

Ohio County Poor Farm

By Jerry Long
c.2023



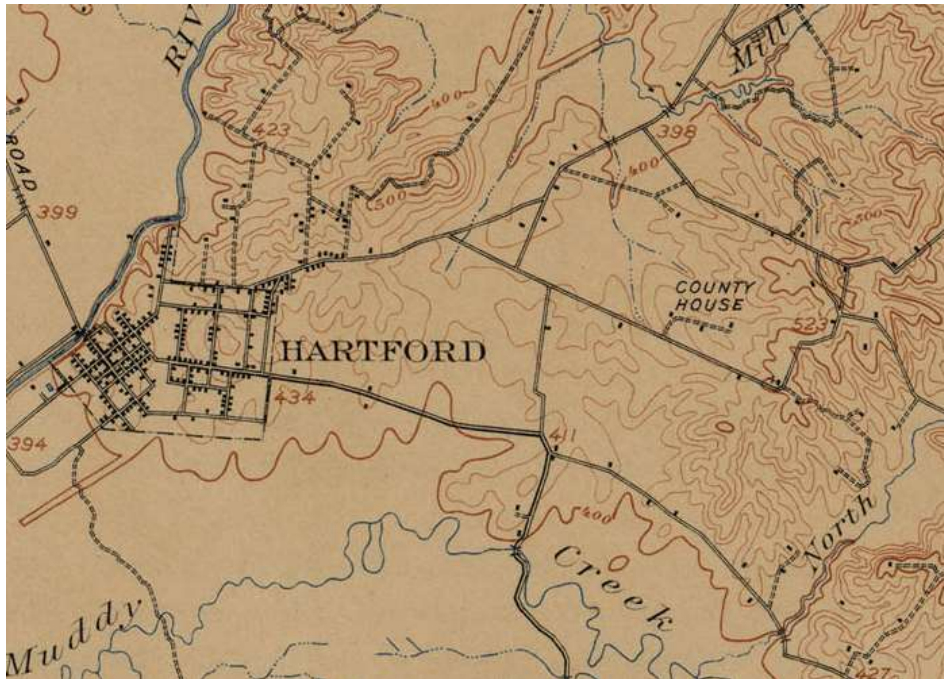
On 30 January 1871 commissioners appointed by the Ohio County fiscal court purchased 158 acres from John & Sally Ann Pirtle. The deed in Ohio County Deed Book V (pp.472-473) stipulated that the farm was for the site of a Poor House for the use and benefit of the county paupers. On 3 January 1871 three commissioners had been empowered to select and purchase a suitable farm for the Poor House of the county (Ohio County Order Book 11, p.402).

Abstract of Ohio County, KY Deed Book V, pages 472-473 – On 30 January 1871 “John Pirtle, and his wife, Sally Ann Pirtle, parties of the first part, and Rev. James S. Coleman, Dr. William J. Berry and R. Seth Mosley commissioners appointed by the Ohio County Court at its January 1871 term to purchase a suitable farm for the site of a Poor House for the use and benefit of the county paupers of the second part, and all said parties of the county of Ohio and state of Kentucky.” For the sum of eighteen and seventy-five dollars the parties of the first party sell to the commissioners aforesaid a tract in Ohio County, on the waters of Muddy Creek, containing 158 acres.

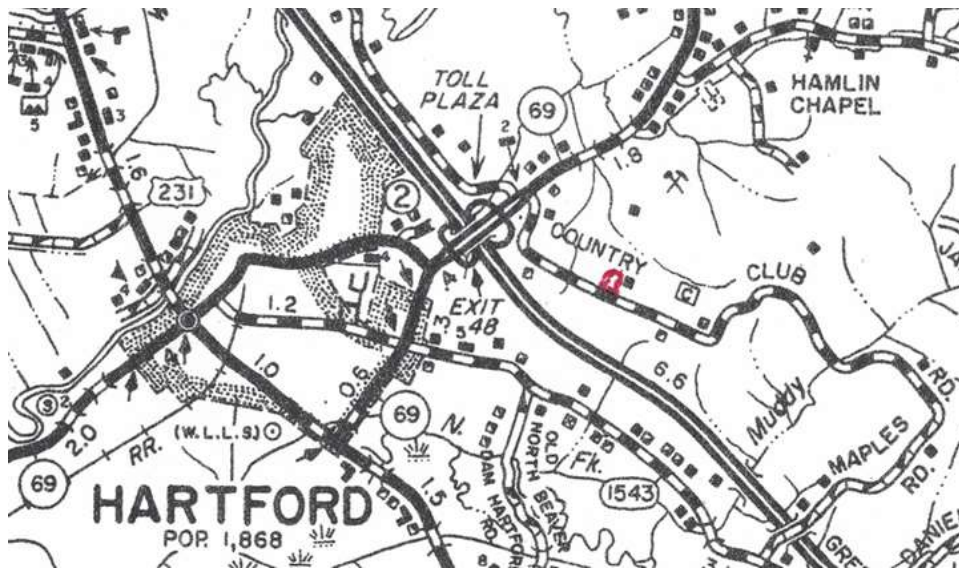
The Ohio County Poor Farm established on this farm was located about two miles east of Hartford on the north side of what is now the Country Club Road about one mile from its intersection with Highway 69. The farm was located on what was formerly referred to as the County House Road. In the Ohio County newspapers the Ohio County Poor Farm was also referred to as the poor house, poorhouse, alms house, almshouse, county house, county farm and county infirmary. The county poor farm was shown on the following 1886 and 1907 maps of Ohio County:



Ohio County Poor Farm is labeled “Poor House” (bottom right) on this 1886 Map of Ohio County, KY (published by John J. McHenry, of Hartford, KY.)



