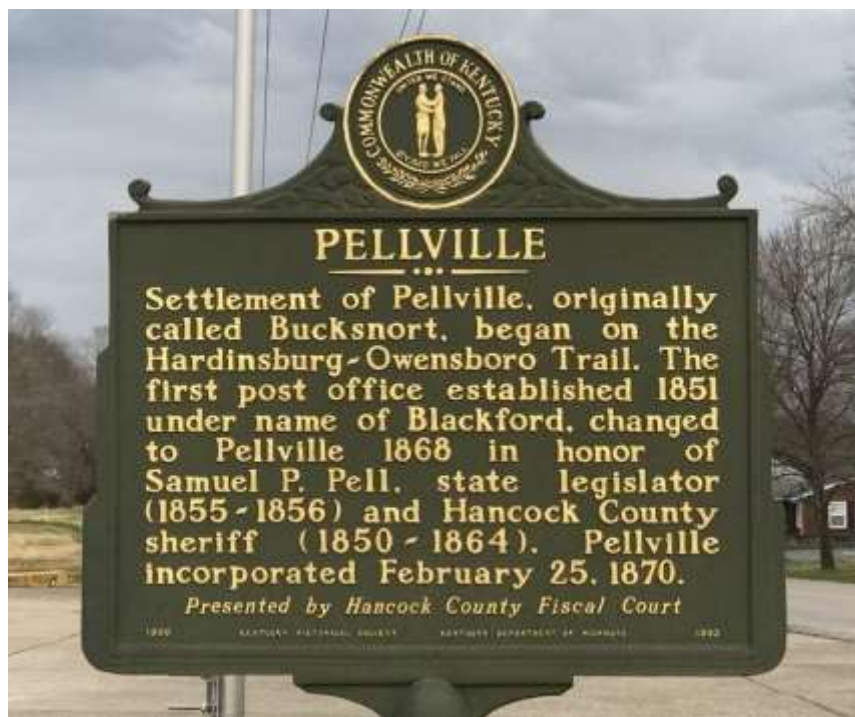


# Pellville

## Hancock County, KY

By Jerry long



Marker is in Pellville, in Hancock County, KY. It is at the intersection of State Road 144 and State Road 2181, on the right when traveling west on State Road 144. Erected 1996 by the Kentucky Historical Society and Kentucky Department of Highways.

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**Kentucky Place Names, Robert M. Rennick (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 1984), 229:**

**Pellville** (Hancock): *pehl/vihl* (Pellville). This hamlet with po is on KY 144, 10 mi ssw of Hawesville. It is said to have been called Bucksnot for years until the po of Blackford—probably located on or near the creek of that name—was moved and renamed Pellville on May 23, 1868. The name Bucksnot traditionally refers to the tale of the pioneer who thought he heard a deer snorting in the brush by the side of the rd, while Pellville was named for Samuel B. Pell (1796–1864), a state legislator and long-term Hancock Co sheriff who often visited the place. 164, 262, 1332.

Sources 164 – The Descendants of William Pell, Sr. of Kent Co., Md.”, by Edna S. Pell, 1968; 262 – “Pellville History – A Blend of Folklore and Fact”, by E. H. Barlow, Hancock Clarion, 75th Anniversary edition, Hawesville, KY, July 1968; and 1332 – Interview of C. D. Mayfield, Hawesville, KY, 24 August 1978.



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, “So It’s Been Told: Footnotes to Hancock County History”, by Jack Foster, 2 August 1990, p.2 and 9 August 1990, p.2:**

Guest columnist this and next week will be Mr. Oswald Jett, one of Hancock County's foremost historians. Born in Hancock County, Mr. Jett attended Pleasant Springs and Hawesville Grade Schools, graduated from Pellville High School in 1933 and graduated from University of Kentucky with history and journalism training. He now resides in Lexington and is retired from the United States Postal Service.

## History of Pellville

By Oswald Jett

It is easy to see why most cities developed in their locations (beside a large stream, lake, or sea) but it's not always simple to understand why some prospered in growth and others didn't. Copious supplies of fuel and water, of course, guaranteed industrial growth and railroads and other transportation facilities had a large part in establishing settlements in the interior. Yet many ambitious hamlets failed to produce a population exceeding a hundred even if the census taker counted the dogs. One such settlement was called Pellville.

In frontier times the pioneers always looked for a dependable spring, easily available timber, and accessibility. Sometimes a village sprouted at the intersection of two trails, as a town first known as Cross Roads, at the crossing of an old buffalo trace with the Yellow Banks, Leitchfield road. It later became Whitesville. The nearby village of Pellville also developed on a buffalo trace, that connected Fort Hardin with Yellow Banks (Owensboro). Neither town was on a navigable stream but Pellville's large spring in the valley to the west helped attract pioneers to the settlement. What was the town's prospect? Pleasantly situated amid three impressive knobs, later to be known as the Pellville, Temple, and Stephens knobs, it was otherwise enclosed by wooded rolling hills and fertile valleys drained by tributaries of the Blackford and Panther creeks.

As in other communities, the first landowners invested in large tracts but did not live on them. The speculations in land that later became a large section of southern Hancock Co. began on May 17, 1789 when Hubbard Taylor was granted 7,522 acres (by Warrant No. 3789) of Jefferson Co., a rectangular area that included what would later be the sites of Pellville, Weberstown, and Floral, and reached beyond St. Lawrence into future Daviess Co. This was only part of Taylor's investments in the region, but he never moved into his western territory. He and wife Clarissa were residents of Clark Co. when they sold 200 acres in newly established Hancock Co. to Rev. Wm. Brown on July 1, 1829. This land was on the eastern boundary of the 7,522-acre tract. Between it and Pellville, David D. Noel, Sr. acquired a large acreage and lived on it.

The section of land that included the future town of Pellville was acquired by James and John William Shrader, who also never became residents. James and Mary Ann lived in Clark

Co., Indiana; John W. and Barbara were residents of Oldham Co., Ky. The first large land holder who lived on his Pellville tract was William Temple (b. 1795 in Nelson Co.), the son of David Temple and Mary Decker. Alter Nelson Co. had been subdivided into several counties that included Bullitt, William migrated from the latter county, purchasing some 560 acres (in three plats) from William and Barbara Shrader, the land lying to the north and west of the future town. (Book 5, p. 219, Aug. 23, 1851, furnished by Mrs. Opal McDaniel of Pellville). Eventually, the Temple family lived on and owned all the land that was later incorporated into the town of Pellville.

Other early landowners included Alexander Wile, Christopher Barbee, James W. Snyder, William Obenchain, his son-in-law, Japeth Skinner, his brother, James G. Obenchain, William Hale, and Alfred Stinnett. Most of them, if not all, lived on their tracts. The Obenchains bought all their land from the Shraders, and owned the farm that straddled the Daviess-Ohio- Hancock County intersection after Hancock Co. was formed. Solomon Lyons also bought 108 acres from the Shraders, and in 1850 lived on his tract between David D. Noel and Pellville. To the south was the 200 acres of Tandy Morrison, who in turn was bordered to the south by Levi Voyles' 200 acres.

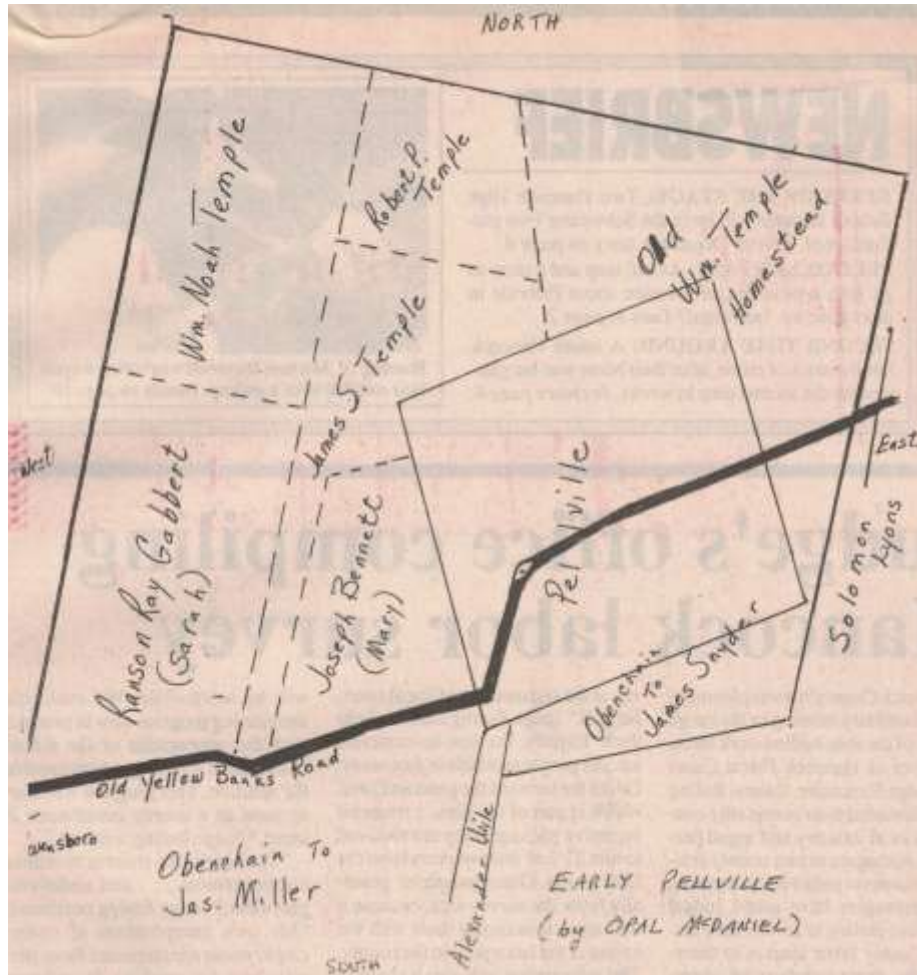
William and Susan Temple sold 6 or 8 acres to Pius Montgomery, the local, saloon keeper whose, business helped to give the budding village a reputation for brawls and lawlessness. Montgomery then sold lots to James E. Stone (the longtime County Clark), Wm. D. Mayhall, and Austin Montgomery. (Opal McDaniel). The first two, at least continued to live in Hawesville.

