduated prizes to the best marksmen. During the match the sun went into eclipse and as it began to grow dark the men thought the world was coming to an end. They made a frantic rush for their homes. In a little while the sun returned to view, as if to laugh at the shamefaced men who by then had realized what had happened. Mr. Lambert laughed with the sun, for, since there was no one to compete with him, he got the whole sheep.

Prof. M. J. Underwood was the first teacher at the large, one-room schoolhouse which was also used for religious meetings

and other public activities. Another teacher of some years' service was a daughter of Dr. M. P. Cox.

A union church, built some years before the turn of the century, is still (1941) used by the congregations of the Baptist, Methodist, and Christian churches.

In 1886 a second room was added to the schoolhouse. The village and surrounding community continued to grow, and by 1898 it was necessary to add two more rooms to the school. A rural high school was established in 1916 and lasted until 1937 when it was merged with the Morganfield High School. A modern grade school was dedicated in October, 1938.

The Boxville postoffice was established in 1884 with John Munchaster in charge. Today, with Nola Oglesby as postmistress, there are two rural carriers going out from Boxville daily. Ben Waller carried the mail on the first route, inaugurated in 1904. After thirty years he retired, and died two years later. Clayton Below is the present carrier. On the other route George Graves carried the mail until 1914; since that time it has been carried by James M. Springer.

Commercial Point (Buffalo City)

Commercial Point, near the outskirts of Sturgis, was originally a sixty-acre open space in the forest, where the road from Morganfield to Marion crossed the road from Caseyville to Providence, providing the name of Crossroads as a rival to the name Buffalo City, suggested by the numbers of buffalo which came here to lick the salt deposits. These names are still interchangeable with the official name of Commercial Point, which was proposed in 1870 by Augusta Talbott and agreed to by H. J. Wallace, L. L. Talbott, John Alloway, and John Smallwood.

Situated on the Tradewater River (once rivaling Green River in navigability but now rapidly filling up), it was an important trading point before the War between the States. Three or four boats tied up daily and trade was carried on as far south as New Orleans. The banks here would be covered with hogsheads of sugar, boxes of crockery, coffee, salt, and other merchandise. L. L. Talbott took orders for the entire community.

Still standing on the 500-acre farm near by is the old log house of L. L. Talbott, behind which there used to be a row of cabins for his slaves. Walter Talbott relates that, before the war, L. L. Talbott's four sons each had a bed in a one-room log

house. They would invite neighborhood boys home for the night and often the old adage "the more the merrier," would be fulfilled. Aunt Hannah, the old Negro cook, sticking her head in the doorway the next morning to get an idea of how many breakfasts to prepare, would find the beds four deep with boys.

In 1860 there were only three families in Buffalo City: Reynolds, Leadbetter, and Smallwood. There was the inevitable blacksmith shop, a general store and dwelling combined, and, on Cypress Creek, a church called Cypress Church, described in the chapter on Sturgis.

Commercial Point was incorporated about 1870. Bailey Cowan was first police judge and Dol Greathouse was first marshal.

In 1881 the town contained a flourmill, saw and planing mill, and a tobacco factory, as well as a drygoods store, general store, two millinery shops, two saloons, and a small jail. A frame schoolhouse was to be replaced in later years with a brick building.

A brickyard was started in 1883 by C. S. Long, the successful enterprise being financed by L. L. Talbott and Dr. William Jones. Anderson's Mill was erected in 1885 by James K., John M., and Allen T. Anderson, and in a few years was bought by Fred and Frank Alloway who added it to their own, and out of which has grown the large lumber business of Union County, operated by Fred Alloway, Jr.

The present population is about 145.

Cullen

Cullen, on the old Bordley and Morganfield road about two miles from Pride and six from Little Union, has dwindled from a trade center until it is almost swallowed by surrounding farms. Only some six or eight families reside here and the only business is a store and a small broom factory run by John Heffington. The former school has been discontinued and children attend at Little Union.

Cullen sprang into existence during the Greenback agitation and bore at first the name of Weaver City, in honor of James B. Weaver, the Populist presidential candidate of 1880.

Cullen, for some time the home of the Union County poet, Dr. Frank Rhea, never had a church, though its exceptional moral tone is mentioned in the county history (1886). It was a prohibition precinct when most of the county was selling liquor.

For years, no drunken man was seen upon the streets of Cullen, and profanity and obscenity were unknown.

Grangertown

This town is a mile north of Sturgis on Highway 85 and has a population of 340.

It took its name from Andrew Grainger who came from England to Louisville when a small boy. He was a grown man when he arrived in Union County in 1844. On Tradewater River he built a home and a shed for a grist and sawmill which he and a brother, William, operated until it was destroyed by an explosion.

Andrew Grainger's son, Thomas, also established a home here in 1880, after his return from a long residence in the West for his health.

In 1886, the Cumberland Coal Company (not to be confused with the Cumberland Iron and Land Company), opened a mine near by—No. 1, or the old Wardlow Mine—and built a tram road for the transport of coal to river barges at Caseyville. Men who worked in the mines built homes along this road and as most of the families were named Grainger the new settlement became known as Graingertown, the spelling becoming simplified with the passing of the years.

Today the town contains a few stores, approximately one hundred homes, and a Baptist church. The West Kentucky Coal Company owns Mine No. 8, at which most of the men work. Students are provided free transportation to the school at Sturgis.

Grove Center

Like many another little town, Grove Center on the Illinois Central and Highway 130, sprang to life with the coming of the railroad, flourished until the road ceased to be a vital factor in prosperity, then declined with such grace that today an unusual spirit of friendliness prevails here—in contrast to earlier dissensions among its citizens.

With the advent of the railroad in 1886, there was much agitation in favor of calling the station "Hooper," since practically all the land it passed through in that vicinity was owned by Isaac Hooper's widow, Mrs. Nancy Stone Hooper; and other Hoopers were numerous, wealthy, and influential. However, the opposition was too strong and the place was named Grove Cen-

ter, because it was the central point between the two nearest towns: Gum Grove and Spring Grove.

From 1887, when the postoffice was established under Charlie Omer, progress was rapid. William Hooper owned the first store. The St. Clair brothers operated a stave mill, producing high grade white ash staves for butter tubs. Men operating general stores in this vicinity within the last fifty years have been Charlie Omer, J. K. Norris, John Orr, John Perkins, and Everett Bingham. John Crowe and Eastin Segraves were proprietors of a drugstore in 1892, the year the Masonic Lodge was removed from Shiloh Church to Grove Center.

Until 1901 children attended a log school on Dyer Hill a mile away. After much argument and voting by the trustees it was decided to have a school building in Grove Center. This was first a structure of one room, then two, and later three rooms. Today the town boasts an attractive modern one-story three-room brick building and a gymnasium, to which grade pupils from near-by districts come by bus. Grove Center high school students go either to Morganfield or Sturgis.

In 1914 A. Waller and Company put up a grain elevator, which is now owned and operated by Conway and Omer. Of the two grocery stores they also own the one which houses the postoffice, with Bob Omer as postmaster; H. H. Hause is the proprietor of the other.

There are two churches, Baptist and Methodist, and about twenty homes. Farming is the principal occupation of the population of 180 persons. The 88-year-old S. E. Perkins is the oldest inhabitant of Grove Center.

Henshaw

Henshaw, incorporated in 1910, has 250 inhabitants and is in the west central part of the county at the junction of State Highways 85 and 130, about twelve miles north of Sturgis. The Illinois Central Railroad serves the town, which was named for William Henshaw, pioneer settler and one of the county's largest farmers. Another honor conferred upon him was that of postmaster when the office was established in 1887.

He built the first house here, a log and frame structure of two rooms, now occupied after having been remodeled, by Hal Bingham, who claims the distinction of felling the last of the original forest trees—in the fall of 1940.

Henshaw's is the familiar story of the small town existing in the shadow of former glory. Shortly after the coming of the railroad, I. V. Runyon started a mercantile business, and was followed a year later by Charlie Johns and Bob Lacklin, Henry Dorris becoming Johns' partner on the death of Lacklin. Henry Walker established a tile factory in 1890 and prospered for several years. Ed Culver began operating a flourmill and grain elevator which he later sold to Charlie and Alf Johns. A livery stable did a thriving business. From twelve to fifteen horses were ready for hire at all times, with buggies available for the swains of Henshaw on Sundays.

The first school appeared in 1887 when E. B. Mitchell built and furnished without charge a small building on his farm. His daughter-in-law, Mrs. Susan Bell Riggs Mitchell, was engaged, at a small salary, to teach, with the result that the schoolroom contained a curious piece of furniture—an infant's cradle, in which Spalding Mitchell lay while his mother taught, no doubt grateful for the baby's presence to foster quiet among the pupils.

A three-room school building was erected in 1903, but since 1937 the grade pupils of Henshaw have gone to Grove Center and the high school students to Sturgis by bus.

Two disastrous fires have swept Henshaw, one in 1923 destroying the flourmill, warehouse, and four dwellings owned by I. V. Runyon; the other in 1936, when the old livery stable, the old tobacco factory then used for hay storage, two large grain elevators, the depot, and two large stock barns belonging to Alf Johns were consumed.

Today (1941) there is the usual assortment of general stores, with a bank (established in 1905), a gristmill, blacksmith shop, garage and general repair shop, and about thirty residences. Most of the people are either farmers or have interests connected with farming. This illustrates a recent tendency of farm workers to prefer living in towns to residence in the country, even though it means commuting to work. One reason for this trend is the establishment of most schools in the towns.

Herman

The first settler near "Herman," which is on the Henderson and Sulphur Springs Road, was Dr. Joseph Roberts, who built a three-room house on the site now occupied by the home of his

84-year-old grandson, Johnnie Roberts, two miles from the present Herman.

It is known that Dr. Roberts went to Missouri, whence he had come, and on the death of his wife returned to Kentucky. But the dates are obscure. His only son, known as "Long Billy" Roberts, was the father of Harry, Peter and Johnnie.

Billy Roberts' farm was adjacent to the 680 acres of land owned by George Henry Cottingham, born March 4, 1838. It was Mr. Cottingham who built the village of Herman Valley, some time around 1888. He built eight dwellings, a store (with a public scale), a blacksmith shop, five large stock and tobacco barns, a tobacco factory, and an undertaking establishment. The first buildings erected were a residence and a store for J. R. Sabiston. Mr. Cottingham died at the age of 94.

When the postoffice was established it was called Herman in honor of Mr. Cottingham's eldest son, Herman Eugene, now a dentist in Morganfield. Bedford Duncan was the first postmaster.

Today there is only one general store here, operated by George Puryear.

Hitesville

Hitesville has been the subject of far greater attention than it can possibly command today with its few dwellings and one store, run by Henry Hunter.

The Virginia State government granted two surveys within the territory comprising this district, one to Colonel Grundy, the other to Captain Thompson, for services in the Revolution. The country was then an unbounded forest. Few, if any, openings had been made, although in many places small squatters' cabins dotted the principal trails. Some of them possessed sinister reputations. Outlaws of the stripe of Samuel Mason and John A. Murrell made up many of the original inhabitants. They subsisted chiefly upon deer and other game. It is well-authenticated that these men secured their lead for bullets from a mine which they had opened on the bank of Highland Creek, in the northern portion of the precinct, and from another mine some four miles above Uniontown on the bank of the same creek.

About the beginning of the nineteenth century these squatters were driven out, and with the pioneers, "heroes of their day," came the dawn of civilization. Among these first settlers—who made their homes along a water course or near a spring, well-sinking being either unknown to them, or too costly to contem-

plate—were Joseph Buckman, Robert Wimsett, the Scotts, the late Judge Strother Chapman's father, who made the first opening in the tract now owned by R. D. Willet, and the "Hites," or, as the name was originally spelled, the "Huets" (*see The Era of Settlement*).

Martin Lembert (Huets) Hite was an early settler and one of his sons, Henry Hite, established the first store in 1850. Constructed of hewn logs, and one story high, it was used in later years as a tenant tobacco barn by Charles J. O'Malley. Peter G. Hite and Charles N. Bucklin set up a water-power sawmill on Mason Creek in the same year; Peter G. Hite was also the first man to have a brick kiln in that locality. The postoffice was established in 1855.

Quite a few small houses were built along both sides of the road and many people of the migratory class came and went. Little by little the houses decayed and finally all traces of their existence were obliterated.

Years later rebuilding began. At one time there were a hundred inhabitants in the town, with a blacksmith shop, two gristmills, a shingle mill, two stone quarries, a schoolhouse, and a photographers' gallery. R. A. Griggs was contracting carpenter and Dr. J. R. Seitz practiced medicine.