Poor Farm is labeled “County House” on this 1907 map of Ohio County

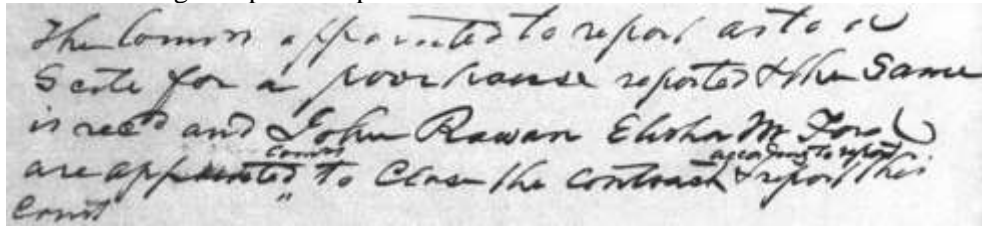


The Ohio County Poor Farm was located on the north side of what is now called the Country Club Road; east of Highway 69, about two miles east of Hartford. Location is marked in red on above map.

Prior to the erection of the poor farm on the 1871 land purchase there had been an Ohio County Poor Farm at an older location(s). Entries recorded in the Ohio County order books show that there had been a “poor farm” in the county as early as 1845. Shortly before this paupers were placed under the charge of individuals, who were directed to report their accounts to the court. In county order books the following entries were discovered:

Order Book 6 (1842-1849)

- page 186 – at a court of 24 November 1845 it was recorded: “The com’rs appointed to report as to __ [two words undeciphered, see following image] for a poor house reported & the same is rec’d and John Rowan, Elisha M. Ford are appointed com’rs to close the contract according to report & report this court”



- page 186 – recorded same date as preceding: “Ordered that all the paupers of this county be transferred to Richard Lucas as soon as the contract for that purpose is made him Richard Lucas
- page 238 – at court of 23 November 1846 it was recorded: “Ordered that the sheriff of this county pay over to Richard Lucas out of the deposition in his hands the sum of three hundred fifty dollars __ for keeping and maintaining the paupers of the county for the last year and it is further ordered that he be allowed at the rate of \$.30 per head for keeping & maintaining them for another year to be paid out of the present __ after deducting \$35”
- page 272 – at a court of 26 July 1847 it was recorded: “Ordered that Richard Lucas keeper and superintendent of the poor house to into his possession the orphan child now in the care of Polly Hoover”
- page 342 – at a court of 6 November 1848 it was recorded: “Ordered that Richard Lucas be appointed keeper of the poor house for the ensuing year on the same terms of last year”
- page 354 – at a court of 1 January 1849 it was recorded that: “Ordered that Richard Lucas keeper of the Poor House to charge of Robert Holston an infant until further order of court”

Order Book 7 (1849-1855)

- page 60 – On 5 November 1849 Richard Lucas was appointed keeper of the poor house.
- page 128 – On 4 November 1850 Richard Lucas was reappointed “keeper of the poor house”.
- pages 206-207 – at a court of 7 October 1851 the following order was entered: “ordered that John B. Stevens and Joseph B. Bennett proceed to take charge of the poor house after the present incumbants time shall expire and rent the same requiring of the person who may rent the same to make such repair as may be necessary. Ordered that Jno. B. Stevens and J. B. Bennett com’rs of the poor house do proceed to collect from Rich’d Lucas the sum of two dollars & 30 cts. it being the rent due from him to the county on settlement.

On 22 November 1847 Richard Lucas sold to the justices of the Ohio County court 28 acres “being the same tract on which the poor house of said county now stands” (Ohio County Deed Book K, pp.343-344). Lucas received \$350 for the land. The deed provided no description of the location of the tract. Richard Lucas at the time of the 1850 census was residing in the No Creek area of Ohio County. He is also recorded in the 1840 census of Ohio County. He married Miss Milberry Stogner in Ohio County on 12 December 1848. Richard Lucas died in 1852.