Before Pellville was laid out, in 1870; the area was occupied by William Temple, his sons James S., Robert P., and Wm. Noah, and sons-in-law Ransom Ray Gabbert and Joseph E. Bennett by 1850 his son Cosby owned 710 acres of the Temple land near Baker (future Floral), and this was before the land transaction with the Shraders. For a long, time the main north-south street in Pellville was known as Baker Street because it led toward Baker.

The settlement of Pellville was called Buck Snort for many years, a good name for a rustic pioneer community. Pellville's noted farmer, oil man, and historian, Embert Barlow, speculated in article for the Clarion in 1968 on how the name originated. A pioneer family traveling the buffalo-Indian trail that led from Hardinsburg through Balltown, Pates Station, and future Weberstown stopped for the night between the knobs. After dark, the man's young son woke him and said he had heard a noise out in the thicket. The father asked, "What did it sound like, son?" and the boy answered, "Sounded like something snorted." So the father walked a few yards from the wagon and saw a big buck leap into the forest. So when the family decided to make the spot their home the next morning they agreed on Buck Snort as the name for their place. The explanation makes sense. This was probably after 1810, when the Indiana menace had largely subsided.

A group of a half-dozen graves near the north base of the Pellville Knob has been a source of speculation for many years, some suggesting they were Indian graves. A few years ago Mrs. Ernestine (Voyles) Barker told me that her grandmother had said the graves were those of a McCracken family, The old lady was Margaret Wells Bruner, the 2nd wife of Joseph Lafayette Bruner (b. Mar. 5, 1845), the Civil War soldier described as "Lafitte" Bruner in a burial record of Hancock Co. soldiers. Lafe had md. 1st Sarah Frances Miller, the great niece of my gr. grandmother Jett. Sarah's father, David C. Miller, Jr. lived for a time near Lafe Bruner and the Pellville Knob.

Lafe Burner had a large spring in his back yard, at the NE base of the Knob, and operated a steam mill there. At least someone had a mill there. Deed Book 31, p. 84, indicates his land was obtained from Lewis and Maggie Petri, who had bought the land from William Hale (b. 1787). This indicates that Hale may have been the first owner of the mill. Lewis Petri (b. 1861) was hardly old enough to have owned land when Pellville was incorporated. At any rate, when the town was laid out in 1870 the street running from the mill to the cemetery was called Mill Street.



Before Pellville was incorporated the community was known as North Panther, according to the late Danny Lynn Bolin. The North Panther P.O. was founded in 1837, but was discontinued in 1839. There are no records on the community's mail service during the next 12 years.

Then the Blackford P.O. was established in future Pellville on May 29, 1851, as my great grandfather, Richard Cole Jett moved from the Beech Woods (Yelvington) to become the first postmaster. At the same time he purchased 687 acres from Thomas G. Noel, son of David D. The tract bordered the Hubbard Taylor tract to its east.

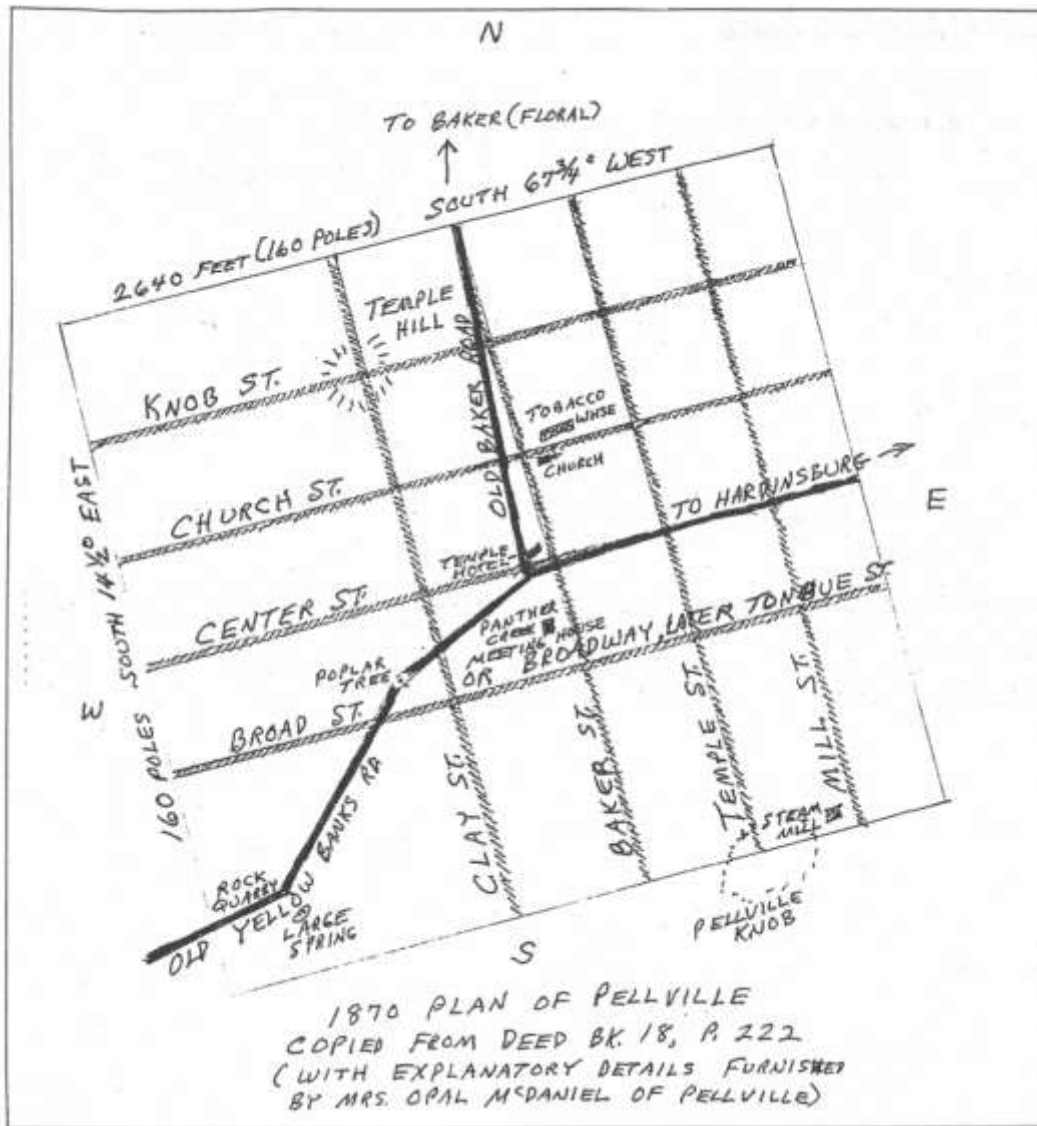
Apparently, the name Blackford was not popular with its inhabitants. Five years later, when the anti-mission Panther Creek Church branch in Pellville (Blackford) sold the northern half of its one acre lot on Baker St. the deed called the village Pellville, This soon-to-be-abandoned church occupied a decrepit tog building lying on the hillside near the future home of

Pearl Stevens. The Baker Road that led near the church was for a time called the Hawesville-Panther Creek Meeting House Road in county road bonds.

No census, tax, or other records suggest that any Pell ever resided in the town, but the people began calling their village Pellville while it was officially Blackford, in honor of Lewisports Samuel B. Pell, the well respected sheriff of Hancock Co. from 1850 to his death in 1864. (Corroborated by records in possession of Mrs. Rose Pell Henderson, of Lewisport.)

