

Hancock Clarion

Historical Articles

1900-1968

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky.

The family of my grandmother, Anna Mae Young Long, was from Hancock County and my ancestry there goes back prior to the formation of the county. I am a descendant of the Hancock County families of Bruner, Hale, Mason, Pate, Snyder and Young. These families I am proud to say played eminent roles in the history of the county – among them were ministers, soldiers, county judges, sheriffs and county court clerks, as well as a scoundrel or two. Since 1979 I have been doing research on Hancock County and its families.

Over the years I have researched extensively and worked for the preservation of the county's records and history. On 12 July 1982 I was the first visitor to sign the ledger at the new Hancock County Archives, at the Courthouse at Hawesville. The Archives room had just been opened by archivist, Claribel Phillips. I had visited the old records room several times in the previous three years when it was unattended, locked and you had to request admittance. I had helped sort and organize old records there.

I have visited and compiled listings of many of the cemeteries of the county. I assisted in compiling the book, Hancock County, Kentucky Vital Statistics, 1852-1910 published by the Genealogical Society of Hancock County. I have published numerous articles on cemeteries, vital records, obituaries, bible records and family sketches related to Hancock County in the periodicals Kentucky Ancestors (Kentucky Historical Society), Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records (Society of Kentucky Pioneers), Kentucky Family Records (West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association) and Forgotten Pathways (Genealogical Society of Hancock County). I also provided research for the Hancock County Fiscal Court's application for a Kentucky Historical Highway marker for the town of Patesville.

On 7 December 1983 Don Wimmer, owner and editor of the Hawesville, KY newspaper, Hancock Clarion, let me borrow microfilms of the old issues of the Clarion. Over several months I went through all of the 1900-1979 papers page by page and copied articles related to the history of Hancock County. Mr. Wimmer said issues of the Clarion prior to 1900 no longer

survive. On 29 May 1984 I gave copies of a notebook of all of these articles to Mr. Wimmer, Jack Foster, author of the Clarion history column, “So It’s Been Told”, and Caribell Phillips, archivist for the Hancock County Archives. Subsequently many of these articles were referenced in the Hancock Clarion. See “So It’s Been Told”, Jack Foster, Hancock Clarion (Hawesville, KY: Thursday, 19 July 1984; Thursday, 5 February 1987; and Thursday, 22 August 1991). In 2013 I organized the articles into a book, Hancock Clarion Historical Articles, that was bound and placed on the shelves of the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County, Public Library in Owensboro (library catalog # KR 976.9862).

Jerry Long

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Table of Contents from the book, Hancock Clarion Historical Articles, 1900-1968 (by Jerry Long, Owensboro, KY, Daviess County Public Library Catalog # KR 976.9862):

The articles about the history of Hancock County, KY in this volume are from the 1900-1968 issues of the newspaper, Hancock Clarion. They are presented here in chronological order. The table of contents on the left lists the page number(s) in Hancock Clarion Historical Articles, 1900-1968 and on the right is the title or subject of the article. At the bottom of the back of each article is the page number. At the top of the backside of each copy is the publication date, followed by the title or subject. In a few instances where sections of the text were illegible I have typed on the back that passage.

Page	Issue date	Title of article or subject
1	Saturday 7-7-1900	“Echo of the Civil War” – death of Benjamin Dupee
2	9-15-1900	Death of Joseph Whittaker – account of pre-Civil War foot race in Hawesville
3	10-27-1900	“Some Local History” – history of Hancock County Jail
4	12-29-1900	“Lewisport” – J. Will Roberts tears down old log cabin, description of pioneer days
5	1-26-1901	“Memories of the Long Ago” – letter to editor by J. W. Haughee
6	2-2-1901	“A View of the Older Citizens” – letter to editor by G. D. Beauchamp
7	2-23-1901	“Pellville Traditions” – description of Indian rocks near Pellville
8	4-13-1901	“Skillman” – death of Mrs. Elizabeth H. Jeffrey, owner of Jeffrey’s Cliff