The following entry was recorded for Richard Lucas in the Ohio County, KY 1850 Federal census:

Ohio County District 2, 10 August 1850, pages 56A & 56B, household #73:

Lucas, Richard	45	m	cooper	PA
“ Lucy A.	13	f		KY

“ Milberry 21 f NC
 Coleman, Martha A. 3 f pauper KY
 Damon a man of color 85 m pauper – black unknown
 [to the right of the entries on page 56B is recorded “Poor House”]

SCHEDULE I. Free Inhabitants in *District 502* **in the County of** *Ohio* **State**
of *Kentucky* **enumerated by me, on the** *12th* **day of** *August* **1850.** *H. Taylor* **Ass't Marshal.**

Dwellings—houses included in the order of valuation.	Families included in the order of valuation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Description.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Marrried within the year. Attended School within the year. In the service of the Government who were not and a wife.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
			Age.	Sex.	White, Black, or Indian.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 11 12	13	
		<i>Milberry Lewis</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>vt. Louisiana</i>			
		<i>Martha A. Coleman</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Ky</i>			<i>Pauper</i>
		<i>Damon Aman of color</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>13</i>			<i>unknown</i>			<i>Pauper</i>

The Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Chapter 546, Frankfort, KY, 1873, p.96) records the following act authorizing the poor-house commissioners of Ohio County to sell “the old poor-house property”, act was approved on 25 March 1873:

AN ACT to authorize the poor-house commissioners of Ohio county to sell the old poor-house property of said county.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

§ 1. That Wm. J. Berry and William Hardwick, the poor-house commissioners of Ohio county, be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered, as commissioners, to sell the old poor-house farm of Ohio county; they may sell on a credit or for cash, as they may deem best for the interests of Ohio county; and it shall be the duty of said commissioners to convey said property to the purchaser, and in such conveyance they shall retain a lien on said property to secure any part of the purchase money that may remain unpaid.

§ 2. It shall be the duty of said commissioners to take any and all obligations for the payment of said purchase money, payable to the Ohio county court, and suit may be brought on all such obligations in the name of the Ohio county court.

§ 3. Said commissioners shall report their action to the Ohio county court of claims at its next term, and shall comply with the orders of said court heretofore made in regard to the sale of said property.

§ 4. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved March 25, 1873.

Alexander Campbell Ellis (1842-1905) purchased the farm that had been the county’s poor farm in 1873.

Order Book 12 (1871-1874):

- page 439 – At a court on 7 October 1873 the following order was entered: Messrs. Hardwick & Berry Poor House commissioners who were directed by an Act of the Legislature of Kentucky to sell the old poor house property of this county this day reported to court which report is ordered to be filed and the sale is hereby confirmed. Alex'r C. Ellis being the purchaser. It is ordered that this court give him immediate possession of said property.

The following item appeared in the 23 November 1881 issue of the newspaper, Hartford Herald (Hartford, KY, p.3): “John T. Smith has purchased the farm of A. C. Ellis, known as the old Poor House farm, and moved thereto.” In the 1880 census of Ohio County Alex C. Ellis was listed as being a resident of the Hartford Precinct near the No Creek & Beda community.

The county court employed keepers (managers) of the poor farm; they were elected by the Ohio County Fiscal Court for two year terms. Some of the keepers were: James Johnston (1874-1878), George H. Hoover (1878-1879), James Johnston (1880), James Kelly Tanner (1881-1883), Richard Stewart (1884-1889), Mrs. Richard (Delilah) Stewart (1889-1892), Mrs. James K. (Mizella) Tanner (1893-1895), Charles Roland Campbell (1895-1899), James Thomas Wallace (1900-1906), Thomas Francis Black (1906), Clayton Robert Stevens (1906-1906), Thomas Francis Black (1910-1912), Hannibal Thomas Crowder (1912-1914), Thomas Francis Black (1914-1915), Charles Smith (1915-1921), Mrs. Charles Smith (1921-1922), William Pendleton Midkiff (1925-1930), Cicero Peyton Midkiff (1939-1943) and Lennie Tichenor 1950-1953).

The Ohio County Poor Farm was closed during 1950-1958. The Ohio County Fiscal Court on 4 February 1958 sold the poor farm property to Edward P. Williams (1911-1977) for \$13,012 (Ohio County Deed Book 136, pp.145-146). The deed stated that 75.4 acres was “a part of the same property which was conveyed to Ohio County, Kentucky, by John Pirtle and Sallie Ann Pirtle his wife on January 30, 1871, by deed of record in the Ohio County Court Clerk’s office in Deed Book ‘V’ page 472.” The 1958 deed made no reference to the existence of a cemetery on the property.

On 10 April 1964 Edward P. Williams and his wife, Agnes, sold the former poor farm property to Ray Calvin Johnson (1930-1988) & wife, Kay (75.4 acres, Ohio County, KY Book 161, pp.103-105). On 3 June 1970 Johnson & wife, Kay, sold the same to the Ohio County Country Club for \$72,500 (Ohio County Deed Book 189, pp.61-64, the 72.3 acres was described as being on the “County House Road” and bordering on the property lines of the Peabody Coal Company and Tyro heirs). The Ohio County Country Club had been incorporated the previous year.

The Ohio County Country Club sold the 72.3 acres, the former Ohio County poor farm, to Ronald J. Peech (1948-2020) in 2007. In September 2012 the Ohio County Fiscal Court repurchased the property, 72 acres, from Ron & Sue Peech, for \$350,000. The county intended to expand its adjoining Ohio County Park.