The roads were still primitive when Pellville was laid out. Several deeds recording land transfers in early Pellville mention a poplar tree in the center of the Hardinsburg-Yellow Banks Road (at a bend in the valley to the west of the town). The tree was apparently too large, and the road wide enough, to make removing it unnecessary for several years.

Pellville was incorporated on Feb. 25, 1870 by Legislative Act No. 392. The next day, James W. Snider, G.C.P. Baker. Sr., and Minor E. Pate, the county surveyor, were appointed to lay out the boundaries and draw a map of the planned streets and alleys. They were also to open a poll on Saturday, May 4, 1870 to elect five one-year trustees. James W. Snider was named police judge and Richard Jenkins became the town marshal.



The new town contained 160 acres, with the planned streets of Clay, Baker, Temple, and Mill running in a north-south direction. The streets to run east-west were Knob (to pass over the southern slope of the Temple hill), Church (passing between the tobacco warehouse and the Baptist Church), (the Pellville Church that had succeeded the disbanded Panther Creek Church), Center (coinciding with the Hardinsburg-Owensboro Road), Broadway or Broad, and a never-laid-out steam mill. Later, Broad Street was always called Tongue St., given the name by one of its occupants, Vince Newman, in tribute to his garrulous mother and other gossiping neighbors who lined the street.

The Baptist Church of 1870 had actually transferred from the Baker community. Its name there had been Bethany up to 1868, when William Temple and his second wife, Ann Barnett, deeded a lot to "the trustees of the United Baptist Church called Bethany, now situated at Pellville."

Pellville was prosperous by the turn of the century, and one of its farmers, Hardi David Brown, was among the most productive in the county. The Clarion of Sept. 21, 1901 reported that he received a new McCormick corn shredder in 1900 "and now has all types of machinery that can be used on a farm."

Another Clarion item mentioned that Geo. W. Brown (Hardin's father) and his two sons were engaged in building an addition to one of their large barns, "and taking all of their large barns together, they have over an acre now under roof." Hardin felt hard times later, but his large barn on the hill on Pellville's east side (now owned by Bill McBrayer) still stands as straight and solid as the day it was built, and remains one of the largest in the county. Another item reporting on the productive farm acclaimed him the champion watermelon grower of the county after he produced a 70- pounder.

Forecasters have often been fooled in predictions on the growth of a community. The Clarion correspondent for Pellville area wrote in December, 1900 that "it wouldn't surprise us a bit if after 50 years this town should take on a boom. In importance we count ourselves, next to Hawesville, and we are looking forward to the time, say about 1950, when our town shall have grown so great that the courthouse will out of necessity be removed from its present location and placed on the knob immediately south of Pellville."

At the time, the town boasted three general stores and a hotel on the four corners of the main intersection, two blacksmith shops, two grist mills, a sawmill, two carpenters, a livery barn, a tobacco warehouse, a funeral parlor, a millinery shop, a seamstress, a doctor, two ministers, two mail carriers beside the postmaster, several teachers, and an artist.

The site of the hotel had once been the location of a carding mill, an industry that combed with wire teeth the impurities from the fibers of wool, cotton, and flax before they were ready for spinning. Flax was a principal crop for the farmers.

The optimistic correspondent was very wrong, but had he been correct my ancestral Voyles home a mile and a half SE of town might have wound up in the city limits.



**Forgotten Pathways, Genealogical Society of Hancock County,  
Hawesville, KY, Vol. 16, No. 1, 1999-2000, pp12-13:**

Update on Pellville

I hesitate to risk having readers think I'm a conceited person looking for publicity in reporting Hancock County history, but I do in fact believe I am as well informed on that subject as anyone now living, after many years of researching. I began this project more than 30 years ago after I found my Lyons ancestry had been botched by the family historian, who reported without proof that an early member of the family, Paul Lyons, had returned to England and married into the line of Queen Elizabeth. That was pure hogwash. A few visits to the court house would have shown him that Paul settled in Breckinridge Co. and stayed.

Pertinent facts on Pellville that are recorded and not based on hear-say or rumor include: Buck Snort was a longtime nickname for the village, but the name was never the post office. Early settlers were inclined to name a location for a memorable event, similar to the Indian habit of naming a baby after the antics of a bird or animal. So did an early camper hear the snort of a buck one night, as the late historian, Embert Barlow, suggested?

I know of no records to prove it, but I'm sure some settlers had ventured as far west out of Fort Hardin as present Pellville as early as 1800. We do know that Fort Hartford and BARNETTS Station, were established before that time.

We also know that early settlers traveled an old Indian-buffalo trail leading out of Fort Hardin, past Balltown, Pates Station, and future Pellville as they moved past future Knottsville toward the settlement of Yellow Banks (Owensboro).

The very first post office for the Pellville site was called North Panther, established in 1837. (Reported by the late Danny Lynn Bolin in his book "Ohio Valley History." The second post office at the site was called Blackford, established on May 29, 1851 According to a Clarion article in 1968 Richard C Jett left the community called the Beechwoods (future Yelvington) in Daviess Co. to become the first PM at Blackford (later the town of Pellville Hancock Co. post offices preceding Blackford included Pates Station, Lanes Station, Hawesville, and Lewisport.

Apparently the name of Blackford was not popular with the inhabitants, and by 1856 the village was being called Pellville in honor of the respected Hancock Co. sheriff, Samuel B. Pell. But the noted historian, Rose Pell Henderson agrees with me that no Pell ever lived in Pellville.

A deed dated Sept. 11, 1856 recorded the sale of a half-acre lot on the SW corner of the Pellville intersection from the trustee of the Panther Creek church (the branch that had broken off from the original church in Ohio County) to George W & Peter Bruner, Deed Book 9, pages 66 and 67, designating Pellville as the location. The town's name was officially changed to Pellville on May 25, 1868.

Mr. Barlow reported to the Clarion that the little town for a long period had a boisterous and violent reputation due to the fighting of the drinkers at the town tavern. The Pius Montgomery saloon had been established in Pellville on Nov. 28, 1853 by Montgomery, who was an early landholder there. By 1868. he and his tavern were still there.

The Pellville intersection through the years normally was the location for two or three stores, or even four or five various types of shops. The 1870 census shows four dry goods merchants. They also sold groceries. Other businesses were a hotel, a tobacco warehouse, two carpenters, a shoemaker, and a miller.

Pellville was incorporated on Feb. 25, 1870 (Legislative Act No. 392). The next day, James W. Snyder, G. C. P. Baker, Sr., and Minor E Pate, the county surveyor, met to plan the streets and draw a map of the town. It contained 160 acres, all of it once being Temple property, and the planned streets running in a North-South direction included Clay, Baker, Temple, and Mill. Streets running East-west were Knob (to pass over the southern slope of the Temple hill), Church (passing between the tobacco warehouse and the Baptist Church) Center, better known as



the Hardinsburg-Owensboro Road, and Broad or Broadway. A never—laid—out street was planned to run near the north side of the Pellville Knob.

Mill Street was the one running from the SE corner of town (the home of Lafe Bruner, who operated a steam grist mill) to the cemetery. Tongue Street replaced the name of Broad around 1915 when young Vince Newman started the name as a tribute to his mother and two gabby neighbors, the widow Fronie Harrison, and the grass widow, Artie Huff. They all lived on that street and loved to trade gossip.

Mr. Barlow reported to the Clarion that by 1900 Pellville had three stores, a hotel, a livery barn, two blacksmith shops, two grist mills, a funeral home, a church, a school, a post office, and a millinery shop.

By the 1930s I remember three groceries, a grist mill, an undertaker, two doctors, a church, a combined elementary and high school, a post-mistress, and an oil well contractor.

So the small town of Pellville has doggedly held its spot in history for over 150 years. When the tracks of the Louisville, St. Louis, and Texas railway were being planned in the early 1880s, officials considered a route through Knottsville and Pellville instead of Hawesville. That could have changed a lot of history at least for a while.

Oswald Jett, 3411 Greentree Rd., Lexington, Ky 40517

[See also – Hancock County, Kentucky: When It Was Frontier Country, Volume 1, Oswald Jett, McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, 1986, 392 pages; Hancock County, Kentucky: Pioneer Paths Widen, Volume 2, Oswald Jett, McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, 1989, 468 pages; and Hancock County, Kentucky: More Nostalgia on Hancock County, Volume 3, Oswald Jett, McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, 1989, 525 pages.]



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY,  
Sesquicentennial Edition, Part 2, 25 October 1979, p.9:**

**Pellville history – A blend of folklore and fact**

People who helped with this history: Mrs. Mamie Ainsworth, Mrs. Willie Fuchs, Mrs. Jack Stephens, Mrs. e Jackson, Mrs. Waltman Jackson, and Mr. W.P. Newman.

By E.H. Barlow

"Alas, how many hours and years have past. Since, human forms, have round this table sate. Or lamps, or taper on its surface gleamed. Me thinks I hear the sound of time, long passed. Still murmuring o'er us like the lingering voices of those who long within their graves have slept."

