

A View of Hawesville

By Jerry Long



View of Hawesville looking north from hill in the Hawesville Cemetery overlooking the town. Picture taken by Jerry Long on 26 October 1992.



On January 3rd in 1829, Kentucky Governor Thomas Metcalfe signed into law a statute forming Hancock County from parts of Breckinridge, Daviess and Ohio counties and establishing Hawesville as its county seat. The site that became Hawesville was previously part of Breckinridge County. Hawesville was named in honor of John Hancock, president of the continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

From the Acts of the Kentucky Legislature:

The following is a copy of the act which created Hancock County and established Hawesville as its county seat.

Section 1. Be it enacted, that from and after the fourth Monday in March 1829, all that part of the counties of Breckinridge, Ohio and Daviess contained in the following bounds to wit: Beginning on the Ohio River at a point known as Tindall's old landing; thence a straight line crossing the road leading from Hardinsburg to Yellow Banks at the north end of the farm occupied by Mrs. Frances Williams to Lewis Martin's immediately on the Ohio County line, including said Martin in the new county; thence a straight line to a point in the Ohio and Daviess County line, one mile north-east of Richard L. Mays; thence a straight line to point forty poles N.E. of Bye's horse mill; then a line to mouth of the Scaffold Lick Branch so as to leave William Head and Samuel Barker in the county of Daviess; thence down Blackford Creek to the mouth; thence up the river to the beginning, shall be one distinct county, called and known by the name of Hancock, in honor of the late John Hancock, a president of Congress in the time of the revolution.

Section 2. The Justices of the peace for the county of Hancock, who are directed to be appointed by this act, shall meet at the house of James Dupey, in said county, on the fourth Monday in March, 1829, and after taking the necessary oaths of office, and after qualifying the sheriff agreeable to the constitution and laws of this state, shall proceed to appoint a clerk, to whose appointment a majority of all the justice in commision in and for said county, shall be necessary but if such majority cannot be obtained in favor of any one candidate, then they shall appoint one pro tem.

Section 3. The county court shall be held on the fourth Mondays in every month except the months in which the circuit courts shall be on the fourth Mondays of April, July and October and may if necessary continued to sit six judicial days and shall form a part of the 14th judicial district

Section 4. The circuit and county courts of Breckinridge, Ohio and Daviess and the justices of the peace therein shall have a jurisdiction over all matters in law and in equity instituted prior to the fourth Monday in March 1829.

Section 5. It shall be lawful for the sheriffs or collectors in Breckinridge, Ohio and Daviess counties to collect all fines and monies and to execute all process, writs and executions, as the law directs, which were put into their hands prior to the fourth Monday in March next, and account for the same as if this act had not passed.

Section 6. The county court of Hancock County shall appoint commissioners of tax for the year of 1829 who shall perform all duties and be governed by the law regulating Commissioners of tax in the state; and the clerk of the county court shall in like manner perform his duty thereto.

Section 7. The permanent seat of justice for the county of Hancock shall be, and the same is hereby fixed at the mouth of Lead Creek on the Land of Richard Hawes, and shall be called and known by the name of **Hawesville**, and it shall be the duty of the county court of Hancock County, as soon as practicable to cause necessary public buildings to be erected and in every other respect lay off and do that which may be necessary in establishment of said town.

Section 8. The sheriff of either county in making his settlement with the county court of Hancock or their agent, shall be entitled to retain in his hands, a sufficient sum to pay the demands of the several paupers that are now living within the bounds of the said county of Hancock.

Section 9. It shall be the duty of the surveyor of the county of Breckinridge to meet at the house of James Dupey, and thence proceed to run the said county lines, and to employ chain carriers and markers to mark the same; and the said surveyor shall receive for his services, two dollars per day, to be paid by Hancock County out of their county Levy.





Kentucky historical highway marker in Hawesville, KY at the intersection of Main Street (Kentucky Route 69) and Madison Street (Kentucky Route 69), on the right when traveling south on Main Street.



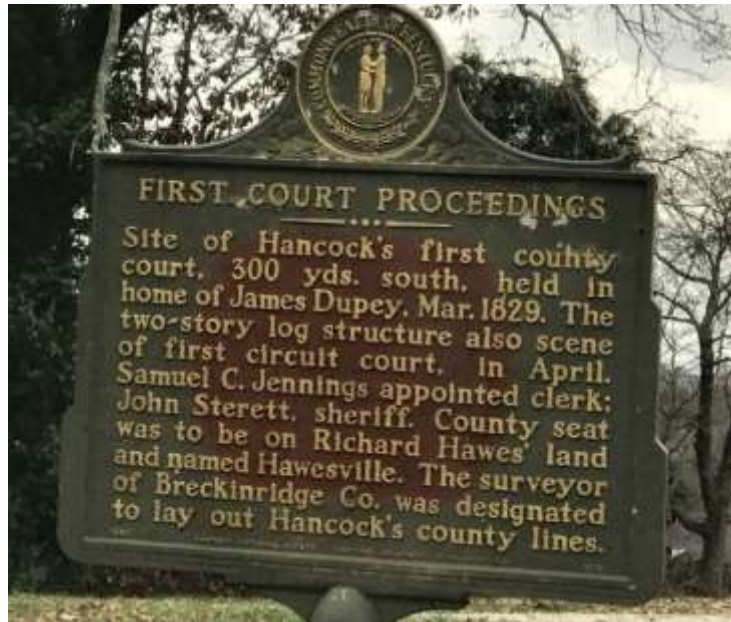
Hancock County, KY Minute Book A:

D. L. Adair produced in court an ancient document purporting to be the proceedings of the first County Court held in the County and it appearing that there is no record of the court in the minute or order books of the county, of the organization of the county, and the court being satisfied that the papers presented is as far as it goes a proper and correct minute of the proceedings of the County Court. It is ordered that the same be entered with this order on the blank leaves of Minute book no. 1 in the first of said book, and the papers pasted in said book...

... At a county court began and held for the County of Hancock at the house of James Dupuy's on the 23rd March 1829 and in the 37th year of the Commonwealth of Kentucky agreeably to an act of the legislature passed 3rd day of January 1829. Were Present: Nathaniel Maxey, Charles V. Lander, William W. Oglesby, Samuel Davis, John D. Cotton. John Coleman who produced commission from his excellency Thomas Metcalf Governor of Kentucky appointing and Commissioning them Justices of the peace for Hancock County & took the several oaths required by law & is therefore permitted to execute the duties of said office. John Sterett came into Court and produced a Commission from his excellency Thomas Metcalf Governor of Kentucky appointing and Commissioning him Sheriff of Hancock County & took the several oaths required by law & with Charles V. Landers, Nicholas Board, Weeden Wilson & William Sterett entered into bonds agreeably to law. William Sterett appointed Clerk for the County of Hancock.



The town of Hawesville, a city of the fifth class, has been the county seat of Hancock County since the county's formation in 1829. Hawesville was named for Richard Hawes (1772-1829), who donated the land for the town when the county was formed.



Kentucky historical highway marker at the intersection of State Road 1389 and Franklin Gaynor Road, on the right when traveling east on State Road 1389.