Ohio County historian, the late Harry D. Tinsley (1923-2020), in an interview by this writer on 15 October 1984 said: “The Ohio County Alms House and cemetery is located where the Ohio County Country Club golf course (golf cart shop) is now. In the 1960’s the cemetery was built over. None of the graves were removed. At that time two or three homemade markers remained in the cemetery. Possibly several hundred burials were made there. The farm had about thirty rooms and those who were able were required to work.” It is ironic that the former poor farm in the adjoining Daviess County also lies under a golf course, the Windridge County Club.

No record of burials in the Ohio County poor farm cemetery were kept. One can only guess at the total. It is possibly in the hundreds. An item in the Hartford, KY newspaper in 1884 stated

“	Clementine	dau.	f	12	s	pauper	KY-KY-KY
“	Zena	dau.	f	8	s	pauper	KY-KY-KY
“	Malissa	dau.	f	5	s	pauper	KY-KY-KY
“	W. Henry	son	m	2	s	pauper	KY-KY-KY

[3rd column = sex; 5th column = marital status; 7th column = person born, father born, mother born]



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 13 October 1880, p.3:

The new Superintendent of the Poor-house, James K. Tanner, Esq., contracted to feed the inmates at \$1.50 per week. Dr. James S. Morton was retained as Physician for the poor by a unanimous vote.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 7 February 1883, p.3:

Mr. J. K. Tanner, keeper of the poor house, informs us that he now has eighteen boarders, an increase of five three month ago. About one half of them are in bad health. The poor house commissioners in their recent report state that the establishment is well kept in every particular.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 9 April 1884, p.5:

Beda Notes

Editor Herald: I chanced to pay the pauper house a visit recently. I found the keeper in line of duty and was fully impressed that he is possessed of a kind big heart and every inch in the right place, also his wife, Mrs. Stewart, is his equal if not his superior in point of kindness, We can still farther add, that Mrs. Moseley is first class in every particular and that Mr. Moseley never knew anything but to be good and kind. The County Court is to be congratulated on their choice in the keeper of our poor, and the inmates are highly favored in the selection. The great mystery is that old Nick has not caught and wagged off with alive, some one for the past mismanagement of affairs. If old Tecumseh was to happen back to earth and was to make his advent on that dilapidated, bushy, briery, ditchey farm, he would immediately go to work on a bow and arrow previous to looking for bear and deer. If the moon was as timid and shy as it looks to be, It would never pass by that way, doubtless it blushes with burning, pungent shame every time she reflects her mellow rays upon this old farm and those stalks where the county has pretended to measure out her boasted charity. The first stall we entered there were three beds, three women and three children were assigned to this place, one of the women is blind and another expects to become a mother soon. The next room I can't remember, the third contained three old men; one says he has made twenty-two trips to New Orleans on flat boats, is 76 years old; the other two are quite old and feeble; the fourth was occupied by two white women, one or two children and an old colored woman, that is near one hundred years old; her feet were frozen this whiter. She can't walk, but notwithstanding her age and misfortunes, she was making the air melodious with her sacred songs,

There are four children that need homes, the first one we mention is a beautiful little girl – Duseniah Sherman, aged four or five, her father was murdered and her mother has since died. She has had the measles and pneumonia and was near death. Mr. Stewart took her in the family room where she has had the kindest attention from the family. Dr. Morton has also given her more than usual. This extra care has doubtless saved the child's life. Judge Morgan has taken her little brother to live with him. There are two oilier little girls Mynola and Dee Stevens, they are both bright girls, the youngest is four or five, the other is eleven, and there is a boy four or five; they are all bright, hopeful children. Can't some kind persons give them pleasant, happy homes and the gentle love their tender little hearts yearn for. From these quarters we proceed to the grave yard, there to behold about twenty-five graves, in a lonely neglected place, all hedged in with briars, sumac bushes and sedge grass; several graves had sunk to the depth of a foot; not even a rough slab to mark their last resting place. It occurred to me, that heathens or savages had had the management of these unfortunate people. I cast my eyes over the farm and readily come to the conclusion that the managers ought not to sell part of the farm as they now propose to do. It no doubt would be better to keep the entire farm, put it under good fence, divide into several fields, put in some clover, some meadow, some wheat and corn, so the keeper could have ten or twelve milch cows, raise their beef, mutton and pork, set out a good orchard and raise all the fruits and vegetables to run the house, build a good, comfortable home and plenty of room, for as the population increases, so will its inmates, and I insist that the home and farm be managed in a way that will be a credit and not a shame and disgrace to the county.