When I thought of trying to write a history of Pellville these words of an old English Play (tragedy) came to my mind.

The story of Pellville before the year of 1902 is folklore with me, so if those who read this take that portion with a grain of salt—that will be fine.

About 200 years ago pioneers settled at Hardinsburg, Ky., and it was said there was a Fort or Stockade erected, here for protection against the Indians. About the same time a man by the name of Smothers settled at Owensboro, at the time, called Yellow Banks. Between these settlements there grew to be a trail. Tradition says most of this followed an old Indian trail.



Starting at Hardinsburg, this trail came through what later was Balltown, Patesville, Weberstown, Pellville, Knottsville and Thruston, to Yellow Banks.

Now let's imagine one of our ancestors, loading his family and all of his possessions in a covered wagon and taking off from Hardinsburg down this trail. He makes it by nightfall between the Knobs (Pellville) where they camped.

Some time in the night his little son woke his father, saying "I heard a noise out there."

His father said, "What did it sound like, son."

The boy said, "Sounded like something snorted." The father left the wagon a few yards and a big buck deer took off from the camp. So the next morning, when they decided to make this spot their home, they called the place Buck Snort; and this was the name the settlement was called for many years.

Tradition says this became quite a rough little town. To believe the report that came down through the ages, there was a big trade in whiskey and other goods. Many fist fights—a man walked into town and said he was the best man there. Someone at once took up the challenge. Of course, we know how these stories go. But let us hurry on with OUR story.

Now just when the place quit being Buck Snort and became Pellville is a much discussed subject. The chronicler whom I consulted was of the opinion that one of Joe Pell's (our former County Judge) ancestors had the honor of naming Pellville. Perhaps Joe can tell us a good story on this.

Some time in the early 1890s Pellville was made an incorporated town. City limits were laid off, streets were named, a city judge and marshal were elected. A small stone building back of the hotel used to be pointed out as the jail.

James Obenchain was the last city judge and was ever after known as Judge Obenchain.

The topography of the land here runs the same as most knob sections. Nice rolling farm and pasture land spreads out away from the three knobs. The knobs are known as Pellville, Temple and Stephens. Many Indian relics have been found near Pellville, leading us to believe there were many Indian camps here. On the south knob there are a few graves marked by rough unlettered stones and no one living has any knowledge of who was buried there.

When I first saw Pellville, there were three stores, a hotel and livery barn, two blacksmith shops, two grist-mills, one funeral home, church, school, post office, and a millinery shop. For the benefit of those under 50, this is a place where they made ladies hats.

For many years before the 1920s horses and steam power were very important to Pellville. Tobacco was prized at the factory, hauled on big wagons and placed on boats and sent to market. H.D. Brown, and P.A. Stevens were in the sawmill and threshing business. One of our fondest memories is of their big steam traction engines.

In 1921 the Newman Oil Co., was formed at Hawesville. This company employed Burt Thompson to test out some leases near Pellville. A wildcat well was drilled on the Tommy Brown farm and then on the farm of Tom Jackson, where oil was found. In early 1922 Burt Thompson drilled on the Barlow farm. Oil was found here and also in the same year on the farm of Cole Jett.

The last three farms has oil sand named for them. Oil men and geologists swarmed over the country side. Every house or spare room that could shelter workers was filled.

The big boom lasted for 5 or 6 years, and production of oil is still going on after. 50 years. Millions of dollars was paid out in wages and royalties. Six million dollars worth of oil was sold from the Great Lakes lease 1 mile west of Pellville.

Tobacco Factory

The tobacco factory was probably constructed 90 years ago. Jim Obenchain first built a part of the building, then Samuel McAdams bought him out and finished the plant.

Mr. McAdams bought tobacco, processed it and prized it here—that is, putting it in large wooden containers (hogs heads) and shipped it to Louisville by boat, where it was sold "on the Brakes."

#### Old Houses In Pellville

The home of Joe Bell is the old Tobe Miller place. It is well over 100 years old...but Uncle Tobe wouldn't know it now. It has been transformed into a modern home.

The residence of the Marvin Roberts family was occupied until a few years ago by long-time Pellville residents Mr. and Mrs. Avie Morris. A portion of the house was once the Willis Early home. That part of the house is very old.

The home of Donnie Abell at Weber is one of the older houses in the Pellville vicinity. Mr. and Mrs. Jess Payne lived there for years. It was built more than 100 years ago by George and Catherine Brown, grandparents of Mr. Virgil Brown and Mrs. Blanche Glover.

One of the older homes in the area that has been taken down after standing over 100 years has an interesting story associated with it. Although the house no longer stands at Pellville, supposedly it has been re-created in another locality. It was purchased by a resident of Daviess County, who numbered the logs as it was dismantled so it could be reconstructed in its original state. The house was the old home of Mrs. Sue Long. She was the daughter of Green Early and was an aunt of Mr. Shelby McBrayer.

I shall name here some men who were living here many years ago:

Thomas Jett, father of R.C. Jett and Bryce Jett, former County Judge; Uncle Billie Clark, gunsmith; Tandy Morrison, grandfather of Manford Morrison and Mrs. Gona Banks; Solomon Obenchain and brother, Brock Obenchain; Dave Harrison, Mexican and Civil War veteran; Mort Moseley, father of Dr. Clay and Pratt Moseley and grandfather of Dr. Mort Hite Moseley; B. Spencer, miller; Rev. R.T. Bruner, helped found Pellville Baptist Church; Lafe Bruner, carpenter, many descendants here; Bill Ashworth, long time resident; Mike Stephens, Sheriff, Hancock County, 1889; John Brown, farmer, good citizen; Pat Stephens, merchant, large family; Sam Bruner, merchant; John Burdette, grandfather of Captain Jimmy Inman U.S. Air Force; John Newman, blacksmith, moved to Pellville in 1888; Tommy Jackson, well known farmer; Ollie Jackson, well known family, John Sinclair, blacksmith, expert horse shoer; Noah Temple, hotel and livery barn; Theodore Helm, hotel; James Temple, farmer and trader.

Doctors who served the Pellville community, were Dr. John B. Huff, Dr. Marshall Lancaster, Dr. Clay Moseley, Dr. Pratt Moseley, Drs. Blinco, Hodges, Knox, Ford.

Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Morris are the parents of Dr. Estill Morris, dental surgeon in Indianapolis.

#### Schools History

Pellville has had many excellent teachers in its school history. Time, space and lack of knowledge will not let me name all of them.

In the year of 1924 the Pellville High School was started in the old 2 room school building with Professor J.C. Lawrence as principal. At this time Mr. Reuben Glover was Superintendent of Hancock County Schools. Guy Barlow, Hilary Smothers, Oliver Huff and Fan Aldridge were the Board of Education.

A new building was erected, a gymnasium built and so we had a high school.

This continued until 1943. The late Mr. Charlie Schafer was the last high school principal. The grade school has had Mr. Albert Schafer as principal from 1943 until 1969. Mr.

Wayne Herndon served as principal (or head teacher) from 1969 until 1971. In 1971, Mr. Michael Dennis Keown became head teacher in the old four-room school at Pellville. He is still principal of the new South Hancock County Elementary School, located on Highway 69, about 3 miles to the northeast of Pellville. This modern facility, composed of 8 classrooms and designed to be readily expanded in the future, was constructed in 1977-1978. It was occupied by students from the southern Hancock County area in October, 1978. The Pellville School has produced a great number of educators. The following college teachers are graduates of Pellville School:

Cleophas Buck, University of Michigan, Detroit; Collis Moseley, college, LaPorte, Ind.; R.C. Jett, Bowling Green; Charles Keown, Dean of Students, Bowling Green.

#### Odd Names

Pellville, at one time or another had the following named people: Fox (Fuchs), Wolfe, Crowe.

Mr. Willie Fuchs, carpenter for many years, George Wolfe, killed in World War I, Mr. Davie Crowe, farmer, has many descendants here.

#### Amusements

Baseball: 50 years ago most every community had a baseball team. Music': Mostly string, violin, much piano. Croquet, play parties, (dancing taboo).

#### Roads

The old Hardinsburg Road (now 144) served Pellville. This road is now blacktopped from Owensboro to 60 near Cloverport.

Wagon roads led into Pellville from all points. These are mostly hard surface now. Many of the little-used roads are not in use now.

I stood by the side of one of these old roads not in use one fine day in early September. Just a hint of autumn in the air. A lonesome crow flying by called in his unmelodious voice to his mate. Crickets chirping in the remains of an old rail fence added to the sadness of the moment. All at once as I looked at the old road, I saw it as it was 50 years ago.

Wagon tracks marked the dirt; Mary and Johnnie passed on their way to the little one room school. It was Johnnie's first day at school six years old. Mary held him by the hand. Mother, with a tear in her eye, had told Mary to take good care of him.

All at once my day-dream came to an end—the school bus came up the road nearby.

