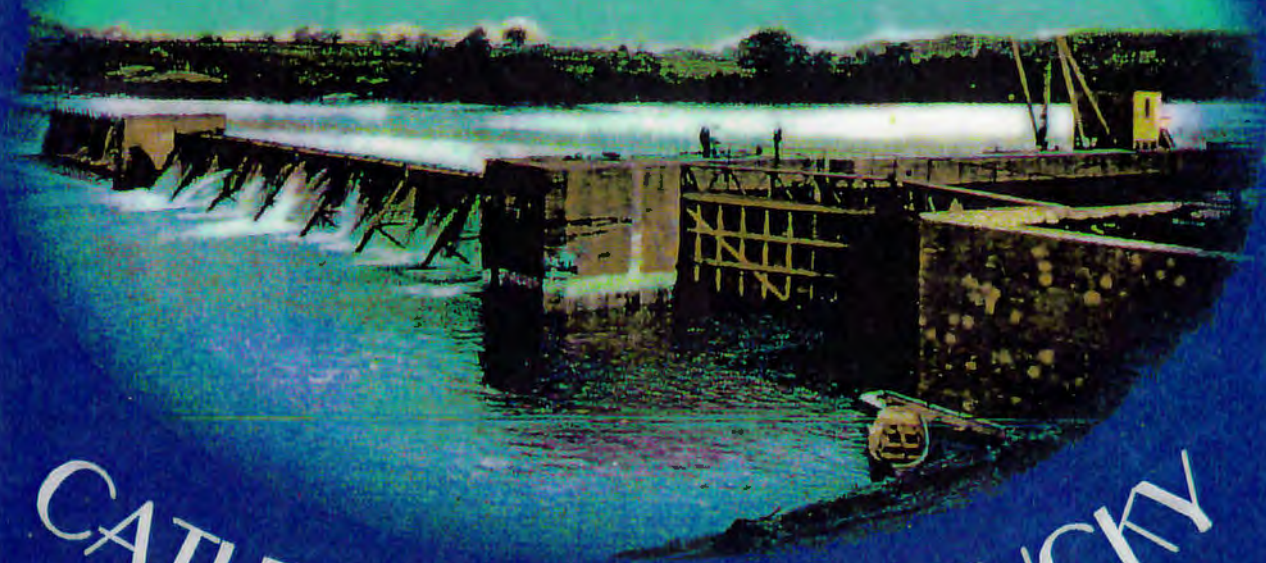


TIMES REMEMBERED



CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY

SESQUICENTENNIAL EDITION

1849

1999

HISTORY AND PROGRAM

*Commemorating the Founding
Of the
City of Catlettsburg, Kentucky*



CATLETTSBURG SESQUICENTENNIAL
September Second - Sixth, 1999

"TIMES REMEMBERED" COMMITTEE

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Co-Editor



"Russ" (age 20) is a resident of Catlettsburg, Kentucky. He is a graduate of Boyd County High School and is now studying to become an architect at Ashland Technical College. He is employed as a Data Processor for Kentucky Farmers Bank. Currently is building a web site www.titanicland.com. Russ is a member of the 20th Street Baptist Church of Kenova, WV. He is a son of Donald R. and Elizabeth Kay Cole.

Hazel Blanche "Betty" Wright
Author and Editor



"Betty" (age 68) is retired from the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet. She is a graduate of Thomas R. Brown High School and Ashland School of Commerce. Betty is a member of several civic organizations and volunteers at the elementary school. She is a resident of Catlettsburg, Kentucky and has a love for her hometown. Betty is a member of the Oakland Avenue Baptist Church, Catlettsburg, Kentucky.



Mr. James E. Adkins (age 80) is a very prominent person in and around Catlettsburg, Kentucky. He always shows his love for town, its people, and his business. He serves as Vice President of Catlettsburg Leadership Development Club, and is a member of several other civic organizations. He is a graduate of Thomas R. Brown High School and University of Kentucky. A resident of Catlettsburg since six years of age. He will be retiring from his Law Office as of January 2000. He furnished information and wrote some of the articles in this History Book of Catlettsburg, Kentucky. Member of First United Methodist Church.

Paul Williamson (age 80) and granddaughter make a great team. He enjoys doing genealogy and searching history of Catlettsburg. Retired from Sarnet Solvay and H Coal. Graduate of Thomas R. Brown High School. Past Master of Hampton Masonic Lodge. Was school board member in the 1960's. Was a Boy Scout Council member and Scout Troop Leader. He furnished pictures and information for this book. Mica (age 27) is Secretary of Catlettsburg Leadership Development Club. Youth Director for her church. Graduate-Boyd County High School. Employment - Ashland Housing Authority. She has much pride for her hometown. They both are members of First United Methodist Church.



PHOTOGRAPHY - Brandon L. Wright, (age 19) graduate-Boyd County High School. Studying drafting-Ashland Technical College. Employed Super America. J. D. Wright, (age 15) A grade A student-sophomore, BCHS. Elizabeth Kay Cole (age 45) is employed at Kentucky Farmers Bank. Graduate-Catlettsburg High School. Volunteer-Elementary School and other organizations. Member of 20th Street Baptist Church, Kenova, WV.

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This book was published from a search of history references and information obtained from local residents, scrapbooks, written by local citizens and through information from the Ashland Daily Independent.

We make no guarantee as to the accuracy and content of information.

It was not the committee's intention to rewrite or copy material without permission from other sources; and not our intention to offend any person whose name may be printed in this book.

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The Catlettsburg Sesquicentennial Committee and the Catlettsburg Leadership Development Club wish to pay homage to our printer—the Ashland Office Supply - and especially to Mr. Tom Burnett, the owner and his mother Betty Burnett, his daughter Shannon and the other employees who were involved who so graciously and patiently gave of their time to print this book. We will ever be so grateful.

Betty Wright, Editor, and the History Book Committee -- Russ Cole, Mica Williamson, Paul Williamson and James E. Adkins appreciate you very much. THANKS!!

Also we wish to thank Mr. Dale Burns of Prime Copy Plus and the personnel for the fine job they did with the binding of this book. THANKS!!

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Phone: 304-523-1600

September, 1999

CITY OF CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY

P. O. Box 533
Catlettsburg, Kentucky 41129

ROGER M. HENSLEY, Mayor
PAULINE S. HUNT, Clerk/Treasurer

MARK J. PLUMMER, Chief of Police
LINZY RUNYON, Fire Chief

GREETINGS FROM YOUR MAYOR:

On behalf of the City of Catlettsburg I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during the past several years. During the first 150 years, citizens of Catlettsburg have always exhibited a special pride in our community, a tradition I feel confident will continue into the new millennium. By combining our efforts and working for one common goal, that being the continued development of our community, will ensure a bright future for the city and our residents.

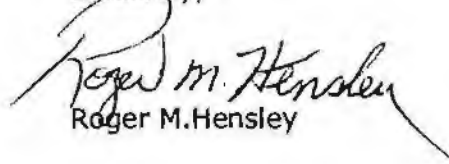
Personally, I would like to say "thank you" to those individuals who monetarily supported our 150th celebration. Without their assistance, the sesquicentennial celebration would have been significantly less than anticipated.

A special thanks to all those individuals, who have volunteered countless hours planning and organizing the sesquicentennial celebration. Had it not been for their dedication and devotion to this project, successful results for an event of this magnitude would have been impossible to obtain.

Hopefully, everyone has marked their calendars to join us in celebrating our 150th birthday. Everyone will see and hear more about the festivities, in brochures, newspapers, television and radio announcements.

Being Catlettsburgs' Mayor during this celebration is a period of my life I will always cherish and remember long after my term in office. But most of all, I will remember the wonderful and caring people in this city. You have my thanks for all you have done and will continue to do for our beloved-Catlettsburg.

Sincerely,



Roger M. Hensley

September 1, 1999

CATLETTSBURG

BOYD CO. KY.

Scale 400 Feet to 1 Inch

Dear friends, book committee and family without whose support I could not have compiled and written this book - your names are written on my heart and I thank all of you who have helped and shared my journey back through the years of trials and tribulations of our small and friendly town of Catlettsburg, Kentucky.

In my cluttered world, my thanks to my personal assistant and grandson Charles Russell Wallingford Cole who brought light and organization when I needed it most. He has been invaluable.

Hazel "Betty" Wright

FOREWORD

The purpose of this publication is to edit a brief, authentic and general history of Catlettsburg, Kentucky. The history of the town as a whole is sketched.

This publication contains a lot of information as was printed in our 1949 Centennial publication and has up-dated material showing the progress and decline of the City of Catlettsburg since 1949.

Time has passed by so quickly and in this busy world exhaustive study of the history of the City of Catlettsburg was not possible. There is so much information out there that we had no idea existed and impossible to obtain in a short time in order to make a complete comprehensive history book. However, we of the committee feel privileged to have had the opportunity to collect close-by information which will serve as a reminder to those who remember the earlier days and to record current information of Catlettsburg in order to keep future generations informed regarding its past.

We wish to acknowledge the fine spirit of co-operation by our fellow members of the Catlettsburg Leadership Community Development Committee, 1999 Sesquicentennial Committee, City Mayor Roger Hensley, City Officials and the community at large including merchants and business firms, without which this book could not have been possible.

We are indebted to all who have so graciously assisted us in any way, and ask for forgiveness for any mistakes.

*Mrs. Charles K. (Betty) Wright, Author/Editor
Mr. Charles Russell (Russ) Cole, Co-Editor
Miss Mica Williamson, Church/Business Editor
Mr. James E. Adkins, Past History Provider
Mr. Paul Williamson, Past History Provider
Mrs. Donald R. (Kay) Cole, Mr. Brandon Wright
& Mr. J. D. Wright, Photography*

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Ray McCoy, Frank Branham, Boyd County Extension Office, Steven Cole, Elizabeth Baker, Charles Wright, Lois Limberis, Judy Kruger and Sue Moore.

*Articles and History: Compiled by the committee from information of several sources.
Ashland Daily Independent - 1949 - 1999
1910 Catlettsburg Tribune
Personal Scrapbooks*

September 1999

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150th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY

Thousands of visitors will throng the streets of Catlettsburg the first week of September, 1999; and, the end of our twentieth century approaches as this old northeastern Kentucky city celebrates with prompt and ceremony the One Hundredeth Fiftieth Anniversary. It's a Sesquicentennial Celebration, Catlettsburg's 150th birthday in 1999, reflecting "A Tradition."

WAKE UP! Little sleepy town of Catlettsburg . . . a big celebration is headed our way. We're all invited to our own birthday party!

This exciting occasion will be marked with local and neighborhood events, but the key to the Catlettsburg Sesquicentennial celebration is at the city level. Events are unlimited—displays, recognition, events for worthy contributions to our city, a special project to remember the celebration, taping and writing city history. Plenty of displays of interesting past happenings.

Here it is the end of a millenium with a new one approaching in a few months and Catlettsburg is one hundred and fifty years old. What a "once-in-a-lifetime" celebration it will be!

One hundred fifty years ago this town seemed to be in a celebrating mood everyday; as you are about to journey back in time, and take a walk through the present moments and scenes of Catlettsburg; enjoy your adventure; and then pass along to the future generations the pleasure of a friendly, safe, small city life.

Let's take pride in our city. Let's celebrate our birth and "Savor the Past" --- "Soar into the Future," and "A Tradition never to be forgotten."--- "A Future of Promise."

IT'S THE PLACE YOU CALL HOME WITH
MEMORIES ONLY YOU CAN SHARE

SOMETHING TO HOWL ABOUT!



SPEAKING OF CATLETTSBURG "THE GATE CITY"

"NOW IS THE TIME for all good men, women and children to come to Catlettsburg and enjoy the many entertaining concerts, crafts, carnival and the like, as we celebrate our One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of this historic city".

While the summer breezes blow across the broad expanses of the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers, the "moonbow" shows the clearest at Catlettsburg where both rivers intersect, the natural and rugged beauty is the most awesome scenic view at Catlettsburg. On the lock wall where once was the world's highest needle dam and locks, number 1, there is a beautiful view of three states---stand in Kentucky, see West Virginia and Ohio at the same time. And, if you like to swim, you could visit each state in a few minutes. This has been done in the past years before the Greenup Dam backed up the water over the sand bars that used to be connecting the three states. Many attractions are at their best---that's the time to vacation in Catlettsburg, Kentucky.

Congratulations are in order for a great new Community Leadership Development Club, who planned and executed these new sites and sounds in Catlettsburg this Sesquicentennial Year of 1999, and entering a new millenium an awakening of this once small sleepy town.

Also for the newly crowned Queen, Maeghan Brown, and the Princess, Kelli Campbell, of the City of Catlettsburg Sesquicentennial Celebration; long live the Queen and Princess, true Catlettsburg citizens. Catlettsburg is proud of you.

We take pride in announcing another circulation jump for Catlettsburg's "TIMES REMEMBERED" with this issue of the

history of Catlettsburg. We are printing five hundred copies, an increase over the 1949 Centennial issue. We are even striving to give you a better view of our past of which you may be proud, and of course, the price of the book will not be \$1.00 a copy as in 1949.

Dates for the 1999 Sesquicentennial Celebration have been set as September second through the sixth inclusive. Plans were made for the best Sesquicentennial and Labor Day ever and we hoped you were able to attend.

For you duck lovers---you will be glad to hear that the ducks will float down the Big Sandy River on Sunday, September 5th and that your duck may pass through the funnel first and win for you \$500.00.

Catlettsburg boasts of a few new features - street lamps, gazebo, new clock, new city building, new sidewalks to come, and many more attractions to follow. That's quite a feather in our caps you know.

It's all at Catlettsburg for you who will attend the one hundred fiftieth birthday party this summer, you can land right in the middle of a new look at your hometown, and, it is dedicated to all of you this end of a century year 1999.

**BETTER PARKS, BETTER LIGHTS,
BETTER SIDEWALKS, BETTER CELEBRATE,
BETTER TIMES, BETTER COME!**

One hundred fifty years old and still here. We've never let up in our efforts to give this town the best. If you are looking for a friendly place, consider Catlettsburg.

Spirit of genuine Kentucky hospitality is abroad in Catlettsburg. You will find it

in all the city's homes and business houses as you visit here to participate in the celebration that marks the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of the town, and you will greet old friends and make new ones.

Catlettsburg celebrates the wonder of Catlettsburg, the place, the people, the

remarkable spirit, the memories, and the history. Our mission is to amuse, educate, and illustrate the pleasure of living in a very special city and to ensure that each perusal leaves you more knowledgeable and proud of Catlettsburg.

(Written by Betty Wright)



DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK

That you should pin your faith on the future
of your city, not on it's past.

It costs nothing to be loyal to the home city.

Every citizen should boost the home city and
help steer the ship that carries them.

A good booster is not one who says
something good about his home city only when he
finds it convenient to do so.

A live booster doesn't wait; he hunts
opportunities to boost.

A real booster is cordial and human. He
boosts his city because he takes pleasure in doing it.

Real boosters are the men who build cities.
They start somewhere and get somewhere.

- Edson R. Waite -

1999 SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

PRESIDENT: Glorious Hensley
VICE PRESIDENT: James E. Adkins
SECRETARY: Mica Williamson
TREASURER: Michael Bowling

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

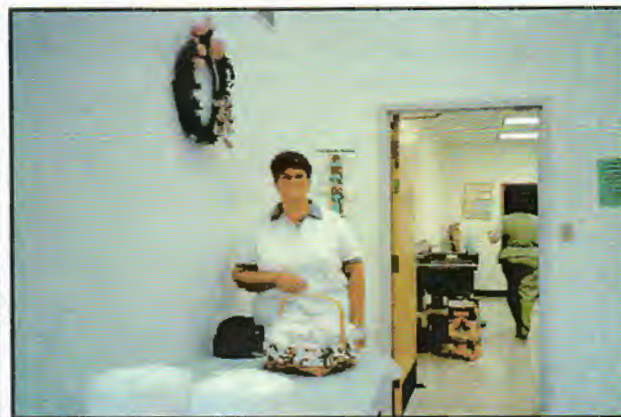
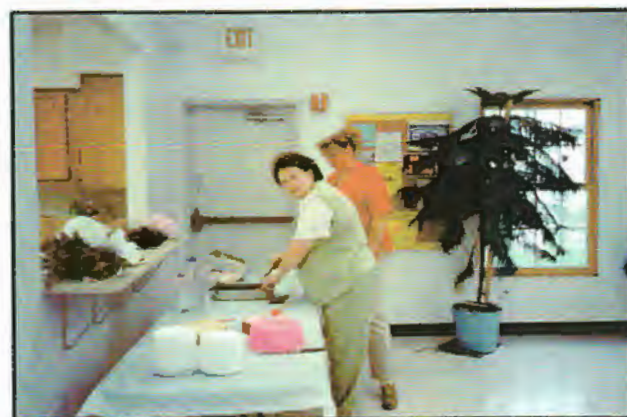
Roger Hensley, Charles M. Hedrick, Kelly Harper, Mark Plummer, Glorious Hensley, Nikki Baker, Pat Lee

CENTRAL COMMITTEES

ARTS AND CRAFTS – Kelli Deerfield, Pam Griffith
ART EXHIBIT/SALE – Caroline Wilson, Maude Childers, Maxine Borders, Betty Mathias, Lois Thompson
BAND COMPETITION – Cindy Sullivan
BARBECUE – Bob Johnson, Randall Peterman
BEAUTIFICATION – Sidney Rice
BLUEGRASS CONCERT – Mark Plummer, Roy Rice
BROCHURES – Denise Spaulding
BUGGY RIDES – Charles Dyer, Drew Campbell
CAR SHOW – Michael and Sandy Neal
CATLETTSBURG HIGH SCHOOL REUNION – Bob Johnson, Bill & Tally Wechsler, Betty Wright, Dorothy Crace
CITY – Mayor Roger Hensley
CITY WIDE DECORATIONS – Kelly Harper, Arnold Sammons, Charles Dyer
CIVIL WAR LIVING HISTORY – Jim & Lisa Epling
GEORGE JONES CONCERT -- Mark Plummer, Chief of Police
COSTUME JUDGING – Lisa Epling, Gretchen McDowell
DOG SHOW – Roxane Gross
DUCK CLASSICS – Joanna Snider, Frank Boggs, Lois Wilson
EXHIBITS – Christie Clarke, Debbie Jones
FINANCE – Charles M. Hedrick
GOSPEL SING – Paul David Conley
GUIDES – Darrell Caldwell, Rae Jeanne Young, Stephanie Jackson, Drew Campbell
GUN FIGHTS – Jim King
HISTORICAL DOCUMENT – James E. Adkins, Paul Williamson
HISTORICAL VIDEO – Robert Remmele, Rhonda Hutchinson
HISTORY PUBLICATION – Betty Wright, Russ Cole, J. D. Wright, Brandon Wright, James E. Adkins, Mica Williamson, Paul Williamson
HOUSE TOURS – Jane Harper, Ann Bryan, Tally Wechsler, Barbara Rice, Gladys Collier
ICE CREAM SOCIAL – Don and Kay Cole
MAYOR'S RECEPTION – Glorious Hensley, Gail Sammons, Sue Moore, Pauline Hunt, Suellen Zornes, Jay and Rae Jeanne Young
PAGEANTS – Glorious Hensley, Gail Sammons (Miss Flame, Junior Miss Flame and Sesquicentennial Queen & Princess)
PAGEANTS – Kay Cole, Betty Wright
 (Baby, Teeny, Tiny, Little Miss, Little Junior Miss Flame, Junior Mr. Fire Chief, Little Junior Mr. Fire Chief)
PARADE – Chief of Police, Mark Plummer, Fire Department, Kelly Harper

PIE/CAKE WALK – Pauline Hunt, Rebecca Armstrong, Joan Musser
PROGRAM AND ENTERTAINMENT/COURTHOUSE – Gail Sammons
PUBLICITY – Mica Williamson, David Bentley
REGISTRATION – Pauline Hunt
SILENT AUCTION – Lisa Maynard, Katy Wellman
SOUVENIRS – Sue Moore, Faye Russell, Betty Mathias, Lois Thompson
THREE ON THREE BASKETBALL – WTCR Radio Station, Greg Lee, Drew Campbell
TRAFFIC AND SAFETY – Mark Plummer, Chief of Police
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER – Sue Moore, Gretchen McDowell, Faye Russell, Kay Arthur

The above committees and chairmen wish to express their gratitude to their co-chairmen and committee members for their splendid work in planning the Sesquicentennial Program. To the best of my knowledge these are the committee members of each committee, and if I left off anyone's name, I hope you will accept my apology.



The Sesquicentennial volunteers' appreciation potluck dinner was held at the Senior Citizen Center, Louisa Street, Catlettsburg, Kentucky on August 28th, 1999.

Chairmen for the event were Sue Moore and her committee Gretchen McDowell, Faye Russell and Kay Arthur. Music by Amber Ellis. Prayer by Rev. Richard Brown.

"GATE WAY TO THE BIG SANDY" CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY

BOYD COUNTY SEAT

BRIEF HISTORY

The modern generation passing through the little town of Catlettsburg, Kentucky today would not suspect that the 1800's was a colorful era for this town at which time it was the boom town and leading shopping center for many miles around.

Catlettsburg has courageously survived almost every type of disaster during its history. Records reveal a devastating washout, blizzards accompanied by sub-zero temperatures, tornadoes, and hailstorms. Disastrous fires and recurring floods.

The date of the "Big Fire" was July 22, 1878. An account of the fire, published in the Ironton Weekly Register, July 23, 1878, gives a vivid picture of the disaster. The headline read "Catlettsburg In Ruins" followed by a description of the fire. Another disastrous fire in 1992 was the burning of the old Gallup Building on Louisa Street in which one man lost his life. Also a heart wrenching fire in 1997 several buildings burnt in the 25th street area which took the lives of six people including a baby, and one injury. The flood of February, 1884, is perhaps the most damaging flood. There were two floods in 1913, January 13, crest 53.8 feet and March 31, crest 64.5 feet. For a period of twenty-four years the flood of 1913 held its record as being the highest flood in the history of the town. On January 27, 1937 the river reached the unprecedented crest of 71.1 feet. The area flooded by this inundation comprised about eighty per cent of the city. The last major flood was April 17, 1948 and was the third highest flood in history, reaching a crest of 62.8 feet. "Gate Citizens" are

imbued with a spirit of optimism in the face of adversity. This spirit is best expressed by an item in the Weekly Star, published in 1875 by Harlan Page Wellman: "Times are hard now. But the river is rising and there will be better times." In 1902 the Big Sandy Locks, Dam No. 1 was completed to control the raging river which on occasions drove the citizens from their homes and businesses.

Catlettsburg at one time won the name of being the "wettest city in the United States", and it was the usual sight to see swarms of men from the surrounding arid regions, suitcases in hand, descend upon the town by way of train and trolley. Loaded in more ways than one, they left by those same modes of transportation. At the time Front Street was in its heyday as a saloon street, there were twenty-two saloons and one restaurant. On Front Street today now stands a floodwall.

In 1849, the town was first laid out into lots and according to the map of James W. Fry, the part of town from Catletts Creek to Division Street and from Broadway to Front Street was the first plotted Catlettsburg. So the little community, known as the Gate City, forming a junction between the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers had its beginning.

Catlettsburg was incorporated as a town in the County of Greenup in 1858, with an approximate population of 1300. In 1860 Boyd County was formed from parts of Carter, Lawrence and Greenup Counties and Catlettsburg, as it remains today was named the county seat of Boyd

County with the offices being located in the Courthouse.

So far as can be accurately determined, the earliest land grant in this section under which settlement was first made was dated, December 15, 1772 called the John Sewage Grant to some 70 persons. One of the grantees, Charles Smith was allotted 400 acres upon which the town of Catlettsburg is built. Smith came here and built his log cabin and died in 1776, leaving this lot to his children. In 1798, Alexander Catlett came to the same land, and bought the titles of two of the original grantees. He settled here, clearing the land and claiming it as his own. In 1816, his sons Horatio Catlett bought up the remaining interests in the original 400 acres and so the town of Catlettsburg was begun.

The early 50's brought the steamboat to Catlettsburg, (many by the Greene Line Steamers who made regular stops here) and with it came all the hustle and bustle of a busy, prosperous city. Timber was the big trader and the city was said to have led the world in this market for many years. Following in the wake of the big timber market, came other trades-people who set up their businesses, mills and factories.

The first newspaper was the Big Sandy News published in 1854 by E. C. Thornton. Many other papers were to follow, flourishing for awhile, then dying out. In 1896 Col. G. F. Friel founded the Catlettsburg Daily Press--the forerunner of the Ashland Daily Independent, Joe Vanderhoof is now President and Publisher Surrounding towns of Ashland and Huntington now serve our citizens with the Ashland Daily Independent and the Herald Dispatch, also the Courier Journal from Louisville.

The famous Morse Opera House was built in 1878 with the first presentation "Uncle Tom's Cabin". Many are the tales told by remaining members of that day of the fabulous entertainment offered them

at the Opera House. After passing from opera to basketball throughout the years, the original structure was used by the Catlettsburg Youth Center until 1961 at which time it was demolished.

The Alger House, was in the good old days, one of the most fashionable hotels in these parts and its walls have seen famous people and fabulous balls for socialites of a by-gone day.

In the heyday of the town, the D. H. Carpenter Co., wholesale and retail mercantile business, was the largest shopping center between Cincinnati and Pittsburgh; The Patton Milling Company drew customers from W. Va., Kentucky, and Ohio where their corn was brought to be ground; retail grocery stores were owned by Herman Krish, J. C. Hopkins, C. C. Magann, and Dan Elba; the Ely and Yates Drug Store was a well stocked drug store of its time; Buck Ford's Jewelry Store was in full swing; all kitchen utensils, etc. could be obtained at Cobb Cecil's Queensware Store; a cigar factory was operated by Alfred Yost; Marrs & Wellman Hardware Store and G. W. Andrews and Son Dry Goods Store was located on Front Street; a barber shop run by Alec Goble; Prichard's Timber Company; The Williamson Tailor Shop; W. V. Yost Grocery; C. W. Berger Shoe Store; Clawson's Jewelry Store; Sherrits Grocery; Ben Williamson Hardware Store, Justice Brickyard, Globe Brick Company, John Sanford Saddle Shop, Patton Brothers Drug Company, D. S. Martin Meat Market, E. W. Bruns Shoe Store and G. F. Gallup Jewelry Store were only some of the flourishing Business and establishments for many miles around and helped put Catlettsburg at it financial peak.

The first funeral home was originally established by Robert Henderson Kilgore in 1868, the same home, culminated by the partnership of Henry W. Collier in 1916, and is still known as the Kilgore-Collier, and until a few years ago was operated by Allan Collier and Russell

Compton. Recently the funeral home business was bought by Michael Neal & Son who still operates under the name of Kilgore-Collier. The Neals also established another funeral home in Catlettsburg known as the Neal Funeral Home on Center Street. The Neals were former employees of the home under Collier and Compton.

In 1891, William A. Patton and a group of interested associates built and put into operation the Catlettsburg Water System, which after enlargement and improvement over the years gradually became the Catlettsburg, Kenova, Ceredo Water Co., Inc. Mr. Cable Cramer was the general manager of the plant. Later years, the City of Ashland, Department of Utilities bought out the Water Company and now operates the water system through their own system. We no longer have the water plant which was demolished several years back.

In March, 1895, the Big Sandy Valley Railroad applied for the right of way over and through certain streets of town and following the Chatteroi Railway Company and the Elizabethtown, Lexington, and Big Sandy Railroad Company in 1879 and the Ohio and Big Sandy Railroad Company in 1889, right of way was given to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company in 1911. The railway system at this time is known as the CSX Systems and before that name change was the Chessie System.

A fire department was created by City Council in 1898. In 1902 the Big Sandy Lock and Dam No. 1 was completed by the U. S. Government.

Natural gas was introduced in Catlettsburg in 1899.

The first transportation system in Catlettsburg was Camden Interstate Railway Company operating in 1903. This was the old streetcar service. Later this was changed to the Ohio Valley Bus Company who operated the service to city

patrons. This service is offered now by the Ashland Bus System.

The first school in Catlettsburg was a small log structure at the junction of Division and Front Streets in 1819. The three grade schools and Catlettsburg High School, which offered educational facilities to our youth, were consolidated into the Boyd County School System. Today, we have only one elementary, which is known as Catlettsburg Elementary School and also a Christian School operated by the Church of God. There is a Headstart Program offered now by the Catlettsburg Elementary.

As the town grew, the need for a city building was realized and this was achieved in 1911. But, as the years rolled by this building became deteriorated and the same need was met again when the old building was demolished January 13, 1995 and a new one was a reality and completed in 1997.

The first bank to open in Catlettsburg was sometime prior to 1885 and was a private bank known as Wilson and Andrews. In 1931, the Kentucky National Bank and the Farmers and Merchants were combined forming the Kentucky Farmers Bank, now operated in Catlettsburg. This bank also operates two new branches now, located at the Cedar Knoll Galleria and at Summit. A new building at Summit is in progress.

The oldest house in Catlettsburg was built around 1839, by John Chadwick, a dealer in ginseng, furs and pelts from Va., who settled here when a considerable export demand for ginseng root developed in the 19th century.

Following the growth of population and industry, the Federal Court was established in 1902. There was, however, no Federal Building until 1911.

It was about 1895 when the Catlettsburg Telephone Exchange was established under the name of Peoples Telephone

Company. Judge C. L. McConnell, operator of a bookstore, boasted the first telephones and all outside communication by telephone was made from his store.

Since all peoples of our nation have from time beginning felt the need to have freedom of worship the various religious faiths were established early in the history of our town, and have buried their roots deep in the hearts of the townspeople. Today we are represented in many different congregations all teaching the words of God to a modern generation. Religion alone has remained unmodernized throughout the ages, and so it is in our community. Among the first churches were the Theodocia Baptist Church, now the Oakland Avenue Baptist Church; the First Presbyterian Church; the First Methodist Church, a unification of two earlier Methodist faiths.

Seven years after the first electric lamp was made, the company known as Kentucky & W. Va. Power Co. was formed in 1886 to serve 50 customers. Today this company is known as American Electric Power and its customer's total many thousands.

Many illustrious attorneys have had their beginning in our city, and early records of medical service show excellent doctors and dentists set up practice here. Catlettsburg is boastfully proud of having had two U. S. Senators, the Honorable George B. Martin, and the Honorable Ben Williamson. Daniel Vost representative and Mrs. Mary Elloitt Flannery, the first woman representative in the state, served one year. Senator Martin was the man to cast the deciding vote in favor of the Nineteenth Amendment He later received from President Woodrow Wilson a letter commending his support of the bill which gave women the right to vote.

The Ashland Oil and Refining Company is now owned and operated by Marathon, Inc. This refinery has been in operation for seventy-five years. Ashland, Inc. as it was called before the Marathon,

Inc. took over the plant started as a small refinery by Paul Blazer, with only twenty-five employees and has grown into an organization of thousands of employees and operating in many states. It is the main industry in Ashland and Catlettsburg.

Armco Steel Corporation, located at Ashland, Kentucky employs several hundred workers from our city in its daily operations.

Construction of the Carbide & Carbon Chemical Company began in 1937. This was another industrial plant drawing employees from Catlettsburg. The plant moved to another state but still some of its employees live in Catlettsburg.

Today we have several new plants in our surroundings; the Pittsburgh Activated Carbon, Huntington Alloy Products Division, Tennessee Gas Pike Line Company and the Big Sandy Power Company, Kentucky Electric Steel who employs many Catlettsburg citizens.

In 1968 our city consisted of innumerable grocery stores, department store, many filling stations, three dry cleaning establishments, five barber shops, a hardware store, two furniture stores, two drug stores, several excellent eating places, two real estate offices, two plumbing shops, electrical shop, two insurance agencies, two cabinet shops, youth shop, dress shop, dollar store, one bank, one savings and loan association, and several lawyers, three medical doctors and one chiropractor, these were only a few of the thriving business houses of that era. Businesses of today are listed in another section of this book.

Catlettsburg has from time beginning gotten the very breath of life from the Big Sandy River. Coming back from the past to the present day, we find Catlettsburg a compact little city with a population of approximately 2,500. New worthwhile organizations have developed in the past years and some have gone by the wayside

due to lack of interest from the younger generation. A very important one at this time is Catlettsburg Leadership Community Developments Club.

Ironically enough, the decline in business in Catlettsburg came with the thing her people wanted most—better transportation. As these transportation facilities were increased and improved, less and less was it necessary to manufacture products where the raw materials were abundant; more and more was Catlettsburg bypassed for the large cities which grew up around her. Complacently her people settled down to take an industrial back seat. Satisfied with a glorious heritage, happy home and accessibility to larger cities she became a residential haven for people who enjoyed simple living and congenial friends.

While the change of times has lost to Catlettsburg her timber market and many wholesale houses other businesses and

industries have developed. Large industrial plants have been established just above the city on the Big Sandy River; these are of material benefit to Catlettsburg. These industries give promise of the vast expansion that may take place in the valley in the future. Industry will recognize the broad Catlettsburg as an ideal spot for industrial development. It offers splendid transportation facilities, both by rail and by water, and is adjacent to and almost limitless supply of natural resources.

Yes it is true, naught, which comes, does stay, and naught, which goes, is lost. Catlettsburg's picturesque early days are gone, but her citizens cherish the rich heritage those days gave and look forward to better days which will, in turn be replaced by an even more glorious future.

THE SPIRIT OF THE "GATE CITIZENS"
CAN BE SUMMED UP AS WE ARE PROUD
OF OUR TOWN AND OUR HERITAGE.



MIDLAND - ATLANTIC BRIDGE - Between Catlettsburg, Kentucky, and Kenova, West Virginia, was first opened to the public on June 19, 1927, as shown in this photo of the opening day ceremony when an estimated 5,000 cars passed over it. The first vehicle to cross the bridge was the Catlettsburg fire truck, driven by Chief Claude Pemberton and carrying John C. C. Mayo, Jr., Mayor Robert Owens and fireman Bud Dixon. The second car to pass over the bridge was the Catlettsburg police patrol car carrying officer Tom Salyers and Lee Eastwood, who was one of the first toll collectors. Other toll takers were Will Ward and John Shortridge. Arnold Hanners developed this Eddy photo from a glass negative.

LITTLE TOWN ON THE RIVERS

Like many another community, the town has boomed and sank. Catlettsburg has undergone adversity and with determination will make a comeback. The town of Catlettsburg, Kentucky is located on the eastern edge of Kentucky, at the junction of the Ohio and Big Sandy rivers, one hundred and fifty-five miles up the river from Cincinnati and three hundred and fifteen miles below Pittsburgh. Federal Highways Route 60 and Route 23 extend through its limits.

Catlettsburg is the county seat of Boyd County. It is mostly residential, but adjacent to the town are three industrial plants. This favorable location on the Ohio River brought the first settler to Catlettsburg, and also brought its greatest boom time in the timber market.

When the strategic location of Catlettsburg is considered, the question naturally presents itself as to the reason why no permanent settlement was made, even as early as the Revolution. The Ohio River in the year 1790 witnessed one hundred and forty-six flatboats passing at Fort Harmer. It appears that Catlettsburg would have been a likely location, but this same account mentions the unbearable Indian attacks on these travelers. Not until the power of the Indian was broken was there possibility for settlement. The Battle of Point Pleasant had opened the upper Ohio for transportation and settlement in 1774, but further danger down the river was not removed until the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1793.

Many of the early settlements were forced to leave the broad rivers, go up the smaller streams and settle some distance from them, such as Harrodsburg (Fort Harrod) Logans Fort and others. The Indian danger, in all probability, prevented Catlettsburg from being one of the earliest permanent settlements in the territory, which later became Kentucky.

Richard H. Collins in his History of Kentucky, Revised 1877, says that in the spring of 1760, John Fitch, the surveyor, who later became famous for his steamboat invention, and others were coming down the Ohio in flatboats, carrying cattle and horses, when they were fired upon by Indians at the mouth of the Big Sandy.

In 1766, a Captain Harry Gordon made a crude survey of the entire length of the Ohio River. His measurements of the northern boundary of Kentucky

showed eight hundred and forty-three miles from the mouth of the Big Sandy to the Mississippi as compared with the six hundred and fifty-three miles shown by the United States in a survey nearly one hundred years later, in 1868.

From Collins we also learn that the first white visitors of whom there is an accurate account, excluding those who passed down the Ohio River, but did not land in any part of the present Boyd County, was the Reverend David Jones, of Freehold, New Jersey, later a chaplain in the Revolution, in the Indian Wars under General Anthony Wayne, and in the War of 1812. On his first trip from Fort Pitt, June 9, 1772, he was accompanied by George Rogers Clark, "a young gentleman from Virginia, who inclined to make a tour in this new world." On their first trip Jones and Clark came as far as the Great Kanawha, fifty-one miles east of Kentucky. They stopped January 1, 2, and 3, 1773, at "Great Sandy Creek," where they had been informed, was "the most beautiful and fertile country to be settled that is anywhere in this new Province, and most agreeable in all respects.

In the summer and fall of 1772, Simon Kenton, John Strader, and George Yeager were hunting along the Ohio River, in the country between the Great Kanawha and Big Sandy Rivers. It is likely, but not certain that they were at times in the present Boyd country. In 1773, Simon Kenton, Michael Tyger and others made surveys of land, with "tomahawk improvement" in what is now Boyd County. In the winter of 1773-74, Simon Kenton, William Grills, Jacob Greathouse, Samuel Cartwright and Joseph Lock spent sometime around the mouth of the big Sandy, hunting and trapping. In the spring they sold the pelts to a French trader. In October 1774, Simon Kenton and Thomas Williams came down the Ohio, up the Big Sandy and made a camp, remaining there all winter and were quite successful in their hunting.

So far as it has been accurately determined the earliest land grant in this section under which settlement was first made was the John Savage Grant, dated December 18, 1771. The grant containing 28,627 acres was issued by Lieutenant and Governor General John Earl of Dunmore of the Colony of Virginia to seventy persons, names in the grant. The grant was issued to the grantees for military services rendered. A regiment formed by Captain John

Savage served the crown in 1754 and 1755 in the so-called French and Indian Wars or Braddock Wars.

Throughout the description in the grant are mentioned trees "marked G. W. S." This would indicate that the survey was run by George Washington several years prior to the date of the grant. The following is a part of the original Savage land grant recorded in Patent Book 42, page 94 to 101, in the Land Office, now Archives Division, Richmond, Virginia.

"To all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting
GEORGE the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain,
France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. KNOW
ye that for divers good causes and considerations but more
especially for the Consideration mentioned in a
Proclamation of Robert Dinwiddie Esquire late Lieutenant
Governor and Commander in Chief of our Colony and
Dominion of Virginia bearing date the nineteenth day of
February one thousand seven hundred and fifty four for
encouraging Men to enlist in the Service of our late Royal
Grandfather for the defense and Security of the said Colony
WE HAVE given granted and confirmed and by these
presents for us our Heirs and Successors Do give grant and
confirm unto John Savage Charles Smith . . . Richard
Morris . . . William Hogan one certain Tract or parcel of
Land containing twenty eight thousand six hundred and
twenty seven acres lying and being in the County of
Fincastle and bounded as follows towit, BEGINNING at a
small Elm marked GWS standing on the Bank of the River
Ohio directly at the point between the said River and the
Mouth of the Lower or big Sandy Creek . . . thence North
five degrees East seven hundred and fifty poles to a large
black oak standing on the Top of a Ridge, thence North
sixty degrees East sixty poles to a large ash standing on the
Bank of the Ohio, thence up the same and binding
therewith South thirty degrees East thirty six poles to a
large Run ninety-six poles, South ten degrees East twenty
poles to a Mulberry and Haw Tree on the Bank of the River
at the mouth of the Creek, thence crossing the Mouth
thereof South seventy-five degrees East forty poles to the
BEGINNING . . . TO HAVE HOLD possess and enjoy the
said Tract or parcel of Land and all other heretofore granted
Premises and every part thereof with their and every of
their appurtenances unto the said . . . their heirs and assigns
forever . . . IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these
our letters patent to be made WITNESS our trust and well
beloved John Earl of Dunmore our Lieutenant and
Governor General of our said Colony and Dominion of
Williamsburg under the seal of our said Colony the
fifteenth day of December one thousand seven hundred and
seventy two, In the thirteenth Year of our Reign
DUNMORE"

One of the grantees, Charles Smith, lost his left hand while with Braddock and was afterwards called "One handed Charley." Under the grant Charley Smith was allotted four hundred acres, upon which the town of Catlettsburg is built. Charley Smith

visited his land, Lot No.27, in 1774, made surveys, and built a cabin. He died in the spring of 1776 and left this lot to his four children, Charles, John, Sara and Elizabeth.

About twenty-three years later, 1798, Alexander Catlett visited this same land. He purchased the titles of William Hogan and Richard Morris, two of the grantees, and settled later at the mouth of the Big Sandy. He improved and cleared the land and resided thereon for twenty-six years, claiming the land as his own. In 1816 Horatio Catlett, son of Alexander, purchased the one-fourth interest of Sara Smith Eastin and in 1820 the one-fourth interest of Charles Smith.

In 1824, the heirs of Charlie Smith filed suit against Horatio Catlett, claiming the four hundred acres under the will of their father. The court held that Catlett had a better title by virtue of his adverse possession.

From the Catlett Family by Dr. William Carter Shobbs of New Orleans, it is learned that the "Catlett family was seated in County Kent, England as early as 1499 when John Catlett makes his will. In St. Michaels Church Settingbourne, Kent, England are several memorials to members of the Catlett family. John Catlett, ye elder of Settingbourne, County Kent, gentleman had John Catlett, ye younger. He had a son John Catlett, 3rd, born about 1622, came to Virginia in 1650 and settled a town on the Rappahannock River and named it Settingbourne (now Port Royal) for his home in England. John Catlett 3rd was a member of the Vestry, a magistrate, a colonel in the Colonial Forces, and owned property in England. He brought with him his son Nicholas. Colonel Catlett was killed by the Indians while defending the fort at Settingbourne in 1670. He had a son Nicholas who had son David, who had son William, who had son Alexander, who had son Horatio. In the early part of the 19th century, Alexander came from Virginia to Kentucky and settled at the mouth of Big Sandy River. He died in 1823. He was buried in the Catlettsburg ground near the barn of Colonel L. T. Moore. His son Horatio was a prominent man, merchant, postmaster and farmer. At his house were entertained such notable personages as General Jackson, Henry Clay and Felix Grundy. "He laid off the town of Catlettsburg."

From The Big Sandy Valley by Willard R. Jillson, 1923, it is interesting to note, that following the establishment of the County of Greenup in 1804, Judge Jesse Bryant Boone, son of Daniel Boone, was justice of the peace in Creenup County.

Jillson says that it was not until about 1807 that the strategic position of Catlettsburg, at the mouth of the Big Sandy was recognized. About that time two large houses, one of logs and the other clapboard with a sign post before the door, stood at this point and marked the future location of the city. Throughout the Big Sandy Valley there was a magnificent stand of timber. The settler had to clear the land before he could plant his crop. Cotton was more or less successfully raised in this location as early as 1807. The principal crop was corn, and tobacco was raised for domestic purposes as were many small grains and vegetables.

During the early part of the nineteenth century a considerable export demand for ginseng root developed. Many settlers became "ginseng hunters" in their spare time with the result that thousands of dollars were added to the income of the valley.

From the Big Sandy Valley by William Ely, 1887, we learn that Joseph Ewing, a son-in-law of John Chadwick, came from Virginia in 1812, as a business representative of a wealthy firm dealing in ginseng, furs, pelts, etc. Mr. Ewing first operated his store on the Virginia side, but it was a small establishment and did not get much of the river trade. He soon moved to the Kentucky side, and built a log cabin and a store on the river bank. Before 1839 he built what is now known as the oldest house in Catlettsburg, the white brick on Center Street, just below the bridge, now painted red and owned by the Bill Diamond family.

The early travelers going by boat down the Ohio frequently spent the night at the settlement at the mouth of the Big Sandy. A Thomas Nuttall, a cultured gentleman from Philadelphia, on his way to the southwest spent the night of November 7, 1818, with settlers and wrote in his journal as follows:

"Near to this line commences the first appearance of the cane, which seems to indicate some difference in the climate and soil. The settlements here are remote. Landing rather late, we took up our lodging where there happened to be a corn husking and were kept awake with idle merriment and riot til past midnight . . . The cornfields at this season of the year are so overrun with cuckold burs . . . as to be extremely troublesome to woolen clothes and to domestic cattle. The fleece of the sheep is scarcely worth the trouble of shearing. The people here, living upon exigencies and given to rambling about instead of attending to their farm, are very poor and uncomfortable in every respect and few of them possess the land on which they live . . . We found it almost impossible to purchase any kind of provisions, even

butter or bacon, nothing appearing to be cultivated scarcely but corn and a little wheat . . ."

The following bond from Horatio Catlett to Nathaniel Head is of interest in that it shows the early presence of the textile and timber industries:

"H. Catlett to N. Head - Bond

Article of an agreement made and entered into this 7th Jany., 1822 between Horatio Catlett, Greenup County and State of Kentucky of the one part and Nathaniel Head of the county and state aforesaid of the other part witnesseth that the said Catlett hath this day sold unto the said Head one and one half acres of land in the corner of the clover lot where the Blacksmith's house formerly stood to be included in the four stakes we have this day set up and to run . . . across the drain that passes by the House Mill, with straight lines. For guarantee for the sum of thirty dollars in hand I paid the receipt of which I acknowledge by note. It is understood that the said Head wants the ground to reside on, and to erect a fulling mill and carding machine. The said Catlett binds himself to convey the said land by deed or a lease for ninety-nine year renewable forever, in such a way as to restrain the said Head and those that may occupy the ground from time to time from carrying on mercantile business or entertainment in any way so as to interfere or rival my establishment at the Point of Sandy so forfeiting the said ground the said conveyance to be made as soon as a person can be got to run it. And the said Head is to have all necessary timber for Building and firewood free for two years to be got up the creek, the land is to be conveyed by deed if the Reservation can be made in a Deed otherwise by lease as herein mentioned. Given under my hand and seal the day above written. HORATIO CATLETT

Whereas there is an appearance of a spring in the road near the mill the said Head is to have half the water and privilege to carry it through the said Catlett's Land to this the said Head Establishment HORATIO CATLETT.

Attest

Rolin Van Biggs

John W. Campbell"

The early settler in this part of the country, as in other parts, had to depend on himself for food and clothing. Jillson says that the clothing of the settler for the most part was taken from the gray and red buck that roamed the hills. Articles of "home-spun" were added to these. The bread baked in an open fire was made from corn meal, which had been beaten in a mortar by hand. The meat was bear, venison, turkey and squirrel. To these were added wild honey, tree or maple sugar sorghum and berries. Many of the settlers made their own liquor, which stood for the times as well as hospitality.

