

Hartford, Ky.

Home of a Few Soreheads

By Jerry Long



The town of Hartford was initially part of a 4000-acre grant from Virginia to Gabriel Madison. The area was surveyed in 1782 and settled in the 1780s. The settlement first consisted of a stockade of logs enclosing a dozen or residential log cabins built on a bluff overlooking Rough River. It was the first fortified settlement in the Green River Valley. Hartford was named the County seat of Ohio County, Kentucky in 1799. The post office was established as Hartford Court House in 1801 and the settlement was formally incorporated by the state assembly in 1808. The above sign greets passers by as they enter Hartford.



Historical Sketches of Kentucky: Embracing its History, Antiquities, and Natural Curiosities, Geographical, Statistical, and Geological Descriptions With Anecdotes of Pioneer Life, and More Than One Hundred Biographical Sketches of Distinguished Pioneers, Soldiers, Statesmen, Jurists, Lawyers, Divines, Etc. Illustrated by Forty Engravings, by Lewis Collins, Maysville, KY, 1848, p486:

Hartford, the seat of justice, is situated on the bank of Rough creek, about twenty-eight miles by water from its junction with Greene river, and one hundred and sixty miles from Frankfort. Its location is pleasant and agreeable, remarkable for its fine water and the general health of the population, which numbers about 400. It contains a brick court-house and other county buildings, two churches (Methodist and Free) six lawyers, six physicians, two taverns, fifteen stores and groceries and ten: mechanics' shops. Established in 1808,



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 7 February 1917, p8:

First Deed To the City of Hartford.

To all to whom these presents shall or may come, I Gabriel Madison, of Jessamine county, in the State of Kentucky, do send Greetings Whereas the Justices of Ohio County Court have established the seat of Justice for the said county in the Town of Hartford and as the said Town is included in my four thousand-acre survey and the Public square, streets and alleys thereof remains my property.

Now, know ye that I, the sold Gabriel Madison, for the encouragement, conveniency and benefit of the said Town of Hartford and for other good, causes me thereunto moving do by these presents give, grant and convoy to the Justices of the said County Court and to their successors for the use, benefit and advantage of the said Town forever, all the land included in the public square of the said Town of Hartford being four acres, together with all and singular the ground contained in the public streets and alleys as laid down In the General Plan of the said Town to be forever appropriated to the public use of the Town and to no other use or purpose whatever and I do bind myself my heirs, & c., the aforesaid premises to the aforesaid Trustees and their successors to warrant and forever to defend against all and every person claiming or to claim by, from or under me in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this second day of November, 1799.

GABRIEL MADISON.

Recorded Nov. 11, 1799, Deed Book A., page 38.



The Kentucky State Register For The Year 1847, Taliafeero P. Shaffner, Morton & Griswold, 1847, pp.140-142:

Formed, 1798.

County seat, Hartford.

Terms of County Court, Fourth Monday in each month, except March and September.

Justices of the Peace, Henry Stevens, James Miller, Jonas Ticknor, John Phipps, Samuel Paxton, James Newton, Elijah Phipps, John Rowan, James Johnson, Thomas Lawton, David G. Ford, Benjamin H. Kelly, Elisha M. Ford, William S. Taylor, Edmond A. Imeman, James C. Rogers, Nathan Mitchell.

Sheriff, Thomas Phipps, commissioned Nov. 16, 1844.

Deputy Sheriffs, Quintus C. Shanks, E. H. Coleman, A. B. Baird, Francis W. Griffin, Caleb Hole, E. Row, jr.

Clerk, Charles Henderson; Hartford.

County Attorney, Robert Moseley.

Jailer, Joseph T. Benton.

Corner, Peter Dent.

Constables, Charles W. Hunter, Charles J. Lanton, Chas. W. Taylor, G. Crawford, J. P. Cooper, R. P. Gibson, R. Holbrook, Charles N. Bennett, H. Haynes, H. Thomson, Ishmael C. Sutton.

Notary Public, John W. Crow,
Commissioners of Tax, James Baird and Jared Tickenor.
Attorneys at Law, John M'Henry, Harrison D. Taylor, Henry D. M'Henry, Thomas J. Henderson, Elijah D. Walker, James Fitzhugh, Hartford.
Physicians, Samuel O. Peyton, W. J. Berry, Wm. P. Hart, James H. Moore, Hartford; Alexander R. Rowan, Carter J. Kelly.
Principal Merchants, Nail & Lewis, Isaac Morton, Larkin Nall, J. Phipps & Dent, W. & W. Phipps, Wm. Wells, Harrison D. Taylor, R. L. Walker; Pigment Phipps, R. & R. Plummer, John W. Crow, Hartford; Crow, Phipps & Co., Adams' Fork; H. & H. Belt, W. C. & A. J. Rowan, Livermore; Charles Ransdall, Briggs' Mill.



Historic Hartford Sesquicentennial, Hartford Sesquicentennial, Inc., McLean County News, Calhoun, KYY, 1958, pp.7-14:

PIONEER HARTFORD

By McDowell A. Fogle

The territory now comprised In Ohio county, as well as most of Kentucky, was never permanently occupied or settled by Indian tribes. It was mainly a hunting ground—and sometimes a battle ground—used in common by redskins inhabiting the territory north of the Ohio river and those occupying the basins of the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers on the south.

There are a number of earthworks in Kentucky, some of them in Ohio county, in which many shards and artifacts have been found, which are clearly not of Indian origin. These so-called "mounds" indicate quite conclusively that a more civilized race preceded the Indians in the Kentucky area, but their origin and the cause of their disappearance are unsolved mysteries.

Advancing to the era of recorded history in Kentucky, Ohio county was established in 1798, having previously been, in the succession here listed, a part of Fincastle and Kentucky counties, Virginia, and Jefferson, Nelson and Hardin counties, Kentucky. Ohio county was named for the Ohio River, which then formed the northern boundary of the county, which originally comprised all of the present counties of Ohio and Daviess and parts of the present Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Butler, Grayson and Breckinridge counties.

The original Ohio county had an area of some 1,500 square miles, being larger than the state of Rhode Island. Ohio county began to function as a governmental unit on July 2, 1799 when the first county court was held at the home of Robert Moseley near the settlement of Hartford.

The first settlement in Ohio county was either at Hartford, which was selected as the county seat at the first county court, or at Barnett's Station, some two miles to the north-east, just off Kentucky 69, on the farm now owned by Robert Hudson. A marker on the roadside calls attention to the historic site.

The town of Hartford was built on land donated for the purpose by Gabriel Madison, of Jessamine county. Its site is a part of the 4,000 acre survey which he had received from the Commonwealth of Virginia and which was surveyed in 1782.

There is some evidence that a settlement was made at the present site of Hartford that same year, but, on the marker in the courthouse yard, the date is more conservatively stated as "Prior to 1785." Tradition has it that the first settlement here consisted of a stockade and enclosed log cabins, built on the bluff overlooking Rough River, on its south side, which is now occupied by the City

water plant and the property of Mrs. Annie Terry and Mr. and Mrs. Whayne C. Priest. This settlement was, presumably, called Fort Hartford.

This hamlet on the bluff here at Hartford was probably the first fortified settlement in the lower Green River Valley. There is no contemporary written record of the founders and first occupants of Hartford Station or Fort Hartford. However, William Smithers, known also as "Bill Smothers", who, several years later, settled on the Ohio River at "the Yellow Banks", as it was then known, today the site of Owensboro, tells in his reminiscences of his helping build a fortified station here. He relates that he in 1782-83 joined a party which "built a fort at Hartford, on Rough Creek."

There is reasonably authentic traditional proof of the identity of several other persons who, probably, resided in Fort Hartford at or shortly after its founding. They are:

"Tick-eyed John" Miller, veteran Indian fighter and, like Bill Smothers, a friend of "Ralph Ringwood", as long as the latter was in Ohio county.

Mike Riley, "armorer" of the fortification, who had charge of the arms, ammunition and other defensive equipment of the fort. He was the great-great-great-grandfather of John C. and George Riley, Hartford, and Mike Riley, Livermore.

Family history shows that William Downs, who, like his nine year-old brother, Thomas, became a noted pioneer Baptist preacher, was born in Fort Hartford about 1782. He, in his mature years, in Larue county, was said to have been "listened to" by Abraham Lincoln. William's birth here accounts for four of his family at Fort Hartford—his parents, his brother, himself.

Another infant inhabitant of the station was William Sharpe, who, H. D. Taylor relates, was the first male child born at Hartford. Another family there at the time was that of Henry Rhoads, recently dispossessed from 'Rhoadsville', later Vienna, now Calhoun.

Phillip Taylor, who was, seemingly, not related to the Harrison Taylors, was said to have been the first to leave, with his wife and children, the "protecting walls" of the fort and locate, with his family, in a forest clearing. That Samuel Neal was one of the fort's early defenders is verified by the tradition that it was he who saved the life of a delicate woman flax "puller" when the party of women was attacked by the Indians a short distance from the town.

To repeat, Hartford was probably the first permanent settlement in Ohio county, though Barnett's Station was settled only a few months later, in any event, and may have been founded even earlier than Hartford. The Barnett settlement was, no doubt, defended by a timber stockade, as in the case of Hartford. It was founded by several families, led by the noted brothers, Cols. Joseph and Alexander Barnett, and took its name from them.

Another early fortified settlement in Ohio county, long known as Vienna, was at "the long falls" of Green River, where the town of Calhoun is now located, today's McLean county north of that river being then in Ohio county. A settlement at this point was made on May 11, 1784 by a number of families, led by Captain William Rowan, father of Judge John Rowan, builder and master, until death, of "My Old Kentucky Home" at Bardstown and himself Ohio county's first county clerk. Fort Vienna was the scene, in 1792, of the only organized siege of a white settlement by the Indians in Ohio county; of which we have a record, The attackers were a marauding band of Shawnees, who blockaded and besieged the stockade for several days, but gave up and fled before the arrival of a relief party, which had been summoned from Hartford by Stephen Rowan, son of Captain Rowan, and another young man, whose name is now unknown, the two youths having crept through the Indian lines at night to seek help.

Rough River flows entirely through Ohio county, approximately from east to west. It probably took its name from the roughness of its waters in early times due to obstructions such as

logs, snags and driftwood. It has a federal lock and dam on it some 12 miles below Hartford, to which place it was classed as navigable, and years ago steamboats operated on it from Hartford to Evansville, Indiana but it is not now kept sufficiently open for such navigation.

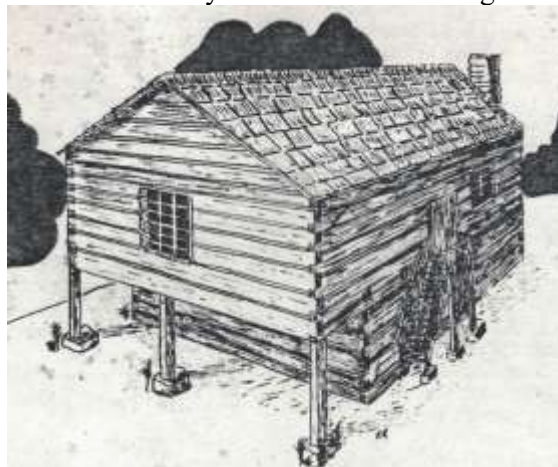
The origin of Hartford's name is uncertain, but it has been suggested that was so called because the ford there was adjacent to the home of a settler named Hart. However, the existence of a man of that name in this vicinity in pioneer days has not been verified. Another theory, mentioned by Harrison D. Taylor, in his reminiscences of early times in the county, that the town was so called because animals, including deer, the male of which the English forebears of the bulk of our ancestors called a hart, had, when the white man came to this region, a regular crossing or ford here. Or, even simpler, the settlement may have been named for Hartford Connecticut.

Gabriel Madison's grant of Hartford's site was not made until November 2, 1799, after the Ohio county court had established the county seat of justice at the village which had grown up around Fort Hartford, on his 4,000 acre survey. On the date just given, this public spirited old pioneer executed a deed of gift which, in part, reads as follows:

"Now know ye that I, the said Gabriel Madison, for the encouragement conveniency and benefit of said town of Hartford, and for other good causes me thereunto moving, do, by these presents, give grant and convey to the Justices of the said County Court and to their successors, for the use, benefit and advantage of the said town forever, all the land included in the public square of the said town of Hartford, being four acres, together with all and singular the ground contained in the public streets and alleys as laid down in the general plan of the said town, to be forever appropriated to the public use of the said town and to no other use or purpose whatsoever and I do bind myself, my heirs, &c., the aforesaid premises to the aforesaid Justices and their successors to warrant and forever to defend against all and every person claiming or to claim by, from or under me."

According to the 1800 United States census, the first in which Hartford was listed, the population of the town was given as 74. In the census of 1810 the enumeration of Hartford residents was reported as 110. When, in 1808, the Ohio county capital was granted its charter, its pioneer era was substantially over.

Ohio County's First Public Buildings



- Drawing by Earl Russell

Above sketch is the artist's conception of the first Ohio County public buildings, which constituted a combined structure, comprising both the courthouse and jail. First built was the jail, constructed of hewed logs. The contractor was William L. Barnard. The pioneer prison was built

in 1799; the contract price was 53 pounds and two shillings In May 1800 a contract was let by the county court for a courthouse, to be built on top of the jail. This, the county's first temple of justice, was built by Charles Wallace for \$1,800.