Pellville people are very proud of their boys and girls. They have become doctors, surgeons, ministers, professors—you name it. Our boys and girls seem to have the talent for it!

Pellville Missionary Baptist Church celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1961. They have built a new parsonage, rebuilt the church building, put in new furniture and have the largest membership in its history.

As Hancock County celebrates its 150th year of existence, Pellville's image continues to change. A modern market, which still offers general lines of merchandise along with groceries and meats, serves the needs of the community. Those needs are expanding, as the trend in growth of population in southern part of the county goes on without interruption. The Pellville area is becoming more attractive to home-builders, due in large part to the new water system; an expansion of the East Daviess County Water Association. Financial transactions are now more convenient, since the establishment of a branch of the Hancock Bank and Trust Company in Pellville. Interest in incorporation of the town has been expressed by some of the citizens.

Among the agricultural-industrial assets of the community is a recently constructed \$1-million pig parlor on the Lyonia-Pellville Road. The rate of home-building on the improved highways that surround the community is unprecedented. Pellville has sustained some rather

severe setbacks in the past, but has survived. The struggle goes on...no longer a struggle for survival but a renewed burst of energetic growth, which rivals any part of Hancock County.

[Most of this article by E. H. Barlow also appeared in the Hancock Clarion's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1968.]



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY,  
Sesquicentennial Edition, Part 2, 25 October 1979, p.8:**

Pellville Post Office began in 1851 when Jett was appointed

The Pellville, Hancock County, Post Office has been in continual existence and serving its patrons since May 29, 1851, when Richard C. Jett received the appointment as its initial postmaster.

In the spring of 1965 the names of Pellville's postmasters and their sequence of service was obtained by Mrs. Stella E. Jackson, the present postmaster, from the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

According to Archives records, running through 1925, the office was first established under the name of Blackford on May 29, 1851 and the name was subsequently changed to Pellville on May 5, 1868. The postmasters, listed with the dates of their appointments are as follows:

Richard C. Jett	May 29, 1851
William Bryant	June 16, 1853
Charles E. Haynes	July 14, 1853
Pius M. Montgomery	Oct. 10, 1853
James W. Snider	May 15, 1858
Benjamin F. Miller	Aug. 14, 1863
James W. Snider	April 2, 1866
Ransom R. Gabbert	July 20, 1869
James H. Obenchain	July 8, 1872
Thomas C. Blanford	Feb. 12, 1874
William A. Huff	Nov. 10, 1879
E.O. Miller	March 16, 1881
William Huff	Sept. 18, 1882
Hardin D. Brown	July 10, 1885
George W. Brown	May 3, 1889
James H. Obenchain	April 17, 1893
David J. Morrison	May 15, 1897
John H. Glover	Aug. 21, 1908
Etta Stevens	May 4, 1912
James H. Obenchain	Nov. 17, 1913
Robert S. Rice	July 1, 1925

Here the Archives record ends with the footnote: (successor appointed after 1929). Mrs. Jackson was further advised that requests for information about post offices after 1929 should be addressed to the Post Office Department.

Following Mr. Rice, Pellville's postmasters were: Mrs. Pearl Stevens, Miss Sue Obenchain until June, 1953; then Mrs. Stella Jackson for 19 years, from June, 1953 until June, 1972.

There was an interim administrator of the office for nearly two years, until the appointment of the present postmaster, Mrs. Charles (Norma) Shultz, in February, 1974.

Postal appointments at Pellville, we assume was an accurate barometer of political fortunes before the adoption of the Civil Service System. It may be noted that a number of these public servants received more than one appointment (presuming that those with the same names are one individual) as the parties in power were changed. Notable James W. Snider served in 1858, and again in 1866; William Huff in 1874, 1879 and in 1882. The longest tenure of service, perhaps, was rendered by the late James H. Obenchain, who was appointed for the first time in 1872, again in 1893, and received his third appointment in 1913.



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Sesquicentennial Edition, Part 2, 25 October 1979, p.8 and Hancock Clarion's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1968:**

**Memories of Pellville and its people**

By L. D. "Sam" Bruner

Since you will be featuring Pellville in an edition of the Clarion, I would like to recall some of my memories of Pellville land its people of years ago. I lived there in 1909 and 1910. My grandfather, Amos Corley, lived on the hill in what was known as the Gabbert Property, now owned by Shelby McBrayer.

As I remember the town, the Floral Road crossed the Owensboro Road. On the southwest corner was the general store run by Mr. John Glover. In this building was also located the Masonic Hall. Opposite, on the southeast corner, was the grocery store owned by Uncle Sam Bruner. The hotel, managed by Mr. Helms, was on the northwest corner. Mr. J. H. Obenchain and his daughter, Miss Sue, operated a produce and feed store on the northeast corner. Mr. Hardin Brown owned a large gristmill. Mr. W.W. "Bee" Spencer also owned a gristmill where I used to fire the engine to power the mill. I also fired an engine that ran the sawmill owned by Mr. Pearl Stevens.

I remember one Saturday, Jim Stevens, Vince Newman and I coupled the traction engine to a county grader and graded up all the roads in town.

Among the older inhabitants I remember were Mr. Mort Mosley, Dave Morrison and his wife, Aunt Julie, Mr. Helms, H.D. Brown, Uncle Jim Morgan, John St. Clair, the blacksmith, and Lafe Brown, a carpenter. I bought all his tools when he retired.

I also remember Elder Harrison, John Burdette, Mr. Jim Barlow, Bob Adams, James Temple, Mr. Pat Stevens, and John Jenkins, who carried the mail to Patesville and Cloverport.

The younger generation whose names I remember and some of my associates were Bion Brinton; Pratt and Miss Hortense Moseley; Bessie, Clara, Clellan "Slick" Floyd; Myrtle, Leslie and Bedford Helm; Eva, Frank, and Virgil Morgan; Lula, Susie, Richard, and Otis Jenkins; Miss Clara Brown; Ida, Katie, Herbert, and Johnnie St. Clair; Rosa, Alma, Fairy, and Bryan Spencer; Edna and Oscar Adams; Fairy and Claude Gabbert; Sue and Eva Obenchain; Stella Bruner; Gladys, Etta, Katie May, and Clarence Burdette; Mary and Lorel Haskins; Mammie and Lafe

Stevens; Robert Temple; Vince and Will Newman; Ruth Temple; Rosa, Beulah, and Harvey Ashworth; Ethel, Guy, Embert, and Orris Barlow; Ruben and Walter Glover.

Others near Pellville were Mary, Barney and Wallace Gardner. Barney and I were photographers. I visited them often at Floral.

Yes, in 1909 and 1910 Pellville was a prosperous town.



**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 23 February 1901:**

**Pellville Traditions.**

Pellville correspondent writes:

On the knob south of town there is a group of rocks, some of which would weigh hundreds of tons. The peculiar situation of these rocks is accounted for by the local geologists, who attribute it to the Glacial Period, during which this section of North America was submerged, and huge icebergs floated here from Canada. In one of the rocks there is a basin, which it is supposed was used by the red men to pound their maize in. And tradition has it that they used to sit on these rocks with ready bow and arrow, and woe betide the deer or turkey that ventured too near. Now of late years, when the moon is high in the Heavens, the youngsters of this place are wont to climb to the summit of the knob and sit on these rocks, where they remain and carrol the melodies that are dear to the young heart.

Tradition has it still that there are buried treasures under these rocks. Years ago an English trader, on his way to New Orleans, was waylaid by Indians and deprived of his treasures, which were hid away under these rocks. A few years ago strange characters were seen near the group of rocks. They were interrupted by parties who were curious to know their business. Pieces of parchment, curiously marked, were found near by after the departure of the strange parties. These incidents have led many persons to believe that some day fabulous riches will be unearthed near these rocks.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 5 May 1998, p.1D:**

**Pellville celebrates 130th anniversary**

Pellville on Kentucky 144 in southwest Hancock County, celebrates its 130th anniversary as a community Saturday.

Festivities begin at 10 a.m. at the South Hancock Fire Department and will include a flea market and presentations of a birthday cake and memorabilia of Pellville.

The U.S. Postal Service has authorized a special pictorial cancellation commemorating the founding of the town. The postmark, which may be applied to any item bearing first-class postage, will be available at the temporary postal station at the fire department from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

In pioneer days, Pellville was a stop along the road running from Hardinsburg to Yellow Banks. The village that started there was first known as Bucksnot, named by a traveler who stopped there to rest overnight and was awakened by the snorting of a buck deer. According to folklore, the man made the campsite his home and called it Bucksnot.

On May 23, 1868, the post office was moved to the present town site and the town was renamed Pellville to honor Samuel Pell, a former state legislator (1855-56) and sheriff in Hancock County (1850-1864).

During its heyday, Pellville was a busy little town with a hotel, livery stable, three grocery stores, a funeral home, post office, school and millinery shop. Tobacco, threshing and sawmill business flourished during the early history of the town, and oil production boomed in the 1920s.