Intemperance however, was uncommon and disorderly conduct was almost unknown.

Other settlers who were here between 1804 and 1838 as shown by the deeds and court records in Greenup County were: Joseph Gardner, James

Warnock, William Hampton, Thomas Patton, Abraham Miller, Hugh Ewing, Ledford Payne, Richard Grayson, John Gatewood, Edward Eastham, George Shortridge, James Wilson, James Lampton, Markus L. Kibby, John Vanhorn, Allison Nicholson.



OLDEST HOUSE IN CATLETTSBURG



CURRENT PICTURE - 1999

"HEART OF THE TRI-STATE"

One hundred and fifty years ago in the summer of 1849, the town of Catlettsburg was first laid out into lots. The pressure of financial need prompted James W. Fry to part with his land and as shown by the Fry Map that part of town from Catletts Creek to Division Street and from Broadway to Front Street was the first platted Catlettsburg.

In 1833, Horatio Catlett sold to James Wilson of Kanawha County, Virginia for eight thousand dollars "in good and lawful money of the United States" two parcels of land, one parcel being the land as shown on the Fry Map. James Fry had inherited this land from his grandfather, James Wilson, in 1835. Horatio Catlett continued to live on the land as a tenant until he became "badly in debt," and to extricate himself, sent away his slaves and finally went himself, hoping no doubt to raise enough money to clear his debts. Ely in his Big Sandy Valley states that Catlett returned in 1847 and died to be buried by his father on the Moore property, located on the land next to the Big Sandy River at Lockwood, and "thus ends the Catlett dynasty at the Mouth.

"Catlettsburg, the Gate City, the little community at the junction of the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers, continued more or less as a trading center until the late 1850's. The city is known as the "Gate City" because it forms the gate through which visitors enter the state to enter the rich mineral deposits in the Big Sandy Valley, and also the "gate" to Central Kentucky's Bluegrass section, or the Ohio River route that leads to Cincinnati. It is located on both U. S. Route 60 and Route 23. Each business house or trade that was established at the "Mouth" was closely related to the timber market in particular, other natural resources and river traffic, which were to bring to the town its greatest era of wealth and distinction.

As early as 1847 James and John Falkner operated a blacksmith shop on what was to become the famous Morse Opera House corner. That same year a James McCoy was making wagons in Catlettsburg. In 1848 a tannery had been located in Catlettsburg on what is now Oakland Avenue. It was owned first by John D Mims and later operated by Charles Stein. Again evidencing the fact that the town was a trading center, G. W. and N. W. Andrews leased ground on the corner of Division and Center Streets and put a one-story frame building, which was used for a dry goods store.

In the natural course of events other sections of the town were sold and developed. John Culver, who built the Patton home, William Hampton, William Campbell, Frederick Moore, and W. T. Nichols secured from Fry and laid out that part of town which lies above Division Street in 1851. D. D. Geiger had bought parcels of land from Fry and Ewing and laid out that part of town below Catletts Creek, which was to be later known as Geiger addition. That part of town just below Catletts Creek was also known as Ferriopolis, presumably taking its name from the ferry landing there.

The part of Catlettsburg known as Hampton City mainly falls in what is known as the Charles Riggs tract, by reason of a conveyance to said Riggs by Horatio Catlett in 1812, with William Hampton receiving title to same in 1844. In the laying out of Hampton City in 1852, because "it was advantageous and necessary to the public at large that it be done" it is interesting to note that certain lots designated as W, H, A, R, and F were to be used as a public landing. Other lots in this section were designated as a public square.

The court records of 1853 show that "a flourishing town, Catlettsburg, of

several hundred inhabitants has sprung upon the . . . land." The town flourished to the extent that in 1854, G. W. Andrews had built a three-story brick store on Division and Front Streets to care for the increasingly heavy traffic on the river.

Catlettsburg has been widely known for its many shrewd, respected, and prosperous citizens who had keen eyes for the spiritual and cultural, as well as the material future of the city; they have contributed to the building of its churches and schools which had a progressive and stimulating growth. The town is well known for its able lawyers, judges, and doctors, as well as its capable business men. Perhaps one of the most interesting of the doctors who practiced here in Catlettsburg was Dr. L. W. Sutton, who came here in 1818. He fell in love with the beautiful Mary Bell Catlett, daughter of George Catlett; but financial reverses hit the young woman's family, and the Catletts packed their belongings on a flatboat and headed down the Ohio River to relocate at Morganfield. Sutton, no doubt despondent at that turn of events lost little time in following his true love--in February 1820. They were married the following May. Dr. Sutton is best known in Kentucky as the person who wrote the first vital-statistics law and became its first registrar, and was also instrumental in organizing the State Medical Society.

As the town grew in size, those tasks formerly done by hand or at home was developed into community enterprises; thus it was about 1856, the William Hampton Flour and Grist Mill came into existence.

During the steamboat era which began in the early fifties, Catlettsburg became a gay and very busy place, and it was during the late 1850's that show boats with blaring bands, shouting captains, and noisy calliopes made their first appearance in the Gate City. Mr. John Burns believed the first one to be the Vanamberg, with trained animals as the feature attraction.

To keep abreast of times newspapers published early in Catlettsburg; the first being the "Big Sandy News" in 1854, with E. C. Thornton founder and publisher. In 1859 the "Sandy Valley Advocate" was the next venture in newspapers, but publication ceased at the beginning of the war. "The Herald," in 1863, was the next paper to come into existence with Charles D. Corey as editor. Reverend Zephaniah Meek had meanwhile started the "The Christian Observer", later changed to the "Central Methodist." He joined with H. M. Bond in the printing business under the name of the Herald Printing Company. In 1872, the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Meek continued with the "Central Methodist," a religious paper. "The Catlettsburg Tribune" started publication in 1865 but was suspended in less than three years.

It is from accounts in these early newspapers that the growth of the town is recorded. One article in the "Big Sandy Herald" of March 8, 1866, gives us a picture of the busy life of Catlettsburg as a river town and business center: "There has been a revival in the oil fever and every boat that arrives brings a delegation of gentlemen who come to pay respects to the great mineral region. The hotels are doing a good business, especially the St. Cloud, the United States, and the Sherman."

Gone from Catlettsburg are the old log taverns and in their places rise commodious: hotels; gone are the ill-smelling pelts and coarse merchandise of the Catlett trading post and in their stead rises the elaborate mercantile "emporiums" of the 1860's. In the "Big Sandy Herald" of 1866 we note that the Gate Citians could buy dry goods, queensware, and hardware at the T. J. Ewing Emporium; fashionable boots and shoes at William Bruns and Company; confectionaries and foreign fruits at Mrs. Dales; groceries, iron and nails, and liquor at Friese, Nerin and Company; and John Williamson, merchant-tailor and A. I. Borders were ready to serve the town by

supplying tailored and ready made clothing.

By an act of Legislature 1857-58, Catlettsburg was incorporated as a town in the County of Greenup on February 11, 1858. The earliest records of the incorporation were lost, but the records of 1860 show that the town was governed by a Board of Trustees, with John I. Williamson, Chairman of the Board, W. C. Wise, Secretary, and the following members: James Wise, James McCoy, and John Callihan. The town marshal's job held by James R. Ford was in every sense a protective one. It was his duty to see that the town was kept sanitary, that people were in their homes on or before ten o'clock at night, as well as to see that property and persons were protected.

The Board of Trustees early became the "City Fathers" in looking after the welfare of the growing town when they passed ordinances directing that sidewalks should be of uniform size--not to exceed two planks in width, that streets be graded to the wharf, that the old Catlett Tavern be torn down as it had become a nuisance in its decay, that it was illegal to drive across Catlett Creek bridges faster than a walk.

The locale around the mouth of Big Sandy must have been very beautiful, as its early visitors lauded its charm; but it must too, have been swampy and difficult to live in. Early records show that residents were required to keep their property drained. At one time there were four-foot bridges across Main Street (twenty-eighth) by means of which people could traverse the town with dry feet.

In 1860, through the interest of local citizens, Boyd County was formed out of parts of Carter, Lawrence and Greenup Counties, and Catlettsburg became, and still remains, the county seat.

From the time it was laid out, Catlettsburg being a border town was no doubt a center for abolitionists, slave

traders, and other activities connected with slavery. Many stories have been told which would indicate this but no actual records substantiate them.

The story is told of Mr. John Culver's trusty slave, Uncle Elias, who, when accused of being one of the runners, would neither deny nor admit it. It was a fact that he helped the slaves to safety of Solida Creek in Ohio, where there was a refuge for runaway slaves.

Another story concerns an underground agent for the Abolitionists who came to Catlettsburg to secure work with Mr. Bill Hampton, who owned many slaves. In a short time all his slaves escaped except Aunt Lucy and Aunt Isabella. This agent was caught and sentenced to serve a term in the pen.

Slave traders were here buying and selling presumably, and it is said that a slave block was on Center Street in the front of the building formerly occupied by Gallup's Jewelry Store.

When the War between the States broke out in 1861, Kentucky's statesmen determined that the state should remain neutral. The border position of Kentucky made it only natural that a Southern or a northern army would soon invade either the state. The need for supplies was an urgent one and the army occupying Kentucky would have control of the waterways.

Citizens of Catlettsburg did not wait for the war to come to their doors before beginning action. Many men joined the Southern or northern army according to their personal convictions. Colonel T. J. Ewing mustered a regiment and was placed in command of the Catlettsburg post of the Union Army. The Catlettsburg Post of the Union Army was established primarily to protect the Ohio River, which was used as a means of transportation for men and supplies to the Union Army.

The Union Army also equipped many gunboats which plied up and down the river and which were the object of the rebel attacks. There were skirmishes, but no actual fighting was done on the ground, which is now the city of Catlettsburg. The most important skirmish was with Colonel Bill Smith, who was known as Rebel Bill. Colonel Smith and his forces had crossed the river at Whites Creek and attempted to invade the Catlettsburg Post by circling it and going through East Fork and what is now Cannonsburg. Colonel Smith attempted to reach the Ohio River at Catlettsburg. Colonel Ewing and his forces heard of the invasion and met the forces of Colonel Smith and repulsed them in a sharp skirmish.

Government stores occupied the square above the bridge on Twenty-fourth and Center Streets. These were burned at the end of the war, it is said, to hide and destroy records. Ely in the Big Sandy Valley relates incidents in which wharf boats of supplies were cut loose and the mules were sent out of town when it was thought "the Rebels are coming."

It has been told that Colonel James A. Garfield billeted his troops in the Presbyterian Church here during the War between the States. It is definitely known that his first orders were to proceed to Catlettsburg, Kentucky, with his Forty-second Ohio regiment. They arrived on December 14, 1861 and Garfield went to Louisville for further orders. On receiving Buell's orders to "drive Marshall from Kentucky," Garfield left immediately for Catlettsburg and on arriving here December 22, found that his regiment had already proceeded to Louisa. Waiting in Catlettsburg only long enough to forward supplies, Garfield left for Louisa.

After the Battle of Middle Creek, the troops of Garfield were almost out of rations and the rough, mountainous country was incapable of supporting them. An unusually violent rainstorm had flooded Big Sandy, and supplies could not

be brought up from Catlettsburg. Colonel Garfield went to the mouth and ordered the Sandy Valley, a small steamer, which had been in the quartermaster's service, to take on a load and start up the river. The captain refused and finally Garfield ordered the captain placed on board and took the wheel himself. The boat left Catlettsburg on Saturday and on Monday reached camp.

After a final drive against Marshall at Pound Gap, in which he was successful, Garfield was ordered to Louisville, thus ending the campaign of the Big Sandy. Later this Colonel Garfield became President Garfield in 1881.

It was at Hiram College that Garfield was serving as president when he joined the army. His Forty-second Ohio Regiment was made up largely of Hiram College students.

One of the amusing incidents of the war period as told by Mr. Ely, happened on presidential Election Day in 1864. However, the people of Catlettsburg remembered it as the day of the "BIG SCARE."

"At about half-past three a hideous noise was heard, coming from the upper end of Louisa Street. Men, women, and children were rushing pell-mell down the street, screaming at the top of their voices, 'The Rebels are coming! The Rebels are coming!'" Mr. Ely, author of *The Big Sandy Valley*, acting as sheriff closed the polls and hurried down to Division Street to close his store. He further relates, "On looking up I heard the clatter of horses' hoofs, as if coming down Louisa Street . . . A half-minute had not passed before the great cavalcade came in sight . . . instead of the stars and bars, with soldiers dressed in gray, the riders were my own friends and townsmen, not wearing any uniform, but very independent in the cut of their clothes." While the main body of the troops pushed on down Center Street, Colonel Zeigler continued down Division at a "swift lope,

his right hand clutching the bridle-reins and . . . his left hand waving high . . . exclaiming in tones of thunder that the people must get out of the houses." The wharf boats laden with government supplies were cut loose, the government mules were ridden out of town, and the last seen of this delegation was the moving crowd, each looking back to see if the enemy was upon him.

And the cause of this big scare? School children playing at marching and soldiering near Cemetery Hill were seen by a Hampton City woman as she "extracted the lacteal fluid from the bovine's udder" and imagining them to be Confederate soldiers, cried out in alarm at the top of her voice. The cry was taken up by several men which brought about the rout of the friends of Mr. Ely.

Although there was no fighting in Catlettsburg, there were restrictions placed on the area by the Provost Marshal, which limited trade and progress.

Martial law was declared in Kentucky in 1862, and a Provost Marshal was appointed for each county. "Orders were issued requiring any who had given aid and sympathy to the Confederacy to take the oath of allegiance to the Union, and all who hereafter should give aid and comfort to the enemy should be arrested and dealt with according to military law . . . It was natural that such an order should offend those who sympathized with the Confederacy." Ely in Big Sandy Valley states that the Provost-Marshall stationed in Catlettsburg was a stern man and it is known that groups of men were arrested and taken to Ceredo for the slightest cause, presumably for giving sympathy and aid to the Confederacy.

With the close of the War Between the States a period of renewed development was to come, and Catlettsburg turned to the rebuilding of her trade and industry which had inevitably suffered.

The status of the City of Catlettsburg, around 1866, is best told by giving the information listed on the Phillips Map.

The Phillips Map is a lithograph made by Strobridge & Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, surveyed and drawn by J. C. Phillips around 1866. The first picture on the left is the Sherman House and J. F. Lewman was the proprietor. Below, the first picture on the left is Highland Home, which was the residence of Captain Wash Honshell. On the right is the picture of the drug store of Drs. Wm. Ely and Son. To the right of the map, in the lower right corner is shown the Virginia Point and the owners are listed as Morgan and Cook. In the upper right corner is pictured the Cincinnati & Big Sandy Packet, the Telegraph. A description of the city is given as follows:

"Catlettsburg, the Capitol of Boyd County, Ky., is handsomely situated at the mouth of the Big Sandy, on the Ohio River, in north latitude 38 degrees 20 minutes, west longitude 5 degrees 30 minutes from Washington City. Nature has bestowed upon it sufficient advantages to make it one of the most prosperous manufacturing towns on the river. It is the receiving depot for the rich products of the fertile valley of the Big Sandy, which extends back 200 miles into the bosom of a country unequalled for its mineral wealth, coal, iron, lead, and other riches are, as yet in the infancy of development. It is at the head of low-water navigation of the Ohio River, and has been recently selected as the terminus of the Chesapeake and Covington, and Lexington & Big Sandy Railroads.

"The site south of Catletts Creek was formerly owned by Horatio Catlett, after whom the town was named. From him it passed to James Wilson, thence to J. W. Fry, who had it laid out in town lots in the summer of 1849 north of Division Street, and that on the south side as far as Webster Street by Wm. Hampton and others in November 1850; and from Webster Street south in 1865. That portion of the town north of Catletts Creek was owned by David D. Geiger, who had it laid out in town lots. It was incorporated with the southern portion of the town in the year 1865 extending south to J. D. Mims' tan yard, and north to a small branch.

"A special act of the Legislature of 1886 cut off 14.40 chains of the northern portion of the town taking in the Richardson estate. Corporation limits extends north and south one mile and 2.40 chains, and east and west from foot of grade to county road on Main Street, ¼ of a mile and 4.00 chains, or 96 poles. There is a daily line of first-class steamboats from here to Cincinnati, Wheeling, and all intermediate points.

"In 1858 when first incorporated, Catlettsburg contained about 1300 inhabitants, since that time it has rapidly advanced in improvements and population having now about 2000 inhabitants. It boasts of three weekly well-conducted newspapers,

(one religious) four churches, four schools, five hotels, a court house, money-order post office, a bank, brewery, tanyard, flouring mill, sawmill, iron foundry, machine shop, two tin shops, two saddle shops, two jewelers and two drug stores, a book and stationery store, a billiard hall, and debating society. There is an active mercantile trade carried on it, having some 25 wholesale and retail stores doing a safe business. Other trades and professions are fully represented. The streets are well laid out, most of which have handsome flat sidewalks. There is also a grade reaching to low water mark, the neatest and most substantial on the Ohio River. There are several beds of excellent coal in the immediate vicinity of the town, some of which are being worked for home consumption."

Below this description are listed distances from Catlettsburg, by river and railroad, to many points east and west. Streets running from east to west and their present names are as follows: Beunavista (21st), Washington (22nd), Geiger (23rd), North (24th), Main (25th), Division (26th), Franklin (28th), Clay (30th), and Webster (31st from Vaughan's Corner to the Locks). The streets running north to south were: County Road, now Oakland Avenue, High Street, Panola Street, Louisa Street, Front Street, Sycamore Street, Walnut Street, Chestnut Street, Broadway, Center Street and Ann Street. The Catlettsburg City Council made changes in the names of the streets on April 16, 1913. It is interesting to know the

names of the property owners in Catlettsburg at this time:

"D. H. McGee, Z. Meek, J. Lampton, Mrs. Richardson, Wm. Geiger, William Patton, J. Wilson, J. Seaton, J. Crawford, W. Honshell, T. Means, Wm. Campbell, J. Faulkner, C. S. Ulen, H. Wellman, Elb Ulen, J. Scott, J. Patton, D. Geiger, A. Healy, G. W. Dixon, Geo. Knight, J. C. Merrill, William Ely, J. D. Mims, C. S. McConnell, John Wellman, J. Smith, Hatcher, J. W. Kirker, C. D. Burdges, Biggs, Pennington, G. Atkins, Phillips, F. Riddle, Jorden, G. N. Brown, J. S. Allen, T. J. Ewing, J. M. Rice, J. Wide, J. D. Kincaid, J. M. McCoy, J. W. Thornton, Wm. Kinsoman, Vaughan, J. D. Jones, Frank Bruning, Norris, Goble, Wm. Sands, L. T. Moore, Andrews, S. V. Firor, B. Burk, J. R. Ford, C. Hampton, J. Zeigler, Lansdown, Borders, L. P. Harris, Newburg, J. Frazier, Dr. W. Pugh, Wm. Foster, Mrs. Dales, A. Crew, Garrett, D. Kinner, Es. Killin, S. Thompkins, J. M. Burns, J. W. Porter, J. F. Lewman, A. Rankin, A. Thompson, J. M. Elliott, R. Eastham, F. M. Ely, Davison, T. Hally, John Brown, Shaw, Armstrong, A. Botts, M. F. Dupuy, Jas. Bartram, A. Scott, J. Welch, Hardwick, J. M. Rice, Hupp, Spencer, J. S. N. Dickins, C. D. Corey, D. Sands, J. W. Dillon, F. Moore, Wm. Hampton, and J. Waxler.

Establishments listed on the map are as follows: "Masonic Property, Presbyterian Church, N. M. Church, S. M. Church, Colored Church and School, Court House, Public Square, Sands & Company, Brewery, J. D. Mims' Tan Yard, Saw Mill, and Machine Shop."



**First Plat of Catlettsburg
By J. C. Phillips
Summer, 1849**

"LA BELLE RIVIERE"

(The Beautiful River)

The story of the Big Sandy and the Ohio Rivers is one which no one can tell. We can speculate upon some of their outstanding features during the centuries of its gradual formation when the earth was young. A race of Mound Builders plied them and dotted these rivers with their earth-works, leaving only mounds to mystify the later generations. As late as 1876 relics of certain Mound Builders implements were discovered near Maysville. Whether or not the Builders were of the Indian race is a disputed question. A later race of Indians made these rivers an avenue of travel, investing it with quaint and curious legends and traditions.

These legends and traditions came down to the white man. Even the name, Ohio, has never been explained, except that the word in Indian language signified "great, white water." It is an Iroquoisan word meaning great. Another story handed down from generation to generation tells the legend of the three Indians standing on the banks of the river and saying, "O-high-O."

The Big Sandy River had several Indian names, Totero, Totteroy and Shattara. Totero Indians lived on the Big Sandy River. The river had other Indian names, Tatteroy, Chattawaha and Chatteroy, each meaning "the river of sand bars". The Indians also knew it as Salt Creek, Fire River, Mystery River and the River of Many Buffalo. In the George Washington survey of this section of the country reference is made to the "Big Sandy Creek". The early Virginians were better acquainted with the Sandy Valley than we have previously supposed. Shaler says that "Raffinesque, in his most untrustworthy annals

of Kentucky, says that a Captain Bolt came from Virginia to Kentucky in 1660". The first route from Virginia to Kentucky was down the Big Sandy River. The Earl of Belmont in his discussion of the Indians wrote in 1699 "that the Shateras were supposed to be the Toteros, on Big Sandy River, Virginia". On the Nuremberg map, 1756, it is marked "Ct. Sandy. Contrary to the general idea that the Big Sandy River was given its name because of its sandy banks is the true and substantiated fact that it was named for two Englishmen, Sir Edward Sandys and Sir George Sandys. The Sandys brothers were sent to America by the King of England to make a survey of this section of Virginia. They were responsible for sending early scouting parties to this part of the country. These early scouting parties and explorers were so impressed with the beautiful country and fertile soil, and they wished to express in some manner their appreciation to the Sandys brothers for the opportunity which they had given them in exploring this wilderness, that they named this river The Sandys River---thus becoming the Big Sandy River.

In 1941 the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America erected a marker on the banks of the Ohio River, between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets on Center. The following is a copy of the marker:

1541 1941

"Four centuries ago, Hernando DeSoto and his Spanish conquistadores penetrated the wilderness to look upon the "Father of Waters," the Mississippi River. Long afterwards other adventurers came in



Catlettsburg Wharf

boats down its tributary, the Ohio. We dedicate this tablet to DeSoto and all the brave men who, fearless of danger explore these two streams. They left to posterity the knowledge of a mighty water highway extending from the Alleghenies to the Gulf of Mexico, the outlet for the great valleys where history was to be made. Erected by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the States of Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia and in the Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Kentucky."

This marker is self-explanatory and only proves to us that the Ohio River has always been a river of romance and glamour.

One of the most imaginative, daring and resourceful of the early explorers was Robert Cavalier de LaSalle, who went from France to Canada in 1666 and sold furs at his trading post near Montreal. LaSalle had heard of the Ohio River from traders who had their information from Indians. In 1669 he sold his trading post and started southward and westward and reached the Ohio River.

The struggle for possession of the Ohio River is one of the most interesting chapters of history. It was LaSalle who established the French

sovereignty over much of the Ohio Valley a reign that lasted until 1763.

The Ohio River was referred to by the French as the "La Belle Riviere" (The Beautiful River). In 1747 a group of Virginians sought and obtained a royal grant from the King of England to lands on the Ohio on condition that they bear their own expenses and establish at least one hundred families upon the land within seven years. While the gentlemen of Virginia were perfecting their organization and making preparations for their first entry upon the new wilderness the French commander of New France, from his headquarters at Montreal, dispatched to the disputed territory Chevalier Celeron de Bienville, with a detachment of perhaps fifty soldiers, one hundred and fifty Canadians and thirty friendly Indians, to mark and proclaim French possession. This expedition followed the south shore of Lake Erie to Lake Chautauqua, thence to the headwaters of the Allegheny (which they regarded as the Ohio), to the Monongahela then on down the Ohio. They encountered a few Indian villages, with whom they tried to make friends, a few scattered English traders, whom they warned off the sacred French do-

main under threat of dire penalties. This expedition accomplished nothing. In the following year, 1750, the Virginia men sent a celebrated woodsman, and engineer, Christopher Gist, into the territory to find a suitable location for a colony. He followed the rivers and the course of the Ohio finding considerable friendliness for the French and suspicion of the English among the scattered Indians on its banks. At the Falls of the Ohio French Indians drove him from the river and he had to make his way homeward overland. On his return he had very disheartening reports to make. Gist's report gave the Virginia company no alternative but to abandon their plans for a permanent colony until conditions were more favorable.

Virginia, with an undetermined western limit, was more concerned about the encroachment of the French. Governor Dinwiddie consulted with Lord Fairfax, who recommended that a young major to the Virginia militia, George Washington, be sent to warn the French against further advance and to demand their retirement into Canada. It was a dangerous mission but Major George Washington never faltered. Christopher Gist who had already been over the ground accompanied him. He had not gone by way of the Allegheny but down the Monongahela and the Ohio and this was the way he led Washington.

In 1754 Governor Dinwiddie issued a proclamation granting 200,000 acres of land on the Ohio to the officers and men who would join the expedition to repel the French. It was for service in this war that the John Savage Land Grant was made. This land grant is explained more fully in our history under the heading, "Little Town on the Rivers". It was the grand, old Ohio which made George Rogers Clark's exploit possible. The Ohio River became increasingly the highway for emigration, not only

for settlement along its shores but upon its tributaries and inland places off the main waterways.

The emigration of men and women brought all sorts of boats down the Ohio--canoes, flatboats, bateaux, barges and keelboats of all models and dimensions. They set off singly and in fleets and the emigrants built single habitations and colonies according to their own ideas, principally along the south banks and the southern inflowing rivers and larger creeks.

The land trails along the banks, the "river roads" were also somewhat traveled for most of the boats were for one-way transportation. Only canoes and keel-boats propelled by poles, or "poled" could make headway against the current when the river was at a high stage and many of the earlier settlers knocked to pieces their boats and made houses of them. The first dwellings of many of the river towns were constructed out of boat timbers. Colonization made rapid strides and in the year 1788 nearly one thousand boats and over eighteen thousand persons with necessities for home building and crop raising went by Fort Harmer, opposite Marietta, Ohio. The keel boat was used on the Ohio River, prior to the advent of the steamboat, for the transportation for flour and other products. The increase in emigrants thereafter made the demand of a regular "packet" service. This service developed and offered settlers and travelers passage on their commodious boats, armed with artillery and riflemen and manned by stalwart crews, making regular trips between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

Mention has been made of the kinds and types of boats, which plied the Ohio, ranging from the Indians' dugouts and bark canoes to the armed and equipped "packets." Other early types of boats were the pirogues,

skiffs, dugouts, galleys, arks, broad horns, sneak boxes and rafts. The early boatmen also used crude sails when the winds were favorable.

For emigrant use the predominant style of raft was the flatboat, similar in construction to the old wooden barge, except that it frequently was just a big box, with ends as square as the sides, instead of having "scow" bows and sterns, rounded to offer less resistance to the water. The earliest shipyards were established at Elizabeth Town on the Monongahela River. These flatboats were called "Kentucky Boats" if they were only partly roofed and called "New Orleans Boats" if entirely covered. It is said that the first newspaper printed in Kentucky was set up and run off on such a boat en-route to Maysville. The properly constructed flatboat was propelled by four oars, or "sweeps", two on either side which required a strong man to operate, even down stream, and were steered by a long oar at the stern and a smaller one, called a "gouger" at the bow.

While the settlers were building their cabins, they often kept one or more of their larger and better flatboats at harbor in the river as a meeting place for their business sessions and religious meetings or in case of an emergency. They even experimented with the erection of a mill upon two flatboats, anchoring them midstream and allowing the current to turn the waterwheel.

The first Ohio River steamboat was built at Pittsburgh in 1810 - 1811, by Robert Fulton and his associates, Robert R. Livingston, DeWitt Clinton and Nicholas J. Roosevelt. This boat, the "New Orleans", left Pittsburgh in October, 1811 and on its eighth day out it reached Louisville around midnight. Citizens were roused from their beds in terror of the puffing and whistling of the craft. Many thought it

was a comet or a sea monster. Many people predicted that she could not return upstream after descending with the flow of the current. In part their theory was true. Arriving in the lower Mississippi her owners found trade awaiting her in and out of New Orleans to Natchez.

The "Enterprise" was the first to ascend the Ohio River in 1815. The steamboat that actually established regular traffic on the Ohio was the "Washington," the hull of which was built at Wheeling of timbers from old Fort Henry. She was especially designed for service on the Ohio. Her boilers and engines were placed on deck instead of in the hold and she was the first "double-decker."

Construction of steamboats from 1819 to 1850 continued rapid throughout these years and the volume of traffic on the Ohio and Mississippi exceeded that of the Atlantic ports.

Boats won fame for their elegance and speed and the rivalry between steamers and their owners resulted in many spectacular races. The packet boats were magnificent craft. They performed great service on the development of the Middle West. During the years 1854-1857 there were more steamboats on the river than any other period.

Catlettsburg being at the confluence of the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers was the point of transfer of all freight and passenger travel from the Ohio River steamers to points on the Big Sandy and was the terminal point of a fleet of steamers which plied the Big Sandy River. There being no railroads or other means of transportation the early river history of our town is very interesting.

In 1865 the banks of the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers, in front of the

town of Catlettsburg, were so precipitous and muddy that persons or freight were removed from the steamboats landing at said town with great difficulty. On May 22, 1865, the Board of Trustees of the town provided for the grading and paving of the wharf at the foot of Main Street (25th) from the top of the bank to the low water mark wide enough for two drays to pass Catlettsburg, maintained wharf boats to receive merchandise for the city and the Big Sandy Valley. On March 16, 1867 John C. Henderson was named as Collector for the "Port of Catlettsburg," and the rates of Wharf age were as follows: "On transient steamboats \$2.00 for every landing; on the largest size regular packets over one hundred tons, custom house measure, \$1.00 for each landing; and all steamboats under one hundred tons \$.50 (fifty cents) for each landing. For all store boats or trading boats \$1.00 for each landing and if they remain more than one day fifty cents per day for each day they remain and for each wharf boat, used for the purpose of wharf age and commission \$10.00 per month." In October, 1871 the wharf at the foot of Washington (22nd) Street was completed. This wharf was used extensively by the Patton Milling Company for the shipment of flour meal, pearl meal and coarse meal. In October of 1872 a contract for the extension and repair of the wharf (originally built by Frank Mott) was granted to P.S. Hart of Ironton, Ohio. The cost of the extension and repair was \$6,393.00. On May 5, 1873 the Public Landing on the Ohio River between Main Street and Division Street was established as a steamboat landing and all steam boats arriving at the town of Catlettsburg were required to land at this wharf and at no other point except with the written consent of H. C. Eastham, Wharf master.

In October, 1873 the Board of Trustees granted the Valley Wharf

Boat Company (John D. Mims, C. W. Andrews, Joseph Newburg and R. K. Price) the right and privilege to maintain a wharf boat at the steam boat landing for a period of three years. Robert K. Price was appointed wharf master. This contract was extended in February, 1877 for period of five years. Other companies or individuals renting the wharf privilege after this date were Brown and Cecil, Joseph Newburg, Randolph Botts, C. Cecil, Sr., Captain J. M. Kirker, Will Kirker, T. L. Marr and Ed Kirker.

On September 13, 1878 the Board of Trustees enacted an ordinance making it unlawful for any boat which landed at or in the vicinity of Gallipolis or other places affected by the Yellow Fever epidemic to land at any point within the corporate limits of the town of Catlettsburg. The penalty for the violation of this ordinance was \$50.00 for each offense. Captain G. W. Bay, owner of the steamboat "Crossly", and Captain M. Freeze, owner of the steamboat "Fleetwing" were cited to appear before the police judge for violation of this ordinance. Their plea that they had no notice of the law until they had landed at the public wharf resulted in the dismissal of the case.

River traffic at this time was flourishing. The extremely low rate of freight and passenger travel added to the development of our city. Passengers were carried from Pittsburgh to Catlettsburg for \$5.00, including meals and berth, while all classes of freight from Pittsburgh was carried for eight to twelve cents in small lots and larger lots contracted for much lower rates. A barrel of salt weighing three hundred pounds being delivered from Pomeroy to this point, a distance of seventy miles, for ten cents and all classes of freight from Cincinnati to Catlettsburg for ten cents per one hundred pounds.

Merchandise for the Big Sandy towns was transferred from the large Ohio River steamboats to the smaller boats plying the Big Sandy when there was sufficient water for steamboats and when the water was low this freight was transported by "push boats." The farmers hauled their products of the farm to market by ox-teams and there was always ready sale of these products for transportation to the large cities.

During the season of the low water stage merchants at Catlettsburg operated push boats for delivery of groceries, flour, clothing, and other merchandise to the upper Sandy Valley and on return to Catlettsburg would bring loads of ginseng, furs, pelts, herbs, sorghum, honey and other produce.

In the Big Sandy Herald of 1865 the following ad appeared:

"River Boats"
Big Sandy Packet
Steamer Rover
Captain Henry Hager
Leaves Catlettsburg Monday,
Wednesday, and Friday for Louisa
and intermediate points, when the
stage of the river will permit, she will
run to Pikeville, Prestonsburg and
Paintsville."

In 1889 there were eleven passenger and freight steamers plying on the Ohio River by Catlettsburg, with a carrying capacity of 7,000 tons and accommodation for 1,150 passengers. This was the terminal point of seven steamers on the Big Sandy with a carrying capacity of two hundred and eighty-five tons and passenger accommodations for one hundred and seventy passengers. Catlettsburg was the headquarters of the Sea Lion Tow Boat Company, which operated three tow-boats operating between here and Evansville, Indiana, two of which were

the the Sea Lion and Crown Hill owned by Captain William Smiley. Other tow boats were the Cobb Cecil, Hope, Gate City, Buckeye Boy, M. B. Goble and the Katherine Davis. Other Ohio River boats were the White Collar Line Boats, namely the Telegraph, Bostonia, Fleetwood and Big Sandy. Washington Honshell of Catlettsburg was Superintendent of the Portsmouth, Big Sandy and Pomeroy Packet Company, owner of the White Collar Line Boats. Other Ohio River boats were the Potomac, Fleetwing, Stanley, Virginia, Keystone State, Greenland, Natchez, Lizzie Bay, Vesper and the Hudson.

In 1852 Daniel Vaughan operated the "Tom Scott" from Catlettsburg to Louisa. In the same year he built the "Aid". Captain Vaughan built five large Ohio River steamers and four smaller Sandy River boats.

The "Favorite", a small side-wheeler was owned by Spurlock and piloted by Taylor Davis, ran from Catlettsburg to Pikeville. The Dexter, Mountain Girl, Mountain Boy and Sonoma were early Big Sandy boats.

The Sandy Valley and the Thealka were side-wheelers or "bat-wings". The Fannie Dugan was a daily packet from Portsmouth to Catlettsburg and was owned by Captain James T. Bagby. The side-wheelers were "Red Buck", "Ratliff", "Jennie", "George", "Sam Cravens", "J. C. Hopkins", "Ruth", "Maxie Yost", "Alex Yost", "Jerry Ashburn", "J. M. Kirker" and the "Louisa".

The "Stern Wheel double-decker" Sandy boats were the Tacoma, the Beulah Brown, the Andy Hatcher and the Mary L. Hatcher. The largest boat to ply the Big Sandy river was the "Argand".

Other stern wheel boats were the Fanny Freeze and the Lexington.

Captain Jesse Hughes was the pilot of the "Cricket."

Some of the owners of the boats were Dan Vaughan, Green Meeks, W. B. Yost, Captain P. S. Marcum, Captain John C. Hopkins, Frank Preston, Alex Yost, Shade Preston, Dick Ward, Rhodes Owens, Lindsey Preston, Captain Rexford Vaughan and Captain Bob Owens. Some of the pilots of the Ohio and Big Sandy boats were Captains Will Smiley, John McGuire, Taylor Davis, Dick Ward, Tom Vaughan and Bill Ward. Four of the engineers on these boats were Charles Snyder, Fonce Osborne, Dick Williams and Fonce Supene.

Ferryboats were operated for service between Catlettsburg, South Point and the "Virginia" Point. Two of the ferryboats were the "Lizzie" and the "Bessie." Several of the operators of ferryboats were Williams F. Davidson, Sam Sumpter and Rhodes Owens.

The Big Sandy River has always been unpredictable and when on a rampage, it was a vicious river. The high stages were always rushing, swirling sandy waters and the wash-out in July of 1875 started the crumbling of the river bank. This gave the citizens cause for much worry and breakwaters were built to protect them.

The timber trade on the Big Sandy began to grow rapidly in 1840. In 1860 just before the Civil War the run of timber had more than doubled since 1850. During the war between the States the trade almost stopped except for the furnishing of timber for gunboats. In 1866 the cutting and running of timber reached a new peak. The timber trade in the Big Sandy Valley was promoted extensively by the following timber merchants: John Meek, Jim Bartram, Robert Prichard, Monte B. Goble, W. J. Williamson, Sr.,

Henry Wright, Charles Hampton, Sam Vinson, Doc Vinson, John F. Daniel, Will Thornburg, Grant Thornburg, Samuel H. Nigh, John Burchett, Mordeca M. Williams, Rousseau Thornburg, Perly Brubaker and the firm of Cole and Crane of Cincinnati, who maintained an office in Catlettsburg.

The logs were cut, hauled and rafted together on the river banks in the upper Sandy Valley and left to wait for log tide to float it to the mouth of the river at Catlettsburg. About fifteen rafts were strung together, called a fleet, and guided and pushed by craftsmen with large oars.

In the early timber days "log pins" were used to hold the logs together and later "chain-dogs" took the place of log pins.

An unexpected rise in the river would often cause "log-jams" at which time it made it very difficult for the timber men to hold their logs together. During a run-out these logs would come down the river end over end, piling and jamming together and often times sending these logs into the air several feet high.

Numerous times the river at Catlettsburg had been frozen solid and heavy rains in the Upper Sandy Valley broke loose logs which were tied along the banks and started them downstream before the other logs below could pass. The river banks were lined for several miles with log rafts which were held back by the frozen river. The sudden rise of the upper river brought thousands of other logs downstream and resulted in the terrific log jam just above the mouth of Sandy. When the jam broke loose the force of the river and the logs against the ice caused a spectacular sight.

For several months after a "log-jam" the timber merchants would search the river below and claim their logs. Each merchant had his own brand, which was applied to each log by a branding hammer.

Catlettsburg was said to be one of the largest round timber markets in the United States. The amount of money paid out annually at Catlettsburg for timber and lumber had risen from an insignificant sum in 1840 to several millions in 1889, the quantity of timber run and its cash value increasing year by year. One timber firm in Catlettsburg handled one million dollars in timber in one season. This amount seems fantastic but statistics and verification have proven this to be correct.

In addition to poplar and walnut, the other timber usually sold were oaks, yellow pine, ash and hard maple.

The "timber runs" which lasted about five weeks meant hustling, bustling days, for the merchants and hotels. Often there were insufficient accommodations for the timber men and some homes were then opened for sleeping quarters. Other timber men or "loggers" were forced to sleep in chairs, on floors of the boarding houses or walk the streets all night, even though at that time we had five hotels and dozens of rooming houses. Hotels and homes, which accommodated the timber men employed extra cooks and help for all day and all night service. As soon as the timber men had delivered the logs they would hurry back "up Sandy" to bring down the next rafts while the river was at log stage.

In later years the log rafts were towed down stream by towboats owned by Catlettsburg timber merchants.

The decline of the river trade was gradual. Beginning in the early 1900's other markets opened throughout the country and the transportation of timber and other products by railroads ended the "golden goose" for Catlettsburg.

Glass blowers brought their glass boats to Catlettsburg about twice a year. These boats were very popular with the people of our town and surrounding country and did a flourishing business. Much of this glassware can still be found in the homes in and around Catlettsburg.

Show boats were always an attraction and anticipated for their wholesome diversion. The calliope heralded the approach of the show boats to town and from then until they left the shores of the town was reason for much excitement. The show boats plied the rivers and stopped at all busy river towns. The show boat season was from the first of March to December.

The showboat offered very high-class entertainment. The personnel varied from forty to sixty people, a fifteen piece band, an eight piece orchestra, a musical show with a chorus and the show was interspersed with high class vaudeville entertainment.

Some of the showboats playing at Catlettsburg were the Vanamberg, Cotton Blossom, French's New Sensation, Water Queen, Greater New York, Emerson, Sunny South, Gene Robinson's River Circus, Gene Robinson's Show Boat and the Wonderland. The Goldenrod was the largest showboat on the river and the Wonderland, the second in size. Some of the owners and advance agents of the showboats were: Swallow and Markle, Billy Menke, Ralph Emerson, J. W. Cooley, Norman F. Thorn, Cooley and Hagan, Price and French.

The advent of the motion pictures, the automobiles and the radio started the decline of the showboats and was eventually replaced by other types of entertainment.

On August 6, 1894, there was great excitement in Catlettsburg. Coxey's Army on the way to Washington came up the river on barges and landed at Twenty-fourth and North Street. The Board of Trustees was called into session immediately and guards were appointed to guard Coxey's Army during their stay in Catlettsburg.

In 1902 the Big Sandy Lock and Dam No. 1, located just above Thirty-first Street, was completed by the United States Government. The construction and building of this lock and dam was under the supervision of United States Engineer Benjamin F. Thomas. This lock and dam at its completion was a feat of engineering and was the highest needle dam in the world, being 18.2 at the height of the dam. The second highest at that time was a fourteen foot dam in France.



The contractors for the construction of the locks were Folz and Jonte. Sheridan and Kirk were contractors for the construction of the dam. William Rathbone was the first lockmaster. Hiram Crabtree was the second lockmaster and James Pigg, the third lockmaster who served in this capacity from March, 1907 until his

retirement in February, 1932. George P. Shannon became lockmaster in 1939.

The dam was "put-up" for the first time by Hiram Crabtree, Tom Vaughan and Ed Davenport.

The Greene Line Steamers was well known to the older generation as Captain Jesse Hughes had been a pilot on the Greene boats for many years. These boats never made regular stops at Catlettsburg but to many there are memories of excursions and trips to Cincinnati and New Orleans aboard these boats. Many persons in Catlettsburg were entertained as guests of the late Captain Mary Greene, the only licensed woman steamboat captain and pilot on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Miss Lillian Hughes, native of Catlettsburg and daughter of Captain Jesse P. Hughes, prior to her death was hostess on the "Gordon C. Greene" and for a number of years was in charge of the Greene Line Terminal Office in Huntington.

The following article appeared in the Waterways Journal in 1939:

"The Coast Guard Light-house has issued notice that on October 6, 1939 the Lillian Hughes light was established at Mile 20.2 below Pittsburgh. The custom of naming post lights located along our western rivers in memory of certain veteran river-men is a very beautiful one and conveys great honor to the ones whose names are thus chosen. This was the first time since the custom originated that a woman's name had been so honored."

We devote a moment of tribute to the men who had faith and foresight in the planning and building of Catlettsburg. The decline of the river trade did not cause them to falter in their ideas that Catlettsburg will rise again to become a vital spot for future commerce.

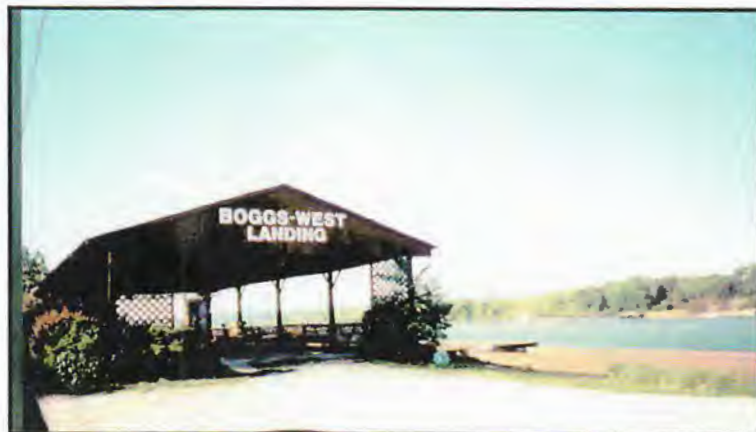
The tremendous growth which took place in river transportation indicated by the fact that during 1948 thirty new tow-boats and one hundred and forty-eight steel barges were constructed for service on the Ohio-Mississippi river system. Great many of these were operated by common carrier barge lines and also by private carriers which serve this section of the river in which Catlettsburg is located. In addition to the many boats of the Ashland Oil and Refining Company, which came and went regularly, the Catlettsburg terminal of Ashland Oil became a regular landing place for the heavy tows of such common carrier lines as the Mississippi Valley Barge Line, Union Barge Line, American Barge Line and others. Passing Catlettsburg every day are tows of coal, down bound from West Virginia, steel products which are southbound from Pittsburgh and big cargoes of petroleum products, sulfur, coke, chemicals, sand and gravel.

All of the new towboats constructed in recent years are powered with Diesel engines, further strengthening the trend toward Diesel power on the river. In 1949 it was estimated there were approximately eight hundred and ninety towboats plying the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and of their aggregate horsepower approximately sixty-five per cent were Diesel and thirty-five per cent were steam. In

1945 the steam and Diesel horsepower were approximately the same. Diesel engines towboats constructed in recent years have reached peaks of power and efficiency far beyond anything imagined back in the years when the steamboat was in its glory. Thus, the present towboats and barges are moving many times the freight tonnage which was handled during the era when steam was dominant.

There are now many towboats passing Catlettsburg, which can boast of 10,000 or more horsepower while seventy years ago a one thousand horsepower boat was tops. The largest of the beautiful old packet steamers of the past century might be able to carry a thousand tons of freight when loaded to capacity, while in the spring the Ashland Oil and Refining Company's towboat "Tri-State" came into Catlettsburg with a twenty-three thousand ton cargo of crude oil which it had brought up from Louisiana.

While freight became the dominant business of the Ohio, it is interesting to note a decided revival of interest in passenger travel on the river. In 1949 the Greene Lines operated the large sternwheeler steamer, Delta Queen, and the steamer Gordon C. Greene. Both boats were loaded with passengers for their lengthy trips up and down the rivers during the spring, summer and autumn months.



DO WE REALIZE?

Do we realize, fellow Catlettsburg natives, just what our native city has to offer the world? Can we actually visualize and comprehend what Catlettsburg means to us and the part it has played in the building of this great Tri-state area, and the part it is now playing in the development of the state of Kentucky?

It is a difficult task to do, for Catlettsburg has much to offer, and the borders of the city surround many things of which we should all be proud.