The contract for the construction of the first courthouse specified that it should be of "well-hewed logs, on the jail, over-setting the same six feet in the front, the overset to be supported by three sufficient pillars or posts, the same to be nine feet in the clear in height, with joices above the overset, to be well floored and the roof to be of joint shingles ... and make a raised bench for the court, a bar for the attorneys, with rails and bannisters, to put in the said courthouse, one twelve light and two nine-light windows, together with stairs and a platform to go up into said house on the outside thereof and also an outside door... to be completed before the first day of September next..."

The 1799-1800 courthouse-jail building did not prove large enough for county business so in 1800, a separate county clerk's office was built nearby, on the south-east corner of the courthouse square. On approximately the same site a one-story brick county clerk's office was later built as an adjunct to the brick courthouse constructed in 1815.

The jail part of above pictured county building was entered from the outside through a ground-level door and from the overhead courtroom through a trapdoor.

This combination structure "fell down" in 1813, according to county court records, and it became necessary for the courts to be held in the clerk's office or private homes. In 1810 a new log jail had been built and at the June term, 1813, the county court ordered the old courthouse jail building torn down and the logs, lumber and other usable building material of the old razed structure sold at auction. However, before the sale had been made, the building material salvaged from the condemned public edifice and stacked in the courthouse yard, was in September of the same year burned by celebrants of Commodore Perry's Lake Erie Victory.

In October 1813 Charles Wallace was again awarded a contract to build a county building, this time a courthouse, separate from the jail. His low bid was \$3,036 for the construction of a brick courthouse on a stone foundation, to be completed by October 1815. It proved to be a handsome structure, considerably ahead of its period, in same architectural features.



County's Third Temple of Justice

The third Ohio County Courthouse was erected 1865 to 1867 on the site of the one burned in December, 1864, by General H. B. Lyon, who was on a raid through Western Kentucky, and,

"as a military necessity," burned courthouses used as Federal garrisons. The Federal guards were captured and paroled and the building burned. Dr. Samuel O. Peyton implored the invaders to spare the Clerk's Office, a one-story, two-room brick which stood on the courthouse yard. His request was granted, and the records were saved.

The front and the rear of the courthouse were very much alike, and so were the two sides.



Present Ohio County Court House

The present Ohio County Courthouse was erected during the period 1940 to 1943. Built entirely of concrete with terrazzo floors and wainscoting at a total cost of approximately \$135,000, including furnishings. No convenience of modern design was overlooked in making this building one of the finest in Kentucky. There are sixty-four rooms in the building, including corridors, stair wells, passages and vestibules. Workmen began tearing the old courthouse down, November 20, 1940. The new building was completed early in 1943. The dedication took place May 15, 1943.



The Green River Country From Bowling Green To Evansville, Its Traffic, Its Resources, Its Towns and People, W. P. Greene, editor, J. S. Reilly, Evansville, IN, 1898, pp.87-89:

HARTFORD

The county seat of Ohio county, is situated bear the center of the county, at the head navigation on Rough River, one hundred and twenty miles from the city of Evansville. The population of the town is about one thousand, and being the seat of justice and principal town in the county, numbers among its citizens many men of prominence throughout the state, in the several professions of law, medicine and politics. The city is built on the left bank of Rough River, and has an elevated situation on ground sloping to the river. It is surrounded by a rich and well-improved farming country, and is within easy reach of the hard-wood timber of the river forests, offering superior inducements for the establishment of woodworking industries. The town has no railroad connections, Beaver Dam being the nearest railroad point, which is on the Illinois Central, five miles away. Two stage lines making two trips each daily, connect with trains on the above-

mentioned road. The court house is built of brick, surrounded by a rather ornate iron fence, and the grounds about the county buildings are shaded by fine old trees. In appearance the town is thrifty and impresses one with a sense of stability. Many of the business houses are built of brick and are roomy and conveniently arranged. Three sides of the public square are solidly built up with business houses as is also the main street leading to the river landing. The new block built and owned by Mr. S. K. Cox, of the Ohio county bank, on the northeast corner of Main street and the public square, is a very handsome building of modern construction, and adds greatly to the appearance of the town. The trade of Hartford is largely local, but, being surrounded by a populous and productive region of country, the volume of business done by her merchants is very large. There are a number of general stores, carrying large stocks of merchandise, besides many smaller establishments dealing in special lines. Almost every line of trade and business is represented. There are two banks, the Ohio County Bank and the Bank of Hartford; two hotels, a number of boarding houses and two livery stables. The bar of Hartford is of more than provincial celebrity in the ability of its members. Some of the oldest and ablest lawyers the state are located here, and the younger members of the profession are justly celebrated for their talents and high legal attainments. Henry D. McHenry, a former member of Congress from this district, now deceased, was a native of Ohio county and a member of its bar. His widow still lives in Hartford, of which she has been a resident for forty-one years. The history of the town dates back to a period coincident with the first settlement of Kentucky. The first recorded plat of town is dated May 6th, 1816, but at least as early as 1790, and probably as early as 1786, there was a settlement and fort near the site of the present town. In Collins' historical sketches it is stated: "The immediate vicinity of Hartford was settled at a very early period and was often the scene of bloody strife and acts of noble daring. Hartford and Barnett's stations were about two miles apart, and, although never regularly besieged, were frequently harassed by straggling parties of Indians, and a number of persons who ventured out of sight of the stations were killed or captured. In April, 1790, the Indians waylaid Barnett's station and killed two of the children of John Anderson. One of the party assaulted Mrs. Anderson with a sword, inflicted several wounds upon her person, and while in the act of taking off her scalp John Miller ran up within about twenty steps and snapped his rifle at him. The Indian fled, leaving his sword, but succeeded in carrying off the scalp of Mrs. Anderson. She, however, recovered and lived some ten or twelve years afterwards. The same party captured and carried off Hannah Barnett, a daughter of Col. Joseph Barnett, then a girl of about ten years of age. They retained her as a captive until October of the same year, when through the instrumentality of her brother-in-law, Robert Baird, she was restored to her friends." The date of these incidents places the first settlement of the town some time anterior to the year 1790. The following is a brief catalogue of the business men of Hartford: Carson Co., dealers in dry goods, clothing and furniture; J. A. Thomas, general merchant; Pate Bros., groceries; Fair & Co., general merchants; J. E. Fogle & Co., dry goods and clothing; George Klein, hardware and notions; A. D. White, hardware and groceries; Thomas Bros., groceries; Z. W. Griffin, drugs; James Williams, drugs; Mrs. Anna Lewis, millinery; J. H. Patten & H. Field, livery. There are three hotels, the Commercial Hotel, the Hartford, and the Yeiser House. The leading industries of Hartford area large flouring mill and wool-carding establishment operated by J. W. Ford & Co. This firm also operates a saw mill. A saw mill is operated by Patten & Condit, who are also dealers in lumber. There are three blacksmithing and wood-working shops—R. H. Gillespie, A. Tweedle and J. W. Ford & Co. There are two banks, the Ohio County Bank, a cut of whose building is given herein, and the Hartford Bank. There are three handsome churches, occupied by the Methodists, the Baptists and the Cumberland Presbyterians. The Christian denomination has a congregation, but

no church building. There are two colored churches, Baptist and Methodist. The town has a good system of free schools; supported by local taxation. The Hartford College, under the management of Profs. Morton and Crowe, is an institution of much prominence in the section. Its curriculum embraces full collegiate course. The educational interests of the county are in the hands of Mr. Z. H. Schultz, superintendent of schools, who is a young man of excellent attainments, and zealous in the advancement of the cause of education. The schools of the county under his management and oversight are in a most efficient and satisfactory condition. Two good newspapers are published here—the *Hartford Courier* and the *Hartford Republican*. The practicing physicians Drs. E. W. Ford, J. S. Morton, E. B. Pendleton and J. T. Miller.



Ohio County, Kentucky, in the Olden Days, by Harrison D. Taylor, Louisville, KY, John P. Morton & Company, 1926, Chapter XIII, pp57-63:

SOME EARLY MERCHANTS

The first mercantile transaction of which tradition gives any account is the story of a Yankee peddler who came to Hartford with a barrel of whiskey – a story which we will retell presently. The next to come to this section was the peddler whose story is told in "Early Experiences of Ralph Ringwood." Whether "Ralph Ringwood's" peddler was a myth or not, he was at least a representative character of his trade of the day. It was to such itinerant "merchants" or peddlers as "Ringwood's" that the early pioneers looked for their few supplies. Besides, the early pioneer's means of purchasing were too scant to justify the permanent location of a store in any one special place.

Previous to Anthony Wayne's complete and decisive victory over the Indians in 1794, very few settlements were made below Elizabethtown, Kentucky, with a view of opening and cultivating farms. Forts and stations were erected in various localities; small parcels of land were cleared and cultivated by placing wary, expert riflemen as sentinels while others worked. A few bushels of corn, with the aid of hand mills and hominy mortars, furnished their daily bread. The buffalo, elk, bear, and deer not only furnished them with an abundant supply of meat but also with bed clothes and wearing apparel. Geese, turkeys, and other wild fowls supplied them with meat more delicious than the chicken of the present day. Feathers, furs, skins, tallow, and wild honey formed the basis of trade and commerce.

Tradition does not give the palm of shrewdness and cunning always to the peddler of those days, as will be illustrated by the following story of transactions involving whiskey and coonskins. Some enterprising Yankee peddler had managed to get a barrel of whiskey into Hartford. With it he proposed to accommodate the citizens, selling a gill for a coonskin, or nine pence in silver - the principal coins in circulation under a whole dollar being dollars cut in halves, quarters, eighths, and sixteenths. To save paying rent, he, with the aid of some poles and boards, erected a shanty around his whiskey barrel, and, with a partition in the middle, he had the front for a salesroom and the back part for a storeroom. Business was not brisk the first day; only a few old loafers, who were too infirm or too lazy to hunt, or an occasional old lady who wanted a little spirits in her camphor bottle, came to the shanty to trade.

But after dark the scene changed: Scouts, hunters, loafers, and boys gathered around the whiskey; skins were pouring in as fast as the liquor could be poured out. The scene became absolutely uproarious with fifes and drums, songs and shouts of laughter, making a medley of

sounds that might have prostrated the walls of Jericho. The peddler would hand out the liquor, seize the skin, and throw it back into his storeroom with an air of triumph. He became weary of success, and felt relieved when the crowd, or as many of them as could walk, retired. Mr. Peddler slept but little and reckoned much on the gains of the night, and, as soon as it was light enough, proceeded to count his enormous pile. To his bitter disappointment and utter astonishment, the pile seemed very little larger than it had been early the evening before. On further inspection he saw that a board had been removed from the back part of his shanty. A long pole with a hook at the end told the story – all night he had been buying his own skins over and over again. The second day his sales were as dull as the day before, and when night came on, he gathered his skins into his salesroom, watching them closely, and refused to sell for anything but cash, which came in very slowly. Towards bedtime business revived and the Yankee thought that there might be a trick – counterfeit money about - and so rubbed each piece between his fingers. He found it too hard for pewter, and smelling it found it was not copper. Not until after he had deposited it in his leather purse did he hand out the liquor. Finally he retired to rest with the consolation that if he had not done a smashing business, he had at least done a safe one. He was aroused next morning by hearing a furious voice complaining behind the shanty, and upon walking out, saw a man's cross-cut saw despoiled of every tooth! With trembling and fear he stole back into his shanty, untied his purse, and poured out his receipts; then he discovered that he had scarcely anything but saw-teeth!

To return to the subject of our early merchants, or rather to begin it: The first store in Hartford of which we have any authentic account was that of Nathaniel Wickliffe. As already related, he seems to have drawn his supplies from Bardstown, as is shown by the old records of a suit he brought against William Wallace for damage done to a load of furs and hides Wallace had contracted to haul from Hartford to Bardstown. It appears that the firm of Rose and Fitzhugh also had a store of some note in the early days.

I remember Samuel Rose, who was a very popular man. He was also clerk of the court for a while. Some time previous to the War of 1812 he removed to Bardstown and was a soldier under General Samuel Hopkins in his march, in 1812, up the Wabash River, where Rose and his friends Murry and Dunn and others were caught in an ambush while on a reconnoitering party. They were slain and terribly mangled by the savages. Some Ohio County friends found Rose's body, recognized it, and had it decently buried. The *Bardstown Repository* of that period was full of eulogy of the three – Rose, Murry, and Dunn – all of whom were represented as men of sterling virtues and worth.

Perhaps the next store in Hartford was that of Lewis and Rogers, a branch probably of some Bardstown house; it was not of long duration. The writer recollects on his first visit to town of spending his first three fourpence, half pennies, for a small mustard cup, being, as he thought, the prettiest thing on the almost empty shelves.

Robert Moseley, Richard Taylor, and Harrison Taylor, as partners, at an early day bought a large stock of goods – large for that period – from Colonel Criss, of Bullitt's Lick. They traded largely in country produce. This speculation resulted in great loss, especially for the Taylor partners.

During the War of 1812, Samuel, Isaac, and David Morton built a storehouse and opened a very considerable stock of goods. Near their house stood the buildings that were burned to celebrate the Battle of New Orleans, of which we have written. William and Daniel McKenzie built a house which is still a part of the Lyon House [in earlier days Crowe House, later

Commercial Hotel]. In it they opened a respectable stock. They, however, sold out in a few years and moved to parts unknown. Both were well esteemed while citizens of Hartford.

Up to the close of the War of 1812 the country needed but little, and had but little to buy with. Families made their own clothing and shoes. Such hats as they could not plait of straw or make of other home-made material, they bartered for with some country hatter. Nearly every family had a shoemaker at home, or, if not, exchanged work with some country cobbler. Most of the ladies had a Sunday dress of fine cotton for summer and a nice barred, or checkered, linsey-woolsey for winter. The most aristocratic seldom aspired to anything above calico.