9	6-8-1901	“School Census”, for the year 1901
10	9-7-1901	“Weber” – description of Weber
11	9-21-1901	will of John A. Jeffrey, owner of Jeffrey’s Cliff
12	9-20-1902	“Teachers and Where They Teach” – county schools and their teachers
13	8-8-1903	“Dead At The Age of 71” – Charles Jefferson Sterett, newspaper editor
14-15	3-19-1904	“Fond Memories” – letter to editor by Rev. Eldred E. Pate
16	8-13-1904	“Monument To His Memory” – grave of Confederate soldier Dock Blincoe
17-18	11-6-1915	“Facts: Briefly Told of the Little Colony that Sleepeth on the Hill Top” – Hawesville Cemetery
19-20	11-13-1915	“Stars Fell When Those Lived Here Who No Sleep in the Hill Cemetery” – Hawesville Cemetery
21-22	12-4-1915	“Another Installment of Facts Gleaned From the City of Dead” – Hawesville Cemetery
23-24	12-11-1915	“Suggestion As To Care That Should Be Taken Of Country Graveyards”
25-26	12-18-1915	“Cemetery Reminiscences Extend Far Back Into Ye Days Of Yore”
27-28	12-25-1915	“More Of Dead: Hawesville’s Deceased Population Being Recalled With Honor” – Hawesville Cemetery
	Friday	
29-31	4-24-1931	“Happy Hollow” – letter by John F. DeJarnette (former county teacher & school superintendent), recollections of the Happy Hollow community
32-34	5-1-1931	Letter by Joel E. Bruner, recollections of the Mt. Eden community
35-36	5-8-1931	“Dukes” – letter by John F. DeJarnette, recollections of the Dukes community
37-38	5-22-1931	“Skillman & Midway” – letter by John F. DeJarnette, recollections

		of the Skillman & Midway communities
39-41	5-29-1931	“Mt. Eden” – letter by John F. DeJarnette recollections of the Mt. Eden community
42-43	6-5-1931	“Patesville & Bethlehem” – letter by John F. DeJarnette recollections of Patesville & Bethlehem communities
44-45	11-20-1931	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly and published in the Clarion in 1907” [15 parts to this serial – editions with parts 3 & 7 are missing]
46-47	11-27-1931	“Human Wonder Production Of Hancock Co.”
48-49	11-27-1931	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 2)
50-51	12-11-1931	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 4)
52-53	12-18-1931	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 5)
54-56	12-25-1931	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 6)
57-58	1-8-1932	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 8)
59-60	1-15-1932	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 9)
61-62	1-22-1932	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 10)
63-64	1-29-1932	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 11)
65-68	2-5-1932	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 12)
69-71	2-12-1932	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 13)
72-75	2-19-1932	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 14)

76-77	2-26-1932	“Hancock County’s History: As written by the late E. E. Kelly” (part 15)
78	7-20-1934	“Gleanings From Clarion Files And Other Sources Of Hawesville History Make Interesting Article”
79-80	4-12-1935	“New Feature: Do You Remember When Started in Clarion”
81-82	4-19-1935	“Contributions Made To Column Introduced In The Clarion Last Week: Many Interesting and Unusual Instances of Long Ago Related”
82-85	7-12-1935	“Looking Backward Twenty-five Years Ago: Fatal 7 Spot; Bill Davison The War Terror of Western Kentucky”
86-87	7-19-1935	“Looking Backward Twenty-five Years Ago: Bill Davison The War Terror of Western Kentucky” (part 2); Robb Estate”
88	8-16-1935	“County Board of Education” – county schools and their teachers
89	8-16-1935	“Looking Backward: Machinery That Created Hancock County in Year 1829”
90-91	8-30-1935	“Looking Backward: Circuit Court (murders) and Landmark Gone”
92	9-6-1935	“Looking Backward: Curios That Recall Interesting Historical Facts of This County”
93	9-13-1935	“Looking Backward: Bits of History” – Lincoln’s trial
94-95	9-20-1935	“Looking Backward: John Puckett Who Moved From Hawesville in 1873 Writes Interesting Letter”
96	9-27-1935	“Looking Backward” – Murder of Al Mason
97	10-4-1935	“Looking Backward” – some early citizens of Hawesville
98-99	10-11-1935	“Looking Backward: Stage Coach Happenings”
100	10-18-1935	“Looking Backward” – Indian Lake Club Dam
101-102	2-21-1936	“Hawesville Now and Then”
103-106	3-20-1936	“Historical Lore: Concerning Jeffreys Cliff”

107-109	6-12-1936	“Veteran Riverman Relates Interesting Experiences”
110	9-11-1936	“Civil War Stories”
111-115	2-26-1937	Greatest Flood In History
116-117	6-25-1937	“Looking Backward: Personal Recollections of James B. Ireland” (installments also published in the next seven issues – events related in other chapters did not take place in Hancock County)
118-119	9-10-1937	“Changes In Hawesville In Past Years”
120-121	9-17-1937	“Changes In Hawesville In Past Years” (part 2)
122-123	10-1-1937	“Changes In Hawesville In Past Years” (part 3)
124	5-27-1938	“Looking Backward” – article reprinted from the Hawesville Plaindealer of 16 December 1897
125	6-3-1938	“Looking Backward” – article reprinted from the Hawesville Plaindealer of 16 December 1897 (part 2)
126	8-5-1938	“Interesting Article On Carlton House”
127	5-19-1939	“Historic Church” – Pisgah Baptist Church
128	2-9-1940	“Hancock County Scene of Episode in Youth of Abraham Lincoln”
129-131	2-16-1940	“‘Valentine Days’ In the Life of Lincoln – Sixteenth President” and “Honor Memory of Col. Bill Sterett”
132	5-7-1943	“Letters From Oldtimers” and “Record of the Lewis Family”
133-136	Thursday 7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – Clarion Publishers During Span of 60 Years – Here’s What First Issue of Clarion Contained on March 4, 1893
137	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – History of Adair Community is Interesting – History of the Boundary Line of Hancock Co.
138	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – Publishers continued – First edition continued