Picture from the Owensboro Star, Owensboro, KY, 4 December 1968, p.1 – “The First Court House in Hancock County is pictured as it looks today. The two-story poplar log house has been flanked by sheds for many years and is still a sturdy structure. It is located near Utility, Kentucky, on the farm of Burtran Ewan. First court held in March 1829, when it was the home of James Dupuy.”

Until the construction of a courthouse in Hawesville the first court sessions of Hancock County starting in March 1829 were held for a few months at the home of James Dupuy. Dupuy lived on Blackford Creek at what is now known as Utility near the Daviess County, line. Several historical sketches of the county report that the county’s first courthouse, a log structure, was

located at Utility, some six miles southwest of Hawesville on Highway 1389 (“How old is it? Sketchy is best word to describe history of Court House”, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 23 January 1975, p1). The act creating Hancock County in 1829 makes it clear that Hawesville was the official county seat from the county’s inception. On 1 May 1829 plans were finalized for the construction of a courthouse in Hawesville. The first minute book (page 9) of Hancock County shows that by 28 September 1829 the county’s court sessions were being held at the courthouse in Hawesville (“At a county court began and held for the county of Hancock at the courthouse in Hawesville on Monday the 28th day of September in the year of our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and twenty nine and in the 38th year of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.”).

Hawesville is located on the Ohio River, about 90 miles west of Louisville. Cannelton, IN is on the opposite bank of the river. Hawesville lies on hilly terrain, with steep slopes rising from the narrow strip, of land on which the town was built. Vantage points on the hilltops afford magnificent views of the scenery and river below.

Hawesville was incorporated as a city by the Kentucky Legislature on 27 February 1882. The governing body is a mayor and city council. City revenues are derived from property taxes, business licenses, franchise taxes, charges for water and sewer services. Hawesville receives an annual grant from Hancock County Fiscal Court.

The Hancock County Courthouse is located in the downtown area of Hawesville, only a short distance south of the river. It is the second oldest courthouse in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The building was begun in 1867 and completed in 1868 (Cannelton Reporter, Cannelton, IN, 9 May 1868 p3 – construction on new courthouse in Hawesville has been carried on at a rapid rate; & 30 May 1868 p2 – old courthouse in Hawesville is being razed).

Early settlers venturing west on the Ohio River created the town of Hawesville. Among the earliest, arrivals was the Hawes family, which owned the land upon which the town was built. A post office opened in 1830 and the town was incorporated in 1836.

The Ohio River has had, and continues to have, a major influence on the economy and history of Hancock County. The construction of steamboats was a major industry in Hawesville in the 19th century, as well as coal mining. It was a major refueling point for riverboat travel, and coal mined south of the town was refined into coal oil for export to England.



The Daily Journal, Louisville, KY, 23 December 1831, page 2:

FOR THE DAILY JOURNAL.
NATIONAL REPUBLICAN MEETING.
At a meeting of a portion of the citizens of Hancock County, at the Court House in Hawesville on Saturday the 10th day of December 1831, (public notice having been given,) Nathaniel Maxey, Esq. was called to the chair and Samuel C. Jennings was appointed Secretary.— The object of the meeting then being explained by Wm. Mason, Esq., the following resolutions were proposed by James Dupuy and unanimously adopted, viz:

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Resolved, That we approve of the proposed National Convention of Republicans to be held at Frankfort on the 20th December 1831, for the purpose of nominating suitable persons to run for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor of this State, at the ensuing election, and also for Electors to vote for a President and Vice President of the United States.

Resolved, That we approve of the course pursued by Messrs. Griffith and Lander, our Senator and Representative, in supporting Henry Clay as U. S. Senator, whose talents and integrity as a Statesman are undoubted, and of his principles as a Republican, we entertain the most favorable opinion.

Resolved, That Timothy Holmes, David Adams, James Monks, Charles V. Lander, Levin Cooper, J. T. Moredock, John Thompson, David D. Noel, John Snyder, James Dupuy, Nath'l. Maxey, Robert G. Cotton, James Hughes, Sidney Blanford, Wm. L. Lewis, Isaac N. Greathouse, Thomas Blincoe, N. V. Board, R. H. Cox, James A. Monks, Samuel Davis, R. M. Snyder, Wm. Pate, Wm. Moorman, John Gates, Thomas William, James Gates, St. Clair Young, Samuel H. T. Woolfolk, Samuel Pate, Hugh F. Luckie, James Bird, James Allen, Wm. Richey, Jr. James Gatewood, D. B. Patterson, D. G. Lane and Martin Hudson be, and are hereby appointed, delegates to attend the aforesaid convention.

Resolved also, That the delegation aforesaid, have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in case of absence of members, & c.

Resolved further, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the Chairman and countersigned by the Secretary, and forwarded to the Editors of the Louisville Journal, with a request that they will publish them.

And it is further resolved, That this meeting adjourn.

NATHANIEL MAXEY, Chairman.
Samuel C. Jennings, Secretary.

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Hancock County, KY loose documents and Deed Book 2 (1838-1841), pp132-133:
 A Plan of the Town of Hawesville (next three pages) copied from the original
 map of the town of Hawesville, recorded 25 February 1839:

We the undersigned having been appointed by an act of the General Assembly of Kentucky to make out and report to the County Court of Hancock, a plan of the Town of Hawesville as originally laid off by Richard Haines, now deceased and the County Court of said County, and having examined the within plan and compared it with a plan said to have been copied from the original we believe it to be correct, (The original plan being lost) and do therefore respectfully submit it to the said County Court.

February 25th 1839.

John Sterett
 Edwin Haines,
 S. H. J. Woolfolk.

State of Kentucky,
 Hancock County Sct.
 I, James E. Stone, Clerk of the County Court in and for said County, do certify that at a court began and held in and for the said County, at the Court house in Hawesville, on Monday the 25th day of February 1839, the within plan of the Town of Hawesville, was produced in Court by the within named John Sterett, Edwin Haines and Samuel H. J. Woolfolk and being examined by the Court was ordered to be recorded. Whereupon I have truly recorded the same.

Witness my hand as Clerk as aforesaid this day and date above written

James E. Stone Clerk
 N. B. Chambers Clk. H. C. Ct.