At the close of the War of 1812 a period of credit and its concomitant extravagance and fashion set in. Pork which had sold from \$1.50 to \$2.00 rose to \$5.00; tobacco to \$10.00 and \$12.00. It was supposed that any man able to work would be able at the end of the year to pay for everything that had been sold to him, hence, a system of almost universal credit sprang up, and Hartford became crowded with stores. Murry and Walker, Thompson and Moseley, Richard A. Jones, and the three Mortons, all had large and respectable stores for that period. Besides these there were smaller ones not now recollected. For several years all seemed to be on the high road to fortune. The merest country bumpkin was wrapped from head to foot in broadcloth. A clodhopper would mount his burrtailed pony, rigged out with a forty-dollar saddle and a twelve-dollar bridle.

This *ignis fatuus* with which the whole state was carried away led on to the Eldorado of a universal banking system. The legislature passed a law chartering a bank in nearly every county, and in some of them two, as in Ohio County. For this our then representative Major James Johnston was most terribly vilified and abused for a time. He was, however, later highly commended for his sound sense and good judgment, which created for him a fund of popularity which lasted for years. How this great air-bubble burst, bankrupting the community and leading to other blunders in legislation, to litigation and party excitement, would require an entire chapter to relate.

The great South Sea bubble of England was scarcely a more laughable farce than this Kentucky banking scheme proved to be. Everybody wanted bank stock. It was greedily taken. The banks organized, and their notes were put in circulation. The Battle of Waterloo had settled the peace of Europe, and the close of our war with England rendered the United States a tempting field for the long pent-up workshops of the world, and we were flooded and overstocked with foreign merchandise.

To vend these overstocks of goods, peddlers swarmed over the whole country. They took notes of these independent banks and made regular raids upon them until their small specie deposits were exhausted. Only two of these banks in the whole State proved solvent. The notes of the balance proved an entire loss to the country; the poor merchants were among the principal sufferers.

In the meantime our Hartford merchants had shipped the tobacco of the county at highly remunerative prices for several years. That, of course, increased its production. Skilled as well as unskilled labor everywhere was engaged in its culture, which resulted in a tremendous over-crop, much of which was of the lowest grade. This crop was eagerly bought by the merchants and shipped to New Orleans. Because of over-supply on the market prices fell to a most ruinous rate. In some cases the whole crop did not sell for enough to pay the expense of shipment, inspection, commission, and other expenses.

These heavy losses from broken banks and the low price of tobacco fell so heavily on the merchants in Hartford that every store in the town was closed, or suspended business, save that of

Samuel, Isaac, and David Morton, who were the sole survivors of the panic. This firm was a striking example of the strange freaks of the fickle goddess of fortune.

The routine of merchandising in those days was to ship produce to New Orleans, sell it, buy bills of exchange on New York or Philadelphia, and then proceed on vessels to the eastern markets and there purchase goods. The year previous to the great decline in tobacco, the Mortons had been quite successful in their shipments to New Orleans. There they sold their goods and received a draft on some eastern house. They left immediately for the East to lay in a stock of merchandise, but on arriving there the house on which their draft was drawn had failed. The consequence was that the Mortons bought no goods that year. They returned to New Orleans, and got their money out of the drawer of the draft, but only after a long and tedious course of law had been followed. Thus while their means were locked up in the courts, they were no doubt fretting and fuming at their ill luck. In the meantime their fellow merchants in Hartford were chuckling at their own good fortune at having monopolized the trade, not seeing that they were greedily running into ruin and disaster.

The Mortons, chagrined at their apparent ill luck, and fearing the ultimate loss of their suspended New Orleans debts, set about a vigorous and vigilant collection of their home accounts in Ohio County. Thus by the time the panic and pressure set in, they had collected or secured the most of their home debts, and were ready with this capital to take possession of the vanquished field. They monopolized the trade of the whole country for years afterwards; then they divided their means. Samuel Morton removed to Palmyra, Missouri, William Morton to Hardinsburg, and David Morton to Owensboro. Isaac Morton continued business in Hartford, where he had little or no opposition for a considerable period of time.

After the palmy days of the Mortons there were no large stores until one was opened by Richard Elliott. who had been the cashier of the old Commonwealth Bank of Hartford, from its commencement. [This building is now the residence of James H. Williams.] Elliott was an excellent financier of indefatigable industry, shrewd but pleasant in his manners. He proved to be the most successful merchant of his time. His health failed, however, and he died in a few years. It was a matter of doubt as to what his ultimate outcome might have been, whether he would have become a millionaire or a bankrupt, as the times were so uncertain that no one could predict. When he commenced his career, the period was a very prosperous one; property of all kinds continued to rise in value. The improvements in machinery, in manufacturing, and the great reduction in the tariff on foreign merchandise had so reduced the price of goods bought at wholesale that merchants could sell them at retail at a heavy profit, and yet have the credit of selling them "dirt cheap," as their customers thought and said. This prosperous period continued during the whole of Mr. Elliott's time of merchandising. His estate wound up with a very large surplus for his heirs, as well as a formidable list of insolvent debts which were an entire loss to his estate, although the strictest vigilance was used in making collections.

Mr. Elliott's death was much lamented by the community. He was highly esteemed as a citizen. He devoted much of his time to reading and had considerable literary taste and attainments. He was liberal and generous in his dealings. It is useless now to speculate what would have been his financial success had he lived to pass the panics and pressure of the years 1837, 1842, and 1860, which not only tried men's souls but also merchants' solvency.

During the time of and shortly after the close of Mr. Elliott's career, various other stores were started in Hartford. Among other merchants were Logan Walker, Larkin and John G. Nall, John Phipps, W. W. Phipps, and Crowe and Taylor. They carried on a long career of merchandising

with varied success. None of them became millionaires, but all escaped insolvency. All have given place to others whose operations are well-known to the present generation.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 7 June 1893, p.1:



May 26, 1893.

Editors Herald: — The arrival of the Herald with its interesting weekly budget of local news and its brief personal mention, on yesterday, set me to thinking of the good old town as I first knew it away back early in the fifties, when it was the center of a far larger radius of trade than at present. Then, as now, Hartford could boast of two hotels, and good ones at that, real fried meat taverns, the one at the corner of Union and Market Streets being presided over by that genial boniface Larkin Mall, “Old Pap,” and the other at South-east corner of Market Street by that nice old time gentleman, R. L. Walker, “Old Mos.” The public rooms of these hotels, each containing a bar, were the favorite resorts of the adult male population of the town of winter evenings, not for the purpose of drinking liquor, but to enjoy the hospitable stoves of “Old Pap” and “Old Mos,” and to discuss among themselves the political questions of the day, in all their ancient, latest, and various phases, such as the Missouri compromise and its binding effect upon all subsequent generations, the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, the Lecompton Constitution, the dred Scott decision, the compromise of 1850, the Wilmot Proviso, the Know Nothing question and Squatter Sovereignty. Many and fierce, often forcible and sometimes amusing — always entertaining — were these post prandial discussions, conducted by the ablest colloquial debaters of the town — and there were several gentlemen of real ability among them — which took place in the two hostelries aforesaid. Sometimes the disputants would become smarily irritated at their failure to convince and proselyte the entire crowd, and the followers of each — generally about equally divided — were sure to share the choler of their leader, but however angry the discussion, or however intense the partisan prejudice engendered thereby, all ill-feeling was banished at the close of the discussion, and good fellowship was pledged in an all-round lumper of Billie Fields.

Among the regular boarders at the Hartford House, or Nall's tavern were Wm. Rogers, who had charge of the tobacco stemmery as the representative of the Quigleys and who was by reason of his business connection, a man of no small consequence in the community; Philip Brooks, foreman for Rogers; Capt. Wm. Graves, who had the distinction of having crossed the plains and Rockies to California in '49; Joe Vaught, who was esteemed the best blacksmith in the Green River country and who was moreover the Beau Brummel of the town; James A. Thomas, (Uncle Jim) then regarded as a confirmed bachelor but was persuaded by an estimable young lady to join the benedicts some years later.

The Walker House then had for its, most distinguished guest Uncle Jack Johnson, a bachelor of culture and refinement who is aptly described by the epitaph on his tomb in the Morton graveyard, which reads substantially as follows: "Sacred to the memory of John Johnson, a fine old Virginia gentleman." George Bennett, the blind grocer and confectioner, who kept in the little one-story frame on the corner where the Herald is now published, was also a patron of the Walker House. George was a bachelor too, just and generous, and would have scorned to put sand in his sugar or manipulate his weights to the detriment of his customers.

Passing along up Market Street from Nall's corner or - the Hartford House, at the time of which I write one would next come to the general store of Judge Jno. W. Crow. The building, a one-story frame with shed in front, stood with its aide to the street, and had two front doors. The first door led into the store room where John Wayman Crow, affable and polite, was ever ready to wait upon customers, while in the other room, (counting room) entered from the street by the other door, or from the store room through a partition door, sat the grim visaged old Judge, keeping a close tally on John Wayman's sales, issuing law process its County Judge and sitting as a self-constituted censor upon the morals of the town. It is needless to add that the Judge was not popular with the younger set, but on the contrary was heartily disliked by the young men upon whom he was wont to obtrude his advice, which he spiced with so much cynicism as to make it too pungent for their taste. Bill Foreman, Tom Henderson, John H. McHenry, Jr., Bill Peyton, Dave Moseley or any of their set would walk a square out of their way at any time to avoid a lecture by the Judge. The trouble was that the Judge, who was really a kind-hearted old gentleman, could not, as the French would say, get the boys en-rapport with him.

Passing up the street from Judge Crow's store, David Thomas' saddlery shop was next reached — a one-story frame building standing with its gable to the street. Mr. Thomas was an industrious, intelligent man, devoted to his family and his business. Pete was generally to be found at his father's shop, and would frequently call out, "Papa, toodie wac," which being translated, meant that he wanted a chew of wax — beeswax — with which his father waxed his thread. John was apt to be engaged in more active devilment, for the intelligent execution of a great deal of which he was specially adapted. Ellis was yet in the nursery when his father died.

Just south of Thomas' saddlery shop stood a one-story frame building with its gable to the street occupied by Dr. Sam'l O. Peyton as a doctor shop, and which smelt loudly, of the standard remedies of the day. There were no drug stores with wet end attachments or otherwise in the small country towns then, and every practicing physician kept a stock of drugs on hand, such as quinine, calomel, ipecac and other medicines of every day use, and the house in which they were kept was called the "doctor shop," because I suppose the doctor sometimes sawed off an arm or leg. While a physician by profession, and a mighty good one, Doctor Peyton was fond of politics as a diversion, in which he was quite successful, representing the old Second District three terms in Congress. He was a plausible, forcible and attractive speaker, a good electioneer and a good man. One of the first political debates r ever witnessed, was that which occurred in the old Union church between Dr. Peyton and the late John P. Campbell, of Hopkinsville, as opposing candidates for Congress in 1855, the year the Know Nothings were so bad in Kentucky, as Col. Phil Lee was said to have remarked. Know Nothingism, the Compromise of 1850, and the Kansas-Nebraska Bill were the principal questions discussed, and while I was a Know Nothing, because my father was, I really thought that Dr. Peyton got the best of the discussion. But it is getting late and I most stop for I guess you are tired and so am I. Leumas.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 14 March 1906, p.1:

**REMINISCENCES
OF OTHER DAYS**
OF WHICH THIS GENERATION
KNOWS LITTLE.
**Items of the Good Old Town
of Hartford, Past and
Present.**
UP-TO-DATE IN MANY PARTICULARS.

Prof. Z. O. King, who recently visit Hartford, writing in the *Central City Republican*, says:
I can never resist the impulse that inclines me to sing the praise of my old home of my youthful days. I never I visit the old home but the lines of Wordsworth come to mind with ever increasing force and meaning.

“How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood.
When fun recollection presents them to view.”

Far dearer are those scenes when surveyed in reality, when the old home with the old well and many of the environments yet remain though many years have left defacement and decay on men and things, ever reminding us of the mutability of all things terrene.

Hartford is one of the oldest towns in the State, a fact not generally known to the younger generation and was a town of some importance when Owensboro was a boat-landing called “The Yeller Banks” and Henderson was another lauding called “The Red Banks”. While Hartford has not kept pace with the towns mentioned in growth and worldly prosperity it has ranked high up in moral eclat and sent a greater number of men and women perhaps into the world for the betterment of mankind than any other town of its size in this or any other State. The Hendersons, McHenrys, Nalls, Mortons, Fords, Peytons, Gibsons, Thomases, Taylors, Hardwicks, Lewises, Phippses – and there was R. P. Bland, “Silver Dick,” and W. R. Kinney. Long known as the “boy orator” and a kinsman of Bland, but no list of useful men and good men of former days would be complete without that of the grandest Roman of them all in his calling – Prof. Frank Griffin. He it was that took the youth of the town and fashioned them into fit material to grace the world with their personality. But I could not class the list of Hartford’s great and good men and leave out the Walkers, the Berrys, the Pendletons. Few men have gained greater honor in any profession than Dr. John E. Pendleton. He was not only famed as a surgeon and practitioner in medicine but as a man of culture a devotee to his profession and a humanitarian in the fullest sense of the term.

Descendants of nearly all these old families yet remain and they are not as is too often the case degenerate sons but fit representatives of the grand old stock from which they sprang.

