

LOOKING BACK

1926

CLOSING

February 16, 1926: Notice is hereby given that the Farmers Store at Wheatley Owen County, Ky. is closing its business. William Duvall, president; S.H. Riley, vice president; Cooper Gentry, secretary and treasurer; A.M. Vallandingham, J.M. Elmore



2016: Lela Maude Hawkins and her daughter, Linda Carol Twyman, share a laugh during the open house held for Lela's 99th birthday.

COUNTY SCHOOL NEWS

Miss Birdie Kelso has returned home after spending a week with friends in Richmond.

Mr. Mark Godman, State High School Supervisor, expects to visit and inspect the high school at Lusby soon.

Miss Viola Thomas has closed her school at Balls Landing and contracted with the Board to teach the remainder of the term at Lusby Central in the 5, 6, 7, and 8 grades.

AGED CITIZEN DIES

Jacob O'Banion, well known citizen of the county and a substantial farmer, died near Hesler Tuesday morning. Mr. O'Banion was one of the county's oldest citizens, being 95 years and eight months of age.

MARRIED

Miss Ruby Bowie and Mr. Rankin Vanarsdell were married Saturday evening at the Christian Church Parsonage. Rev. B.B. Miller officiated. Miss Bowie is one of Owen's popu-

lar teachers.

PERSONAL

Mrs. Smith Keightley was in Louisville several days this week, the guest of Mrs. Robert Smith and Mrs. Bessie Kerr.

Miss Gladys Minch, who has been at the bedside of her father, C.J. Minch, for some weeks, has returned to Cincinnati.

Mr. and Mrs. Florian Cobb of Ghent were guests to the family of Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Wiley this week.

Miss Cora Katherine Morrow of Cedar Hill and Mr. Ben McNear of South Form were married Saturday afternoon.

Miss Lillie Cubbage has returned home after spending a month most pleasantly in St. Petersburg, Florida, the guest of her sister, Mrs. W.H. Sand.

1941

DOUBLE SERVICE

Few hours after Emmett Dickerson, 48 years old, farmer, died at his home here after a long illness, his daughter, Ara Wanda Dicker- son, 15, died of a complication following mumps. The girl was taken to the Good Samaritan Hospital in Lexington Sunday. Double funeral services were to be conducted at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. Burial was at Owenton cemetery.

PLAYER HURT

Geo. R. Bond, 17, a substitute on the New Liberty High School basketball team suffered a leg fracture tonight when struck by an automobile driven by Herbert Williams, 30, of Williamstown. Bond had



2016: Carson Williams

stopped off in Dry Ridge on the return trip from a basketball game at Williamstown.

PERRY PARK

Mrs. Gladys Morgan and two children of Twinn Creek spent several days last week with her parents, Carrollton, Mrs. and Mr. W. Morgan.

Philip Lynn, wife and baby, spent Sunday with his sister, Mrs. Bessie Seacy.

CULL

Woodrow Ogden returned to his home Sunday from a stay in Indianapolis, Ind.

Basil Lusby and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Lusby and two daughters spent Sunday guests of the writer Sunday.

PERSONAL

John Ballard and wife lost an infant child last week.

Thos. Foster, who has been sick for several days, is some better.



1941

POPLAR GROVE

C.W. Yancey bought a nice Jersey cow and calf from John Slaughter for \$72.50.

Bill Hicks and family, Bromley, will move to the Byron Coates property vacated by Mr. Moore.

HESLER

The shower given at the home of Charley O'Banion in honor of their daughter, Alma Louise who was recently married to David Edward of Frankfort, was well attended and the young couple received many useful gifts for which they surely appreciated.

2016 COUNTY'S MR. BASKETBALL

The Runnin' Rebels have enjoyed a lot of success on the court this year and one of those keys to success is 6-foot-7 senior Carson Williams. Williams, a candidate for Kentucky's prestigious Mr. Basketball award, has been the cornerstone of Owen County's basketball program for the past four years, head coach Devin Duvall said.

CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

Lela Maude Hawkins recently celebrated her 99th birthday with an open house at her home. A host of family and friends visited her.

BANK CLINIC

Three Owen County High School students were selected to participate in the 57th annual Morehead Band Clinic at Morehead State University this past weekend. They are Tabby Beach on the French horn, Makenzie Davis on the tuba, and Carlee Rohling on the trumpet.

CANCELED

The Owen County High School FFA Chapter takes an educational field trip each year to the National Farm Machinery Show hosted in Freedom Hall. This year, though, a two-hour delay kept students from making the trip to Louisville. This yearly trip is highly educational for the student chapter.

Owen County communities embraced a colorful history

The history of Owen County communities is more than just a record of dates and places. It is the essence of life that bound people together and created opportunities to share the joys, sorrows, customs and traditions of our past.