Map of
 The Town of
 Hawesville

Eastern half of the town of Hawesville



Western half of the town of Hawesville



1840 Hancock County, KY Federal Census

The following heads of households were listed as residents of the town of Hawesville:

Joseph R. Allen	Samuel Goslie	George Prokasky
William W. Archer	Alexander Hawley	William Rial
Hiram Asbury	Charles C. Hawley	Reed Shepherd
George C. P. Baker	Timothy Holmes	James Shrader
William Beaney	James T. Hobart	Eliza Jane Simpson
Dudley Bevins	Henry W. Hughes	James E. Stone
Thomas S. Blandford	Miles Hughes	John Tate
Benjamin Brunt	John Irvin	Hiram Taylor
Washington Carlton	Abel Johnson	Doctor S. Thomas
Milton L. Cooper	Michael Lahee	James Walden
William Cossler, Sr.	Rebecca P. Lander	Robert Walker
Robert H. Cox	Hugh F. Luckie	Isaac H. Willian
Samuel H. Cox	William Mason	Absalom Wilson
Thomas Curry	Samuel McAdams	Robert J. Wilson
Leven Daniel	Daniel McGonegal	Weden Wilson
John Darby	William McLean	Joseph Woods
Hardin A. Davison	Jonathan T. Moredock	Charles Wright
Joseph Davison	Richard Q. Nunn	Thomas Wroe
William Faque	Robert Oliver	
Newman Faulconer	William S. Prescott	



1850 Hancock County, KY Federal Census

The following business & professionals were listed as residents of the town of Hawesville:

professional	occupation	age	birthplace
Adair, Daviess L.	lawyer	26	KY
Askins, George N.	farmer	35	KY
Ausbury, Hiram H.	physician	43	NC
Austith, Henry	butcher	20	MA
Austith, James	butcher	19	MA
Badger, William W.	bricklayer	33	Prussia
Bay, Greenberry	boatsman	21	MO
Billings, William	miner	28	OH
Black, John	carpenter	30	KY
Brashears, Thomas	boatsman	32	KY
Brown, Henry C.	saddler	23	KY
Bruner, Thomas D.	farmer	24	KY
Brunt, Benjamin	potter	62	England
Buckhanan, James	boatsman	27	IN

Burnett, William	bricklayer	35	KY
Bush, William P. D.	lawyer	27	KY
Carder, John J.	clerk	28	VA
Carleton, Washington	tailer	54	VA
Carter, Mathias	saddler & Methodist clergyman	57	NC
Chambers, Albert G.	carpenter	28	KY
Childers, Horatio N.	tailer	32	VA
Clark, John	teacher	31	Ireland
Collins, Bartlett	laborer	22	KY
Collins, Walter R.	carpenter	27	CT
Coon, Josiah	miner	40	VA
Cooper, Milton L.	merchant	38	KY
Cox, Lucius	carpenter	25	KY
Cox, Robert H.	carpenter	45	VA
Cox, Samuel K.	river pilot	50	VA
Crawford, John	carpenter	25	KY
Crow, Benjamin	carpenter	59	KY
Cummings, Benjamin F.	carpenter	30	KY
Davison, Hardin A.	physician	39	KY
Davison, Nestor C.	cabinet maker	27	KY
Deuser, William	cooper	35	Germany
Doyal John	gardener	38	Ireland
Duncan, Christopher G.	miller	25	KY
Dunning, John	boatsman	49	PA
Dyson, Joseph	carpenter	30	MD
Dyson, Nehemiah	carpenter	27	MD
Ellis, John	wheelwright	29	NC
English, Josiah G.	teacher	21	KY
Freels, Edward D.	peddler	41	KY
Fritz, Michael	confectioner	31	Germany
Ghiselin, George R.	physician	38	VA
Gilmor, Alexander	merchant	23	IN
Glessner, James	plasterer	23	KY
Goodwin, Abner	laborer	48	SC
Hall, Joseph	laborer	20	KY
Hall, Lemuel	laborer	23	KY
Hamilton, William A.	merchant	28	KY
Harling, John	miner	60	England
Harling, John	miner	23	England
Harling, Thomas	miner	21	England
Haughn, John W.	blacksmith	18	IN
Hawley, Alexander C.	carpenter	32	OH
Hawley, Charles C.	merchant	44	VT
Hawley, John G.	carpenter	25	IN
Hawley, Lyman C.	plasterer & farmer	29	OH
Hayden, Joseph	laborer	20	KY

Holmes, Timothy	physician	47	KY
Horn, Peter P.	merchant	35	France
Hoskinson, Thomas	miner	32	KY
Howard, Thompson	teacher	22	KY
Hubbard, Moses S.	engineer	35	KY
Hunter, Stephen V.	dentist	26	KY
Johnson, Able	shoemaker	55	VA
Johnson, John	laborer	26	KY
Johnson, Noel C.	boatsman	27	KY
Jones, Thomas	miner	57	England
Key, Albert	laborer	21	KY
Key, John W.	stone mason	28	KY
King, Albert	cooper	26	Germany
Knoll, Jacob	tailer	22	Germany
Lander, Franklin	clerk	20	KY
Lander, John S.	merchant	25	KY
Leslie, Soloman	carpenter	27	IN
Lewis, Augustine	cabinet maker	31	KY
Lewis, Elisha	cooper	53	MD
Lewis, Elisha B.	cooper	24	DC
Lewis, John	carpenter	34	KY
Lewis, Stephen H.	cooper	17	DC
Lewis, William B.	merchant	27	DC
Lodwick, John N.	hotel landlord	38	OH
Lodwick, Joseph F.	boatsman	44	OH
Long, George W.	boatsman	25	England
Lott, Miles	laborer	34	KY
Marsh, William	tinner	28	KY
Martin, Richard	brickmaker	35	KY
Martz, Daroll	shoemaker	51	PA
Martz, John A.	boatsman	20	VA
Mason, William	farmer	59	VA
McAdams, George W.	boatsman	34	IN
McAdams, Samuel	merchant	37	IN
Means, John	boatsman	32	MD
Metcalf, Joseph	laborer	23	KY
Mitchell, Samuel	miner	37	England
Moon, Elisha	miner	25	OH
Moredock, Johnathan T.	saddler	42	KY
Mushill, John	miner	23	Wales
Nix, John	farmer	46	KY
Pattie, Thornton	carpenter	38	KY
Powers, Stephen	merchant	29	OH
Prescott, William S.	ferryman	45	SC
Pulliam, John D.	bar keeper	27	KY
Purcell, Roderick	laborer	55	KY

Purcell, William	laborer	29	KY
Randolph, William	Methodist clergyman	25	KY
Remington, Richard	laborer	34	NC
Rial, William	tailer & clothier	40	Germany
Rich, William	plasterer	19	TN
Richards, David	carpenter	22	Nova Scotia
Roberts, George H.	constable	33	VA
Roby, William	plasterer	26	KY
Rose, Stephen	boatsman	26	KY
Ross, Alexander	farmer	22	Scotland
Sampson, Benjamin	laborer	36	KY
Scott, Samuel	laborer	28	KY
Shrader, Eisom	clerk	28	KY
Shrader, Francis M.	deputy clerk	17	KY
Simpson, William P.	farmer	21	KY
Smart, William H.	boatsman	24	KY
Smith, James	carpenter	48	SC
Sproull, Robert	clergyman	37	Ireland
Sterett, Green	physician	39	KY
Sterett, William	lawyer	46	KY
Stone, James E.	clerk of court / Baptist clergyman	42	KY
Storm, John	laborer	20	IN
Taylor, Hiram	miner	47	VA
Thomas, Doctor S.	blacksmith	38	KY
Williams, George W.	lawyer	35	KY
Williams, John J.	boatsman	21	KY
Williams, Otho W.	saddler	20	KY
Wilson, Joseph F.	constable	34	KY
Wilson, Robert J.	carpenter	46	KY
Withrow, Robert	engineer	23	PA
Withrow, Thomas	hotel landlord	54	PA



County seat, Hawesville.
 Terms of Circuit court, last Monday in February and August, may continue six days.
 Judge of the Circuit court Hon. Jesse W. Kincheloe.
 Clerk, James E. Stone.