I may have omitted some of those who have left their impress on the world for good but I know that I could not stop without making mention of “Bill” Graves, Phil. Brooks Tom Taylor, Geo. Bennett, all of whom acted well their part but left no progeny to perpetuate their names.

Thirty-five years have rolled around since I lived in the town and but few of those are left. Among them I note Dr. Jim Morton, J. W. Ford, the Thomas boys, John, Peter and Ellis, Capt. Sam. K. Cox, Louis Guenther, Dr. Jo. Miller, Henry Griffin, Billie Moore, Dyer White, the Condit boys, Luke and Harve, who I could never tell “tother from which,” “Bill” Foreman, the jolliest soul that ever catered to his guests as mine host, then last but not least, Brother Gabe Bean, truly a man of God who has gone in and out among the people for lo, these many years, calling men to repentance, speaking words of comfort to the distressed, joining the loving swain in wedlock to his best beloved, and preaching sermons on temperance and right living day after day by his walk and conversation.

There is as great change in the physical and artificial features of the old town as in the people. For neatness and comfort, Hartford will compare advantageously with any town in the State. Good streets, comfortable public buildings, one of the best schools in the State, cement and brick pavements all over the town, electric lights and plenty of them in the main part of the town that you can see to walk by.

The dwellings are neatness emplified, elegant residences, as the town does not boast any millionaires, but all modern structures neatly painted and surrounded by well kept yards. The business houses are substantial and so are the men inside of them.

Soon they expect to have a railroad, a long hoped for addition to conveniences. They will not be disappointed this time. There are men back of this enterprise who do things, not depend on some one else.

There are three banks in the town, all doing well, two newspapers, *The Herald* and *Republican*, both up-to date and well supported. The best index of a country paper’s standing is the frequency of its being quoted by the city press. This may be a new idea to many, but I have long ago found it to be true. No papers in the State are more frequently quoted, perhaps, than both the Hartford papers by the Louisville dailies. But I have drawn this out long enough. I would like to make mention of some of the grand men and women who have passed over to the other side, but who left their impress deeply implanted in those who yet remain. They sleep in peace in the silent city of the dead, and a fitting epitaph for most of them would be “The world is better because they lived in it.”



1810 Ohio County, KY Federal Census

The following heads of household were listed as residents of the town of Hartford:

Joshua Crow	Charles McCreery	William Rogers
Moses Cummins	Robert Mosley	Samuel Rose
Aquilla Field	Thomas Mosley	David Ruby
Remus Griffith	Thomas Posey, Jr.	Nancy Williams
Charles Henderson	James Rogers	
Job Malin	John C. Rogers	



1820 Ohio County, KY Federal Census

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

Reuben Bennett	Gabriel Jackson	Thomas Myers
John Calhoon	John Mason	Volantine Paten
Acquilla Field	Charles McCreery	James C. Rogers
Peter Foster	Richard Morton	John Rogers
Charles Henderson	Robert Mosley, Sr.	Thomas Taylor
Elias Jackson	Robert Mosley, Jr.	Richard L. Walker



1830 Ohio County, KY Federal Census

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

Emanuel Brashear	John Kenny, Jr.	Gatewood Nall
John W. Crow	Robert Lightfoot	Larkin Nall
Edmond Curd	Rufus Linthicum	Samuel O. Peyton
William Edison	Ann McCreery	John Phipps
Richard Elliott	John H. McHenry	Benjamin Smith
Charles Henderson	Charles Moore	Harrison D. Taylor
Nathaniel Howard	Isaac Morton	Richard L. Walker
Samuel Howard	Jesse Moseley	Orion Wright
Aaron C. Jewit	Robert Moseley	



1840 Ohio County, KY Federal Census

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

William Barrett	Samuel Houston	Larkin Nall
Archibald Bayley	Charles Lawton	Mary Peyton
Jefferson Bayley	Thomas Lawton	Samuel O. Peyton
Joseph T. Benton	James Lewis	Valintine W. Peyton
William J. Berry	Mariah Kenny	John Phipps
John W. Crow	Ann W. McCrary	Tucker Ragsdale
Peter Dent	Edward McGay	Oscar Shaver
William Eidson	John H. McHenry	Juliann Smith
Lancaster Fentress	Isaac Morton	Harrison D. Taylor
Pendleton Harwood	Mary Mosley	David Thomas
Charles Henderson	John G. Nall	Peter Thomas



1860 Ohio County, KY Federal Census

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

professional	occupation	age	birthplace
Virgil Addington	tailor	25	KY
Lewis Armendt	carpenter	45	Germany
John T. Austin	blacksmith	28	KY
A.B. Baird	judge Ohio Co. Co. & hotel keeper	39	KY
Ann Barnes	laborer (free black)	35	KY
Harriett Barnes	wash woman (free black)	55	KY
William S. Barrett	merchant	56	KY
Thomas Bell	confectioner	27	KY
James Bennett	cabinet maker	36	KY
Jo. T. Benton	saddler	46	KY
John Berryman	cabinet maker	25	KY
David Black	livery stable	24	VA
Benjamin Briggs	miller	50	KY
Phillip Brooks	miller	29	VA
R. S. Brooks	carpenter	35	KY
William Brooks	miller	23	KY
John Chappeze	attorney	35	KY
Charles Chinn	teamster	30	KY
James Collins	grocer	32	KY
Samuel K. Cox	deputy clerk of Ohio County	22	KY
Enoc M. Crow	Methodist minister	30	KY
John W. Crow	attorney	64	MD
U. T. Curran	school teacher	25	OH
Thomas Davis	tinner	29	KY
Thomas L. Davis	law student	18	KY
Willis G. Davis	saddler	43	KY
Edward Ellis	grocer	24	KY
John C. Ford	bar keeper	26	KY
William Fry	tailor	34	VA
Remus Gibson	grocer & (Ohio County) jailer	47	KY
William Graves	carpenter	45	KY
Frank Griffin	farmer	42	CT
G. W. Griffin	clerk	22	VA
Josiah Hale	medical doctor	31	KY
Thomas Hanly	laborer	40	Ireland
William Hardwick	merchant	39	KY
Charles Henderson	retired Ohio County court clerk	78	VA
Thomas Hill	engineer	35	KY
William Hines	brick mason	45	KY
Jo Jackson	painter	30	VA
James King	mail contractor	58	KY
G. W. Kinsolving	Cumberland Presbyterian Minister	26	VA
Charles J. Lawton	police judge	52	VA

Walter B. Lawton	cabinet maker	44	KY
Simon Levy	merchant	30	Germany
Wild Levy	merchant clerk	30	France
J. W. Lewis	merchant	43	KY
Cicero Maxwell	attorney	28	KY
James P. McCoy	sawyer	38	TN
Henry D. McHenry	attorney	34	KY
Henry Midkiff	town marshal	29	KY
William H. Miller	merchant	33	KY
William G. Mitchell	medical doctor	23	KY
Aaron Moore	retired D. D.	46	OH
Alonzo Morton	deputy clerk Ohio County court	23	KY
Isaac Morton	merchant	74	KY
John C. Morton	clerk of Ohio County court	30	KY
Preston Morton	attorney	26	KY
William D. Morton	farmer	28	KY
R. D. Moseley	carpenter	28	KY
R. Seth Moseley	clerk Ohio County court	27	KY
Edward Murrell	merchant clerk	19	KY
Squire Muzey	tinner	36	KY
Frank Nall	farmer	30	KY
L. Nall	hotel keeper	55	KY
Richard F. Nall	farmer	21	KY
William H. Nall	merchant	23	KY
John E. Pendleton	medical doctor	29	KY
S. O. Peyton	medical doctor	56	KY
Samuel Peyton	farmer	19	KY
Washington Phipps	merchant	60	KY
Wesley Phipps	merchant	60	KY
William Rogers	trader	45	KY
William Rosenburgh	clerk	23	Germany
Dennis F. Ross	carpenter (free black)	37	KY
Joshua Rowe	merchant	33	KY
Richard Rucker	laborer (free black)	58	VA
Q. C. Shanks	(Ohio County) sheriff	49	KY
Henry Small	merchant	36	Germany
H. P. Taylor	medical doctor	29	KY
Harrison D. Taylor	attorney & farmer	57	VA
R. D. Taylor	druggist	27	KY
Thomas Taylor	farmer	21	KY
Thomas C. Taylor	merchant	47	KY
James Thomas	saddler	38	KY
John Thomas	saddler apprentice	17	KY
Mary Thomas	school teacher	16	KY
Peter Thomas	saddler apprentice	13	KY
Daniel F. Tracey	coach maker	19	IN

John F. Tracey	coach maker	42	NY
Lewis H. Tracey	school teacher	16	KY
Joseph Vaught	blacksmith	27	TN
E. D. Walker	attorney	32	KY
Henry Weinsheimer	silver smith	35	Germany



1870 Ohio County, KY Federal Census

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

professional	occupation	age	birthplace
Ann Acton	cook (black)	50	MD
Mary Acton	cook (mulatto)	20	KY
Meda Acton	cook	16	KY
Virgil Addington	dry goods merchant	39	KY
Aditha Allen	cook	22	KY
Ella Allen	washer (black)	20	KY
Martha Alen	cook (black)	17	KY
Willis Allen	wagoner (black)	23	KY
Lewis Arnett	carpenter	54	Saxony
Manerva Austin	nurse	50	KY
Melvina Bacon	washer woman (mulatto)	33	KY
Alexander B. Baird	farmer	50	KY
John P. Barrett	sheriff	30	KY
Lycurgus Barrett	deputy sheriff	27	KY
Wesley Barrett	wagoner (black)	24	KY
William S. Barrett	retail dry goods merchant	66	KY
Thomas B. Batto	lawyer	21	KY
James B. Benton	saddler	56	KY
Samuel L. Berry	physician	27	KY
Burr P. Berryman	police judge	33	KY
Charles Y. Boggess	Methodist minister	43	KY
Ellen Briggs	cook (black)	21	KY
Leonia Briggs	cook (black)	65	VA
Jim Brooklin	carpenter (black)	50	KY
Phillip Brooks	saw mill hand	50	KY
Fanny Burrett	nurse (black)	13	KY
Cena Carter	cook (mulatto)	24	KY
John Chapeze	lawyer	43	KY
Byron Chapman	dry goods merchant	26	KY
Christian Chapman	shoemaker	28	Prussia
Elizabeth Chapman	cook (black)	17	KY
George B. Chapman	lawyer	22	KY
James B. Chapman	mill owner	45	KY

Maria Chapman	cook (black)	45	KY
William C. Chapman	retail dry goods merchant	53	KY
Quintus B. Coleman	lawyer	23	KY
Malissa Colgan	music teacher	23	KY
Jack Collins	farm hand	35	KY
James F. Collins	farmer	44	KY
Harvey J. Condict	mill engineer	34	KY
Louis F. Condict	miller	31	KY
Samuel K. Cox	deputy county court clerk	35	KY
Caleb Crow	hotel keeper	51	KY
Kitty Daugherty	cook (black)	50	KY
Thomas D. Davis	house painter	34	KY
David H. Deane	carpenter	37	KY
Rebecca Duke	washer woman (mulatto)	45	VA
George Eidson	miller (black)	50	VA
Edward Ellis	grocery clerk	35	KY
Harrison Ellis	stable boy	20	KY
Theodore Ellis	saw mill hand	23	KY
Lizzie Fitzpatrick	waitress	17	IN
Lucy Fitzpatrick	cook	40	NY
James W. Ford	druggist	35	KY
Ellen Foreman	cook (black)	24	KY
Louis P. Foreman	deputy county clerk	15	MO
McGuinn Foreman	cook (mulatto)	32	KY
Wesley Foreman	farm hand (mulatto)	27	KY
William P. Foreman	hotel keeper	40	KY
Love Forrester	milliner	24	KY
David H. French	lawyer	25	KY
Bruno Fry	butcher	23	Switzerland
Remus Gibson	retail grocer	56	KY
William F. Gregory	lawyer	33	KY
Charles Griffin	school teacher	22	KY
Frank Griffin	farmer	53	CT
Lucy Griffin	school mistress	34	CT
Tyler Griffin	physician	26	KY
Zach. W. Griffin	druggist	33	KY
Christian L. Guenther	baker	38	Bavaria
Louisa Hardwick	cook (black)	32	KY
William Hardwick	retail dry goods merchant	50	KY
James J. Harrison	lawyer	62	VA
Elizabeth Hart	music teacher	38	KY
James Henderson	gardener	48	KY
Samuel E. Hill	lawyer	26	KY
Thomas J. Hill	painter	45	KY
Paulina Hoover	washer woman (mulatto)	37	KY
Samuel Houston	retired merchant	65	VA

