

Too young to vote in 1964, J.W. Pruett found a way

Joseph Washington Pruett was born Feb. 14, 1846, in the Merrimac section of Taylor County to Major Pruett and Bennetta Drayon Pruett. His first marriage was to Martha Susan Murrell. They had four sons and five daughters and were successful farmers. After his wife's death in 1918, he married a second time to Mrs. Maggie Edrington, who also preceded him in death.

But this story begins in 1864. The War Between the States was paramount on everyone's mind and Abraham Lincoln was running for his second term at president of the United States. Wars are rarely popular, but it gets personal when battles are being waged close to home when casualties include husbands, sons and friends and when armies come into your town and help themselves to your food, horses or anything else they need. War fatigue was rampant throughout the United States. The 1864 election would be the first time since 1812 that a presidential election took place during a war. Lincoln himself believed he had little chance of being re-elected. Especially as the election was getting near



The headstone of Joseph W. Pruett and his first wife, Martha, is in the Merrimac Cemetery.

and Confederate forces had triumphed at the Battle of Mansfield in Louisiana (April 1864), the Battle of Cold Harbor in Virginia (May 31-June 12, 1864), the Battle of Brices Cross Roads in Mississippi (June 10, 1864), the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in Georgia (June 27, 1864) and the Battle of the Crater in Virginia (July 30, 1864). But then things changed. Atlanta fell to the Union army lead by Maj. Gen. William Sherman on Sept. 2 1864. After a months-long campaign that crippled Confederate supply lines, it seemed that there was no longer any question that a Union military victory was inevitable. The victory in Atlanta

dealt a severe blow to the Confederacy and boosted Northern morale. Suddenly Lincoln's chance for re-election seemed plausible. Joe Pruett had a keen desire to vote for Lincoln. Politics, it seemed, was in his blood. But there was a problem. He wasn't old enough. Only white men age 21 and older could vote. While the story has been told two ways by Joe himself ... one saying he was 18 (which seems to coincide with his birthday and the 1864 election) and other one told at age 87, three months before he died, stating he was 20. But since that story does indeed come from the horse's

mouth, we'll go with that one today. Here's what Joe told the News Journal shortly before he died. "When I was 20, I had been married about a year and had just started to housekeeping on Robinson Creek about 4½ miles from Mannsville near where I was born and reared. I voted for Abraham Lincoln the year he was running for re-election and had to swim Robinson Creek and use profanity to do it! We voted by word of mouth then. I was not 21 and that was what the argument was about. In the May election that year when county officials were elected, they used me as an election officer. And since I was used as an election officer before I was 21, I thought I should be allowed to vote in the November election for President – and I did." Politics remained an interest for Joe the rest of his life. By the close of the 19th century, he was prominent in the political affairs of the county and served 15 years as a magistrate and two terms as a Republican representative from the old Taylor-Green District. His first wife died in 1918. By the 1920 census, he has retired from farming, married Maggie Hord Edrington and moved from Merrimac to downtown Campbellsville to spend the rest of their lives. But there is one more bit of information that makes those of

us who enjoy the history of downtown Campbellsville very happy. That same 1920 census does not tell us that Joe and Maggie came to downtown to "retire." The census tells us that Joe has a job as a "retail merchant" at a "department store." He is also listed as an "employer." Likewise, Maggie, is listed working as a "sales lady" at a "department store." So what does that mean? There are two things we know for sure. As early as 1923, there was a Pruitt & Leachman Drug Store in downtown Campbellsville. And by December of that same year, ads were referring to the business as Pruett-Leachman, The Corner Drug Store. And when Joe's wife, Maggie, died Sept. 6, 1928, her obituary named her husband, J.W. Pruett "who has, for some time, been connected with the Corner Drug Store." Shortly thereafter, the Corner Drug was sold. It thrived and gave many of us wonderful memories. Joe Pruett remained in good health until shortly before his death at age 87. He is buried in the Merrimac Cemetery. Virginia Graves is coordinator of the Taylor Regional Archive Center, a non-profit organization which preserves local history and genealogy. For information, call 270-789-4343 or send an email to info@TaylorRegionalArchiveCenter.com.

EARLY DAYS

TEN YEARS AGO
October 2016
Taylor County Flying Cardinals participated in Airport Day, a community event held at the Taylor County Airport. The event included inflatables for kids, food and the opportunity for airplane rides. Campbellsville Middle School fourth-grade students recently performed a science experiment to learn about the importance of being proactive, which is one of the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. To see their new knowledge first-hand, students performed a science experiment. In the experiment, students had to force a hypothesis about how Mentos would react in different types of soda. Willard Wise celebrated his 94th birthday on Oct 26. He and his wife, Delma, celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary Oct. 16.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
October 2006
George William Trotter, 79, of LaGrange, died Saturday, Oct. 21, in LaGrange. He was a former editor of The News-Journal and The Lebanon Enterprise. Amory Cox of Campbellsville, who won a preliminary at the Taylor County Fair, achieved top 20 status when she advanced to the Kentucky State Fair's Coca-Cola Talent Classic.

