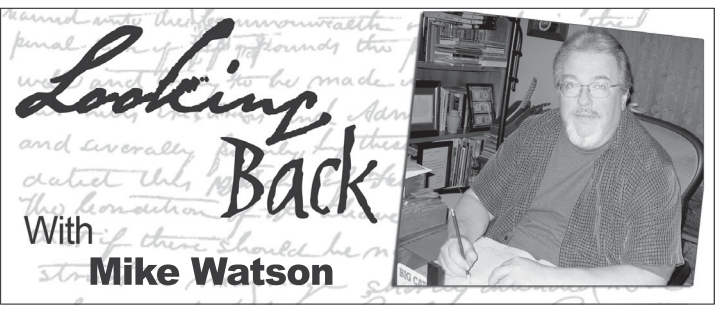
# EDITORIAL




## Notes on the Historic Columbia Public Square—

Adair County and Columbia are filled to the brim with historic events and locations of importance; a few may be of less importance to some, but worthy of note just the same...

The corner of the Public Square and Jamestown Street, originally called Field's Corner, commonly known today as the Jeffries Hardware Corner, was an area of importance in the earliest days of the Town of Columbia. First developed by John Field, step-son of pioneer William Hurt, Sr., he operated businesses here for many years in the early 1800s, including a mercantile store and a nail factory. Field was the first jailer of the county and also the first postmaster of record for Columbia. Since most post offices were operated from stores, it is the considered opinion of historians that the first Columbia post office was operated from his store, on or near the corner.

The previous location of First and Farmers Bank—the original site of the mother bank, First National Bank—is adjacent to the Jeffries Corner. Many businesses occupied this lot prior to the erection of the bank building in 1903.

The Firestone Corner, now the location of the Red Brick Studio, was another early business site in town. James Weir obtained the lot in 1803 from the Town Trustees and was in business here within a year or two. Benjamin Lampton was an owner of part of this lot in the 1820s. Most of the buildings on this lot, extending from the corner, were destroyed by fire in the 1890s. Later Judge William Wallace Jones had the present corner building constructed.

The Bank of Columbia Corner, at Burkesville Street, has been the general location of the Bank since incorporation in 1866. The bank was located on the Burkesville Street side of the corner lot in 1873 when it was robbed and the cashier, R.A.C. Martin was gunned down. This year marks the 160th anniversary of the Bank of Columbia.

Various wooden buildings occupied the stretch from this corner toward what is now the 'fountain' area. A devastating fire destroyed much of this section in 1921, including the banking house. The entire section was eventually rebuilt with brick and stone.

From the 'fountain' corner toward Greensburg Street, was the site of the first building on the Square, as far as can be determined. Nicholas Perkins and Alexander Miller erected a log building along this side and were conducting business almost as soon as Columbia was recognized as the county seat of Adair.

Near the corner of Greensburg Street and the Square, on this same side, was the girlhood home of Jane Lampton, wife of John Marshall Clemens, and mother of noted humorist Samuel Langhorne Clemens, "Mark Twain." Benjamin Lampton built a brick home on this site about 1815 or 1816. Later this home was used as doctors' offices. Some noted physicians who had offices here were Dr. Nathan Gaither, Dr. Samuel B. Field, and Dr. Melvin Rhorer. The building came to be called the "Pink Cottage" for the hue of the brick after an attempt at painting it.

Dr. Gaither is perhaps best remembered as a politician. He served in the U.S. Representative, the Kentucky Legislature several terms, and was a member of the Kentucky Constitutional Convention of 1850.

On the corner of this lot, adjacent to the house, Ben Lampton built a brick store house. Later these two buildings were demolished and Judge J.W. Butler used the brick on the 'Butler House' which still stands on this lot.

The opposite corner, current site of the Courthouse Annex and parking lot, was the site of Edmund Waggener's Tavern in the 1820s, which burned. Later James T. Page operated the Page Hotel, on the corner, which was destroyed by fire in the 189s. This then was the site of John N. Conover's majestic hotel, constructed in 1898, which burned in November 1977.