139	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – Tom Raley Won Fame For County in Marbles Tourney – Salute to Skillman Gives Highlights of Community
140	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – Do You Remember When?
141-142	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – History of Local Churches is Reported – History of Mt. Eden Church is Given
143	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – How Pincheco Got Its Name Many Years Ago – History is Given for the Waitman Community
144-145	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – Schools Here Have Made Steady Progress: First Meeting of School Board Was Held in 1849 – Heres When the Towns of County Were Established
146	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – First Basketball Team Had Rough Sledding With No Gym; Furnished Own Uniforms and Woman Coach – Patesville is one of Oldest Towns in the County
147-148	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – Coal Mines Played Leading History Role – When Adair Was Called Falcon – Bennettsville Was Once Thriving County Town – Tow Boats Were Poplar in Early Days of County – Faye Wheatley Writes History of Hancock County Giving Interesting Data on Resources, Population
149-150	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – Clarion Lone Survivor After 60 Years: First Paper Was Established Here a Century Ago – Items Gleaned From the Past – Cloverport Was Almost Wiped Out in Great Fire on March 13, 1901
151-152	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – Population of City of Hawesville was once More Than 1200 – Coal Mining, Oil Wells...
153	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – Historical Items From the Files
154	7-2-1953	60 th anniversary edition of the Clarion – The String Finally Ran Out For Jim Wash, Notorious Character of the New Century – Echo of the Civil War Recounted in Early Clarion Issue
155-159	10-8-1953	“A Salute to the Floral Community”, by Barney Glover – Baker,

Mickle, Brown, Puckett, Glover, Voyles, Fuchs, Lambert, Gardner Families

160	4-19-1956	“Lynch Tree in Courthouse Yard Removed”
161-162	4-19-1956	“Incidents in the Life of a Tree”
163	2-14-1957	“Hawesville’s Oldest House Now Being Torn Down”
164	11-20-1958	“Story of Civil War Raid Here Is Disclosed”
165-169	2-12-1959	“Lincoln Won Ferry Case Against Him At Pate Home Near Lewisport”
170	7-7-1960	“Old Lantern in McDonald Family for 150 Years”
171	10-20-1960	“Hawesville of Long Ago” – picture of 110 years ago
172	6-22-1961	Picture of 1909 Class of the old Cullin School
173	7-13-1961	Picture of 1011-12 Class of the Poplar Grove School
174	9-14-1961	Picture of the 1911 Class of the Hilldale School
175-186	11-16-1961	Special Hancock County School Edition
187	4-5-1962	Picture of 1905 Class of the Indian Hill School
188	10-5-1967	“Abandoned Graveyard Discovered on Southwire Property”
189-190	3-28-1968	“Alice Mae Kincaid Recalls Stories of Victoria Mines”
191	9-5-1968	“Cemetery Epitaphs in Hancock County”
192-193	12-26-1968	“A Tragic Happening of the Last Century”

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Other historical articles published in more recent years of the Hancock Clarion can be found in the following Kentucky Room sources at the Daviess County Public Library:

- “So It’s Been Told: Footnotes To Hancock County History”, by Jack Foster, published in the Hancock Clarion, 1980-1996 (KR 976.9862 Fost, Vol. 1, 1980-1992 and Vol. 2, 1992-1996).
- “Climb Your Family Tree”, by Dorothy Watkins, published in the Hancock Clarion, 1968-2003 (KR 976.9862 Wat, Vols. 1-4, 1968-1981)
- Special Historical editions of the Hancock Clarion:

1. 75th Anniversary edition of the Hancock Clarion, published in 9 installments in 1968 (February 29, March 14, March 28, April 11, April 25, May 16, June 13, July 4 & September 26).
2. Special Courthouse Annex edition, 10 August 1978
3. Hancock County Sesqui-Centennial edition, published in 3 installments in 1979 (September 6, October 25 & December 27).
4. Hawesville Sesqui-Centennial edition, 2 October 1986
5. Lewisport Sesqui-Centennial edition. 29 June 1989
6. 100th Anniversary edition of the Hancock Clarion, 4 March 1993
 [Most of these special editions can be found in the vertical files in the Kentucky Room labeled – KRVF: Hancock Co., KY History. And many of them can be purchased from the office of the Hancock Clarion in Hawesville. Also they are viewable on the microfilms of the Hancock Clarion at the Hancock County Public Library in Hawesville.
7. During the 1970's & 1980's the Hancock Clarion in many issues published a historical picture labeled "Down Memory Lane". Those from the years 1970-1972 can be found in a binder in the Kentucky Room's vertical file labeled – KRVF: Hancock Co., KY History.