Lindle's Mill

It was in 1864 that J. W. Lindle built a mill which had two burrs, one for meal, the other for flour. On the road to what is now Calloway's Mine it stood near the farm of W. W. Slaton, about a half-mile from the present US 60.

Just back of the mill was the Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church and the Mt. Pleasant School, built on part of the church ground. A store room soon followed the mill, as did a blacksmith shop, run by Jim Heady. Lindle also had a still, the house located on the ditch in front of the home of J. Y. Simpson. There was then no settlement at Sullivan. When the railroad came and made Sullivan, that town drew nearly all of Lindle's Mill to itself.

The mill has disappeared. Only the old graveyard near the vanished church, and the old schoolhouse that is now a dwelling, are left.

Little Union

Little Union is on Highway 56 about three miles southeast of Morganfield.

A Baptist church was organized there in 1860 and six years later was built. It is still used.

Douglas Alton operated the blacksmith shop and probably the gristmill. A general stock store was owned by T. S. Barker and Jim Grissom.

The postoffice was established largely through the efforts of Frank Hass, but for some reason he called it Ula. It existed for several years.

Owltown

In the 1830's there was a hamlet called Owltown. It was in the bottoms of Highland Creek, near the bridge on the old Henderson and Morganfield road which passes Hitesville. There were several dwellings, a blacksmith shop, and a small store.

In the early 1930's a flood of Highland Creek swept the last visible remains of Owltown away.

Pride

If ever a town was created by a railroad Pride was, and it has suffered the consequences. The Morganfield & Atlanta Railroad, on condition that there be a station at this point, secured rights-of-way in 1905. Money subscribed by optimistic citizens helped build a railway station.

In the next year the Pride Improvement Company was incorporated, for the purpose of promoting the development of land and other property especially around the railroad station. A tract of land was bought from D. T. Pride and wife, on which the town was to be laid out. Most of the lots were sold in a few weeks and the town of Pride had begun.

The first dwelling was built for Dr. J. W. Watson with much of the lumber salvaged from the old Bordley schoolhouse which had just blown down. Dr. Watson also built a large store near the depot, as did T. J. Herron. At least two houses were moved here from Bordley. One was Mrs. Strouse's large store, dismantled and transformed into a large house in Pride, which she ran for a time as a hotel.

The railroad was an easy outlet for the products of the farms and for years continued to pour sustenance into a contented Pride, supporting, among other business ventures, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Carter's general store and Mrs. Fannie Holt's associate millinery department, and justifying the erection of a high school and a community building for all sorts of town gatherings.

Then in the late 1920's trucks made their first appearance as a competitive threat to the railroad. With road improvement they were able to go direct to the farms for produce and thence to market. Freight on the railroad decreased alarmingly and finally, on December 16, 1939, the last freight train made its forlorn run. The rails were removed in the summer of 1940.

Today Pride consists of two business houses, one owned by G. B. Carter, the other by T. J. Herron; a blacksmith shop run by A. L. Christison, and the Zion Baptist Church.

The grade school is still here and is attended by pupils from the former neighboring schools, among which were Hammond's and Wright's. But the high school of Pride, which once accommodated the students of Sullivan, is no more. Pride students now go to Sturgis or Morganfield.

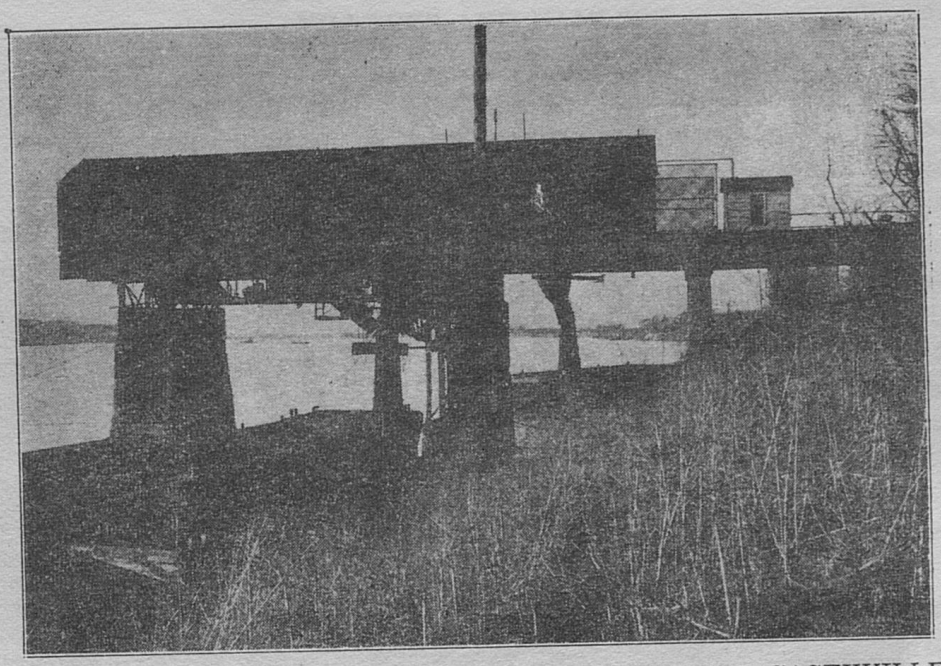
Raleigh

The fine farming land behind it, and its location on the Ohio, five miles above Shawneetown, Illinois, combined to make Raleigh an important shipping point. From about 1840 to 1860 it shipped more grain than any other river center in Union County.

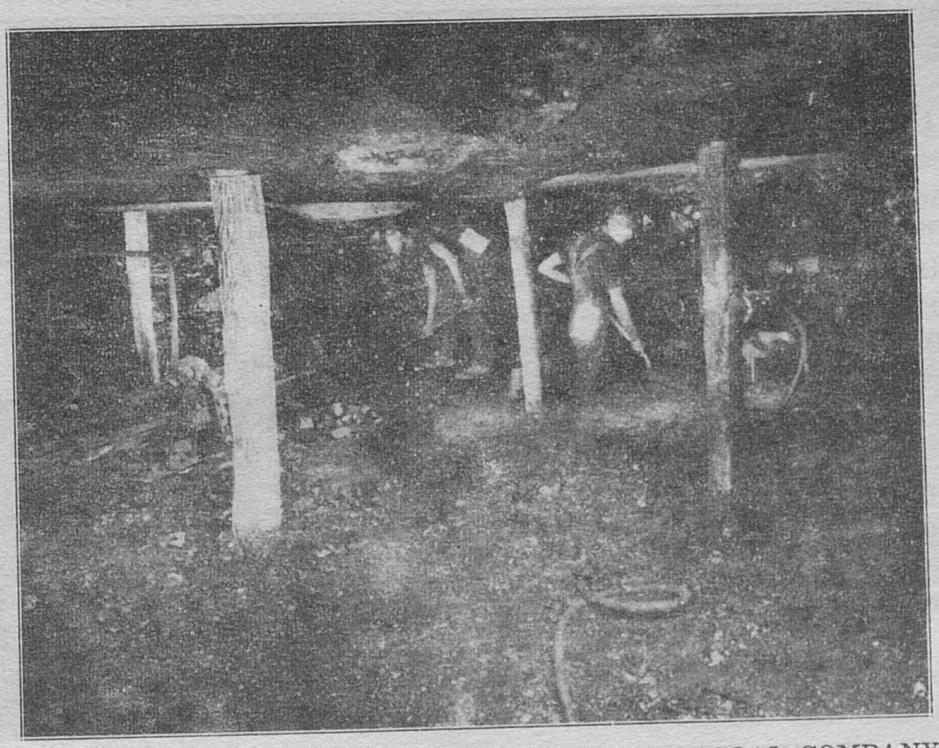
Before there were voting places in Caseyville or Uniontown, election returns were sent out from Raleigh. The articles of incorporation, 1851, speak of the construction of streets and alleys and public buildings, the digging of wells, the taxing of all shows and exhibitions and the suppression of horse-racing and gunplay—suggesting, among other things a vigor in frequent need of restraint.

It seems a curious lack of foresight that placed Raleigh not back toward the hills but on the river. The town was actually on the site of an ancient Indian burying ground, as frequent cave-ins of the river bank disclosed, and excavation for building purposes unearthed many skeletons. The caving in of the river bank and the seasonal flood waters eventually destroyed Raleigh's shipping and drove its inhabitants away. Today there is but one house, occupied by Will Cissell, who tends the government light.

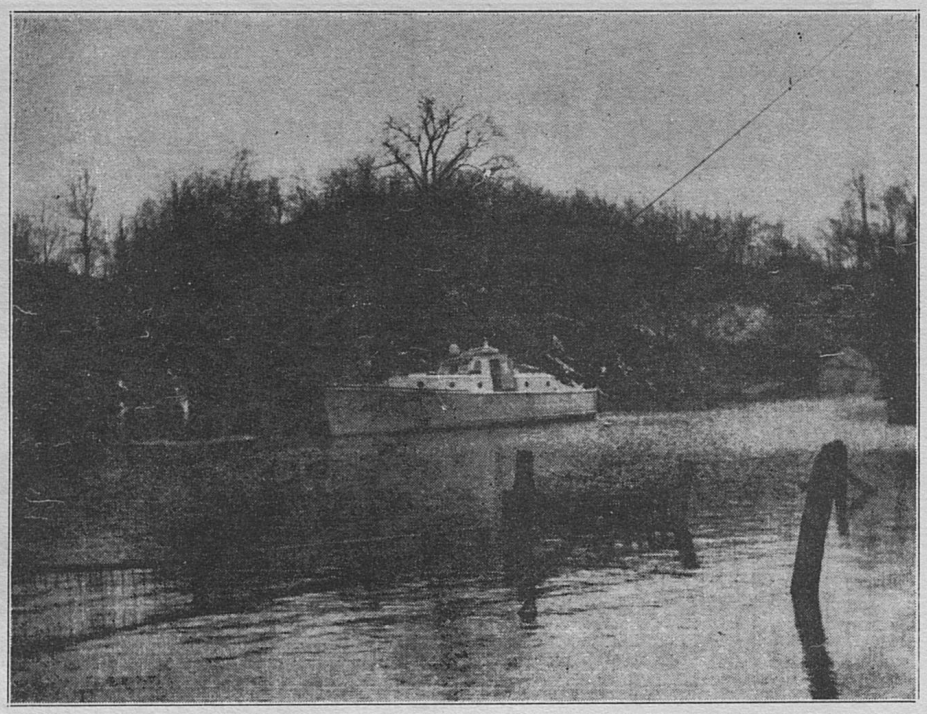
In its heyday Raleigh had three drygoods stores, one of them brick, three large warehouses, a hotel, and a wagon and blacksmith shop. Haman Ashby was both a merchant and postmaster in 1840. A little later Michel and Nathan A. Jones opened a store, as did the McCune brothers, the Rev. Mr. English and a Mr. Ford,



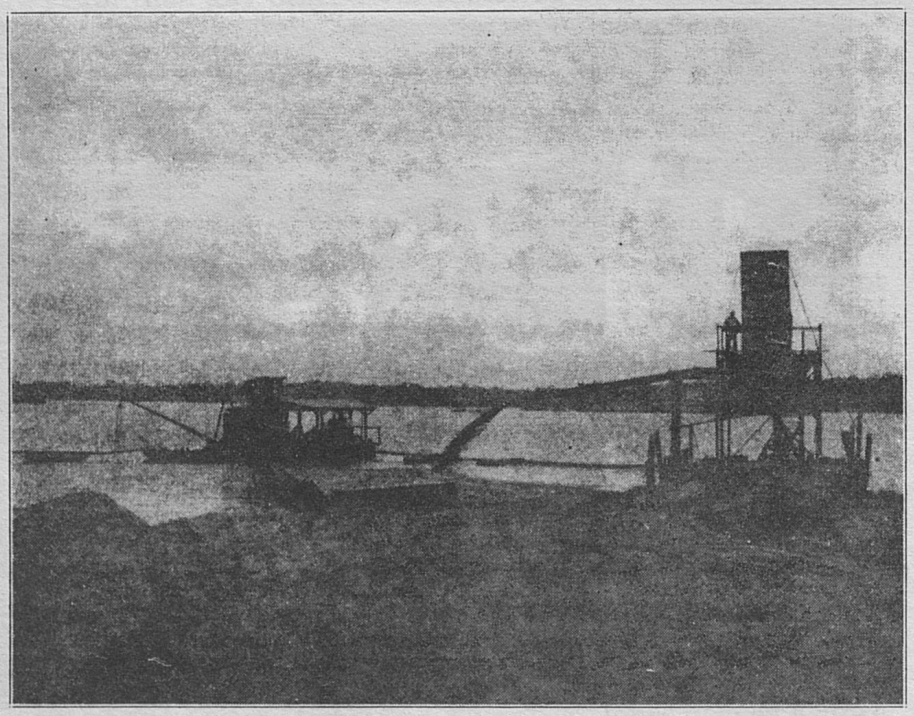
WEST KENTUCKY COAL COMPANY RIVER TIPPLE, CASEYVILLE



INTERIOR OF MINE NO. 8 OF WEST KENTUCKY COAL COMPANY, NEAR GRANGERTOWN



U. S. COAST GUARD BOAT AT CASEYVILLE DURING 1937 FLOOD



GRAVEL PUMP BOAT OF COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT,
IN OHIO RIVER NEAR WABASH ISLAND

the last two building a cottage residence, and Alfred Richardson, at whose home the legal voters were authorized to meet for the election of the town trustees. About 1852 Richardson sold out to A. G. S. Calmes, who continued the business and built a large warehouse and storeroom.