THIRTY YEARS AGO
October 1996
Taylor County High School Future Farmers of America alumni hosted their third annual Toy Tractor Show. The Richerson family had its annual reunion at Campbellsville/Taylor County Rescue's Civic Center. Stanley and JoAnn DeWitt of Campbellsville celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 14.

FORTY YEARS AGO
October 1986
The United States Army Louisville Recruiting Battalion recently named Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Cornelius Grant to the position of commander of the Campbellsville Army Recruiting Station on Broadway. He is responsible for recruitment in Taylor, Green and Marion counties. Santa Claus was in Campbellsville, and when he returned to the North Pole he took with him almost \$300 in cash to purchase toys for needy children this Christmas. He also took several large boxes of toys with him.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
October 1976
Mark Ford was made an Eagle Scout in a ceremony Oct. 7. Mr. and Mrs. Chester Williams Sr. of Campbellsville announced the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Mary Elizabeth, to John E. Brown, son of Mrs. Elizabeth Brown of Campbellsville.

SIXTY YEARS AGO
October 1966
The newly constructed Catholic Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, was officially dedicated. Luican Rodgers, manager of the Campbellsville Houchens Market, along with his dog, "PR" Rogers Sailer Jim placed 18th out of more than 500 dogs in the American Coon Hunters Association World Championship Coon Hunt in Jackson, Tennessee. Mr. and Mrs. Denny Eastridge, Route 5, announced the engagement of their daughter, Betty Lou Shipp, to Les Woodson, pastor of First Methodist Church in Campbellsville and the son of Mr. and Mrs. L.T. Woodson of Louisville.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO
October 1956
The News-Journal's 10-ton Campbell press left the door of its home for the past 35 years on Oct. 4. The removal of one side of the front was required in loading it. It was

then unloaded between the hours of 8 p.m. and midnight and it took practically all day Saturday to turn it and bring it in the side door, a distance of 10 to 12 feet. Included in the all-time record of 6,613 students enrolled at the University of Kentucky are 20 from Taylor County, according to a report released by university officials.

EIGHTY YEARS AGO
October 1946
A new wash rack was installed by the new service garage last week, which will enable them to give first-class service in washing all types of cars. Their washing and greas-

ing facilities are now the most modern possible for them to obtain. Mr. and Mrs. John Faulkner announced the marriage of their daughter, Ellen, to Lynwood Mitchell Jr. The wedding was Oct. 9 in the Christian Church parsonage. Attendants were Jeanne Wheat and Billy Mitchell. A shower was given Oct. 7 at the home of Miss Margaret Mae Sanders by Miss Sanders, Mrs. Hayden Bowles Jr., Mrs. Lyndon Newton Bowles Jr. and Miss Geneva Gwinn in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Bertram. Sixty-six were present. Evelyn Ann, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil

Risen of Louisville and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.R. Risen, underwent a tonsil operation in the Community Clinic.

NINETY YEARS AGO
October 1936
Willard Martin of this city and son of Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Martin is enjoying the distinction of being the first individual in Campbellsville to wear 30-inch bell bottom trousers. Mr. Martin had on the trousers made especially for him by the local tailor, Garnett Dowell. He attracted much attention when he appeared on the street wearing them for the first time.



LEGAL NOTICE

MECHANIC'S LIEN PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that a public auction will be held pursuant to a mechanic's lien for the sale of the following motor vehicle:

2015 Toyota Camry – 4-Door
Mileage: Unknown
VIN: 4T1BF1FK3FU958133
AUCTION DATE: Saturday, October 10, 2026
AUCTION TIME: 4:00 PM
LOCATION: 312 Broad St. Campbellsville, KY 42718 Bay 15

The vehicle will be available for inspection prior to the auction. Interested bidders are encouraged to inspect the vehicle before bidding.

CASH AUCTION ONLY.

Vehicle is being offered at public auction pursuant to the applicable mechanic's lien process. Vehicle is sold AS IS, WHERE IS, with no warranties or guarantees expressed or implied. Mileage is unknown. Prospective bidders are responsible for satisfying themselves as to the vehicle's condition, title status, and other applicable matters prior to bidding.