SPIKE NAIL.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 24 October 1889, p.4:

Richard Stewart, a prominent citizen of Ohio County, and for many years proprietor of the poor farm, died very suddenly yesterday morning from an unknown cause. He was 47 years old.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 30 October 1889, p.3:

A Good Man Gone

Richard Stewart, who has had charge of the county alms-house since January, 1884, died very suddenly last Wednesday morning at 4 o'clock at the residence of Dr. L. T. Cox, of Beda, where he had gone the evening before to be treated for heart trouble. Mr. Stewart has been in declining health for several months. He retired Tuesday night, feeling as well as usual. He had occasion to get up a few minutes before 4 o'clock to take some medicine. He walked across the floor, took his medicine, and returned to his bed and lay down. Dr. Cox, on the account of Mr. Stewart's feeble condition, slept in the same room with him. When Mr. Stewart got up, the noise awoke the doctor, and after Mr. Stewart had gone back to bed, everything was so quiet the Doctor concluded to look after him, and to his utter astonishment, found him cold in death. Mr. Stewart was in his 48th year. It can be truly said, that a faithful official, Christian gentleman, loving

husband and a dutiful parent, has passed away. Teo HERALD extends condolence to the bereaved family.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 15 January 1890, p3:

County Court Notes – Mrs. Delilah Stewart was elected as alms house keeper to fill the unexpired term of Richard Stewart, deceased for the next two years.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 8 September 1897, p.3:

The Ohio county fiscal court, pursuant to notice met in special session here last Monday, the following justices of the peace being present: Esqs. B. F. Graves, C. L. Woodward, J. A. Bowling, Jont. B. Wilson, together with Judge John P. Morton and County Attorney E. P. Neal. At this session, which adjourned Tuesday, it was to build a new alms house on the county farm and Dr. E. W. Ford, Esq. C. L. Woodward and Mr. W. H. Mauzy were appointed as a building committee. The poor-house commissioners were empowered to sell a portion of the county farm and apply the proceeds to the building of the poorhouse.



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 10 September 1897, p.2:

For Sale

About one hundred acres of land, known as the poor-house farm, to be sold at once by order of Court. Part of it is timbered. This is part of the poor-house farm. Commissioners - J. P. Morton, E. P. Neal, E. W. Ford [same ad was published for several weeks]



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 29 September 1897, p.3:

We will receive sealed bids for the erection of Almshouse on the county farm until 12 m., October 11, 1897. For plans and specifications call on the building committee. W. H. Mauzy, C. L. Woodward, E. W. Ford, com.



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 10 December 1897, p.1:

Farm for Sale

A part of the Poor-house farm will be offered for sale the 1st Monday in December at the court house, to highest bidder. The committee reserves the right to reject all bids. COMMITTEE. [same ad ran for several weeks]



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 31 December 1897, p.2:

Court of Claims – A list of claims allowed by the Ohio Fiscal Court at its October term 1897: ... C. R. Campbell, keeper poor-house, \$148.93



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 18 October 1899, p.3:

A Good Appointment.

Among a number of good men who were competing for the position of superintendent of the county poor farm, Mr. Thomas Wallace, of Fordsville, was chosen by the fiscal court last week for that position. He will take charge of the place January 1st and hold it for two years. He succeeds Mr. Charles Campbell, who has made a good record since he has had charge of the place. No higher compliment could be paid to Mr. Wallace than the fact of his selection from among so many good men who were applicants for the place. The HERALD will add, however, that for many years Mr. Wallace has been a tower of strength to the silver forces in his locality. He has always been an ardent silver man and has done as much hard work for the cause in this county as any man. He has been a successful farmer and is a man of splendid character and in every way suited to the important duties he is about to undertake. He will make a faithful and honorable official.



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 5 January 1900, p.3:

Mr. Charlie Campbell vacated the alms house Monday and Mr. T. J. Wallace assumed the duties formerly intrusted to Mr. Campbell.



**Ohio County, KY 1900 Federal Census
Hartford District, June 1900, pp.2A & 2B:**

Wallace, James T.	51		Nov 1848	m 29 yrs.	Poor House keeper	KY-KY-KY
“ America	46	wife	Apr 1854	m 12 children	10 living	KY-KY-KY
“ John W.	20	son	Sep 1879	s		KY-KY-KY
“ Finis	16	son	Dec 1883	s		KY-KY-KY
“ Alfred	14	son	Mar 1886	s		KY-KY-KY
“ Oatis W.	11	son	Nov 1888	s		KY-KY-KY

“	Arnold	9	son	Apr 1891	s		KY-KY-KY
“	Leonard C.	6	son	Jul 1893	s		KY-KY-KY
“	Andrew T.	3	son	Jul 1896	s		KY-KY-KY
Cotton,	Cynthia	27		May 1873	w	inmate	KY-KY-KY
“	Eddie	2	son	Feb 1898	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
“	Bessie M.	0/12	dau.	Jun 1900	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Nugent,	Sarah	30		May 1870	w	inmate – 4 children	KY-KY-KY
“	Richard	13	son	Jan 1887	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
“	George	11	son	Jun 1888	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
“	Archie	5	son	Jul 1894	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
“	John	0/12	son	May 1900	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Carter,	Elizabeth	53		Nov 1846	w	inmate – 9 children 7 living	KY-KY-KY
“	Abraham	11	son	Feb 1889	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Daugherty,	Dora	33		Feb 1867	s	inmate – 3 children 1 living	KY-KY-KY
Evans,	Jane	54		Jul 1855	w	inmate – 3 children 2 living	KY-KY-KY
“	Vealda	10	dau.	Aug 1889	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Johnston,	John	23		Nov 1876	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Hodges,	Sam	54		Jun 1845	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Malone,	Daniel	40		Dec 1859	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Grubbs,	Mariah	66		Nov 1833	w	inmate – 4 children 3 living	KY-KY-KY
Gray,	Lina	45		Mar 1855	w	inmate – 6 children 4 living	KY-KY-KY
“	Clyde	8/12		Sep 1899	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Skeeto,	Elisha	76		May 1824	w	inmate	KY-KY-KY



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 16 October 1901, p.3:

Mr. T. J. Wallace was re-elected poor-house keeper by the fiscal court last week. Mr. Wallace has made one of the very best keepers that the county ever, and the court did well in securing his services again.