By 1858 Raleigh's decline had set in; it was never arrested and now the river has completed the ruin it began eighty years ago.

About a mile to the rear of Raleigh lies the Grundy Hill. It probably contains large quantities of coal and at its foot the Ohio River evidently ran not many centuries ago.

Spring Grove

Spring Grove, on Highway 56, is described, in the 1886 *History of Union County,* as an attractive little village situated in a hollow and upon the sides of a picturesque ravine that opens upon a flat. It was five or six miles from the Shawneetown Ferry, on the lower Morganfield and Shawneetown road.

Solomon Blue came to this district from Virginia in 1803 and bought several hundred acres of land. James Blue lived in what is now Spring Grove, the name being self-explanatory though the spring is now extinct. In the War between the States a battle was fought at Blue's Pond, within a strip of low marshy land crossed by Blue's Bridge.

James Stanfield, an Englishman, opened a coal mine in 1861. This industry increased the activities and size of the town so that it was soon considered one of the important places in Union County until the railroad came through (1886) and missed it. Hall and Owen opened a store in 1868. There were a blacksmith shop and gristmill, run by Thomas Perrin and Mack Padgett, respectively. For many years after the office opened in 1880, Thomas Haun was postmaster. Distribution of mail was heavy and the fact that it arrived daily was a source of continuous surprise to the inhabitants.

The Woodland Baptist Church was built at an early date and is still in existence, as is also the Presbyterian Church, erected on the hill above Spring Grove. The tiny school built near the church was replaced in 1934 by a building of four rooms and an auditorium.

McMurray's general store, begun in 1886, manages to survive in a town of some ten residences by having been relocated strategically on Highway 56.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

NANCY HUSTON BANKS (1849-1934), novelist and newspaper woman, was born at Morganfield. She was the daughter of Judge George Huston, a banker and attorney of Morganfield, and Sarah Brady Huston. After her marriage to James N. Banks, an attorney and newspaper man of Henderson, she made her home first in Henderson, and later in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she was connected with the Cincinnati *Enquirer*.

In 1890 Mrs. Banks published her first book, *Stairs of Sand*, which, it is said, she regretted having written, and later withdrew from publication. In it she caricatured the people of her own home town, Morganfield. During the nineties she went to live in New York, and there she became a member of the *Bookman* staff. Mrs. Banks was credited with first bringing the work of James Lane Allen to the attention of editors. She contributed to the *Bookman* (June, 1895) a critical article on the work of Allen. Several years afterward Mrs. Banks gave up her magazine work in order to devote her time to the writing of *Oldfield* (1902), a novel of life in Kentucky. This "dried rose-leaf story" of the Pennyroyal region was popular in its day both in this country and in England. London critics described it as *Cranford* done over in the American tongue. Her next novel, *Round Anvil Rock* (1903), was an historical romance with Union County scenes as a background. In *The Little Hills* (1905) the opening phrase—"The air was the breath of spice pink"—was said by reviewers to be symbolic of the atmosphere of the entire story.

Mrs. Banks was a great traveler and spent much of her time in England. During the Boer War she was sent by *Vanity Fair* of London to South Africa as a war correspondent and became prominent in the social life there. Mrs. Banks died in Washington, D. C., in 1934, and was buried in the Masonic Cemetery, Morganfield, Kentucky.

GEORGE HUSTON CHAPMAN (1849-1914), the son of Thomas S. and Prudence F. Chapman, was born in Morganfield, where he obtained his earliest education. Part of his higher education he received under Dr. C. B. Johnson, a local educator of

merit. He also attended schools at Mount Carmel, Illinois, and Rockport, Indiana, before entering Cecilian College in Hardin County, Kentucky, in 1869.

The following year he went to New Orleans to attend Tulane Medical School. It was during his stay here he met his future wife, Emma Holmes. From New Orleans he went to Macon, Georgia, where he studied medicine during the summer under Dr. George N. Holmes, father of his future wife. He attended Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia during the winter months, and in 1873 he was graduated with high honors. He then went to London, England, to continue his studies as an interne at the celebrated St. Thomas Hospital. After a year in London he toured the principal cities of Europe, visiting famous medical centers in quest of a more complete education.

On his return to this country late in 1874 he practiced for a time at Macon, Georgia, and then returned to Union County because of the serious illness of his father. When he went to New Orleans in December, 1875, to marry Emma Holmes, he remained during the winter months to study the diseases of the southern climate at the hospitals there. In March, 1876, he returned to Union County where he spent the rest of his long and useful life. In 1877 he performed the first tracheotomy in the county and in 1893 performed the first lithotomy in his section of the State.

The honors that were bestowed upon Dr. Chapman were varied and many. One of the most noteworthy was his selection by the National Commission of the Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893 as one of the judges of surgical instruments, and his election as chief judge at the first meeting of this body. Another recognition was his election as secretary of the McDowell Society. He was a regular contributor to the leading medical journals of the country and was often called in consultation by physicians both in and out of the State.

BEN P. CISSELL (1821-1904), the son of Wilfred and Cecilia Clark Cissell, was born near St. Vincent Academy. He received his primary education in the county and his higher education at Bardstown, Kentucky. He was admitted to the bar in 1846, and in November, 1848, married Louise Dimmitt Von Tress, two children being born to them. After the death of his first wife Mr. Cissell married Jennie Doty of Vermont. As an attorney he practiced in the Union County courts until 1858 when he was

elected to the State Senate. He was re-elected in 1862, but resigned. In 1866 he was elected Commonwealth attorney for the Fourteenth Judicial District of Kentucky. He served until 1868 when he was elected circuit judge of the third district, in which capacity he served for the next eighteen years.

EARLE C. CLEMENTS (1896-), who has served in several county offices, was born in Morganfield, the son of A. W. and Sallie A. Tuley Clements. He received his education in the Morganfield schools and later attended the University of Kentucky. At the age of twenty he enlisted as a private in the United States Army during the World War, rising in rank to first lieutenant and becoming a captain on his twenty-second birthday.

On being mustered out of service at the close of the war, Mr. Clements returned to Morganfield where he took an active part in athletics, serving as coach of the football team of the high school for several seasons. During his tenure as coach the team won the conference championship several times.

Following in the footsteps of his father, who had served as sheriff and county judge, he early took an active interest in politics. He was sheriff for one term, county clerk for two terms and county judge also for two terms. During his two terms as county judge, the courthouse was remodeled and the mileage of the hard surfaced roads was trebled.

Mr. Clements is greatly interested in civic affairs, of which this book, made possible through his interest and co-operation, is an example. He is a member of the Christian Church, chairman of the Democratic County Committee and a member of the Griggs-Alvey Post of the American Legion. He was married in 1927 to Sarah Blue of Morganfield, and of this union one daughter, Elizabeth Hughes Clements, has been born.

DAVID CUMMINS DONAN (1882-) was born in Hart County, Kentucky, the son of Dr. David Crews and Victoria Grady Donan. After receiving his primary education in the public school near his home, he was privately tutored in Greek, Latin, and mathematics. At the age of fifteen he became a member of a surveying crew. He was afterwards awarded a fellowship in chemistry by the University of Kentucky, and in 1903 he received his Master of Science degree. After two years as a country school teacher he entered the Medical School of the University of Louisville and was graduated with first honors in 1907. He taught chemistry at the University for two years.

In 1909, Dr. Donan married Miss Adeline Calloway of Sturgis, Kentucky, who had been a trained nurse. One of their three sons is a lieutenant in the U. S. Army, another is a lawyer, and the third is a civil engineer.

Dr. Donan practiced in Horse Cave for five years and then came to Morganfield where, with the exception of the World War years, he has practiced ever since.

During the World War he served as Captain in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army, serving a year at Camp Taylor, near Louisville and a year in France. After the war he resumed his practice in Morganfield. He became a member of the R.O.T.C., in which he has been particularly active, and in 1934 he attained the rank of colonel. He was contract surgeon of the U. S. Army for three years, serving the Morganfield CCC Camp, and in 1940 he was appointed physician for the CCC camps at Morganfield, Owensboro, and Henderson. He has served as county chairman of the C.M.T.C. since its organization twenty-one years ago, as commander of the Morganfield post of the American Legion for two terms, and as its adjutant for seven years.

GEORGE LUCIAN DRURY (1875-1940), the best known of Union County's recently deceased notables, was a man of many attainments and interests. He was lawyer and legislator, laundryman, farmer, coal operator, bottler, historian, and raconteur. Born seven miles east of Morganfield between Waverly and Boxville, he first attended a near-by rural elementary school and then St. Vincent Academy, after which he entered the Morganfield High School and was in its first graduating class in 1895. He taught "county school" for a short time and then entered the University of Louisville Law School. Upon receiving his degree in 1899 he and his brother, W. T. Drury, opened the law firm of Drury and Drury in Morganfield.

He served four terms (eight years) in the State Legislature as Union County's representative and during his last term he was made speaker of the House. After his election in 1912 he and a colleague, James F. Clay, were largely responsible for the model drainage law that was passed at this time. Mr. Drury stayed out of politics from then until 1922 when he was sent to the Kentucky House of Representatives for the first of three successive terms.

Mr. Drury devoted a great deal of his time to the study of astronomy. He was a man of expansive interests and personality,

and his remarkable memory made him a target for those seeking all kinds of information. He was something of a philosopher, poet, and humorist and was frequently in demand as a speaker. He married Margaret Hite in 1906. He was a Kiwanian, a Knight of Columbus, and a devout Catholic.

ELISHA J. DURBIN (1800-1887), pioneer Catholic priest, was born in Madison County about sixteen miles from Boonesboro, the son of John D. and Patience Logsdon Durbin. When a young boy he was in the habit of accompanying his parents to services in the Church of St. Francis in Scott County. At the age of sixteen he decided to study for the priesthood and, with the approval of his parents, entered the Seminary of St. Thomas near Bardstown. He remained here six years, half his time being spent in study and half in labor, which was the rule of the seminary at that time. On September 21, 1822, he was ordained priest by Bishop David and for more than a year his duties confined him to the College and Cathedral of St. Joseph at Bardstown.

In 1824 Father Durbin was assigned jurisdiction over the entire region of western Kentucky. To this young priest, then but twenty-four years of age, was entrusted the pastoral care of all the isolated Catholic families living in an area which extended from Jefferson County to the Mississippi River, and from the Ohio to Tennessee. Equally dependent upon Father Durbin in all spiritual ministrations were the scattered families living in counties bordering the northern bank of the Ohio in the States of Illinois and Indiana. After 1832 he was also charged with stations at Franklin, Kentucky, and Nashville, Tennessee. His headquarters were near Morganfield in Union County, and here in the little log chapel at St. Vincent he said his first mass.

Within two years after the beginning of his mission Father Durbin had built two churches in the territory assigned to him. The first of these was the Sacred Heart, erected near the site of the log chapel on the grounds of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent; the second church built in Union County was St. Ambrose near Henshaw. About the same time St. Theresa was built at Flint Island, Meade County; St. Jerome at Fancy Farms in Graves County followed in 1836.

Father Durbin was known throughout the West as an organizer and builder of churches. Rarely, it has been said, has there been such an example of continuous and long sustained labor.

Out of more than sixty years of priesthood, fifty were spent in missionary work in an area covering one-third of the State, with the Catholic population widely separated. This was done, too, under all sorts of harsh conditions in a sparsely settled country. Father Durbin's remarkable endurance and resistance were doubtless due to ancestry noted for robust physical development and hardiness.