William Houston	mail carrier	16	KY
Allen P. Hudson	tobacco merchant	46	IL
Nancy Hunter	cook (black)	20	KY
Alfred Hurt	carpenter	27	TN
Edward A. Jaynes	carpenter	30	KY
Robert D. Johnson	farmer	46	KY
Oliver P. Johnson	US assessor	40	KY
Max Kahn	retail grocer	45	Prussia
Elizabeth King	seamstress	32	PA
Henry King	tanner	39	Prussia
Zeba O. King	mail contractor	27	KY
George E. Klein	tinner	32	France
Charles J. Lawton	postmaster	62	VA
Charles Lee	tanner	28	Prussia
John A. Lewis	retail grocery	52	KY
Thomas L. Lewis	store clerk	18	KY
Isaiah H. Luce	carpenter	50	KY
Thomas Marks	tobacco house hand	24	KY
Richard Marshal	daguerrean artist	28	KY
John L. Mauzy	tinner	25	KY
Squire Mauzy	tinner	47	KY
William Mauzy	carpenter	24	KY
Riley McDowell	blacksmith	22	TN
Estell McHenry	lawyer	28	KY
Henry D. McHenry	lawyer	44	KY
Malcolm McIntyre	US assessor clerk	35	ME
Cely Midkiff	cook (black)	20	KY
John Midkiff	constable	66	KY
William H. Miller	miller	42	KY
William H. Moore	miller	28	KY
Phocion Morgan	livery stable	51	KY
Thomas J. Morgan	wool carder	50	VA
Alonzo Morton	circuit clerk	33	KY
Andrew Morton	hostler (black)	22	KY
Isaac Morton	retired merchant	85	KY
Lafayette Morton	barber (mulatto)	19	KY
Marilda Morton	cook (mulatto)	18	KY
Daniel C. Mosley	retail grocery	35	KY
Richard S. Mosley	County Clerk	37	KY
Alfred D. Nall	retail dry goods merchant	30	KY
Anna Nall	cook (black)	35	KY
Eugene Nall	druggist	31	KY
Richard P. Nall	saloon keeper	37	KY
Eliza M. Nugent	retail grocer	34	KY
John G. Owen	store clerk	24	KY
Charles Parks	farm hand (mulatto)	24	KY

Crit Parks	railroad hand (mulatto)	26	KY
John Parks	railroad hand (mulatto)	27	KY
Phennie Parks	cook (mulatto)	15	KY
John E. Pendleton	physician	35	KY
Frank Peyton	farm hand	19	KY
Hetta W. Peyton	cook (mulatto)	18	KY
Jane Peyton	cook	65	KY
Leander Peyton	gardener (black)	28	KY
Julius Pfefaefer	shoe maker	49	Saxony
Green Phipps	laborer (black)	35	KY
John Phipps	retired merchant	78	KY
John R. Phipps	farmer	24	KY
Washington Phipps	dry goods merchant	64	KY
William Phipps	retail grocer	26	KY
Woodford Phipps	blacksmith	37	KY
George E. Platt	store clerk	18	KY
Jesse Potter	miller	40	KY
Charles M. Ragsdale	bar keeper	30	KY
Phillip Rial	tailor	49	Nassau
John Roschild	shoemaker	37	Coburgh
Dennis F. Ross	carpenter (black)	48	KY
Alfonzo G. Rowe	retail dry goods merchant	23	KY
Edmond H. Rowe	saloon keeper	26	KY
William L. Rowe	retail dry goods merchant	29	KY
Mizella Rucker	washer woman (black)	20	KY
Savilla Rucker	nurse (black)	16	KY
Wiley J. Ryan	blacksmith	35	TN
Quintus C. Shanks	assistant US assessor	59	KY
Marion Stateler	cattle broker	30	KY
Stephen Stateler	cattle dealer	45	KY
Otis Steele	plasterer	20	KY
William Steele	plasterer	50	England
William T. Sullenger	retail grocer	24	KY
Alonzo Taylor	farm hand (black)	21	KY
Ellen Taylor	nurse (mulatto)	18	KY
Harrison D. Taylor	retired lawyer	68	VA
David E. Thomas	saddler	16	KY
James A. Thomas	retail grocery	47	VA
John C. Thomas	saddler	28	KY
Peter E. Thomas	saddler	23	KY
David F. Tracy	wagon maker	28	IN
John P. Tracy	county jailer	52	NY
James R. Tyler	farmer (black)	48	KY
John S. Vaught	boarding house keeper	41	KY
Joseph Vaught	blacksmith	37	TN
Casher Walker	railroad hand	16	KY

Elijah D. Walker	lawyer	42	KY
Mary F. Wallace	milliner	42	KY
Henry Weinsheimer	silver smith	35	Hesse Darmstadt
Jerome Wells	retail druggist	27	KY
Andrew White	carpenter	23	KY
John White	carpenter	18	KY
Susan Wilhite	seamstress	22	KY
Elijah T. Williams	retail hardware dealer	28	KY
Richard Williams	blacksmith	27	KY
Daniel Wise	miller	50	KY
Henry D., Wise	school teacher	23	KY
James Wise	miller	25	KY
James A. Wise	farmer	63	KY
Virgil Wise	carpenter	24	KY
Frederick Woener	shoemaker	35	Wurttemberg
John Young	blacksmith	43	KY



Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory For 1879-80, R. L. Polk & Co., & A. C. Danser, Detroit, MI & Louisville, KY, 1879, pp.193 & 195:

HARTFORD

The county seat of Ohio County, located on Rough Creek, in about the center of the county, 110 miles southwest of Louisville, 4 ½ miles north of Beaver Dam, its nearest shipping point, on the P. & E. R. R., with which it has daily stage communication. It has one church edifice, in which presbyterians, methodists and episcopalians in turn worship. Ground has been purchased by the trustees of the village, and a commodious public school building is in process of erection at cost of \$6,000. It has 2 flouring mills, a woolen factory and a saw mill. Semi-weekly stage to Owensboro. Daily mail. Population, 1,000. Charles J. Lawton, postmaster.

Business Directory

Addington, Virgil P.	general store.
Barrett & Bro (John P. and Lycurgus),	proprs. Hartford Herald and insurance agents. (see adv.)
Baird, Alexander B.,	examiner.
Bean, Rev. G. J.,	(methodist).
Bean & Vaught (Gabriel J. Bean, Joseph Vaught),	blacksmiths.
Benton, Joseph T.,	insurance agent.
Berry Samuel L.,	physician.
Briggs, Mrs. Martha H.	millinery.
Chapeze, John,	lawyer.
Cox, Samuel K.,	county clerk.
Cox, William,	carpenter and builder.
Duke, Thomas S.	saddles and harness.
Fogle, Jesse E.,	lawyer.

Ford, James W.	druggist.
Foster, & Hill (Burch S. Foster James L. Hill),	grocery and saloon.
Gregory, Wm. F.,	lawyer.
Griffin & Bro. (Zachariah W. and Thomas L.),	druggists.
Griffin, Tyler,	physician.
Hardwick & Nall (Wm. Hardwick, Alfred T. Nall),	general store.
Hartford Academy, Malcolm McIntyre,	principal.
Hartford House, Wm. T. King,	Propr.
Hines & Chapman (Thomas H. Hines, Wm. C. Chapman),	leaf tobacco.
Jarboe, Mrs. Margaret A.,	millinery and dressmaker.
Johnston, James,	proprietor, Johnston house.
King, Wm. T.,	proprietor, Hartford House and livery stable.
Klein, George & Bro. (George and John M.),	hardware.
Lawton, Charles J.,	postmaster.
Lyon, Laurence J.,	saloon and restaurant.
McHenry & Hill, (Henry D. McHenry, Samuel E. Hill),	lawyers.
Mauzy, Wm.,	undertaker.
Miller, Joseph T.,	physician.
Moore, James T.,	saloon.
Moore & Wise (Wm. H. Moore, Fleming B. Wise),	flour mill and wool carding.
Morgan, Ferdinand P.,	lawyer and examiner.
Morton, James S.,	physician.
Murrell, Edward R.,	master comr., Ohio circuit court.
Newton, Benjamin,	county judge.
O'Conner, James,	boot and shoemaker.
Pendleton, John E.,	physician.
Platt, George A.,	grocery and saloon.
Phipps, Washington,	flour mill.
Potter & Condict (Jesse Potter, Lewis F. Condict),	lumber mnfrs.
Randolph, Rev. T. J.,	(methodist).
Robinson, Jesse, colored	barber.
Robey, Samuel P.,	lawyer.
Rosenberg, L. & Bro. (Lehman and Zadoc A.),	dry goods.
Rowe, Richard P.,	grocery.
Sanderfur, John .P,	lawyer.
Schapiemier, Christian F.,	boot and shoemkr.
Small, Elias,	general store.
Taylor, Harrison D.,	lawyer.
Thomas, James A.,	general store.
Thomas, J. C. & Bros. (John C., Ebenezer P., David E.),	saddles and harness
Thomas Bros. (John C., Ebenezer P., David E.),	grocery.
Townsend, John C.,	lawyer.
Townsend & Massie (John C. Townsend, Charles W. Massie,)	lawyers.
Tracy, Daniel F.,	carriagemaker,
Vaught, John S.,	propr. stage line.
Walker & Hubbard (E. Dudley Walker, E. Clarence Hubbard),	lawyers.

Weinsheimer, Heinrich,	watchmaker and jeweler.
Williams Bros. (Elijah T., Richard M. and Jeremiah),	grocery, hardware and blacksmiths
Williams, W. H. & Son (Wm. H. and Gross B.),	grocery.
Wedding, George C.,	lawyer.
Woerner, Louis F.,	boot and shoemaker.
Yeager, Joel F.,	livery stable.



Kentucky Gazetteer and Business Directory For 1895-1896, R. L. Polk & Co. & A. C. Danser, Detroit, MI & Louisville, KY, 1895.

HARTFORD. The judicial seat of Ohio county, is located on Rough Creek, 110 miles southwest of Louisville and 4-1/2 miles from Beaver Dam, on the C., O. & S. W. Ry, its shipping point. Population, 750.

Bank of Hartford (capital \$30,000), S. K. Cox, pres., G. T. McHenry, Cashier.

Bean, G. J.,	undertaker.
Bean, L. B.,	drugs.
Bean, T. M.,	hotel.
Carson & Co,	general store.
Casebier & Burton,	livery.
Duke, T. S.,	harnessmaker.
Fair Bros & Co,	General Store.
Fields, C. L.,	livery.
Ford, J. W. & Co,	flour mill.
Foster, John B	general store.
Griffin, Z. W. & Bro,	druggists.
Hardwick, W. G.,	grocer.
Jones, J. C.,	general store.
Klein, George,	Hardware and Groceries.
Mauzy, W. H.,	carpenter.
Martin, C. R.,	jeweler.
Moseley, B. F. & Co,	general store.
Potter & Condict,	saw mill.
Schapmier, W. F.,	shoemaker.
Thomas Bros,	saddlers.
Thomas, J. A.	general store.
Thomas, Owen J.,	grocer.
Weinshermer, Henry,	jeweler.
Westerfield, O. P.,	meats.
White, A. D.,	general store.
Williams Bros,	blacksmiths.
Williams, W. H.,	general store.
Williams & Bell,	drugs.
Woerner, L. Fred,	shoemaker.
Yeiser, F. W.	blacksmith.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 25 March 1896, p.3:



Hartford College and Business Institute is one of the finest in the State with something like eighty-five boarding students. The town is one of the healthiest, not being even one case of measles. It being isolated five miles from the railroad is perhaps the cause of the healthy condition in school and town generally. Our town is the most prominent in the county for churches and christians. The different denomination composed of Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Christians with some talk of there being a Catholic church built here.

Leo B. Stevens, a gentlemanly young man who has been in the grocery business several years here has risen rapidly from his first venture into mercantile business, and now stands in the front ranks of the trade.

Fair Bros. & Co. who went into the dry goods business ten years ago, have steadily worked their way in public until now their store house on Market street in which they have recently moved, is stored with the most fashionable and serviceable goods obtainable in the market.

"Cousin Jim" Ford is still here, he having served 31 years in the drug business until about four years ago when he formed a partnership in the water and steam flouring mill here and has been a constant worker in the interest of Hartford's prosperity.

Potter & Condict have been in the saw mill business for about 30 years here and have had a successful business career.

C. R. Martin, our handsome jeweler, has taken a new lease on life and in a day or two will move into the sitting room of the Hartford Hotel where he will serve his customers to his best ability, which is the best in the country.

C. P. Westerfield & Sons are doing a good meat business on Market street.

George Klein, one of our oldest and best citizens has been in the hardware and grocery business about 30 years and is one of our most prosperous merchants.

Thomas Bros, have don an immense grocery line here for 18 years and have accumulated a great deal of property.

Field & Holbrook, livery, sale and feed stable, also a transfer line to Beaver Dam who have boon actively engaged in business here for several years, are doing an immense and profitable business.

A.D. White who came to this place 20 years ago, by his energy and hard work as a miller went into the grocery business about four years ago and has a large trade.

Carson & Co. are doing an extensive dry goods, grocery and furniture business and are very popular.

The drug firm of Z. Wayne Griffin & Bro. has by courteous and strict business built up an immense trade.

The Hartford Bank, an old institution does a fine business and was the first regular organized bank in Hartford. Mr. John C. Riley, the popular cashier, assisted by that genial young man, John T. Moore, book-keeper, are always ready to accommodate their friends.

W. F. Schapmire, who went into the shoe business here several years ago is rapidly coming to the front, and has a nice shoe store on Market street and a large trade. Mr. C. F. Schapmire, who conducts the business, is one of our best citizens and a practical shoemaker, having been a citizen of our town for 31 years and is ready to wait on his old friends and make their boots and shoes.

The real estate office occupied by T. J. Smith is conducted by a business man on business principles and business of that kind will secure his prompt attention.

Thos. S. Duke, our jolly saddler, is still at his place of business and is ready to work as of years ago.

Williams & Bell, druggists, who came here several years ago as poor men, have by their strict honesty and attention to business fitted up and filled their store in a way creditable to a city.

Our handsome friend, Mr. E. L. Bullington, the barber, says our little city is the best place he knows of for his business.

Rev. G. J. Bean is still in the undertaker's business and is one among our best citizens, ever ready to accommodate his numerous friends.

Hartford has two good hotels and a private boarding house at either of which a good square meal can be had at the popular price.

Dick Tweedell, the hustling blacksmith on Market street with the assistance of his son, is doing good business in his line.