Catlettsburg is the city of many important people and events, now and way back then. We have documentation of these things for the generations to come to have to read and see. Although, Catletts Creek and the city of Catlettsburg are the only monuments commemorating the once proud family of Horatio Catlett for which the city was named.

The highest needle dam in the world was located here at the mouth of the Big Sandy River and if you would look toward the river, you might even see a "rainbow" in the sky or a "moonbeam" shining on the water. Remembering the beautiful sound and sight of the dam, as I sat on my front porch in 1952 on Lock Avenue, I wish it were there today. Oh! The beauty of it all.

It would be hard to find a city with as vivid a geography and history as Catlettsburg.

If you were to look down from the heavens, you would see a great basin of water on the eastern side of Catlettsburg, being the two important rivers, the Ohio and the Big Sandy; also while on the east, the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia, reaching their tall peaks toward the sky and the north dips into the Ohio River at Catlettsburg.

The hills to the west of the city are covered with beautiful green trees, along with a few homes and a Radio station on top. The beautiful view from above would also show you the compelling of the only outlet at the mouth of the big Sandy River, and the head of the valley. In the central section of Catlettsburg you will see the small town with buildings having beautiful Victorian architecture and that all roads lead to the city of Catlettsburg. To the south is a new section of businesses to form a better economy.

Not in these few paragraphs---or in these few pages of this history book---could we begin to tell what Catlettsburg has to offer? It is your duty, Catlettsburg residents, to learn about your native city and tell your neighbors, your friends, and visitors about our city. It is then that you are deeply proud to talk about Catlettsburg.

My Old Catlettsburg Home Is "New" to the Visitor's Eye. A redecorated, partly restored and renovated sight will meet their eye.

May God bless our small city and our people!

(Written by Betty Wright)



Scenic View of the Tri-State

HISTORY OF CATLETTSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

First of all, I want to express to you how proud we are of our Catlettsburg Elementary School, the only public school we have here now, except for the Church of God Christian School.



Catlettsburg Elementary – A Blue Ribbon School

Catlettsburg Elementary services the needs of students in grades K-5 residing in and near the City of Catlettsburg. Boyd County Middle School serves the entire county's sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. Boyd County High School serves the county's high school students. All Catlettsburg schools were consolidated into the Boyd County System in 1974.

Catlettsburg Elementary School has been recently recognized as one of the best elementary schools in the nation. Built in 1935 and renovated in 1993. Catlettsburg won the 1996-1997 National Blue Ribbon School Award from the U. S. Department of Education. Catlettsburg Elementary was one of just three elementary schools in the state and 262 elementary schools nationwide to receive this award, which will not be given again to elementary schools until 1999-2000. The recognition signifies that the school demonstrated a strong commitment to educational excellence for all students and met or surpassed the criteria in the federal agency's eleven-point "Conditions of Effective Schooling." In 1995, the school was also one of the first to be named a Welcome School by the Partnership of Kentucky Schools, a designation recognizing the school's success in bringing parents and the community into the school. Catlettsburg

Elementary had an official enrollment in 1997-1998 of 251 students. We are very proud also of our Principal, Mr. Rocky Wallace, and our beloved teachers who worked so hard to have our children have the best of education. Join us in giving them a proud Thank You!

Catlettsburg Elementary School came into being when the last of the Catlettsburg School District Schools and Yost Elementary was closed in the Spring of 1980. Catlettsburg Elementary then housed in a new building beside of the Catlettsburg Jr. High School. It consisted of seven classroom and offices. The school shared the gymnasium and cafeteria with the Jr. High. In 1993 Catlettsburg Jr. high merged with Summit Jr. High to form Boyd County Middle with the sixth, seventh and eightieth grade classes. Catlettsburg Elementary then took over all of the property of the Jr. High and became a school with an average enrollment of 330 students. It is located at 3348 Court Street (on US Route 23 & 60), Catlettsburg, Kentucky. Principals of this school have been Mr. James Conley, Mr. Bill Scott, Mrs. Ronda Tamme, and Mr. Rocky Wallace is the present principal.

CATLETTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT GONE

Monday, July 1, 1974

Catlettsburg Independent School District no longer exists. As of today, the first day of the new fiscal year, the district is a part of the Boyd County School District by virtue of a merger.

Dr. William P. Eidson superintendent of Boyd County School, said this morning, "Everything is going pretty much according to routine."

He said the final audit of the Catlettsburg district is being made and some renovations are in process. After the final audit is completed, records relating to central office matters, Catlettsburg Board of Education minutes books and financial ledgers will be moved to the Boyd County Board of Education office at England Hill, Dr. Eidson said. New furniture is being ordered for Catlettsburg Junior High (formerly Catlettsburg High) and Yost Elementary School, he said, and faculty and personnel assignments are being worked out.

Lawrence Armstrong and Bobby Joe Friley, former members of the Catlettsburg Board of Education, will be full voting members of the Boyd County Board of Education at the regularly scheduled meeting next Monday. The two have been attending board meetings for some months as non-voting members.

Our schools trace their beginning to a small log building, which stood near the junction of Division and Front Streets. This first school was established in the summer of 1819.

Another type of early school, the private Academy, appeared in Catlettsburg about 1850. Such schools were developed traveling teachers and were represented in many parts of Kentucky.

The Thornton Academy founded by a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Rev. Ezera C. Thornton, was opened in 1851. He also found time to build his residence, which was later known as the S. G. Kinner home on Broadway. This building was later removed when the railroads needed space for their expanding traffic. Rev. Thornton founded and published the first newspaper in 1854. The school was discontinued in 1858.

Another school, known to have existed about the time of the war, was that of Miss Margie Cruikshank. This was

a private school and stood near the location of the present underpass on Broadway. After the "War Between the States," a school was opened on a lot where the Presbyterian Church now stands. This was known as the Powell Academy. The course of study submitted by the Powell Academy for the Primary Department consisted of Oral and Blackboard Instruction, Spelling, Reading, and Writing on the slate. Lessons were also offered in Geography, Arithmetic, and McGuffey's first, second and third Readers.

The Intermediate Department offered Spelling and Defining, Mental and Written Arithmetic to Ratio Geography, History to the Revolution, Analytical Grammar, Map Drawing and Penmanship. In the Academic Department were found subjects such as Greek and Latin.

Closely following the founding of the Powell Academy, Mrs. N. S. Roberts started a co-educational Normal School and solicited students from the surrounding territory. The school was held in the brick and frame building where Miss Cruishank had her school. This school was not in existence very long, as Mrs. Roberts left Catlettsburg for a trip abroad. While she was traveling in Europe, the bank in the United States in which she had placed her money, failed and she was left stranded. The student body of the school made up the money to bring her home. Mrs. Roberts later married Mr. Mordecai Williams and founded the Eastern Kentucky Normal School. The class of 1888 graduates from Eastern Kentucky Normal School were Mattie J. Colbert and Docia McNaughton, and Maude R. Moore.

In 1870, Mrs. Garrett's School opened in Hampton City. It continued for many years.

The site of the above mentioned Powell Academy furnished the locations for another outstanding school. This one was founded by Miss Emma C. Kibbe. The

school opened in 1872 and continued until 1893. Later, this building was moved across the street. Remodeled as a residence and a school, this same building was the home of Mrs. Gladys McCown a niece of Miss Kibbe. This residence was also the home of Belle Smith and Tom Buckley until it was recently sold to the Funeral Home and was razed for a parking lot.

There is also a record of Catlettsburg erecting a school building on Chestnut Street in 1871. In the late 1870's, Mr. Taylor McClure started a school in the school building on Chestnut Street.

Other private schools were taught on Broadway and on Center Streets, but these closed in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century.

For many years, the struggling Public School System failed to grow. In 1870, a free school occupied a small frame building located on the hill opposite Vaughan's Corner, where Mr. Rube Watterman served as principal. Vaughan's Corner being the curve of Thirty-first and called now Charlie Waugh's corner.



Maxine L. Yost School

In 1882, a modern brick building was erected on Walnut Street, known as Second Ward School, and later named for Maxie L. Yost. It consisted of a high school and a grade school. The school board consisting of six men, Washington Honshell, W. J. Williams, Cobb Cecil, G. W. Andrews, R. H. Pritchard and R. C.

Burns, secured a charter from the State, issued bonds for \$10,000.00 and built the school. It had a nine-month course instead of a five-month program, which was common at that time. The members of the board agreed to remain on the board until the debt was retired. The first commencement of the high school was held at the Morse Opera House on May 28, 1891. Miss Ona B. Porter (who later became Mrs. Ben Steele of Washington, D. C.) was the only graduate.

In 1892, there were two graduates from second Ward High School, Maggie R. Hutchinson, Lelia B. Clark.

In 1893, there were eleven graduates from Second Ward: Edgar T. Cecil, Kenzie B. Cecil, Beatrice Finney, Sallie Hampton, Will Hampton, Jr., Kenna Williamson, Ella Bert Hutchinson, Mattie Lark, Lucy E. Prichard, Lillian Stafford, Jessie C. York.

In 1894, four graduated: Mabel Clark, Anna Killen, Eunice Menor and Gertrude Menor.

There were no graduates in 1895.

Five graduated in 1896, Rush Pennybacker, Karl Prichard, Ernest K. Eastham, Sophia Hutchinson, Howard Johnson. The Superintendent was J. B. Leech. Principal, William Hampton. Teachers: Mattie O'Neill, Louise Poage, Jack Carry, Marie Hamlin, Mrs. Leech. Salaries ranged this year from \$35.00 to \$60.00 a month.

In 1897, four graduated: Howard Dickseed, Everett Jackson, Alice Mullan, Fay Patton. New teachers added or changed were: Ruby Pixley, Jennie Schute, and Elizabeth Clinefelter.

In 1898, graduates were Glen F. Clark, Nell Hopkins, Mame Killen, Ceres Kinner, Levera Lanham, Ernest Menor, Charles Vaughan, Jessie Workman. Two teachers added: Beatrice Finney, B. F. Forgey.

No graduates in 1899. Teachers remained the same.

In 1900, graduates were: Helen Adams, Belle Boggs, Mary Bartholomew, Maude Crowell, Martin Elderman, Tandy Ford, Helen Faulkner, Mary Keelin, Adah C. Jones. Three teachers added: W. M. Clark, Mrs. Ferdinand Lippert, and Laura Berry.

In 1901, graduates were Dixie Newberry, Proctor K. Smiley, and Matilda Williamson. Teachers added were: Jenka Rice, Lida Thornbury, Gertrude Menor, and John Ramey.

In 1902, graduates were: Mary E. Boggs, Belle Kennedy, Johnnie Montague, Allene Patton, Eleanor Silcott, Mayme Sweeney, Mayme Gobel Workman. Teachers added: V. S. Dalrymple, Ollie Moore, and Fay Patton.

In 1904, the two graduates were Thomas Grizzle and Leonard Hood. Superintendent, W. P. Helm. Teachers added: Sarah Belle Boggs, Ella Williams, Laura S. Magruder, Mrs. W. P. Helm.

In 1905, graduates were: Quinn Brown, Anna Cecil, Birdie Dagley, Mayme Montague, Grace Wellman, George M. Wolfe. Teachers added or changed were: Pansy Winters, Maggie Kelly, Neva Burns, and Marie Roberts.

In 1906, the graduates were: Garnet Berger, Artie Covington, Fannie Lee Hite, Clara Lark, and Robert A. Lowry. Teachers added or changed were: L. E. Gutridge, Ethel Wolfe, Mary Bartholomew.

In 1907, graduating: Fred Crowell, Paul Eastham, Clarence Eads, Will Morton, Grace Montague, and Marcella Wittenburg. One new teacher: Glen E. McKay.

In 1908, graduates were: Marie Fields, Nigh Daniel, Blanche Kilgore, Adele Patton, Hazel Runyan, Iona Scott, Hazel L.

Wellman. Two new teachers: Bertie Kilgore and Fay Scott.

In 1909, graduating were: Flaura Daniel, Ada Kilgore, Eunice Pope, Lillian Baker, Virginia Barton, Ruby Dagley, Lulu Williamson. Teachers remained the same.

The Thomas R. Brown High School was erected in 1910. Graduating this year were: Hazel Berger, Samuel Boggs, Garnet Faulkner, Sadie Jackson, Arnold Jenkins, Susan Lanham, Laban Patton, Mamie Runyan, Fay Scott, Anna Spears, Maxine Lee Yost. One teacher added: Pearley Gaskill.

The 1911 Graduates: Ethel Coffey, Annie Haney, Zack Justice, Esther Price, Walter Robinson, Jeanette Runyon. High school teachers: Glen McKay, C. V. Hannum. Principal, First Ward, J. F. Skeens. Teachers: Mrs. J. F. Skeens, Virginia Lark, Susie Roten. Principal, Second Ward, O. K. Campbell. Teachers: Mattie O'Neill, Elizabeth Clinefelter, Pansy Winters, Maggie Kelly, Bertie Kilgore, and Nell Elkins.

The 1912 graduates were: Sophia Meek, Ora Darlington, Elfie Davenport, Shirley Daniel, Jenka Kennedy, Bessie Field, Elizabeth Wittenburg. Easter Clere, Ima Ford, Bettie Barbee, Felicia Patton, Goldie Baker, Clara O'Brian. Superintendent was C. E. McCorkle. Principal, High School, R. I. Cord. Teachers: C. V. Hannum and Grace Montague. Principal, First Ward, J. F. Skeens. Teachers: Mrs. Skeens, Garnet Faulkner, Virginia Lark, Nora Conley. Principal, Second Ward, O. K. Campbell. Two new teachers, C. E. Rouse and Hazel Wellman.

The 1913 graduates were: Jennie Arthur, Lutie Carmack, Paul Davis, Jim Lowry, Sam Thomas, Forest Hatfield. A. W. Glasgow was added as a teacher at the High School. Two new teachers at Second Ward: Mrs. J. M. York and Nigle Daniels.

In 1914, graduates were: Abbie Jackson, Bertha Williams, Georgia Pratt, Mildred Pratt, Mildred Runyan, Frank Barbee, Goldie Short, Charles Runyan, Nick Fannin, Jimison McGlothlin, Dawn Flanery, Dewey Flanery, Jay Hewlett. Superintendent. J. O. Faulkner. Principal, High School: C. V. Hannum, teachers were: A. W. Glasgow, Lulie E. Logan, Nigle Daniels. Principal, First Ward, Mrs. Maude Adams. Teachers: Nora Conley, Garnet Faulkner, Georgia Pratt. Second Ward, Principal, O. K. Campbell. Teachers: Maggie Kelly, Mattie O'Neill, Elizabeth Clinefelter, Bertie Kilgore, Bettie Barbee, Mrs. Walter Johnson, and Maxine Lee Yost.

In 1915, graduates were: Pauline Eastwood, Ida Millis, Nelle Millis, Elizabeth Wright, Nola Willis, Donald Meek, Linwood Lambert, Gladys Sanford, Carl Williams, Everett Caldwell, Charles Cooley, Phil Carter, Louise Beard, Algie Nunley, Geraldine Williamson, A. W. Glasgow became Principal at the High School. Added teacher was Violet Franz. India Ross became a teacher at First Ward, plus Johnnie Montague. Two were added at Second Ward: Mildred Pratt and Mrs. W. T. Ferguson.

In 1916, graduates were: Cora McGlothlin, Eloise Runyan, Lillian Eskew, Alice Coldiron, Louise Price, Georgene Dismukes, Russell Field, Rice Braley, Raymond Clay, Purl Thornbury, Gaynelle Borders, Elizabeth Ross, George Gallup, Neil Kennedy, Bernard Hensley, Harriet Thornbury, Edgar Slagle, Carroll Slagle, Taylor Beard, Edwin Willis, Pauline Walker, Virginia Eads, Hager Coldiron, Mae Eckerle, Raymond Emerick, Syip Akers, Minnie D. Maynard. One new teacher at the High School: Frances C. Duggar. One added at Second Ward: Stella Stanley.

Names of Superintendents, Principals and teachers were known for the following years, but graduates are not listed in the records.

High School, Bera James and Ida Washington, Stella Hensley was added at Second Ward. This was in the year of 1917-1918.

In 1918-1919, A. W. Glasgow became Superintendent. W. E. Holloway became Principal. Teachers, High School: Nora Barr, Mary Jo Vanderburg. Teachers added at First Ward were: Mrs. Anderson Hatfield and June Williamson. New teachers at Second Ward were: Marie Rucker, Della Douglas, Mrs. Harry F. Price, and Maude Louise Chatfield. Mrs. Clinefelter also became the Principal this year.

In 1919-1920, the new Superintendent was H. L. Donovan (who later became President of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky). Principal of First Ward was Mrs. E. Poe Harris. Teachers were June Williamson and Mrs. George Mason, and Mrs. Anderson Hatfield. Personnel remained the same at Second Ward. Principal at Fourth Ward was Mrs. Vesta Thornberry. Teachers were: Margaret Bryan, Ruah Warman and Goldie Hammond.

In 1920-1921, Principal at the High School was Joseph I. Arnold. Teachers: Lucy Craycraft, Kathleen Morgan, Mary Huston. First Ward teachers added were: Nell Layne, Myrtle May Jones. Teachers were the same at Second Ward. Principal at Fourth Ward was Elsie Stark. Teachers were the same.

School for Colored: Mrs. Eliza Boyd, Katherine Shelly, and Edith Eckerle.

The following item was taken from minutes of Board Meeting on June 29, 1920. From Kinner Heirs; Seven acres of land at a price of \$2,400.00 for Fourth Ward School Building.

In 1921-1922 because First Ward School was overcrowded, the Board leased a frame building on 32nd Street for ten months, dating from August 1, 1921, at a monthly rental of \$28.00, from Sheridan

Boyd and William Puckett. Bonds were sold through Attorney George Martin to Breed, Elliott and Harrison of Cincinnati for \$40,000.00 with Crude Interest of \$620.00 on September 30th.

Teachers hired: Superintendent, W. M. Wilson. High School; Frances Hart, Esther Vaughn, and Mary Baynham. First Ward: Ethel Bolt Smith. Second Ward: Willie Caines.

Until this year, Trustees hired and fired the school personnel. This year, the following became members of The Board of Education: Mrs. J. J. Emerick, Mr. J. B. Leech, Mr. J. A. Tauber, Mr. P. E. Caldwell, Mr. J. R. Estep and Mr. H. M. Chatfield.

Contracts were awarded for two new schoolhouses, one in First Ward and one in Fourth Ward, to Elswick and Ramey of Ashland for their bid of \$33,099.00. J. R. Scott had the lowest and best bid for excavating and construction of retaining walls, sub-walls, etc. Harry Davis was the successful bidder on wiring the two new school buildings for \$775.00. J. T. Moran was the successful bidder on the plumbing for the two schools for \$1,937.00.

In 1922-1923, the school personnel was: Superintendent, W. M. Wilson. Principal, L. G. Shultz. Teachers were: Mrs. Maude Adams, Esther Vaughn, and Eliza Clay Mason. First Ward: Mrs. Anderson Hatfield, Mrs. George Mason, Ethel Bolt Smith, Nell Layne, Willie Caines. Second Ward: Principal, Elizabeth Clinefelter. Teachers were: Mattie O'Neill, Maxine Yost, June Williamson, Maggie Kelly, Della Douglas, Ethelbert Litman, Hazel Fannin. Principal, Fourth Ward, Mrs. John Haney. Teachers were: Goldie Hammond and Mrs. J.M. York. Mrs. Agnes Lockwood was teacher at the Colored School.

In July of 1922, W. C. Collins was elected Principal of First Ward School. New High School teachers were: Mary Burk, Bess Parry, and Mina Foul.

On November 7, 1922, the plot of ground known as Kinner School Site was sold to D. A. Hank of Ashland for \$2,400.00.

The two new elementary schools were ready for occupancy in 1923-1924. Mrs. Anderson Hatfield was elected Principal of First Ward. Superintendent, W. M. Wilson, resigned in April of 1923. Mr. J. T. Miracle was elected Superintendent. Olin B. Smith was Principal of the High School. Teachers were Mrs. Olin B. Smith, Mildred Welch, Maude Adams, Esther Vaughn, Rachel Lusk, Lucille Holt, Edie Rutherville and Mealus Swan. First Ward: Principal, Mrs. Hatfield. Teachers were: Ethel B. Smith, Carolyn Clay, Nell Layne, Willie Caines, Mary Burk, and Mrs. E. Poe Harris. Second Ward: Principal, Mrs. Clinefelter. Teachers were Maxine Yost, Mattie O'Neill, Maggie Kelly, Maude Louise Chatfield Waston, Kathleen Lowry, Della Douglas Barrett, Ethelbert Litman, and Margaret Auxier. Fourth Ward: Principal, Mrs. John Haney. Teachers remained the same.

In 1924-1925, Mr. Powell Barker became Principal of the High School. Mr. Dewitt Collins became a teacher. Also, Virginia Shanklin and Joseph Cedeyco. Personnel remained the same at First Ward and Second Ward. Teachers added at Fourth Ward were Margaret Rutherford, Marie Ross, and Ruby Ramey. In 1925-1926, Mr. W. B. Stallard became a High School teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Swor, Virginia Caldwell and Martha Frances Johnston were added to First Ward. All other teachers remained the same, with the following added: Bertha Lusk, Gladys Rhoades, Leota Francisco, Miss Cosner, Helen Cabell, Bessie Cabell, Willie Lee Preston.

In 1940, First Ward was changed to the Docia M. Hatfield School Fourth Ward was changed to the Gertrude M. Haney School. In 1959, Second Ward was changed to the Maxine L. Yost School.



Docia M. Hatfield School

At one time, the Board of Education was considering purchasing on Riverfront an old Electric Light Plant Site for purpose of building a high school. This evidently did not materialize.

The date of the founding of the first school for colored children in Catlettsburg is thought to be around 1874. It was located on Upper Panola Street. The school was removed when the railroads made improvements in 1929-1930. Then a new building was opened for the grade school children on a new location on Upper Panola in 1930.

High School students were educated at Booker T. Washington School in Ashland. It was located near Tenth Street, on Central Avenue. The grade school in Catlettsburg was discontinued due to small enrollment in 1940, and all colored students attended Ashland Public Schools.

The Catlettsburg community, feeling the need for a gymnasium and auditorium, completed the construction of such a building in 1937. This was located alongside the Hatfield Grade School and in 1965, a new Catlettsburg High School was constructed, with the gymnasium and auditorium being a part of this school. Later the school was changed to the Catlettsburg Junior High School and today is the Catlettsburg Elementary School.

The Thomas R. Brown High School was razed about the year of 1969. The Catlettsburg School System merged with the Boyd County System in 1974. Haney School was closed and torn down a few

years later. Hatfield School was used as part of the Junior High and Kindergarten for Yost.



Gertrude Haney School

CHS ALMA MATER

On Kentucky's eastern border,
Reared against the sky,
Proudly stands our Alma Mater,
As the years roll by.

Forward ever, be our watch-ward,
Conquer and prevail;
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,
C H S, ALL Hail!

Cherished by her sons forever,
Memories sweet shall throng,
'Round our hearts our Alma Mater,
As we sing this song.



Thomas R. Brown High School

The Thomas R. Brown High School was built in 1910. It was named after a local attorney and school board member.

The building was without a doubt one of the most unusual educational structures in Catlettsburg.

The school was located at 30th and Louisa Street and had more the appearance of a castle or a church than a school. It had a rather steep roof and the walls on the sides were supported by what looked like crude sort of buttresses. At the top of each corner of the building was a parapet of sorts, and a tower just to the right of the front doorway looked like something out of the middle ages. The building was constructed of yellow brick and was predominantly Gothic in style. The building soon became too small for the number of pupils it had. An addition was made to the rear of the building, including four rooms.

The last class to graduate from Thomas R. Brown was in 1964. The school building was later sold to Mr. Thomas Ewing, a local businessman, and was razed a few years later. The Fivco Building now stands on the property.

While we don't know of any distinguished graduates, the school produced a fair share of doctors, lawyers, and professional people. A 1915 graduate, Ida Lee Willis, became a First Lady of Kentucky by marrying Simeon Willis, governor from 1943 to 1947. Yes, let us not forget our famous author Billy C. Clark. At the moment my mind is not clear as to names of others.

Sports wise, the Thomas R. Brown High School produced many excellent athletes. The "orange and black" of the Catlettsburg Wildcat will never be forgotten. The name and colors were passed down to the Catlettsburg Junior High Wildcats and now the Catlettsburg Elementary students are called the almighty Wildcats.

While we cannot possibly list all the teachers, coaches, superintendents, and principals, perhaps you can reflect back to your school days and reminisce about

your favorite or not so favorite, sorry teachers, but this does happen, although we greatly appreciate all the things you gave us so that we could survive in this world. Of course, I remember Mr. Carl Hicks and Mr. Floyd Hall, Pappy Holbrook, Cobbie Lee, and you couldn't forget Mr. "fire out of here" Kidwell. And there's Mrs. Mary Lewis, Mrs. Helen Osborne, Eloise Pratt, Mrs. Nora Stallard, Mrs. Virginia Caldwell, June Williamson, Marcella Smith, Elizabeth Conley, Mr. E. D. Cornwell, Mrs. Laura Alice Freeman, Mrs. Whitman, Mary Bartram, Leona Thacker, Mrs. Florence Mason, W. B. Stallard, Wilna Eastham, Helen Weaver, Ruth Fisher, Janet Spicer, Dan Harmon, Charlie Snyder - Coach, Carl Ward - coach, Frank Burns - Principal, Harold Barker - coach, Alvis Brown - coach, Dale Craycraft - coach, Willa Kibbey, Pauline Lambert, Dorothy Nextor, Katherine Hubbard, Helen Leas, Coleman Arnold - Principal, Mrs. Winn A. Field, Mr. Ellis Wiley, Beecher Bowling, Pansy Clark, Howard Rule and David Smith - Band Directors, Floris Liles, William Riggs, Mr. Thomas N. McCoy - Superintendent, Mr. Elmer Bellany, Superintendent, Mr. Gene Foster - Coach, Mr. Al Osborne - coach, Professor John Lewis the Band Director who started the first band in 1957, Mrs. Mae Crace, Miss Carolyn Clay, Mrs. Sophia Mason, and the list goes on and on, but not my memory, sorry.

Nora R. Stallard, former principal of Yost School was first woman to hold the post of Catlettsburg School Superintendent.



Don Zornes - the last graduate to receive a diploma from Catlettsburg High School, May 24th, 1974.

CITY HALL

"TIME TO GO" --- "TIME TO REVIVE"

On February 29th, 1976 the Ashland Daily Independent reports the Grand Jury Notes as being:

CATLETTSBURG --- The Boyd County grand jury made its periodic report of the condition of the Courthouse and Catlettsburg city building Thursday, citing minor repairs needed in both buildings.

The grand jury's general comments about the condition of the city building were laudatory. It said it would like to "express appreciation for work being done on the city building and, considering the age of the building, we feel the city officials are doing a fair job maintaining it." More specifically, the grand jury said: ---Carpet and new bannisters have been installed on the stairs, new paneling on the walls, new windows are planned for the building and more office space will be

available upon renovation of the women's jail.

- The city jail was clean, with new mattresses on the beds.
- The city clerk's office has unvented gas heaters and the gas heater in the courtroom has inadequate venting.
- Storage tanks in the hallway are violation of OSHA standards and should be tied off.
- Fireman's quarter were not particularly well kept, but "reasonably adequate" in view of the fact the force is volunteer.

"Not too bad a report" -- "Not too good a report either", but in later years it was evident that the old building must go, and so it went.

Out of The Past and Into the Future



CITY HALL DEC. - 1911 OFFICERS	
J.J. MONTAGUE, MAYOR	J.H. MCCONNELL, JUDGE
H.M. CHATFIELD, CITY CLERK	B.H. HARRIS, ATTORNEY
ERNEST MEEK, TREASURER	B.E. CORMACK, POLICE CHIEF
B.W. DEPUTY, ASSESSOR	CHAS. COMPTON, FIRE CHIEF
COUNCIL	
T.L. FORD SR.	
C.B. WELLMAN	
HARRY DARLINGTON	
J.E. MCCALL	
W.B. WELLMAN	
FRANK ROSS	
R.S. DINKLE	
JOHN SHORTEIDGE	
BUILDING COMMITTEE	
R.S. DINKLE, CHAIRMAN	
T.L. FORD, SR.	
W.B. WELLMAN	
FRANK ROSS	
BUILDERS	
R.L. DAY, ARCH'T	
G.W. GUNNELL, Supt.	
J.A. RHODES CONTR'	
F. RAWLINS, FOREMAN	

History of Town Hall

As the town of Catlettsburg grew, the need for a city building was realized and this was achieved in 1911. Town Hall, a handsome building constructed of brick, was just off the main intersection. On the street level, the fire department stood ready, as did the police department on the second level. Above that was the jail, and above that a very large clock. Each Sunday, when families gathered for dinner at grandparents' the adults always discussed who had "spent the night under the town clock" that weekend. Time made a few changes. The police department and jail moved down to the first floor and on

the second level were the offices of Mayor, Judge, Clerk, Treasurer and the courtroom. On January 13, 1995 this monument was demolished making ready the lot for the new building.

The need arises again for a more modern and up-to-date building. The new building was constructed in the year 1996. Construction is of steel and masonry blocks. This building contains the offices of Mayor, Police Department, Fire Department, Treasurer/Clerk and Building Inspector.

FRIENDS OF CATLETTSBURG

Our fair city has a proud and unique past as the eastern gateway to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Now we are embarking on a new beginning with the construction of a new Municipal Building to better serve the needs of our citizens. Every citizen of Catlettsburg as well as our friends in surrounding communities can participate in this exciting project. Although every effort has been made to control expenses construction costs will exceed budgeted funds. Therefore, the City is accepting contributions. Contributing a gift of \$1,000 or more, you can become part of the permanent history of Catlettsburg. Names of these contributors will be inscribed on a plaque permanently located in the building. Those contributing up to \$1,000 will be recognized in the program distributed at the new building's dedication. Every gift is welcome. The contribution may be tax deductible. Contact Pauline Hunt at 739-4533 for details, and help us begin again!

(The Sunday Independent, Ashland, Kentucky)
(September 7, 1997)

CATLETTSBURG CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS GETTING FINISHED

(The Daily Independent, August 25, 1997)

Many of the recent improvements in Catlettsburg are invisible above ground, but one new half-million dollar addition to the town stands prominently on a busy corner.

The new city building is nearly complete and should be ready for occupants by the middle of next month.

Meanwhile, work continues below ground on the \$5.6 million sewer project that should wind up late this year.

"There's just a lot going on right now," said Mayor Roger Hensley. "And it's all going pretty smoothly, right about on schedule."

Meade Construction has nearly finished its work on the steel city hall at the corner of Broadway and 26th streets.

"We're looking forward to a roof that doesn't leak and a floor that doesn't cave in," Hensley said, referring to problems at the Old Mill Service Station on Center Street, where the city's police and fire departments have been housed since the old city building was torn down in 1995.

The old city hall was 83 years old and had deteriorated to a point where city officials determined it would be cheaper to raze it than repair it.

The town's administrative offices are currently in a building on Louisa Street the city is leasing from a local bank. And the city's records, equipments and other items are spread across town, including in the garages of Councilman John Plummer and his son.

"It will be nice to get everything in one place," Hensley said.

One item from the old building ---the old clock tower bell --- will have a place of honor in front of the new city hall on 26th Street.

The new building will cost \$488,699, including one change order for \$1,400. The city has accumulated about \$400,000 in savings, including a \$100,000 loan repayment from Kentucky Electric Steel, and donations. The council plans to borrow about \$80,000, or less, depending on donations.

Council member Mick Hedrick said the name of any group or individual donating \$1,000 or more will be put on a metal plaque that will hang in the treasurer's office in the new building. So far, eight such donations have been received from: Ashland, Inc. Foundation, Boggs Towing Service, Elks Lodge 942, Catlettsburg Federal Savings Bank, Columbia Gas, Kentucky Farmers Bank, Harold Freedman in memory of Julius Freedman, and the Hedrick family.

The city plans to dedicate the new building in October.

By November, work should be wrapping up on the sewer project.

The contracts on that project were signed Dec. 2 and included the stipulation that everything be done within 300 days. City engineer Paul Rogers said last week it looked as if the three contractors were operating pretty much on schedule.

"I think the job has gone well, other than the cleanup and some misunderstanding from the general public," Rogers said. "But that's fairly common in all construction projects."

So far, there had been just one major change order --- for \$66,000 to replace steel beams at the sewer plant and to build a retaining wall in front of the sludge dry beds there. The city had a \$300,000 contingency fund set up for such additions.

Catlettsburg received two grants totaling \$1.4 million to help pay for the project, one of the first in the state where sanitary and storm sewers will be separated. The town is also using about \$1 million from its savings and took out a \$3.2 million 20-year loan from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority.

The city's 1,125 sewer customers are paying significantly high rates to pay off those loans. In January, the council upped the rates to \$8.50 for the first 1,000 gallons and \$4 per 1,000 gallons after that. The old rate was \$4.80 for the first 2,000 gallons and \$2.40 per 1,000 gallons after that.

Some residents have complained about the contractors' paving and cleanup work in the project. Rogers said all that will be done to the residents' satisfaction by the end of the contract period.

"The common misunderstanding is when they do work in a certain neighborhood, they should clean up that neighborhood at the same time," he said. "But the contractor looks at it as an entire city project. As an engineer, I cannot direct their work unless it is creating a safety hazard."

The city council has fielded complaints about the project at its meetings for the past several months. Most residents have gone away grumbling, but with a better understanding of the project.

One who will get satisfaction is William Christy of Center Street. Hensley is going to buy bulbs and the Boyd County Master Gardeners are going to plant them to replicate the flower bed the sewer work destroyed in Christy's yard. "I think that's the least I can do, considering the beautiful yard he had," Hensley said.

The contractors did comply with the council's request to repave the downtown street first after many businesses complained that sales were way down.

There are still some lines to be laid in the outskirts of town and work to be done at the sewer plant.



The City of Catlettsburg

*Municipal Building
26th and Broadway*

Open House

*Saturday, May 23, 1998
from 12:00 until 2:00 p.m.*

Ceremony - Refreshments

- GATE CITY SETS OPEN HOUSE -

(The Daily Independent, Ashland, Kentucky)
(Friday, May 22, 1998)

CATLETTSBURG—Certificates honoring donors to Catlettsburg's new city building will be awarded Saturday as the community marks open house at the midtown structure.

Mayor Roger Hensley said ceremonies will be simple at the celebration, scheduled from noon to 2 p.m.

"We do have the bell from the old city building mounted in front of the new one," he said.

The \$500,000 one-floor building, erected by Meade Construction Co., houses administrative office, the fire department and some police offices.



"CITY FATHERS"

Catlettsburg was incorporated as a town on February 11, 1858, and operated under a town charter until it was formed as a City of the Fifth Class. The Charter of the town required Catlettsburg to have a board of five trustees, one town marshal and one police judge. These early officers are named in our history under the heading of "HEART OF THE TRI-STATE".

On October 5, 1893, the annexation of the territory of Hampton City, from Ice Dam Bridge to the northwestern limits of town, was authorized and approved by the Board of Trustees. On the same date the town was divided into four wards, including all property from the southern limits of Ice Dam Bridge to the Martin-Haney line at the northern section of town.

On March 19, 1894, by an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky the City of Catlettsburg was assigned from a city of the Fifth Class to a city of the Fourth Class. Officers at this time were the following:

Mayor J. C. Hopkins, Councilmen Fletcher Garrett, W. B. Faulkner, W. L. Andrews, R. R. Barton, C. W. Berger, John A. Bartram, J. S. Mitchell and George Mason. City Clerk Frank Scott, Marshal J. L. McLean, City Attorney L. T. Everett, Police Judge James H. McConnell.

The first "City Fathers" held their meetings in various offices and store buildings and records from 1860 show them to be astute public servants in transacting the many problems of that time. The problems of drainage, health and sanitation, bridges, streets, river front, law and order and the river

traffic were sufficient reasons for many meetings. The numerous purchases of coal oil for their lamps show that they devoted much of their time for the purpose of the development of the town.

In 1870 the meetings of the Board of Trustees were held in the Court House in the office of the Police Judge. Meetings were held each Saturday evening at six o'clock. The growth of the City by this time required the additional service of a night policeman and R. B. McCall was appointed to this position. Street lamps were installed and Peter Cooley was employed as the Lamp Lighter.

Fire protection was furnished by the purchase of fire hooks, ladders and buckets for the volunteer brigades. Later fire wells were established in various sections of town. The first organized volunteer fire department of which we have record included the following citizens:

C. B. Wellman, E. C. Crow, Sterling Price, Miles Plymale, J. W. Newman, Fritz Ulen, J. A. Kilgore, J. B. Barbee, Elam Crow and Addison Barnett. These firemen were paid two dollars per month.

On April 15, 1898 the City Council passed an ordinance creating a City Fire Department. James A. Kilgore was appointed fire chief.

In March of 1865 the Board of Trustees saw the need for a substantial bridge across Catletts Creek. They decided that Center Street would be the suitable location for such a bridge. The Ashland-Catlettsburg Turnpike Company received its charter on January 26TH, 1867 and it is possible that the Board

of Trustees considered this fact in the location of the bridge. The Turnpike Company established its tollgate on Center Street at Medley's Lane.

During the same year R. W. Winn presented his bid of \$2,000 for the construction of the bridge. The town obtained a loan for this amount and carried out the construction. This was a big step forward for the town and the constant worry of someone traveling at a "speed greater than a walk" across the bridge was ended. On April 5, 1876 the Bridge Committee, D. Kinner, Robert Eastham and John W. Dillon, reported that a new bridge should be erected on Broadway. In May of 1876 they reported that the new bridge was impractical at that time due to the cost. The Board of Trustees then allowed \$138.00 for the repairs on the old bridge. In November 1877 bonds in the amount of \$179 were issued for building a footbridge across Catletts Creek on Broadway. On June 15, 1878 plans were presented for an iron bridge across Catletts Creek on Center Street. The contract of A. Lawless for the earth and stone work was approved and the King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company of Cleveland, Ohio, was granted the contract for the construction of the bridge. S. A. Forbes, Civil Engineer, was appointed to supervise construction. The bridge was completed in November 1878 at the approximate cost of \$4,500.00. In 1924 the City issued Bridge Bonds in the amount of \$48,000.00, to be retired over a period of twenty years, for the construction of two modern concrete bridges. These bridges span Catletts Creek and are located on Broadway and Center Street. Frank L. Adams, Civil Engineer was employed to supervise the construction of the bridges.

The drainage of the town was another problem which confronted the Board of Trustees. The first methods

used by the town were ditches, which the property owners were required to dig. In December of 1865 the town passed an ordinance requiring property owners to drain their lots to the main sewers by the building of stone gutters and wooden sewers. Other early sewers were built of clay or brick. In 1923 the City issued a twenty-year bond issue for \$40,000.00 for the construction of new sewers in the town. Since that date new subdivisions have been opened and it was again necessary to float another bond issue for additional construction and repairs. Bonds were issued in May, 1948 for the amount of \$40,000.00.

The town developed rapidly from 1849 to 1865. Wooden sidewalks replaced country lanes. There was a constant desire of the Board of Trustees for beautification during this period as ordinances were passed requiring property owners to pave the sidewalks in front of their property with hard, burnt brick and the sidewalks were required to be eight feet in width. During this same period property owners were also required to plant shade trees along the sidewalks. Early records show that Catlettsburg streets were paved at an early date. The establishment of the Catlettsburg Brick and Tile Company perhaps helped make the City of Catlettsburg one of the best-paved cities in the State of Kentucky.

During the period of annexation and public improvement George Mason, Civil Engineer served as City Engineer and his services to the City of Catlettsburg have been invaluable in the progress and territorial expansion of Catlettsburg.

The years following 1890 brought substantial public improvements to Catlettsburg.

On January 18, 1891 the Catlettsburg Water Company, (W. A.

Patton and his associates) purchased the franchise for the purpose of operating water works in the city. In 1894 the Catlettsburg, Kenova & Ceredo Water Company became the successor of the Catlettsburg Water Company and at the present time the community is served by the City of Ashland, Department of Utilities. The original contract and franchise specified that not less than thirteen thousand two hundred feet of water mains should be laid within the city.

On February 16, 1891 the Board of Council granted a franchise to the Carpenter Electric Light and Power Company (D. H. Carpenter, President and Charles P. Carpenter, Secretary-Treasurer) to furnish commercial and street lighting, as well as power for factories. Seventy-five arc lights were used in lighting the line approximately four miles long, making Catlettsburg the best-lighted city in this part of the country. The Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company, who at that time furnished the city with electricity, eventually purchased this company. The city is furnished electricity by American Electric at this time.

Gas was furnished to the town for consumers use prior to this period. A gas franchise for twenty-five years was granted to S. Solomon and his associates on August 24, 1869. On August 1, 1898 with Dr. J. D. Williams as Special Commissioner of the Board of Council, a franchise was sold to the Triple State Gas and Oil Company, and in 1913 another franchise was sold to the Huntington Development and Gas Company. The United Fuel Gas Company served Catlettsburg in 1949 and the Columbia Gas Company now serves Catlettsburg.

On March 4, 1895 the Peoples Telephone Company (F. M. Wellman, John Russell, Frank Friel, W. A. Patton and Ben Williamson, Sr.) purchased a twenty year franchise for telephone

service within the city. The Ashland Home Telephone Company succeeded the Peoples Telephone Company and at present at the present time phone service is furnished mostly by AT&T and GTE since you now have a choice of these or other phone services.

On June 14, 1873 the Big Sandy Valley Railroad applied to the Board of Trustees for the right of way over and through certain streets of the town. The right of way was granted to the railroad on July 15, 1873. The Chatteroi Railway Company followed in 1879. The Elizabethtown, Lexington, and Big Sandy Railroad Company was granted a franchise on October 17, 1879. The Ohio and Big Sandy Railroad Company was granted a right of way through Catlettsburg on December 13, 1889. The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company followed in 1911. In 1929 this company made extensive changes within the town. The granting of right of ways resulted in removing from our city many valuable old landmarks and a decrease in property assessments in excess of \$95,000.00. These changes resulted in many bitter disagreements and controversies among the citizens and members of the City Council.

On September 20, 1894 R. C. Burns, Attorney for the Ashland and Catlettsburg Street Railway Company applied for a franchise from the northern terminus of Center Street to Brown Street, over and along Center, Division and Louisa Streets. The franchise was granted with the following restrictions: "Motive power may be animal, electric or other motor power except steam. Said railway cars are not to exceed a speed limit of eight miles per hour. The conductors of the cars shall keep watch for obstructions, carriages, teams, persons and especially children upon or near the track and when in danger of collision therewith give warning and stop if necessary to prevent accident."

The Camden Interstate Railway Company followed in 1903 extending this service from Huntington to Ashland. The Ohio Valley Street Car Company subsequently purchased and improved these interests.

The Ohio Valley Bus Company, The Blue Ribbon Lines, Southeastern Greyhound Bus Company and the Kentucky-Virginia Stages furnished this city with excellent transportation. At this time the Ashland Bus Service serves us.

The steady growth of the town and the organization of governmental departments gave rise to the purchase of a city building that was located on the corner of Short and Louisa Street. This remained the municipal until it was destroyed by fire on the morning of April 27, 1911.

The Board Council (T. L. Ford, C. B. Wellman, Harry Darlington, Frank Ross, W. B. Wellman, R. S. Dinkle, John McCall and John Shortridge), met in a called session for the purpose of appointing a committee to consult with the citizens and taxpayers of the city as to the erection of a new city building. The Board of Council appointed the following committee: Mayor J. J. Montague, C. W. Cunell, P. S. Marcum, Gus Hampton, R. S. Dinkle and T. L. Ford.

The construction of a new city building met with the approval of the citizens and on May 15, 1911 the Board of Council purchases a lot on the corner of Twenty-sixth and Division Street from Ben Williamson, Sr., for the sum of \$5,300.00. Mayor

Montague appointed Councilmen T. L. Ford, W. B. Wellman, Frank Ross and R. S. Dinkle as a building committee. The plans of Architect R. L. Day of Huntington, West Virginia were approved and adopted. Irvin A. Rhodes was awarded the contract for the building construction and G. W. Ward was allowed the contract for the foundation. The total cost of the new building was \$20,750.00. The building was completed in March, 1912, and was approved by Mayor J. J. Montague and Councilmen George B. Clay, I. C. Hopkins, Sol Ward, C. B. Wellman, John McCall, Monte C. Magann, R. S. Dinkle and A. B. Hegley. R. A. Field was City Clerk at this time.

During the years between 1911 and 1949 the town retained its position as one of the most progressive and public-spirited cities in the state.

At that time the City Officials of the City of Catlettsburg were: Mayor, Erwin Rice; Councilmen, Mike Jordan, Donald C. Baer, C. E. Crouch, Zephy Osborne, Harlan W. Johnson, Dan H. Cheatham, Jr., Rev. John Hicks, and Homer K. Blair; City Clerk, George D. Rooker; City Treasurer, Mrs. Mary E. Carpenter; City Attorney, Thomas E. Phipps serving the unexpired term of the late W. D. O'Neal; Police Judge, O. K. Campbell serving the unexpired term of the late J. T. Moran; Chief of Police, Robert F. Adkins; Fire Chief, Lon Rice; Assistant Fire Chiefs, Melvin Staton and William J. Williams; and City Patrolmen, Ray F. Castle, Bennie Rice, Elza Workman, and Herbert Coffey.



THE BOYS DOWN AT CITY HALL, Catlettsburg, gathered for this pose shortly after the new City Building was erected in 1911. Shown in first row, from left: Councilmen Harry Darlington, John McCall, Bent Wellman, Hugh Chatfield, Tandy Ford and Frank Ross; back row: George Mason, city engineer; Tom Salyers and Tom James, policemen; Benny Carmack, chief; Judge John McConnell; Tillman Buckley, supt. of street and fire department (Charles Wright's grandfather) and E. Poe Harris, city attorney.



LEFT: CATLETTSBURG, KY MAYOR ROGER HENSLEY served the remaining term of Gurney Johnson in 1994 when Mr. Johnson resigned to take another position. Mayor Hensley was elected in 1997 and is now serving until his term ends in 2002. RIGHT: Community Leadership Development Club Members.

"THE OLD TIME PIECE" GONE! GONE! GONE!

The old clock on Top? WHERE? On top of the old city building ran out of time and the old clock came thumping down.

A very sad day for the residents of Catlettsburg. Let me tell you my sad story of the day the clock stood still.

Some interested people tried their best to keep time ticking on. Billy Clark, a local boy (now author of famous books about his hometown and you might say his river, the Big Sandy) kept the old clock ticking while he served as a fire fighter and lived in the top floor of the old building and attended school too. He would wind the clock, all 103 times, when it stopped for a while to rest, but Billy told it, it must go on, the people needed its chimes and the hands to show what time of day it was.