The pioneer priest's florid complexion was once the occasion of an amusing incident. Riding along one day he was halted by a stranger who said: "Halloo, stranger! You are just the man I have been looking for! Get off your horse for a minute and let me take a pull at your jug!" "My friend," replied Father Durbin, "I have no jug! I have no use for one, for I never drink spirits of any kind!" "No jug!" exclaimed the man incredulously, "do you mean to tell me that I don't know what sort of a bulge a jug makes at the bottom of a pair of saddle bags!" The priest, laughing at the thought that his priestly vestments had been mistaken for a liquor jug, replied: "You are altogether mistaken, sir! I have not about my person nor in my saddle bags as much as a drop of liquor of any kind; furthermore I spoke truthfully a bit ago that I am not in the habit of using spirits at any time in any form." Looking at the priest intently, the man said: "Stranger, I hope you will not take offense at the remark, but if I were in your place, I would take in my sign!"

In 1873 Father Durbin was relieved of his pastoral responsibility in Union County. He died at Shelbyville where he was serving as chaplain of a convent of Franciscan nuns. He is buried in St. Louis Cemetery, Louisville.

CLAIBORNE DUVAL (1788-1834), a pioneer preacher of Union County, was born in Virginia. He began preaching early in life and was ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church, October 8, 1814. A short time later he was married and moved to Union County, where, according to old records, he was performing marriage ceremonies as early as 1815. He conducted religious services in his own log cabin home until about 1820, when a log church, called Duval's Chapel, was erected on his land. He later founded Antioch Methodist Church which is still in use though it has been rebuilt several times. Duval served a rural community as pastor until his death. He left two children, Mrs. J. W. C. Huston and H. C. Duval.

NANNIE B. GAINES (1860-1932), missionary to Japan for more than forty years, was born in Union County, the daughter of Gustavus and Katherine Cromwell Gaines. When she was quite young her father died and her mother, left with the responsibility of supporting four children, began teaching school. Nannie was a quiet, studious child, anxious to help her widowed mother, and after graduation from college, taught in Union County for four years. When her mother died she went to live with a brother in Florida where she obtained a teaching position.

In 1887, Miss Gaines accepted appointment to Japan as a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. She arrived at Hiroshima and began teaching in a girls' school which Dr. Walter R. Lambuth had recently opened in Hiroshima in an old theater building next door to the Buddhist temple. Two years later Buddhist persecution became so bitter that the school had to be closed and the teachers forced to remove to Kobe.

However, Miss Gaines was not discouraged by opposition and, a few months later, returned to Hiroshima where she felt missionary work was most needed, and opened a boarding and day school for girls. Shortly afterward, through her own efforts, a new school building was erected; a kindergarten and a Bible school for training Japanese women were added later, and music was made a part of the curriculum. Just as her vision of a progressive school seemed about to be realized, fire destroyed the building and all of its furnishings; only a piano was saved by the natives, who believed it housed the Christians' God. Contributions from loyal friends in America and Japan enabled Miss Gaines to reopen her school in a rented room. It was only a short time before a much more commodious building, housing all departments of the school, was erected. During the years that followed she and her sister Rachel, who returned to Japan with her after a visit to America, established a number of kindergartens in and around Hiroshima.

Miss Gaines' work was so successful that it gained the confidence, co-operation and praise of officials of the Japanese government. Governor-General Baron Saito said of her, "Miss Gaines is the most valuable woman in all Japan." She was the first woman ever summoned by the Emperor of Japan to confer with him and his cabinet about certain important problems. She was decorated by the Emperor, and a home was built for her by

the Japanese government in appreciation of her work in the Orient.

In 1930 she retired from active work, but continued to live in her home in Hiroshima until her death. She is buried near her home in Japan.

ELLEN GEIGER (1854-) has taught school in the county for fifty-six years, sixteen of which were spent in the county schools, the other forty in Morganfield, and thirty of these years in the same room. She was born near Geiger's Lake in the county and shortly before the War between the States she moved with her parents, Judge and Mrs. John Samuel Geiger, to Morganfield. The school in which she first taught as a girl of eighteen was near Boxville, seven miles east of Morganfield. The school building was made of logs, and her salary was $190 a year. She started teaching in the Morganfield schools in 1888. In 1922 her former pupils and friends honored her on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in the teaching profession by presenting her with a purse of $500 in gold.

JOHN SAMUEL GEIGER (1818-1905), a man of great prestige in Union County's public affairs for several decades, was born on a 150-acre farm that is now a heavily populated section in central Louisville. At the age of fourteen he was sent to Indiana University at Bloomington, where he completed a four-year academic course. Upon returning home (Louisville) he studied law for one year under two of Kentucky's most distinguished attorneys, Henry S. Pirtle and James Speed. He then continued his law studies for one session at Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky.

In 1840 his father moved to Union County, but he continued on to St. Louis. Ill health interfered with his career here at the very beginning, and in the spring of 1841 he came to his father's place in Union County.

He was examined for the bar during the year by Judges Alney McLean and Benjamin Shackelford. He practiced law in Morganfield for about eighteen months after obtaining his license and then turned to farming and milling. (His father established on the bank of Geiger's Lake the first steam flouring and gristmill in Union County.) In the fall of 1841, John Samuel Geiger married Laura C. Hughes, a native of Maryland, at Bloomington, where she was attending school. They had seven children, and their descendants, though not numerous, still live in the county.

In 1856, he returned to Morganfield and was elected circuit court clerk by a large majority. In 1862, at the end of his six-year term, Mr. Geiger became a candidate for re-election but, in the words of the old Union County history "the terror of the country, John W. Foster, now United States Minister to Spain. was the supreme dictator, and said no to his claims. Foster arrested him and took him to Henderson." Mr. Geiger was later installed in this office when Confederate General Johnson entered this section of the country (*see War between the States*). After the war he was twice elected county judge (1866-74), serving during the contention over the removal of the county seat about 1870. Without any attempt to obtain the office, he was elected police judge of Morganfield five successive times, serving from 1878 to 1898. During the administration of Gov. Proctor Knott (1883-87) Mr. Geiger was made a Kentucky Colonel. As a partisan he was highly respected by his opponents as well as by his supporters. For more than twenty years he served as chairman of the county Democratic committee.

Mr. Geiger ably edited the *Union County Advocate*, the first newspaper established in Morganfield, in the 1870's, and for a number of years he was a correspondent for several newspapers in the section, using the *nom de plume* "Harper," under which he also contributed poetry. As a journalist he was a power in local and State politics.

He was a Mason and a member of the Methodist Church. His prominence in church activities was recognized by his election to the annual Methodist Conference at Louisville for sixteen successive years.

GEORGE HUSTON (1821-1904), author of *Memories of Eighty Years*, lawyer and county judge, was born in Daviess County, Kentucky. The family was of Scotch-Irish lineage, one of his ancestors, Robert Huston, being a distiller in Scotland. It was the son of this Robert Huston, also a Robert Huston, who emigrated to this country in 1747 and first settled in Philadelphia. George Huston's grandfather, William Huston, born in Person County, North Carolina, was a soldier of the Revolutionary War, and helped guard Burgoyne's men after his surrender at Saratoga in October, 1777.

George Huston's father died when he was six years old, and when he was twelve he was sent to live with his aunt, Nancy Spalding, in Morganfield. His first schooling was in a log cabin

near his father's farm and his first teacher was Craven Boswell. He continued his education in Morganfield after he moved there and he later attended, first, the Methodist College at Augusta, Kentucky, then, St. Joseph's (Catholic) College at Bardstown. In 1841, he entered the Law Department of Harvard University and two years later was graduated.

While on his way east in August, 1841, he met President Tyler at the White House, and also Daniel Webster, a member of Tyler's cabinet. At Harvard he met several famed men, including Judge Story, professor of law there and an eminent authority on American jurisprudence; Lord Ashburton, who was searching for records of the boundary between Maine and Canada; and Noah Webster, the lexicographer. George Huston was appointed Kentucky's delegate to invite Charles Dickens to the State when that famed literary figure was visiting Boston. So great was his desire to see Dickens that he took the invitation, which he might have mailed, in person. He also met Longfellow, while at Harvard, though he admired him, not because he was a famous poet. but because he was such a dandy—so exquisite in his dress and manner.

At the age of twenty-two he married Sarah "Sally" Brady, who was seventeen. One of their ten children was Nancy Huston Banks, one of Union County's most outstanding writers.

He became the county judge shortly before the outbreak of the War between the States. Mr. Huston was a slave owner but his wife at one time remarked that it took the greater part of what he made as a lawyer to support his slaves in comfort.

For many years he was closely associated with Archibald Dixon of Henderson, a man of political prominence (U. S. Senator and Lieutenant-Governor of Kentucky) and the leading attorney of this section of the State. As a lawyer, Mr. Huston was a specialist in land litigations arising out of grants made to Revolutionary War soldiers. He died during the same year that his book, *Memories of Eighty Years,* was published by the *Morganfield Sun.*

FIELDING JONES (1760-1832), said to have been the first white man to settle permanently in Union County, was born in Henry County, Virginia. In his young manhood he served in the Revolutionary War and attained the rank of colonel. For this service, Virginia granted him one thousand acres of land in what is now Union County. In 1779 he married Sarah Hardin of

Virginia and established his home on his military grant, which was located on what is now the Spring Grove-Uniontown road, about five miles west of the present site of Morganfield. Eight children were born to Colonel and Mrs. Jones, and many of their descendants are residents of the county today. Both he and his wife are buried in the Reburn Burying Ground on a part of a farm now owned by his great-granddaughter, Mrs. John Mason.

THEOPHILUS KELLENAERS (1852-1920) was born in Holland and educated in the schools of his native land. He began his studies for the priesthood at the American College at Louvain, Belgium. In 1872 he came to America and two years later he was ordained a priest. For a short time he was assistant in the parishes at Elizabethtown and at St. Vincent. He was then assigned to St. Ann's Church in Morganfield where he remained until 1888 when he was transferred to St. Agnes in Uniontown. He remained here until his death—a period of thirty-two years. During his pastorate in Uniontown he erected a handsome new church, and St. Agnes School became one of the best parochial schools in the State. Father Kellenaers was a scholarly and deeply religious man. He was always at the call of those in distress and endeared himself to the whole community irrespective of religious beliefs. He is buried in St. Agnes Cemetery at Uniontown.

PERCIVAL GATES KELSEY (1841-1921) was linked so closely with the coal mining and railroad development of Union County in the last quarter of the nineteenth century that his name signifies a turning point in its history. He was born in La Porte, Lorain County, Ohio, of New England, Revolutionary War lineage. After completing his academic education he attended two twenty-two-weeks' courses in medical science at Lind University, Chicago. Upon the outbreak of the War between the States he enlisted in the Union Army, participating in the battle of Nashville. When he was mustered out of the army he was an adjutant general. He received his medical diploma during the war (1864) from the Chicago Medical College, now the Medical Department of Northwestern University.

He first practiced in Fulton County, Indiana, where he met Alida Livingston Sturgis, whom he married in 1866. In 1869 he abandoned medical practice and moved to Louisville where he entered the business world. He became interested in coal mining and in 1874 he and his family removed to DeKoven in Union

County. He purchased the Shotwell and Morehead mine and interested Eastern capitalists in forming the Ohio Valley Coal and Mining Company, of which he became president and general manager. He contributed liberally to all civic and educational enterprises in DeKoven and was a zealous church worker, being a deacon of the First Baptist Church.

In 1885 he moved to Henderson, where, as president of the Ohio Valley Railroad, he directed the building of the first railroad to traverse Union County. As a civic leader as well as railroad builder and mining proprietor, Dr. Kelsey exerted great influence in Union County. When he left DeKoven he placed the Ohio Valley Coal and Mining Company under the management of Samuel P. Sturgis. For several years he was also president of the Central Trust and Savings Company of Evansville, Indiana, where he moved in 1889. After the I. C. R. R. absorbed the O. V. R. R. about 1900 he moved to New York City and became a promoter of various enterprises. Later he became associated with G. C. Babcock in the wire-bound box business, being the manager of plants in Norfolk, Virginia, South Bend, Indiana, and Evanston, Illinois, when he died at the latter place.

WALTER JOHN KERN (1872-1929), business man and promoter, was mayor of Sturgis for eight years. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he attended public school. His first work was that of messenger boy, and his steady climb up the ladder of success follows the pattern of an Horatio Alger plot. He next became an office boy with the Edison Light Company and when he left this company he was chief engineer. In 1892 he became chief engineer for the Maysville, Ohio, Light and Water Company, and in the fall of 1894 he became engineer both for the Owensboro, Kentucky, Electric Light Company and the City of Owensboro. He held both positions until 1903 when he started in business as a contractor and dealer in electrical supplies. He moved to Sturgis in 1911 and built an ice plant, operating it in connection with the Economy Steam Laundry, which he also built.