FOR SALE

GREEN CO. 54 Acre farm. Open & woodland. Working farm w/great hunting. NEW PRICE: \$429,000.00



238 SHERIDAN DRIVE: Brick ranch home, 3 BRs, 1.5 baths, kitchen, living room, den, attached garage, central H/A. All on a nice lot w/ storage building & gazebo. PRICED AT \$265,000.00

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COMING SOON !
Dr. James A. Ewing Estate
HOUSE & LOT
413 Lakeview Dr, Campbellsville, Ky

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

SAT., OCT., 10, 5:30 P.M. BENEFIT AUCTION
Campbellsville Kingdom Community School
400 Water Tower Bypass, Campbellsville, Ky

ONLINE ONLY - COMING SOON ! PERSONAL PROPERTY
Dr. James A. Ewing Estate
Personal Property
413 Lakeview Dr, Campbellsville, Ky

SAT., NOV., 7, 10:00 A.M.
Mildred Eastridge Estate
Farm Equip. & Personal Property
Eastridge Cemetery Rd, Knifley, Ky

SAT., NOV., 14, 10:00 A.M.
Jesse & Velma Tungate Heirs
63 ACRE FARM - TAYLOR CO KY
Farmers Ridge Road, Elkhorn, Ky

SAT., DEC., 12, 10:00 A.M.
Mildred Eastridge Estate
65 Acre Farm
Union Church Rd, Knifley, Ky

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE

Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale entered on August 19, 2026 in the Taylor Circuit Court Civil Action No. 26-CI-00112, styled Rocket Mortgage vs Michael J. Citta, the Master Commissioner of the Taylor Circuit Court will sell at public outcry the following real property at:

571 Lyle Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718
PVA Map # 36-081-15ETC

The sale will be conducted at the front door of the Taylor County Courthouse, Campbellsville, Kentucky, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 20, 2026. The real property will be sold to the highest and best bidder or bidders. At the time of sale the successful bidder(s) shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance on credit of 30 days. Amount to be raised: \$250,917.00 plus interest at the judgment rate. If the purchase price is not paid in full, the successful bidder(s) shall execute a bond at the time of sale, with sufficient surety approved by the Master Commissioner prior to the sale, to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of 4.250% per annum from the date of sale until paid. If Plaintiff is the successful bidder(s) in lieu of a deposit the Plaintiff shall be permitted to bid on credit up to the total Judgment amount

CRAIG COX,
TAYLOR CIRCUIT COURT
MASTER COMMISSIONER



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE

Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale entered on May 29, 2026, in the Taylor Circuit Court Civil Action No. 26-CI-00121, styled Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. vs. Travis Hale, et al, the Master Commissioner of the Taylor Circuit Court will sell at public outcry the following real property at:

50 Aarons Way, Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718
PVA Map # 42-024-27

The sale will be conducted at the front door of the Taylor County Courthouse, Campbellsville, Kentucky, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, October 20, 2026. The real property will be sold to the highest and best bidder or bidders. At the time of sale the successful bidder(s) shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance on credit of 30 days. Amount to be raised: \$82,349.69 plus interest at the judgment rate. If the purchase price is not paid in full, the successful bidder(s) shall execute a bond at the time of sale, with sufficient surety approved by the Master Commissioner prior to the sale, to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of 3.25% per annum from the date of sale until paid. If Plaintiff is the successful bidder(s) in lieu of a deposit the Plaintiff shall be permitted to bid on credit up to the total Judgment amount.

CRAIG COX,
TAYLOR CIRCUIT COURT
MASTER COMMISSIONER



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE

Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale entered on August 19, 2026 in the Taylor Circuit Court Civil Action No. 25-CI-00279, styled Planet Home Lending, LLC vs. Aaron K. Sexton, et al, the Master Commissioner of the Taylor Circuit Court will sell at public outcry the following real property at:

100 Jeremiah Lane, Campbellsville, KY 42718
PVA Map # 27A-014

The sale will be conducted at the front door of the Taylor County Courthouse, Campbellsville, Kentucky, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, October 20, 2026. The real property will be sold to the highest and best bidder or bidders. At the time of sale the successful bidder(s) shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of 10% of the purchase price with the balance on credit of 30 days. Amount to be raised: \$150,386.43 plus interest at the judgment rate. If the purchase price is not paid in full, the successful bidder(s) shall execute a bond at the time of sale, with sufficient surety approved by the Master Commissioner prior to the sale, to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of 6.875% per annum from the date of sale until paid. If Plaintiff is the successful bidder(s) in lieu of a deposit the Plaintiff shall be permitted to bid on credit up to the total Judgment amount.

CRAIG COX,
TAYLOR CIRCUIT COURT
MASTER COMMISSIONER