Terms of the County court, 4th Monday in every month, except February and August.

Presiding Judge, W. D. Mayhall, Esq.

County Attorney, D. L. Adair, Esq.

Clerk, James E. Stone.

The Presiding Judge of the County court, sits for the purpose of settling the accounts of administration, Executors and Guardians, on the Tuesday after the 4th Monday in every month.

Terms of the Quarterly courts of the Presiding Judge, 3rd Monday in January, April, July and October.

Hiram Taylor, Esq., Police Judge of the town of Hawesville, has Justice's jurisdiction; his courts are on the 1st Monday in March, June, September and December.

Justices of the Peace,

First District:

James Newton, Esq., courts on the Thursday after the 1st Monday in March, June, September and December.

John Boling, Esq., courts on the Saturday after 1st Monday in same months.

Constable, David Huff.

Second District including Hawesville:

George C. P. Baker, courts on the second Monday in same months.

John Mc. Brown, Esq., courts on the Tuesday after the 4th Monday in same months, except when the 4th Monday is the last day of the month in that case on Saturday before the 4th Monday.

Constable, John J. Storms.

Third District, including Lewisport.

Wm. C. Pell, Esq., courts on the Friday before 3rd Monday in same months.

Wm. R. Duncan, Esq., courts on the last Friday in same months.

Constable, William H. Webb.

Fourth District

Elisha Lewis, Esq., courts on the 3rd Monday in same months.

Winford Wheatley, Esq., courts on the Wednesday after the 3rd Monday in the same months.

Constable, Graborough Johnson.

Sheriff, Samuel B. Pell.

Jailor, J. M. Oldham.

Assessor, Peter Bruner, Jr.

Surveyor, D. L. Adair, Esq.

Coroner, John J. Bye.

School Commissioner, D. L. Adair.

Attorney at Law:

George W. Williams, D. L. Adair, Wm., P. D. Bush, Robert Y. Bush, W. Sterett and Wm. D. Mayhall, Esqs.



Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory For 1879-80, R. L. Polk & Co., & A. C. Danser, Detroit, MI & Louisville, KY, 1879, pp.195-196:

HAWESVILLE

A village on the left bank of the Ohio River, in Hancock County, 120 miles from Louisville. Population, 800. Here is one furniture factory, one flour mill, one saw mill, three churches, one school, and a weekly newspaper. Hawesville is the center of the best coal-producing district of the state. Daily mail. Mrs. Sallie A. Herzog, postmistress.

Business Directory

Adair, Davis L., lawyer.
 Allen, Robert A., blacksmith.
 Archer, Frederick L., general store.
 Badger, Wm. W., surveyor.
 Barschultz, August, saloon
 Beard, Wallace T., lawyer.
 Bergenroth, L., shoemaker.
 Black & Murray, lawyers.
 Boyd, Alexander, saloon.
 Brown, Murray, county judge and lawyer.
 Brown, S. F. & Son, grocer.
 Brown & Haynes, grocer.
 Buchanan & Co., saw mill.
 Burgenroth & Brothers, coal miner.
 Carder, John J., general store.
 Carlton, Mrs. Eliza, hotel.
 Carlton, Miss Jennie, milliner.
 Carlton, Joseph W., spoke and hub
 manufacturer.
 Chambers, Wm. G., justice of the peace.
 Crammond, Wm., ferryboat.
 Duncan, Charles B., general store.
 Duncan, Cecilius T., drugs and insurance.
 Duncan, Robert E., county clerk and lawyer.
 Freeman, James, general store.
 Fritz, Michael W., grocer.
 Goering, Miss E., milliner.
 Goering, Lenord C., blacksmith.
 Gregory, L. L., physician.
 Goering, Wm., shoemaker.
 Hawesville Furniture Company L. L.
 Gregory, president.
 Henning, Alfred, insurance agent.
 Herzog, Frank, stoves and tinware.
 Heyman, George, wagonmaker.
 Holmes, L. T., physician.
 Kaufman, Emil, shingle and lath

manufacturer.
 King, Rev. Father, Catholic.
 Knoll, Jacob, tailor.
 Larkin, Thomas P., constable.
 Loveless, Rev. S. H., Methodist.
 McAdams, E. P., circuit clerk.
 McAdams, George W., leaf tobacco.
 McAdams, Wm L., stoves and tinware.
 Madden, J. O., school commissioner.
 Mason, Michael A., attorney at law.
 Miller & Powers, lawyers.
 Millership, James, saloon.
 Newman, Abner H., leaf tobacco.
 Norman, Charles C., physician.
 Pool, Thomas, gunsmith.
 Powers, Stephen, general store.
 Roberts, Wm. S., lawyer.
 Schuler, Henry, barber.
 Shelly, J. H. & Co., flour mill and grocery.
 Slattery, Miss Gertrude, milliner.
 Snyder, David C., Forwarding, Commission,
 and Express Agent.
 Sterett, Charles G., druggist.
 Sterett, Green, physician.
 Sterett, Jefferson, propr., plain dealer.
 Stiltz, John, undertaker.
 Stone & Bush, lawyers.
 Taber, Wm. W., general store.
 Taber & Cooper, livery.
 Taylor, Robert W., physician.
 Thomas, Samuel P., sheriff.
 Thomas, W. S. & Co., leaf tobacco.
 Thornton, Thompson, grocer.
 Tiff, Russell G., police judge.
 Wheeler, Lysander N., shoemaker.
 Williams & Brown, leaf tobacco.
 Wilson, George, general store.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 6 July 1902, p7:



One of Owensboro's business men, who has been longest in business, is Mr. Robert B. Nunn, whose place of business is at 515 West Fifth street. For the past thirty-seven years Mr. Nunn has been selling groceries in Owensboro. He will soon celebrate his seventieth birthday, but he is still hale and hearty. He is a member of the Forty-niners' association and attended the annual meeting held at Providence in May.

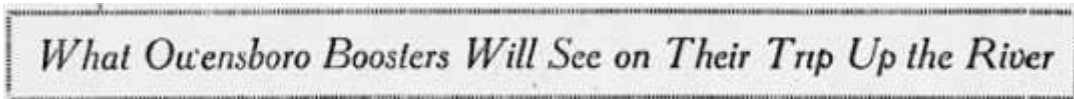
Mr. Nunn has many mementoes and memories of his long life and long residence in Owensboro, and he shows and relates them with much pleasure. One of his best preserved curiosities is a leather pocketbook made by hand by his father, Richard Nunn, when he resided at Danville, Ky. It bears the legend "Danville, Ky., 1833," hand-worked with fine tow thread.

The senior Nunn was born in King's and Queen's county, Virginia, in 1791. He worked as an apprentice at the carpenter's trade at Richmond for seven years. He came westward to Danville and soon migrated to Hannibal, Mo. About this time Edward Hawes, to whom he was well known, discovered coal at Hawesville and that little settlement soon was on a boom, and Mr. Hawes at once sent for Mr. Nunn to build a number of houses in the greatest and the first boom town in Western Kentucky, and he did it. While there he married a sister of Capt. Wash Carlton. His father was a soldier in the revolutionary war and in the war of 1812.