Mr. Kern also took a deep interest in agriculture. In 1924 he began the operation of the "Hillcrest Orchards," two miles north of Sturgis on US 60. Products of this orchard won many prizes at State and county fairs. These enterprises are now under the management of his heirs.

Mr. Kern, a staunch Democrat, served Sturgis as its mayor from 1917 to 1921, and again from 1925 until his death in 1929. He was a member of the town council between these two terms. He was a Mason, a Knight Templar, a Shriner, and a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Sturgis, serving as its first president. He also served a term as lieutenant governor of the Kentucky-Tennessee Kiwanis district.

Mr. Kern married Leota Hall Bradley of Owensboro in 1895 and of this union ten children were born.

LEROY WILLIAM LONG (1832-1900), lawyer, soldier, and farmer, was born on the South Fork of Falling River, Campbell County, Virginia. His grandmother on his father's side was the daughter of Col. Burgess Ball and his grandfather on his mother's side was Captain William Rosser, both of Revolutionary War note.

Arnstead Long, the father of Leroy William, moved to White Sulphur Spring in Union County in 1838. The father and his two brothers living nearby employed a teacher from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to tutor their children. In 1843, three years after the death of his first wife, Arnstead Long and his family returned to Virginia. Leroy William attended the Lynchburg high school and completed college in Richmond.

In 1854 he returned to Caseyville, where his brother, Dr. Burgess M. Long, lived. He lived here for a short time reading law and teaching private school. He was "the bright young man" of the community, since he is remembered for also posting "books for the merchants of the town" and "making the returns for the postmaster of the place." He moved to Morganfield in November, 1855, and entered the law office of Judge Ben P. Cissell. After taking his law examination under Judge Collin D. Bradley, Long opened a law office in Morganfield, and soon entered into partnership with Judge Cissell. In 1858 he was elected county attorney and three years later (1861) he resigned his office and joined Lee's army, then in West Virginia.

When General Lee was sent south, Long was assigned to duty on General Stevenson's staff, with the rank of major. His Kentucky friends petitioned the Confederate War Department to send Major Long into Kentucky to raise a regiment. He returned to Union County but through the treachery of persons he trusted, he was captured by the Federal forces.

He was held two months and was then court martialed as a spy. He was sent to Johnson's Island under sentence of death. Friends at Henderson and Morganfield learned of his trouble and through their influence President Lincoln was induced to pardon him. Finally, after eighteen months, he was taken with others to Virginia for an exchange. He reported at Richmond and then Lynchburg, where he was ordered to report to his command, but before his time was up the army was in full retreat and he never rejoined it. After some delay he joined his brother, Dr. Burgess M. Long, and his family, in Union County.

He resumed the practice of law, but in 1888 he returned to Virginia and bought a farm in the county of Nottoway, where he died.

A. R. LYNN (1844-1941), one of Morgan's Raiders during the War between the States, was Union County's last Confederate veteran. For many years until his death, a few months before his ninety-seventh birthday, he was known to hundreds of Union Countians as "Uncle Bob" Lynn.

He was born on a farm in this county and led the normal life of a farmer's son until the outbreak of the war. Immediately he tried to enlist in one of the three Confederate companies being formed at Sulphur Springs, but was rejected because of his youth. In August he tried again, exaggerating his age a little, as he would not be eighteen until October. This time he was accepted, being enrolled in the Tenth Kentucky Cavalry of the Second Brigade, which was commanded by Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan. Shortly after his enlistment the regiment went south, engaging in the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, scouting and fighting almost every day.

Mr. Lynn followed General Morgan on his raid through Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio, in the summer of 1863, considered by many the General's boldest incursion into Northern territory. It was during this raid that the command marched from Summanville, Indiana, to Cincinnati, more than ninety miles, in thirty-five hours. And it was this march that was Mr. Lynn's undoing.

The invaders were hotly pursued by Union forces; and their escape was impeded by swollen fords and streams. In attempting to cross the Ohio at Buffington's Landing above Cincinnati Mr. Lynn was thrown from his horse. He recovered

his mount, but eluded the pusuers for only a day. For the remainder of the war he spent most of his time in prison. He was confined for eighteen months, first at Camp Morton near Indianapolis, then at Camp Douglas at Chicago, from which he was freed in an exchange for captured Union soldiers. With two companions, Bryant Mitchell of Union County and Lieut. Henry Cromwell, who came from near Shawneetown, Illinois, he walked to Nashville. There the three learned that their command had not yet surrendered. They were given the choice of "taking the oath" or being imprisoned again. They refused to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, and were confined in the State penitentiary until the command surrendered.

After the war Mr. Lynn returned to Union County and, for a short time, worked for his uncle, Tom Blue, proprietor of a hotel at Uniontown. He soon left this job and returned to farming, in which pursuit he prospered sufficiently to buy the Sulphur Springs Farm near Morganfield (*see Points of Interest*). At that time the farm was famous as a mineral spring resort. with a hotel, race course, and bowling alleys. On the property Mr. Lynn built a comfortable six-room, white frame cottage, in which he made his home until his death.

Until his retirement in 1934, Mr. Lynn divided his time between cultivating the farm and, in the summer months, operating the resort hotel. He died May 28, 1941.

ORMSBY McKNIGHT MITCHEL (1810-1862), pioneer astronomer, author and soldier, was born in a little log cabin on his father's farm near Waverly. His parents, John and Elizabeth McAllister Mitchel, came to Union County from Ohio in 1808. About 1815, after his father's death, the family returned to Ohio. Ormsby received his early education in Lebanon, Ohio, and entered West Point in 1825, graduating in 1829, in the same class with Robert E. Lee. During the next two years he taught mathematics at the military academy. It was during this time that he was married to a young widow, Louise Clark Trask. From 1831 to 1834 he studied and practiced law in Cincinnati. His real interest, however, was astronomy, so he abandoned law and for the next ten years was professor of mathematics, philosophy, and astronomy in the Cincinnati College.

In the meantime, he traveled over the country lecturing on his favorite theme in an effort to secure funds for an observa-

tory in Cincinnati. In 1843 the cornerstone of the Cincinnati Observatory was laid, and two years later Professor Mitchel became director, a position he held for fourteen years. In 1859 he removed to Albany, New York, where he became the director of the Dudley Observatory.

At the outbreak of the War between the States Professor Mitchel volunteered his services in the Union Army and was made brigadier general in command of Ohio volunteers. For the defense of Cincinnati, he erected a chain of fortifications four miles south of Covington extending to the Ohio River. The town of Fort Mitchell (spelled with two "l's") on the site of the fortifications was later named in his honor. In April, 1862, Mitchel was promoted to the rank of major general and, in September of the same year, was placed in command of the Department of the South and the Tenth Army Corps, operating in South Carolina. He died of yellow fever while in South Carolina.

While serving in the army, General Mitchel was affectionately known as "Old Stars" because of his fame as an astronomer, and it was in the field of astronomy that he was preeminent, both as a lecturer and for his mechanical skill. His pleasing platform personality, logical mind, and simple elucidation of his topic served to popularize a subject which hitherto had been of interest only to scientists. Mitchel perfected a variety of instruments that served to advance the study of astronomy and was author of several popular books on the subject, including *The Planetary and Stellar Worlds, The Orbs of Heaven, Popular Astronomy,* and *The Astronomy of the Bible.* From 1845 to 1848 General Mitchel edited a magazine, *The Sidereal Messenger.* He was a fellow of the Academy of Arts and Sciences and an associate of the Royal Astronomical Society of London.

DANIEL MORGAN (1736-1802), distinguished officer of the Indian and Revolutionary wars, from whom the town of Morganfield received its name, was born in New Jersey of Welsh ancestry. When seventeen years old he left home and worked his way to Virginia where he superintended a sawmill for a short time, later becoming a wagoner. In two years he accumulated enough to buy a wagon and team of his own. In the French and Indian War the call for wagons and teams was urgent and Morgan at once volunteered as a teamster. He was

with the Virginians under Washington and was present at Braddock's defeat.

In the attack on Fort Edward by the French and Indians, Morgan made his first appearance as a soldier. He led the garrison in the pursuit of the attacking army, and it is said that under the stimulus of battle "his voice was worth a regiment." Soon afterward he was commended to Governor Dinwiddie for a captain's commission. The royal governor, though averse to promoting one who so recently had held the humble post as wagoner, finally granted him a commission as ensign, with a post at Fort Edward.

Morgan was a man of magnificent physique and in his early years in the army he was renowned as a pugilist who never met defeat. He married Abigail Bailey, the daughter of a farmer, and built a home ("Soldier's Rest") for his wife and himself near Winchester, Virginia. He was soon called from his home, however, by the outbreak of Pontiac's War in which he took an active part. In 1771 he was commissioned captain in the militia of Frederick County, Virginia, by Governor Nelson, and two years later he was on the frontier fighting in Dunmore's War.

On returning to Virginia, Morgan's division heard of the events taking place in the North and they eagerly espoused the cause of Independence. In a short time he received his commission and was on his way to Boston at the head of a company of Virginia riflemen. In the winter of 1775 he accompanied Gen. Benedict Arnold to Canada and led a detachment consisting of three companies in the attack on Quebec. He was hemmed in and taken prisoner, but was released in 1776, and soon afterward was commissioned a colonel in the Continental Army. He took part in both battles of Saratoga and, for his gallantry in this action, the Virginia Legislature passed a resolution presenting him with a horse, pistols, and a sword; he fought with Horatio Gates at Hillsborough, North Carolina, where he took command of a corps and was later made brigadier general. In January, 1781, Cornwallis and Tarleton attempted to entrap him and his army, but at Cowpens (January 17) he defeated Tarleton, broke up the British force, and escaped from Cornwallis into North Carolina.

Morgan retired after the close of the war. His farming and stock-raising brought him rich returns, and his military grants

for services in the wars made him a large landowner. It is said that he became the owner of 250,000 acres of land on the Ohio and Monongahela Rivers. He built a stately mansion for his family and named it "Saratoga." His younger daughter was married to Major Heard. His land interest in Union County seems to have been at least partly responsible for the formation of the county, and his granddaughter, Matalida Heard, married Presley Neville O'Bannon who was prominent in its organization.

In 1794 General Morgan was again called to serve his country when he was sent to suppress the Whisky Rebellion in western Pennsylvania. In 1797-99 he was a Federalist representative in the Congress which was called by Washington to consider the threatening affairs between America and France. His health failed and he died while serving in Congress.

PRESLEY NEVILLE O'BANNON (1784-1850), the "hero of Derne" and the first person to plant the United States flag on foreign soil, deserves more than anyone to be known as "The Father of Union County." Born in Fauquier County, Virginia, in 1784, he was the son of Capt. William O'Bannon of the Continental Army. Presley O'Bannon's mother was a daughter of Gen. Joseph Neville. Little is known of his early life. In 1801, when only seventeen years of age, O'Bannon was a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

Late in the eighteenth century the Barbary pirates, natives of Morocco, Algiers, and Tripoli, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, not only seized American sailors, robbed and plundered ships of the United States Navy, but demanded huge ransoms from the United States Government to leave the shipping industry unmolested. War had been averted by the expedient of an annual tribute which increased with each new demand. Finally, the situation became intolerable and war was declared by the United States on May 14, 1801. Gen. William Eaton was at this time United States Consul at Algiers. Eaton had conceived the idea of forming an alliance with Hamet, deposed ruler of Tripoli, raising an army, and conducting an expedition to rescue American sailors confined at Tripoli. He won the consent of President Jefferson to his plan and was appointed by him Navy Agent of the United States for the Barbary Powers.

When Eaton arrived at Alexandria in November, 1804, he had with him a detachment of marines, commanded by Lieuten-

ant O'Bannon. They were joined by 400 Mussulman mercenaries and Hamet. After a march of about fifty days across the barren desert of Barca, they reached Derne, the capital of the richest province of Tripoli. In an attack on the fort by the Marines, General Eaton was wounded and dropped back, Lieutenant O'Bannon taking the lead. In the face of a storm of bullets he climbed the ramparts and turned the guns of the fort upon the enemy, tore down the Tripolitan ensign and, for the first time in history, hoisted the American flag over a fortress of the Old World. When O'Bannon returned to the United States he was feted as the "Hero of Derne" and was commended for bravery, but resigned two years later without even being brevetted for his distinguished service to his country.