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So It's Been Told

Footnotes to Hancock County history

By Jack Foster

Mail bag, two longs and a short, dinner bell:

Ever been to Sandy Creek or "Sweet Injun"?

Researching old newspaper files on microfilm is tedious and painstaking work unless working from a specific date or time frame. Jerry Long, 1701 Alexander Ave., Owensboro is one of the most patient and persistent researchers around for genealogical and historical data. Not too long ago he delved into the "Hancock Clarion" microfilm going back to 1892. Along with his own research he copied a few choice bits from the past which he has graciously shared.

One such item was written by John F. DeJarnette and appeared in the May 22, 1931 "Clarion" and had to do with the Skillman and Midway communities. He said that prior to the coming of the railroad in Hancock County (about 1888) there were two communities known as Sandy Creek and Midway and that the Sandy Creek Church was the center of community activities. The railroad named their stop there "Skillman" honoring a pioneer family. He assumed that Midway got its name for being halfway between Hawesville and Cloverport. He added that the community was often referred to as "Sweet Injun" from Indian Creek nearby that flowed into the Ohio River at Price's Landing. The "lower bottoms" around Lewisport and the "upper bottoms" around Skillman were known as the best farming land in Hancock County.

Mr. DeJarnette then listed a few of the well known families around these communities at the time: Ireland, Sterett, Charles Price (who had a store at Price's Landing for many years), Burnett, Snyder, John Kelly, Sr. (father of John Kelly, "Clarion" editor), and Ed Kelly, (Hawesville attorney), West and Richey. (Miss Sarah Richey was a pioneer Hancock County school teacher, and he emphasized pioneer since he said most early teachers in the county were men).

He called Jeffreys Cliffs perhaps the county's "most celebrated" play ground, referring to the youngsters and families who went there for picnics and to enjoy the scenery. He recalled that the Cliffs were a retreat for foxes that hunters would chase out of Blaze Hollow and even from as far away as "down in Davless County."

More about Ripley's "Believe It Or Not"

The January 29, 1987 "Believe It Or Not" story in this column brought quick response from both Jerry Long and Loren T. (L.T.) Newton, Box 1017, Route 2, Hawesville. L.T. is no slouch at researching himself.

Both wanted to add something about the Rev. Mark Voyles who had memorized the Bible. The reverend and L.T. have a common ancestor. Rev. Voyles's grandparents were Levi and Barsheba (Phillips) Voyles and they were also the great-great-great grandparents of L.T. Mr. Newton adds that he has more Voyles family records and will be glad to share it or "trade it" for some he does not have. He enclosed a copy of the same picture referred to in last week's column but further identified it as not only being in the "Clarion" but originally printed in the "Louisville Times." Included too was an item from the June 24, 1932 "Clarion" that said the reverend was a Baptist evangelist headquartering in Little Rock, Arkansas and was born and reared "in the back of the county." (A direct quote from the article). And it added that Rev. Voyles often visited his sister in Hancock County, Mrs. George Keown.

In another clip it was learned that Rev. Voyles was ordained into "the work of the gospel ministry" on April 6, 1889 in Avilla, Kansas. This item came from a publication called the "American Baptist" furnished to Mr. Newton by Oswald Jett of Lexington. Rev. Voyles, according to Jerry Long, memorized the Bible while on "the sick bed". He never read from the Bible in his sermons but often quoted whole chapters. Among the statements in a November 27, 1931 issue of the "Clarion" describing the reverend were: "he could do something no other man could do" and "he held his audiences spellbound." Mr. Long's research showed that Rev. Voyles pastored at least 8 churches in Arkansas and it is believed he had churches in other states as well. He died at the age of 87 on October 21, 1947 in Little Rock and is buried there. Among the survivors listed at that time were two daughters in Owensboro: Mrs. Pet Newton and Mrs. Arlie Huff.

No one has come forward yet to tell more about Col. L.S. Powres who submitted the Rev. Voyles' name in the contest. And the contest itself generated a few "believe it or not's" too. Listen to this: the contest brought forth 1,500,000 entries, the postage on the letters was estimated to have cost \$30,000, and there were enough letters to fill a box car!

And, oh, one more "believe it or not", it took over 3,000 boxes to carry these letters into the Ripley headquarters.

Have you memories, documents, or pictures of days gone by that you will share? Write the Hancock County Historical Society, County Administration Building, Hawesville, Ky. 42348.