Williams Bros. are doing a lot of fine grade blacksmithing on College street,

Among the business houses of this place who have withstood the fearful financial crisis of several years are composed of Jas. A. Thomas, the oldest merchant in the place, being 15 years in the saddlery business and 35 years in the dry goods and grocery business by which he has gained a snug fortune

L. B. Bean is still in the drug business with a complete line.

Our old friend, Henry Weinsheimer, one of the oldest jewelers in town and is doing a good business at his home near the tobacco factory.

L. F. Woerner, our hustling shoe and boot maker, and general dealer in the above goods is an honest and liberal man.

Jas. Sullenger and "Pap" Foreman are doing a good business in the meat market in the John Bean house on Market street.

Among the recent enterprises of the town, is the Ohio County Bank, Capt. S. K. Cox being the sole owner, who is considered one of the best bankers in Kentucky. He is located in a handsome new brick office on Market street.

It will only be a few days till a well will be commenced within five miles of Hartford for oil and gas of which geologists say is plentiful in this community.

We have in our town two of the best newspapers published in 50 miles of here (one better than the other on account of its politics.) Doctors, preachers and lawyers too many to say anything

about, but all first-class. Hartford is on a boom sure this time, for we will soon have connection with the C., O. & S. W. R. R. by electric car line, the line running to some point on the C., O. & S. W. R. R. A gentleman who has spent some time traveling over different parts of this section of the State, says, he finds no place like old Hartford. So let us all go to work with new energy and with the help of \$43,000 that Hon. Jno. W. Lewis, our Congressman, writes the money wanted to finish the locks and dams, is almost sure to be appropriated, as the committee reported in favor of it, which virtually means its passage, and then no town after our locks and dam and connections with the railroad, will gain prosperity faster than Hartford.

More in the future.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 18 February 1903, p.1:



EDITOR HERALD: – Having nothing better to occupy our minds, my fellow crank and friend Judge J. F. Carson, and myself concluded to write up Hartford. I was considerably surprised to find said town such a business point. We have three churches – Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian. The minister of the Baptist church is Rev. E. W. Coakley. He has a large congregation and a fine Sunday School. The Methodist minister is Rev. J. C. Petrie, who also has a large congregation and a fine Sunday school. Rev. E. M. Crowe, a superannuated preacher, resides here. I have known him for forty years. He is a grand old man. The Presbyterian minister is Rev. J. D. Harned, who has a nice church and a good Sunday School The way to each church is through the mud.

Hartford College, now graded High School, T. J. Morton President, O. M. Shultz, Vice President, assisted by Mrs. Julia Wedding, Miss Florence Morton, Miss Mabel Hubbard and Miss Edna Warriner, has about two hundred pupils from town and about seventy-five from the country.

The Commercial College, in the New Commercial Hotel, Prof. Hankins President, Prof. Patterson, Vice President. They have a well attended school and are giving first-rate satisfaction and the prospects of the school are good.

Mrs. Crowe has a private school. She is a fine educator and is doing well. The way to each of said schools is through the mud.

Ohio County Bank, S. K. Cox, President and promoter, with S. S. Cox and Miss Mattie Bennett, assistants is doing a good business.

Bank of Hartford, Mr. J. W. Ford President, H. P. Taylor, Vice President, John T. Moore, cashier. Said bank is doing a good business. Mr. Holbrook fills in his extra time building railroads as a side line.

First National Bank, G. B. Likens, President, C. J. Rhoads, Vice President, John C. Riley, cashier, with Rollia R. Riley and Miss Bertha Riley as assistants. Said bank is doing a first rate business. The cashier, after transacting business, entertains you with a political effusion. No charge extra. Rolla is happy when at work if he can get four nights in the week to see his best girl The way to said banks is through the mud.

The attorneys are Messrs. H. P. Taylor, for the I. C. railroad, has (a fine practice.) Glenn & Ringo doing well. C. E. Smith, G. B. Likens, R. E. L. Simmerman, attorney and real estate agent, John B. Wilson, Police Judge, attorney at law and surveyor, W. H. Barnes, County Attorney, E. P. Neal, Frank L. Felix, J. S. R. Wedding, R. R. Wedding, Heavrin & Woodward, J. E. Fogle, C. M. Barnett, Surveyor of Port of Louisville, W. H. Owen, Circuit Judge, J. Edwin Rowe, Commonwealth's Attorney, J. P. Miller, County Judge, T. H. Black, Jailer, C. P. Keown, Sheriff, S. A. Anderson, Circuit Clerk, M. S. Ragland, County Court Clerk, Jas. M. DeWeese, School Commissioner. The way to said court house is through the mud.

I called in at Hartford HERALD office; saw the editor looking grand, gloomy and peculiar, a la Napoleon. Mr. Heber Matthews was deeply immersed in his cogitations. I passed on, met Mr. F. L. Felix. He was as busy as a hen with one chicken. Not wishing to interrupt him I went into the composing room, intending to talk to the typos, but saw a devil there and I beat a hasty retreat. From there I visited the Republican office, John H. Thomas, editor He was in a deep study. Could not decide in his mind which to be President of the United States or Town Marshal of Hartford or Governor of Kentucky. Sad, aint it? Willie Schapmire has a job printing office and is doing good work. The way to each of these places is through the mud.

Our Town Marshal is Enou Paris. He is a first-class officer.

The doctors are E. W. Ford, Jas. S. Morton, L. B. Bean, J. T. Miller, A. F. Stanley, E. B. Pendleton, S. J. Wedding and J. R. Pirtle, who is a dentist. Z. Wayne Griffin & Bro., and J. H. Williams and Dr. L. B. Bean have the three drug stores of the town. The doctors are ably assisted by Rev. G. J. Bean, undertaker When they make a mistake he furnishes a wooden overcoat and none of the occupants kick about the fit The way to each of these is through the mud.

The New Commercial Hotel, Isaac Foster, proprietor; the Hartford House, J. B. Dodson, proprietor, are both good houses. There are several good boarding houses. Mrs. Yeiser keeps a good boarding house at reasonable rates She is a worthy lady.

Saloons. Mose Hudson, proprietor, looks more like an evangelist than a saloon keeper. B. B. Collins & Co., have a good saloon. Lee Chinn has a fine saloon. Nall has a saloon and Mr. Henry Nall is the spirituous adviser and attendant. Mr. A. T. Nall is the assistant. The way to these places is through the mud.

Mr. Ed Bullington, tonsorial artist, commonly called barber, while divesting you of your hirshute growth gives you a lecture on the pedigree of horses. No extra charge. The way to Mr. Bullington's place of business is through the mud.

Blacksmith shops – R. L. Tweddel, R. H. Gillespie, Bud Yeiser and Wood Phipps.

Livery men – Taylor & Lewis, Dodson & Barnard.

R. T. Iler, saddle and harness make.

McElvain, silversmith, Will Stevens, silversmith.

Smith & Ford, real estate agents.

J. W. Ford – feed store – proprietor of Hartford water mills.

Fair & Co., dry goods and clothing, A. D. White, groceries and hardware, Cumberland Telephone & Telegraph Company, Carson & Co., dry goods, clothing, groceries and millinery, Gross Williams, restaurant, Cleve Iler confectioner, Mrs. Sarah Collins Smith, dry goods clothing and millinery, Y. M. C. A. rooms, J. B. Foster’s cash grocery store, Sam Bach, dry goods and clothing, Carson Bros. grocery and hardware, Rough River Telephone office. To each of these places we tramp through the mud.

Hartford postoffice, Wood Tinsley, postmaster, W. S. Tinsley, hardware store &c., T. J. Turley Co., hardware and implements, wagons buggies, &c., Fred Woerner, shoe-maker, M. M. Coyle, tinner, Sam Barnett, butcher, Frank Westerfield, butcher, Thomas Bros., groceries and queensware, W. C. Schlemmer, baker, C. J. Rhoads, general merchandise, John R. Phipps Co., planing and saw mill, R. T. Collins, cold storage.

The lodges are: Masonic Lodge No. 675, Dr. E. W. Ford, Master, Maccabees, Knights of Honor and Knights of Pythans, No. 110 and A. O. U. W., and Preston Morton Post, No. 4, G. A. R. Commercial Club, E. W. Ford, President, Jas. L. Carson, Secretary, S. K. Cox, Treasurer. Town Trustees – L. F. Woerner, J. H. Patton, Dr. S. J. Wedding, W. G. Hardwick and A. D. White To each and any of the above named places tramp through the mud.

As a friend of mine came by Mr. J. W. Ford’s residence recently he saw a new hat on the street near the walk. He reached over, picked up the hat, a man raised his head and said, “Stranger, let my hat alone.” Poor fellow, he had sunk into the mud, leaving only his hat exposed. I know this is true, because Mr. Bunger is the man who says he picked up the hat.

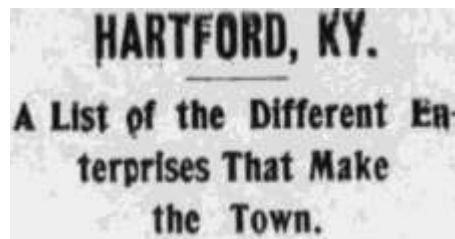
The foregoing account of the town was written simply to impress on the minds of the people that it is an outrage to have our beautiful town submerged in mud. When I first came here I heard that there was no good road material; no rock that could be used. My friend Judge J. F. Carson, and myself investigated the matter thoroughly and found within a mile of the court house first class good stone not only to make a bed for the road but to macadamize it. Said stone can be had with little trouble. Eight or ten loads can be brought to town in a day. With a little assistance from the town trustees, using a portion of that \$2,000 received from the saloons, and instead of putting violators of the law in jail, making parlor boarders of said violators of the law – crap shooters, &c., – have a fine with 30 to 60 days at hard labor on the street. It would be but a short time before we would quite crying out, mud! Mud!

Respectfully submitted

COYLE & CARSON.

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Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 21 December 1904, p.3:



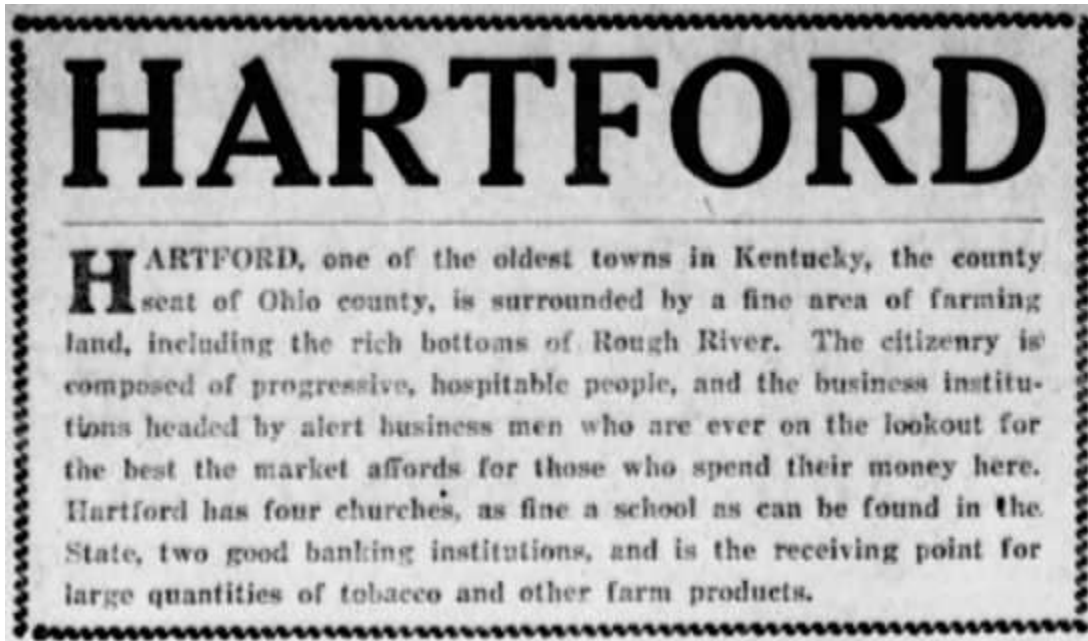
Below will be found a list of enterprises which constitute the town of Hartford, the best little city of its size – one thousand population – in the South:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Three resident preachers. | A cold storage plant. |
| Three churches – regular services. | Four clothing stores. |
| Three banks. | Two shoemaker shops. |
| Five lodges. | Three drug stores. |
| Hartford College. | One jewelry store. |
| Two big hotels. | Two hardware stores. |
| Six boarding houses. | Two undertakers. |
| One restaurant. | One furniture store. |
| Sixteen lawyers. | Three millinery stores. |
| Seven doctors. | One watch repair store. |
| One optician. | Ohio County Fair. |
| One dentist. | Two meat shops. |
| An electric light plant – soon to be. | Columbia Ginseng Company. |
| One wool carding factory. | One feed store. |
| One tobacco factory. | One stove repair shop. |
| Two big flouring mills Two sawmills. | Four blacksmith shops. |
| One saddlery and harness shop. | One tinshop. |
| One planing mill. | Two livery stables. |
| One steam brick machine. | One photograph gallery. |
| One big implement house. | One barber shop. |
| One tile factory. | One opera house – just completed. |
| One ice plant – soon to be. | One orchestra. |
| One bakery. | One brass band. |
| Two saloons. | Three job printing shops. |
| Two telephone exchanges. | Two newspapers. |
| Five grocery stores. | One transfer line. |
| Four big dry goods stores. | Three public weighing places. |
| Two confectioneries. | One Commercial Club. |
| Three insurance agencies. | Small water works plant. |
| Two real estate agencies. | |

A pike road has just been completed from Hartford to the railroad at Beaver Dam, a distance of five miles, and within a year the entire business portion of Main street will be macadamized from pavement to pavement with solid concrete gutters Hartford is growing and wants more good citizenship. It is one of the most substantial business towns in the whole country. The list of assignments here for the past twenty-five years can be counted on the fingers of one hand. We invite people who are hunting for a new location in a pleasant enterprising first-class town to come and look the situation over. Hartford is the county-seat of Ohio county, and is about a hundred years old.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 21 November 1917, p.2:



J. C. ILER.

Staple and Fancy Groceries, Hartford. Ky.