After leaving the Navy he lived in Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky. He was married twice to Matilda Heard, daughter of Maj. James Heard and Nancy Morgan, daughter of Gen. Daniel Morgan of the Revolutionary War. The place and date of their first marriage has not been ascertained, but according to an entry in Logan County Order Book 13 it was "forever annulled and set aside on November 11, 1826." Their second marriage, as recorded in Logan County, took place on May 27, 1832.

O'Bannon represented Logan County in the State Legislature in 1812, 1817, and 1820-21, and served in the Senate, 1824-26. In 1811 he filed the plat of the seat of Union County and named it in honor of General Morgan. The streets and Public Square were O'Bannon's donation, and the highest and longest street in Morganfield was named for him. O'Bannon, however, never lived in Union County.

A small measure of recognition of O'Bannon's conspicuous bravery in behalf of his country came belatedly. During the World War Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, named a destroyer *O'Bannon* in his honor, and in 1919 his body was re-interred in the State Cemetery at Frankfort in the plot reserved for Kentucky's honored dead.

CHARLES J. O'MALLEY (1857-1910), distinguished poet of his day has been referred to as the George D. Prentice of Kentucky letters, and also as "the farmer poet of Kentucky." He was born in a log cabin in the old Hitesville precinct of Union County. Through his Irish father he was related to the poet-priest of the Confederacy, Father Ryan; his mother was of

English and Spanish descent. After receiving his early education at the local schools he was sent to Cecilian College in Hardin County, Kentucky, and later to Spring Hill, a Jesuit institution near Mobile, Alabama. His father intended him for the priesthood but allowed him to have his own way and become a poet, though he often remarked that it was a "trifling occupation," and, "a poet never came to any good."

In 1882 O'Malley was married to Sarah M. Hill of Calhoun, Missouri, a poetess of some merit. Two children, a boy and a girl, were born to this union. For a short time O'Malley conducted boys' classes in St. Vincent Academy, near Morganfield. In the meantime he became well known throughout southwestern Kentucky for his contributions to the newspapers and magazines of the State. In addition to his poetry he wrote a number of light, scientific prose articles, including "Summer in Kentucky," "By Marsh and Pool," and "Our Native Evergreens." A series of articles on the "Poets and Poetry of Southwest Kentucky," published in the *Henderson Journal,* attracted favorable comment. "Enceladus," generally considered his finest poem, appeared in *Century Magazine* in February, 1892. From that time until his death his poems appeared in the *Century, Cosmopolitan, Youth's Companion,* and other leading magazines.

In 1893 O'Malley removed to Mt. Vernon, Indiana, where he became the editor of a Roman Catholic periodical, the *Advocate.* His first book, *The Building of the Moon and Other Poems,* published at this time, contains his best known and most original work. O'Malley was for several years editor of the *Midland Review,* of Louisville, and did a real service in publishing the works of Kentucky authors. T. Bert Finck, Louisville lawyer-poet, said of him:

> In a dark and dismal printer's office . . . I see a Poe-like melancholy face and figure, battling, with a poet's soul, against ghosts and demons of adversity. Like Poe, whom in appearance he so much resembled, Charles J. O'Malley sang all the sweeter as the wolf howled at his door; and with his body shivering from the bleak winds of poverty and distress, he kept his heart warm with sympathy and encouragement for all sincere strugglers in the literary world. Through the columns of the Midland Review, which paper afforded him the scantiest living, he hailed and welcomed every line of verse that he believed was true; and many fortune-kissed writers of the South and West today must forever bless the pen of O'Malley. Whilst hanging upon the cross, he burst forth into glorious melody and smiled rays of hope into the discouraged hearts of other singers. Like Cawein, his friend, and like all true men of genius, he was generous in recognizing tributes

to the art of others. His sorrow made him not sour, but mellow, and all the more faithful to poetry.

At the time of his death O'Malley was editor of *The New World,* a Catholic weekly published in Chicago. He was buried in the old graveyard at St. Vincent Academy.

In addition to *The Building of the Moon,* O'Malley published *Great White Shepherd* (Chicago, 1904), a life of Pope Leo XIII; and *Thistle Drift* (Chicago, 1909), a book of poems and epigrams. *Songs of Dawn,* which was to have been a complete collection of his poems, was unfinished at the time of his death.

O'Malley's verse is polished and graceful, and was widely copied in his own time; today it is comparatively unknown. John Wilson Townsend (*Kentucky in American Letters*) is of the opinion that he marred the quality of his writing by the intrusion of religion. He produced his best poems when on his favorite theme, Nature. "In February," one of his best verses, reads:

> Like wings of eagles, black
> Out of the stormland weird,
> Thick clouds arise in the twilight cold:
> Shelter the wet lambs seek in the fold;
> And now, while daylight breaks in half,
> Down the snowflakes fall like chaff
> Out of the nightwind's beard.

In "The Immortals" O'Malley wrote of the art he loved:

> The singers of the world, ah, who are they?
> . . . . . .
> They are the morning-makers of our night,
> Great kings of melody forever hymning
> Beauty of love, with jocund eyes clear-brimming.
> The races rise and rule and pass, but they,
> Immutable and glad, like strong gods, stay
> In cool, green places where the years are young;
> And hearts of lovers hold the strains they've sung.
> Deathless though dead, they have perpetual youth,
> And Beauty know as Truth;
> Priests of white hope they urge men's souls still on
> To tracts of fairer dawn;
> And it is always April where they wait,
> Secure in morn that nevermore grows late.

GEORGE T. PHIPPS (1883-), born on a farm near Waverly, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Phipps. He is one of the several Union County men who were honored in the World War for conspicuous bravery, being a first lieutenant of the 16th Infantry, First Division. On July 18, 1918, near Soissons, France, he remained on duty after his right elbow had been shattered by a machine gun bullet. He personally led a company of the left and front, covering a flank that was entirely exposed. He was then placed in command of a battalion with which he led a successful attack upon a strong enemy position, showing marked ability as a leader and inspiring his men by his bravery.

SYLVESTER PIKE (1830-1906), the son of Joseph and Sarah Howard Pike, was born in Meade County, where he received his education. When twenty years old he left his native county to make his fortune by burning lime and flatboating it on the Ohio River. One of his ports of call was Uniontown which he liked so well that at the age of twenty-three he settled here. He took an active part not only in agriculture but also in the business life of the community. His first venture was a farm of approximately 1,000 acres which he developed into a high state of productivity. At the same time he embarked on his business career, establishing one of the largest mercantile establishments in the county. In company with several other prominent citizens he organized the Bank of Uniontown in 1883 and was elected its president, an office he held for many years.

During the War between the States, Mr. Pike invested all his wealth in the currency of the North. In other words, he gambled that the North would be the victor in the struggle and bought all the "greenbacks" he possibly could, some of them at big reductions from their face value. After Appomattox, when the South finally gave up the struggle, he realized a handsome fortune.

Mr. Pike married Sarah Newton of Nelson County and was the father of eleven children. In his religious life he was a devout Catholic, a sturdy supporter of St. Agnes Church of Uniontown. He contributed liberally toward the present edifice. When he learned that an old debt of $8,000 had to be liquidated before building operations could begin he promptly put up that sum in cash. Upon his death he was buried in St. Agnes Cemetery.

HENRY FRANK RHEA (1855-1900), who achieved some distinction as a poet in his day, was born in Madisonville, Kentucky, the son of Dr. R. H. C. and Mary Priscilla Vaughn Rhea. His parents moved to Union County when he was 5 years old, and his early education was obtained in the Waverly public school, at the Military Institute of Maj. James Austin at Morganfield, and later in the Medical departments of the University of Louisville and Vanderbilt University, being graduated from the latter in 1881. Dr. Rhea showed an aptitude for the writing of poetry when a boy in his early 'teens, and during his lifetime he wrote many poems and articles for publication in the various newspapers. The only one that has any interest today is "The Dream of Moses Caton," which is based on a love tragedy of early Union County history. Both the "poetic genius" of Dr. Henry Frank Rhea and the crime and trial of Moses Caton are treated at length in the old *History of Union County*.

HERMAN RHEA (1858-) was one of the distinguished sons of Dr. R. H. C. Rhea and Mary Priscilla Vaughn Rhea. He and his brother Frank entered the medical school of Vanderbilt University and were graduated together in 1881. He returned to Waverly, his childhood home, where he practiced for many years. He received flattering recognition from the McDowell Medical Association for a successful and, for Union County, an early ovariotomy. For a number of years Dr. Herman Rhea lived in Louisville, but he now (1941) spends part of each year in Morganfield.

CALVIN D. RICHARDS (1889-), so distinguished himself as a first lieutenant in the World War that he received the Distinguished Service Cross of the United States and the Croix de Guerre with the Gold and Silver Stars from France.

Richards was born in Morganfield, where he received his early schooling and, with the exception of his attendance at Centre College, Danville, and two years of war service, has lived here ever since.

Upon the entry of the United States into the war in April, 1917, he entered the Officers Training Corps at Fort Benjamin Harrison, and in August of that year he was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry and immediately volunteered for overseas service. He was sent to England in September and assigned to the Third British Army of the British Expeditionary Forces, then in France. He first served with the 2nd Royal

Irish Regiment then holding that part of the Hindenburg Line near Cambrai, but after a tour of service he was assigned to the First American Division, Regimental Machine Gun Company, 26th U. S. Infantry. This machine gun company operated with the 1st Battalion of the regiment under the command of Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.

Lieutenant Richards served continuously with this company throughout his two years' service in France with the exception of time spent in hospitals recovering from wounds received in action. In May, 1918, he was wounded and severely gassed, but recovered and was able to rejoin his regiment in July, the month of the offensive in the Soissons-Chateau Thierry-Rheims sector. Lieutenant Richards brought his company out of the Soissons operation after bitter fighting and after it suffered heavy casualties, being the only officer left in a company reduced to twenty men. He was cited in divisional and brigade general orders for conspicuous gallantry in this operation.

Lieutenant Richards was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, for extraordinary heroism in action near Verdun on October 9, 1918. With seven machine gunners he beat off an enemy attack of greatly superior numbers, after a hand-to-hand encounter with pistols and grenades. Although his small force suffered four casualties, he still continued to defend the hill, an important point for his division, by his tenacity, bravery, and his influence over his men.

Shortly after this heroic action Second Lieutenant Richards was made a first lieutenant, the rank which he held at the time of his discharge from the U. S. Army General Hospital at Spartanburg, South Carolina, in June, 1919.

CHARLES F. RICHARDSON (1862-1939), president of the West Kentucky Coal Company for twenty-three years at the time of his death, was born in Waterford, Vermont. He received his education in Vermont schools and began his business career as a freight handler for the Fitchburg Railroad at Deerfield, Massachusetts. He soon became a fireman and on his twenty-first birthday he became a locomotive engineer. During his early manhood Mr. Richardson worked as an engineer for several railroads. In 1908 he was appointed assistant to the general superintendent of motive power for the Rock Island R. R., the position he was holding in 1911 when he became assistant to the president of the West Kentucky Coal Company

at Sturgis. In 1912 he was elected vice president and in 1916 was made president. He was also president of the St. Bernard Coal Company and chairman of the West Kentucky Coal Bureau.

Mr. Richardson and his family moved from St. Louis to Sturgis in 1911, but in 1920 the family moved back to St. Louis. Mr. Richardson, however, always maintained his legal residence in Sturgis, and both he and his wife, formerly Marcia Stevens of Colebrook, New Hampshire, are buried in the Pythian Ridge Cemetery at Sturgis. Their two children are still living—Herbert L., now residing at Paducah, Kentucky, and their daughter, Ellen Richardson Clapp, at Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Richardson, a keen student of transportation needs and problems, displayed great interest in development of the Missisippi Valley and was identified with various movements toward that end, being vice president of the Mississippi Valley Association, vice president of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, and vice president of the Ohio Valley Improvement Association which he helped to organize. He also served as president of the Traveling Engineers Association and was a member of the executive board of the International Fuel Association. In 1935 Mr. Richardson was appointed a member of the Board of Managers of the Inland Waterways Corporation by George Dern, U. S. Secretary of War.

Mr. Richardson, a member of the Methodist Church, belonged to the Knights Templar, the Mystic Shrine, the American Legion, and the Kiwanis Club. He also took an active interest in the Boy Scouts.