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 4 July 1902, p.3:

There are now fourteen inmates at the county almshouse, four men and ten women. They are all old and practically helpless. Four of them are totally blind. No children are at the almshouse now, as they are turned over as soon as received to the Kentucky Children's Home Society of Louisville.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 15 June 1904, p.3:

Twenty-six inmates are at the County Poor Farm.

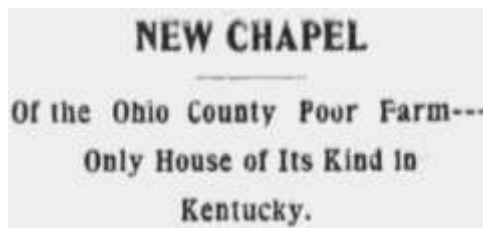


Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 19 October 1904, p.3:

There was an order made at the recent Fiscal court changing the term of the poor house keeper from two to four years, to be effective at the close of the term of the present incumbent Mr. J. T. Wallace, January 1, 1906.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 19 October 1904, p.3:



The dedication of the little new chapel of the Ohio County Pauper Infirmary, about three miles east of Hartford, occurred last Friday forenoon. The services were conducted by Revs. J. H. Burnett, W. T. Miller and T. H. Balmain. The singing was led by choir master Taylor of Beaver Dam. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Burnett. It was an earnest, touching, masterly effort, and although delivered in the humble chapel of the unfortunate poor, was worthy the most dignified audience of the land. There was a good sized audience present and the sermon was highly appreciated. After the sermon the poorhouse landlord Esq. J. T. Wallace served a bounteous dinner to the guests present. It was indeed a sumptuous repast and was highly enjoyed. Besides the members of the Ohio County Fiscal Court and other county officials, there were a number of invited guests present, who partook heartily of the tempting viands.

The little chapel has been erected mainly for the edification and accommodation of the inmates of the county infirmary and although of humble pretensions, is an elegant little structure. It is thought to be the only chapel of a county poorhouse in Kentucky. It adjoins the west wing of the main structure, and is so built that it can be reached by the inmates without stepping upon the ground.

The chapel is mainly the result of the enterprising spirit of the Ohio County Fiscal Court, the earnest and unselfish efforts of County Judge J. P. Miller and the poorhouse keeper, Esq. J. T. Wallace, supplemented by the private contributions of citizens. It stands as a worthy, though humble monument to their integrity, enterprise and religious inspiration. Services will be held in it at least twice a month and oftener when the occasion presents itself. It will afford a pleasant resort for the entire community, which is quite removed from a church or any other place of worship.

The Ohio County Infirmary and Poor Farm is one of the best conducted public institutions in the State. Under the supervision of Esq. Wallace it has been made a pleasant and an attractive place of confinement. He and his boys have improved the farm wonderfully and brought it out of a desert land into a splendid state of cultivation. The inmates share the same fare with his family and are treated kindly and considerately. Esq. Wallace is a man of the highest personal integrity,

honest, religious and conscientious. Although the place pays only a small stipend he has put his whole energy into the work and his service has been of the most satisfactory kind. Inasmuch as a county poorhouse is an indispensable adjunct to all progressive communities, the people of Ohio county should be proud of this up-to-date and well-kept institution, and especially of the splendid little new chapel which speaks so much for the good spirit of the county, the community and the people to whom its erection is due.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 17 October 1906, p.2:

Fiscal Court Notes.

Mr. Frank Black was elected alms house keeper to serve out the unexpired term of Mr. C. R. Stevens, who died some months ago There were only three applicants for the position – Frank Black, Hartford, J. I. Morton and G. Davis Royal, Fordsville. Only one vote was taken, which resulted in Black 4, Morton 2, and Royal 1.