There was another man named Steamboat Bill, as he was called, not being able to find anyone who knew him by a real name, who would get drunk and was put in the city jail. But the thing was he was the only one who knew how to fix the old clock, so he always got the job of going into the tower and fixing it. He was in jail all the time it seems—make you wonder doesn't it?—if he was drunk that much or the clock needed to be fixed.

On January 13, 1995, the day came, and the demolition crew arrived and the old clock said goodbye. My husband, Boots, myself and my eldest grandson, Russ went down to watch the old time piece say so long, a most horrible day in my books, I'm just sentimental I guest

but I wasn't the only one. We stood there talking among others who said they know how it could be saved and who would do it; but that won't happen, no one wanted to listen.

One lady who was very much interested, as well as a lot of other people, in preserving the history and momentous of our city and especially the old clock phoned me to start a petition to keep the old building. The old building was in very bad and dangerous shape and I don't know if she had been up on the upper floors or not, but I had been several times and the rain was coming down in buckets and even baby pools had been placed on the floor to catch the rain; so, I didn't do the petition. The city council members had invested in having an inspector to check the building and he said it had to come down. Too much to repair, too much cost to gently remove the old clock. All you could hear around here was "SAVE THE CLOCK!" "SAVE THE CLOCK!" you bet I wanted to do that, but who's going to listen to me?

On that destruction day as we stood watching and the big ball on the boom took its swings at the old clock, it had a mind of its own and just seemed to want to stay there—I just laughed and laughed—among my tears because it wouldn't budge and prayed that it would just hang on and they would have a hard time with it—well it did for a while, but as the big ball pounded and pounded it to death it finally came down, hands down, piece by piece and the old time piece was made ready to be buried for eternity.

I told the contractor that I had put a big HEX on it, and that's why it didn't want to come down, and every time he sees me he says he really believes that I did, but as I hope you know, I'm not a witch, but that day I wish I might have been.

Among the others who took great interest in the old clock was Mike Neal (isn't that strange, he's an undertaker) trying to shoo the pigeons away and not the worms to revive the old piece. But after a while the old clock just rested until the day it passed on and the big ball came and beat it to death, not to be resurrected again.

By the way, guess what, a new clock in the middle of town would be nice wouldn't it? Well we are awaiting its arrival soon! Thanks through the

effort of Sidney Rice, a local guy interested in his hometown, seeked out a person or persons to fund this time piece. And would you believe me if I told you we have a person also interested in his home city enough to invest his own personal hard earned money to give our city a new time piece. He wanted to revive the time—who is he? He is non-other than our good friend and neighbor and not to mention it, but our retired undertaker Russell Compton.

THANKS RUSSELL AND YOUR
LOVELY WIFE, AGNES. YOU'RE A
GREAT COUPLE!

FROM ALL YOUR CAT-
LETTSBURG FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBORS FOR KEEPING TIME
ROLLING ON!!!

(Written by Betty Wright)



The old clock tower on top of City Hall



Mr. Russell Compton

This narrative of Catlettsburg, was written by my mother in 1949, reflecting the decade preceeding the First World War as seen thru the eyes of a child growing up in the town at that time. The family has several items that she wrote, unfortunately this one was lost for almost fifty years. Mr. Hargis Stanley, while sorting thru some old papers he had acquired found this among them and graciously returned it to us.

During this era, it is interesting to note that Catlettsburg and its neighboring community Ashland were virtually the same twin size cities!

As in 1949, Mom would most certainly want to praise the people who are working to make Catlettsburg's 150th birthday a great and memorable occasion to be enjoyed and remembered by all.

Frank T. Branham
May 17, 1999



Willie Caines Branham

This year 1949 marks the 100th birthday of Catlettsburg, one of the best known, if not the most colorful cities on the Ohio River. Centennial chairmen and their committees have been busy the past few weeks to make this a great celebration. Much praise is due these people for their untiring efforts to make this a gala and worthwhile occasion.

All the feverish activity inspired by the desire to celebrate in a big way will do more for the children of the town than any other project. All the fine maps, records, historical stories should serve as a real inspiration for our citizens of tomorrow.

The historical committee will bring forth many true dates and facts concerning the town that will probably date back to the year of its incorporation. So my story will deal more with my first recollection of the town. Having moved here with my parents in 1909 from Louisa, I saw the town with the eyes of a five-year-old. It was as it is today a friendly place and I soon knew a lot of people. I grew to love and respect the older people. I doubt if any other town had as many kind and gracious older people as the ones I knew as a child, always around them begging for stories. I should like to mention their names but for fear I would forget one, I shall not. From them I heard stories of Sawney Catlett, the man for whom the town was named, also the creek flowing thru it. He came in 1808 from Virginia, became a merchant, postmaster, farmer, ferryman and keeper of an inn popular with stage coach travelers.

By 1909, of course Catlettsburg had become a gay and bustling city. Some streets were paved, but there were still many dirt roads. These roads were fine for the many horses that traversed the town, pulling huge drays behind them. One of these my father hired to haul our furniture from a C&O freight car to our house. The drayman was a genius in loading these; he knew where to place certain articles, so he would not suffer a loss of time, if not a costly spill on his trips. As the dray approached our house I heard my mother scream. The good-natured drayman had placed the family collection of enlarged pictures on top. On top of these was perched my little brother, having the ride of his life. However there were no casualties as we moved in. Water had to be carried from a well for house cleaning and it took longer then for a family to settle. So ours went to the Harris Hotel to live until the house could be put in order. There the hotel's owner met us and genial host, Mr. Brig Harris, father of our towns own Mr. E. Poe Harris. This hotel flourished for many years is still operated as a hotel. It has been under the management of many fine people, was known for years as the Magann Hotel.

There were other hotels in the gay and bustling little city, were necessary, as Catlettsburg was a thriving railroad town as well as a river port. The Catlettsburg express office is said to have had more employees than the one at Cincinnati. There was the York House, which later became the Hardin Hotel, its present owner being Mrs. Belle Hardin Smith, the Alger House and the Shively. All of these were well rated. The Alger, built after the destructive fire of 1877 was rated as one of the finest on the Ohio. The Shively, built in 1892 is still standing. When I first saw it, I thought it was a palace. One day I had a chance to go inside. It surely was a treat to climb the wide stairs and peek into the big reception room on the second floor. There many fine guests were received, also many parties held. Thick carpet on the floors and furnishings of the finest lent a dignity and air to the place that equal to those of much larger cities. On the first floor was an elegant dining room that attracted people from all over the tri-state. There was a tonsorial parlor and fine lobby. I can still see the citizenry that encased themselves in the cabin chairs, the broad watch chains the spats, and the watches were not mediocre in those days either. Since its earliest days Catlettsburg has seen its fortunes rise and fall. Boom times have come and gone, but the burg and the Shively have weathred them all. I still hope to see it renovated and built into a good hotel.

The hotel owners and cooks had no trouble in securing food and drink for their guests. The town had a generous sprinkling of fine groceries, meat markets and fruit stores. The Tabet brothers coming here from their beloved Syria, worked on the section, saved their money and went into a business they loved, fruit, one they continued until George's death. Always good lovable people, they were as much a part of the city as any of its tradition. One groceryman, I knew particularly well, as a child was John Self. He operated a store across from the Shively. Every town has its characters Catlettsburg was no exception. John was surely a character. To almost every family he extended credit, the family carried what was known as the "grocery book". It was a well-known fact that John had many and varying prices on his staples. One day one of his hi-flautin customers entered his store and upbraided John for this practice. John admitted she was right but

gave her this answer "You pick it one price, I pick it another price". To me it is still a mystery how John and his customers figured there bill at the end of the month. He had his own system of shorthand, bd, for bread, pt for potatoes etc.

Refrigeration was not used much in those days, except for meats. The fronts of stores and sidewalks were fine display places. Dressed fowls, hogs, rabbits made fine decoration around the holidays season and cold weather. The cracker barrel, plus a big earthen jar of huge sour pickles, just inside the grocery door made it very handy for an afternoon snack for downtown merchants and shoppers. I suspect the shopkeepers jotted this down on that aforementioned grocery book. I can still see a fat dressed pig with a holly wreath and red ribbon around its neck, hanging proudly on his hook in D. S. Martin's meat market. A 25-cent steak would fill a big platter.

Many of these groceries were really outstanding when it came to cleanliness and quality. None could have surpassed the one owned and operated by Mr. W. B. Yost. Mr. Yost's personal grooming vied with the appearance of his store. And his candy counter. No Catlettsburg kids of that era will ever forget it. Nor Mr. N. Braley's store with the fine popcorn and peanuts roasting machine right out in front. Nor Miss Mary Vaughans grocery on Vaughans corner, where kids from all parts of the town were greeted with the same good-natured smile. "Aunt Mamie" as she was lovingly called will not be able to come for the centennial celebration due to her advanced years. Coming here by steamboat with her cousins, the fine family of Capt. Will Vaughan, she operated the store from 1895 until 1935.

It was a custom of the Gate City clothing merchants to drape the front of their emporiums with dresses, coats and fine samples of merchandise. "Old Sol" would often streak and damage the color of these; a customer often secured a reduced price on such articles. Dressmaking was carried on in many homes and it was a delight to gaze at the counters piled high with fancy gingham, percales, muslins and bright colored woolens. It was a real treat to go to D. H. Carpenter's and buy a dress pattern. The toy department there was simply "out of this world". The dolls were hung all around the walls in their boxes. It was almost impossible for a "little miss" to make a decision. The prices were often high as they were imported and of the finest.

There were lots of business establishments, Catlettsburg busy now with its present and future has reasons to be proud of its past. Visitors this summer will see some nice new buildings and improvements. There are still many reminders of the town's antiquity. We've always enjoyed the taste of importance that having the county courthouse. Always colorful, Catlettsburg had many merchants, doctors, lawyers, jurists, dentists, druggists, many fine men who mingled with each other around the burgs business center. They were brotherly and the passing of one seemed to cause genuine sorrow to the others. In another article I hope to write before centennial week, I want to write some stories concerning these folks.

The names that have been mentioned here were so close to the business, which they were associated, the burg was a gay and noisy place. Everyone living here in that era will remember the noisy streetcars rounding the bend known now as Brogans corner. In my time it has been called "Hogans Corner", Blacks Corner". It really is not a corner. I think sometimes Catlettsburg was not planned at all but like "Topsy" it just grew. Seated on one of those cars you could peer to the left and see the cashier in the old Farmers and Merchants Bank cashing a check, look straight ahead and see the employees of the old Kentucky National Bank busy. On looking to the right there would be a kind old man in front of the Red Anchor clothing store. That was Mr. W. B. Evans one of Catlettsburg's a most loved and philanthropic gentleman.

Catlettsburg was not a dull town, there was much entertaining. The society columns were full of flowery details. I do not remember the Morse Opera House. Many opera troupes and stock companies appeared there. The big building was bought by Mr. W. H. Justice in 1910, when he and his fine family came here from Pike County. The big second floor was known as the New Justice Theater. There I saw my first movie. The ticket office was a small cage on the sidewalk. There you purchased your ticket, handed it to a doorman at the top of the stairs, then admitted to the world of romance, mystery. The Million Dollar Mystery held our citizenry spellbound for twenty weeks. Housewives neglected their wash; school marm's had trouble with the small fry until the last episode. Then there was the Nickelodeon across from the Shively, another where the present Hall's Theater is located. It was operated by Tony Wellman, now a

resident of St. Louis. Show boats with their calliopes, brass bands and shouting Captains brought the type of entertainment that drew people from miles around. On page eleven of Edna Ferber's novel "Showboat" Catlettsburg is mentioned and the old boats fame revived. It played to a full house and made the burg more than ever a typical river town. If kids were fleet of foot, they could make it to the river front after hearing the calliope at Pike's Crossing.

There were many jovial storekeepers, furniture, druggists, hardware dealers, and jewelerymen. I have been told that our famous townsmen the late Senator Ben Williamson refused to let any of his help go thro the depression of 1907. George Kinney, a deliveryman said he was kept on the payroll, tho few deliveries were made. During this period, the horse was hitched to a post in front of the establishment on Division Street and was said to have pawed a hole in the street large enough to bury himself.

Mr. John Hogan had a fine drug store on the corner. Much to the delight of his customers he added a line of Mr. Edison's invention, the victrola. Near Christmas time one of the town's thoughtful husbands purchased one for his wife, providing the gift could be delivered after dark on Christmas Eve. The idea spread like wildfire and Mr. Hogan's supply was soon exhausted. Mr. Hogan never forgot that Christmas. One of these was delivered to Mrs. Clyde (Hattie) Burns at her beautiful home on top of 28th Street hill. Mrs. Burns still has the victrola, says it is as good as new.

Residents of these years will remember the high class merchandise and lovely window displays of the Gallup Jewelry Co. The Bruns Shoe Co, Ross & Chatfields. I do not remember seeing any boots or shoes made by Mr. C. W. Berger, but I remember well the kindly merchant and his love for little children. There were few low cut shoes sold then and the buttonhook went along with every purchase. It was one of the most misplaced articles in our household; a hairpin could be used, but proved a poor substitute. In that picture of downtown Catlettsburg I can still see Krish's Wholesale House, Moran's Plumbing Co. Patton's Wholesale Drug Co, The Bee Hive, The Fair, owned by Mr. Ike Lefkowitzich, Hampton's Grocery Co. Ward's 5 & 10 Cent Store. This store carried a big line of china, 10 cents apiece. Most of it was made in Germany. I suspect there are many pieces in Catlettsburg homes today. I have 10-cent plate bought there in 1916; I have been offered \$5.00 for the plate. Then there was the C. E. Silcott Dept. Store with its fine millinery dept. Hats were made mostly then on a wire frame, milady selected material for covering and decorations and called later for the finished creation.

Jesse Stuart, Kentucky's best known poet once said he always managed to have a scrap of paper handy when he came to Catlettsburg. He could always find something inspiring and interesting to write about. So it was and still is. There to me has and always will be a Catlettsburg. If it is not 100% rightcously industrious at the present it is still a little town with feeling for the less fortunate, love for those in sorrow or trouble. It is my wish that everyone will work together and make centennial week one long to be remembered by those here and the ones who will come to enjoy it with us

Willie Caines Branham
1949

AH! CATLETTSBURG

(Memories)

Ah, Catlettsburg! Little, sleepy Catlettsburg, Kentucky, the center of my grammar school and teenage years, in those far-off 1920's,

Only vaguely do I remember the trauma of World War 1, for its impact on our immediate family was neither direct nor devastating. The sweeping tragedy of the influenza epidemic brought more sorrow and black wreaths on front doors, up and down our meager streets, than news of young bodies cut down in the trenches of France and Germany.

But there are other memories, ones that return with a smile or a chuckle; ones that still give; the little old Boyd County town, on the banks of the Big Sandy and Ohio Rivers, a lasting reality to me.

With my sisters Nelda Sutherland and Dolores Mendoza (Where on earth did mother come up with those names in the hills of Magoffin County), I wore a stinking bag of asafetida around my neck for weeks, in the belief that it I would ward off the flu. Did it work? Well, our family escaped that awful epidemic.

Although I learned to swim in a secluded deep pool in Catletts Creek, the Big Sandy became Mecca for swimming and fishing, without my parents' consent or knowledge.

No one who worked the nearby locks seemed to mind our using the long channel walls as, diving platforms. The boys all caught catfish and long-nosed gar from the sand bar edge, where the Big Sandy entered the Ohio. Although we didn't know it, those were the final days of steam-

boating. The sonorous wails of passing sternwheelers were common and thrilling. More than once, we river rats would find an old flat-bottomed john boat and row out to mid-river to ride the waves behind the flashing sternwheels.

The visits of showboats were never surprises. The calliope music could be heard from far up or down river, alerting the residents of Ceredo and Kenova, West Virginia, Catlettsburg, Kentucky, and folks over in Ohio, that there would be a show that night; down at the landing on Front Street. Talk about glamour.

Dish boats loaded with pottery, from East Liverpool, Ohio, up near the Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia confluence, stopped at every village along the way and to satisfy the kitchen needs of homemakers. I am still the proud owner of a strange green-glazed tobacco canister, purchased by my late wife's grandmother from such a boat, at the turn of the century.

It was along the Big Sandy that I learned to play poker, a fact I never told my saintly mother. My teachers, using a grimy, well-thumbed deck of cards, were two black teenagers who were never classmates of mine. Their school was a tiny frame building perched on a hillside about the railroad tracks. They were not allowed to attend the two-story, brick high school, where I flunked Latin and barely passed algebra. My favorite subjects were general science, English, and typing.

I remember some of the teachers very well. Lovely Miss O'Neil, my first

grade teacher, who wasn't nearly as embarrassed as I when I wet my pants on my first day of school. Then there was Lizzie Klinefelter, the stern and forbidding all-powerful grade school principal, whose loose dentures caused her to clench her jaws fearfully.

I was no athlete, that's for sure, but I did make the basketball team, suffering a broken nose in a game with the superior Ashland Tomcats. I played what was known as "stationary guard," which caused me to think I could stop a charging Ashland player determined to lie on in, but I failed.

I remember, with certain awe, our high school coach a gentle hulking giant named Olin B. Smith, who despite a crooked leg that still carried some shrapnel from the "big" war played guard on the Ironton, Ohio Tanks. They were one of the original teams in the newly born National Football League. They played such rivals as the Portsmouth Spartans (who later became the Detroit Lions), the Chicago Bears, the Canton Bulldogs, and the Green Bay Packers. How well I remember seeing Red Grange play in Portsmouth, Ohio. Wow! Those were the days of the McAfee brothers from Ironton of "Bronco" Nagursky, and "Pop" Lumpkin, the Rambling Wreck from Georgia Tec.

There are other recollections of those early years. I can recall one night, seeing a cross burning on a ridge top above the town, the flames lighting a ring of white-robed figures. There was also the street car line that ran from the Armco plant in Ashland, crossing the river at Catlettsburg into Ceredo-Kenova and on to the metropolis of Huntington, where I saw my first talking picture, "Sonny Boy" starring the one and only Al Jolson.

Back then the tiny movie house in Catlettsburg played only "silent"

movies, but "The Perils of Pauline" and "The Covered Wagon" provided plenty of thrills for only a nickel, the price of admission. Actor Tom Mix was the hero of every youngster who longed to be a cowboy.

Those were prohibition days, but despite the continuing effort of revenue agents, moonshine still managed to find its way into every town and village in the area. I remember more than one ceremony, in the courthouse yard, where a group of "revenueurs" posed around confiscated stills.

Freight that couldn't be hauled by rail or packet boat was still transported by horse-drawn wagon. About 1920, I saw the last horse-drawn fire engine, billowing its plume of smoke from its steam boilers, as it sped down along the streetcar tracks of South Ashland, en route to some structure that probably already was engulfed in flames.

Does the city of Catlettsburg, I wonder, still use water from the tiny reservoirs that ringed a hilltop high above the town? I remember a storage shed filled with raw alum the puckery kind. Was that actually used to purify drinking water?

Oh well, at eighty-six I may not be able to remember something that happened yesterday, but on evenings like this, with early darkness settling in and nothing else to distract me, it's easy to walk the streets of Catlettsburg again; down past Damron's garage, where one day they parked a spectacular Cord Roadster on the sidewalk, and on around the corner where my uncle Rebel, wearing a silk, candy striped shirt, peg-bottom trousers, and ox-blood shoes, bought me my first malted milk. There was the Tabet fruit store where a whole stalk of golden bananas always hung out over the sidewalk. The saloons

boarded up by prohibition, line Front Street along the river.

The town dump was also along Front Street. When the Ohio River flooded, the problem was passed on to Ashland, Cincinnati, Louisville, and perhaps even Memphis. Everybody shared their trash. A trait, unfortunately, that we haven't completely abandoned.

Although I never attended a reunion of the nineteen members of my high school senior class, some of them I do recall: "Hoss" Tabet, Carlisle Ames, Nancy Pigg, and Oscar Thomas Ellis, James Alexander Daugherty; that was his full name.

This personal history is the memories of his hometown, Catlettsburg written by Ora E. Anderson.



Painted view of what Front Street might have looked like (from old photograph) on Preece Wholesale's window in September, 1999

TITANIC CLOSE TO HOME

Mrs. Lucian Philip Smith (Mary Eloise Hughes), 18, from Huntington, West Virginia, boarded the Titanic at Southampton with her husband Lucian Philip Smith, who were returning from Europe on the Titanic. Mr. Smith was 24. The couple paid £60 for ticket #13695, Cabin C-31 (First Class).

On the evening of April 14th, 1912 Mr. Smith was playing cards, in the Café Parisien, with Alfred Fernand Omont, Paul Chevré and Pierre Maréchal when the collision took place: Mr. Smith perished in the disaster.

Eloise was rescued in lifeboat No. 6. She saw a puncture in the boat, and to keep the water from entering the boat, she wrapped her hand in a cloth and used her hand to plug the hole, which left scars on her hand. Eloise later married fellow survivor Robert Williams Daniel.

She died on 3rd May 1940.



Eloise Smith

Eloise Smith was a daughter of Belle Vinson Hughes who married James A. Hughes, one time Postmaster of Huntington and a Congressman. Mrs. Hughes was a relative to the family of Frank Branham, who were well known citizens of Catlettsburg. The Vinson family were also relatives to Belle Hardin Buckley Smith, a long time Catlettsburg resident and well-known person in the Tri-State.



R. M. S. Titanic



Russ Cole, of Catlettsburg, now has in his possession a billfold belonging to a passenger that was on the Titanic. It was given to him by his grandfather, Charles K. Wright who received it from his uncle Tillman (Brother) Buckley. As to how the Buckley's obtained this billfold is unknown, however, a passenger list accounted for a Daniel Buckley that survived the disaster.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT OUR HOMETOWN? CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY -FRONT PORCH VIEW-

Talk about peace, beauty and all the rest, newly married, first home or first apartment I should say. . .and swinging on the front porch watching my first husband and last I hope, over in the Big Sandy River in a small john boat. . .oh, my! the pecan pies are burning - that didn't make any sense to you, I know, but it certainly does to me. I forgot them in the oven, my husband's favorite pie, how could I forget? Well, it was because I was watching the boat and listening to the soothing water flow over the largest needle dam in the world, old Lock and Dam No. 1.

From the front porch swing I could look to the right over the Big Sandy River and see West Virginia, without turning my head I could look to the left over the Ohio River and see the state of Ohio, and just think I'm sitting in My Old Kentucky Home. Just beyond Lock Avenue the Ohio and Big Sandy rivers formed their juncture.

Eighty-three years before I was born, Catlettsburg, Kentucky became a thriving river port because its location enhanced commerce on both rivers. It was a wide-open rip-roaring town then, according to newspaper account, complete with gun-toting, hard drinking mountaineers. By the time my life began, my hometown was much more sedate. Trains had rendered the past obsolete and businessmen catered more to the needs of the residents. Churches of the gothic design and devout membership had helped clean up the town and were successful in outlawing the sale of liquor inside city limits. This development made life more interesting for the entrepreneurs who made their own brand of "white lightning." Catlettsburg proudly claims that its district courthouse, which served seven counties, was the site of more trials of moonshiners during the Prohibition era than any other courthouse in the nation.

When I was only five years old, Catlettsburg made the national news reports for another reason. The Ohio and Big Sandy typically flooded the lower end of the town every year. Every few years

we could plan on water reaching into the first floors of homes on even higher ground, and residents had to move themselves and their furnishings to the second floor until the water receded. That year water completely filled the first floor of our homes and began to lap on to the very top steps into the second floor. Everyone had to evacuate except the ones on the side of the hill. My husband tells me when his family lived behind the courthouse on Panola Street, they moved everything upstairs, except the piano which was too heavy to carry and as the water came up to the last three steps up to the second floor, Looking down he saw the piano in the living room floating around and could hear it hitting the ceiling. He has towed boats around town in several floods helping people get out, he tells me the time in 1955 flood, I believe, the water was so swift it put him right up in front of the big glass window of the Kroger Store where Mike Cumpston now owns, formerly The Dollar Store and he caught hold of the parking meter to get the boat turned out to sea, so to say, before going through the glass.

Also, I remember the 1937 flood as my Dad worked for Bagby Lumber Company in Grayson, Kentucky, where we lived at that time, I was only five years old at that time. Dad built boats for Catlettsburg and brought them to the intersection of U. S. 23 and Thirty-sixth Street and put them out of the truck right into the water there. It was exciting and frightening for me since I didn't understand a flood, I had never seen one, but you know it's strange that we should move to Catlettsburg in 1941 when Dad got a job with Ashland Oil, and moved into the rental house of Mrs. Galloway right on that same corner, the Hughes girls live in a small house on the same location now. (See picture below)

I can remember when we first got married living on Lock Avenue and the water got up on our porch, therefore, we moved to thirty-fifth street to my parent

home and put our belongings on their front porch.

We, my two sisters, Dorothy and Frankie and my brother went to church every Sunday and to Bible School every summer. We were always, it seemed being forced to memorize portions of the Bible...for you see we were brought up in a Christian home and our grandfather was a Baptist minister and when we were young he made us, and I mean made us, sit down together every night while he read the Bible to us. My mind has framed a serene vignette of mother and me lying together across the bed in the upstairs front bedroom, while I learned "The 23rd Psalm."

My kids thought of Maxine Yost as an "old maid" schoolteacher, but even then I felt lucky to have had her teach my kids. She taught my husband's aunt, mother, two cousins, him and two of our children, Kay and Chuck. The term "hyperactive" had not been coined (and she probably never studied child psychology) but Miss Maxie certainly knew how to get the most out of them. She sat at the back of the class...and seated the hyper students in front of her. She knew these students were in a hurry and, when she saw that they had finished a paper, she praised them, and handed them another, then another, so the other children would not be distracted by their enthusiasm. She never seemed to mind that some students' were loud at recess or threw rocks at windows, and she said that "Dynamite" (the favorite nickname for some) was a real compliment. Maxine Yost guided several generations. In 1959, the Second Ward School was named for her.

Saturday afternoons, and also throughout the week, my husband said he spent at Hall's Theater to see Johnny Mack Brown, Roy Rogers or Gene Autry movies. Admission was twenty-five cents...and included a "cliffhanger" serial, a cartoon and a newsreel. I believe he must have lived in Hall's theatre.

Town hall, a handsome building constructed of brick, was just off the main intersection. On the street level, the fire department stood ready as did the police department with the police chief's office on the second level. The men's jail was on the first floor and above on the second floor was the women's jail, and above that a very large clock. Each Sunday, when the family gathered for dinner at the grandparents, the adults always discussed who had "spent the night under the town clock" that weekend, and my guess it probably would have been steamboat Bill.

Many years have we have spent in Catlettsburg, but vivid remembrances of people, feelings, sights, fragrances, and experiences have forever etched Catlettsburg, Kentucky, as "my hometown." Never have I ever seen this what seemed to be a small sleepy town wake up so fast as it has this year. So many have gotten interested in our town and really put themselves out to see how good a place we could make it. It has improved too much in the past year, everyone seems to be happy and cooperating and working hard, it really shows. Good job, I knew we could do it. The past built the future and we'll never forget our walk down memory lane.

(Written by Betty Wright 8/99)



Autos and boats combined to deliver relief supplies to Catlettsburg. Trucks would bring donated foods and blankets as far as they could drive on Cemetery Road and volunteers loaded them onto boats for delivery at minor depots along the route. From the unloading points at Gray Hill and Horse Branch they were reloaded into autos for delivery. (1937)

-- NOW YOU KNOW --

Mixed in with the tragedy and devastating results of last week's major flood in Catlettsburg was an abundance of unselfish neighborliness—the spirit of helping others—and glimpses of grim humor . . . For example, as business places re-opened and mopped up after the floodwater, everyone queried the operators, "Well, how much water got into your place?" Frailie's Pharmacy on Louisa apparently became a little annoyed with the question. A sign appeared on the store's window: "The Water Was 7 Inches In This Store—NOW YOU KNOW!" . . . during the height of the flood, there was an automobile parked on Walnut Street with this sign: "Vote Yes for the Floodwall." . . . Mrs. Belle Smith of Louisa Street displayed a similar sign for the benefit of a Pathe News cameraman filming flood scenes. Mrs. Smith was on the front porch of her Hardin Hotel when the cameraman went by in a boat. She ran into her house and came back out with the sign . . . The signs, of course, had been used preceding last November's elections when Catlettsburg citizens gave overwhelming approval for issuing \$150,000 in bonds to pay the cost of right of way for Catlettsburg projected five million-dollar protection system . . . Last week's flood, (1950) the worst since 1948, may speed up congressional action

in appropriating a protection system, like Ashland's . . . You could hear plenty of comment last week that there should be a solid floodwall from Ashland to Catlettsburg, as the Normal section of Ashland and the Sandy City-Horse Branch part of Catlettsburg suffer greatly from floods . . . While Mrs. Roy Pennington was helping move kitchen equipment from the dining room of the First Methodist church on Monday, she gave little thought to her own residence. But that afternoon when she started home, 25th and Broadway, she found that her way had been blocked by water. However, by a roundabout way, she was able to enter the back door of her home. The water didn't get into the house, though. . . The Independent got called "on the carpet" by a Gate City resident for omitting the apostrophe in Pike's Crossing in a flood story. Huh? . . . Useless Road, so named by the Independent's Bob McCullough, disproved its moniker again last week until floodwaters from Pike's Crossing blocked it. We're still in favor of seeing a sign posted renaming it "Useless Road." . . Concrete floors in many Catlettsburg business places proved their worth when floodwaters came in and left. Wood floors in other business places buckled and they are much harder to clean and dry than concrete.



"Boots" and "Sambo"

In or around the summer of 1933 or 1934, I was 3 or 4 years old and lived with my grandparents at 2808 Panola Street, now where the Boyd County Detention Center is located. There was a colored man called Sambo. He would go up and down the railroad, which was behind the house, and he always had a coffee sack over his shoulders picking up coal that had fallen off trains. Young like I was, I did not know what that sack was for. So one day I was in the driveway with my grandmother and Sambo came over and I had my bottle of milk nursing on it. Sambo told me that if I did not quit nursing that bottle, he was going to put me in that sack and take me down to Cooksey and Queen's Market and have me ground up in hamburger. He said he would be over on the corner of 28th Street sitting on a horse stump next to where the Village Kitchen Restaurant was at 6:00 that evening.

So at 6:00 I was in the front room and looking out to see if Sambo was over there and he was. I thought that I would go into the dining room and Sambo would not see me taking my bottle. My granddad knew what was going on, so he got outside and was pawing on the window. I thought it was Sambo, so I threw that bottle down and I never cared for milk from that day.

Years later I was working at the courthouse and Sambo was a custodian there. We were talking and I said to Sambo, it is a thousand wonders that I don't hate you and he said, why Boots? I told him about that time he was going to get me and ground me up in hamburger.

Sambo got a BIG laugh out of that and I have never forgotten that to this day.

Written by Charles K. (Boots) Wright



House shown was located behind the Courthouse on 29th and Panola Street where "Boots" lived at time of this story. Also is the house mentioned in the story "What's Special About Our Hometown?" on page 60 where the piano was floating around banging the ceiling in the 1937 flood. Water was up to the second floor. This house was removed to be replaced by the Detention Center in 1988. The house was built around 1928 by Tillman Buckley. Nancy Damron's family also lived here. Nancy is a employee at the County Clerk's Office.

AUTHENTIC HISTORY OF CATLETTSBURG AS WRITTEN BY B. C. HOWELL

The preceding stories were writings of the history of the founding of the City of Catlettsburg. It was interesting, I thought, to read so many versions of the history written by other persons and how each saw the beginning to be; so I included these for you to read also.

As you will note, parts are a duplication of other sections of this book, as well as it should be if everyone before have seen or researched the history of Catlettsburg as being the true beginning of our town.

In the Ashland Daily Independent, Sunday Morning, April 9, 1922 it was written:

AUTHENTIC HISTORY OF CATLETTSBURG FOUNDING AS TOLD BACK IN 1880

The following is authentic history of the establishment and founding from the very first settlement. It was written by B. C. Howell for the benefit of the Kentucky Press Association which met in Ashland June 9, 10, 11, 1880.

The Association visited Catlettsburg on the evening of June 11 and was entertained with a banquet at the Alger House, and with a Hop at the Morse Opera House.

To begin at the beginning is a task of no small magnitude if we take into account the difficulties attending the securing of the facts and reliable data concerning the first settlement of the country adjacent to the

confluence of the Chatterah River with the Ohio.

Certain it is however, that a company of adventurous men under the head of Reverend David Jones of New Jersey made some explorations in the year 1773, but that others had preceded them there is ever reason to believe, although history fails to record the facts and tablets in the memory of the "oldest" inhabitant: are not engraved sufficiently deep to enable them to state the particulars with any degree of certainty.

It is very probable that the processors (?) of the Reverend David Jones were not of a particular turn of mind, neither were they possessed with a prophetic soul or they would have discovered some of the natural advantages which they saw and placed their names on the roll of fame by making it known in the records of history. Yet, with all his practical knowledge, there seems to be no record evident that the Reverend Mr. Jones or any of his brother adventurers attempted to take advantage of the situation, as we find that first entry of land was by John Savage and Company, non-resident, as the record has it; and this included a strip of land running from what is now known as Catletts Creek up the Ohio and Big Sandy rivers to the Round bottom, thence south to intersect and recross Sandy River and up with its meandering to a point about a mile above the mouth of Big Blaine Creek so as to include ten thousand acres, which entry made in 1791, eighteen years after the visit of the Jones party.

Either John Savage & Company did not have faith like a whole gallon of mustard seed or some cause beyond their control kept them from paying their taxes, for we find in August, 1803, Edmund Thomas as register of the land office of Kentucky, in pursuance of two acts of the assembly, the

pursuance of two acts of the assembly, the one passed December 21, 1799, and the other December 19, 1801, which acts were for the purpose of creating a revenue, "did expose for sale at the door of the state house, in Frankfort, a certain tract of land said to contain five thousand acres entered in the office of the auditor of accounts as belonging to John Savage & Company, said land lying in the county of Mason and on the waters of Big Sandy River, which said land was sold and struck off to David White for the sum of \$67.50, current money of Kentucky, that being the amount of taxes then due upon for the years 1792 to 1801, with interest, and 29 cents cost of advertising, which said tract is bounded as follows: Beginning at a large black oak on ridge one of the patent's corners, thence north 60E 60 poles to a dead ash and maple on the bank of the Ohio River, up the south 6E 60 poles S 23 E 38 poles to a mulberry stump, also at the mouth of the Big Sandy River up the Sandy with the meanders thereof the various course 3324 poles, thence leaving Big Sandy River by various courses and distances set out in the deed—to the place of beginning so as to include 4060 acres" and from this deed comes the title to the land upon which the town of Catlettsburg is located, or rather that part of it lying above Catlettsburg is located, or rather that part of it lying above Catletts Creek.

Here was a rise in real estate for you! A tract of land 3324 rods long by 195 wide sold in 1803 for \$67.50 and 1853 D. W. Eba paid \$1,000 for twenty-two feet front on the Ohio River by one hundred feet deep, with no buildings except a little tumble down storehouse valued at \$100. In December, 1803 David White sold the tract of 4060 acres to Colonel George Shortridge who immediately took possession of it by moving to the place where John Ewing now lives,

which is on the bank of the Big Sandy River about three miles above the town.

About the year 1800 one John Salmon had settled upon the site now occupied in part by the wholesale drug store of Patton Brothers. But Colonel Shortridge, upon coming into the possession of the tract sold something like 360 acres to Alexander Catlett who dispossessed Salmon, where upon Salmon settled below Catletts Creek.

Alexander Catlett had several sons one of whom, Horatio, bought of his father 210 acres about the year 1821 and after selling off various lots to William Hampton, W. T. Nichols and other in 1831 sold the remainder to James Wilson.

From the family of Catletts came the name of the creek is now called.

Shortly after the purchase by James Wilson, he deeded the same to a grandson, James W. Fry of Kanawha County, Virginia and after he became of age in the year 1848, he laid off a town, sold the lots at a public sale and this was the beginning of the town of Catlettsburg.

Fry sold the lots at prices running from \$100 to \$350 each for lots in size 60x100 feet, until his sales reached a little above \$7,500 in 1851, when he sold the remainder of the 210 acres to a company composed of John Culiver, William T. Nichols, Zotto Cushing, Frederick Moore, William Campbell, John Clark, George Keyser and John and Allen Poage. The first store was opened here in 1806 by Alex Catlett in a little house standing on the riverbank at the place which is now the foot of Division Street.

For a long time the early settler had to ride to Maysville to mill but in 1819 one

was erected at the falls of Twelve Pole and then another at Buffalo Shoals, which is Wayne County, West Virginia, then Cabell County, Virginia. About 1822 a mill was erected at the Ferguson Barn on the Ohio River, which then ran with a current wheel and between that and the mill at Buffalo Shoals the mill patronage of this section was divided for several years, or until about 1828 when Horatio Catlett built a mill on the creek near the town which stood a few years but was finally washed out by a freshet.

The first organized church society was by the Methodists in 1813 and meetings were held in private homes until 1852 when the Methodist and Presbyterians united building a house for worship on the site of the present First Presbyterian Church.

About 1830 Clinton Furnace was built on their lands five miles back of Catlettsburg by John Williams and Thomas Poage and others; and in 1832 the Oakland Furnace was erected on the oaklands about three miles back of the town by Jacob Kouns and others. Both of these furnaces had their landing at the public square just above the mouth of Catletts Creek. The Clinton was operated successfully for a time but reverses came and it was abandoned, as was the Oakland, the stacks of which stands today in a good state of preservation. The Oakland property comprising 3000 acres of land was sold to Allen Lothrop and Company, and by them transferred to William Stewart who sold to the Ridgeways of England. These last proprietors contemplated the erection of a large works for the manufacture of earthen tableware, but with the death of member of the family caused the enterprise to be abandoned before it was put into operation.

The most important events in the history of this locality were the freshets (floods) of 1832 and 1847 the former being

fifteen inches higher than the later. At this notable flood the water covered the present site of the corner of Division Louisa Streets to a depth of five feet, the flood extending from the foot hills in Ohio to those in Kentucky and Virginia, the like of which has never been equaled since and it probably never again will be.

In 1836 the building of the Owensville and Big Sandy Turnpike was commenced and by this means the site of the town was placed on a thoroughfare over which for many years poured ceaseless tide of westward bound emigration and eastward bound droves of cattle, hogs and mules destined for then the great market, Richmond, Virginia.

In 1840 the hamlet consisted of one store, one hotel and one blacksmith shop. In 1850 it had increased to two stores, two hotels and several private dwellings.

Among the permanent settlers of that time was John Culver, W. T. Nichols, D. D. Geiger, Marcus L. Kibbee, Robert M. Biggs, William Hampton, Levi Hampton, Addison McCullough, Dr. H. Hampton, Captain Wash Honshell, Dr. J. D. Kincaid, Joseph Gardner, Dr. Jonathan James, James McCoy, John Ricketts, James Killen, John McMahan, E. W. Walton, besides others previously mentioned while others now forgotten. The old resident now living is Dr. J. D. Kincaid, and the oldest child born on the original town site is M. F. Hampton, the present efficient clerk for the circuit court. Many of these names will be remembered as among our present older citizens and some of them as men of note in shaping the affairs and destiny of the country within ten miles of the mouth of the Big Sandy River. To add to these names of the above we give those of D. W. Eba and G. W. and N. Andrews who settled here about 1853.

From 1850 to 1860 there were no events in history of the town worthy of special mention. The growth was steady and healthy and sprang from it commercial position with reference to the trade of the Big Sandy Valley and the development of the country in it immediate vicinity.

The Lexington and Big Sandy Railroad was chartered in 1852 with it terminus at the mouth of Big Sandy, and shortly after the work of construction was begun in the vicinity of Chadwicks Creek about two miles above town. In 1854 the town of Ashland was laid out and the route of the railroad diverted to that point which was a blow to the promising future of this place. To add to the rivalry occasioned by the building of Ashland, was the building of the town of Ironton, Ohio within ten miles distance, and the contest for supremacy between the three was soon decided unfavorable to Catlettsburg in the matter of manufacturing enterprises; but acts of legislature could not change the location of the mouth of the Big Sandy River nor could competition altogether diver the commerce

of its valley away from it natural entrepot and depot. In spite of the tremendous opposition of the rival towns, Catlettsburg continued and still continues to grow with a staid habit that promises well to those who are content with the steady accumulation of a sure reliable growth.

In 1860 the county of Boyd was formed and Catlettsburg was selected as the county seat, a position which she is likely ever to retain, owing to ther geographical position with reference to the present and prospective population of the county.

The war of 1860-65 affected no marked alteration in the career of the town, except to retard its growth slightly, nor was there any event of startling import connected therewith. It was a point occupied by the federal forces during the whole of the time, nor was their occupancy ever threatened or menaced. The close of the war found the country upon which the town was dependent in an impoverished condition from which it soon rallied through the medium of the old natural recourse, the timber business.



COLONEL ONE-HANDED CHARLEY

If certain legal proceedings had gone a little differently, this town might have been known as "One-Handed Charleyville".

As a reward for military services, this land was given to a group of seventy persons on December 15th, 1772 and Charles Smith was one of them. After losing a hand in a battle, he produced sufficient vouchers to entitle him to four-hundred acres which were laid off for him on the west side of Sandy which included the present site of Catlettsburg,

The four hundred acres allotted to "One-Handed Charley" became Catlettsburg.

Charles Smith died in 1775 and the acreage was inherited by his four children. After Colonel Smith's death there evidently were no attempts by white people to settle on this land until about 1797.

His heirs lost more than Charley in the 1800's. The Catletts came on the scene in the 19th Century and purchased part of the grant from the family of Charles Smith, but there was a legal dispute over that deal. When the dust settled in 1824, the court decided in favor of the Catletts, over the heirs of "One-Handed Charley."

After so many conflicts and adversity in Catlettsburg, makes you wonder what "One-Handed Charley" would think of this place now.

FIRST MAYOR CATLETTSBURG

John J. Montague served as Catlettsburg's Mayor from 1897 - 1902 and again from 1909 - 1913.

Attorney J. J. Montague, Mayor of Catlettsburg, was a lineal descendant of the old Montague family of Virginia, who came to this country from England in 1621. He was born in Mason County, Kentucky, and came to Boyd County, Kentucky with his parents when only one year old, resided in this county until his death. He lived on the farm until he was twenty-years of age, and obtained his education in the county schools and at Powell Academy, then taught school, and during odd time, and in vacation, he read law, being admitted to the bar in 1873. In 1882 he was elected County Attorney, and re-elected in 1886. In 1893, he was appointed postmaster at Catlettsburg, during President Cleveland's second administration, and served four years and seven months. In 1897, he was elected mayor of the city, serving four year, and 1909 was again elected mayor without opposition, being the nominee of both parties. He also served several terms as a member of the Board of Education, and was in 1910 the chairman of that body.

Mayor Montague had proven himself a progressive, yet conservative official, who was a believer in Catlettsburg, and alert to the best interest of the city. The building which he occupied as his law office was erected by his father, W. W. Montague, in 1819 and used by him as a grocery store for several years, and the mayor, as a young man, was clerk in his father's store for a while.

PAST AND PRESENT MAYORS CITY OF CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY

1897 - 1902	JOHN J. MONTAGUE	1942	J. J. PENNINGTON
1903 - 1907	JOHN H. MASON	1946	ERWIN RICE
1908	R. A. FIELDS	1954	WM. A. STEWART
1909 - 1913	J. J. MONTAGUE	1955	J. S. WILSON
1914 - 1915	J. B. SANFORD	1956	ERWIN RICE
1916 - 1917	J. B. SANFORD	1958 - 1961	CHARLES GIBBS
1918	W. C. HARPER	1962 - 1965	ARTHUR G. PORTER
1924	S. D. WHEELER	1966 - 1969	CHARLES GIBBS
1925	W. H. JUSTICE	1970 - 1973	CHARLES FRILEY
1926 - 1929	ROBERT OWENS	1974 - 1981	CHARLES GIBBS
1930	H. C. DAVIDSON	1982 - 1985	GARY HUNLEY
1933	M. B. COLLINSWORTH	1986 - 1989	ARTHUR G. PORTER
1934	H. F. PRICE	1990	ROBERT BLANTON
1935	S. M. FIELD	1991	ROBERT BLANTON- GURNEY JOHNSON
1936	HUGH M. CHATFIELD	1992 - 1993	GURNEY JOHNSON
1938	M. B. COLLINWORTH	1994 -	GURNEY JOHNSON (resigned)

1994 - Present - Roger Hensley
 Pictured from left: Councilmen -
 David Marushi, Jell Akers,
 Charles Hedrick, John Plummer,
Mayor Roger Hensley, and
 James Lambert.
 (absent) Phillip Caldwell



1877 CATLETTSBURGH BUSINESS DIRECTORY (spelling is as was then)

The county seat of Boyd, in the north-eastern part of the county, at the confluence of the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers, and 298 miles northeast of Louisville. In 1877, 65 buildings, comprising the principal portion of the town were destroyed by fire. Substantial brick business blocks have now been constructed in their place. A good hotel and Opera House are in process of completion. The Chattaroi railroad will pass through Catlettsburg and which will give it ample railroad facilities when completed. This road will be completed September 1, 1879, and will extend from Ashland via Catlettsburgh up the Big Sandy, a distance of 36 miles and tap the coal and iron region. A weekly newspaper, the Central Methodist, is published in the place. Boats run up the Big Sandy to Catlettsburgh when the state of the water will permit. Western Union Telegraph. Adams Express. Daily Mail. population 2,000. George W. Gallup, Postmaster.

Business Directory.

Andrews N P & Son, general store.
Barnes Dennis, wagon and blacksmith Shop.
Barnett Wm S. physician.
Bartram James, Valley hotel.
Bell Miller A, carpenter.
Berger Charles W, boots and shoes.
Berger John, shoemaker.
Big Sandy Wharfboat Co, T L Marrs, manager.
Borders Allen P, stoves and tinware.
Botts Joseph, barber.
Brown & Brown, lawyers.
Bruns Fred, boots and shoes.
Bruns Wm, pictures, millinery, etc.
Bruning Frank H, county attorney
Burns J M & R C, lawyers
Carnahan Lycurgus, dentist.
Carpenter David H, dry goods and cloth ing.
Cecil Culbert, Sr, groceries.