WILLIAM McKINLEY SIZEMORE (1897-), was the recipient of the Croix de Guerre with Gilt Star for valor during the World War. He was born in Sturgis, the son of Samuel W. and Martha Henry Sizemore, who moved from Henderson when Sturgis was established. The elder Sizemore was in charge of executing the plat of the town. William McKinley Sizemore was educated in Sturgis and outside of war service has lived here ever since. He volunteered for service in the U. S. Marines in 1917 and was placed in the Second Division, 67th Company, 5th Regiment. His citation was Order No. 12505 "D" dated December 24, 1918, from General Headquarters of French Armies of the East. Under a violent artillery attack Sizemore directed reconnaissance and established telephone lines as well as three advanced observation posts. The observation post situated on

the summit of Blanc Mont, at Medah farm, was the objective of intense artillery fire, but due to the courage which he displayed the telephone line was repaired, the observation post maintained, and the staff of the division was always kept informed of the activity at the front.

IGNATIUS A. SPALDING, JR. (1833-1913), one of Union County's several outstanding legislators, was also a merchant, lawyer, and gentleman farmer. Some of his activities in each of these fields are milestones in local history and even of State-wide importance.

He was born at Morganfield, the only son of Ignatius A. and Ann Huston Spalding. He received his early education in the common schools of the county, and attended St. Joseph's College of Bardstown for four years. In 1853 he married his first cousin, Susan A. Johnson, of Daviess County, at Owensboro. A dispensation was granted by the Rt. Rev. Martin J. Spalding allowing them, as first cousins, to marry.

He distinguished himself early in his law practice, and in 1861 he formed a partnership with Hiram McElroy, and subsequently practiced in partnership with other outstanding lawyers, including Cromwell Adair and his son, Jack Johnson Spalding. During the War between the States he was captured by Federal troops just as he was preparing to leave for the South to join the Confederate Army.

In 1867, without any canvass on his part, he was sent to the State Senate, where he served until 1872. He was appointed one of the three building commissioners for the new courthouse in 1871, and he was sole commissioner for the jail. In 1885 he was elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives where he became western Kentucky's candidate for the speakership, but was defeated. He was made a State Railroad Commissioner during the administration of Gov. J. Proctor Knott (1883-87) and was reappointed in 1890 under Gov. Simon Bolivar Buckner (1887-1891), serving for some time as chairman of the commission. It is said he never recovered from the disappointment of not being made Secretary of State during the latter's administration, as he thought he had been promised. He was also a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention which convened at Frankfort in September, 1890. He and two other members of this convention were sons of men who had

served in the Constitutional Convention of 1850. In 1897 he was elected county judge and served from 1898 to 1902.

Mr. Spalding was six feet in height, of square build, and with dark hair, eyes, and beard. He had all the grace and resourcefulness of an old-fashioned orator, and he commanded the attention and respect of his audiences by his knowledge and his singleness of purpose. He experienced two political defeats: one for Congress by only 250 votes and the other for the office of county judge at a time when he was in ill health.

He was one of the early and more successful advocates of good road building, and in this connection he has been called the "Father of Union County's Road Law." He promoted the airline road from Morganfield to Uniontown. The hills were graded down for this road. Until more recent years, when good road building was begun in Kentucky, this road was a monument to his foresight. St. Ann's Church in Morganfield was built largely through his efforts. He continued to practice law in Morganfield, and occasionally visited his 260-acre farm until his health failed. He died at the Parsons House (now the Kentucky Hotel) where he had resided while living in Morganfield, and only a block and a half from where he was born. He was buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Morganfield. He was survived three years by his wife. His only son, Jack Johnson Spalding, practiced law in Atlanta until 1938, when he died at the age of 82 years. His daughter Lucy married the late Milton Young of Lexington, and two other daughters, Sue Ellen and Ann Allethaire, became nuns.

HANSFORD L. THRELKELD (1868-), who retired as a colonel in the U. S. Army in 1920, served through the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, the World War, and at military posts in all parts of the world. He was born near Uniontown, and attended the county schools and Bethel College at Russellville, Kentucky. He was graduated from West Point in 1887 and rose in rank through the years until he was made a colonel in 1920, when he was retired at his own request. He is a graduate of the Army Staff College (1911), the Army War College (1917), and is a distinguished graduate of the Army School of the Line. He now lives at his home in Morganfield (*see Points of Interest in Morganfield*). He is a deacon in the Baptist Church, chairman of the Union County Chapter of the Red Cross, a life member of the Association of Graduates of the

U. S. Military Academy, and a member of the U. S. Infantry Association.

ALFRED E. WALLER (1894-1937), who died in active service as an airman, has been honored by the designation of the recently (1941) acquired air base at Trinidad as "Waller Field." He was born in Morganfield, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Forman Waller. He attended the lower grades and went through high school here, then attended Castle Heights Military Academy, Lebanon, Tennessee, and was a student in Vanderbilt University for three years.

He enlisted in the aviation section of the Signal Corps in December, 1917, and was assigned to Austin, Texas. He later served at Camp Dick at Dallas, Texas, and Park Field in Tennessee. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Aviation Reserve Corps in 1918, after which he attended school at various air bases. In 1920 he was inducted into the Regular Army and ordered to Mather Field, Sacramento, California, where he served as post exchange officer. Later he served at Presidio, California, and at Clark Field in the Philippine Islands. This was followed by service at numerous posts in various sections of the country.

After nearly a year's service at the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field, Alabama, he was assigned to Langley Field, Virginia. He held various posts here, being at different times commanding officer of the 35th Pursuit Squadron and operations officer of the 8th Pursuit Group. During the operation of the air mail services by the Army in 1934, Major Waller had charge of Section II (South) of the Eastern Zone. He was temporarily promoted to the duties of major in 1935, a rank he accepted the following year.

He was married to Elizabeth Skillman in 1917. Their only son, Charles Skillman Waller, is now (1941) a cadet in the U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

It was at Langley Field, during an aerial show, that Major Waller met his death. As his plane came over the crowd of more than 5,000 spectators, it caught fire. In order to avoid crashing into the crowd watching him, Major Waller maneuvered out of the formation in which he was flying and crashed at one side of the field. He was killed but the gunner flying with him was only injured. For this self-sacrificing feat the U. S. War Department has named the Trinidad field in his honor.

JAMES KENNY WALLER (1861-1941), more than anyone else brought the modern age to Union County and to Morganfield in particular. As a promoter he was a pioneer and his name belongs with those of Dr. P. G. Kelsey, Sylvester Pike, and Jeremiah Riddle. He was born in Morganfield and spent practically his entire life in this community. He was outstanding in the business and civic life of the county and the county seat from the time of his graduation from Vanderbilt University until his death. He received his early education in the public school at Morganfield, being a graduate of the old academy here. He majored in pharmacy at Vanderbilt and upon his graduation he opened a drugstore at Caseyville, then Union County's most promising and prospering town. While there he met and married Annie Buckham. Two children, both still living, were born to this union: Richard D., an attorney in Evansville, Indiana, and Lyle B., cashier of the Union Bank and Trust Company, Morganfield.

After a few years in Caseyville he returned to Morganfield and opened a drugstore in a new building that he and his brother built on Main Street. Increasing business interest resulted in the sale of the drugstore and a successful venture into the grain business. In 1885, Mr. Waller, together with associates, organized Morganfield's first telephone company. Shortly thereafter, he took a leading part in the organization of the town's first electric light and power company, and its first water system, which was soon taken over by the city. Mr. Waller and his associates also built an electric light and power plant at Fulton, Kentucky, in 1897. The first operations in coal near Morganfield were started in 1902 by the formation of a coal company, known now as the Morganfield Coal and Coke Company. Four years later Mr. Waller and his lifelong friend and business associate, T. V. Young, Sr., organized the Morganfield & Atlanta Railroad Company. This line extended from Morganfield to Madisonville and was later sold to the L. & N. R. R. It has been abandoned recently because of lack of traffic.

He also interested himself personally and financially in the building of Morganfield's opera house, the public school building (1892), and the hotel known as the Capitol, which now houses one of the town's two banks. In 1898, Mr. Waller was elected president of the People's Bank and Trust Company and in 1929, when it was consolidated with the Bank of Union County, he

was elected president of the merger, the Union Bank and Trust Company, a position he held until his death.

In 1898 he was elected Mayor of Morganfield and it was during his administration that the first paved street was laid in the town. During 1926-30 he was State Senator and during 1931-32 served on the State Highway Commission, starting the hard-surface road movement in this section, the first one in Union County being laid from the town of Henderson to the Crittenden County line. Later he helped to promote the Henderson-Evansville bridge. In 1911-12 he served as president of the State Bankers' Association.

Mr. Waller, a Methodist, was always active in church work. He was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Odd Fellows' lodge.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Morganfield

THE COURTHOUSE, recently remodeled and enlarged, is a two-story brick structure, dominantly Classic in design.

The KENTUCKY HOTEL, on Morgan Street across from the courthouse, occupies, in part, a brick building more than 100 years old. Abraham Lincoln, when a stump speaker for the Whigs in 1840, came to Morganfield and is said to have stayed here.

The PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS of Morganfield, at Brady and Huston Streets, consist of three well-equipped brick buildings, a large playground and an athletic field adjoining. The first of the buildings was erected in 1892, housing both grade and high schools. Several years later an annex, which is now used for home economics classes, was added. A high school building was erected in 1910 and remodeled in 1927, with the addition of a gymnasium and auditorium. In 1939-40 a new high school building was erected (*see Schools* and *Morganfield*).

LEGION PARK in Morganfield, is a recreational center on the eastern edge of town. Fifteen of its twenty-six acres are woodland. The cleared area is a broad lawn studded with a community house, athletic field, tennis courts, and a swimming pool.

The LIBRARY AND WOMAN'S CLUB, a modern colonial-type building, was erected in 1940. It is constructed entirely of stone quarried and cut in Union County.

The HUGHES HOUSE, on O'Bannon Street, was built by James R. Hughes about 1825, of dressed poplar logs. The original structure was two stories high and contained four large rooms—two on each floor—separated by a nine-foot hall. Remodeling has changed the appearance of the house. Some fifty years ago a covering of weatherboards was applied on the outside, a two-story porch was added at the front, and a one-story frame addition at the rear. However, it appears that no new windows were cut in the log walls, since several of the original rooms have only one window each. As it stands today the house has five outside doors and only nine windows. Green shutters

swinging at these windows accentuate the brightness of the white paint of the outer walls. The walnut stairway is unique in making two half-turns on its way up in the one flight.

The house is a dozen steps above street level on a large lot, well shaded with old maple trees. It is now occupied by William Hughes, Jr., great-grandson of the original owner.

The Log Cabin, on the rear of the Hughes lot, was built by S. C. Hughes, son of James R. Hughes, for the house servants. After they were freed the cabin became a storage house and as such has survived. It has only one room, 16 by 16 feet, and is built of oak and poplar logs. There is a single window, and the door is sheltered by the overhanging house roof that projects four feet beyond the front wall.

The EPHRAIM SELLERS HOUSE, on Main Street, now the home of Edd Compton, Judge of the City Court of Morganfield, is reputed to be the city's oldest dwelling. It was originally a two-story log house, with two rooms and a passageway on each floor. It appears that construction of the house was commenced early in 1812, by the father of Ormsby McKnight Mitchel. Its building was interrupted when every Kentuckian able to bear arms was called for service in the War of 1812. Mitchel died of "lung fever" during the war and the property passed into the possession of Ephraim Sellers who completed the house.

Some year later I. A. Spalding acquired the property and made extensive improvements. These included a cellar or basement under the entire structure, a new brick room at the back, new brick chimneys at both ends of the house, and probably the present stairway when the weatherboarding was applied to inclose the spaces that are now the halls. This stairway is of walnut with a hand carved newel-post, a combination that savors of the 1840's. A hand-carved walnut mantel and some of the molding appear to have been the work of the same wood-carver.

The Sellers house was further remodeled in 1938. It now contains four rooms, and the hall on the first floor and the two old rooms upstairs have been modernized.

The HUSTON HOUSE, on Brady Street, was erected by the father-in-law of Judge George Huston, probably sometime in the 1840's. It is a rambling white frame structure, two stories high, that sits far back on the shady knoll rising from a four-acre lot. There are eight rooms on the first floor and four on

the second. Spacious halls, wide fireplaces intended for log fires, and the fourteen-foot ceilings of the first floor, betoken roominess. Another feature of the house is a broad stairway with its newel-post, handrail, and supporting spindles of solid walnut. Under a first-floor window sill are two long narrow drawers built into the paneling. These were used by Judge Huston as a cache for his pipes and tobacco.

The MILTON YOUNG HOUSE, on Court Street, is a large white two-story, L-shaped frame dwelling built in the early days of the county. Its nine large rooms open into spacious halls. The windows, reaching to the floor in the lower story, are characteristic of the period in which the house was built. Interior woodwork, plain in design, lends itself well to its ivory finish and gilt trimming.