One of the most complete establishments of its kind in Ohio county is the grocery founded here 15 years ago by Mr. J. C. Iler, who has enjoyed a most enviable success and steadily increasing patronage since the inception of the business. A varied line of the purest and freshest of staple and fancy groceries, country produce, fruits and vegetables are kept in stock at all times, as well as cured meats and meat products, and a nice line of feedstuffs. In connection a fine line of light hardware, queensware, chinaware and small household articles are handled as well as the celebrated Monarch stoves and ranges. The store is known over the entire county as a place where the most dependable quality of merchandise can be secured at the most reasonable prices, and its reputation for square dealing methods and generous treatment of patrons adds much to its popularity.

Mr. Iler, the affable proprietor, stands in the front ranks of the progressive business men of the county and is one of its substantial and successful citizens. He is public-spirited, ever ready to do more than his share toward any movement having for its object the advancement of the interests of the general public, and has a largo circle of friends everywhere.

HUR CLOTHING COMPANY

Ladies' and Gents' Furnishings and Shoes. Hartford, Ky.

Truly a hub in the commercial circles of the community, with spokes of patronage extending over a radius that embraces the entire county, the above firm has during the three years of its existence enjoyed a phenomenal growth and is today one of the city's most popular buying centers. In its handsome and spacious sales room is to be found a great variety of the best quality and most seasonable merchandise including Ladies' Coat Suits, Cloaks and Men's Clothing, everything in the furnishings and notion line for men, women and children, all of which are disposed of at the most reasonable prices. A specialty is made of the shoe department in which nothing but foot wear of the best materials and workmanship is handled, and the stock is so varied

that anyone can be fitted and pleased no matter what their individual tastes may be, and although shoes have been steadily increasing in price for some time the prices here are kept at the lowest possible figures.

This enterprising firm is composed of Mr. U. S. and Mr. A. R. Carson, two well known and prominent citizens of the county, and business men of unquestionable methods and ability. The business is under the active management of Mr. A. R. Carson and much of its wonderful success is due to his excellent methods and courteous and pleasing personality.

THOMAS BROTHERS.

Groceries and General Merchandise. Hartford. Ky.

No review of the commercial development of Ohio county could be attempted without mention of the celebrated Thomas Bro.'s firm, the oldest merchandising establishment in the county, and probably the only one in the State to be operated under one continuous management for 57 years, for this business was established here in 1860 by Mr. J. C. Thomas, who was joined in 1862 by E. P. Thomas, both of whom are still active in its management. Another brother, D. E. Thomas, was a member of the firm from 1863 until his death eight years ago. There are only four persons in Hartford who were residents here when this store began business, the place having been a favorite buying center for three generations of Ohio county citizens. The business is located in its own commodious home and handle practically everything in the general merchandise line, including groceries, country produce, light hardware, queensware, chinaware, and small household articles.

Mr. J. C. Thomas, the elder brother and founder of the business, now 76 years of age, and Mr. E. P. Thomas, are probably the most widely known citizens of the county, and still are active in business circles as well as public civic affairs. They are fine types of the courteous, successful southern business men, and have a wide circle of friends everywhere.

A. D. WHITE.

General Merchandise. Hartford, Ky.

A record of a quarter of a century of successful merchandising is the history of the establishment conducted by Mr. A. D. White, and which is one of the most popular buying centers in the county. This business was begun here in a small way 25 years ago, and due to splendid management, the policy of handling only sterling goods, and keeping prices at the lowest possible notch consistent with the best quality, enjoyed a steadily increasing patronage from its inception and today has a circle of satisfied patrons that extends throughout the entire surrounding territory. A complete line of staple and fancy groceries, fresh country produce, cured meats and meat products, fruits, vegetables, etc., is always on hand, and in addition a varied assortment of light hardware, tin, granite and china ware, and other small household necessities, as well as tobaccos, cigars, candies and confections.

Mr. White, the courteous and pleasing proprietor who gives the business his personal attention, is one of the oldest and most favorable known business men of the county, and one who has spent the better portion of a long and useful life in doing his part in the development and progress of his community. He has kept his business strictly abreast of the times, practices the most modern methods, and is a progressive, public-spirited citizen well deserving of the material success he has attained.

NEW COMMERCIAL HOTEL.

Isaac Foster, Proprietor. Hartford, Ky.

Towns get their advertising principally from traveling people, and whether this advertising be of the favorable or unfavorable sort depends to a great degree upon the character of the place the traveling man has to stop at while in the town. It is plain, therefore that a town's best asset is good hotels, and Hartford is fortunate in having one of the best of any town its size in the country in the New Commercial. This hotel was established here several years ago and has enjoyed a steadily increasing patronage since that time. It is popular with the traveling public throughout this section, and many are the traveling men who come miles out of their way in order to spend the week-end here. The Hotel is most centrally located on corner Center and Main streets, in the heart of the business district, in its own three story brick building, containing 30 nicely furnished and comfortable guest rooms, fine lobby, ladies' parlor, sample rooms, etc., and is modernly appointed and equipped in every detail. Mr. Isaac Foster a hotel man of long experience is the genial and courteous proprietor, and his pleasing manner of treating his guests adds much to the popularity of the place. He is prominent in local business circles and a progressive and useful citizen, held in the highest esteem and respect by his fellows. When in Hartford you will make no mistake in making the New Commercial your headquarters.

OHIO COUNTY DRUG COMPANY.

(Incorporated)

Druggists and Pharmacists. Hartford, Ky.

One of the most modern and complete drug establishments in the county is that conducted by the above named company, in its spacious and well furnished building on Center street, (formerly the Griffin Block), where a drug business in all its branches is maintained. A complete line of the best and freshest drugs and chemicals are always in stock and the careful compounding of physicians' prescriptions is a specialty, this department being in the hands of Mr. Marvin Bean, a registered pharmacist of long experience and great ability. A nice line of the most reliable and popular proprietary remedies are always on hand, and the store is headquarters for the best quality toilet articles and supplies, fancy gift goods, high grade candies, cigars and smokers supplies. In connection is operated a modern soda fountain at which is served all the popular soft drinks and ices.

The popularity and success of this sterling firm is accounted for in large measure by the personnel of its members, which includes some of the most substantial citizens of the county, the company being headed by R. E. Leo Simmerman, Pres., well known in business circles the country over. Mr. Marvin Bean is the secretary-treasurer and active manager of the business, and much of its success is due to his individual efforts, his pleasing personality and efficient methods and service. He is ably assisted by Mr. Estill Park, who has a host of friends and with square dealing and courteous treatment this firm has an ever increasing trade. They are now receiving dally their holiday goods and have the largest lines of well selected gifts that was ever in Hartford. They also have all kinds of paints and varnishes and their new line of wall paper will be in about February 1st. Remember the Ohio Co. Drug Co.

BANK OF HARTFORD.

Resources. \$203,109.66.

Established in 1882. Hartford, Ky.

The true barometer of a country's progress and prosperity is the condition of its financial institutions. Where you find modem and thriving hanks you always find a thrifty, contented and progressive citizenry. Ohio county is certainly fortunate in this respect, having within its borders several of the most important banks in the State, none of which stand higher in financial circles than the Bank of Hartford, which was established in 1882, and has enjoyed a continuous steady increase in patronage and popularity since that time. The degree of confidence reposed in the institution by the public is witnessed by its steady growth.

The capital stock of \$40,000 and surplus fund of over \$20,000 provided ample capital for its large operations. The bank is located in its own brick building on Main street, where it is well equipped in the most up to date manner for the prompt and accurate handling of a modern banking business in all its branches. The success of this sterling bank is due in a large degree to the standing and reputation of its owners and officers, who are among the most substantial and influential business men of Ohio county. The list includes such well known names as J. W. Ford, President, Rowan Holbrook, Vice President, C. O. Hunter, Cashier, J. W. Ford, R. E. Lee Simmerman, Rowan Holbrook, John C. Thomas, Directors.

The bank has reached the most prosperous period of its career under the active management of Messrs. Holbrook and Hunter, Vice President and Cashier.

The most modern methods introduced in the bank have made it a landmark in West Central Kentucky's financial circle.

All persons connected with the bank are pleasant and courteous business gentlemen who fully recognize the degree of partnership existing between the institution and the people who patronize it and strengthen their bonds by the constant exercise of a courteous attention and efficient service that makes firm friends of its patrons and argues well for the continued prosperity and growth of the Bank of Hartford.

WILLIAMS' DRUG STORE
"The Rexall Store." Hartford, Ky.

Since 1891 the establishment conducted by Mr. James H. Williams, on Main street, has been the favorite drug store with the people of Ohio county, and it has enjoyed a steadily increasing patronage during all these years, due to the well known character of every article distributed as well as its reputation for square-dealing methods and polite and efficient service. In its spacious and well arranged sales room is to be found at all times a complete and varied assortment of the best and freshest drugs and chemicals, proprietary remedies, all the best known and favorite toilet preparations and articles, sick room supplies, fancy articles and gift goods. The place is known as "The Rexall Store" and carries a complete line of the famous Rexall remedies and toilet goods. A complete line of stationery, office and school supplies is carried, and preparations have been made to display a fine line of holiday goods, and some of which are even now arriving at the store.

Mr. Williams, the genial proprietor of this successful business, is one of the older and better known business men of the county; was Mayor of Hartford two terms., and one of its most substantial and highly respected citizens; he attended the Louisville College of Pharmacy and is a registered pharmacist, giving his personal attention to his large prescription compounding business in which he makes a specialty. Mr. Williams has a large circle of friends throughout the county who appreciate him for his many admirable qualities and his courteous and pleasing disposition.

CARSON & CO.
(Incorporated)

General Merchandise. Hartford. Ky.

Established 28 years ago the store conducted by the' Carson Company has long been one of the landmarks in the merchandising circle of Ohio county and has built up a reputation for honest goods and square dealing business methods that extends over the entire surrounding county. The store is located in its own handsome quarters at Main and Center streets and is completely stocked with a varied line of the best brands of general merchandise in every line, including men's clothing and furnishings, ladies' ready-to-wear garments of the latest styles and fabrics, all the beautiful personal articles so dear to the feminine heart, and a complete shoe department stocked with such celebrated make as Walk-Over, W. L. Douglas and other of equal fame.

The business was established by Mr. J. H. B. Carson, one of the most prominent merchants of the county. The present firm was organized 10 years ago, when Mr. Ira D. Bean, a younger business man of sterling worth and modern methods, was admitted. Both gentlemen possess in abundance all the attributes of success: are courteous and pleasing in their dealings, and have a circle of warm friends who enthusiastically predict for them an ever widening area of usefulness and prosperity.

R. P. TYRO.

General Merchandise – Coal. Hartford, Ky.

Just outside of Hartford is located the country coal mine conducted by Mr. R. P. Tyro, one of the best known business men of the county. A completely equipped coal mine furnishes the best grade fuel to the wagon trade and supplies a part of the coal for Hartford and vicinity. In addition to the production of coal he handles a stock of the best grade goods, including staple and fancy groceries, country produce, dry goods and shoes. You cannot make a mistake by trading at Tyro's store as he guarantees his goods to be as good or better than the other fellows. He also guarantees his goods to as cheap or cheaper than the other fellows. If you of not trading with him give him a trial. You cannot make a mistake under the above guarantee.

Mr. Tyro, the affable proprietor of this splendid business, is a business man of long practical experience and has a reputation for square-dealing methods that is country wide. He is courteous and accommodating in all his dealings and has a host of friends who predict for him an ever-increasing future success and widening area of usefulness.

J. A. TATE'S RESTAURANT.

Main Street.

Hot Lunches, Fruits, Soft Drinks, Cigars and Tobaccos. Hartford, Ky.

When hungry in Hartford the knowing ones turn naturally to the model Restaurant conducted by Mr. J. A. Tate, on Main street, where they are sure of obtaining at any hour the most appetizing of short order lunches, made from the purest and freshest of ingredients and cooked and served in the most satisfactory manner. The dining room and kitchen are the last words in sanitation and cleanliness and absolutely nothing is allowed to enter into the composition of the many excellent dishes served that is not of the best quality, and the prices charged are very moderate when the quality of the food and service is taken into consideration.

In connection with the restaurant a complete fancy grocery is conducted in which can be obtained all kinds of canned and bottled goods, all the popular soft drinks, fruits, candies; cigars, cigarettes and tobaccos, and preparations are being made to handle a varied line of holiday goods for the coming season, especially of fine fruits and confections.

Mr. Tate, the genial proprietor, is well known in the business circles of the county and is a substantial, useful and progressive citizen. His courteous and pleasing disposition accounts in no small degree for the steadily increasing patronage his place has enjoyed since its inception, and he has a circle of friends that extends over the entire county.