Central Methodist, Zephaniah Meek, publisher.
Clark Wm S, groceries.
Clawson Albert H, jeweler.
Craft Tillman, groceries.
Crow Adam M, hotel and livery.
Cundy Rev T, (M E church):
Davidson, Edwards & Co, general store.
Damron & Honshell, bakery and groceries.
Dillon John W, machinist.
Eastham David D, lawyer.
Elba Daniel W, groceries.
Ely Charles W, justice of peace.
Ely Wm, physician.
Ewing Thomas J, insurance & pension agt.
Falkner Mrs Louisa, saloon.
Firor Sylvester V, physician.
Ford James R, jeweler and justice of the peace.
Gallup George S, notions.
Hampton Charles H, cattle dealer.
Hastings A C, carpenter.
Hayes P M, photographer.
Hockaday Willis, barber.
Hogan, Ford & Co, druggists.
Hutchison George T, manager W U tele graph.
Hutchison Brother, job printer.
Jarred James, groceries.
Kilgore James A, carpenter
Kilgore Robert, furniture.
Kinkead James D, physician.
Kinner David, blacksmith.
Kouns John J, sheriff.
Lane Geo W, justice of the peace.
Lane John, barber.
Lanham W N & Son, foundry.
Lark Alexander, wagon and blacksmith shop.
Lewis Rev C A, (Presbyterian).
McCall Robert B, police judge.
McDyer John & Co, dry goods and cloth ing.
McConnell Charles L, books and station-ery.
McConnell James H, lawyer.
Marrs T L, express agent.
Mason John H, lawyer.

Martin Davison S, meat market.
 May Wm, grocery, 1 mile south.
 Miles John W, marble works.
 Miles Mrs & Co, millinery.
 Mims & Klauder, saddlers.
 Mitchell Joseph, justice of the peace.
 Montague John J, lawyer.
 Morse Arthur F, general store.
 Moore H J C, cooperage manfr.
 Moore Laban T, lawyer.
 Mullen James W, county clerk.
 Murphy Joseph, grocery and saloon.
 Owens Aaron, barber.
 Patton Brothers, druggist.
 Patton J G & Co, Proprs Big Sandy
 Flour Mills.
 Price Robert K, hotel.
 Prichard & Kenner, lawyers,
 Rice Jacob, school commissioner.

Richardson John C, city marshal.
 Rigg Robert B, leather and saddler.
 Ross S D & Son, coopers.
 Schauer Peter P, bakery.
 Shoemaker Wm, groceries.
 Smiley M L, physician.
 Smith Mrs A J, milliner.
 Smith John, general store, 1 mile s.
 Smith, Mitchell & Co, saw mill.
 Stein Charles, tanner.
 Ulin Elba, general store.
 Vaughn & Kinner, livery stable.
 Vinson Z C, Continental hotel.
 Waits Conrad, grocer.
 Wellman J B & N, hardware.
 Weliman & Prichard, groceries.
 Williamson John I, merchant tailor.
 Witten & Davidson, bankers.
 Young Rev G W, (Methodist south).



Historical Marker located on the corner of 26th & Louisa Street

CATLETTSBURG PHONE & ADDRESS BOOK

1897

Daniel Workman – 1st Ward Councilman
Catlettsburg High School – 205 Walnut
Central School – near Depot
Hampton City School – Valley 3n. Mound
Sandy City School – Main near Spring Branch

1917 – 1918

Donie Pack wid. (widow) William (Willie) – W. end 38th
George Pack (Emma) – h. Louisa Road
Hosey Pack (Mary) – Lab. Louisa Road
John Pack (Martha) – Lab. Louisa Road
Leonard Pack (Maud) – U. S. Army 2906 Louisa Road
Lesslie Pack – U. S. Army 2906 Louisa Road
Lesslie Pack Miss – 110 Valley
List Pack Mrs. – 110 Valley
Oma Pack Miss – W. End 38th
Floyd Swin (Rose) – Lab. Park Ave off 36th
Samuel Pack (Mary) – Propr. Big Sandy House 2408 Ct.
Shirley Pack Miss – W. End 38th
Walter Pack (Aaraminta) Lab. Louisa Road
Charlie Williams (Linnie) St. Eng.—410 38th
Pearlie Williamson wd. R.D. 22nd & RR.
Rush Williamson (Fannie) – Ann sw cor. 21st
C. H. Mutters – 3422 Court St.
Alger Hotel – sw cor. 25th
Central Hotel – 2505 Ct.
Fuller Hotel 2702 Louisa
A. J. Gauge Hotel – 2354 Ct.
Hardin Hotel – 2608 Louisa
Shively Hotel – Ct. St. Cor. 25th
Plymale Hotel – 2415 Ct.
Riverview Hotel – 1st nr. 25th
Stockwell Hotel – 26th Ne cor. Chestnut
Wellman Hotel – 2302 Ct.

1920 – 1921

Dona Pack – 38th & Patonia
George W. Pack (Clista J.) – Park

George W. Pack (Emeline) -- Louisa
 John Pack (Martha) - 36th & Louisa
 John J. (May) C&O Green
 Harkless Pack (Leona) Emp. (Kenova)
 Hosey Pack (May) motorman OVC - Big Sandy Rd.
 Hubert Pack (Maxie) - bk. Horse Branch
 Mary Pack, wid (Sam) - 2408 Ct.
 Noah Pack (Maude) - 36th & Louisa

1924 - 1925

Dona Pack wd (William) - Louisa Rd.
 Fred Pack (Lizzie) - 36th
 Ray Williamson (Naomi) - Louisa

1929 - 1930

John Edwards (Matilda) - Park Ave.

1933

Herbert E. Coffee (Naomi) - Louisa
 Dona Pack wid (William) - Park
 Missouri wid. (Joseph) - 3518 Valley
 Charles Williamson (Linnie) - Cannonsburg Pk.

This list was copied from a copy in Paul Williamson's scrapbook. Spelling and abbreviations are copied as were on the list. I don't know if this is how they did it in those days or not, or if someone just copied in a hurry at some time. Yesterday and now writings and spelling are quite different in many ways. Try to figure out where these places and persons were. Most of these places and people are no longer here with us, and if you are listed here, we are glad you are still not confused as some of us are as to where some of these streets, etc. are. If you figure these out, let me know. - B. W.

City of Catlettsburg Offices (1999)

MAYOR:	Roger Hensley . . . 26 th & Broadway Street	739-5223
CITY CLERK/TREASURER:	Pauline Hunt . . . 26 th & Broadway	739-4533
CHIEF OF POLICE:	Mark Plummer . . . 26 th & Broadway	739-5022
POLICE DEPARTMENT:	26 th & Broadway	739-5126
FIRE DEPARTMENT:	Linzey Runyon, Chief . . . 26 th & Broadway	739-4444
CITY GARAGE:	Roger West, Superintendent . . . 3000 Louisa Street	739-6108
BUILDING INSPECTOR:	Kenneth Hood . . . 26 th & Broadway	739-5223
SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT:	Fred Childers, Superintendent	739-5145
	3701 Park Street	

NORTH -- west from Ohio River to Huckleberry, 2 n of Division
 OAKLAND AVE -- south from Webster to limits, 1 w of Big Sandy River
 PANOLA -- south from Division, 1 w of Louisa
 PLUM -- west from Big Sandy River to limits, 7 s of Division
 SHORT -- west from Ohio River to Panola, 1 s of Division
 SHORT (Hampton City) -- from Mound to Willow, 1 e of Oakland Ave
 SPRING -- south from ½ block n of Plum to Mound, 3 w of Oakland Ave
 SYCAMORE -- north from Main to limits, 6w of Ohio River
 VALLEY -- south from ½ Sq n of Plum, 2 e of Oakland Ave
 VIRGINIA -- runs e and west, 2 s of Buena Vista
 WALNUT -- n from Main to North, 5 w of Ohio River
 WASHINGTON -- west from Ohio River to Ann, 4 n of Division
 WEBSTER -- west from Lock Ave to High, 5 s of Division
 WILLOW -- west from Big Sandy River to limits, 9 s of Division
 WINDING AVE -- west from Court, 1s of Willow

It was so much fun, but time consuming, to copy these descriptions from the copy of the directory. My computer kept underlining in red or green the grammar or spelling which was incorrect. I corrected a few, for instance av to Ave. and n to north, etc. They should have had these intelligent computers to spell and check their grammar in the good old days; or should they? It showed up all their abbreviations as incorrect. Oh well, I just wanted you to know what the streets were called and where they were located then. Correct or incorrect, have fun placing the now names on them. Betty Wright

This information was copied from a copy from Paul Williamson's scrapbook, which was very interesting to look at.



WHAT A CITY SHOULD BE

A place where kindly thought is cherished,
 Where high ideals are fed and nourished,
 Where charity in all its beauty
 Is felt to be a sacred duty,
 Where peace and harmony abound
 And neighbors meet on common ground.
 Our City!

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES IN CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY BOYD COUNTY

"BEECHMOOR" (Alexander Catlett House), former Patton Home.

Built circa 1812. Alexander Catlett built the original log cabin. The house was bought in late 1863 and enlarged by Colonel Laban T. Moore who was a member of Congress 1860.

"CATLETTSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH"

Built 1874-75. Built during economic boom a decade after Civil War, George N. Brown, Judge James M. Rice, and George B. Martin were among the strong supporters of the church. Fine high Victorian brick structure, little altered.

"FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH"

Built 1867. In 1949 it was the largest of all the remaining churches in the city of Catlettsburg. Modified Gothic Revival Style.

"FORMER CATLETTSBURG NATIONAL BANK"

Built 1885. Built by the Catlettsburg National Bank. Outstanding example of high Victorian Gothic Brick commercial structure well adapted to corner site.

"FORMER MAXINE L. YOST SCHOOL"

This prominent educational institution, built 1885, has educated many teachers throughout the area. Professor J. B. Leech and Lucy Prichard were early teachers at this institution. Graduates of the School include an Under Secretary General, General Services, United Nations, presidents of local banks and a Vice-president of Ashland Oil, Inc.

"HISTORICAL MARKERS"

DeSoto Monument -- Pike Crossing on Center Street. The monument was placed there by the Colonel Dames in 1941 to commemorate that DeSoto and his Conquistadors penetrated the wilderness to look upon the waters -- the mighty Mississippi River, and finally came down its tributary -- the Ohio River. They left a heritage of a mighty water highway extending from the Allegheny Mountains to the Suez of Mexico.

Linn Boyd Marker -- Courthouse lawn, corner of 28th Street -- Placed there in 1964 as a memorial to Linn Boyd after whom the county was named in 1860.

Civil War Marker -- 26th and Louisa Streets, commemorates the War between the States. Catlettsburg was an important supply center and a base of operations for Colonel George Gallop, a Catlettsburg native.

"SCENIC VIEW"

THREE STATES -- 31st and Lock Avenue, behind floodwall -- Stand in Catlettsburg, Kentucky, across the Big Sandy River you will see Virginia Point, a recreational park in Kenova, West Virginia. Over to your left you can Ohio on the other side of the Ohio River -- being South Point, Ohio.

CATLETTSBURG POST OFFICE

William C. Harper, Postmaster at Catlettsburg in 1910, received his appointment in 1902, and after that time there had been a very marked increase in the receipts and business in all departments. For year ending March 31, 1902, the business of the office amount in round figures to \$5,500, while for the year ending March 31, 1910, it was \$8,000. There were ten mails received and eleven mails dispatched each day, and one rural route covered the surrounding country very thoroughly.

The building at that time was used for post office purposes was not a particularly favorable one, but as soon as the new government building was completed, the office had as large and convenient quarters as any city in this section of the country.

Plans had already been accepted for this building, which cost one hundred thousand dollars, and work on it began immediately.

Postmaster Harper was born in Bath County, Kentucky, and came to Catlettsburg in 1889. As stated above he took charge the office in 1902. He had associated with him Miss Lucy Jones, Assistant Postmaster, Theodore Wright, General Clerk, and George W. Arthur, rural route carrier. Postmaster Harper and his assistants were kind and courteous in their treatment to everybody, and always ready to accommodate the public in every way possible, hence it is was a pleasure for the people to have any business relations with the office.



The former U. S. Post Office & Federal Building



Larry Kirk at the former Post Office



The New U. S. Post Office – Catlettsburg, KY



Clerk David Rigsby helps a customer at new building

The dedication for the new Catlettsburg Post Office on U. S. 23 was held on Saturday, June 19, 1999 at 9:30a.m. Refreshments were served and door prizes awarded after the ceremony. Guests included were U. S. Representative Ken Lucas and State Senator Walter Blevins. Construction on the new building began in 1998. It replaced the 25th St. location in downtown Catlettsburg, providing more space for operations and parking.

A BREATH OF NEW LIFE IN OLD BUILDING

Jay Young has a vintage 48-star flag he's storing for a special day.

He's keeping it for the day he completes restoration of the former federal building in downtown Catlettsburg.

He plans to display it on the back wall of what used to be the federal courtroom. The flag will complete the period look he's working to return to the building, which he purchased in December of 1998 from the U. S. Postal Service.

The structure was erected in 1908 of stones cut and numbered in Italy, then shipped to the U. S. for assembly.

Court functions moved to downtown Ashland in the mid-1980's when the Carl Perkins Federal Building opened on Greenup Avenue.

The Postal Service left the building last year for its new building on U. S. 23 and sold it at auction. "I saw it and fell in love with it," Young said.

Young plans to lease part of the building as office space and use part for receptions and community functions. He already has two tenants in second-floor offices.

Even before restoration started, the second-floor federal courtroom reflected its Gilded Age past.

Young, a convenience store owner, is a Catlettsburg native with a deep love and fascination for Gate City history and tradition, is determined to adhere as closely as he can to the courtroom's original appearance.

He's painted and installed new carpeting, but left woodwork mostly intact, only removing a set of leather-covered inner doors that obscured the original massive oak ones. He also removed green felt that covered many of the windows.

The woodwork itself he cleaned in a pains-taking process using various cleaning solutions and elbow grease.

The judge's bench and clerk's table in front of it remain at the front of the room. Seating has been removed to enhance the room's intended use for receptions and community functions.

The ceiling soars two stories and is rimmed with an elaborate wood molding. The pattern of the molding is repeated in the arches over the windows and floors.

To young's delight, he found an abundance of brass hardware in the building, including massive hinges on every door and latches on the windows. Additionally, much of the metalwork in the marble-lined restrooms is brass.

Cleaning it was another challenge. He had to remove nine decades of corrosion interspersed with layers of varnish.

Restoration of the first-floor area is under way now.

Among features, Young likes to show off are the cubbyholes just below ceiling level from which postal inspectors monitored activity on the post office floor—post offices are perhaps the largest clearinghouses in the country for the transfer of money—before the days of video cameras.

The cubbyholes are accessible through a network of tunnels, ladders and doors to which the inspectors had the only keys.

That way, they could steal into the building, climb to their vantage point and watch through louvered openings. The system worked because no one knew when the inspectors were on duty.

The third floor, which once housed U. S. District Judge Henry Wilhoit's chambers, remains largely un-restored as yet. Most likely Young will lease it as a single office suite, he said.

The restoration comes as welcome news to Wilhoit, who last entered the building some four years ago. "When I saw how it had deteriorated, it was very sad," he said. "I'm most anxious to go back after the restoration."

The public will get a chance to view part of the building during Catlettsburg's sesquicentennial September 2-6.

The Mayor's reception will be held in the courtroom and the structure will be part of the Tour of Homes September 5, said Glorious Hensley, president of the Catlettsburg Leadership Community Development Club.

Hensley hopes to see similar restoration efforts on some of the Gate City's other historic buildings.

"I'm really glad it didn't sit and deteriorate," Hensley said. "It's made the citizens really proud. They're all gung-ho with the celebration coming up. I think this could be the start of things."

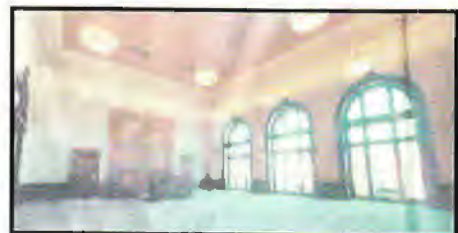
(The Daily Independent, August 15, 1999)



Alvin Blevins of Ashland scrapes paint from a lamp post in front of the former federal building in Catlettsburg as part of the renovation process.



Jay and Rae Jeanne Young



The restored courtroom.

MARCUM HELPED TO LOCATE U. S. COURT IN CATLETTSBURG

In the 1949 edition of the Independent I found this article of interest.

This edition of the Independent to aid Catlettsburg in her Centennial celebration would be incomplete without reference to Col. T. D. Marcum, one of her early citizens and perhaps the one man who had more influence in shaping the destiny than any other.

Just 30 years ago (1999 - 80 years ago now) the editor of the Independent interviewed Co. Marcum one day and wrote the following story which was published on March 13, 1919, and which is herewith reproduced:

Yesterday we had a pleasant visit with Col. T. D. Marcum of Catlettsburg, during which we had a delightful chat over the doings of bygone days in this part of the state. Col. Marcum is the only person living who was present when General James A. Garfield was sworn to his commission as a Brigadier General in the Civil War. The General's Headquarters at that time, February or March, 1862, was in Pikeville, Kentucky, in a house now owned by the Bowles heirs. The oath was administered by John Charles, a Justice of the Peace of Pike County. The Colonel was a delegate to the first State Convention held in Kentucky after the Civil War, which convened in Louisville in May, 1866, and nominated Judge Alvin Duval for Clerk of the Court of Appeals and has been a delegate to every Democratic State Convention held in the state since the war, except in 1887, 1888 and 1896. When the two former were held he was out West as an Indian Inspector and when the 1896 Convention was held he was in West Virginia aiding a brother who was a candidate for Circuit Judge.

In May 1875, Col. Marcum was nominated on the Democrat State Ticket for Register of the Land Office and at that time was the youngest man ever nominated by either party for a state office. The Democratic ticket was headed by the late Gov. Jas. B. McCreary and the Republican ticket by General Jno. M. Harlan who two years later was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and of the fourteen men that composed the two tickets in 1875. Col. Marcum is the only survivor and looks hale and hearty as though he would be on earth at least twenty years longer. When Co. Marcum left

Frankfort in the fall of 1879, he located in Catlettsburg and founded the Kentucky Democrat which soon became a power in the local and political affairs of this section. Fifteen years later he sold the Democrat to Friel and Sherlock, and turned his attention to Life insurance business in which he has been very successful.

We doubt whether the people of our sister city gives Col. Marcum full credit for what he has done for them. When the bill passed the lower House of Congress early in December, 1900, providing for Federal Court to be held in Ashland, the people turned at once to Col. Marcum to lead the fight before the Senate in behalf of Catlettsburg. He spent 11 weeks in Washington, but won his fight in the Senate, notwithstanding that Senator Lindsay of this state was for Ashland. Col. Marcum lead the fight in 1909 when Ashland tried to get enough voted to move the county seat to Ashland and had Catlettsburg lost that fight the fine Federal building and County Court House both erected since 1909 would today be in this city and Catlettsburg, instead of being the good and growing city it is, would be a little station on the C. & O. Railroad. (but, guess what, Ashland finally won in the long run, the Federal Court was moved there in the mid-1980's, but we still take pride in having the beautiful old building left and it's getting more beautiful every day, because of the Jay and Rae Jeanne Young who are restoring it.

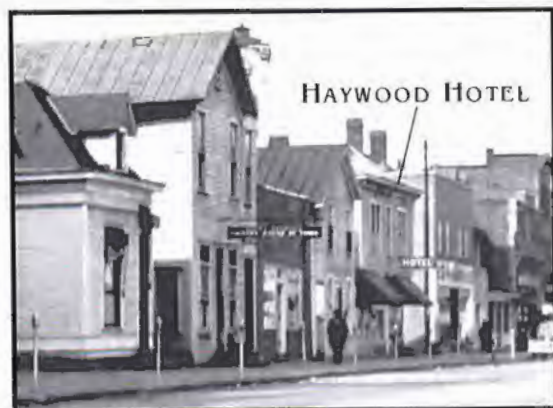
Another contest between Catlettsburg and Ashland occurred when Catlettsburg boys made application for the instituting of a Lodge of Elks in that city. Ashland Lodge made a strong protest against the creating of a dispensation for the New Lodge. Col. Marcum was a member of the Ashland Lodge, but was loyal to his home boys and lead the fight for them. He filed a brief with the Deputy Exalted Ruler for Kentucky, who happened to be a life long personal and political friend of Col. Marcum, and of course Catlettsburg won and the handsome three story brick building with its five store rooms, Corner of Division and Center St., in which is located the Elks Lodge and Club Room, would not be there today had it not been for the work of Col. Marcum. We repeat, Do the people of Catlettsburg fully appreciate what he has done for their welfare?"

HAYWOOD HOTEL WAS MAKESHIFT FOOD CENTER FOR GATE CITY VICTIMS IN 1937 FLOOD

Catlettsburg, at the most eastern point of the Ohio River, is always the first city in Kentucky to be hit by a flood on that stream.

The houses in Boyd County's capital, except for a score or so on the steep hill at the city's south end, were buried by water in the 1937 flood.

On January 20th, 1937 Catlettsburg Mayor Hugh M. Chatfield arranged for an emergency food station for the Gate City residents, who had been forced from their homes, at the old Haywood Hotel on 26th and Louisa Street.



The emergency center was a scene of many activities and provided food for some 150 flood victims. Food was also sent by boat to isolated families. Forty or fifty more families had moved to emergency centers.

Two days later, floodwaters would force the food distribution center to close.

All of Catlettsburg extending from 26th Street to the Pike Crossing and between Broadway and the river had been inundated by water by noon Wednesday, January 20th.

Mayor Chatfield sent an emergency order to police officers to abandon their cars and begin patrolling the city's flooded districts by boat. The order followed a report that there had been a number of plate glass windows in the business district broken.

Police only allowed in the area those boats that were helping evacuate people. Sightseeing boats were banned.

On January 21st, the entire business district at Catlettsburg, with the exception of 26th Street, was under water.

Broadway had been blocked and all through traffic was being routed by way of U.S. 23 to Cannonsburg and then to Ashland over U.S. 60.

A day later, the upper floors of the Boyd County Courthouse were ordered for storage.

On Friday, January 22nd, many merchants and homeowners were again moving their belongings to higher ground as the water inched higher.

By noon, nearly every retail store in the city was under water, cutting off all local sources of food supply. Floodwaters had reached the second floor of the City Building, Elks Lodge Hall and Federal Courthouse.

Some people were taken by train across the state line into Kenova, W.Va. where flooding was not as serious.

Relief was obtained through the Red Cross and other relief agencies in Ashland, state and county governments.

The 1937 flood covered 80 percent of

the developed area of the city to an average depth of 17 feet. All normal business activities and utility services were suspended.

Traffic was interrupted on all railroads and highways except U.S. 23 from the south and 4,000 inhabitants were made refugees from the flood.

Across the Big Sandy River, Kenova served as a good neighbor to the Gate City, and was a refugee center for several Catlettsburg residents.

The flooding didn't ignore Kenova-high water covered Virginia Point and other areas located close to the Big Sandy River. On the Ohio River side of the town,

Kenova sustained some flooding, but not nearly as much from the Big Sandy River.

A Red Cross disaster relief committee set up refugee centers in the National Guard armory and the Salvation Army Citadel.

Volunteer nurses went into action on Friday, January 22nd, to aid an estimated 500 homeless.

Railways, which were forced to close, began opening back up on Friday, with several hundred people taken to Charleston where they were housed in the city's armory until they could return to their homes.



Flood covers Center Street

CATLETTSBURG'S 1949 CENTENNIAL ORGANIZATION HEADED BY WINN FIELD

Hundreds Assist In Arranging Program For Civic Event:

The loyal and cooperative community spirit that has enabled Catlettsburg to surmount major disasters of fire had never been more aptly demonstrated than by the common effort of hundreds of her people in planning and staging the city Centennial Celebration in 1949. Also, again this year, the city's 1999 Sesquicentennial Celebration committee has spent the past two years, plus planning this years biggest of all celebrations, we didn't realize that so many of our towns residents and former residents could really come back together to plan such an enormous event, but it is happening. Hours and hours, days and days, months and months have been given up to plan something for all our own as well as our neighbors to enjoy. WE PRAISE THESE GREAT BIG HEARTED PERSONS FOR YOUR HARD WORK. THANKS, THANKS, THANKS.

Now getting back to our 1949 centennial history. . .

So that Centennial vistors and guest would long remember the Catlettsburg Centennial as one of the most outstanding community events of the Ohio Valley, the city's residents spent long hours of work, sacrificing their leisure time, in order to perfect a program of events that will prove attractive to visitors of all ages.

Heading the entire Centennial organization as general chairman in 1949 was Winn A. Field who did an excellent job of co-ordinating the efforts of all other Centennial committees. Mr. Field was ably assisted by Co-Chairman Paul Richardson. James E. Adkins served as secretary in 1949 and is now serving in 1999 as Vice-President of Sesquicentennial Committee.

The 1949 Centennial Executive Committee was composed of (From left to right) Luther M. Meek, Robert Stanley, Sterling Berger, Carl Hicks, Gardner Ewing, James E. Adkins, John Mason, Winn A. Field, all of whom were members of the Catlettsburg Chamber of Commerce that had just been organized who were the official sponsor of the Celebration.



Centennial Executive Committee

The success of the Centennial was due not only to the efforts of the committee chairmen, but in just as large a measure to the work of each individual committee members.

Since my time is running out to get this book printed, I am unable to go ahead and list all of those wonderful citizens who gave us something to remember, the Celebration of the City's one-hundredeth birthday in 1949. Most all of those persons have long left us, but there were a few names, I know are still with us, I noticed several who went to school with me, graduating in 1950. May those hard working persons in 1949, rest in peace and look down upon us and see what they accomplished and enjoy what we are doing. We loved all of you and miss you very much. THANKS!



Winn A. Field
General Chairman

1949 CENTENNIAL PARADE



Centennial Parade Monday Afternoon, Will Be Colorful Event; To Include 15 Floats, Two Bands, Other Units

CATLETTSBURG; Fifteen gayly decorated floats, tow bands, several military units, an equestrian unit, police and fire department units, and a wide variety of old-time "Gay Nineties" units will be included in the Catlettsburg Centennial Parade which will provide color, ceremony and excitement on Monday afternoon, July 25th, as one of the features of Catlettsburg's Centennial Week celebration, according to announcement made yesterday by Sterling Berger, chairman of the Centennial parade committee.

The parade will form at 3:30 o'clock at 23rd and Center Streets and will proceed south on Center Street to 26th Street, west on 26th Street to Louisa Street, south on Louisa Street in front of the Courthouse Square reviewing stand to 31st Street, east on 31st Street where the units will disband.

The line of march will be headed by the Catlettsburg Police Department, followed immediately by the Color Guard of the John Meek Post, American Legion of Catlettsburg. The fifteen

floats, one of which will be graced by Catlettsburg's "Centennial Queen" who is to be selected earlier Monday afternoon, will be interspersed along the line of march. The Ashland High School "Tomcat" Band which gained national fame in the Presidential Inauguration parade in Washington, D. C., last spring, and the snappy Ceredo-Kenova High School Band will be in the line of march. An equestrian unit showing some of this section's finest show horses will represent the Boyd County Saddle Horse Association. The El Hasa patrol unit of Ashland has also been assigned a marching position. Military units will include the Ashland unit of the National Guard and mechanized equipment.

In addition to the above marching units, the parade committee has arranged for several novelty units which will depict the modes of transportation in style in Catlettsburg's younger days.

(The Ashland Daily Independent - July 24th, 1949)

1949 Centennial Queen Candidates

**Barbara Musser****Ann Brown****Nanny Ruth Hawk****Delores Johnson****Tally Staton****Betty Fields****Rebecca Daugherty****Patsy Pierce****Hazel Runyan****Ruth Berger****Centennial Queen Barbara Musser**

Visiting Mayors served as judges in the 1949 Centennial Queen Contest on Monday, July 25th, 1949. Mr. Charles K. O'Connell, Clerk of Kentucky Court of Appeals, presided as toastmaster for the Catlettsburg Centennial Luncheon for the Mayors who were to select the Centennial Queen in front of the Boyd County Courthouse.

Miss Barbara Musser, who at that time was sixteen years of age and was sponsored by the Elks Club of Catlettsburg, was chosen as the 1949 Centennial Queen. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Denver Musser who resided at 2214 Broadway. Miss Musser attended the Nestor School of Dancing.

The Centennial Queen and her escort led the grand march at the climax of the dance and costume ball which was the final event of the Centennial week celebration. (Photos taken from newspaper)

FLOODWALL CONSTRUCTION

If one would refer to an article written by George Wolford for the Ashland Daily Independent on January 27th, 1987 on the flood of 1937. It all started as a white Christmas on the Allegheny River and a few showers along the Monongahela. It grew as a heavy rain fall in the mountains of West Virginia and poured muddy water into the Ohio river.

The snow melted and the rain continued to fall for a month, accumulating into the highest and most destructive inundation the Ohio has known since civilized man settled in the valley.

Not only did the flood come slowly but with plenty of warning it inundated only the lowest sections along the river and the tributaries. According to photographs and Army Corps of Engineer maps and regulations tell us the main street of the flood swept early down the main street of Catlettsburg-and the crest was just high enough to leave everybody completely in the town uninitiated.

Catlettsburg, at the mouth of the Big Sandy River and the Ohio was a constant flood over years. The statistics are that Catlettsburg was inundated with flood water an average of once every eighteen months.

It's hard to conceive that good came from what was considered a catastrophe, but the '37 flood convinced America that Ashland, Ironton, Catlettsburg and Russell needed permanent protection. From it grew their floodwalls and levees. Similarly, impoundment's created for flood protection have been the basis for state parks that enhance Kentuckians' boast tourism income for

the Commonwealth.

On the 24th day of January 1937 the crest of water was 67.6 feet all of Catlettsburg, except scattered high areas was under water and a driving rain added to the discomfort. Armed American Legion members patrolled the streets of neighboring cities to try to protect its citizens. Schools were closed.

An emergency food station for evacuees was set up in the Haywood Hotel in Catlettsburg. The Gate City, traditionally the first area community to be overrun, was wet downtown, with traffic routed around by the way of Catletts Creek. Mayor Hugh Chatfield said 25 to 30 merchants had been forced out and 100 residents were abandoned.

On January 28th liquor sales were banned in Catlettsburg. Employees of the Carbon and Carbide Chemical Co. from Charleston showed up to guard the city with orders to shoot looters on sight. Coast Guard crewman helped unload supplies, from wharfboats to a box car in flood swamped Catlettsburg. Relief materials for the flood victims poured into the areas from around the country. Autos and boats combined to deliver relief supplies in Catlettsburg. Trucks would bring donated food and blankets as far as could drive on Cemetery Road and volunteers loaded them onto boats for delivery at minor depots along the river-from the unloading point of Gray Hill and Norris Branch into auto delivery. This was a very difficult time with the city of Catlettsburg. Russell Compton, was the Boyd County Circuit Clerk at the time, made this statement recalls the flood as cold and wet. I lived upstairs over the funeral

home. We still maintained ambulance service by parking the cars on Cemetery Road and Hampton City taking a boat to them. There we went to Cannonsburg and on to Ashland. I transferred one boy who's wife had shot him in the leg. The water didn't hamper ambulance service. We had one funeral during the flood using the facility of the old Alexandra Funeral Home at 2425 Winchester Avenue. Catlettsburg has been known for floods and all people were in good moods. All helped and all pulled together.

Kroger's (in the old Elks building) moved all of its merchandise in the stockroom of the funeral home, and told us to use whatever we wanted. We had a hot plate and still had electricity so we still ate plenty good. Those canned hams were good. Vernon Dinkle, for many years Catlettsburg city attorney, said he was living in Ashland at 23rd Street and Carter Avenue during the flood. "It got up on Greenup Avenue and in downtown, but it never got into my house. My mother and father lived in Catlettsburg, and about six feet of water got into their house. I went up there in a boat and got them. They went back after the flood and the house was still standing. I remember there was a lot of drinking and horsing around going on then. I guess there wasn't a whole lot else to do. Water was everywhere, in the city building (Catlettsburg) and all of the buildings. But everybody helped each other."

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food for some 150-flood victims. Food was also sent by boat to isolated families. Forty or fifty more families had been moved to emergency centers. Two days later, floodwaters would force the food distribution center to close. All of Catlettsburg extending from 26th Street to the Pike Crossing and between Broadway and the river had been inundated by water by noon Wednesday, January 20th Mayor Chatfield sent an emergency order to police officers to abandon their cars and begin patrolling the city's flooded district by boat. The order followed a report that there had been a number of plate glass windows in the business district broken.

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Quoting from an article by Pamela J. Corn, Independent news writer, January 27th, 1987, it is pointed out that it is necessary and important that something should be done to stop the

devastation by the water in the Ohio River basin. It takes a lot of rain and more than what fell in January she says, of "37" to devastate the Ohio River Basin again but it could happen. Area officials said reservoirs in the upstream Ohio River drainage basin have reduced the threat of floods because they can reduce and control the flow of water. There were no such reservoirs and few levees or flood-walls in 1937.

Congress approved spending federal money on flood protection for the first time when it passed the Flood Control Act in June 1936. But it was too late for what happened the following January streams throughout the Ohio River basin reached record levels, flooding 156 towns, driving hundreds of thousands from their homes and contributing to 500 deaths in January 1937.

It became apparent to the citizens of Catlettsburg that it was necessary to take some action to try and protect our city from the ravages of high water upon the Ohio and Big Sandy River.

In the early fifties Catlettsburg began to work toward the securing of plans and funds to build the flood-wall. In the early fifties several contacts were made to the Corp of Engineers and the Congressman and to the Federal Government to do something about the recurring fly of flood wall protection against the city of Catlettsburg.

Catlettsburg had a creek called Catletts Creek, which came through practically the middle of town. And this creek provided a massive amount of water during the time of high rains, and it was necessary to do something to control this area as well.

In consensus of experts, was floods as such a one that occurred of

1937 could occur of any stream at any time should not be disregarded. As studies as the records passed on the more critical combinations of storms and run off in the Ohio River Basin may be reasonably anticipated in the future. It was the opinion of the Corp of Engineers that we should build reservoirs to control the flow of water, also flood walls, concrete and dirt enpoundments should be placed around the cities to protect them against the future of floods.

In the year of 1958, I, James E. Adkins was personally building a office building of law practice across the street from the courthouse in the city of Catlettsburg and had about 1 1/2 feet of water in my building hardly before we began to construct. All these matters were pushed aside and actively trying to get our flood walls going, we made trips to Washington D.C., appeared before numerous committees. We even took a video tape of the Haywood Hotel in the center of Catlettsburg showing the extreme amount of water in the building and showed it to the committee for the Senate in Washington D.C.

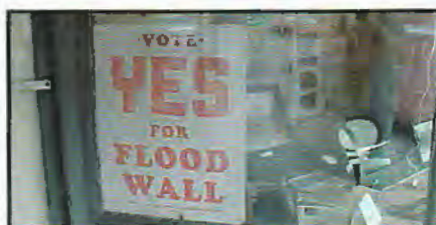
On this occasion, I, as a city attorney and Mayor, Paul Blazer of Ashland Oil, and Congressman from our district all appeared before the senate committee in Washington D. C., for the purpose of trying to get them to approve a grant for our flood wall. I was spokesman for the city of Catlettsburg and I stood up for the purpose of making my speech to the senate committee and the chairman said Mr. Adkins you can set down, you do not have to stand up. I spoke to him and said, well Sir, if you don't mind I'd rather stand, I believe I speak better on my feet and I probably will speak a little clearer, and he said, go ahead. So we produced to them at that time our proposed plan

for the floodwall. It was eventually approved. The floodwall was to extend from the present location in the vicinity of 20th street and should go to the south end of Catlettsburg. It was to contain two pump stations. One pump station was to be at the center of town at Catletts Creek. There is also necessary to get flowing easements up Catlett's Creek so that when water would be impounded from flowing into the Ohio River it will be raised over low land laying along what is known as

Catletts Creek above Catlettsburg, Boyd County that route. The securing of engineers to survey the necessary property and the firm of Gestling Engineering in Ashland, Kentucky, was retained and hired by the city of Catlettsburg to make the survey work.

The next step we needed to take was the securing of the land.

(Written by James E. Adkins)



Left-Winn Fields, (2nd-left) Earle Clements was Governor of Kentucky
Below - floodwall as it looks today-1999 on Oakland Avenue and Lock Avenue



YOUTH CENTER A REALITY CATLETTSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB PROJECTS 1958 - 1959

Catlettsburg is a small Kentucky city of approximately 2,000 (as of 1958) inhabitants, bounded on the east by the Ohio River and the Big Sandy River, on the west by hills and squeezed in on the north and south by the two large cities of Ashland, Kentucky and Huntington, West Virginia. In years gone by it was a flourishing river town but at present it might be described as a village struggling for an existence.

ITS BASIC NEEDS for community improvements have been so glaring and numerous that a committee selected to make a survey needed use no effort or imagination to discover them. By the same token its resources for accomplishing the needed improvements were so limited.

THE MAJOR OBSTACLE was a common one prevalent in many communities. A contagion of general apathy almost to the point of defeatism can and does pervade a community until a few civic minded and imaginative citizens are awakened to a desperate situation and are sufficiently aroused to take action. This was the situation in Catlettsburg in 1958 - 1959.

As the result of a careful survey by a group of Catlettsburg Woman's Club members; four projects that offered possibilities of accomplishing a positive change were chosen.

FIRST PROJECT: Assist all civic organizations in establishing and promotion of a new Catlettsburg Youth Center and a library.

A COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT CONTEST fortunately offered the challenge at a psychological moment and interest and enthusiasm ran high on PROJECT 1.

For a number of years Catlettsburg had been most fortunate in having a citizen, name being Beulah Ross, who was vitally interested in the youth and with the help of a few citizens she operated a popular well disciplined Youth Center on the proverbial shoestring. The only room available was on the second floor of what was known in years gone by as The Old Opera House. Its antiquity stood out from pit to dome and eventually its creaking stairs and feeble floors subjected it to the fatal decree "CONDEMNED AS UNSAFE."

Gloom and doom were facing our youth at a critical period when newspapers were flaunting items of juvenile delinquency on all their front pages. Some solution had to be made to our problem to save our youth.

At that point, faint rumors were in the air that the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company was considering the discontinuance of all passenger service, and with this mere faint rumor the Catlettsburg Woman's Club, with Felicia Patton as President, scented the track and immediately sought conference with the C & O officials in Huntington and Ashland suggesting the station be turned over for use as a Civic Center. Its location in the center of town was ideal and its possibilities for remodeling to meet the needs were excellent.

Working along with the Woman's Club was the Mayor, Charles Gibbs, who for sometime had felt it was the duty of the city to provide a safe and attractive Youth Center and this building was the answer.

It was a happy day indeed for the citizens of Catlettsburg when the announcement was made that the C & O had deeded the station valued at \$70,000 to the city to be used as a Civic Center.

A city ordinance was written that the Civic Center would have a ten year lease from the city and the governing body was composed of the presidents and immediate past president of the two Woman's Clubs, the Garden Club, the Chamber of Commerce and the chairman and ex-chairman of the Youth Center board, the mayor and one member of the city council. The operating expenses and maintenance was taken care of by monthly contributions from the Boyd County Community Chest, the aforementioned clubs, voluntary contributions from citizens and income from the Youth Center. The expenses are taken care today in the same way as in those days.

Immediately the necessary committees were appointed - finance, building, and house and comprising the committees were members of the two Woman's Clubs, the Garden Club, the Chamber of Commerce, city officials and other interested citizens.

A splendid spirit of cooperation prevailed. Building materials were donated by local firms, and labor costs were reduced by men who were willing to give generously of their time. The young people painted and repaired furniture and the mothers made drapes for the larger room to be used as the Youth Center.

The Woman's Club and the Junior Woman's Club bought second hand furniture, new drapes, china and silver, etc. for use in the smaller room to be known as a "Club Room".

The former ticket office between the two rooms was transformed into a neat, compact kitchen with a large sink, a stove, refrigerator and an electric hot water heater. Cabinets and counters were there ready for use. Gay window boxes were set up in each window, and attractive flowers were put in by the Garden Club.

The GRAND OPENING in July 1959 was a gala affair sponsored by the various civic groups who had cooperated so successfully in the Civic Center restoration project.

The public response was most gratifying and hundreds of young and old attended.

Under the excellent supervision of a full time director the year 1960 found the Youth Center a mecca for our young people. Games, ping pong, dancing and other wholesome amusements were provided. As a very rewarding result the Catlettsburg police officers truthfully said "hear ye, hear ye!" juvenile delinquency problems in Catlettsburg have diminished.

To date the operation has been most satisfactory; and we feel the establishment of this Civic Center both for the youth and the adults has been a most outstanding and helpful accomplishment, and we point to the fact that it was sparked by the Catlettsburg Woman's Club and its success achieved by the enthusiastic cooperation of the other civic groups.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PAULINE BENARD (who was a faithful member of the Catlettsburg Woman's Club) along with her husband Paul who is still with his family; we want to give a BIG THANK YOU to the family for sharing their mother and father with the youth of this city. They were excellent supervisors at the Youth Center for many years.

SECOND PROJECT: Assist the city and civic groups in a "clean-up, paint-up, fix-up" campaign in all areas of city following the completion of the floodwall.

A long needed floodwall had justly been completed and faced with the bright future of no annual flood waters through the town, the citizens took heart and began investing in improvements to their homes and places of business with a feeling of permanency rather than just of a year's duration.

The Woman's Club for several years had cooperated actively with the city in putting on a clean-up drive in the spring but it was the spring of 1959 that a new spirit was aroused. This year the Chamber of Commerce offered to assist financially if the Woman's Club would sponsor the contest. Four cash prizes were offered to the citizens whose property showed the most marked improvement in a given time.

THIRD PROJECT: Cooperate with the city Zoning, Planning and Housing Commission toward a more modern attractive and progressive city. An opportunity to be of assistance to the city council in the project of city zoning, planning, and housing was offered to the Woman's Club and they completed the survey with efficiency and accuracy.

FOURTH PROJECT: Cooperate with civic groups in beautification of scenic spots in the city and help foster an every-citizen pride in homes and places of business.

Scenic spots in a city as small as Catlettsburg are few and far between; but, an unobstructed view of the beautiful Ohio for approximately a half mile along which was formerly known as Route 60 and Center Street, now only Center Street, through the city was possible, and it is along this area that the civic groups under the leadership of the Garden Club concentrated their efforts toward beautification.

Some years ago the Colonial Dames placed an historic monument at a point along the river front and since then the civic clubs have surrounded it with attractive planting and worked to keep the area around it in good condition.

In the spring of 1959 two civic minded citizens, members of the Chamber of Commerce, also became interested in this project and offered the Woman's Club a new power mower on the condition that it be used to keep the grass and weeds cut along this expanse of river front. The offer was accepted and the members of the Garden Club agreed to assume the responsibility of keeping the mower and using it when necessary.

As loyal Catlettsburg citizens we in our efforts continue to brighten this corner where we are in every way possible so that we may feel that we have contributed some thing to progress and charm of our city. We feel that we have been awarded for our efforts by viewing it today in 1999.

The State Highway department and the C & O Railway Company that has an extensive right-of-way through town, were contacted and both assured the committee of their cooperation.

Paralleling what is now still Center Street and skirting a hill is another state road, now Route 60 and Route 23 that commanded a beautiful view overlooking the river and this spot also received the attention of the clubs. Through their request, the Highway Department widened the road to provide a drive-off at which point tourist may pause and feast their eyes. This also holds true as of now, 1999.

The Catlettsburg Woman's Club and Garden Club along with others are to be proud of the achievements in the improvements of the city of Catlettsburg in the past. These two clubs no longer exist.

The old Morse Opera House once housed the Catlettsburg Youth Center in the upstairs.



Civic Center - 1999

HUNDREDS ATTEND CIVIC CENTER FORMAL OPENING ON FRIDAY July, 1959

CATLETTSBURG – Civic leaders beamed with pride of accomplishment as 450 visitors viewed the new Catlettsburg Civic Center during open house Friday night.

Receiving guests were Allan Collier, chairman of the building committee, and chairman of the executive board of the youth center. Harold Freedman, chairman of the finance committee; Mayor Charles (Bus) Gibbs; Miss Felicia Patton, president of the Catlettsburg Woman's Club, and Mrs. Hal M. Runyan, president of the Catlettsburg Junior Woman's Club.

Miss Karen Curnutte and Rhett Webb, co-chairman of youth center activities, were in charge of a group of girls who served as guides throughout the evening. The girls, dressed in formal frocks, were Miss Sharon Crouch, Miss Doris Storie, Miss Susie Lewis, Miss Linda Clark, Miss Barbara Friley, Miss Joyce Crank, Miss Sonia Staton, Miss Pansy Boyd, Miss Sandra Johnson, Miss Gail Wellman and Miss Kay Jordan. Miss Kay Lauhon and Miss Karen Morris registered guests.

Refreshments were served in the clubroom where the tea table was covered with an ecru lace cloth centered with an arrangement of summer garden flowers in a pink bowl. Several florists' arrangements and bouquets of garden flowers were used as decorations. Twelve card tables with chairs were used on the patio where guests lingered to visit.

The 40-year-old brick depot was deeded to the city in February by the C&O when city officials agreed to drop a protest about discontinuing passenger train service in the Gate City. Mayor Gibbs named a building and finance committee at a meeting of civic organizations and leaders with Collier and Freedman as the committee heads. The group raised \$2,900 through donations from clubs, industries, business firms and individuals. Most of the labor was donated and accomplished during laborers' free time, which accounted for the delay in opening.

The main youth center consists of 960 square feet of space and the clubroom provides at 32x21 feet room for meetings of civic groups. The former ticket office was converted into a kitchen with modern facilities and will also be used as an office for Mrs.

Beulah Ross, the center's director. Two rest rooms, modernized in 1948 by the railway company at an expense of \$10,000.00, have white ceramic tile and up-to-date fixtures. The entire building was rewired and floodlights installed outside.

Mothers of the youth center patrons provided the curtains for the center and the two women's clubs furnished the kitchen and the clubroom. All three of the main rooms were painted in shades of green and new hardwood floors laid in the youth center. The old C&O waiting room benches have been painted black with gold and red stencils decorating the back of the benches giving an antique effect. Work has begun to make green quilted pads for the benches in the clubroom.

Mrs. Ross said the youth center would be open during the summer months on Tuesday from 6 to 11 p. m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 3 to 11 p. m. During school season the center closes each evening at 10 O'clock, she added. (Ashland Daily Independent)



The Youth Center – 1959



The Old Freight House

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CATLETTSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB

The story of the 1959-1960 period in the history of the Catlettsburg Woman's Club (Miss Felicia Patton, President) might provide intriguing reading matter in years to come for those who are interested in the annals of our little City. Another Bob Kennedy, now deceased, (writer of the River Round Up for The Ashland Daily Independent in previous years) might be prowling through some old attic, by chance, in the year 2000 and come across the story.