**Ohio County, KY 1910 Federal Census
Hartford District, 25 April 1910, pp.11B & 12A
Ohio County Alms House:**

Black, Thomas F.	43	head	married 21 years	farmer	KY-KY-KY
“ Cinderella	41	wife	m 4 children 3 living		KY-KY-KY
“ Edna	12	dau.	s		KY-KY-KY
“ Clifton	4	son	s		KY-KY-KY
Martin, Peter	79		m 45 years	boarder	VA-VA-OH
“ Julia A.	73	wife	m 5 children 2 living	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Overton, Fannie	23		s	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Baird, Tom	53		m 30 years	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Ward, Bird	60		s	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Leisure, Allen	66		w	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Hodges, Sam	63		s	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Stevens, Jeff	84		w	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Broomfield, B. W.	52		s	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Chinn, Newt	58		s	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Tinnel, James	49		s	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Johnson, Lindsey	67		w 1 child 1 living-black	boarder	un-un-un
Woodward, Mattie	50		w	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Crowder, Gertie	26		m	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Thompson, Bess	35		s	boarder	KY-KY-KY
Tilford, Stella	10		s	boarder	KY-KY-KY
“ Nora	4		s	boarder	KY-KY-KY
“ Courtney	7		s	boarder	KY-KY-KY



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 15 November 1911, p.8:

Master Commissioner's Sale – ... I will offer for sale by public auction at the court house door in Hartford, on Monday, the 4th day of December, 1911, about one o'clock p. m., upon a credit of six and twelve months, the following described property, to-wit: A certain tract of land in Ohio county, Kentucky, about two miles from Hartford on the Hartford and Owensboro road, which land is known as the "Old Poor House" property and contains 20 acres, more or less. This is the same land conveyed to T. J. Patton by W. P. Gregory, October 2d, 1886, and Gregory being Commissioner to convey from Ohio county as shown by deed of record in Ohio County Clerk's office, Deed Book "D", page 368... This 14th day of November, 1911, F. L. Felix, Master Commissioner. [same article also published in the Hartford Herald on 22 November 1911 p.7 and 29 November 1911 p.7]



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 23 May 1913, p.5:

Mr. Tom Crowder, Superintendent of the Poor Farm, was among our callers Tuesday.



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 8 October 1915, p.1:

Fiscal Court – Mr. Charley Smith, of Baizetown, was elected poor house keeper, succeeding Mr. Frank Black, who has held the position very acceptably for two years. Mr. Smith agrees to board the inmates for 50cts. less on the week and was the only candidate.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 18 April 1917, p.4:

... The Fiscal Court of Ohio county elected the present poor house keeper on October 6, 1915, for a term of two years at an agreed compensation of \$1.50 per week for each pauper, which was to include board, fuel, washing, mending and making, the keeper to have use of the farm and keep premises, clean, comfortable and sanitary. Our information is this was his proposition which the Court accepted. Any way, he was elected under those conditions for two years. Notwithstanding this, in less than a year, on August 11, 1916, the Fiscal Court entered an order increasing the pay of the keeper to \$2.00 per week for each pauper, making no further provision as to mending, &c., and also provided that this increase should date back and be paid from June 15, 1916.

In addition to this, since that time the Court has been making allowances for mending, usually at the rate of 5 cents per week for each inmate of the county house.

The taxpayers can see at least one example of generosity on the part of the Fiscal Court, while the indebtedness has piled up to more than \$60,000.



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 1 March 1918, p.2:

NOTICE OF SALE.

The Fiscal Court of Ohio county will on the 1st Monday in March 1918, offer at public sale to the highest and best bidder about 100 acres of the Almshouse farm, the part proposed to be sold being the east end of said farm, and containing about 45 acres of woodland, and about 55 acres of cleared land. This is very desirable tract of land, situated about 2 ½ miles east of Hartford, and any one desiring to purchase a farm will do well to look this land over before buying. There is a good vein of coal underlying this land, and also some good timber. Terms will be made known on day of sale. FISCAL COURT OF OHIO COUNTY. By C. E. Smith, Sam L. Stevens, W. C. Blankenship, Committee.



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 8 March 1918, p.8:

ALMSHOUSE LAND SOLD.

Nearly a hundred acres on the east end of the county farm was sold at public auction at the court house door Monday, to Finas Wallace for \$2,035. The sale was made subject to the approval of the Fiscal Court which will meet here Saturday to pass on the matter. The Fiscal Court thought the county had more land that was necessary for the purpose and decided to sell a part of it and devote the proceeds to repairs on the farm and on other county property. The sale will probably be confirmed.



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 22 March 1918, p.5:

There are now twenty inmates at the county Almshouse.



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 25 April 1919, p.1:

ALMSHOUSE INMATES.

There are thirteen inmates in the county almshouse. Several of these have been there for many years. The oldest inmate is Mat Woodward, who has been in the institution for thirty years. Mat has, or rather has had, a liking for washing. For many years she did practically all the washing for the other inmates. This service was not required of her by the keeper, but she liked the work. It is said she would have washed six days in the week if allowed to do so. Buddy Broomfield is

another veteran at the almshouse. Broomfield has been a cripple all of his life, and has been at the institution for more than twenty years. He is intelligent and fairly well educated. Uncle Tom Baird has been there for a number of years. He is old but mentally vigorous. He is badly crippled with rheumatism. Lige Gary is one of the old ones in point of age. His general health has failed. An old man of the name of Travis is above eighty years old, and has been at the almshouse for a number of years. Hardin Kuykendoll has been in and out for several years. During the recent winter he had his feet frozen while working at a tobacco factory in Owensboro, and some of his toes had to be amputated. There are five members of one family in the institution. They are Justice Matthews, his wife and two children, and his brother, Isom Matthews. The Matthews brothers are incapacitated for earning a living on account of diseased eyes. Uncle Bill Fought, of Olaton, is also staying at the almshouse, but he is not a charge on the county, his keep being paid by a son. Uncle Bill is about eighty sears old.