Pellville's church was organized in 1861 and was first situated about two miles north of its present location. In 1868, the church was relocated to the present townsite and became known as Pellville Baptist Church.

The town was home of Pellville High School from 1924-1943. The school was widely known for its girls basketball team in the late 1920s.

After the high school closed, students in elementary grades continued to attend the old school facility until October 1978, when a new school was built near the intersection of Kentucky 144 and Kentucky 69 and renamed South Hancock County Elementary School. The old school building was demolished about 10 years ago, but the gymnasium still stands.

Time has taken its toll on the old houses in the community. Only three of historical significance still stand: the Tobe Miller home, later occupied by the Moseley family and now owned by Diana Bell; the Willis Earl house, later occupied by the Avie Morris family and now owned by Dorothy Roberts; and the Pearl Stevens' house, now owned by Jim and Shirley Inman.

Today, Pellville has a population of 150 and includes the fire station, church, a beauty shop and a used car lot.

Everyone is invited to attend the town's celebration Saturday.

The special postmark will be available by mail request for 30 days. Stamped envelopes and cards should be sent to Pictorial Cancellations, Buck Snort Station, 12205 Kentucky 2181, Pellville, KY 42364-9998.



**Hancock County, KY, 1870 Federal Census,  
merchants in town of Pellville, 6 August 1870, page 238A:**

Bennett, Joe	dry goods merchant	36	KY
Blake, William	works in warehouse	29	KY
Gabbert, Ray	dry goods merchant	34	KY
Temple, Robert	teamster	31	KY
House, Harvey	dry goods merchant	38	KY
Bruner, Peter	retired farmer	64	KY
Snider, James	miller - farmer	58	KY
Obenchain, J.	laborer in tobacco warehouse	21	KY
McEntire, A.	engineer	54	VA
Temple, William	farmer	23	KY
Temple, William	retired farmer	70	KY
Temple, C.D.	keeps hotel	38	KY
Snyder, Gideon	farm laborer	26	KY
Buchanan, C.	carpenter	39	VA
Obenchain, William	dry goods merchant	42	KY
Inman, Almer	domestic servant	26	KY



Thornton, H.	boot - shoe maker	69	KY
Pyle, William	carpenter	58	VA
Jenkins, Richard	town marshall	34	KY
Temple, Taylor	works on farm	20	KY



**Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1876-7,  
R. L. Polk & Co. Publishers, Louisville, KY, 1976, p.449:**

**PELLVILLE.**

A village of 110 inhabitants, settled in 1856, and incorporated in 1869, situated on Blackford creek, in the southwestern part of Hancock county, 12 miles from Hawesville, the county seat and nearest shipping

point, and 138 by river from Louisville. Owensboro, 19 miles distant, is the nearest R. R. station. It contains a steam flouring mill, church and public school. The principal product and article of shipment is tobacco. Daily mail. Wm. Huff, postmaster.

**Business Directory.**

- Bimer, Rev. R. T.
- Blincoe, F. H.,** Physician.
- Ford, Rev. Wm. F.
- Gabbert, R. R., leaf tobacco.
- Huff, J. B., physician.
- Huff, W. A., physician.
- McAdams, S. L., leaf tobacco.
- Obinchain, James M. leaf tobacco.
- Snyder, J. W.,** Flouring Mill.



**Messenger & Examiner, Owensboro, KY  
5 December 1877, p3:**

Letter from Pellville

Pellville, Ky., Dec. 3rd, 1877.

Editor Messenger: Thinking that a few items from the flourishing little village of Pellille may prove interesting to your readers I furnish the following:

Pellville has not more than two hundred inhabitants, but is known far and near for good morals and true hospitality. We have no bar rooms or grog-shops, and not a single citizen addicted to profane language.

We have two stores, the dry goods and general merchandising bouse kept by J. F. Bennett, and a drug store by Dr. Wm. A. Huff; both doing a lively business.

The public school taught here, so far, prove a success, under the management of Prof. G. D. Black, as principal, and Miss Ida Bennett, assistant.



**Kentucky Places and People (R. L. Polk & Co.'s Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory For 1895-96), Utica, KY, McDowell Publications, p.262:**

PELLVILLE. Hancock county, 12 miles south of Hawesville, the county seat, and 7 from Reynolds Station, its nearest shipping point. Population, 150.

**Brown George & Son, General Store and Drugs.**  
Bruner J L, carpenter.  
Harrison W D, carpenter.  
Liebowitz Frank, general store.  
McAdams S L, leaf tobacco.  
Medcalf R H, general store.  
Morrison Mrs D J, millinery.  
Temple Mrs W N, hotel.  
Willhoit & Blvin, blacksmith.

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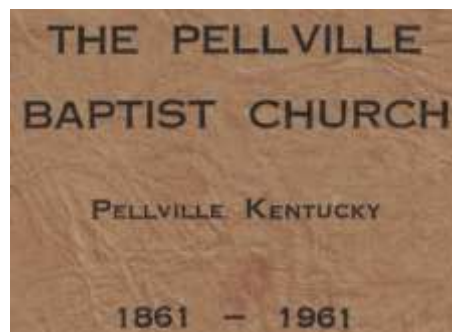
**A History of the Daviess – McLean Baptist Association in Kentucky, 1844-1943,  
Rev. Wendell H. Rone, Owensboro, KY, 1943, pp.217-218:**

Pellville Church was first known by the name of Bethany and was organized about the year 1839. Her first location was near the present site of Floral in Hancock County. This is the only information that we have concerning the Church until the year 1868 when she became a member of the Daviess County Association bearing the first mentioned name.

This leads us to go back to the year 1841 when an anti-mission faction from the old Panther Creek Church organized a Church in the village of Pellville. The causes of this split are given elsewhere. This anti-mission group flourished for a while but was finally disbanded in May, 1864. This faction had been known as the Old Panther Creek Church and had changed the name to Pellville in the year 1860. After the anti-mission group dissolved the Bethany Church moved to Pellville and assumed the name of the old group. This is the present Church now located in that Community.

Prior to her becoming a member of this Association the Church may have held membership with the Goshen Association as it was nearest at the time. The Church was dismissed from this Association to go into the Blackford Association in 1878 and is still in that body. She is at present in a very flourishing condition.

•••••



By Mary Lee Fuchs, 1961



The Pellville Baptist Church, Pellville, Kentucky, 1861-1961, p12:

### PASTORS

We have been told R. T. Bruner pastored Pellville Church 22 years. The oldest record we find was 1869 in which he was pastor.

1869-1885	R. T. Bruner	1913-1915	John Barker
1886-	D. E. Yeiser	1916-	J. J. Willett
1887-	No Record	1917-1919	C. M. Corley
1888-	J. N. Jarnegan	1920-1921	John Barker
1889-	R. T. Bruner	1922-1924	V. A. Polk
1890-	No Record	1925-1930	W. D. Norrington
1891-	L. H. Voyles	1931-1932	F. M. C. Jolly
1892-1893	W. H. Bruner	1933-	W. D. Norrington
1894-1895	No Record	1934-	F. M. C. Jolly
1896-	J. N. Jarnegan	1935-1936	D. A. Meador
1897-	J. D. Hocker	1937-1942	H. W. Schafer
1898-	No Record	1943-1945	Ezra Meador
1899-	J. D. Hocker	1946-	Roy Peyton
1900-	C. M. Corley	1947-1949	Ben C. Taylor
1901-	R. T. Bruner	1950-1951	Orville McQuire
1902-1905	L. H. Voyles	1952-1955	Wm. J. Owens
1906-1909	Norris Lashbrook	1956-1958	O. W. Gardner
1910-1912	G. H. Lawrence	1959-	Robert Grass

Pellville church has had 23 pastors of this number 14 have gone to their reward.



Church In Early 1900



Pellville Baptist Church







A Fine Building In Its Day – The old Pellville Store remained on the site until very recently, when it was razed to provide space for the Pellville Office of Hancock Bank and Trust Company [torn down during 1968-1979]. The store was built by George. W. Brown (1833-1920) and his sons, Tommy (1859-1952) and Hardin (1857-1937). In this picture made in 1896, the gentleman in foreground, hands in pockets, was Pellville blacksmith John Sinclair (1865-1951), father of the late John Sinclair (1897-1965) of Hawesville. Far left, on porch roof, is Hardin Brown (1857-1937) with his daughter, Mrs. Clare Stewart (1879-1979). Far left, on porch, with mail pouch, is George W. Brown (1833-1920), then Pellville postmaster. At right of third post from left, in “Stiff Katy” hat, is Judge James Obenchain (1849-1924), last city judge of Pellville, and father of the late Sue Obenchain (1883-1965). Miss Sue was the Pellville correspondent for the Hancock Clarion for many years. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1968; and Sesquicentennial Edition, Part 2, 25 October 1979, p.9 and 7 May 1998, p.11. Dates of individuals and some corrections to names were added for clarity.]