A Clubhouse had been the dream of the Catlettsburg Woman's Club for several years. In 1954-1955 President, Mrs. Sterling Berger of the Woman's Club contacted the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company officials requesting the passenger station either as a gift, or for a nominal price for a club house, if they should decide to terminate passenger service in our city.

This dream became a reality in 1959. The C & O Railway cooperating with the Woman's Club, and the Mayor (Charles "Bus" Gibbs) of the city deeded the station to the city to be used for a Youth Center, with clubroom for the Woman's Club.

It was the purpose of the Woman's Club to help create the social climate for the healthful, moral and spiritual growth of our youth remembering the old adage, "It is better to build boys and girls than to mend men and women."

The Catlettsburg Woman's Club received a third place cash award for this project in the Better Eastern Kentucky Community Achievement Contest.

More women are being appointed to the high post in government service that points to the growing numbers involved in

public affairs. Hundreds of boys and girls have been educated through the help of the Kentucky Federation of Woman's Clubs student loan funds adding that with everyone working together much can be accomplished for community, state and nation.

Community service is an easy way to pay our debt for living in this wonderful world." It rounds us out as individuals.



Carolyn Hart Clay - possibly the eldest resident of Catlettsburg and member of former Catlettsburg Woman's Club.

'BARN FROLIC'

At the Hager Produce Building Last
Night a Big Success

One of the most unique affairs ever given in the Gate City was the barn frolic, at the Hager Produce Building on Front Street and bank of Catletts Creek last night.

All were told to bring a lantern and a lunch, so at seven o'clock a large number of the guests met "up the street" and the procession wending its way down the alley to the barn was certainly well worth seeing, lunch boxes piled high and lanterns swinging.

The building is an ideal one for a frolic there being separate rooms down stairs where a big lunch table was put and the supper served, while the upstairs was used for dancing and ramping games. Everybody, old and young was in the best of spirits and took part in the fun, while music was furnished by a local colored band.

The two step and waltz with general frolic, the couples playfully bumping into each other, breaking in, circled, promenades, and a Virginia reel were indulged in, with an occasional variation of games such as "Pussy wants a corner," "Swing tail," and last but not least for fun, all formed a ring and played "Grunt"

Someone suggested a song and all of the following guests who could even "croak" joined in the chorus.

"Mine Host," Robert B. Hager, Mr. & Mrs. Green Adams, Jr. and Mrs. George Dimick, Mrs. Belle Cecil, Mrs. Rush Williamson, Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Martin, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Corns, Mr. And Mrs. Fred Wellman, Mrs. S. Patton, Mrs. J. B. McConnell, Mr. & Mrs. John Creighton, Mrs. Mary Magruder, Misses Nell Swatnara, Alice, Lucy and Belva Mullan, Lucy Lowry, Quien Brown, Anna Cecil,

Zella Bartou, Nelle Stafford, Fay Patton, Leah Mitchell, Maude Stafford, Matilda Williamson, Goldia Mitchell, Hazel Morton, Anna and Helen Adams, Bea Patton, Dove Williamson, Dr. J. A. Taubar, Colbert Cecil, Davis Martin, John Hopkins, Claude Mitchell, Clay Byron, Vernon Mitchell, Professor Dalrymple. John McConnell, Mr. & Mrs. A. J. McCullough, and Arthur McCullough from Ashland, Mr. And Mrs. Ford Baldrige, Mrs. Smith from Kenova, Mrs. Lydia Garred from Huntington

The supper was an excellent one, served on the big table downstairs, and just about everything possible to have was picnic dining was in evidence, sandwiches, salads, pickles, chives, chicken, cake, fruit, pumpkin pie, and lemonade.



Altogether was a merry old time.

BILLY C. CLARK

AUTHOR OF MANY BOOKS

The back roads of Eastern Kentucky are filled with people who have made a difference and who credit their rural, community and family-based lifestyles with giving their lives direction.

Life in rural Eastern Kentucky comes with some limitations, certainly. But just because a person comes from a small town or chooses to live in one doesn't mean he or she can't accomplish big things.

Billy Clark loved his hometown of Catlettsburg so much that he made it the centerpiece of every major work he wrote.

"All my memories are of my small town and the people there", Clark said. "They are good people with great hearts and great truths.

Clark did leave Catlettsburg to teach his craft, first at the University of Kentucky and then at Longwood College in Farmdale, Virginia, where he currently lives. But he never stopped thinking about the day he'd come back to stay.

"I have never really felt away from there. I've felt like I was on loan and off visiting somewhere with every intention of returning," he said, "And I know I will."

Clark said growing up in Catlettsburg helped prepare him for life like no other place could have.

"It wasn't until I moved away that I realized what an outstanding education I got in that little hometown school," he said. "And the people, who are so closely knitted together, taught me so much. I appreciate it more every day, knowing the people in Catlettsburg.



Billy Clark has fashioned poetry that brings special meaning to Kentuckians and great pleasure to readers everywhere. His books are a gift of memories gathered along the rivers and creeks near the town of Catlettsburg, the river town made famous through his prose works.

His poems describe the musical ebb and flow of life in the river town of Catlettsburg at the confluence of the Big Sandy and the Ohio: "The big green...Downstream for at least another mile or two...Two colored ribbons waving side by side, Mixing in heavy rains and swollen tide."

These two rivers were crucial to Clark. They offered him pleasure, adventure, and a means of livelihood as a boy and a young man.

A sense of appreciation for earth and all of its creatures runs through the poem in "To leave My Heart at Catlettsburg" and results in a poignant literary tribute to a town and a great regional people.

Clark received a number of honors and recognition's this year, including:

- A Long Row To Hoe
- A mural on the floodwall in Catlettsburg.

- Morehead State University's Appalachian Treasure Award on June 20.
- Recognition and book signings at Catlettsburg's Sesquicentennial Labor Day activities.
- And possibly a Billy C. Clark museum in Catlettsburg.

The two-lane bridge across the Big Sandy was named in honor of Billy C. Clark. The Clark Bridge provides the only means of direct access between Catlettsburg and Kenova, West Virginia, though I-64 does run between Kentucky and West Virginia, three miles south of the City. The Clark Bridge connects to 35th Street and replaced the bridge that formerly

connected West Virginia to Catlettsburg at 34th Street.

In addition to auto and pedestrian access, rail access to West Virginia is maintained by a rail bridge that crosses the Big Sandy River just South of the Clark Bridge. These rail lines remain elevated as they pass over the city, gradually lowering to street level and forming the primary corridor beginning near 33rd Street.

Today, you will enjoy seeing the mural of Billy C. Clark painted on the floodwall at Center Street.

Billy C. Clark is the right stuff from our small town of Catlettsburg.



The Billy C. Clark Bridge



CATLETTSBURG'S FAVORITE SON BILLY C. CLARK

While sitting alone on our back porch,
Our hearts were filled with awe
To see a young blonde artist painting
On Catlettsburg's floodwall.

She painted from early morning
Until often times after dark
A picture which paid tribute to
Our author Billy C. Clark.

He hungered for his education
And vowed not to be denied
And the more the people doubted him
The harder that Billy tried.

He has authored many books and
Many short stories, too
About his beloved Catlettsburg
And all of them were true.

Billy C. Clark became a legend
Many years before his time
Proving the poor can reach the top
If they will only work and climb.

The author's humble beginning is
What helped mold this man.
He drew strength from his adversity
Like plants do from the land.

Catlettsburg had many folks
Who reached the mountain cap
And like Billy C. Clark helped
Put Catlettsburg on the map.

He has proven the words of wise men
Who have gone on before
That anything that is worth having
Is worth fighting for.

The moral to this story is that everyone can help themselves if they
partake of the million books lying dormant on the shelves.

-Prentice H. Rymer

GRANDVIEW MANOR



HIGH RISE SHRUBBERY – These women, representatives of the Catlettsburg and Gateway Garden Clubs, Catlettsburg Woman's Club, and Housing Development, broke ground Wednesday for the planting of the shrubbery at the city's new high-rise. Gary Pennington, high-rise contractor, took the group on a tour. Ray Stewart, housing director, said a formal open house is planned of Oct. 14th, and the building will be ready for occupancy between Nov. 1st and 15th. Pictured with one of the plants in front is Mr. C. E. Rous. Second row, from left, are Mrs. Kenneth Caldwell, Miss Paul Richardson, Miss Harriet Chatfield, and Mrs. Charles Rist. In the back row are Mrs. Donald Frailie, Miss Cora McGlothlin, Mrs. Barrett Giles, and Miss Walter Nell Hedrick.

(Ashland Daily Independent – September 21, 1972)



CATLETTSBURG'S CHARTER RETURNED

Lost for decades, the Gate City's charter came home Saturday.

About 100 people, including members of the 91st Ohio and 96th Virginia Civil War reenactment groups, turned out to see Rick Whisman, a 29 year old history buff from Huntington, West Virginia, deliver the city's, 1858 charter to Catlettsburg Mayor, Art Porter.

Huntington Mayor Bobby Nelson accompanied Whisman, who found the city's charter in a box of papers he purchased from a Huntington antique dealer, and two members of Huntington's mounted police.

Members of Catlettsburg's Centennial publication committee, chaired by Marian Mitchell and J. Sanford Damron, a local historian, spoke briefly about the 131 -year history.

Dorothy Crace sang "America the Beautiful" and "My Old Kentucky Home," while Dick Hawkins sang "Country Roads," as a tribute to the Huntington dignitaries.

During the hour-long ceremony, which included the dedication of the new riverside

picnic shelter, 1673 Center Street, Frank Boggs, Buddy West and Rusty West were given plaques of appreciation for their work on the new shelter.

The Catlettsburg Rotary Club, the Catlettsburg Chamber of Commerce, Harold Freedman and Ashland Oil, Inc. also were thanked for their efforts to get the shelter built.

The charter, handwritten on paper made from rags or cotton, will be kept in a special case at the Boyd County public Library's Catlettsburg branch. It will later be moved to Kentucky Farmers Bank, Porter said.

Whisman found the charter in a box of papers that also contained copies of correspondence between former Mayor John J. Montague and state and federal officials.

Whisman said the papers could come from the estates of either Montague or former attorney Thomas R. Brown, for which the city's former high school was named.

This ceremony was held on July 8, 1989.



Above Left - Dorothy Crace sings My "Old Kentucky Home", top right - Dick Hawkins sings "Country Roads", bottom right - Mayor Art Porter, Huntington Mayor Bobby Nelson, and Rick Whisman returning charter.

"BATWING"

The "BIG SANDY NEWS" dated February 5th, 1900 states that the STEAMER THEALKA established a record time by completing the round trip between Catlettsburg and Pikeville, a distance of 240 miles in twenty-four hours. This "BATWING", so called because of the paddle wheels on each side rather than on the back of the boat. She was named for Alka Meeks, daughter of Zepeniah Meeks the owner. Alka later became the wife of John C. C. Mayo, well known throughout the Big Sandy Area.

The name "THEALKA" came about by an itinerant sign painter, who made "THE" and "ALKA" one word. There is also a town in Johnson County by that name Thealka. Zepeniah Sr. and Jr. were well known rivermen, they owned a good size fleet, and operated out of Catlettsburg.

It was said that a common sight was to see two or three boats racing up the Big Sandy. The firemen were known to throw a slab or two of bacon into the boiler firebox in order to get a larger head of steam increasing the speed, sometimes to the point of blowing up the boiler.

As mentioned above this boat had many advantages over the larger sternwheelers, who could only travel when the river was high, but this boat could travel in about thirty inches of water. It could be maneuvered something like our modern bulldozer.

This type of boat was used during the Civil War on the Big Sandy to haul everything from troops and supplies to mules and horses.

There is story General James A Garfield later President Garfield, who commanded the Union Army in the Big Sandy valley during the Civil War, confiscated one of these boats from a

Captain Smiley, who refused the boat in the very high and swift waters, there were many trees and logs floating making the situation very treacherous, but General Garfield, himself piloted the boat with very little needed sleep to Lousia delivering much needed supplies to the soldiers. He ordered Captain Smiley to

accompany him on the trip. General Garfield's head-quarters was in Catlettsburg about a half of a block from the depot and across the street from the Presbyterian Church.

This picture seems to be taken at Catlettsburg with the boat heading up the river at Virginia Point, now West Virginia as seen above the boat and to its left. You can see the smoke from the stack and steam from the whistle apparently ready to embark for a point up the river.

The dress of the people is very interesting, especially the ladies large hats and the boys' caps, it seemed like no one went bareheaded. Captain Meeks is probably standing in the pilothouse door.



**ARRIVING AT CATLETTSBURG
LANDING - 1901 STYLE**

Small "Batwing" Side-wheeler Thealka
Rounding To The Landing

The Desoto Monument

In February, 1952 the removal of the Ferdinand De Soto monument from the Ohio River bank above Pike's Crossing, almost landed in Court.

This special day when the monument was presented and dedicated is recalled by many.

The Colonial Dames, the organization that gave the marker and then, decided to move it farther down the river to a state roadside park being constructed at Vanceburg, was well-represented for the occasion.

The late Mose Collinsworth, then mayor, had been advised of the ceremony, and to make sure his speech of acceptance had the proper polish, he had his friend, the late U. S. Senator George B. Martin write it.

When the day arrived there was a steady downpour of rain. The planned ceremony couldn't be held on the site where the monument had been set, so a quick change in arrangements were made and the circuit courtroom in the courthouse selected.

When the crowd assembled there it was remarked that never before under the courthouse roof had there been such a display of mink, sables and orchids. Dignitaries of the Colonial Dames from as far distant as New York City was present. When the speeches of presentation were over and Mayor Collinsworth's turn was about due, he reached in his pocket for the fine speech prepared for him. It wasn't there, or in any pocket. But Mose was never one to be downed by any occasion and he met this one.

He rose and extemporaneously spoke in homely phrases from his heart. The applause he received was equally as sincere, and the Dames went a step farther. They were so taken with his homespun personality that they carted him off to Ashland to be their guest for a luncheon commemorating the event.

Hannah Clark did you and Felicia actually run down that truck to get the monument back? Good Job. On that rainy day, a 3rd grade student said to his teacher June Williamson, "it sure is a bad day to bury that man."



DESOTO MONUMENT BACK - This monument to Ferdinand Desoto was back on its site on the River bank at Catlettsburg yesterday after a weekend absence. Kentucky Highway Department workers, who hauled it to Vanceburg last Friday to grace a new state park at the suggestion of the colonial Dames, returned the marker after the city of Catlettsburg and others objected strenuously. The Colonial Dames donated the monument to Catlettsburg 13 years ago. Left is Mr. Hunter C. Clark, a former president of the Catlettsburg Woman's Club, with Miss Felicia Patton, club beautification chairman. The club donated shrubbery about the marker. (March, 1952)



The Monument today, restored by Sid Rice

CATLETTSBURG'S ALGER HOUSE

Pictured here is what was once considered the finest hotel on the Ohio River between Pittsburgh and Cincinnati--the Alger House.



The hotel, built in 1879 at the corner of 25th and Front Street Catlettsburg, by D. W. Eba, was famous throughout the valley for its hospitable atmosphere, comfortable accommodations, fine foods and a well-stocked bar. The Alger House was constructed of white brick and contained sixty well furnished rooms for the accommodation of guests. There were gas heaters in every room, the house was lighted by both gas and electricity, had bath rooms, sample rooms, and everything for the convenience of its patrons, which could be found in a first class hotel.



Plate from the Alger House

The Alger House catered not only to travelers on the Ohio River steamers

which stopped at the Gate City, but to those involved with the timber trade here -- buyers, sellers and others.

The hotel was the center of Catlettsburg's social life for many years. Large and numerous balls were held there for the cream of Tri-state society. A story of a typical one is told in the Catlettsburg 1949 centennial program. "Gallant men. . . lifted the ladies from their carriages and

set them on white muslin runways which were provided to keep their slippers and trains from being soiled. Many a young mother was said to have rushed home, fed her baby, and returned to the party during one dance. No dances were ended before two o'clock, and many continued until four, five or even six o'clock."

The building was not really as large as one might expect, certainly nowhere near the size of Ashland's once famous Aldine, but the white brick, ornate decorations and tree-shaded walks (in the summer) must have combined for an elegant atmosphere.

Being located on the busiest street in the city no doubt contributed to the hotel's success. Front Street was built directly on the river and establishments located there consisted of virtually nothing but bars and restaurants, businesses designed to cater to the timber men.

The Alger House was built in 1879 in the aftermath of a disastrous fire, one that wiped out the entire business district of the Gate City in 1878. Many other buildings in the downtown were constructed about this time and most of the older buildings still found downtown today date from about the same period. So in exchange for a fire which almost put the city out of business, Catlettsburg experienced a building boom and a new

business district consisting entirely of brick buildings.

The Alger House went on the decline when the timber & trade began to fail and when people began choosing forms of

remained for a number of years, but the atmosphere was lost. Fire eventually destroyed the structure along with several others on the street, while time and lack of use contributed to the demise of most of the others.

What was left on Front Street was a ghost town, a shell of the past, but this too eventually disappeared when the

transportation other than the river for traveling long distances.

The final crushing blow was in 1919 when the city went dry. All the doors on Front Street closed and the alcohol trade went underground. The hotel building Catlettsburg floodwall was built. The floodwall today runs almost exactly through the center of the Alger House location.

The alley seen opening behind the hotel is still used and sometimes mistakenly, although perhaps with good reason knowing the reputation of the former street, referred to as Front Street.



Scene of loading cattle on a steamboat wharfboat at Catlettsburg, Kentucky. This boat would have been docked where the boat ramp is now, just over the riverbank where the Alger House was in 1909. On the side of the boat is printed Catlettsburg, Price Co. The boat beside it is the Tacoma, a stern wheel double decker.

THE OLD SHIVELY HOTEL A FIRST CLASS HOTEL

The Shively Hotel was formerly known as the Hotel Mansard, the name being changed to Shively on November 4, 1908, when a new manager assumed charge.

The building was of brick and contained thirty-two clean, neatly furnished rooms in addition to office, dining room, writing room, kitchen, etc., and was modern in every way being lighted by both gas and electricity, hot and cold running water, gas heaters in every room, etc. The table was bountifully supplied with the best market affords, and careful attention and courteous treatment was the rule.

The hotel was very centrally located in the business section of the city, one block from the Chesapeake & Ohio depot and directly on the line of the Ohio Valley

Traction Company, whose cars passed the door in either directions every fifteen minutes.

The hotel was conducted by John Shively, while Joe Shively, was the general manager, and both of these gentlemen made it their aim to have the stranger feel at home and forget his troubles.



Shively Hotel in its prime years standing on the corner of 25th & Center Streets. The two persons at left, I would almost bet ya, are my husband now (Boots) Wright and his grandfather (Tillman Buckley).



OLD SHIVELY DEMOLISHED --

One of Catlettsburg's oldest hotels, a landmark, was demolished by a demolition crew from Paul Coffey Construction Company. The site of the old building is now occupied by the Catlettsburg Medical Arts building, owned by William Adkins. I could tell that stand anywhere – the person on the left has to be Charles Wright.

CENTER STREET

CENTER STREET, once the heart of Catlettsburg's business district is now a deteriorated part of the city, but the photo taken before 1920, shows it in its heyday.

Center Street, in Catlettsburg was where most of the city's businesses moved when Front Street began to go into retirement. It remained the heart of the business district until the 1950's and 60's when another shift was made in the direction of Louisa Street.

Since that time this section of Center: the 2500 block in particular, has deteriorated considerably. Many of the buildings on the street were built in the later 1800s and there are now no permanent businesses in the building to provide for their proper upkeep. There are a few exceptions, however.

The accompanying picture shows Center Street at a date probably prior to 1920, I say this because in 1920 the two buildings at far left burned. At the time of the fire they were occupied by either the Big Sandy or the Hampton Grocery Co. the fact that it was winter when the buildings burned made the fire even harder to fight and large sheets of ice froze over the fronts of the buildings while the fire raged within.

Another business that can be seen here is the C. E. Silcott Co., at right, a dry goods firm that served the area for years. This building in later years was the home of a "Five & Ten" store under the management of J. P. Richardson. William Gibson later took over the business and operated it until the late 1950s when this building, too, was destroyed by fire. This was quite a spectacular fire and for a time there was some concern that the whole block would be lost. The lot where this building was located today remains vacant. Owner of the property for many

years was Miss Rebecca Patton, now owned by Benny Preece. Moving on down the street was another building with a porch out over the sidewalks.

The building housed the offices of the Kentucky Industrial Diamond Mining Co., which I have never read anything about or heard anyone speak of. What I'm more interested in was where they were mining diamonds. If they had offices here, it must have been somewhere nearby. This building for a number of years housed the City Cab Co. and today is owned by Benny Preece, has a sign on the door, Amvets.

I'm not certain exactly what was in the next building down the street, but it could possibly have been a grocery company of some kind.

The next two buildings as I have said burned in March 1920. The one at far left housed Harper and Runyan Hardware went out of business and with the exception of the fancywork around the roof, looks much the same as it did in this picture.

The other building, which burned, is today the site of the Tri-State Pump and Supply Co.

By the time of this picture it appears as if the city of Catlettsburg had begun to mature. The street appears to be paved and concrete sidewalks had come into use. Today the area looks quite similar to this photo, except that the buildings are in somewhat worse shape, and the large trees which graced the street are gone.

(Written by Jim Armstrong for Ashland Daily Independent sometime in the 1970's and revised somewhat by Betty Wright, 1999 for this book).



HAIL, FIRE, AND HIGH WATER



Catlettsburg has courageously survived almost every type of disaster during its history. Records reveal a devastating washout, blizzards accompanied by sub-zero temperatures, tornadoes, hail storms, disastrous fires, and recurring floods. "Gate Citizens" are imbued with a spirit of optimism in the face of adversity. This spirit is best expressed by an item in the Weekly Star, published in 1875 by Harlan Page Wellman; "Times are hard now. But the river is rising and there will be better times."

With a period of fifteen weeks in the year of 1907, the city experienced two floods and one tornado. The first flood occurred January 19th and the crest was 58.7 feet, the second flood on March 8th reaching a crest of 57.8 feet. People, who have lived in Catlettsburg for any length of time, can surmise the damage caused by these two floods. (It is interesting to note that floods in January and March of the same year have occurred three times in flood history, i.e. 1907, 1913, and 1943.)

On Monday, June 10th, 1907, around six p.m. the city was panic stricken as the result of a severe hail storm, down pour of

rain and strong winds. Newspaper reports stated that greater damage was caused by the storm than by the two previous floods. Homes were riddled by hail, buildings unroofed, trees uprooted, and windowpanes shattered. The Steamer Cando, anchored at the point, was overturned by the wind. The boilers broke loose, going through the side of the boat and the Cando went down the river on her side. The boat was salvaged several days later. Her captain will be remembered as J. C. Hopkins. Business firms sustaining the heaviest loss were: C. W. Berger, boots and shoes; G. F. Gallup, jeweler; Wellman & Creighton druggists; Levine, clothing; Hampton Grocery; H. Krish Company, wholesale dry goods, D. H. Carpenter, department store; A. Mims, furniture and hardware; the Bee Hive, dry goods; Z. Meek Company, grain and feeds; Alger Hotel, York House, Meek Printing Company; Rupert McClung, photographer; Mansard Hotel, Victor Hotel; Patton Brothers, drugs; Bruns and Son, shoes; the Grant Machine Shop; and Rowen Broom Factory. Interesting headline were as follows: Fearful Havoc on the Hill", "Sad Results on Broadway", "Damage to Church Property", "Waterworks Gas Main Broken", and

"Panic Carpenters . . . Women Become Terror Stricken and Pray".

The severity of the storm is well expressed in the following paragraph from the Catlettsburg Tribune:

"The person in Catlettsburg today who can truthfully say that he was not in the least frightened during the terrific hail storm is kindly invited to stand up and let the populace see what he looks like. At the York House, where there are a large number of timber men stopping, strong men lost their presence of mind and ran here and there wringing their hands and praying. Someone suggested that the end of the world was at hand and this upset the mental equilibrium of more than a few of the guests who were either in the dining room or in the corridor awaiting their turn at the table, and for a while almost panic prevailed. At this house the hail went through portions of the roof like it had been paper, and the rain poured in, wetting the bedding, walls and floors in a frightful manner."

The date of the "Big Fire" was July 22nd, 1878, as established by records of the City of Catlettsburg, Order Book No. 2, 1878. An account of the fire, published in the Ironton Weekly Register, July 23rd, 1878, gives a vivid picture of the disaster.

The headline read, "Catlettsburg in Ruins" followed by a description of the fire.

Fire starting at one o'clock in the afternoon of July 22nd in a baking shop and spread to the frame building adjoining. A strong wind was blowing, and the houses being dry as tinder, it was impossible to arrest the progress of the fire. As soon as possible, the only fire engine in the town, a rattley-bang old thing, which probably never was fit for anything, was brought into use, but it soon played out, and the destroying element was left to its wild havoc without hindrance.

"The fact soon became apparent that it was impossible to save any of the burning buildings, and so the chief efforts were directed to saving those which had not yet ignited. The chief means used to accomplish this was in the free use of common salt, by throwing it in immense quantities upon the roofs of the buildings endangered. As the conflagration spread from building to building and block to block, consuming them and their contents like so much chaff cast into a furnace, consternation seized upon the people, confusion reigned and judgment ran riot.

" . . . but the men worked like tigers, and the women cheered them up and lent a ready hand though all the fiery, indescribable scene . . . "In three quarters of an hour, the block where the fire originated was a mess of burning debris, crumbling walls and impenetrable smoke. The fire soon crossed Division Street, Franklin Street and Short Street, overcoming every obstacle, soon laid in smoking ruins, another entire square, including the Zeigler Hotel.

"The total loss is variously estimated from \$175,000.00 to \$300,000.00. . The big losses were the D. H. Carpenter Dry Goods, Patton Brothers Drug Store, Sherman House, St. Charles Hotel, Witten & Davidson's Bank, the post office, C. A. Andrews, Davidson and Honshell, Vinton Brothers, I. D. Mims and others, and scores of homes.

"One man lost \$1,600.00 in cash and a check for \$500.00 having left them in his coat pocket hanging in the store. Another had hid \$500.00 in an ice chest, and before he could get at it the flames had contracted the currency to that extent."

We have been told that word of the fire reached Ironton, Ohio about three o'clock in the afternoon and that every livery horse and rig was rented. Two liverymen loaded Irontonians into band-wagons, holding about sixteen each and

drove them to the fire, charging fifty cents per person.

The bakery mentioned in the newspaper was the property of Peter Paul Schauer on South Front Street. The fire spread on Front and Center Street from Twenty-fifth, crossed Division Street and burned as far south as to what was known as the W. C. Harper home on Lock Avenue, house still remains on the 31st street corner by floodwall, and the Daniels home on Louisa Street that is now the courthouse parking lot. Mary Jane Botts' home, across from the courthouse, was the only building saved on Louisa Street. Special police were appointed to patrol the town to prevent looting as merchants had moved their merchandise to vacant lots. Coon Waits Grocery was the only store left standing. Several days after the fire, property owners between Main and Division Street, and Center and Front Street, presented a petition to the Board of Trustees to pass an ordinance prohibiting the erection of wooden structures in the areas without the permission of the Board of Trustees. The petition was discussed and amended to include property between Division and Franklin Street and Louisa and Front Street. The Ironton Weekly Register mentioned the use of salt in fighting the fire. From the city records, "... on November 4th, 1878, A. F. Morse presented a bill to the Board of Trustees for \$3.75 for 5 bbls. of salt furnished to the town during the great fire. Allowed." Another interesting item is quoted from the city records of November 12th, 1878: "A remonstrance was presented signed by ninety-one citizens and the taxpayers of the town of Catlettsburg asking the Board not to buy a fire engine at this time ... as the said purchase would materially injure internal improvements, and the welfare of its taxpayers ... which remonstrance was received by the Board and ordered to be filed away with the records of this Board."

The year of 1884 brought double disaster to the city. The first official flood

stage was established on February 2nd, 1884, the crest being 62.7 feet. The second major fire occurred sometime during the latter part of August, 1884, originating in the drug store of Patton Brothers and spreading to Prichard & Wellman's Wholesale Grocery, D. H. Carpenter's Wholesale Dry Goods Store, and N. P. Andrews store. Two young men, visitors from Williamsburg, Kentucky, volunteered their services and were removing stock from the Andrews building. David Kinner was trapped in the burning building and died of burns and James McKenzie, a tinner, suffered severe burns and died ten days later. Two colored men also died as a result of burns. Climaxing the loss of life and property in two major fires, the city finally realized that their means of fighting fires was wholly inadequate. In February of 1885, the city purchased a fire engine and hose at a cost of \$12,000.00.

During the winter of 1919, another holocaust was heralded with pistol shots fired by a guest at the Central Hotel, known in 1949 as Traveler's Inn, Center Street. The Central Hotel and the Hampton Grocery was completely destroyed. The temperature was near zero and sheets of ice formed on the front of the buildings from the water of the fire hose while the interior was a mass of flames.

In the early morning hours of March 30th, 1932, the First Baptist Church and the building occupied by Harper & Runyan Hardware Company and Spark's Department Store burned to the ground. The second floor of Harper and Runyan Hardware Company was then occupied by a miniature golf course. This site now being the Preece Bingo supply store and the vacant lot where once stood a building that burned in 1992.

Concluding a cycle of major fires and looking back to January 1st, 1864, the disaster history of the town is less torrid. Early records show winter temperatures ranging as low as twenty degrees below

zero. On December 31st, 1863, the mercury stood at forty-three degrees. There was a heavy rainfall about dusk, followed by a blinding snowstorm, which covered the town. The winds increased blowing a hurricane from the West and by the morning of January 1st, 1864, the mercury had dropped to twenty degrees below zero. The "Blizzard of 1864" swept the entire Ohio Valley.

Although this space is devoted to disasters of Catlettsburg, you will be interested to know of a "near disaster" which occurred in the mid-winter of 1873. As a result of zero temperatures the Ohio River was frozen over from bank to bank. The City of Catlettsburg sponsored a public skating party and Mr. W. A. Patton acted as chairman for the gala event. Torches were secured from the steamers marooned at the landings and they were used to illuminate the river for the skaters. The bright lights could be seen by all the people living on the hill. Three hundred guests attended the party and after skating for about an hour in the moonlight, the ice broke. The skaters were panic stricken, but all reached the shore and there were no casualties. However, about one-third of the party reached the Ohio Shore instead of the Kentucky shore. The weather was so severe, river navigation being impossible, that they remained in Ohio visiting friends for about five weeks.

The town has withstood hail and fire, and misfortunes caused by high water date to the early part of July, 1875. Heavy and prolonged rains caused the Big Sandy River to rise forty feet. The stage of the Ohio River was below normal low water stage and the force of the onrush of the Big Sandy was so great that the southern part of Front Street, at the intersection of Division, was swept away to a point two hundred feet above Franklin Street. In less than twelve hours, the land and buildings disappeared in this area. Only two buildings remained one of them being the Bartram Hotel. Loss to individuals was estimated at \$50,000.00 and

business loss, \$20,000.00. A steamboat, the Sam Cravens, anchored below the mouth of Big Sandy, was destroyed. This disaster is recorded as the "Sandy Washout". City records show that on August 31, 1875, plans were made by the city to raise funds to build a breakwater and protection for Front Street against further incursion of water. As a result, the work was completed December 27th, 1875 at a cost of \$8,181.80.

Following the washout in July of 1875, the town again met with disaster within thirty days. During the latter part of August, 1875, it has been told that there was a "very high flood" in Catlettsburg, in fact a flood so high that men used boats to come through the alley west of the present site of the former Kentucky-Farmers Bank, which is now the Laborer's Union Hall. People living on the Virginia Point had vast fields of corn and a part of their crop had been washed away in July. The remainder of the crop was ruined by the flood. After the water had receded the remaining corn crop was odoriferous to the extent that even a gentle breeze from the Point toward Catlettsburg caused the citizens to become violently ill. This is the only record of a late summer flood.

Accounts of the earliest floods have been related by the families of settlers who lived west of Catlettsburg in the section now known as "Out on Catletts Creek". They have told of floods occurring as early as 1832 and 1847. Then, people established the flood stage by carving on trees and buildings. In this section today stands a rugged, yellow poplar tree with carved marks in the trunk near the top, no doubt the first official flood crest to be recorded in the vicinity of Catlettsburg.

High water invaded the town in February 1883, but there is no official record of the crest. The flood of February, 1884, is perhaps the first most damaging flood, the crest being 62.7 feet, approximately one foot below the floods of 1913. There were two floods in 1913, January 13, crest 53.8 feet and March 31,

crest 64.5 feet. For a period of twenty-four years the flood of 1913 held its record as being the highest flood in the history of the town. On January 27, 1937 the river reached the unprecedented crest of 71.1 feet. The area flooded by this inundation comprised about eighty per cent of the city and included practically the entire business district; most of the residential section; practically all municipal buildings, including schools and churches; the city water works; the approach to the highway bridge across Big Sandy River; portions of U. S. Highways Nos. 60 and 23. About four thousand persons were made homeless. All business activity was suspended, telephone and electric services were interrupted, and water and gas supplies were shut off in the flooded area. In a survey made after the 1937 flood estimated damage was set at \$1,446,550.00. The last major flood was April 17th, 1948, and was the third highest flood in history, reaching a crest of 62.8 feet.

From a tabulation of flood stages compiled at Big Sandy Lock and Dam No. 1, during the period of 1887-1947 inclusive, it was apparent that thirty-three damaging floods had occurred during the past sixty years, or an average of one flood every one year and ten months. U. S. District Engineer's figures show that the city had been damaged more than \$2,500,000.00 by the last ten floods. One of the projects of the newly organized Catlettsburg Chamber of Commerce was an adequate flood control program for the city. With the realization of that dream, local flood protection by walls and levees would mean that the future disaster history of the city would be very brief and no doubt the space devoted to business growth would increase in volume.

The weather predictions for Centennial Week were as follows: "July, 1949 . . . 24th to 25th clear, pleasant. 26th to 27th, clear and hot with scattered showers. 28th, clear, pleasant . . . 29th, clear, warm. 30th to 31st, thunder storms" " . . . and there will be better times."

FLOOD CRESTS AT ASHLAND; PROBABLY ABOUT SAME FOR CATLETTSBURG ARE AS FOLLOWS:

March 31,	1913	68.7
February 5,	1924	54.7
January 26,	1927	56.9
March 23,	1936	62.7
January 27,	1937	73.8
January 2,	1943	63.4
March 22,	1943	56.4
March 4,	1945	59.4
March 9,	1945	63.8
April 15,	1948	65.3
FLOOD STAGE		51.7

1950 Catlettsburg flood stage was 60 feet

THE GREAT FIRE IN JULY 1878 WHICH ALMOST WIPED OUT CATLETTSBURG'S BUSINESS DISTRICT

From the coming of Sawney Catlett to this section in about 1798 down to the year 1878 on wide spread conflagration had ever fallen upon the community that is now Catlettsburg. Fire had broken out and single dwelling, shops, stables or outhouses had been destroyed but the blazes had always been extinguished or ceased further ravage for lack of adjoining buildings. The town authorities were both unable and unwilling to provide fire fighting equipment such as was in use in those days.

In all alarms of fire no people could have responded with more unanimity or alacrity than did the population of Catlettsburg, for not only would the stalwart men rush to the rescue with bucket, ladder, or axe in hand, but the women and children were often the first to appear on the scene to add their mite toward extinguishing the treasuring flames. For nearly a generation minor fires occurred that resulted in small property losses.

No one had suffered badly from fire although all the buildings were of wood and many were mere fire-traps. The inhabitants had somehow fallen into a state of false security and expected or at least hoped that the same good fortune would continue. This hope proved delusive and a bitter day came when none expected it.

On the 22nd of July, 1878 at just twelve o'clock noon the alarm was sounded that Peter Paul Schauer's bakery on Front Street was on fire. fearful monosyllable. Dinner bells continued to ring after their usual noon call while the church bells pealed forth in louder tones warning the people of approaching danger. Above the hoarse

voices of the people and the loud ringing of the dinner and church bells, the whistles of every mill and factory screamed shrilly. The noise was terrific, equaled only by the sight of the towering blaze from the burning building. Two minutes after the alarm had been given the streets and alleys approaching the ill-fated house were a surging of terror-stricken people. One look by even the least practiced was sufficiently convincing that no human without the aid of fire fighting equipment could save the building. The blaze had burst through the brick chimney of the bakery and had spread throughout the house. It was a two story frame and as dry as powder.

Before anyone could press an opinion as to the best method of fighting the blaze, the fire was spreading to other buildings. All hands set out to save the goods, merchandise and household effects of the people whose houses lay in the range of the devouring blaze. The day was not only intensely hot but not a breath of air stirred. The raging flames caused an artificial motion that propelled the fire from the river backward. So rapid was the spread of the flames that within two hours from the first alarm, all the buildings from the foot of Main Street to Center Street, thence to Louisa and onward to Clay Street, were a mass of ruins or were fiercely burning, save only the residence of Mrs. Alex Botts, thence to south Front Street on Sandy and down Main Street. A cordon of men, armed with blankets, quilts, etc., was formed on Main Street opposite the burning houses and all the way up to Clay Street. By keeping the clothes saturated with water

they prevented the flames from reaching across the avenues and igniting the buildings on the opposite side.

Within an hour and ten minutes after the fire had started on its wild rampage, farmers living two miles below Catlettsburg on the Ohio side had hurried over the river with teams to assist in hauling goods, merchandise and hold goods to places of safety.

By three o'clock in the afternoon all was in ruins. The people or all except a very few who were left on guard, retired to partake of refreshments for the first time since breakfast. No one returned to look upon the awful ruin caused by the fire fiend. Those who were not burned out fed their less fortunate townsmen with a heartiness so liberal as to show the true principles of benevolence and charity.

Great occasions bring out great deeds. The entire countryside was touched by the pitiful plight of those robbed of home and food. Catlettsburg people, who were not material losers by the fire dispensed food, clothing and shelter to those who had suffered. But Catlettsburg people, were not alone in their charity at this period of sore distress. Before five o'clock on the afternoon of the fire, Ashland, through a delegation of the generous citizens had sent up large stores of food, clothing, bedding and general household goods and had established a commissary near the scene of disaster. From this place supplies were furnished to the homeless. The Ashland commissary was kept open day and night for more than a week and from its contents everyone who asked was assisted without money or price. Catlettsburg will never forget the noble charity bestowed upon her citizens on this occasion as long as gratitude is held as a cardinal virtue.

A few days after this fire the Board of Trustees of the town

passed an ordinance prohibiting the erection of wooden buildings or homes in the district lying between Main, Center, Louisa and Franklin streets and the Big Sandy and Ohio rivers. This district covered at least four fifths of the part of town destroyed by the fire. Almost all the houses and buildings consumed were of wooden construction and the town board was morally bound to legislate as far as possible against the possible recurrence of the tragedy. The ordinance no doubt worked a hardship on a few but it was a wise measure, calculated to advance the private interest of many and benefit the general public. The block upon block of brick structures built since the fire which cover almost all the territory burned is standing proof that the "fire line" ordinance as it was called then, was passed none too soon.

There was sadness in the hearts of the people as they viewed the ruins but they did not give up. Many planned to rebuild as soon as the debris could be cleared away. Where to obtain brick for construction purposes was the problem to be solved. Home supply had never been good or even sufficient for ordinary demands, and now the demand far exceeded the supply. Within three days after the conflagration, Captain Honshell had solved the problem to the satisfaction of nearly all who wanted to build. Representing his son, Gus Honshell and James Damron, doing business on Front Street as Damron and Honshell, he contracted with the Messers Blair of Cincinnati to furnish brick from that city at a cost less than many thought possible. The brick was of a much better quality than that obtainable locally. Captain Honshell's action opened the way to all who wished to begin construction. Within a few days most of the brick buildings along Front and Division streets were under contract. The merchants were permitted to erect temporary storehouses in which to transact business while their permanent buildings were

being built. Ten days after the fire all was life and bustle. Only during the timber running season and in war times had Catlettsburg shown so much business life and activity as during the building period after the great fire. By the first of January nearly all the merchants had moved into their new quarters and were doing a splendid business.

The usual winter trade being followed by an extra spring and summer boom, placed Catlettsburg's merchants and business men in as good financial condition as before the fire. Especially was this true of those who had been prudent enough to carry even a minimum of insurance proportion to their fire loss. Thus, in a year after the great calamity Catlettsburg was richer in all the elements of substantial wealth than ever before. Of course there were cases in which men, advanced in years or broken in

health dropped out of business and either disappeared from public view or remained in poverty as a result of their fire losses.

Lost in the great fire of 1878 were two drug stores, two jewelry stores, two hardware stores, one fancy store, two shoe stores, one clothing and custom work store, five hotels two saddle and harness shops, one leather and shoe finding store, two bakeries, one art gallery, two tin and stove shops, every grocery store in town except one, six dry goods stores, most of the lawyer's and professional men's offices, the Masonic and Odd Fellow's halls and sixty dwellings.

(Editor's Note: We are indebted to C. B. (Brent) Wellman for more than 80 years a resident of Catlettsburg but who died in 1947, for information as to this great tragedy in the early history of Catlettsburg.)



Dennis Sorrell, a very young child took this beautiful picture of the beautiful Ohio River. He was attending Summer Kids Kamp at Catlettsburg and one of the projects for the children was photography. They were all given cameras and could take pictures of any thing they chose. Dennis was standing on Center Street and decided this was the picture he wanted, so he took it. Catlettsburg has some very beautiful scenery for anyone to enjoy.

SIX LIVES LOST TRAGIC FIRE OF 1997

On September 12th, 1997 firefighters were called to 2505 Center Street at 4:50 a.m. to find that four upstairs apartments and a thrift shop and two adjacent buildings were engulfed in flames. Despite their attempts, none of those trapped inside could be saved. All three buildings were eventually razed.

The lone survivor was Phillyna Beresh 25, who leapt backward from her second-story bedroom window, breaking both feet and injuring her back when she landed on the pavement below. Six others did not survive.

The fire made headlines across the country, in part because of the way two of the victims died; Michael DeBoard, age 29, and his two-month-old daughter.

The entire city of Catlettsburg mourned the loss of the six victims in this tragic fire, which occurred on a Friday.

Victims were Michael DeBoard, 29, his two-month-old daughter, Courtney and her mother, Tara Petty, 17 who was DeBoard's girlfriend. Michael placed his daughter in his arms and leaped out the front window trying to escape the flames. He was killed instantly when he slammed his head on the concrete sidewalk. Courtney died four hours later at King's Daughters Medical Center from a head injury. Petty and three others were overcome by smoke and never made it out of the buildings.

The other three victims were: Mary Jane Jenkins, 68, her son Kenny Jenkins, 30, and Mrs. Jenkins eight year old grandson, Mark Lee Jenkins. Mary Jane and son resided at 2507 Center Street. The grandson was just visiting.

You can talk about people coming together and helping people . . . this

small town of Catlettsburg has a big heart and as well as neighboring city of Ashland big hearted people also joined together and did their level best to console and help the relatives of these victims to get back to a normal life. In this world of disasters, we are still God's people and are asked to love our neighbors as we love ourselves; and in this situation that's just what happened.

On September 16th, 1997 our daily newspaper reported that electrical problems caused the fire.

One year later, September 1998, the fire victims were not forgotten. Families still grieve.

The following is a letter put in the newspaper on September 12th 1998:

SIX FIRE VICTIMS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

It has been so long since the six stars in our eyes were taken like thieves in the night. Now our stars have become angels in the sky.

It's been a year today since our lives were forever changes, but we still need you here with us like we needed you before. One thing that will never change is the love that will forever endure.

This in loving memory of Michael, Tara, Courtney, Mary Jane, Mark Lee and Kenneth.

(Signed by Tammy DeBoard and family)

The family filed lawsuits against the building's owner. In the Daily Independent newspaper on Wednesday, June 23rd, 1999, it was noted that the Catlettsburg fire suits were settled, which might have represented some sort of

closure for the heirs of the persons who perished in the fire.

The family works to enhance Fire Codes.

As September approaches, the memories of Catlettsburg's deadliest fire still painfully fresh in our minds, and especially the families of the victims, seems to not fade away.

Other recent fires happening from 1992 to 1997, were 2705 Louisa Street, which burned in November, 1992, in which Jesse Caudill, 43, life was lost. Dee's Florist burned in June 1996 being consumed by fire, which caught the Adkins Law Offices on fire also. That fire was believed to have started in trash in the rear of the flower shop. Again in 1997, it appeared that someone had set the rear part of the Adkins Offices on fire, which left the building with water and smoke damage.



An Empty lot in the 2500 Block of Center Street marks the scene of the fire.



Six people died in this apartment buildings fire in Catlettsburg.

THE BIG SANDY WASHOUT OF 1875

(Flash Flood of 40 Foot Stage Almost Washed Front Street Away)

In the early part of the month of July, 1875, the Big Sandy River at Catlettsburg suddenly rose about forty feet and as the Ohio River at that time was much below the ordinary low water stage, the waters from the raging Sandy River reached like a mighty cataract to the north shore of the Ohio, loosening boats tied there and sending them adrift as though they were so many shingles.

The force of the rushing waters was so great that south Front Street from Division Street to a point about 200 feet above Franklin Street, was carried into the stream within a period of less than twelve hours. All the houses along south Front Street, with the exception of two, were catapulted into the stream and carried away. One of the two houses that withstood the avalanche of water, the Bartram Hotel, and by the way, that was the old house that Boots and Betty Wright and three children owned at the end of 28th Street next to the floodwall before moving to Oakland Avenue. It was also known as the Wechsler's Rooming House and dining room, relatives of Councilman, John Plummer's family. Anyway, it did not entirely escape damage all but two of the front rooms being claimed by the floodwaters. This house later burned by an arsonist in February 1977. Arsonist was known but I do not wish to name him. The Wright's had already moved to their home on Oakland Avenue in December 1972. Many pieces of antiques were destroyed. Well that's enough of that. Back to the flood.

The houses destroyed in this great river catastrophe were among the best in the town, at that time. The loss to individuals was estimated at about \$50,000 in addition to the property loss in that section below Division Street and fronting on the Ohio River caused by the bank giving way. This caused a great decline in the price of real estate and an ultimate loss to property owners, which would be hard to estimate. The city's main hotel, the Sherman House, was left partly hanging over the bank.

The police office was in the row of houses washed away. Alph Thompson was Police Judge at that time and John Fortner, Sr. was Town Marshal. The city jail, a one-story log building, was opposite the present county jail. The houses

that were washed away were located on the east side of Front Street between the street and the river. In most cases the household goods were removed from the home before they tumbled into the river.