Mr. R. B. Nunn removed to Owensboro from Hawesville and except a few years spent in California, has lived here for a half a century.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 1 August 1909, p8C:



When the Owensboro "Boosters" go up the river on next Thursday they will not constitute the whole show. They may be of interest to those who reside in the towns which they will visit, but there will be much of interest in the visited towns for them to see and study. The river, itself, presents many points of interest, and it is to be hoped that the committee will have some one along who is familiar with the history of these between here and Hawesville...

Back to Old Kentucky

After the visit to Cannelton the river will be crossed to Hawesville where the trip up the river will end. Here will be found a live county seat with the necessary accouterments of courthouse, a jail and a limited number of lawyers...

There are two banks, four churches, several solid business houses, an opera house, a tobacco factory, a hub mill, electric light and water plant, brass band and several other things that will prove of interest to the visitors. The most romantic spot in the town is "Lovers Leap" which is a high rock that almost overhangs the county jail. There are many links that connect Hawesville and Owensboro and as the people of the two cities often visit each other it is probable that there will be few on the Booster boat who will not have friends or relatives to meet them when they reach that place.

Hawesville's Business Directory

Following shows the rather extended list of occupations of a business nature at Hawesville: General stores – George Wilson, W. C. Kelly, S. Rosenblatt, Jno. S. Adair; grocers – Bruner Brothers, J. B. Fritz; M. W. Fritz; confectioner, Mrs. Sallie Walz; soft drinks, Courtland Haynes; bottling works, T. D. Hale; Happy Hollow Tobacco factory, J. S. Adair; Hubb factory, Sims Thomas; Flour exchange, W. C. Kelly, T. Davis; boots and shoes, J. P. Ender, Wm. Goering; jeweler, W. T. Hardin; hardware, Frank Herzog, George Sapp; blacksmith, L. C. Goering & Sons; boat builder, J. J. Hennen; coal mines, George Newman; elevator, George Bentley; meat market, R. Hellback; wharfmaster and water works superintendent, W. H. Williams; steamboats and ferry, W. D. Crammond; dairy, Sam E. Ayres, manager opera house, Hudson Carter; barbers, C. D. Puckte and Chas. Black.



Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, **10 September 1937, 17 September 1937 & 1 October 1937:**

Changes in Hawesville in Past Years (By L. S. Powers)

Do you remember when –
Chas. Duncan kept store where Rosenblatt now keeps?
S. Powers kept store where Joe Sapp now keeps;
George Wilson Sr., kept store where Wilson's Cash Store is now;
W. W. Taber kept store in a building that was half of Wilson's store;
John Carder kept store where L. H. Scherer now keeps;
Alex Vickers had Photograph Gallery where Clarion office is now;
C. T. Duncan had drugstore where Patterson's is now;
Amos Freeman had store where the Bank is now;
S. F. Brown had store where Sapp has his store room on the alley;
Heblich had hotel where Mrs. Foley is now;
Miss Debbie Lentz had dressmaking shop where Brewer's Wholesale Grocery is;
Jake Millership had saloon where Old Post Office is;
Chas. Puckett had Bather Shop on part of this lot;
Geo. Hawley had grocery on corner where Ogle's grocery is;
Dr. Soyvez had Confectionery where Joe Douthitt is;

Bud Bates had saloon where Snyder's Grocery is now;
 Billie Goering had Shoe Shop where Bill's place is;
 Chas. Sterett had Drug Store in Odd Fellows Bldg.;
 Jim Fritz had grocery where Raley's Saloon is;
 Mike Fritz had grocery where Grover Bruner is now;
 C. T. Taber had livery stable where Post Office is now;
 Alex Boyd had Saloon where Dupont's store is;
 William Miller had Saddlery Shop where Raley's Pool Room is;
 Miss Jennie Carlton kept Hotel where Swihart has building;
 Frank Herzog had Tin Shop in the building next too Hotel;
 Rudd Hellbach had Butcher Shop in next building to this;
 Old Man Herzog had Butcher Shop in basement across street;
 Bob Allen lived where Frank Patterson's home is now;
 Bob Allen had Blacksmith Shop where the Presbyterian church is;
 Old brick church where the Colored Baptist church is;
 Mrs. Lanman lived where Bill Holland lives;
 Sam Hawes lived where the next house is, and where Tom Munday once lived;
 Stave yard where Rosenblatt's Tobacco factory now is;
 Mrs. Moredock lived where T. O. Gillian lives;
 Mr. Lawrence Walz lived where Frank Meserve lives;
 Warren Lambert lived where Bob Raley lives;
 Furniture Factory where Russell Sterett's garage is;
 Brunners's warehouse across from J. D. Cooper's;
 Dendinger's home and Hogshead factory where Sallie Lawson lives;
 Lev Williams lived where John Kinley now lives;
 Wm. Chambers lived where S. E. Ayres now lives;
 Geo. Hyman lived where Judge Newman now lives;
 R. Y. Bush lived where Clarence Temple lives;
 James Stone was where the First Addition to cemetery is, and
 John Fuqua lived where the new part is now located;
 Charles Hale lived where Vance's now live;
 Cattie Moredock lived across from Bob Temple's;
 Ben Mitchell lived where Claude Boling now lives;
 G. D. Black lived on the hill;
 Old Carlton place burned;
 A.H. Newman lived where the Williams house burned;
 Thos. Davidson lived where Henry Cooper family now live;
 John Henry lived next to this house which burned;
 Silas Baker lived where Claud Davies lives;
 S. H. Bryant lived where Tom Hill lives;
 Dr. Holmes lived where Ed Wroe now lives;
 George Sapp lived where Mrs. King now lives;
 Mike Hogg lived where Ed Lamar now lives;
 Lynn McAdams lived where Porter Hodges lived;
 Beckie Lander lived where W. S. Givens now lives;
 Alex Boyd lived where the Adair's no live;