Over time, bits and pieces of local history have been squirrelled away in old newspaper articles, documents and family diaries; and whether they are stumbled upon by accident or diligently searched for over a period of years, each valuable piece of information contributes to the overall portrait of Owen County, her people and her contributions to Kentucky.

Morehead State University has archived articles about Owen County gleaned from articles written by Miriam Houchens, John Forsee, the News-Herald, Collins' Historical Sketches of Kentucky, papers of Lusby's Mill and interviews with Owen Countians.

According to these historic documents, an area near Lusby's Mill was known to local folks as Lemon. It was also called Dickie's Fork and the post office established there in 1882 served as Gaines Store.

The 1883/84 Kentucky Gazette listed Kirby Smith as postmaster of Lemon, and although many may have never heard of this small community, Lemon had three churches and a population of 35.

In a 1971 interview Owen County Historical Society President Alma Greene related the early history of the communities of Beechwood and Bethany:

"Beechwood used to be known as Bethany though the two now run together. Beechwood was named for the many local beech trees. It was a thriving place at one time where special water was found among some of the beech trees and was sold as a health cure.

"In the early 1900's Beechwood, which was located 14 miles south of



BONNIE STRASSELL

Owenton on KY 227, boasted a hotel which stood near mineral waters with purported curative properties. According to John Forsee, the hotel burned in 1920, though many still visited the mineral springs hoping to be cured of various ailments.

"Today (1971) people will refer to the vicinity in terms of the two cemeteries there, as either Bethany or Beechwood. Only a cemetery remains at the Bethany site and maybe a boxed well, though a post office, homes, a store and a cemetery still remain in Beechwood.

"The Bethany Christian Church closed in the late 1960's, but the Beechwood Assembly of God was active until 1974 as was Gene Woolum's grocery."

Captain John Smith immigrated from Virginia to Kentucky in the late 1700's and settled near Lusby's Mill in an area that was known as Smithville, later called Breck.

The Breck post office served the community of Smithville which had 30 residents and a general store.

According to the 1883/84 Kentucky Gazette "the community of Breck was a small settlement with Eugene Jones serving as postmaster and storekeeper. The Smiths and their extended family were local residents and remained in the area until the community completely disappeared."

In 1885, Owen Countian William E. Hardin listed old local names for the site of present-day Monterey. They were Cedar Lock, Byrns Landing, Mouth of Cedar Creek and Branham's Mill.

The Mouth of Cedar Creek Post Office was established in February 1817 with Tavener Branham as postmaster. George C. Branham was authorized to lay off a town on his land on Cedar Creek "where the road between Franklin and Owenton crossed the creek and was to be

named Monterey.

The petition was approved by the General Assembly in March of 1847. John Duvall was given the right to build and run a grist mill on Cedar Creek, one mile above the town."

Mr. E.G. Traylor, a longtime resident along Two Mile Creek in Owen County, once described the area as such: "In the early days of New Liberty, probably about 1815, the main road, two miles in length, went from the edge of town to Sparta. It basically followed the creek upon which two industries in the area were located—a grist mill and woolen mill. Over the years the residents began to refer to the creek as Two Mile Creek, a carry-over from the road called Two Mile Road. Yes, the creek is about five miles long so the name refers not its length, but to its proximity to the main road (now impassable by vehicle) from New Liberty to Sparta."

According to a letter written by Jessie Holbrook in the 1900's "Tywhapity" is a small bottom (in Owen County) situated between a cliff and the Ky. River just west of the Severn Creek Bridge on Highway 355, 2 miles east of Gratz.

It now has a farm road leading to it, although I've been told that it was formerly reached only by boat. The first surveys of this area which was then Fayette Co. called this part of the river the 'Narrows' of 'The Buffalo Crossing'! The river at this point, was only 6 feet wide at that time.

"Some say in ancient times Indians had camps here and spent weeks hunting buffalo."

The history of Owen County communities provides a picturesque glimpse into the past; and its preservation is vital to the knowledge for our future.

Join the Historical Society on Thursday, March

26, at the Odd Fellows Hall for a potluck dinner at 5:30 and a program at 6:15.

Our special guest for the evening will be Countian Dallas Stafford who will highlight the importance of Fort Boonesborough and its role in winning the Revolutionary War and establishing our country.

Dallas is a U.S. Marine Veteran who was inducted into the Kentucky Veteran Hall of Fame in 2018. He is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and Chaplain of the Daniel Boone Chapter, as well as a member of the Society of Boonesborough Descendants.

Dallas' ancestral grandfather, William Stafford,

fought to defend Fort Boonesborough during the September 1778 siege.

William Stafford was an Ensign in the Virginia Militia and came to Kentucky with Daniel Boone and his brother, Squire.

Don't miss this historic presentation as we celebrate America's 250th birthday.

Preserve YOUR place in your community's history

Birth ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding announcements

Engagement announcements

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