Also on this lot, around the inner corner, was the site of perhaps the first banking house in town, John Anderson's 'counting room' which was in existence at least by 1815. This same site was the location of Colonel William Owens' law office. Col. Owens was a lawyer of distinction in this region and a nephew of Kentucky pioneer frontiersman Simon Kenton. This was also the location of the first drug store in town, operated by Samuel G. Suddarth, later General S.G. Suddarth.

The corner of the Square and Campbellsville Street, originally Market Street, was the site of a noted tavern operated by Lewis Lampton, built about 1812; other men later operated taverns on this site—once called the Eagle Tavern. This corner in more modern times was the site of the Columbia Post Office.

Across Campbellsville Street on the corner, known to many as the 'Collins Drug Corner,' is the oldest existing building on the Columbia Public Square. Built by Elijah Creel for a storehouse about 1817, this site has housed many businesses. In the 1830s Josiah Harris ran a tavern here. In time Israel C. Winfrey operated the Winfrey Hotel in this building and it was here in 1873 that cholera was first detected that caused considerable loss of life in town and county.

This is also the building reputed to have been the site—upstairs in one of the rooms—in which noted poet Theodore O'Hara wrote one of the verses of "The Bivouac of the Dead," while on a visit with friends and former comrades-in-arms, E.B. Gaither and W.E. Russell. The Citizens Bank was operated from this building in the early 1900s.

The corner of Jamestown Street and the Square, the present site of the 'Lerman Brothers Department Store' building, was once the site of business and professional offices. One of note was Benjamin Monroe, noted attorney and judge, who later moved to Frankfort and was influential in state politics. In later years this was known as the 'Isenberg Corner' as the Isenberg brothers, of Louisville, operated a satellite store on this corner. J.O. Russell had a building erected on this site in 1908 and operated as Russell and Company for years. This is the present building, one we hope will return to its former glory one day soon under the direction of present owner Tina Cook Thomas.

This is not even a thumb-nail sketch of the area around the Square. The historic 1884 courthouse and its predecessor are unequaled in this area for historic occurrences. More Columbia History To Come in the 225th year celebration of Columbia!

Michael C. Watson

## City Council holds November regular monthly meeting

The Columbia City Council met in regular session on Monday.

The Council had a brief executive session with no action taken.

The Council gave approval of a resolution for adoption of the Lake Cumberland Area Development District's multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard mitigation plan for Adair County.

The Council gave first reading to three ordinances.

a. Annexation of property off of Burkesville Road in Columbia.

b. Budgetary requirements for Community Development Block Grant.

c. Budgetary requirements for Economic Development Administration Grant.

The Mayor congratulated Mark Jones, supervisor over Class D, for their recent achievements.

The Council voted to surplus two dock plates currently located at Majestic Yachts/Synergy building.

The Council authorized the Mayor to sign a FEMA grant contract.

The Mayor announced that the Liability Grant through the Kentucky League of Cities had been approved. It will be utilized for additional body cameras for the Columbia Police Department.

The Council voted to proceed with the research of a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission for an economic development project In the Northern end of Adair County.

The Council voted to proceed with an offer to the Columbia-Adair County Chamber of Commerce for a portion of property located at the Joe Johnson Little League Park. If approved, the City will have full ownership of the park; and will research grant opportunities for the facility.

## Lindsey Wilson Proclaimation




**Mayor Hoots, Kevin Thompson (VP for Development), Allison Cross (Director of Alumni Relations) - Back left, and Venus Popplewell (Lindsey Wilson Public Relations) - Back right**

Mayor Hoots was happy to proclaim this week in our community Lindsey Wilson week to celebrate Lindsey Wilson University's homecoming celebrations. LWU supports the Columbia community through its work and we are proud to have them in our community.

The proclamation read as follows:

Whereas, the City of Columbia would like to recognize Lindsey Wilson University for their commitment to our community;

Whereas, the City of Columbia would like to reiterate the partnership between the City of Columbia and Lindsey Wilson University;

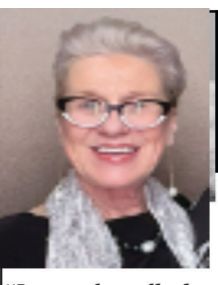
Whereas, the City of Columbia would like to honor the staff and students for their individual and group accolades they have brought to the university and to

our community;

Whereas, we would like to acknowledge the importance of having Lindsey Wilson University in Columbia and Adair County;

Therefore, be it recognized that the week of November 2-8, 2026, has been proclaimed as Lindsey Wilson Week in Columbia and Adair County.