A good sized steamboat, the Sam Cravens, was at the time held in execution by the then Sheriff of Boyd County, Andrew Hogan, who had the craft tied to the shore pending the day of the public sale. The boat was tied below the mouth of the Big Sandy and the swirl produced by the mad waves engulfed it and tore away the cabin and keel, sweeping it on down the river. This resulted in a vexatious lawsuit brought by the owner of the boat against the sheriff for failure to save the craft. After the controversy ran seven or eight years the Sheriff gained the court's decision in the suit.



Owners Known before the fire in the late 1970's

Bartram Hotel (1875)
Wechsler Rooming & Dining
T. Buckley Home
C. K. Wright Home

TAKE ME BACK HOME TO CATLETTSBURG

1849

The legend on the Phillip map, previously quoted, might read today as follows:

Catlettsburg, the capitol of Boyd County, Kentucky is still handsomely situated at the mouth of the Big Sandy River. Nature has bestowed upon it sufficient advantages to make it one of the most colorful towns on the river. Catlettsburg is affectionately known as the "Gate City", an outlet for the rich products of the fertile valley of the Big Sandy and a town unequaled for its hospitality and continued pioneer spirit.

The corporation limits extend North and South from Ashland's fifty-fifth street to the Ice Dam Hollow turn off (39th street) approximately three miles, and East and West from the foot of grade to what is generally known as the ridge line, a distance of approximately one-half mile. There is a daily line of first-class trains and busses.

In 1858 when first incorporated Catlettsburg contained about 1,300 inhabitants. Since that time it rapidly advanced in improvements and population up to 5,000, having decreased now 2,000 inhabitants.

Comparing the following list of businesses, of 1949 to 1999 we find that we boasted of in 1949 of four appliance shops, a bakery, a balloon factory, three barber shops, three billiard parlors, three beauty shops, a building and loan company, a concrete block factory, two coal dealers, a dairy, three drug stores, eight beverage distributors, five dispensaries, three dry cleaners, two feed and supply stores, two furniture stores, a finance company, two 5 and 10 Cent stores, eleven filling stations and garages, four general merchandise stores, a glass factory, sixteen groceries and markets, three hotels, a haberdashery, two hardware stores, an ice company, an

1999

insurance agency, two jewelry shops, a live stock sales company a machine tool shop, a mortuary, a news stand, two plumbing shops, two realty companies, twelve restaurants, numerous rooming houses, a shoe store, a Shoe repair shop, a taxicab company, two theaters, a toy and hobby shop, a used furniture store, a bank, twelve churches, county court house, city building, four schools, a gymnasium, post office, sixteen civic and fraternal organizations, and three social agencies.

The city of Catlettsburg, the year being 1999, list of businesses consists of a city building, police station, fire station, public school, Christian school, two cemeteries, three city parks, boat club, civic center, senior citizen center, athletic field, county courthouse, county jail, post office, two banks, medical doctor, dentist, two housing complexes, fourteen churches, radio station, public library, used furniture store, live stock sales, two mortuaries, two pizza restaurants, family clothing, many attorneys, award/trophy shop feed/hardware store, gymnasium, pie/cake bakery, bread outlet, three cigarette stores, barber shop, four beauty shops, drug store, dry cleaner, six filling stations, three auto repair shops, two insurance agencies, motor/sports shop, T-shirt shop, cabinet shop, pump shop, bingo hall, bingo supply shop, medical supply shop, picture frame shop, florist shop, carpet/tile sales, city garage, Fivco offices, auto parts store, truck repair shop, five fast food restaurants, alignment shop, several fraternal organizations, a jewelry/pawn shop, and window glass shop, hydraulic hose shop, bed and breakfast quarters, car wash, party supply shop, sanitation collectors, dryer hose manufacturer, restored federal building.

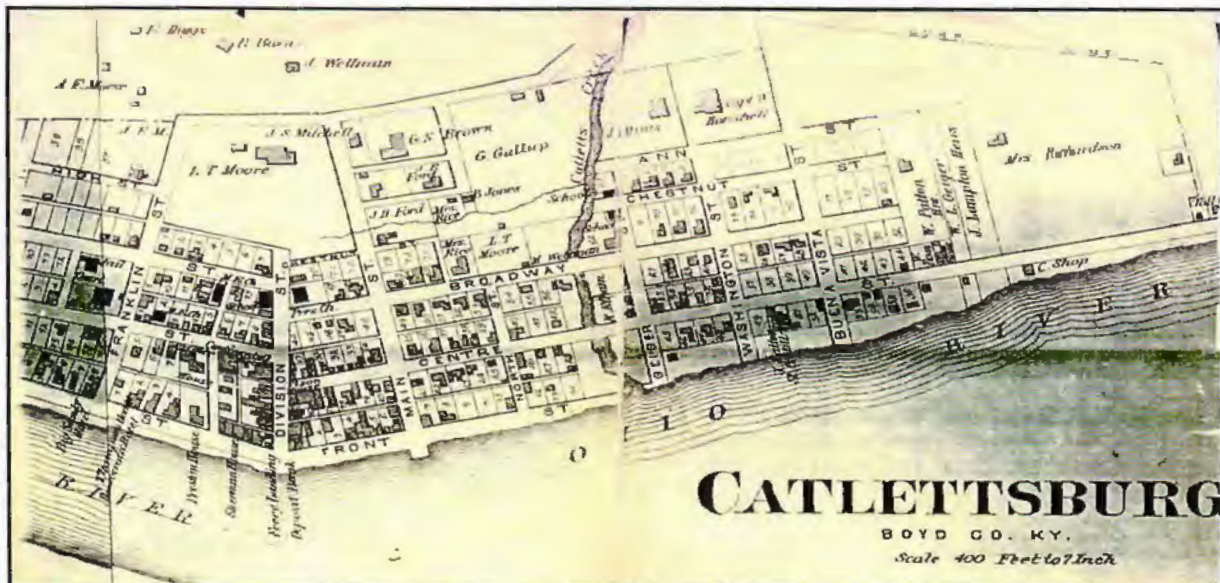
The sturdy pioneers who came over the mountains and down the rivers to settle at the mouth of the Big Sandy River provided food, shelter, and clothing for their family by primitive methods.

Today the citizens of Catlettsburg patronize their local merchants and obtain the finest of foods and the best of general merchandise.

The Publication Committee salutes the businessmen of Catlettsburg, public utilities, industries, transportation companies and civic groups. The contributors compiled most of the following histories. Some were taken from the 1949 Centennial Book and brought up-to-date by the editors.



**Tri-State view showing Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio
Standing on the bank of the Big Sandy River, part of the old lock wall still there.**



CATLETTSBURG BUSINESSES

Catlettsburg Federal Savings & Loan Association

Located at 2717 Louisa Street this establishment was organized in 1935 as the initial Federal Savings and Loan Association in Boyd County, the Catlettsburg Federal Savings and Loan Association has been an insured institution since that date, being a member of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. In 1937 this association took over the business of the Catlettsburg Building Loan and Savings Association which had served the people of Catlettsburg for many

years. Since it's organization, this association has enjoyed a steady growth and increase in membership.

This association has been privileged to assist in the growth and development of the Sesquicentennial City. As Catlettsburg reaches the 150th year of its interesting history, we join with others in saluting the loyalty, friendliness and determination of its citizenry.



Levi Hampton Bed and Breakfast, Inc.

The home of Levi J. Hampton, a tradesman and one of the early settlers of the Big Sandy, made the city of Catlettsburg his home about 1845. In 1850 he built for himself a fine mansion located at 2206 Walnut Street.

As written in "The Big Sandy Valley" by Ely, the home now named the Levi Hampton House, was described. "Before we bid adieu to Levi J. Hampton and descendants, it is not amiss to say that, in addition to the many other evidences of his industry and local patriotism, stimulating him in pushing forward substantial improvements in Catlettsburg, in 1850 he built the fine brick mansion now owned and occupied by Robert J. Prichard as his residence. Mr. Crum, the brother of the now venerable Baptist preacher of that name, made the brick and laid the

walls; the wood-work of the same building was executed by Shade Casebolt, then a young man and carpenter, now almost venerable in age and a wealthy capitalist of Ashland. Mr. Casebolt personally performed the entire job by handwork alone, as that was a little before the era of machine-work dawned upon the realm of labordom. Mr. Hampton sold the place in 1854 to the late J. D. Mims, who occupied the same for more that a quarter of a century, when it fell into the hands of the hands of the present owner."

Other owners of the home included names such as the Clays, Meades and Smithers. In March of 1996, this glamorous home was established as Catlettsburg's newest Bed & Breakfast under the ownership of Dennis and Kathy Stemens.

Jeffrey L. Preston, PSC

Jeffrey L. Preston, PSC, established his law practice in 1980. His current location of 2703 Panola Street in downtown Catlettsburg is the home formerly

occupied by Mr. John Coldum, Commonwealth Attorney in the early 1900's to 1920's. John Coldum is the grandfather of the wife of the present owner.



Kilgore & Collier Funeral Home

Still running under it's original name, this landmark of all businesses was established in 1868 by original owners Robert H. Kilgore, Henry W. Collier, Robert Hutchinson, Allan J. Collier and Russell E. Compton, at 2702 Panola Street. Mr. Robert Kilgore was a cabinetmaker and carpenter. He built caskets at the funeral home for burials. His trade was to build a casket to meet the public need. He died at the age of 92, well respected in the community as a civic leader. Mr. Kilgore served on many committees to promote the welfare of Catlettsburg. He was Chairman of Deacons at the First Baptist Church which was destroyed by fire and later moved to it's new location at 35th Street and Oakland Avenue in Catlettsburg which later was moved to 3265 Oakland Avenue due

to C&O purchasing the property to build the new railroad bridge.

Kilgore & Collier Funeral home, being the oldest surviving business in Catlettsburg has been under the ownership of Mike Neal since 1985.

"The tradition of Kilgore & Collier services are still being held as we progress into the twentieth century. Our firm has been supportive of the growth of Catlettsburg. I am proud of our heritage and thankful to be owner of Kilgore & Collier, the Oldest Business in Boyd County."

-Mike Neal, Owner

Dan's Auto Repair

Dan's Auto Repair was established in June of 1995 by owner Dan Stambaugh. Still at it's original location of 2101 Center Street in Catlettsburg, this company has been servicing the Tri-State by repairing cars, trucks, etc. for over 5 years.

"We at Dan's Auto Repair would like to thank everyone that has visited our shop and we are looking forward to servicing the area for many years to come."

-Dan Stambaugh, Owner



Dan's Auto Repair



KYOVA



Dennie Brumfield-Owner

KYOVA Truck Services & Sales, Inc.

KYOVA Truck Services & Sales, Inc., originally Bry-Den Express, was established in January of 1990 on Solida Road in South Point, Ohio by it's original owners Dennie and Anita Brumfield. This company's current location is at 3300 Oakland Avenue in Catlettsburg, Kentucky.

Mr. Brumfield has lived in Catlettsburg for over 40 years and Mrs. Brumfield moved to Catlettsburg approximately 30 years ago just after the two were married. Big Sandy Diesel employed Mr. Brumfield for 20 years before he and Anita decided to go into business for themselves. Together they have built 2 6,000-sq. ft. buildings for heavy-duty truck repair, an alignment shop, a parts storage building and Head to

Toe Hair & Tanning. These buildings were built on property owned by C&O Railroad for almost 100 years (1896-1990). Gilbert Mobile Homes Sales also once used the property for business. We have employed 6 mechanics and 2 secretaries.

"We have always enjoyed living in Catlettsburg and felt comfortable raising our two children, Bryan and Denise, here. We now are helping raise our grandchildren here as well. We have had our ups and downs in this town, but we wouldn't trade it for anywhere else."

-Dennie Brumfield, President/Owner

Anita Brumfield, Vice-President/Co-Owner



Precision Frame & Alignment

David and Judy Sperry Conley established precision Frame & Alignment in October of 1989. Still serving from it's original location at 220 34th Street in Catlettsburg.

The Elite Insurance Agency, Inc.

Originally known as the Ewing Insurance Agency, started by Thomas C. Ewing, Jr. and Ann B. Ewing in 1949 at 2702 Louisa Street in Catlettsburg.



Gibson's Barber Shop

Originally known as Wellman's Barber Shop started by Curt Wellman in the summer of 1937 at 2519 Center Street in Catlettsburg, in a building built in 1881, changed ownership in 1962 to Gary Gibson.

During the time which Curt Wellman was owner of the Barber Shop, Ray "Doc" Keeling, Levi Zinc and Dick Mayes were the barbers. Ernest "Preacher" Gibson came to Catlettsburg in 1951 and also began working for Curt on June 9th as a barber. He took over the shop after Curt Wellman retired in the early 1960's. He barbered for 46 years before passing away on June 4th, 1997.

Gary Gibson, "Preacher's" son, is the present owner. He came to work at the shop on January 9, 1967. His

wife Candy is also a barber in the shop and is also the first female licensed barber in Catlettsburg.



Merdie Boggs & Sons, Inc.

Mr. Merdie Boggs and his son Clarence E. Boggs established their business at the foot of 19th and Center Streets in Catlettsburg in October of 1954. The company being a family owned business has been passed down through the family through inheritance and is currently owned and operated by Franklin D. Boggs, Albert R. Boggs, Joanna Boggs Snider and Lois Boggs Wilson. Merdie Boggs and Sons, Inc. was the first towboat harbor

service in the area. Merdie Boggs and his son Clarence purchased a sternwheel boat in 1954 and began this harbor service. In 1956 they purchased a second boat and began docking their boats at the foot of 19th and Center Streets, which is where they are located still today. The business has always been a family owned and the Boggsses currently own seven diesel powered towboats.

**Catlettsburg Dairy Cheer, Inc. (Home of the Smashburger)**

Started in June of 1976 at 3301 Louisa Street in Catlettsburg, the Dairy Cheer was originally owned by Bob and Carol Lee and Scott and Tina McKenzie. After undergoing a change of ownership in 1985, the Home of the Smashburger is currently owned and operated solely by Scott and Tina McKenzie.

The site on which the Dairy Cheer sets was originally Lees Dry Cleaners, which was owned and operated by William Robert and Evelyn Lee, Tina McKenzie's grandparents, prior to the construction of the highway in the early 1960's.

J&O Farmers Market

Established in 1971 by John and Bascom Miller as Farmers Market at 3821 Louisa Road in Catlettsburg. In 1980 this

business was put under the ownership of Mr. Jim Jones and Mr. John Obinger.

**The Wedding Chapel**

The Wedding Chapel is owned by Mr. F. Martin Gute, Cynthia D. Gute and Matthew S. Gute. Located at 2801 Louisa Street in downtown Catlettsburg, the Wedding Chapel is northeastern Kentucky's first wedding chapel. Originated in 1993, Rev. F. Martin

Gute has officiated over 10,000 weddings in downtown Catlettsburg as well as all over the tri-state area. The chapel specializes in all types of weddings; tailor made to suit your needs as well as renewal services and anniversaries. The chapel is a ministry of Universal Life Church of Boyd County, Inc.

Law Office of Gurney Johnson

Established in September of 1979 by Mr. Gurney Johnson at 2713 Louisa Street in Catlettsburg. This business moved to its present location of 2706 Louisa

Street, Catlettsburg, in January of 1991 and became the Law Offices of Gurney Johnson and Mark Greene.



Law Offices of Gurney Johnson



Adkins & Adkins Attorneys



James E. II & James E. Adkins, Sr.

ADKINS AND ADKINS ATTORNEYS AT LAW P.S.C.

James E. Adkins is the original name of this firm and also the name of the owner. Current owners are Mr. Adkins and his son James E. Adkins II. Mr. Adkins II was admitted to the Boyd County Bar in the fall of 1970, served in the armed service for two years, and joined his father's business in September, 1972.

The law firm was established in 1948 and is well established today. Mr. Adkins started his original business in the old Gallup Field Building at 2713 Louisa Street, Catlettsburg, Kentucky. The office location today is 2813 Louisa Street.

Mr. Adkins served as attorney for the City of Catlettsburg for twenty years. He also did legal work for the floodwall, Kentucky Farmers Bank, Federal Land Bank, Farmers Home Administration, Veteran's Administration, Catlettsburg Federal Savings & Loan, and helped to establish the Grandview Manor and Forest Hills Housing Project for Catlettsburg.

Mr. Adkins has engaged in all types of legal practice in the state and federal court. He has done legal work in Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio.

He served on a committee to build the annex to the Boyd County Court-house, and did title work for State of Kentucky to establish Route U.S. 23 and Route U. S. 60 through the City of Catlettsburg. Catlettsburg Leadership Community Development Club is fortunate to have Mr. Adkins serving as Vice-President and is a very active member for the Sesquicentennial Committee.

Mr. Adkins has lived in Catlettsburg, Kentucky since he was six years old, attended grade school and high school.

Mr. Adkins states his love for the town, its people and his business.

KENTUCKY FARMERS BANK**PROUD TO BE A PART OF CATLETTSBURG'S PAST****DEDICATED TO BEING A PART OF CATLETTSBURG'S FUTURE****BANKING IN CATLETTSBURG**

The first bank to open in Catlettsburg was sometime prior to 1885 and was a private bank known as Wilson and Andrews. This bank opened on Front Street and later moved to Division Street, or what is now known as 26th Street.

The Catlettsburg National Bank was organized in 1882 and continued in business until 1916.

The Big Sandy National Bank opened for business in 1890 and operated until the expiration of its charter in 1910 when it was succeeded by the Kentucky National Bank. In 1928 the Kentucky National Bank built the modern bank quarters on 26th Street and move into this building in October 1928. In 1931 a new bank was organized for the purpose of combining the two banks then in Catlettsburg, the Kentucky National Bank and the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

The Kentucky-Farmers Bank opened for business in January 1931. It moved from the old bank building occupied by the Laborers Union now on 26th Street to its new location on the corner of 25th and Broadway in 1976. The present owner and Chairman of the Board is Charles Russell, Jr., the President now being John Greer.



ANGIE'S ACTION WEAR

This article below was one of Angie Sammon's school lessons which will explain the beginning of what is now called Angie's Action Wear and is also a small mom and pop store that has survived through the years. Angie is the daughter of Mrs. & Mrs. Arnold Sammons and the granddaughter of Mrs. Strother Wellman and the late Strother Wellman.

THE COMMUNITY GROCERY: A FAMILY TRADITION

The case study I am about to reveal is not one of traditional industry or even a "rags to riches" story, it's of a dying breed of business that was once a vital part of our community all across the country.

The business, Wellman's Grocery, was established in 1957 by Mr. Strother Wellman (my grandfather). Mr. Wellman operated the small community grocery store from a converted two car garage. He operated the business for 29 years with very shaky business ethics, "CREDIT". Luckily, those who patronized his establishment were trusting, honest individuals.

In August of 1986, the local community newspaper did a story on his business. There he attested to the history of the community by saying "I even throw the keys to the store out the door of my house to my customers. They get what they want, write it down, and put the money in the cash register. They take care of that for me as well and I would myself". Before passing away In 1988, he would attribute his success to "being honest and frank - be the best you can be".

Today Wellman's Grocery still stands as the only community grocery left in Catlettsburg. It is now owned and operated by my mother, Gail Sammons. She continues the tradition of trusting her customers and extending credit.

Mrs. Sammons, owner and operator of Wellman's Grocery, was born October 28, 1943. She graduated from Thomas R. Brown High School in Catlettsburg, KY in 1962. She obtained higher education through attending Ashland Business College, Ashland Community College, and Ashland State Vocational School.

In 1962 she began working at National Mine Service as a buyer in the purchasing department. She continued her employment through 1987, at which time the plant closed and discontinued its services. At this time Mrs. Sammons purchased Wellman's Grocery.

Realizing this community grocery stores was about to become a thing of the past, she decided to open Angie's Action Wear in 1989. This extension of services is located in the rear of the grocery.

Angie's Action Wear features "After Five", evening and formal wear on consignment along with offering tanning salon services. She offers tanning services through two Wolf beds that is also located in the rear of the store.

The clientele is very broad. She served small children, through offering pageant wear, teens, through offering prom dresses and homecoming attire, and adults, through offering evening wear for Gala's, cruises, parties, etc.

Mrs. Sammons has a knack for dresses, she knows what her clients want! She stays active in the fashion by co-directing the Catlettsburg Miss Flame Pageant, ages new born to 19 years old and the Miss Ashland Area Scholarship Pageant, a preliminary to Miss Kentucky.

She communicates with several shops in the area that serve a similar clientele. By supporting new designs and arrivals as well as maintaining professional relationships, area businesses and individuals recommend customers to Angie's Action Wear.

Customers come from a wide variety of geographic areas to shop for attire, North Carolina, Northern Ohio, throughout West Virginia and Kentucky. In fact, Miss American 1948 purchased the dress she wore on stage at the Miss America 75th Anniversary pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Gail's goals include expanding her dress shop to include a more extensive selection of small female pageant dresses, a new addition of bridal gowns and accessories for all occasions, including jewelry and shoes.

On a personal note, Gail is known throughout the Tri-State Area as a civic leader. She is on the Board of Community Advisors for the Tri-State Business and Citizen Organization. She is honest, dedicated to serving and working with several service clubs and churches.



NOTE: In the late 1950's, when Catlettsburg's Strother Wellman converted his garage into a grocery, he didn't lack for competition. There were two other stores in the neighborhood and perhaps an additional 20 scattered around town. Wellman is gone now and so are the rest of Catlettsburg's backyard groceries.



Wellman's Boarding House – (relation to Gail Sammons) was located on the block of Kentucky Farmers Bank.

JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE LOCAL STOCKYARDS CATLETTSBURG LIVESTOCK CO. INC. FAMILY TRADITIONS KEEPING CATLETTSBURG ALIVE

Catlettsburg Livestock Co., Inc. is the closest stockyard in the local area.

Harold Lee and Sue Bowling own the business and their son, Michael Bowling, Vice-President of Kentucky Farmers Bank keeps the books. He says it's become a family tradition. All three of the Bowling children are involved in the operation.

Harold Lee has made his living at this sort of thing for more than forty years.

He began managing the stockyard in 1955, when he and three others jointly owned the yards. He bought the other three out in 1985.

Sales are held late in the evenings on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Randall Peterman is yardman for this business.



(Above Left) Trucks Unloading livestock to be sold.

(Above Right) Auctioneer Erick Conrad leads bidding and Harold Lee Bowling watches.

(Left) Livestock being auctioned at the Catlettsburg Stockyard.

ASHLAND OIL REFINERY**THE ORIGINAL REFINERY IN 1925**

Many Catlettsburg residents have had an important share in the progress of the Ashland Oil & Refining Company.



Mr. & Mrs. Paul G. Blazer – one of Ashland Oil's founding fathers

CATLETTSBURG'S TROPHY HOUSE

Catlettsburg's Trophy House known for service, filling unusual orders was opened in 1986 by Jim and Ann Leibee.

The Trophy House has unique awards for every occasion, unusual requests from some people are such as mounting a doorknob from a motel room door on a plaque, and mounting a cheese wrapper on

a plaque. Their business is successful because of the one-on-one contact they give their customers.

The Leibees live in Ashland with their dalmatian, Dexter, whom you can meet at the Trophy House. They have two sons, Mike, and Junior, who lives in Ashland.



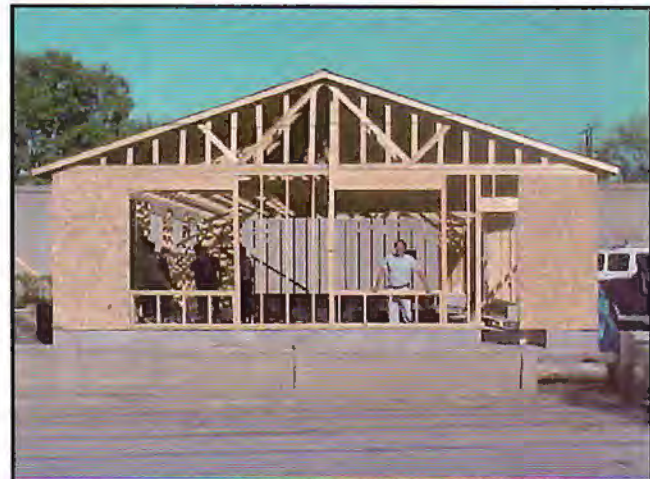
The Trophy House on Louisa Street



Jim and Ann Leibee display work produced at The Trophy House in Catlettsburg.

BIG SANDY GLASS

Catlettsburg's newest commercial building is now being erected at 3120 Oakland Ave. Owners of Big Sandy Glass are Jim King (Pictured in photo, right) and Pat Meade. Big Sandy Glass cuts and installs glass for residential and commercial applications in the Tri-State area.



CATLETTSBURG CHURCHES



West Catlettsburg United Methodist Church

In the year of 1876 a small group of people held a meeting in a one-room schoolhouse that stood on the grounds known as the Haney school property. The group organized a church, Sandy City Methodist South. Using the school building until 1880, the members decided to build a church. The Mitchell's donated the lot, the Dorgett's owned a lumber mill, which donated all of the needed lumber, the members constructed the church building charging nothing for labor. The first services were held in September 1880 with original members present such as; Mordica Williams family, John F. Haney Sr. family, Charles Mitchell family, the Dorgetts, Ziggler's, Galligers, Blankenships, Dillions, Wests, Fergusons, Freels, Maynards, Runyons, Darlington's, Rev. Davey Jack Chandler and possibly the family of Harry Rule.

West United Methodist Church is located at 208 10th Street in Catlettsburg and currently has a congregation of 165. This church now have a sanctuary with wall to wall carpet, padded pews, stained glass window, a piano and organ, secretary's office, 6 class rooms, library, pastor's study, handicap restroom, 2 handicap ramps, full size basement, fellowship room, kitchen, all built in cabinets, central heat and air, restrooms, 2 storage rooms and a church van. We have an organized Methodist Women's group. A cantata is held each year at Easter and Christmas. Our church also maintains a Shepherd Closet, which supplies the needy with food along with Christmas and thanksgiving food baskets.

Sandy City Free Will Baptist Church

Established in October of 1910, Sandy City Free Will Baptist Church with its original 9 members initially stood on Harris Street in Catlettsburg. Built in 1912 and being added onto once. The present building being constructed in 1950. A fellowship hall was built in December of 1960 with another addition to the church following shortly after in 1968. More than 21 men have served a pastor for this church over the years with Rev. Raymond H. Stephens, Jr. currently pastoring a congregation of 61 members.



Catlettsburg Church of Christ



The Catlettsburg Church of Christ was first established in November of 1980 on upper Panola Street with approximately 10 members. The building was constructed in the 1880's as a hotel in Hampton City. The Harold Wilson family bought it from the McGee family in 1959. It remained the home of the Wilson family until 1990, when it was bought and converted by the Catlettsburg Church of Christ. This church currently stands at 3410 Court Street in Catlettsburg and has a congregation of 18.

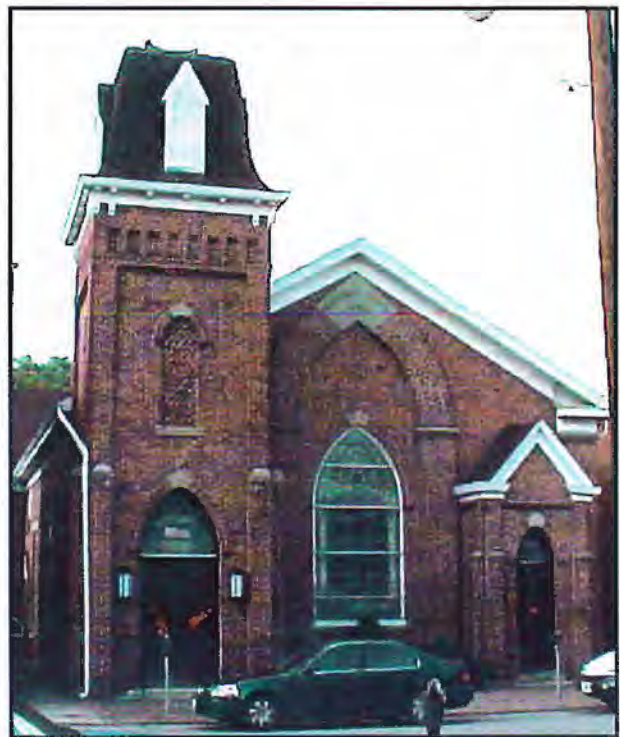
Catlettsburg First United Methodist Church

The First United Methodist Church was built at its present location in 1867 and known as the M. E. Church, South. In 1939 the church was joined with the M. E. Church, North, from Panola Street, adding to the church's beautiful windows, its own lovely stained glass and the two churches becoming what is now known as the First United Methodist Church.

A new educational wing was added to the church in 1965 while Rev. Dr. Larry Buskirk presided as pastor and in 1970 a new parsonage was built on the grounds where an old house has been used for Sunday school classes.

Through the years, many fine ministers have served the church and there have been devoted organizations in the church including: The Ladies Industrial Society, The Women's Missionary Society, Women's Society of Christian Service, Wesleyan Service Guild, Excelsior Circle, the United Methodist Men and the United Methodist Women.

Well into its second century, with fond memories of the past, the First United Methodist Church is committed to the needs of the present.



Oakland Avenue Baptist Church

In the latter part of February 1883, J. W. Warder Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board of Kentucky Baptists came from Louisville to Catlettsburg to look after the interest of the Baptist Faith in this area.

After consulting with all of those he could find of the Baptist Faith, he returned to Louisville and made an agreement with Rev. A.F. Baker of Midway, KY to hold a series of meetings in Catlettsburg.

Rev. Baker came to Catlettsburg April 26, 1883 and conducted church services until May 9, 1883. Twenty-four people agreed to cooperate in organizing a church, to be known as The First Baptist Church of Christ at Catlettsburg.

The Morse Opera House, which was located at the Southeast corner of Louisa and Twenty-sixth Streets was rented for the organization. Rev. A.F. Baker was elected to serve as pastor of the new church and stayed with the church for one year. On May 20, 1883 a Sunday school was organized.

For several weeks church services were held in the Morse Opera House and Sunday school in the County Courthouse. A few church services were held in the Masonic Temple. Beginning August 5, 1883, the Morse Opera House was rented for all the Church services. The church continued to grow and on November 5, 1884 the members voted to purchase a lot, located on Louisa Street from Jacob Fisher for the price of \$700.00. In 1886 a modern brick building was erected and the church continued to worship in this building until March 1932 when it was destroyed by fire.

The Second Baptist Church located at Oakland Avenue and Thirty-fifth Streets was without a pastor at this time and invited the members of the First Baptist Church to worship with them.

In June 1932 the two churches merged and it was agreed that the name of the new church would be:



Catlettsburg Missionary Baptist Church. The church continued to worship at Oakland Avenue and Thirty-fifth Street until 1949 when the C & O Railroad Co. purchased the property to build a new bridge across the Big Sandy River. The sale price for the property was \$86,000. The church purchased a tract of ground between Thirty-second and Thirty-third Streets on Oakland Avenue from Nora and Bertha Waits for the price of \$12,000. In 1949 the Education Section and the auditorium basement was erected at a cost of approximately \$140,000. Rev. Dewey H. Jones was pastor of the church at this time. In 1958 the present auditorium was erected at a cost of approximately \$150,000, during the ministry of Rev. Marion T. Duncan. During Rev. Duncan's ministry the name of the church was changed to Oakland Avenue Baptist Church.

Pastors serving the church after the merger from 1932 until the present time were: W.C. Pierce 1932-1940, Sam Slone 1940-1945, Dewey H. Jones 1945-1952, Paul Webber 1952-1953, Dewey H. Jones 1953-1955, Marion T. Duncan 1955-1965, Henry H. Johns 1965-1972, James D. Vams 1972-1976, Eugene Reynolds 1976-1980, Marion T. Duncan 1980-1983, Phillip R. Potter 1985-1991, David Riggs 1992, Paul R. Badgett 1993-1999 and Keith Menshouse at the present time. July 31, 1994 ground was broken to build a new addition the Family Life Center to the present building. At the present time there are 784 church members.

Macedonia Church



The First Macedonia Church of First Enterprise of Regular Baptist Churches, Inc. being located at 2008 Center Street, Catlettsburg, Kentucky. Seven churches formed the First Annual Session of the Enterprise Association of Regular Baptist at Enterprise Church, Johnson County, Kentucky. The church was established August 1931 according to record of minutes.

There are forty-five members at the present time.

The church building according to report that has been handed down, the church building floated down the river in the 1884 flood and landed on the present

property which was purchased by the Thesilonica Baptist Church in 1892 for four hundred dollars. It sold again to the Church of Christ on the 20th of March 1940 for five hundred dollars, then on the 11th of September 1943 it was sold to the First Macedonia Church for \$1,100.00. NOTE: In checking with the National Weather Service there was a flood February 14th, 1884 of seventy-one feet and one inch.

The bell that is in the church tower came from the Maxine Yost School, which still stands. The bell had a broken piece and could not be used. Wilson Rice welded the break, and the bell was erected, this was in the early 1950's.

The church at one time was worshiped in by the colored and this I know, first hand for I was talking one day to an old colored man that had stopped at Waugh's Garage. Didn't talk long until I found out he was a Christian, and when I told him where I went to church, he said, I laid the block under that church. His name was "Keeton", I don't remember the first name. In the concrete steps before entering the church, Keeton was written in the concrete. Now new steps have replaced this evidence. All this I know, and should be remembered to honor Mr. Keeton who was a minister. (Information written by Pastor Fred Chaffin, 11/28/98)

The businesses and churches in Catlettsburg were mailed fact sheets in August of 1998 -with a follow up in early 1999 requesting information for this book. Information listed *above* are from those Businesses and Churches who responded to our letters. Thank you to those who have responded, we appreciate it.



RELIGION IN THE BIG SANDY RIVER VALLEYS

It seems appropriate to comment here on the deficiency of reference to religious records. None of the cases reviewed specifically mentioned churches or ministers. Yet, these were certainly not a Godless people. In a history of Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Centennial Souvenir by Rev. Zephaniah Meek, it is stated that the introductions of Methodism occurred in Kentucky about 1795. Cornelius McGuire organized the first "Methodist class" of the Big Sandy in the home of Henry Stratton of Floyd County. In 1810, Marcus Lindsey came to the valley as a circuit riding minister. Lindsey's "preaching place" was the home of John Auxier. The Rev. William F. Landrum served the Prestonsburg, KY circuit in 1837 and the Louisa, KY circuit in 1838 and 1839. A glance at census records of Big Sandy counties shows many children with the given name of Landrum.

Circuit riding bishops often dropped in at farmhouse in rural Kentucky for early Sunday morning breakfast. On one such occasion a resourceful housewife concocted a coffeecake which she called "Bishop's Bread" after her guest. Its fame traveled from Kentucky to Virginia to the Carolinas and one can today find it listed in many southern cookbooks as "Bishop's Bread" or "Bishop's Cake."

Other early Methodist ministers were Richard and Seriah Deering who were brothers and George B. Poage who was converted in Louisa, KY, in 1841. Arnold's History of Methodism in Kentucky lists Rev. Benjamin Edge appointed to the Big Sandy Circuit with James

Ward, a "middle-aged man", as presiding Elder. Rev. R. D. Callihan, Methodist, and the Reverends James Pelphrey and Wallace Bailey, Baptists, contributed early service as well as Rev. Phillip Strother. The Baptist Rev. Henry Dixon was noted for the fact that he opened and closed his services with his own fiddling. Rev. George Washington Price was also a renowned Baptist preacher. William Buchanan, native of PA, was a Presbyterian minister of the Big Sandy area.

In the mid-1850's, a church was built jointly by Methodists and Presbyterians.

About ten miles above Louisa, KY. John Burgess' house was the site of a new Methodist Society in 1812 and preaching was held in the home of Hezekiah Borders. Rev. John Borders was a famed Baptist minister and James Pelphrey and James Williamson served with him from 1825 until after 1850.

Marriages were often performed by a Justice of the Peace since it could be a long wait for the circuit riding minister. The author's own great grandfather, Rev. Reuben H. York, was a circuit riding Methodist minister, first in VA and later in Lawrence County, KY.

Deep religious faith was a solace to the lonely pioneers of the Sandy Valley, although they must often have walked or ridden horses many miles to participate in church services.

1999 SESQUICENTENNIAL QUEEN MAEGHAN JO BROWN

Maeghan Jo Brown is a native of Catlettsburg. Her parents, Richard and Rebecca Brown are also lifelong natives of the town and graduates of Catlettsburg High School. Her father is the son of Paul Brown who served as Catlettsburg's Fire Chief when the traditional Labor Day Celebrations began. Richard's mother Helen Rymer Brown was born and raised in Catlettsburg.

Maeghan's mother is the former Rebecca Craycraft, daughter of Robert and the late and beloved Betty Jo Craycraft. Her parents are probably best known as the owners of Craycraft Foodland, formerly Craycraft's Fairway Market, which was established in 1949 in the part of Catlettsburg known as Hampton City.

Maeghan was born March 10, 1983. She is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Catlettsburg and attends Boyd County High School, where she is a junior. Her school activities include Beta Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Fellowship of Student Athletes, French Club, Christian Fellowship Club, and 4-H. She has also been a member of the Boyd County High Volleyball Team and served as JV captain during the last season.

Maeghan has served as a hugger for the Special Olympics on several occasions and plans to pursue a career in Audiology and Speech Pathology. She is currently employed as a cashier at Craycraft Foodland where she has worked for the past year.



1999 SESQUICENTENNIAL PRINCESS KELLI CHRISTINE CAMPBELL

Kelli Christine Campbell is fourteen years old, her birthdate being January 11, 1985 and is a freshman at Boyd County High School. Her hair is blonde and eyes are blue. She is the daughter of Kenny and Susan Campbell, 3164 Oakland Avenue, Catlettsburg, Kentucky.

Tom and Martha Campbell and Roger and Sue Moore of Catlettsburg are the proud grandparents of Kelli. Kelli has two brothers - Drew and Garrett Campbell.

Activities and hobbies for Kelli are jet skiing, swimming, baby sitting, riding dirt bikes, and Spanish Club.

She attends the Catlettsburg Freewill Baptist Church and is a volunteer with the Catlettsburg Leadership Development Club.

Among her desires to be are becoming a Lawyer or a Pediatrician.



CATLETTSBURG IN 1999

I just finished reading a letter written by Willie Caines Branham in 1949 relating to her experiences from about 1905 to the Catlettsburg Centennial year. I thought this idea should be carried on beginning with 150th year, someone could pick it up in the 200th year. Prosperity has killed our town, such as U.S. 23 and 60 highway becoming four lanes, this caused the traffic to by-pass us, a much-needed floodwall took several businesses along with many homes, and several devastating fires took much of our town. In spite of all of these situations we are blessed with many beautiful homes, that many young people are purchasing and restoring for which we are grateful. Our present city officials are more interested in the town than improving their political careers, as has happened often in the past. Our schools were merged with the county system, much to the objection of the people and school board. Most new business has been built in south end of town.

Let's start at the north end of town. There is a new large Ashland Service Station, where originally the Haney [fourth ward] School stood, The C&O Railroad has built a passenger station. There is a new Church of the Nazarene in the 1400 block of Center Street. A new building has been built just above the church, there has been much controversy about the use of it, I'm sure some thing can be worked out, The old Levi Hampton Home made a breakfast and board

business; Craycraft's Market has been moved across the highway and has become Craycraft's Foodland Market; a new U.S. Post office replaced the old Lee home at 36th Street; across 36th Street is a Super America Service Station; next door is McDonald's; an Exxon Service Station takes the next spot; followed by Hardees; on the same side of the highway there is a new National City Bank branch; next door King's Daughters opened a Medical Center; a Ramada Inn has just been completed just off I-64; coming back south, there is a Go-Mart service station followed by Rite Aid Pharmacy. The original Bowling Feed Store burned, and has been rebuilt to include hardware etc.

There has been very little change down town. A new library. new Kentucky Farmers Bank, (a beautiful Senior Citizen's Center (built primarily by voluntary labor). Several down town buildings are being restored. The city council has hired an outside concern to present a plan to be used in the future. Some of these plans are being implemented, such as a riverfront park where the old locks and dam was located. The main thrust is to have more of a place to reside rather than business, due to the lack of space.

With the history of Catlettsburg, much could be used in the growth. Many past residents are playing a role in our rebuilding program, financially and otherwise.

(Written by Paul Williamson)



CATLETTSBURG VIBRANT AT 150 YEARS YOUNG

From a rough-and tumble timbering town to a quiet Eastern Kentucky county seat with family values and a quality of life unmatched anywhere: That, in a sentence, is the history of Catlettsburg, Kentucky that's celebrating its 150th anniversary this weekend.

Founded in 1849 where the Big Sandy river joins the Ohio, the town was both the gateway to the eastern Kentucky mountains and a place where timbering interests floated their logs from the spectacular mountain forests to await processing or for a longer trip down the

Ohio to the fast-growing towns of America's heartland.

Thousands are expected to attend the sesquicentennial celebration that continues through Labor Day. For many it will be a homecoming as natives return to renew acquaintances. And, many more will simply attend the celebration because Catlettsburg is simply a good place to spend a Labor Day weekend.

Happy birthday, Catlettsburg, and many happy returns.

(The Herald Dispatch 9/31/99 opinions page)

HENSLEY AWARD BRINGS CHECK

CATLETTSBURG - The Gate City recently got a \$5,000 check, thanks to its mayor.

Wal-Mart gave the money to Catlettsburg in honor of Roger Hensley, who recently received the American Hometown Leadership Award presented from the National Center for Small Communities.

Wal-Mart is a co-sponsor of the award, which is designed to promote strong leadership in small towns.

The money will be used for community improvement projects to attract new employers to Catlettsburg.

The winners of the award demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities, creativity and initiative, according to Tom Halicki, executive director of the center. Hensley was nominated by Children Youth and Families Are Ready, a new civic club in Catlettsburg.

(The Daily Independent, Ashland, Kentucky)
(Wednesday, October 18, 1999)

BOYD COUNTY COURTHOUSE CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY BOYD COUNTY SEAT

Everyone says they'll never move the Courthouse from Catlettsburg to Ashland, "It won't go through the underpass." I wonder which underpass they squeezed the Federal Courthouse through?

Boyd County Elected Officials and other office heads serving at this time:

County Judge Executive:	Bill Scott	County Attorney:	Phillip Hedrick
County Clerk:	Maxine Selbee	County Sheriff:	Phillip Sturgill
Property Valuations Administrator:..	Charles Adkins	District Judge Division 1:	George Davis
Circuit Judge:	David Hagerman	Circuit Judge:	Kelly Asbury
District Judge Division II	Marc I. Rosen	Circuit Court Clerk:	Kay Arthur
County Jailer:	Bob Stevens	Cooperative Extension Service:	Lyndall Harned
KY State Police License Examiner .	Bill Pelphrey	Head Custodian:	Ray Smallridge
Commonwealth Attorney:	J. Stewart Schneider	Public Defender:	no appointment
State Probation/Parole Officer: ...	Phillip Miller	Juvenile Officer:	Linda Dixon
Treasurer:	Barbara Rodway	Pre-Trial Officer:	Don Crisp
Fiscal Court Commissione Dist. 1 .	Roy Rice	Fiscal Ct. Commissioner Dt. 2: ...	Marvin Meredith
Fiscal Court Commissioner Dist. 3.	Carl Tolliver	Master Commissioner:	Tom Howe
Agriculture Home Economist	Suellen Zornes	Community & Economic Developmt:	Nikki Smith
4H:	Roxane Gross	Coroner:	Mike Neal



The Boyd Co. Courthouse – Catlettsburg, KY

HISTORIC BURIAL GROUND

William Hampton Cemetery also known as the "old Catlettsburg Cemetery" is located on Thirty-sixth Street and Cemetery Road lying across from the present Catlettsburg Cemetery.

William Hampton owned the land and sold lots there in his lifetime. He charged \$8.25 per lot and \$16.50 for a 16 1/2 by 33 foot lot.

Seven family names are marked, but how many more graves are there, it is unknown.

Deeds do mention a lane or street that was located there but no indication of it now, stating some lot numbers. There is around seventy tombstones or funeral home markers of persons buried in that old cemetery, but who knows how many may lie in unmarked graves. The earliest identifiable graves are of some that died in 1849/50 and the latest as of 1986 in 1963. Many were buried there years after Hampton's death and probably did not pay for their lots. Some bodies were removed to the present Catlettsburg Cemetery after it was established in 1890.

William Hampton, Jr., born June 26, 1808 in Cabell Co., Va., died July 25, 1887 in Catlettsburg, Ky., was a son of William & Malinda Shortridge Hampton. He had large landholdings south of Catlettsburg and lived in a huge brick house near the Big Sandy River, Hampton

City section, which he laid out as a future town. It is said that their dining room measured 20 x 30 feet. He laid out and sold lots in the Hampton Cemetery, now known as the "Old Catlettsburg Cemetery," a subject of recent local controversy. His father was born in 1779 in Prince William Co., Va. and died in 1819 in Cabell County, a son of Dr. Henry Cary and Elizabeth Plunket Hampton. His mother was a daughter of Colonel George and Margaret Muir Shortridge.

William Hampton married (1) August 31, 1828, Sarah Buchanan, born November 6, 1807, died April 20, 1874, daughter of William and Elizabeth Caldwell Buchanan. He married (2) in 1875, Mrs. Selena (Hite) Mason (1832 - 1931, buried in Catlettsburg Cemetery. He and Selena had no issue. Sarah's father was born December 8, 1769 in Lancaster Co., Pa. and was said to have been related to President Buchanan. The community of Buchanan, in Lawrence Co., Ky. was named for him and he died there April 8, 1860. Her mother was born September 14, 1777 in North Carolina, and died October 12, 1853. William and Sarah Hampton are buried in Ashland Cemetery.

William and Sarah were the parents of eight children: George Shortridge, William Oliver, Joseph N., Eliza M., John Waring, Charles H., Wade and Frances C.

CATLETTSBURG CEMETERY

Catlettsburg Cemetery Company was Incorporated by George N. Brown, M. F. Hampton, John McDeyer, John C. Hopkins, Colbert Cecil, Jr., W. O. Hampton, Robert H. Kilgore, Silas Patton, and Thomas R. Brown, and their associates, and enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky on April 1, 1881.

The object is to promote or develop burial lots and to conduct necessary business as pertains to the interment of the owner or designee. There are now two new sections opened at the cemetery with lots for sale.

The Cemetery has a Board of Directors that take care of the business of caring for the

cemetery. Those members are: Phoebe McCoy, President, Bill Wechsler, Vice President, Rochelle Jarrell, Superintendent, and Betty Wright, Secretary. Other members are: James E. Adkins, Allan J. Collier, Phillip Hedrick, Bill and Betty Mathias, Mica Williamson, Don Bolt, Kenneth Keibee, John Rous, Sam Spears. Two employees maintain the grounds.

Many improvements have been made in the past year such as removal of the trailer at the entrance, remodeling of garage, establishing an office at the cemetery, blacktopping of roadway, new entrance sign and two signs placed at various locations on the highway as to where the cemetery is located.