The former Pellville Post Office, located at the intersection of state Route 2181 and state Route 144 has fallen into disrepair and the county will be looking into what can be done to keep it from becoming a danger. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 7 January 2016, p.2.]



This is a picture of the casket bearers for the Maggie Buck funeral, taken about 1908, according to Emmett Barlow. The girls, left to right, are: Clara (Brown) Stewart, Lula Jenkins, Sue Newman, Ethel (Spencer Trego), Eva (Obenchain) Midkiff and Fairy (Gabbert) Myles. The man standing behind the hearse is P. A. Stevens, undertaker; Bill Nugent, driver. J. H. Obenchain and John Burdette stand behind the girls; H. D. Brown behind Stevens. The picture was taken in front of the Buck home, which stood on the hill in lot next to the Stevens home. The two-story structure was the old Boling Store (Obenchain store then), with the Masonic Lodge occupying the second floor. The street running behind the Boling store was the main street in Pellville and is now Highway 144. Across "Main Street" is the home of John Sinclair. Just over the girls' heads and through the foliage of the old silver poplar tree can be seen the Pellville Hotel. Mr. Stevens, who conducted Miss Buck's funeral, was an undertaker in Pellville for many years. His wife was the first licensed lady undertaker in the state of Kentucky. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1968 and 19 September 1996, p.2.]



The Pellville Tobacco Warehouse served as background in this picture taken about 1905. The ladies seated are Sue Obenchain and Katie Temple (Mrs. Will Petrie); Elmer Little stands at rear. The pond, a large one for those days, was called the Hardie Brown Pond.

Each winter a large ice house, not shown, was filled with ice from this pond. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1968.]



A rare Pellville School District 19 picture from 1905- 1906. One of the slates says Dolly M. Jett and Sara Morrison. . . perhaps teachers. Names written at random on back include Clara Brown, Jessie Bristow, Manford Morrison, Fairy Gabbert, Eva Obenchain, Stella Brunson, Zula Burdette, Lula Jenkins, Maggie Brinton Moseley, Otis Jenkins, Rosa Spencer, Katie Sinclair, Virgil Brown, Clyde Gabbert, Ida Sinclair, Beulah Ashworth, Louis Hardin, Hortense Moseley, Ruth Morrison, Katie Mae Burdette, Silas Taylor, Lloyd Hardin, David Brown, Vera Petri, Porter Petrie, Jessie B. Ashworth, Viola Myles, Walter Gilmore, Ethel Barlow, Orris Barlow, Sadie Burdette, Jimmie Stevens, Clara Belle Morrison, Embert Barlow, Guy Barlow, Blanche Brown, and Mary Lee Stevens. Who wants to put the names to faces? Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Imogene Jackson. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 13 September 1990, p.2.]





The above is a picture of the Normal School which closed at Pellville Friday, May 1910, and which was one of the most successful terms ever taught in the county. Miss Lillie Rice taught the school, and those who attended are loud in their praise of her efforts in the direction of higher education. Many of the attendants upon this school were in the May examination for certificates to teach, and all found their instruction under Miss Rice to be of great benefit to them. Top row, beginning left: Zola Burdette, Willie Curry, Mayme Stephens, Annie Taylor, Clara Brown, Eva Obenchain, Lillie E. Rice, Clyde Gabbert, Blanche M. Brown, Eunice Baize and Reuben Glover. Second row, beginning at left: Effie Voyles, Grace Jones, Emma Clark, Thos. Glass, Fairy C. Gabbert, Mary Gardner, Oliver Flowers, Eva Morgan and Verda Voyles. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Saturday, 28 May 1910.]



Pellville School, 1910—Back row, left to right: Mamie Stephens, Vera Petrie, Eva Obenchain, Blanche Brown, Clyde Gabbert, Ruth Morrison, Myrtle Helm, Ruth Temple, Christina Head, Unknown, Ethel Barlow, teacher. Kirtley Kincaid, teacher. Katie Sinclair Edna Adams, Julia Bruner, May Greer, Ida Sinclair. Second row from back: Waymon Stephens, Virgil Morgan, Embert Barlow, Walter Glover, Jennie Jackson, Katie Mae Burdette, Rosie Spencer, Sue Jenkins. Third row from back: Everett Temple, Emma Sue Sinclair, Arthur Long, Robert Temple, Charles Adam Temple, Virgil McBrayer, Orris Barlow, Lafe Stephens, Pratt Moseley, Lizzie Mae Reed, Lanie Best, Fannie Long, Artie Young, Katie Dee Day, Mabel Long, Porter Petrie. Little boys in front of third row: Cosby Temple, Bedford Helm, Robert Temple, Tommie Temple, Virgil Ashworth, Homer Long. Little girls in back of first row: Alma Spencer, Pattie Stephens, Sadie Burdette, Mabel Stephens, Leona Sinclair, Jessie B. Ashworth, Mary Jackson, Nettle Morris, Malissa Morris. Front row: Young child, Roscoe Long, Charles Day, Gilbert Richardson, Clarence Hawes Burdette, Bertram Mattingly, another Young, Emmerson Barlow, Hubert Mattingly, Hubert Long, Gilbert Reid. In identifying this picture for us, Mr. Barlow Pellville, was unable to recall the name of the little girl in the back row next to one of the teachers, Ethel Barlow. He did say, however, that he remembered her in

fact had sat beside her in class. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 1968.]



Pellville Grade School picture about 1912. This building was torn down to make room for the "new – now also gone. Top from left: Robert "Tode" Temple, Jessie Ashworth, Beatrice Spencer (one description says Alma Spencer?), Anna Taylor, teacher, Ruby Crowe, and Everett Brown. Bottom row, from left: Orpah Brown, Mary Lee Stephens, Pattie Stephens, and Wilma Crowe. Photograph from Orpah Brown Stephens. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 12 April 1990, p.2.]



First Pellville Graduates — Members of the junior class of Pellville High School pictured in 1928-29 were the first graduates a year later in 1930. From left to right, front row: Ozetta Rice Jackson, Maggie Henton Richards, Rachel Sue Brown, Thelma Newman Crowley, Sarah Schafer Gibbs. Second row: Gladys Burdette Inman, Rachel Jolly Rice, Rosa Jane Rearden, Margaret Schafer Anderson, Mary Schafer Storm. Back row: Teacher, Mrs. Mamie Ray Mosley, Max Lawrence (deceased), Hobart McDaniel, Albert Schafer (deceased), Hazel Stewart. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 13 June 1985, p.8.]



Pellville High School in 1930. First row: Austin McBride, John Newman, Roy Gibbs, Oswald Jett, Shelby Payne, Roy Barlow. Second row: Louise (Stuart) Rice, Jessie (Brown) Stephens, Babe (Johnson) Kortz, Louise (Carter) Nugent, Margaret Crowe, Hilda (Huff) Demoss. Third row: Thelma (Newman) Crowley, Thelma (Jett) McCamish, Elizabeth (Payne) Cox, Rosa Jane Rearden, Elma (Buck) Crask, Tollie Newman, Teacher—Mamie (Ray) Moseley. Fourth row: Charles Schaffer, Howard Burdette, Roy Burdette, Gladys (Burdette) Inman, Ivine Lennon, Margaret (Henton) Richards, Mary Helen (Temple) Lambert, Lettie (Schaffer) Atkins, Edith (Burdette) Richards, Principal Mr. Lennon, Hazel Stuart, Hobert McDaniel. Top row: Virginia (Morgan) (Jackson) ?, Ethelyn (Brown) Powers, Ozetta (Rice) Jackson, Lula (Snyder) Demaree, Audry (Newman) Nugent, Beryl (Harrison) Burdette. Principal and teacher was Mr. Lennon and also teacher was Miss Mamie Ray. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 5 November 1981, p.2.]





The 1932 Pellville High School graduates, left to right, Jack Stephens, Harold Burdett, John Temple, and John Newman. Where were the girls? Photo courtesy of Rebecca Vaught. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 9 October 1986, p.2.]