Pamela Hoots,
Mayor



## Ask Dr. Angelia

**Dr. Angelia S. Bryant, Certified and Licensed Counselor**
**angelia.s.bryant@gmail.com**

*"I wanted to talk about it. I wanted to scream. I wanted to yell. I wanted to shout about it. But all I could do was whisper, 'I'm fine." -Unknown*

### You Are Not Finished Yet!

I have lived long enough to understand that life rarely follows the plans we make for ourselves. Along the way, I have experienced losses, unexpected endings, and circumstances that required me to start over. I have experienced the loss of family, friends, relationships and jobs, and each brought its own disappointment, uncertainty, and opportunity for change. What I once thought was an ending often became the beginning of something entirely different.

I have learned that sometimes life creates space for us to recreate ourselves. Starting over isn't easy. It requires courage, determination, and a willingness to step into unfamiliar territory. It means accepting what has happened, releasing what we cannot change, and finding the strength to move forward. There were times when I had to dig a little deeper, trust myself a little more, and discover a fortitude I didn't know I possessed.

But here is what I know: I was not finished, and neither are you! We sometimes define ourselves by our jobs, relationships, titles, accomplishments, and the roles we play in other people's lives. When those things change or disappear, we may wonder who we are and what comes next. Yet our worth was never dependent on those circumstances. We are still capable, valuable, purposeful, and deserving of joy.

Perhaps you are facing a transition right now. Maybe a relationship has ended, a career has changed, a dream has been interrupted, or life has taken you somewhere you never expected to go. You may be wondering whether you have the energy to begin again.

You do not have to recreate your entire life overnight. Start with one decision, one opportunity, one hopeful thought, and one step forward. Keep learning. Keep growing. Keep loving. Keep dreaming. Surround yourself with people who encourage your growth and never underestimate the strength that comes from believing in yourself.

I have come to appreciate that life is not simply about what we accumulate or accomplish. It is also about how we respond when things fall apart, how we treat people along the way, and how willing we are to embrace the possibilities that remain.

Sometimes the life we create after a loss becomes more meaningful than the life we thought we had to keep.

My friends and readers, don't allow your past to convince you that your future has nothing left to offer. You are not defined by your disappointments or the chapters that didn't turn out as expected. Remember - Isaiah 41:10 *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

You are not finished yet! Your story is still being written, and there may be some of your most beautiful chapters still ahead. Love God and All People. Amen.

**The Adair Progress**

### Limerick of the Week

***There once was a fellow from Breeding***
***Who claimed he was quite good at reading***
***But the signs on the Square***
***Left him lost in despair***
***And back home he went, somewhat defeated***

*[Owen Hartley]*

*If you have a local Limerick too, please send it to us at editorial@adairprogress.com*

*It's simple: A person and a location in the first line, the first, second and fifth, as well as the shorter third and fourth line rhyme*

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The ADAIR Progress
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**USPS - 001662**
The Adair Progress is published weekly by The Adair Progress, Inc., 98 Grant Lane, Columbia Ky. 42728 for a total of 52 issues per calendar year.
**The Adair Progress was established in 1987.**
**Second class postage paid at Columbia, Ky 42728**

**Office Hours:**
Mon - Thu 8:00am - 4:30pm • Closed Fri-Sun

Publisher **Donna Rogers Hancock**
Editor **Mig Feuser - MIG**
Production Manager **Jeremy Birdwell**
Composition **Reneé Reeves**
Circulation **270-384-6471**
Sports **Kelly Wooley - KEL**
Reporter **Katelynn M. Molesky - KMM**

**Subscription Rates**
Adair and Surrounding counties - **$19**
Elsewhere in Ky. and out-of-state - **$31**

**Postmaster:**
Send addresses changes to The Adair Progress, 98 Grant Lane, Columbia, Ky 42728

**To Subscribe or Advertise:** Call 270-384-6471

**Email:** advertising@adairprogress.com or editorial@adairprogress.com

**Website:** www.adairprogress.com

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