BLACK-OUT

**The Government Has Ordered A
Black-Out for Catlettsburg**

Monday Evening, Aug. 31, '42

**The Fire Wardens, Auxiliary Police
And Staff Workers Will Be at Their
Posts for Your Protection.**

**THE AIR RAID WARNING SIGNALS
WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:**

**First Ward---Kenova Power House Siren.
Second and Third Wards---City Building Siren.
Fourth Ward---W. J. Feil Company Whistle.**

Please Cooperate by Following These Simple Rules.

- 1. Turn off your lights. This is very important. No lights must be visible.**
- 2. Keep calm and cool.**
- 3. Stay at home. This is the safest place.**
- 4. Keep off the streets.**
- 5. All cars to pull over to side of street, stop and turn off lights.**

CATLETTSBURG DEFENSE COUNCIL

This information was distributed to the residents during World War II as practice in the case of an attack from the enemy. As a child this was very scary, not knowing it was not really happening at this particular time, and thank God it never did. B. W.

HISTORICAL INFLUENCES ON CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY

- Convergence of three states - OHIO, WEST VIRGINIA, KENTUCKY.
- Only section in Ohio Valley where bituminous coal was obtained that could be used in the raw state in the manufacture of iron.
- Mr. Catletts, city named for, had the pleasure of entertaining such notable personages as General Jackson, Henry Clay and Felix Grundy.
- Catlett girls were the most charming and lovely maidens.
- Mr. Catlett died so suddenly that an autopsy was deemed necessary.
- 1892 the water plant gave the best fire protection of any city in this section and furnished power by which several firms ran their machinery.
- No city had better lighting than Catlettsburg in the 1800's.
- Catlettsburg was always to the front in everything.
- Largest flour mills in Northeastern Kentucky. (Patton Milling Company) established in 1855 was known a number of years as Big Sandy Flouring Mill. In 1870 the name changed to J. C. Patton & Company. In 1891 the mill was destroyed by fire. In 1892 the old mill was erected - brick 250x125 feet - and was three stories tall.
- Catlettsburg as a jobbing center was not excelled by any other of its size on the Ohio River.
- Utility services now are Columbia Gas of Kentucky, American Electric Power, GTE South, Inc. - telephone, Ashland Department of Utilities-water.
- Other services for Catlettsburg's use are Harts Sanitation, Ashland Bus System, Amtrak, Ashland Regional Airport, Huntington Tri-State Airport, Tri-State Transit Authority, Chamber of Commerce, Boyd County Public Library, 911 for emergencies. There are others, these are closely related to the city use.
- Two of the safest banking institutions in the country in the earlier days were Catlettsburg National Bank, organized in 1882 and the Big Sandy National Bank which was organized in 1890, but not to forget, our very own bank, Kentucky Farmers Bank, one of the safest in our times. In 1931, the Kentucky National Bank and the Farmers and Merchants Bank were combined forming the Kentucky Farmers Bank.
- Nearly every religious denomination is represented in Catlettsburg.
- Principal hotels were Hotel Mansard a three-story building built by Adam Crowe in 1892, later name changed to The Shively Hotel in 1908. and the Alger House. Shively was located on the corner of 25th and Center Street. The Alger House was located also on a

corner of 25th but facing Front Street. There were several other boarding house and hotel in Catlettsburg as you have read about in this book.

- 1896 – Professor J. B. Leach was instructor of Catlettsburg High School and there were ten months of free schools during the year.
- At the last congressional election around 1896 the Democratic vote of the county was 1,480 with the Republican vote being 1,836. Taxable Boyd County property was \$5,262,296.
- First white visitor of record at site of Catlettsburg was Reverend David Jones of Freehold, N. J. He was chaplain in the Revolutionary War and spent January 1,2,3, 1773 at "Mouth of Great Sandy Creek."
- April 18, 1812 Horatio Catlett sold 200 acres to Charles Riggs – tract was present-day Hampton City that was named for William Hampton who received title of the land in April 1844 under purchase by foreclosure.
- Horatio Catlett returned to Catlettsburg 1847, fortune unaided in Missouri, died in Catlett Tavern in 1847. He was buried by his father "Sawney" Catlett and two daughters close to the barn on the farm that was Colonel Labon T. Moore's and in the past was occupied by Mrs. James Patton, Col. Labon T. Moore's daughter and who was the oldest living resident at that time of Catlettsburg.
- The first physician in Catlettsburg was William Lofus Sutton, 21 years old at the time, married Mary Belle Catlett, daughter to Horatio Catlett.
- Colonel T. J. Ewing was born in Catlettsburg and had the distinction of being the oldest native born resident here in 1849.
- Joseph M. Spears, Deputy U. S. Clerk in 1907-1908 was appointed the U. S. Commissioner. His headquarters being in Catlettsburg.
- "The Bee Hive" was one of the best-known dry goods establishment in the Big Sandy District and was located on Division Street, opposite the Elks Building, and remember, all cars stop at the door.
- Gate City played a big part in the early history of the Ohio River Transportation. Catlettsburg was called the "Port of Catlettsburg" where they maintained wharfboats to receive merchandise for the city and the big Sandy Valley.
- May 5, 1873 a public landing on the Ohio River between Main Street and Division Street was established as a steamboat landing. September 13, 1878 an ordinance was enacted making it unlawful for any boat which landed at, or in the vicinity of Gallapolis or other places affected by the yellow fever epidemic to land at any point within corporate limits of Catlettsburg.
- Captain G. W. Bay owner of steamboat "Crossly" & "M. Freeze", "Fleetwing" were cited. They plead they had no notice until they landed. Case was dismissed.
- Cost per passengers on steamboats from Pittsburgh to Catlettsburg was \$5.00 including meals and birth. Freight was eight to twelve cents for small lots. Cincinnati to Catlettsburg was ten cents per one-hundred pounds of salt.

- Catlettsburg was headquarters of the Sea Lion Towboat Company that operated three towboats between here and Evansville Indiana. Two were Sea Lion Crown Hill owned by Captain William Smiley.
- In 1852 Daniel Vaughn operated the "Tom Scott" from Catlettsburg to Louisa.
- The Sandy Valley and the Thealka were side-wheelers or "bat-wings". The Fannie Dugan was a daily packet from Portsmouth to Catlettsburg. The side-wheelers were "Red Buck", "Ratliff", "Jennie", "George", "Sam Cravens", J. C. Hopkins", "Ruth" "Maxie Yost", "Alex Yost", "Jerry", "Pshburn", "J. M. Kirker" and the "Louisa." A lot of you knew Maxie Yost, a second grade teacher at Yost School or Second Ward as some of you knew it. The school was named for her in 1959.
- Largest boat to ply the Big Sandy was Argand.
- In 1876 the steamboat Sandy Fashion exploded at the foot of 27th Street. Cold water had been put in a dry boiler causing the explosion.
- Ferryboats were operated for service between Catlettsburg, South Point and Virginia Point. Names of two of them were "Lizzie" and "Bessie."
- July 1875 - The high stages of the Big Sandy River washed out and two blocks of the river front had breakwaters built to protect the bank.
- Even though there were five hotels and dozens of rooming houses, some homes had to be opened up for sleeping quarters, some sleep on chairs, floors of boarding houses or walked streets all night because there was not enough accommodations when all the timbermen were in Catlettsburg.
- The timber business in Catlettsburg amounted to an insignificant sum in 1840 to several millions in 1889. One timber firm in Catlettsburg handled one million dollars in timber in one season.
- The apartment building across from the Young's (old Federal Building/Post Office) was formerly the Cottrell apartments, but in the earlier days it was a clinic operated by Dr. Richard and Dr. Cottrell.
- In 1949 only four industries were strictly in city limits - Catlettsburg Stockyard with twenty-two employees; Braley Midland Company with eight employees; Venetian Art Glass Company with seven employees and Hearne Block Company with fourteen employees. Also 212 employees of businesses resided in city limits of Catlettsburg.
- Great destructive Fire burning practically the whole city was in 1878.
- Around 1910 arrangements were made by the County Board of Education that made Catlettsburg the County High School, and all pupils in Boyd County who passed the examination of the State Board were received at the high school.
- 1803 land in Catlettsburg sold at \$67.50 at a tax sale.

- 1949- Uncle Jim Looney of Lexington served his famous burgoo to Catlettsburg Centennial visitors on the County Courthouse Square.
- The first newspaper published in Catlettsburg was in 1852 called the Big Sandy News. Reverend E. C. Thornton was the Editor.
- Another favorite teacher was Docia McNaughton Hatfield for whom first ward school was named. She taught there in the 1940's. She died at the age of eight-seven on April 1, 1953.
- The Alger House, that known by all traveling men through this section, was under the management of J. C. Rarden in 1896. I had the pleasure of talking to Jacob Rarden, the grandson of J. C. Rarden, 84 years of age who lives in Huntington, West Virginia. He tells me his grandfather and other members of his family are resting at the Catlettsburg Cemetery. He told me that his uncle broke down all the bedsprings at the Hotel by jumping on them. I bet that was fun. His grandparents occupied a home at the site of where the Grandview Manor is located now. In a few days my grandson, Russ and I will visit Mr. Rarden, and we can't wait to talk with him, but probably not in time to get information from him to publish in this book. Sorry. B. W.
- Railway dates: Rail Transportation rush, 1870's
Big Sandy Valley Railroad, 1893
Chatteroi Railway Company, 1879
Elizabethtown, Lexington & Big Sandy Railroad, 1879
Chesapeake & Ohio, 1911 - In 1929 landmarks were destroyed due to being in the right-of-way of the C&O tracks.
- In 1949 an old "river town", the Hirma (Ohio) College showboat was tied at the dock in Catlettsburg that offered the melodramas of former years throughout the Centennial Celebration week. There was a lawn part, concert, and costume judging.
- Fires, floods, hail and even earthquakes are not the fondest of our memories.
Fires: July 22, 1878, downtown destroyed; other major fires were in 1884, 1919, 1932, and 1997.
Floods: 1913, 1937, 1948 and 1950, will long be remembered.
- The old order changes with the march of Time. It took 103 turns to wind the old clock on top of the old city hall. Billy Clark and Steamboat Bill seemed to be the clock starters when it wound down in order for Catlettsburg to keep up with the time.
- Stand on Front Street today - if you know where it was and hear the clangor of the towboats; signal bells as they drift down the broad Ohio; listen to the chugging of CSX trains as they roll through . . . but don't listen for shots or murderous shouts; TIME HAS TAMED FRONT STREET.
- Mural on floodwall on Center Street (1949 Centennial Parade) artist being the famous Robert Dafford. The Billy C. Clark painting artist was Beverly St. Lawrence, a Catlettsburg native. She is now in process of painting the old Thomas R. Brown High School.

- A wonderful lady, Gertrude Ramey, who is gone on to her glory started the Ramey Home for Children in the upstairs in the building at corner of 28th and Louisa Street. The Something Different Salon and the Wedding Chapel is on the street level with apartments upstairs. Building owned now by Connie Hawk.
- May 15, 1911 on the corner of 26th & Broadway the property was bought from Ben Williamson for \$5,300. Total cost of the old city hall building was \$20,748 completed in March 1912.
- Billy C. Clark Bridge was completed November 1987, at a cost of \$5.8 Million.
- 1950 weekly newspaper was called the Boyd County Observer and the 1970 newspaper was called the Press-Observer.
- 1949 Centennial royalty was Joe Brooks as King and Barbara Musser as Queen. At the final gala 1949 Centennial Celebration, music was furnished by the Jimmy James orchestra.
- Yost School was closed early in the 1980's.
- The first survey through this section of Kentucky was made by George Washington and run through what is now Twenty-eighth Street.
- On a very old beech tree in Booger Boo Hollow just south of the city limits are the initials, "D. B." carved there by Daniel Boone on one of his trips through this section.
- Mary Ingliss was the first white woman to set foot in Catlettsburg.
- At the time Catlettsburg was named, it was the custom at that time to have the word burg in the names of towns.
- Catlettsburg has suffered some very disastrous fires and floods but has survived all of them. The population has also decreased so much it has hurt the town too. In 1990 is was only 2,231 and probably not much more than that now.
- Catlettsburg has a peculiarity in the fact that people who live here want to stay and those who have lived here and moved away want to come back. In conclusion we are a satisfied and happy people and the writers of this book expect to finish our lives here.
- "Down by the River" you will see "Pictures on the Wall". Billy Clark is still on the river doing his thing and those memories keep rolling along . . . and the parade marches on . . . the 1949 Centennial Parade that is - Thanks to Kentucky Farmers Bank and Frosty Lockwood for supporting the murals.
- "Motto": My mind influenced me to put this in, but my heart couldn't decide if I should. Not my aim to be offensive to anyone. Just read it somewhere and thought it pretty good.

Try to make the atmosphere healthy. Fire all croakers, loafers and deadbeats. Let your object be the welfare, growth and promotion of your town and its people. Speak well of public spirited men and also be one of them yourself. Be Honest with your fellowymen. This is a good lesson for all of us.

Please read below before you say a thing about all our blunders in this book; for this we
are truly sorry, but it happens!

THE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR

When you've worked your very hardest to read all your proofs with care

Till you're sure there's not an error or a bonehead anywhere.

And you really feel quite chesty and disposed to pat you bean

As you say, "She may be empty, but I'll tell the world she's clean."

But when the sheet is printed and is out upon the mail,

On its way to the subscribers, I have never seen it fail—

In the center of the front page, in a most conspicuous place,

Some typographic error fairly kicks you in the face.

For the typographic error is a slippery thing and sly,

You can hunt till your are dizzy, but it somehow will get by;

Till the forms are off the presses it is strange how still it keeps,

It shrinks down into the corner and it never stirs or peeps.

That typographic error is too small for human eyes,

Till the ink is on the paper, when it grows to mountain size,

And you see that blasted error, far as you can throw a dog.

Looming up in all its splendor, like a lighthouse in a fog!

That glaring blunder juts out like an ulcerated tooth,

Where it dodged the eagle vision of the napping comma sleuth.

It is sure too late to mend it, but it fills your soul with rage,

As you see it swelling loudly in the middle of the page

The remainder of the issue may be clean as clean can be,

But that typographic error is the only thing you see.

It was down among the six point till the copy all was read,

When it shifted into blackface or a two-inch banner head—

Then when the sheet was printed it jumped up and hollered "Boo!"

You never saw me, did you? This is sure a horse on you!"

HAMPTON CITY "PROGRESS" DEVELOPMENT



"CAPITAL" CAR WASH - US 23



McDONALD'S - US 23



OMAR'S EXXON - US 23



HARDEE'S - US 23

GO MART - corner of 36th Street & US 23CRAYCRAFT FOODLAND - US 23 & 35th StreetRITE AID - East side of 35th Street & US 23TOM'S PIZZA - corner of 34th & Oakland Avenue

SUPER AMERICA – corner 36th & US 23NAPA AUTO PARTS – corner 36th & US 23 E. SideROBINETTE owner - 35th and Oakland AvenueCIGARETTE OUTLET – 35th StreetHOUSTON owner – 35th & Oakland AvenueTOBACCO OUTLET – 35th StreetD. BOWLING owner – 35th & US 23BAKERY - 35th & Oakland Avenue

150th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN PICTURE

September 2 - 6, 1999

PREPARING FOR THE BIG CELEBRATION!

Arnold Sammons looks very proud as he hangs the Red White and Blue Banner over Center Street in Catlettsburg. They were hung for floodwall mural unveiling and the sesquicentennial celebratton.











PHOTOS - Page ii. - Parade onlookers. Key to the City to Margaret Adkins by Mayor Hensley. Boyd County Band. Meagan Brown, Queen; Kelli Campbell, Princess. Mike and Sandy Neal. Volunteer Dinner. Miss Flame, Brittany Chin. Color Guard. Catlettsburg Elementary School. Rose Branham and Liza Epling.

Page iii. - Stephen Crace and Arnold Sammons. Style

show. Janie Fricke. Mayor Hensley and wife Glorious. George Jones, entertainer. Mr. & Mrs. John Neal and Bill Wechsler. Ramey Home Caterers. Antique display. Missy Cole and Rocky Adkins Representative. Concert audience. Parade participate - Max Dalton. Concert audience.

Page iv. - CK Band. Spring Valley Band/winner. 1949 Centennial Queens. Billy

and Ruth Clark, Frosty Lockwood. Baarbershop quartet at Mayors Reception. Veterans. Parade Marshall James E. Adkins. Uniform display at reception.

Page v. - 150th Birthday Cake by Catlettsburg Elementary School. Mike Neal. Walter Blevins, Senator. FINALE - OUT WITH A BANG - FIREWORKS!

WINDOW DISPLAYS AND ACTIVITIES

TEEN DAY AT CATLETTSBURG, October 1, 1999



Library display



Elite Insurance display



June's Touch of Class display



J. E. Adkins, Attorney's display



Picture Perfect Frame Shop display



Boyd County Lions



Boyd County Marching Band



Homecoming Parade float



EVERYONE LOVES A
PARADE. GO GET-'EM
BOYD COUNTY LIONS!

No Bones About It
Doggone Good
Parades!



WALK ALONG WITH ME THROUGH OUR HOMETOWN OF CATLETTSBURG

1999

Page viii . . .

Presbyterian Church, (side view) 26th & Division Street
Fivco Area Development District Offices, 30th & Louisa Street
Kentucky Farmers Bank, 25th & Broadway
Catlettsburg, Boyd County, Community Center, Louisa Street

28th/Louisa Street North to Division Street
Front/Presbyterian Church, Broadway
Mike Cumpston properties, Louisa Street
Elks Building, in curve on Division Street

Page ix . . .

28th Street toward 24th & Division Street
Oakland Avenue Park-Boots & Betty Wright

Old bell/old streetlamp, refurbished
Courthouse Annex – Louisa Street
Oakland Avenue at Park

Curve from 27th Street going on to Division & Center Streets

Page x . . .

South on 25th & Center Street
South 28th & Louisa Street
West 25th Street
26th Division Street East – City Hall

26th & Division Street East toward rivers
West on 25th Street
25th & Center – Hart Sanitation Office
26th Division Street East toward rivers

Page xi Program – September 2, 1999 Murals Unveiling

Page xii Mural unveiling activity in pictures (Clark)

Page xiii Mural unveiling activity in pictures (1949 Parade)

Page xiv Looking back at a few things

Page xv Flag Day

Page xvi Yearly activities in pictures

Page xvii Back when in pictures

Page xviii Mr. & Mrs. James E. Adkins (1949 Centennial Ball picture)

Page xix Hometown Hero picture

Page xx Twilight in Catlettsburg, Kentucky







September 2, 1999

4 o'clock

Unveiling of Catlettsburg Murals

*In Honor of Mr. Billy C. Clark
by the Class of 1948*

*In Honor of Kentucky Farmers Bank
1949-1999
by Mr. John Green*

6 o'clock

Mayor's Receiving Line

7 o'clock

Welcome from Mayor Hensley

*Greetings from Rocky Adkins and the
Kentucky House of Representatives*



Billy C. Clark back on the river. He hit the wall! Looks great doesn't he? Ribbon cutting celebration, September 2, 1999. Kelli Campbell, Artist - Beverly St. Lawrence, Author - Billy C. Clark and James E. Adkins. Lower right is artist and author.



Mayor Roger Henley introduces Artist - St. Lawrence to the audience above attending the unveiling of the murals. St. Lawrence painted the mural of Billy C. Clark. Funds for this mural was donated by Forest "Frosty" Lockwood, who is a close friend to Mr. Clark, and the 1948 graduating class of the Thomas R. Brown High School. (Below) Frosty and Sid Rice, friends.





MURAL OF 1949 CENTENNIAL PARADE ON FLOODWALL ON CENTER STREET



Three talented artists at work doing their thing. Noted Brothers Robert and Douglas Dafford & Associates. August 3, 1999.



Former Kentucky Farmers Bank Painting. Kentucky Farmers Bank sponsored the 1949 Parade Mural.



From Left: Steven Cole, Mayor Roger Hensley, Princess Kelli Campbell, Russ Cole, James E. Adkins.



HEY LOOK! THAT'S US! Russ Cole and Al Baker. Can you imagine seeing us at the 1949 parade? Wasn't easy!

LOOKING BACK AT A FEW THINGS THROUGH THE YEARS



FIRE CHIEF – PAUL CONLEY and FIREMAN MARK RIGSBY showing off the city's new truck back in the 1970's.



FRONT STREET IN HEYDAY TIMES



A BEAUTIFUL
ADDITION TO
OUR CITY
KFB employee
smoking area.

1937 flood up to
second floor of
the houses along
Oakland Avenue.



PATRIOTISM, U. S., STATE FLAGS FOCUS OF MANY GATE CITY PROGRAMS HELD ON FLAG DAY, JUNE 14TH AT THE COURTHOUSE. Pictured are Betty Wright, organizer, Dorothy Crace singer, Russ Cole salutes, Opal Phillips holds Old Glory. Senior citizens march. Raising Flag is the National Guard Color Guard.





CHRISTMAS IS A HAPPY TIME IN OUR HOMETOWN. YOU CAN TELL BY THE BEAUTIFUL DECORATIONS EVERYWHERE.



Hi there, Paul Hicks. Shriners would flip anytime for a parade. Always there to entertain everyone. Thanks.



Fire trucks line up for the 1999 Sesqui-centennial Parade.



WATCH OUT everyone, the gunslingers are back in town. They entertain with a gun toten', bang-up show every Labor Day.



1949 Parade - Queen, Barbara Musser and her court.

THE CENTENNIAL BROCHURE TO BE AVAILABLE TOMORROW

An attractive 108-page souvenir Centennial Brochure which has been compiled and edited by the Centennial Brochure Committee of which Mrs. J. R. Mitchell is chairman will be available to residents of Catlettsburg and Centennial visitors beginning tomorrow at registration headquarters in the City Building.

This brochure contains many very interesting historical articles, feature stories, the Centennial program, and other features which will be of particular interest, and has more than fifty illustrations. The brochure will be sold for one dollar or orders will be taken for mailing at \$1.25 per copy.

Ashland, (Ky.) Daily Independent - Catlettsburg Centennial
Sunday Morning, July 24, 1949



King-Roger Hensley, I bet, you knew you would be Catlettsburg's Mayor someday. Roger Hensley and Jerry Maynard reigned as King and Queen at Hatfield School. Other King and Queen not recognized.



Past Labor Day Fun
Kids Turtle Races



Are you really Santa or could you be my Uncle Donnie Cole?
Cody James Wright wonders.



HALLOWEEN

ALL YEAR ROUND
ACTIVITIES AND
ENTERTAINMENT
FOR EVERYONE
IN
CATLETTSBURG
KENTUCKY



SUMMER KIDS KAMP

CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY HAS MUCH IN THE WAY OF ENTERTAINMENT AND FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY:

EVERY YEAR YOU WILL FIND A CHRISTMAS PARTY, BEAUTIFUL CITY DECORATIONS, A HALLOWEEN PARTY, ENJOY A UNFORGETTABLE LABOR DAY CELEBRATION, PAGEANTS (MISS FLAME AND MISS ASHLAND AREA), FLAG DAY CEREMONIES, TEEN DAY HOME-COMING PARADE, NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION, ARTHUR-BILLY CLARK SEMINARS AND TOURS, YOU NAME IT - WE HAVE IT. IF WE DON'T HAVE-WE WILL GET IT!

1949 CENTENNIAL BALL



Mr. James E. Adkins and lovely wife Helen enjoyed themselves at the 1949 Centennial Ball held at the home of Frank and Willie Branham which was located on Honshell Hill at the corner of Route No. 168. My guest as to who the other ladies are is: (left) Mrs. Calvin Gearheart (Charlotte, whose last name was Kramer at that time). The second lady looks like Mrs. Robert Stanley (Helen) to me. I can't seem to recognize the others. If you can recognize them, please let me know. B. W.

HOMETOWN HERO

Gertrude Ramey (center) and her children from unstable homes and orphans were receiving a gift from Robert Stanley, Burt Wellman and Allan J. Collier. Miss Ramey gave her wholeself to see that these children were provided food and lived in a loving home. The home began in the upstairs of the building now owned by Bill and Connie Hawk on the corner of 28th & Louisa Street. Catlettsburg salutes our hometown hero, Gertrude Ramey who is now receiving her award in heaven.



LOOKING to the FUTURE

By: Betty Wright – Editor
and
Russ Cole – Co-editor

Once again we have completed making memories and now it is time to gear up for new times to be remembered by our youth, as we older Catlettsburg memory makers have had our turn. Now let us help our young citizens enjoy our hometown as much as we have. It doesn't seem possible that it has been fifty years since we in 1949 celebrated our 100th Birthday of our city.

At this time is only natural that we look back and reminisce – to rejoice in the progress and good times that our city forefathers have accomplished and may we learn from mistakes and bad times!

There are many challenges ahead, and days of great opportunity for our young people – our very own children, grandchildren, and our neighbors and friends children. Excitement is contagious and we hope and pray that we can “infect every” person to be excited and get in the action. Our city is beginning to look like we care where we live, so let us all continue to help.

Let us all “March into the New Millennium”. You can surely look into the future and see we cannot “stand still”. We can either go forward or we can fall behind. Here at Catlettsburg we want to go forward with all our might, with confidence in our city officials that we chose, and us along side them to be able to do all things that we imagine we can do and succeed as well.

As we look about us from one end to the other of our home city we can see our handiwork, the trees will begin to bloom, lights will shine upon us, and of course, we can see the “time” flashing before our eyes. We are now bringing new life to our city; but, there is much more that we can do, so please put your wholeself into it – it is the place where you live, it is where you raised your children and want them to stay. We want to make all the persons who left here want to come back and say this is my hometown and I was proud to be a part of it. Catlettsburg is committed to city and family values.

As I see it here in Catlettsburg, in our homes, in our schools, we are the most important parts of our Hometown. We can change our city problems, keep our children here, and change our outlook on things instead of complaining about whom is running our town. You must join in. You are very important in our work here. It is through the efforts of our forefathers that this city is still here. WE can make a difference with God's help. Our labor will not be in vain if we all join hands, minds, and souls to March into the Future. The possibilities for the future of Catlettsburg is greater now than ever before – Won't you be a part of it? We can either open the door of the future and step through it or hide behind it. We can proudly proclaim to the onlookers – WE are marching into the future of Catlettsburg! Enjoy your future in your hometown of Catlettsburg, Kentucky.

Russ and I have enjoyed putting together this small amount of past history and the present time to be remembered about this town. Understand that it would cost a fortune if we had put in everything we could have, but maybe later we can. We hope you enjoy what you have, and if you would like to pass on to us information that you might have, please do, we would appreciate it very much.

Betty Wright Russ Cole

TWILIGHT IN CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY



*AN UNBELIEVABLE SITE AND A MOST
BEAUTIFUL EVENT!*

*WHAT A WAY TO END THIS REMARKABLE STORY OF THE HISTORICAL
CITY OF CATLETTSBURG, KENTUCKY!*



*Thank you citizens of Catlettsburg
for making your community the
best place to live!*



CAPITAL STOCK \$ 750,000.

NO LIABILITY OF STOCK HOLDERS.



CALLETSBURG IMPROVEMENT CO.



CAPITAL \$100,000
\$ 150,000.

STOCK
PAID-UP AND
NON ASSESSABLE.
CALLETSBURG, KY.

This is to Certify that
Shares of Capital Stock of the Capital Stock of
Calletsburg Improvement Company of Calletsburg, Ky.
Bonds of the Company in person or by Attorney on our records of this Certificate
and have of Calletsburg, Ky.
189.

Secretary

President

SHARES \$100 EACH

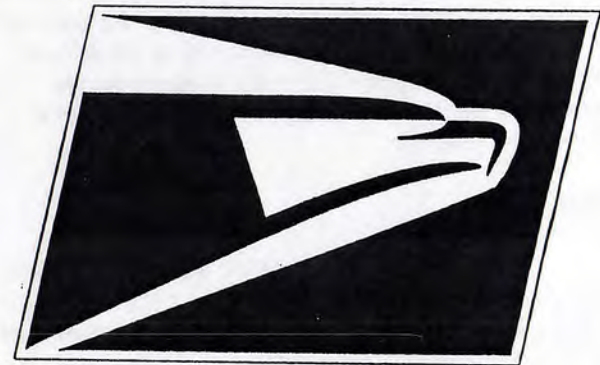
For Value Received, The undersigned hereby
sell, assign, and transfer unto

of _____ Shares of the
Stock of Cattleboing Improvement Company,
and do hereby constitute and appoint

_____ true and lawful attorney
for _____ and in _____ name and behalf, to make and
execute all necessary papers and acts of assignment
and transfer required by the Articles of Incorpor-
ation of said Company.

In Witness whereof, _____ have hereto set
hand and seal _____ this _____ day of _____

**WELCOME
TO THE
CATLETTSBURG KY
POST OFFICE
DEDICATION
AND
OPEN HOUSE**



**JUNE 19, 1999
9:30 – 11:30AM**

Dear Customers:

Welcome to the Catlettsburg Ky Post Office. As employees of the Catlettsburg Post Office, we are proud of the work we perform and the service we provide to our customers.

Providing universal mail delivery to every customer in the Catlettsburg delivery area requires a tremendous amount of work. We hope your visit today will help you better understand what we do every day in our efforts to provide you with excellent mail service.

This new facility in Catlettsburg Ky will enable the Postal Service to adequately meet the needs of our postal customers well into the 21st century. This office features a modern customer lobby, State of the art vending equipment, and ample parking for our growing community.

This office serves approximately 4100 families and has over 800 post office box customers. The facility is open Monday -- Friday from 8:00AM until 5:00PM and from 9:00AM and 12:00 noon on Saturday. The lobby is open 24 hours a day with access to post office boxes, vending, and mail drops.

The Catlettsburg post office is more than a facility. Its employees are also important part of the community. Every day we have the potential to touch every person in our community as we deliver the mail. We accept this responsibility with pride and we are committed to providing each and every customer with the best possible service in the world.

Our employees are:

Postmaster	Pat Rutherford
Clerks	Alberta Castle, Jean Griffith, Mike Porter, David Rigsby
City Carriers	Tom Sanders, David Callahan
Rural Carriers	Kim Cartmel, Emery Robinette, Don Brown, Garnett Alley, Ken Brown, Clay Snyder
RCA	Randy Bellomy, Martha Haney, Carla Jenkins, Ray Riffe, Gary McClellan
Custodian	Scott Neal

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies	Pat Rutherford Postmaster
Presentation of Colors	Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Anthem	Matt McKenzie Youth and Music Director Oakland Avenue Baptist Church
Pledge of Allegiance	Roger Hensley Mayor, Catlettsburg Ky
Invocation	Richard Brown Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
Music	Matt McKenzie Youth and Music Director Oakland Avenue Baptist Church
Remarks	Congressman Ken Lucas Walter Blevins, State Senate Rocky Adkins, State Rep John Vincent, State Rep Bill Scott, Judge Executive Bill Johnson, Manager Postal Operation
Open House	Refreshments served Door Prizes

Municipal Building 1997

Officers

Mayor
Clerk/Treasurer
City Attorney

Roger M. Hensley
Pauline S. Hunt
George W. Davis III

Council

Ijellan "Jell" Akers
Phillip D. Caldwell
Charles "Mick" Hedrick

James A. Lambert
David R. Marushi
John W. Plummer
James R. Wellman

Police Chief
Fire Chief
Waster Water Plant Supervisor
Floodwall Superintendent
Building Inspector
Street Department Supervisor

Mark J. Plummer
Linzy H. Runyon
Frederick F. Childers
Max G. Dalton
Frank D. DeFelice
Roger G. West

Architect
Contractor

John D. Meyers & Associates
Meade Construction Co., Inc.

City Of Catlettsburg, Kentucky Open House Municipal Building May 23, 1998 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm



Program
Saturday May 23, 1998

Opening Remarks
Honorable Mayor
Roger M. Hensley

Invocation
Reverend Bill Bentley

Recognition of Noted Guests
and
Special Recognitions
Honorable Mayor
Roger M. Hensley

Reception to follow, everyone welcome.

Enjoy Your New Facility!

Contributions

Becky Armstrong and Children (In memory of Lawrence Armstrong)
Ashland Inc. Foundation
B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge No. 942
B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge No. 942 (In honor of Conrad Martin)
Boggs and Sons Towing Service
Catlettsburg Federal Savings Bank
Hunter and Hannah R. Clark
Columbia Gas of Kentucky
Charles W. and Ann J. Cossett
Samuel T. Ewing (In honor of Gardner and Garnet Ewing)
Samuel T. Ewing (In honor of Thomas C., Jr. and Ann and Thomas Ewing III)
Harold Freedman (In honor of Julius Freedman)
The Hedrick Family
William A. and Michael Hedrick (In memory of Helen Magann Cossett)
William A. and Michael Hedrick (In memory of Mary Magann Millis)
Clarence and Rebecca Jackson
Kentucky Farmers Bank
David E. Lee & Associates
The John Plummer Family
The Putnam Insurance Agency
Barbara Rankin and Betty Rouse (In honor of Dr. E.R. Burke and Vida Burke)

In-Kind Gifts: Laborers Local Union No. 1445
June's Touch of Class
Catlettsburg Leadership Committee (CYFAR)

Thank you for caring about your community.

The original title to the land where Catlettsburg stands came from a military grant dated December 15, 1772, and was made to John Savage and others by the Dominion of Virginia under His Majesty King George II's proclamation of 1754 awarding land to soldiers who served in the French and Indian Wars.

The first non-Native American of record to this site was Rev. David Jones of New Jersey. He spent Jan. 1-3, 1773 at the "Mouth of the Great Sandy Creek." He was said to have been accompanied by George Rogers Clark, who was described as "a young gentleman from Virginia who was inclined to make a tour of this new world."

In May of 1775, Col. Charlie Smith received 400 acres of the 28,627-acre Savage grant. Smith's acreage included the present day site of Catlettsburg. However, Smith returned to his home in eastern Virginia and died that same year.

After Col. Smith's death no whites attempted to settle the land until sometime in late 1797 or early 1798, when Alexander Catlett, a well-to-do Virginia trader, came to the site on his way to central Kentucky. On his trips to the mouth of the Big Sandy, Catlett was impressed by the wealth of its natural resources, and reached a decision to settle here.

Catlett recorded deeds for title to the site in 1798 when he received property from Richard Morris and William Hogan for their claims under the Savage grant. The Catlett family later purchased the land claims of two of Charlie Smith's children.

Alexander Catlett and his son Horatio cleared the land and resided on it until 1833. Horatio built the Catlett Tavern which was located near the river on 26th Street. The Tavern was a popular haven for those travelling the river and stage routes from Lexington, Kentucky to Washington, D.C. Henry Clay and General Jackson are said to have been guests while en route to the nation's capitol.

Horatio Catlett spent money freely and upon becoming almost insolvent, left for Missouri, where he hoped to retrieve his fortune. In 1833, just before his departure he sold two tracts of land to Captain James Wilson. Upon Wilson's death in 1835 his grandson James Wilson Fry inherited the property. When James Wilson Fry became of age in 1849 he divided his land into town lots and held a public sale, and the city of Catlettsburg was born.

The Catlettsburg Development Club invites you to attend our next meeting. In preparation for the Sesquicentennial Celebration, we will be meeting every Monday evening 6:30 in the Catlettsburg Youth Center.

If you wish to make Catlettsburg a special place to live, we encourage you to attend and share your input.

Catlettsburg native Beverly St. Lawrence, is painting our first mural. It depicts Billy C. Clark, famous Catlettsburg writer, whose books include *A Long Row to Hoe* and *Song of the River*.

The second mural is being painted by internationally known artist Robert Dafford. This mural will be a scene of the 1949 Centennial Parade in downtown Catlettsburg. Those familiar with the Portsmouth, Ohio floodwall murals know the phenomenal caliber of Mr. Dafford's work.

Brochure designed by Denise Spaulding

SESQUICENTENNIAL SCHEDULE OF Events

Celebrating
150
YEARS
AS A COMMUNITY

AUGUST 28TH,
SEPTEMBER 2ND,
3RD, 4TH, 5TH &
6TH, 1999



SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1999

- Selection of Queen/Princess. 11 am
(Youth Center)



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1999

- Mayor's Reception 6-10 pm
(Federal Building, 25th and Broadway)



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1999

- Janie Fricke 7:30 pm
- George Jones Concert. 9 pm
- Fireworks 11 pm



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1999



THOMAS R. BROWN HIGH SCHOOL

- Arts & Crafts. 11 am
- Carnival. 10:30 am
- Antique Car Show. 11 am-4 pm
(Annex Parking Lot)
- Barbecue 12 noon
(Courthouse Lawn)
- 4-H Dog Show 2 pm
- CK Alumni Band 3:30 pm
- Costume Judging/Style Show 3 pm
- Bluegrass Music. 6-10 pm
- CHS Reunion 5 pm-12 midnight
(Catlettsburg Gymnasium)
- Fireworks 10 pm

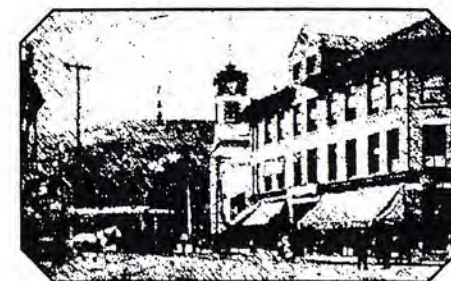
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1999

- Civil War Living History 1-5 pm
- Carnival. 1 pm
- Buggy Rides 1-4 pm
- Tour of Homes & Churches 1-4 pm
Harper House, Cossett House, Turner House, Cress House, Levi Hampton House, Collier House, Genevieve Rous House, Christian Church, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Diamond House (oldest house in Catlettsburg), Federal Building (Old Post Office)
- Arts & Crafts 1 pm
- Barber Shop Quartet. TBA
- Gospel Sing. 1-5 pm
- Pie Eating Contest TBA
(Senior Citizen Center)
- Ice Cream Social 2-4 pm
Cakewalk. 2:30 pm
- Duck Race 5 pm

The Catlettsburg Floodwall Murals

FEATURING THE ARTWORK
OF INTERNATIONALLY
KNOWN MURALIST ROBERT
DAFFORD AND LOCAL
ARTIST BEVERLY SMITH ST.
LAWRENCE

*Located on the Floodwall in
the 2000 block of Center St.
(one block up river from the
Boat Store)*



ELKS BUILDING ON DIVISION ST.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1999

- Entertainment 9 am
- Parade 10 am
- Arts & Crafts. 10 am
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament TBA
- Gate City Gunslingers. . . 12:30, 2:30, 4 pm
- Carnival. all day
- Art Exhibit & Sales. TBA
- History of Catlettsburg 12-4 pm
(Federal Building, 25 and Broadway)
- Sidewalk Art TBA
- Various Kids' Games. TBA
*Fish Pond, Toy Dig, Sand Art,
Wet Sponge Throw*
- Fireworks 10 pm

Events on schedule are subject to change.

*All Festivities are alcohol free.
Strictly enforced by law.*

Remember to Join the Celebration!

Our heartfelt thanks to the individuals,
merchants, and organizations who have
contributed to the Catlettsburg
Sesquicentennial Celebration.



Disabilities accommodated
with prior notification.

COMMITTEE

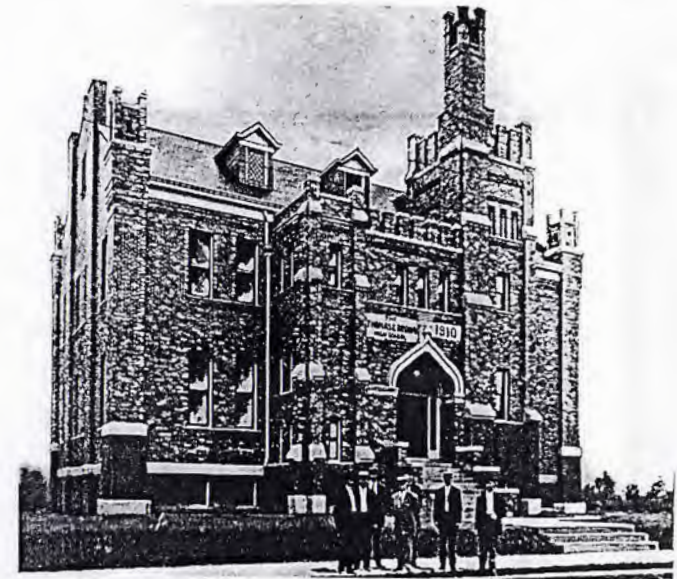
Co-Chairmen *Bob Johnson*
Bill Wechsler

Treasurer *Natalie Wechsler*

Working Members . . . *Joan Musser*
Betty Mathias
Lois Thompson
Caroline Wilson
Betty Wright
Jolly Hicks
Maudie Childers
Maxine Borders



WELCOME



THOMAS R. BROWN
1910 - 1965

Catlettsburg, Kentucky
High School Reunion
and
Sesquicentennial Ball

September 4, 1999

ALMA MATER

On Kentucky's eastern border,
Reared against the sky,
Proudly stands our Alma Mater
As the years go by...

Forward ever be our watchword
Conquer and Prevail...
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,
C.H.S. all hail!

1999 THOMAS R. BROWN - CHS REUNION

PROGRAM

Welcome Bob Johnson

Invocation Billye Jo Spaulding

*Moment of Silence in Remembrance of
Former Classmates*

Alma Mater Led by Class of 1949
*Accompanied by
Patricia Hutchinson Walling*

My Old Kentucky Home All

Surprise Entertainment ? ? ? ? ?

Presentation of Awards

Outstanding Hometown Hero
by Bill Wechsler & Betty Mathias

Introduction of Speaker . . Joan Musser

Honored Speaker Cobbie Lee

Roll Call of Classes Bob Johnson

God Bless America All Sing

Dancing & Merry Making

MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME

The sun shines bright in the
old Kentucky home.
Tis summer, the people are gay.
The corn top's ripe and the
meadow's in the bloom
While the birds make music all the day.
The young folks roll on the little
cabin floor,
All merry, all happy and bright.
By'n by hard times comes a-knocking
at the door,
Then my old Kentucky home, good night!
Weep no more, my lady.
O weep no more today.
We will sing one song for the
old Kentucky home,
For the old Kentucky home, far away.

① The Levi Hampton House
2206 Walnut Street (US 23)



Presently owned by Denny & Kathy Stemen

Levi J. Hampton was one of the early settlers of the Big Sandy Valley. He came to the Catlettsburg area in about 1845 and engaged in numerous businesses. Though he sympathized with pro-slavery issues, he was loyal to the Union when the issue of secession arose. He enrolled in the 39th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry and was killed by the enemy near Prestonsburg on Dec. 4, 1862.

The Levi Hampton House was built in 1847. According to the publication "The Big Sandy Valley," a local tradesman made the brick and laid the walls; and the woodwork was executed entirely by hand.

Today, this lovely house is a wonderfully appointed Bed & Breakfast owned and operated by Denny and Kathy Stemen. (Phone: 606-739-8118 or 888-LEVIHAM; e-mail address: dstemen1@msn.com)



- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1) Harper House
(tour begins) | 5) Cress House | 9) Methodist
Church |
| 2) Cossett House | 6) Federal
Courthouse | 10) Rous House |
| 3) Turner House | 7) Presbyterian
Church | 11) Levi Hampton
House (tour
concludes) |
| 4) Diamond House
Walk-By Only | 8) Collier House | |

sponsored by

KFB
Kentucky Farmers Bank



2211 Center Street
The Oldest House in Catlettsburg

CATLETTSBURG HISTORICAL TOUR OF HOMES AND CHURCHES

*Sunday,
September 5, 1999*

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm



PURCHASE TICKETS & BEGIN TOUR HERE

① The Harper House
2202 Broadway



Presently owned by Kelly & Jane Harper

References to this house are found in Deed Book 1, Page 36, dated Aug., 28, 1860, under the listing of transfer from D.D. Geiger to Chas. L. McConnell.

"Lot 12 in the town of Ferriopolis fronting 60 feet on Chestnut St., 60 feet on Broadway and 160 feet on Washington St. The said lot is bounded on the north by Broadway, on the east by Thomas Means, on the south by Chestnut St. and on the west by Washington St."

Judge Charles McConnell was a well-known citizen of Catlettsburg, and the son of Sen. John McConnell. Judge McConnell sold the house to Kelly Harper, Sr. in 1937. It is now owned by Kelly Harper, Jr. and Jane Harper.

In the 139 years this house has stood, only two families have resided in it.

② The Cossett House
2208 Broadway



Presently owned by Charles & Ann Cossett

This house has changed hands many times through the years. The site was originally deeded to Thomas W. Means from D.D. Geiger. Thomas Means sold the house to Amelia C. Prichard in May, 1873 for \$1,200. The next owner, William M. Thornberry acquired it in May of 1906 at a cost of \$6,070. Upon Mr. Thornberry's death the house was willed to his widow, Josie Thornberry

in February, 1910. Mrs. Thornberry deeded the house to Lulu M. Dee in May of 1922 for "\$10 and other goods and valuable considerations." In June of that year Lulu Dee and her husband deeded the house to Grant Thornberry for \$6,500.

In March of 1929 Elizabeth M. Hampton and George B. Martin purchased it for \$8,750, and had \$30,000 of plumbing installed. Elizabeth Hampton's will gave George Martin outright ownership in July of 1943. Through separate wills the house in turn went to Quinn Brown Poage in February, 1945; and Florence Poage Brown in March, 1966. In April of that year, Charles W. and Helen M. Cossett purchased it for \$15,000.

③ The Turner House
2211 Broadway



Presently owned by John & Tanya Turner

This house was built prior to 1863 when Catlettsburg was called Ferriopolis, and was sold for the first time in Boyd County by John H. and Lucina Smith to Triville Ely under the unusual stipulation that no alcohol could be sold on the premises or the deed would become void. This deed, which is completely handwritten, can be found in book number one, page 318 in the Boyd County Record's office. It was also owned in 1894 by an Alfred and Estella Yost, believed to be relatives of Maxine Yost. The house has been owned by the Turners for 16 years.

④ The Diamond House
2211 Center Street

*Presently owned by Bill & Patty Diamond
Walk By Only*

According to an article published in *The Independent* at the time of Catlettsburg's Centennial, this house was built by John Joseph Ewing and is the oldest residence in Catlettsburg, dating back prior to 1839. (See Brochure Cover for photograph.)

① The Levi Hampton House 2206 Walnut Street (US 23)



Presently owned by Denny & Kathy Stemen

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sponsored by



2211 Center Street
The Oldest House in Catlettsburg

CATLETTSBURG HISTORICAL TOUR OF HOMES AND CHURCHES

Sunday,
September 5, 1999

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm



PURCHASE TICKETS & BEGIN TOUR HERE

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