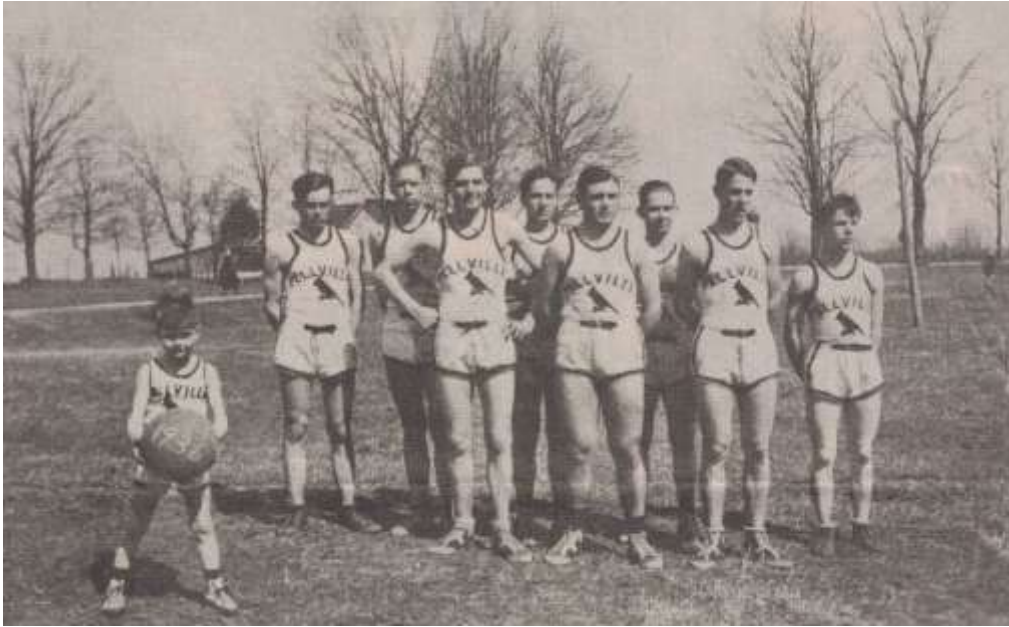


Pellville High School, Seniors of 1933. Front row: Mary Brown, Nola Brown, Elizabeth Payne, Louise Carder, Hilda Huff. Rear: Teacher, Mamie Ray, Oswald Jett, Shelby Payne, Roy Gibbs, and teacher, Buell A. Lawrence. The house in the background is now the residence of John McDaniel. Oswald Jett is writing a two-volume history of Hancock County. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 27 June 1985, p.2.]



Seventh, eighth and high school students attending Pellville in 1934. Left to right, first row: Hazel Brown, A.D. Estes, Reuben Jolly, John Buck and Wend Moseley. Second row: Rella Mae Barlow (Couch), Louise Carter (Nugent), Hilda Huff (DeMoss), Rachel

Taylor (Hines), Luellen Howe (Burdette), Jessie Merle Shadwick, Etta Merle Beatty, Jane Parrott (Peters), Willia De Newman (Jolly), Mary Lee Craig (Boling), and Thelma Huff (Gilmore). Third row Mort Hite Moseley, Maitland Brown, Richard Boling (deceased), Vincent Rice (deceased), John McDaniel, Paul McBrayer, Cecil Ashworth, Burdette Corley (deceased) and Earl Couch. Fourth row: Russell Rice, Joe Newman (deceased), Francis Roby, Carter Hinton, Mary Brown, Nola Brown (Shadwick), Marjorie Crow (Moseley), Ruby Stephens (Hickey), Elizabeth Payne (Cox), Thelma Bradshaw (Brown), Fifth row: Buell Lawrence, teacher, Jesse M. Brown, Sam Baeson, Conrad Carter, Clayton Morris (deceased), Mamie Ray Moseley, teacher, Beulah Wright Payne, teacher (deceased), and Mary Ruth Morris. Back row: Richard Newton, Oswald Jett, Shelby Payne (deceased), and Roy Gibbs. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Vaught. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 4 September 1986, p.2.]



The 1936 Pellville High School "Cardinals" basketball team. From left: Eugene "Skeesix" Ashworth, mascot, Hazel Brown, Lee Beeson, John McDaniel, Earl Couch, Vincent Rice, Cecil Ashworth, Reuben Jolly and Harold Stephens. Photo courtesy Rella Couch. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 22 December 1994, p.2.]



Pellville High School Class of '38. Front row, left to right: Lois Payne, Vivian Lyons, Willia De Newman. Back row: Joe Ward, Principal, Virgil K. Pulliam, Lee Beeson, Cecil Ashworth, Mort Hite Moseley. Picture courtesy of Rebecca Vaught, Hawesville. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 26 June 1986, p.2.]



Pellville High and Elementary School. [From Hancock County, Kentucky: A Pictorial History, Tawana Publishing Company, Hudson, KY, 2004, p.204.]

**Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 26 May 1988:**

**Pellville landmark becomes history**

The former Pellville Elementary School was destroyed in a controlled burn Monday, May 23. The building had been vacant since the new South Hancock School was occupied at mid-term in January, 1979.

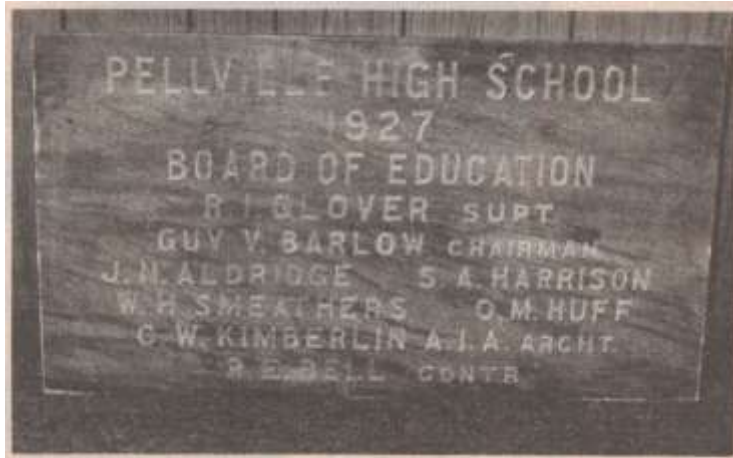
The church renovated the adjacent gymnasium building as a recreation center, but realizing the school was a hazard decided to raze it several weeks ago.

The two south Hancock-area fire departments at Dukes and Pellville had discussed a controlled burning for training purposes for several days, but delayed it because of dry conditions. The decision was made to proceed Monday afternoon, on the heels of the weekend rain. The fire was started at the gymnasium end and firemen sprayed the gym and woodland behind the building to prevent the spread of the flames. Pellville High School was started in 1927, and was discontinued in 1942.



The old gymnasium of the Pellville School filled with the shouts and cheers of hundreds of active students. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 7 May 1998, p.11.]





Cornerstone of the Pellville School erected in 1927, now demolished. It will soon be displayed at the Hancock County Museum thanks to the efforts of L. T. Newton and the Pellville Fire Department. [From Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 15 April 1993, p.2.]



**Pellville was named for Samuel B. Pell (1796-1864)**

Kentucky legislator and Hancock County Sheriff.

The earliest reference to Pellville found was a deed dated 14 February 1857 which refers to the “town of Pellville” (Hancock County, KY Deed Book 9, page 66). The oldest grave found in the Pellville Cemetery is for Joseph B. Temple, son of William & Susan (Crenshaw) Temple, who died at the age of 18 on 10 November 1857.



Grave of Samuel B. Pell , Lewisport Cemetery,  
Lewisport, Hancock County, KY



**Kentucky: A History of the State, J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin, & G. C. Kniffin, 2nd ed., 1885, Hancock County section:**

JO. C. PELL, Hancock County, was born in Bracken County, Ky., June 5, 1822, to S. B. and Elizabeth (Curtis) Pell. The father was born in Virginia about 1796. According to the family legend there were four brothers of the Pell family in England, and many years prior to the Revolution; three of them came to the United States; one settled on Long Island, the second in New York City; and the third on the banks of the Potomac River in Virginia. From this last, William Pell, the grandfather of subject, was descended. He was a soldier in the Revolution, served as one of Washington's bodyguard, and participated in the battles of Cowpens, Brandywine, the surrender of Cornwallis, and elsewhere. In 1796 he came to Kentucky and settled in what is now Bracken County. He settled on a patent from Virginia. He died at Harrison County, Ind., at a good old age. S. B. Pell grew to manhood in Bracken County, and in 1814 was married to Miss Curtis, who was born in the State of New Jersey in 1796, and was of Welsh descent. Her father was a Quaker, and a civil engineer. During the Revolution, although his religion would not permit him to take any active part in the conflict, yet through his profession he was able to render considerable assistance in their construction work. After his marriage, S. B. Pell turned his attention to boating, but in 1839 settled in Lewisport. He afterward served as sheriff of Hancock County for fourteen years, and also represented this county in the legislature in 1855 and 1856. He died in 1864 while still holding the office of sheriff. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His wife died in 1844. Subject was the third of a family of nine children, of whom two are now living: Nancy Schoofield, of Spencer County, Ind.; and Jo. C. (our subject). The latter received his education in Trimble County. At his majority he began life for himself by boating, which he followed some ten years, and then began merchandising at Lewisport with his brother, W. C., since deceased. He is about the oldest merchant in Lewisport, and now carries a stock of about \$18,000, and also has a farm of about 200 acres. Mr. Pell was married June 7, 1848, to Miss A. C., daughter of B. B. and Louisa J. (Daviess) Blincoe. Her father was from Virginia, her mother was a niece of Col. Joe Daviess, from whom Daviess County was named. Mrs. Pell was born in Daviess County, July 18, 1832, and has borne ten children, of whom six are now living: Louisa J., wife of Dr. C. W. Brown; T. B., Ida C., J. C., Jr.; Edwin D. and Clara A. Mr. Pell and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.