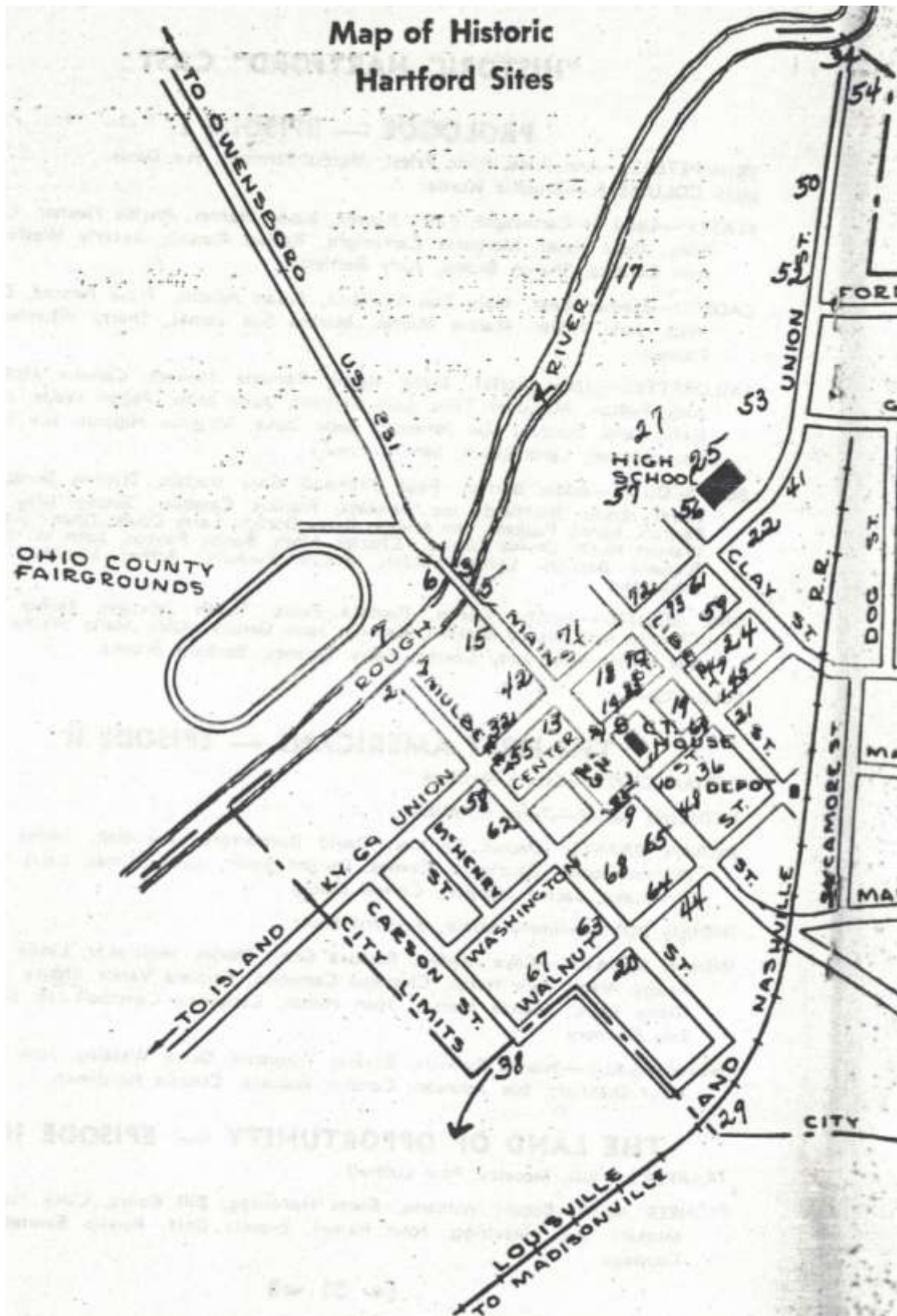
M. T. LIKENS.

Fresh and Cured Meats, Groceries and Produce. Hartford, Ky.

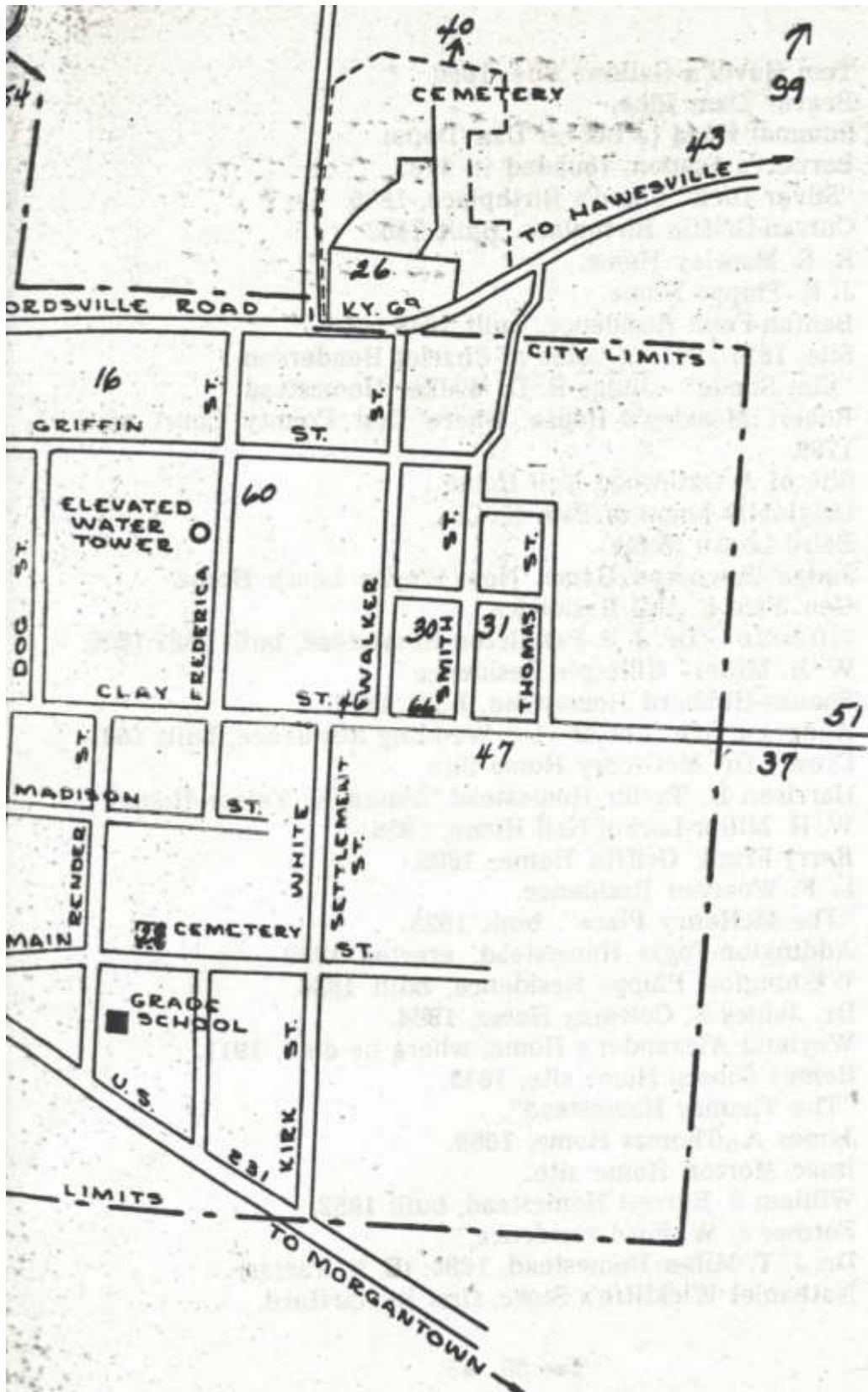
Since its establishment here, one year ago, the general provisions market conducted by Mr. M. T. Likens has become one of the most popular buying centers of the community and its patronage is steadily increasing, due to the superior quality of all goods handled and the fine system maintained. In its clean and sanitary salesroom is to be found at all times the choicest cuts of fresh meat and meat products of all kinds, as well as fish, oysters and game in season; staple and fancy groceries, country produce, cured country meats, fruits and vegetables, feed stuffs, etc. Special preparations are being made to supply the finest turkeys, chickens and fine meats and oysters for the coming holidays, as well as other holiday goods, and every effort will be made to make this a complete shopping center for holiday supplies of all kinds.

Mr. Likens, the proprietor, who devotes his personal attention to the business, is a man who possesses in a high degree all the qualifications of success; he is courteous and pleasing in disposition, square-dealing in his methods, and conducts his place along the most modern lines. He is rapidly making for himself an enviable place in local business circles and reaping a success that is well merited.





western half of map in the booklet, "Historic Hartford Sesquicentennial," 1958, p28



eastern half of map in the booklet, "Historic Hartford Sesquicentennial," 1958, p29

HISTORIC HARTFORD SITES

Key to Map on Pages 28 and 29-Prepared by McDowell A. Fogle

1. Fort Hartford, 1782.
2. "The Ford"
3. Market Street Ferry, 1816.
4. Moseley Ferry, 1819.
5. First Bridge, across Rough River, built 1823.
6. Bridge Toll House, 1823.
7. Wharf.
8. Location all Courthouses, first jail, 1799.
9. Location Second Jail, 1810. Third Jail 1826.
- 10 Location Fourth Jail, 1875.
11. Separate Clerks' Offices, 1800-1864.
12. First Business building leased from county, 1863.
13. Hartford House, built 1818. Rebuilt of brick in 1835-first brick business house.
14. Commercial Hotel, 1815
15. First Electric Plant 1901. First Waterworks, 1904.
16. Herring's Brick Kiln.
17. First Ice Plant, 1905.
18. Union Church, 1840-1871.
19. First Methodist Church, 1847; sold to Christian Church 1909.
20. Methodist Parsonage, 1878-1930.
21. Only Baptist Church Site, 1871-1958.
22. Presbyterian Church Site.
23. Y. M. C. A., 1900-1905.
24. Seminary, 1835-1880.
25. Hartford College, 1880-1917.
26. Foreman Graveyard, now in Oakwood Cemetery.
27. Crow-McCreery-Chapman Graveyard 1826-1869.
28. Morton or South Hartford Cemetery, 1816-1929.
29. Barrett Slave Graveyard, 1855-1870.
30. Old Fairgrounds, 1857-1885.
31. Miles Orton Circus, 1880-1881.
32. Old Masonic Hall.
33. Dr. Bean's Opera House.
34. Old Water Mill and Dam, 1830-1904.
35. Irvin Execution Site, 1826.
36. Tom Hayden Gallows Site, 1898.
37. Beaver Dam Pike.
38. Summer Road to Beaver Dam Depot.
39. Barnett's Station, founded in 1783.
40. "Silver Dick" Bland's Birthplace, 1835.
41. Curran-Griffin Birthplace. Built 1853.
42. R. S. Moseley Home.
43. J. R. Phipps Home.
44. Benton-Felix Residence, built 1849.

45. Site, 1827-1871, of home of Charles Henderson.
46. "Elm Shade" - Judge E. D. Walker Homestead.
47. Robert Moseley's House, where first County Court met, 1799.
48. Site of J. Gatewood Nall Home.
49. Originally home of Sam K. Cox.
50. Baird-Logan Home.
51. Judge Townsend Home. Now Wayne Leach Home.
52. Gen. Sam E. Hill Residence.
53. "Hillside" - Dr. J. E. Pendleton Homestead, built 1857-1866.
54. W. H. Miller Gillespie Residence.
55. Shanks-Hubbard Homestead, built 1832.
56. Anderson - Dr. Foster - Dr. Wedding Residence, built 1881.
57. Crow Dr. McCreery Home Site.
58. Harrison D. Taylor Homestead. (Susan K. Yeiser Home)
59. W. H. Miller-Larkin Nail Home, 1858.
60. Barry-Frank Griffin Home, 1805.
61. L. F. Woerner Residence.
62. "The McHenry Place", built 1823.
63. Addington-Fogle Homestead, erected 1859.
64. Washington Phipps Residence, built 1836.
65. Dr. James S. Coleman Home, 1884.
66. Wayland Alexander's Home, where he died, 1911.
67. Remus Gibson Home site, 1843.
68. "The Thomas Homestead".
69. James A. Thomas Home, 1869.
70. Isaac Morton Home site.
71. William S. Barrett Homestead, built 1852.
72. Former J. W. Ford residence.
73. Dr J. T. Miller Homestead, 1880. (B. B. Tartar)
74. Nathaniel Wickliffe's Store, first in Hartford.

Souvenir Program for Hartford, Sesquicentennial, 1958:





Rough River Ripples

By Dorothy Gentry

A study of the original plat of the present City of Hartford in Plat Book 2, page 20, reveals some unusual and interesting names of yesteryear's streets.

Fox Alley was the name of the present Center Street; Baird Alley was one block east of McCreery Court from Center Street; Buffalo Alley was one block north of Union Street east and west; Cherry Alley was between Washington and Walnut Streets;

Strawberry Alley was between Walnut Street and Mulberry Court; Maiden Alley was between Liberty and Clay Streets; Apple Alley was between Main and Liberty Streets; Peach Allen Between Mulberry and Main Streets,

and Main Street was formerly Market Street.

Alleys within the city are 10 feet wide and streets are 25, with the exception of Main Street.

Some of the original names are currently used and some misused. The Mulberry Court Apartments, located at the end of McCreery Court was apparently named in error during the complex construction and has caused confusion since.

And McCreery Court/Street was incorrectly spelled to begin with. It was named to honor Dr. Charles McCreery, who lived at the end of the street, and the McCreery family is buried there in the small family cemetery.



Ohio County Historical Society Museum, Hartford, KY