George Lawson lived where Len Goering lives; also Pat Kelly family;
 W. C. Kelly had store where Kentucky Cardinal is;
 E. E. Kelly lived where Leo Rosenblatt now lives;
 C. G. Sterett where Joe Sapp lives now;
 J. J. Carder where L. S. Powers lives;
 Steve Hawley where Gene Alsop lives;
 Angeline Hardin, Randal Lander (colored), lived where Grover Bruner built;
 Dr. Green Sterett lived where Lee Brewer lives;
 Fritz family where Arch Powers lives; old Seminary next to where Glover lives;
 Old Mrs. Hubbard where the Court Haynes home is, King resides there;
 Mrs. Charles Hale's boarding house where John Quisenberry lives;
 Pat Murphy lived where Frank Moore now lives;
 Old Breidenbach Brewery was where Mrs. C. C. McAdams now lives;
 Chas. Breindenbach where Wm. Carrol lives;
 Tom Hull lived where Tommy Basinger now lives;
 Josh Powers lived where the Wilson family now live;
 Plain Dealer Office was where Jackson's Garage is now;
 C. B. Duncan lived where Dr. Griffin now lives;
 Jackson's lived where the Presbyterian house is now;
 C. T. Taber lived where E. P Kelly now lives;
 Old Man Sani Beard lived where Boyd now lives;
 Judge Tift lived where Miss Ella Tift owned;
 Judge Murray Brown lived where Russell Sterett lives;
 Mrs. Lawson had dressmaking shop where Presbyterian House is now;
 Buchannon's family lived where Wm. Hults now lives;
 S. L. McAclams lived where A. H. Bruner now lives;
 Capt. Carlton lived where Amer Jackson lives;
 C. T. Duncan lived where O. D. Mattingly is building two homes;
 Dr. Lightfoot lived where George Bentley lives;
 Negro corner was where Sapp's Planing Mill now is;
 Mrs. Hasson lived where L. H. Scherer now lives;
 Polly Stone, (colored), lived in small house where the Misses Kelly live;
 Old Model Mill was where Gulf Station now is;
 Mill grocery was on part of this lot;
 Dr. Gregory lived where Ira Thomas lives;
 Noel Johnson lived in next house;
 Adair's lived in two-story frame where Charles Goering now lives;
 George Bruner lived where W. M. Greathouse now lives;
 Old Man Ireland lived where corner house is next to Bruners;
 Shelley's lived where Dee Adkins now lives;
 L. L. Parker and Fred Bruner lived where Forest Bruner now lives;
 Phillip Ender lived on corner next to Schoolhouse;
 Aunt Nancy Gibbs lived in a small house on same lot;
 Mrs. Means lived where Jesse Richards now lives;
 Where Mrs. Nannie Sterett, Bill Overby, Ed Salm, Bill Allen, Mrs. John Taylor now live was all
 commons, the Circus Ground and shinny place, Dog Fennel all gone:

Hub and Spoke Factory was in lower end of town; Shingle Mill the same;
 Kaufmann lived where they received tomatoes;
 Amos Freeman lived in the house next to Taylor's;
 Adams family lived on corner;
 Dinah Haynes (colored) lived on the creek;
 Chas. Yeager (colored) lived on corner across the street;
 Snowden's lived where Clay Mine is now;
 Jacob Nall lived where clay opening now is;
 Jas. Holmes (colored) lived where Bill Poole lives;
 Sam Thomas and Miss Mary where Mesdames Woll and Mastin live;
 Old Man Stilty, Undertaker, where Jack Goering lives;
 John Henry, Undertaker, where Jack Goering has his office;
 City Hall, place of amusement, where Jack Goering's Funeral parlor is;
 Goering and Baker, wagon makers, where Jack Goering's Shop is;
 Wm. Miller, lived where Ogle now lives;
 Fred Archer where Bob Ogle now lives;
 Mrs. Pinson where Charles Clements now lives;
 R. E. Duncan where Cap. Banion now lives;
 Mrs. Berkley where Steve Miller lives;
 Dan Gillians lived where the Colored Methodist church is;
 Jerry Martin where colored family now lives;
 Ord Gillians where Nathan King now lives;
 Mrs. Owen where Temple built new house;
 Oscar Miller where Judge Kincaid now lives;
 Mrs. Martha Cooper where Walter Lamar's widow now lives;
 E. P. McAdams where Clyde Brown lives;
 Aurelia Carlton where Tim Davies now lives;
 Bob Palonis where Mrs. Rebecca Ritchie now lives;
 James Moors where Paul Rice now lives;
 W. W. Taber where Mr. G. W. Jones has home;
 Trabues, Nesbits and Gills lived where High school is;
 James Scott, colored, where Rudd Slaughter lives;
 Andrew Gillians where Arthur Webb lives;
 Mary Clayton, colored, lived where Gid DeJarnett now lives;
 Nora Condon and mother, in house next to this;
 Bergenroth where Mrs. June Buck lives;
 Bergenroth's stable burned, with 20 mules, where Mrs. George Keown lives;
 Soloman Banks, colored, lived where house across from Nathan King's shop is;
 The Hawes' across from the Clarion Office;
 S. H. Mason across from O. D. Mattingly buildings;
 Tom Patterson was Jailer;
 Mrs. Sarah McAdams where Wallace Stephens lives;
 Jeff Sterett where James Kennedy lives; James P. Hawley where Oss Young lives;
 Button Hawley where Henry Wettstain lives;
 George Keown in the place where Mrs. Coon lives.



Hawesville's Oldest House Now Being Torn Down

The picture that accompanies this article is what remains of the Old Adair house recently purchased by Leo Rosenblatt. Perhaps it would be better identified as the Old Dr. Holmes House, for it was pioneer Doctor Lewis Tim-

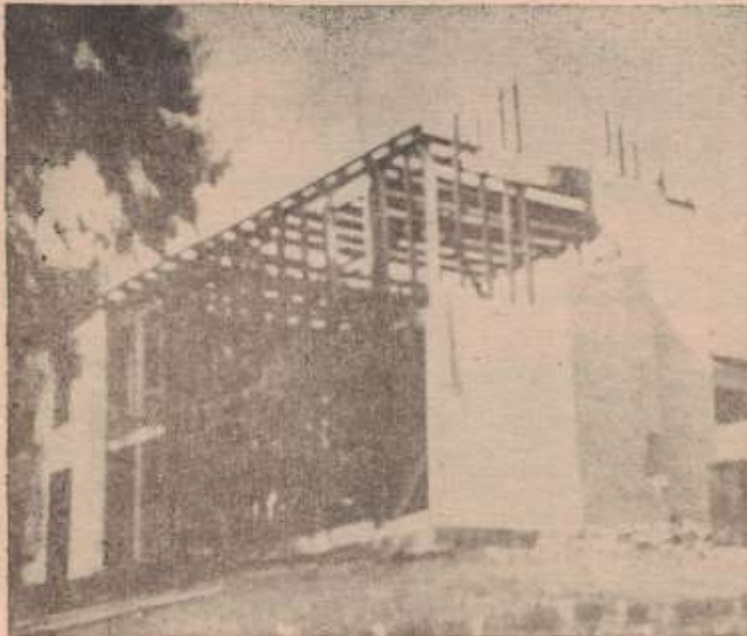
othy Holmes who built this house far more than one hundred years ago.

The information we have of this house is very fragmentary and was given us by Mr. S. H. Allen. Dr. Holmes was Mr. Allen's

grandfather and built this house some time prior to 1840. Mr. Allen is sure of this because his mother was born in the house in 1842.

It is related that Richard Hawes, who owned all the land where Hawesville is and from whom the town is named, platted what is now the square from Main Cross Street along Main Street to Clay Street into lots and when one bought one lot he was given an additional lot. Dr. Holmes bought the lot where the Adair House is and also was given the lot where Leo Rosenblatt lives and built the house as stated some time about 1840. These lots, at that time, extended from Main Street to River Street. The lot where Lee Brewer lives was given for a Methodist Church and a church was built on it.