Much of the attractiveness of the house is attributable to its spacious grounds. It sits back some three hundred feet from the street, occupying a four-acre lot shaded with old forest trees. The Young house has been the residence of the C. H. Omer family since 1912.

Mr. Young, who owned land holdings in the county, also built the Griggs house near Waverly.

The WALLER HOUSE, on Morgan Street, built in the late 1860's by Thomas S. Waller, is the home of Col. H. L. Threlkeld, rtd. U. S. A. It is a two-story white frame building of composite design, containing eleven rooms. Wide halls on both floors are connected by a harmonizingly wide, gently pitched, stairway. The elegance of the interior woodwork is attributable in part to its massiveness. All lumber used in the house was cut and finished on the Waller farm.

The Waller house, sitting far back from the street, occupies a large lot shaded by old trees and carpeted by a heavy, well-kept lawn. The glistening white paint of the walls contrasts vividly with the apple-green window shutters and the lattice that incloses the heavily columned semicircular front porch. Tall windows and wide doors add an air of balance, breaking the wall spaces in such a manner as to indicate a cheerful, well ventilated interior.

A log house, 20 by 40 feet and containing two rooms, stands on the rear of the grounds. It was occupied by the Waller family from 1868 to 1870 while their new house was being built. The log house is kept in good repair, and its presence on the grounds

seems to bind the past and present, for in this log house Elizabeth Berry Waller, wife of Colonel Threlkeld, was born.

Sturgis

E. M. B. A. BUILDING, headquarters of the Employees Mutual Benefit Association of the West Kentucky Coal Company, was erected in 1928 (*see Sturgis*).

The METHODIST CHURCH, Adams and Tenth Streets, is an imposing red-brick structure with a belfry. It was erected in 1910-11 at a cost of nearly $25,000, and remodeled in 1935 by the addition of steps at both the Adams and Tenth Street entrances. Besides the main auditorium and pastor's study, it contains a Sunday School auditorium, six Sunday School rooms, and a large basement which holds a kitchen, dining room, furnace room, and rest rooms.

The TABERNACLE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, on Adams Street between Seventh and Eighth Streets, was begun in 1936 and finished in 1940 at a cost of $22,000. Above the main auditorium is a balcony, 30 by 40 feet. The church contains a painting of a biblical scene, 10 by 18 feet, executed by Frank McEwen, Sturgis artist.

The CHRISTIAN CHURCH was erected in 1893 (*see Sturgis*).

The SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, on Kelsey Street, was built in 1937, the construction cost being about $82,000. Massive white columns flank the entrance of this two-story brick structure. It has sixteen classrooms and a gymnasium. Heat for the building is supplied by the heating system of the Junior High School which backs up to it.

The JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, on Lee Street, a brick building, was built in 1921 and served as a senior high school until 1937. It contains an auditorium, five classrooms and, in the basement, a cafeteria and kitchen, rest rooms, a classroom, and the heating system. Sturgis' schools are now a part of the county school system.

The QUIREY HOUSE, on Kelsey Street, is a spacious old two-story frame farmhouse with a history of intimate friendships. Growth of Sturgis has absorbed it into the town proper (*see Sturgis*).

The CASEY HOUSE, on Sixth Street, is probably the oldest farmhouse now standing in Sturgis. It was included among the

purchases of the Cumberland Iron and Land Company (*see Sturgis*).

The GOAD HOUSE, at Eighth and Main Streets, is generally accepted as being "The Big House" of Sturgis (*see Sturgis*).

Out in the County

The GRIGGS HOUSE, near Waverly, speaks of another age and the fine tastes of its builder. The original and main body of the house, designed in the manner of the Georgian Colonial, is built of brick laid in Flemish bond, and is one and a half stories high. It was begun in 1846 and completed in the summer of 1848, by Milton Young, owner of a tract of 1,800 acres of land on which the house stood. On the first floor is a center hall, 14 by 36 feet, flanked on each side by two rooms. The rooms are 18 by 18 feet. From the hall a broad stairway, with gentle pitch, rises to the second floor hall on either side of which is a room 18 by 18 feet with hipped ceiling. Directly under this stairway is another leading to the basement, partitioned to provide a kitchen, a room for the cook, and storage rooms. All wood used in the interior finish is black walnut. This woodwork is plain in design, but massive. During the late 1890's a one-story two-room frame wing of like design was added to the left end of the house, and at the front a new porch was built.

A striking feature of the exterior is the design of the door and windows of the facade, each of which has side-lights.

The bricks used in the house were home-burned of clay obtained in excavating for the substructure. All this work was done by the slaves of the Young family during seasons when farm work was slack. Milton Young farmed most of his large tract of land, raising tobacco for a factory which he operated, and corn for a drove of hogs, from which he supplied meat to the Western Kentucky Lunatic Asylum, at Hopkinsville. The property was generally known as the Young House until 1885 when John N. Griggs obtained it by purchase of the house and a part of the land. Since then ownership has remained in the Griggs family.

ST. VINCENT ACADEMY, on State 141 (L.) about one mile from its junction with US 60, is a combined primary and secondary school operated by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (Roman Catholic). The main building of St. Vincent is a brick structure dominantly of Romanesque design, with an overall

length of some two hundred feet. Near the center is a belfried tower surmounted by a cross. The building has two floors to the left of the tower and three to the right.

The story of St. Vincent began in 1820 when the school was established in log buldings erected on the same site. These gave way to the present structure, commenced in 1856 when the tower and the three-story portion of the present building was erected at a cost of $22,000. To this a guest house was added in 1870. The two-story structure to the left of the tower containing a chapel and classrooms was added in 1878 at a cost of $20,000.

St. Vincent Academy occupies a 400-acre tract of land. The well-kept campus immediately surrounding the buildings is shaded by a wide variety of native forest trees.

LOST CREEK SHOALS, sometimes called Elder Rocks, is an exposed formation in the bed and along the bank of the Ohio River, one mile below Uniontown. It was a place dreaded by the early-day rivermen, was perilous even after a narrow channel was cleared, but is now comparatively safe because the water level at that point has been sufficiently raised by Dam 49 to afford clearance for river boats. At the present time some of the jagged rocks can still be seen when, during a low river stage, the wickets of the dam are down.

In the vicinity of the shoals the scenery has attracted picnic parties for many years. The rock formation exposed in the riverbed extends back from the bank, and, with its forest tree shade, is an inviting spot. Three rocky prongs extend into the river from the back; these are called the Camel, the Hokham, and the Higginson rocks. For many years the Elder family reunions were held here.

ANVIL ROCK, on the Yates Brothers farm, is two miles northwest of DeKoven on an unimproved road. The peculiar shape of the rock formation, resembling a blacksmith's anvil tilted with its horn pointing skyward, accounts for its name. Anvil Rock is a sandstone monolith some sixty feet high, about twenty feet wide, and stands on level bottom land entirely isolated from any other rock formation.

The name "Anvil Rock" appears in State records first in the report of the geological survey made by David Dale Owen, 1854-1859. Owen used Anvil Rock as zero point for his surveying in this area. However, the name was in use in the community

prior to 1854. Anvil Rock and its locale is the theme of a novel of pioneer life, *Round Anvil Rock,* by Nancy Huston Banks.

BIRD WING ROCK, along the I. C. R. R., is about three miles west of DeKoven. It resembles the folded wing of a bird. The formation, nearly a quarter of a mile long and about forty-five feet thick at its base, dips from a height of forty-two feet at one end to about thirty-three feet near the middle and rises again to thirty-eight feet at the other end. The face of the rock—rich, dark brown tinged with red—has been eroded so that its surface appears honeycombed. Some of the pitting is deep enough to provide ample nesting space for birds. The lower portion of the rock is vine-clad, and in the vicinity are many varieties of flowers.

DUFF'S CAVE, on the Caseyville-DeKoven road one-half mile from Caseyville, is one of numerous sizable apertures in the bluff that hugs the Ohio River in this vicinity. Duff's Cave took its name from a notorious counterfeiter of early days, who, legend relates, used the cave as a hideout for several years until one morning he was found murdered at the bridge between Mulfordtown and DeKoven. Duff's Bridge was given its name at that time by common usage and is so known to this day.

Duff's Cave and its environs have been subjected to extensive search and excavation. Dallas Willett, of Morganfield, has carried on a systematic examination of the Duff's Cave area for some twenty years. He has found a wide variety of Indian artifacts and some human bones, but no trace of Duff's legendary cache of money.

The McCOUGHTRY HOUSE, on State 56, eight miles west of Morganfield is a white frame landmark of more than casual interest because of the family life it sheltered. The old house, weatherboarded in the 1890's, was built in 1829 of dressed cypress logs. It was in reality the "Big House." Here was the master's dwelling, sixty feet long and two stories high, standing as a bulwark for the occupants of the twenty slave cabins behind it on the 2,000-acre farm. Walnut and cherry wood, cut off the land, was used for interior finish work and for furniture. Some of the flooring is white ash. These wide ash boards once did service in the flatboats that carried the McCoughtry household from Virginia down the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers to their Kentucky wilderness home.

Before 1838 a one-story brick wing—a new dining room and kitchen—was built at the rear and connected to the house by a hallway.

The house and 500 acres of the original tract has always been occupied by some member of the McCoughtry family, consequently it contains a rich store of keepsakes. Here is the first sewing machine brought into the county; nearby is the mold used in shaping the brick used to build the annex; chests contain old jewelry and silverware; others are filled with fashionable clothing of its day left by deceased members of the family—taffeta dresses, rich shawls, laces sent from Ireland by relatives more than a century ago, old letters, almanacs, legal papers, and books. Each is hallowed by the memory of some member of the family who lies in the family burying ground over on the ridge. Sallie, the last of the children of William McCoughtry, died in 1897. Her body, like that of every member of the family, was casketed with wild cherry boards set aside for burial use by her father prior to his death in 1838.

The War between the States brought hardship but few changes to the McCoughtry household. After the slaves were freed most of them remained on the place, and each family was allotted a cabin and a plot of ground. In after years, those who became incapacitated for work received a weekly supply of food, suitable clothing, and a decent burial at the end.

KOREANDALE FARM, three miles south of Morganfield on US 60, is operated by Charles M. Meacham, Jr., and his sons. Aside from being a model farm, Koreandale has been noted since 1935 for the production of hybrid white and yellow seed corn.

UNION WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, on State 56, five miles east of Morganfield, is known both as the A. R. ("Uncle Bob") Lynn farm and as "Sulphur Springs." Here within the confines of a small area—less than an acre—are several natural springs, each producing a different type of mineral water. Most important of these are the white sulphur and chalybeate springs. Others emit black sulphur, alum, and salt waters.

The springs were the site of a health resort conducted under various managements from about 1810 to 1934. The first hotel was a hewn log structure. Its exact date is unknown, but a tradition seems to indicate that the springs had a considerable reputation for medicinal value prior to 1820. According to this

account Thomas Laird, of Philadelphia, an invalid guest at the hotel, died there. His gravestone, still standing, shows that his death occurred in 1820. Through the years a succession of buildings for the accommodation of guests were erected at the springs. Most of them were destroyed, from time to time, by fire. During the early years the resort was maintained under individual ownership. Then in 1848, by an act of the Kentucky Legislature, the Union White Sulphur Springs Company was incorporated. Subsequently other acts of the legislature for the benefit of the resort were approved. Ownership of the springs changed hands frequently until 1915, when A. R. Lynn acquired the property. Lynn farmed the land and during the summer months operated the hotel until 1934. A. R. Lynn, one of the last members of Gen. Adam R. Johnson's Tenth Kentucky (Confederate) Calvary, died in the spring of 1941.

The RANDOLPH HOUSE, on the Hitesville Road about three miles (R.) from Morganfield, was distinguished in the early 1820's as the "Randolph Brick." It was the most pretentious farmhouse in the county. John Randolph acquired a large tract of land in this section on which he built a log house and dug a well a little to the north of the present brick building. In 1820 Randolph burned a kiln of brick and commenced building a new house. It was a two-story structure with two rooms on the first floor and two on the second. At the rear was a large kitchen, also of brick. All outside walls are twenty inches thick. In the molding of the brick some of them were made double length to "tie" the walls, and others were cast in ornamental design for use in the cornice. The locks on the doors, one of which remains, were contrivances with latches instead of knobs. There were seventeen doors. A remarkable arrangement is that the rooms of the second floor were reached by separate stairways, each having its own flight from the first-floor room beneath it. All lumber and woodwork in the house was the product of the whipsaw—all hand work. To John Randolph is attributed the boast, "I have five fireplaces in my house, and I have a fire built in every one of them every morning."

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