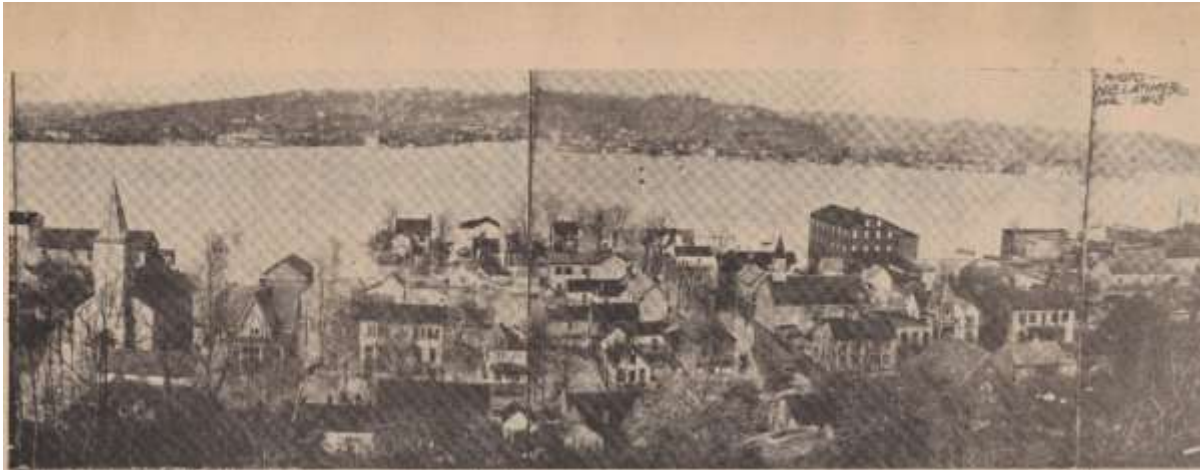
Mr. Allen states that this Adair House was probably the first real house built in Hawesville. There were earlier houses of a minor character before 1840, but this was perhaps the first real house of any consequence in Hawesville. It is now being razed by Mr. Rosenblatt, who states that he does not contemplate building on the lot, but it will give his own home that is adjoining more room and better ventilation.



"AIN'T GONNA NEED THIS HOUSE NO LONGER" —Pictured above is the old Adair house on Main Street, one of the oldest homes in the county, being torn down. —Clarion Photo



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 27 December 1979,
Sesqui-Centennial Edition, pp.7C & 12C:**



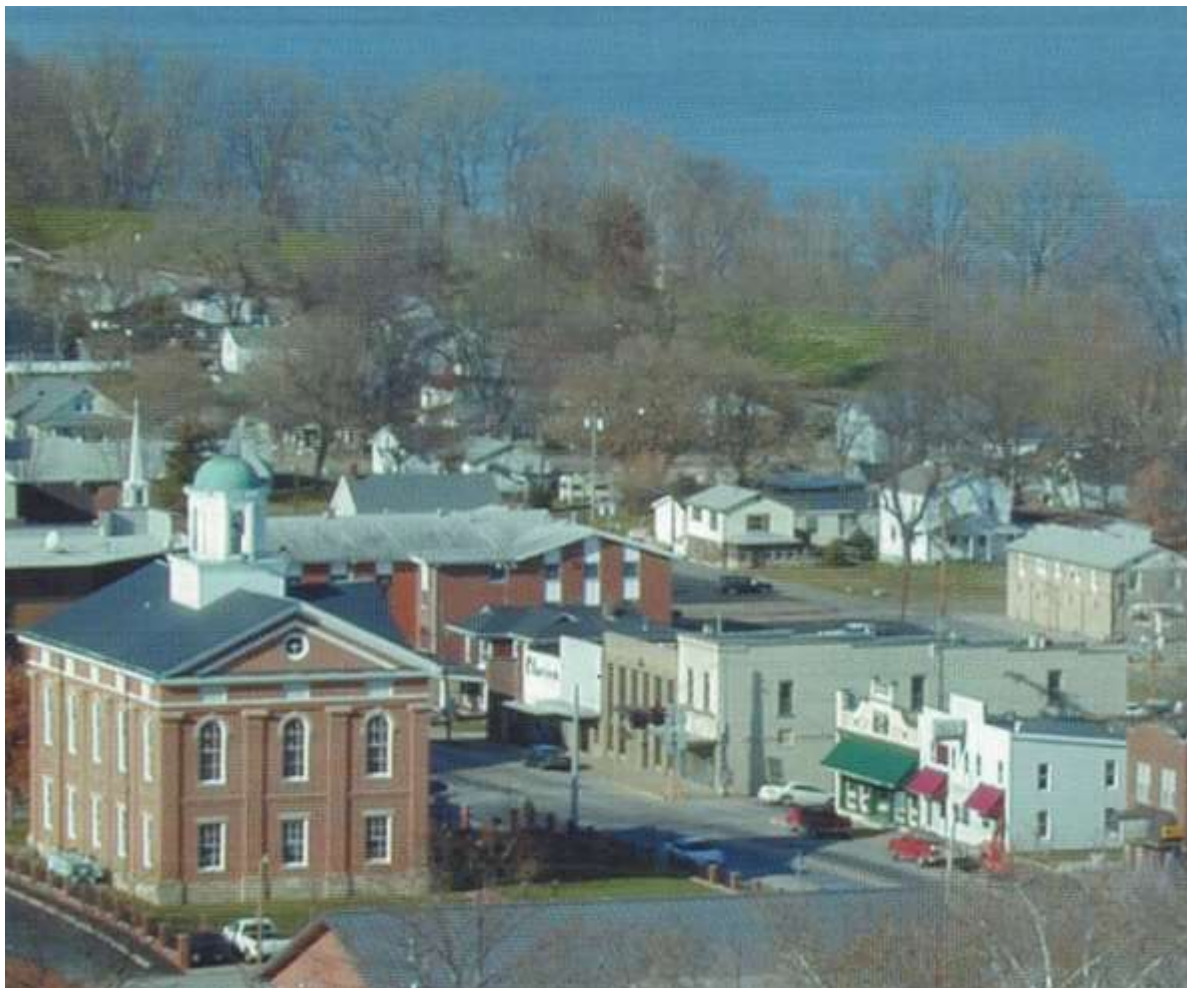
TWO TOWNS ARE WET—A panoramic view of Hawesville and Cannelton show both cities swamped by the Ohio River flood of 1913. Three easily-identifiable landmarks, from left to right, are the United Methodist Church, Hawesville Baptist Church (now rebuilt and expanded), and the old Presbyterian Church (now the Senior Citizens Center). Rosenblatt's large, three-story tobacco warehouse is in right background, where the water treatment plant stands today. Hawesville suffered from flooding at frequent intervals until 1954, when the floodwall was constructed.



Hawesville's main street in the early 1900's

Main Cross Street in Hawesville has changed considerably since this photo was made. In the earlier years of this century a great proportion of business was carried on along this street. With the building of Highway 60, businesses gradually retreated from the river and the railroad and were established where they could be

conveniently serviced by delivery trucks. Another notable change along this street is the loss of the beautiful trees that stood there in years gone by. The man in white shirt is the druggist, G. Orville Patterson, and behind him, with white hat, is his father, James Patterson. Shep Thomas, Hawesville banker, sits on the bench at left.



Main Street in Hawesville, KY. The old Hancock County Courthouse is on the left. Picture from the “Hancock County, Kentucky 2004 Resource Directory”, a publication of the Clarion Publishing Co., Inc., Hawesville, KY.



History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, IL, 1883, Yelvington Precinct section, page 862:

RICHARD HAWES (deceased), a native of Virginia, came to Kentucky in 1810, locating first in Fayette County. He soon after removed to what is now known as the Burke farm, near Louisville, and resided there till 1820, when he came to Daviess County, settling in Yelvington Precinct. He bought large tracts of land in this and Hancock counties and donated the land for the town site of Hawesville. He was an energetic man and amassed a fortune, being one of the wealthiest men of the county at the time of his death. He gave employment to many and was well and favorably known in Daviess and Hancock counties, both as a kind employer and a respected citizen. He died in 1829. His wife was Clara Walker, and to them were born ten children, but two

now living – Walker, of Sauria, on the island of Matagorda, off the coast of Texas, and William F., of Owensboro. Samuel, Ann (Mrs. William Coleman), Richard, Hon. Albert G., Dr. Aylett, Edwin, Benj. W., and Susan E. (Mrs. J.G. Taylor) are deceased.



Hawes – Taylor Cemetery, Yelvington, Daviess County, KY



**From suit of Trustees of Hawesville vs. Hawes's Heirs,
69 Ky. 232, 6 Bush 232 (1869), Kentucky Court of Appeals**

Richard Hawes on the 5th day of November, 1827, executed the following writing:

“This certifies that in case a new county is established I will make a donation of seventy-five acres of land, as far as my right extends, beginning at the mouth of Lead Creek, thence up as far as Mr. McQuady cultivates, and back square from the river; I to give one or two acres for public buildings, the streets, and half the lots, retaining the other half, and the ferry when established. This donation is for the express purpose of a county-seat, and to be for that purpose only. Given under my hand this 5th day of November, 1827. Richard Hawes.”

The county of Hancock having been established, and the county-seat located as was contemplated, the town of Hawesville was incorporated by an act of the legislature, approved February 20, 1836, the “ County Court of Hancock and the heirs of said Hawes having petitioned the legislature to establish the town by law;” and the land embraced by a plan of the town was declared by the act to be vested in the trustees of the town for the following uses and purposes:

“The public square, the streets, and alleys in said town to be held for the use of the public and the citizens of said town, and the lots to be conveyed by them, or a majority of them, for the time being, to the purchasers at the sale of the lots, or their assignees, upon the

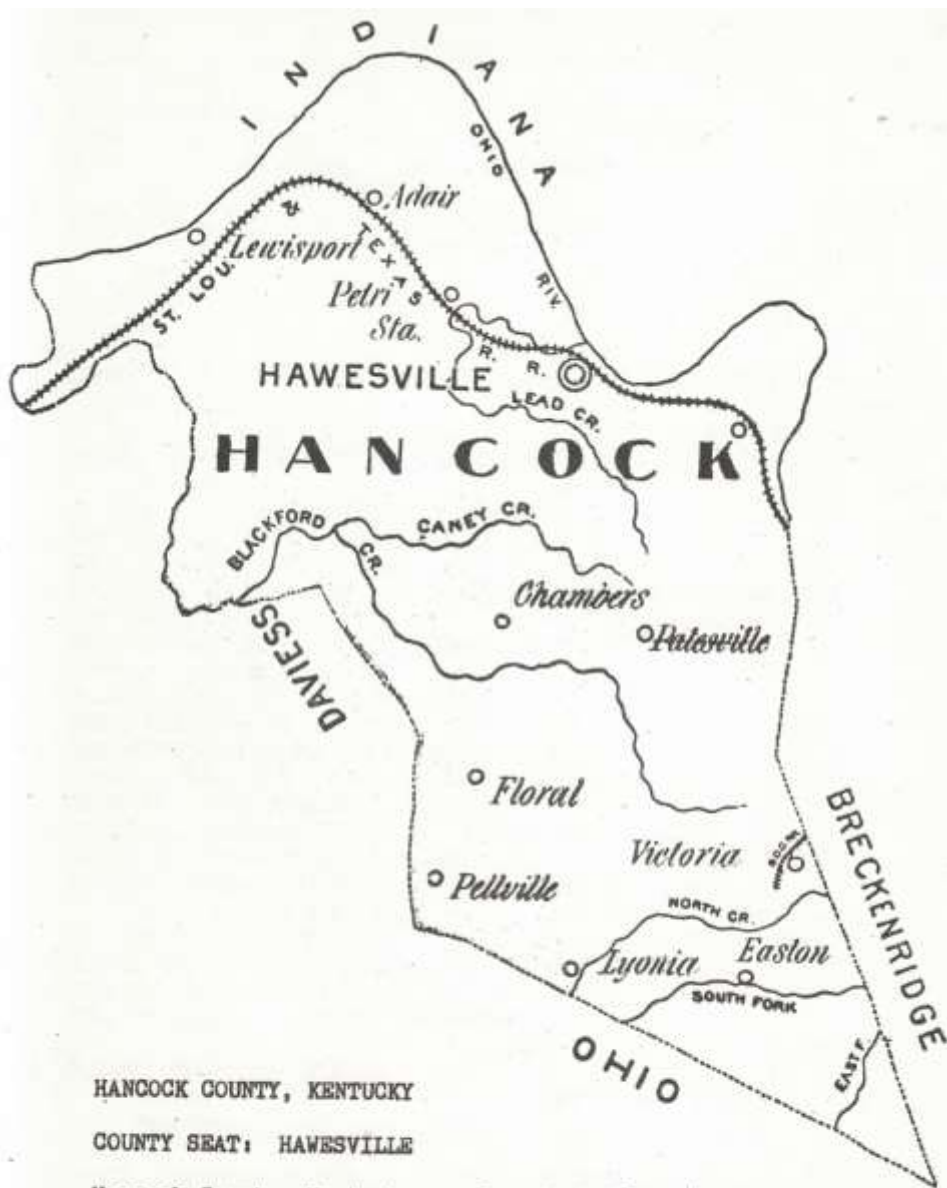
production of the certificates of purchase respectively, or to any one, upon the order of the Hancock County Court for any lot designated upon the plan of the town as a donation lot, or upon the order of one or more of the heirs of said Hawes for any of those lots not designated as donation lots; and when said trustees, for the time being, or a majority of them, shall convey any lot in said town, the presumption shall be that they conveyed in pursuance of an order for making the deed by proper authority,” etc.



From brochure “Hancock County... where the living is easy!”, Hancock County Chamber of Commerce



View of Hawesville – picture taken by Jerry Long on 19 October 1981



HANCOCK COUNTY, KENTUCKY

COUNTY SEAT: HAWESVILLE

Hancock County, Kentucky was formed in 1829 (83rd in order) out of parts of Breckinridge, Daviess and Ohio Counties. It was named in honor of John Hancock, first signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Hawesville, the county seat, was named after Richard Hawes, the Original Proprietor, and was incorporated in 1836.

(Map: Tenth Biennial Report, Bureau of Agriculture, Labor and Statistics, State of Kentucky, 1894.)