**Ohio County, KY 1920 Federal Census
East Hartford Precinct, January 1920, pp.5B & 6A
Ohio County Alms House:**

Smith, Charley	42	m	county farm manager	KY-KY-KY
“ Vitula	40	m	wife	KY-KY-KY
“ Daisy	15	s	daughter	KY-KY-KY
“ Ervin	14	s	son	KY-KY-KY
“ Laura	10	s	daughter	KY-KY-KY
“ Kattie	7	s	daughter	KY-KY-KY
Baize, Monrow	47	s	brother-in-law	KY-KY-KY
Broomfield, Buddie W.	62	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Mathew, Isom	55	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Mathew, Matt	60	m	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Mathew, Justus	60	m	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Woodward, Matt (female)	70	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Mathew, Jissie	13	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Mathew, Chester	9	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Mathew, Leona	42	m	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Mathew, Bessie	5	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Goff, Bell	65	w	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Rogers, Iva	23	m	inmate	KY-KY-KY
King, John	80	m	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Kennady, George	52	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Johnson, Nannie	45	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Ball, Hubert	27	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 30 September 1921, p.4:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

The present county administration has accomplished marked improvement of county affairs along many useful lines, and the following mentioned public improvements are offered in evidence of such action:

... The Almshouse, which had been distant spring for use of the inmates painted, repairs made and the property generally put in good condition. Water was formerly carried from a distant spring for use of the inmates and keeper, and this condition has been remedied by supplying a well of good water on the premises.



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 7 October 1921, p.1:

ALMSHOUSE INMATES

Almshouse keeper, Charlie Smith, has only seven charges now. They are Isom Matthews, Justice Matthews, Buddy Broomfield, George Kennedy, Squire King and Mary Tidmer and baby. Broomfield is a cripple and formerly lived at Jingo. Ho has been in the almshouse twelve years, and is in excellent health. Isom Matthews has been an inmate of the institution sixteen years. He is a mental defective and, in addition, incapable to perform labor on account of poor eyesight. He is physically strong and vigorous. Justice Matthews is about fifty-five years old, and has been at the institution about four years. He married and raised a family of children, which have been provided with homes in private families. His wife is living, His incapacity to earn a living is due to defective eyesight. He, with his brother, Isom, were reared near Sulphur Springs. Squire King was formerly a citizen of Grayson county, but came to Ohio county many years ago and lived near Dundee. He has a wife and children, all of whom are adults still living. He and wife separated several years ago, after which he "batched" until three years ago when, yielding to the infirmity of age he "came over the hills to the poorhouse." He Is eighty-five years old, and has been all his life an industrious and harmless citizen. George Kennedy recently came to almshouse from the Cool Springs community, as did Mrs. Tidmer, and we have little information about either of them.



**Ohio County, KY 1930 Federal Census
East Hartford Precinct, 12 April 1930, p.34A
Almshouse, Hartford & Rosine Road:**

Midkiff, William P.	59	m	almshouse keeper	KY-KY-KY
“ Cordia	46	m	wife	KY-KY-KY
Kiper, Linus	72	w	father-in-law	KY-KY-KY
Hayse, John T.	16	s	servant - farm labor	KY-KY-KY
Brumfield, Bevel W.	72	s	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Duvall, Hardin	73	w	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Howard, Baxter	84	w	inmate	TN-TN-TN
Johnson, Olie	46	m	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Young, Mike	72	w	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Mathews, Justice	62	w	inmate	KY-KY-KY
Hicks, Lafe	46	m	inmate	KY-KY-KY

By SANDRA SKOWRON, Messenger-Inquirer

HARTFORD, Ky. – Lennie Tichenor pointed to a spot on the hillside near a small grove of trees. "I buried four people right there," his grizzled voice crackled. The land, he said, was once part of the Ohio County poorhouse cemetery.

But the cemetery is gone now. The land bears no trace of its existence. Standing there now are two buildings owned by the Ohio County Country Club, one of them a storage garage for golf carts.

Sam McDowell a local historian and genealogist, believes the cemetery was destroyed for construction of the storage building within the last eight years. "The country club equipment building for the golf course is sitting on the poor farm cemetery," he said. "The cemetery has been bulldozed off. It was probably full with 200 to 300 people buried in it."

Tichenor, 81, once the operator of the poorhouse farm, believes the remains still lie beneath the site. "I've never heard of them trying to remove any of the bodies, he said.

An Ohio County funeral director, who requested anonymity, also said, "I don't think the bodies were moved."

The destruction of cemetery plots, especially small rural ones, is a common occurrence, according to McDowell, who frequents them in his genealogical research. (See story, page 1-C, "Sam McDowell: He's both activist and genealogist")

McDowell believes the deliberate destruction of cemeteries "occurs in Kentucky at least once a month." He frequently hears of instances "where a cemetery is replaced by a highway or supermarket – not moved – just destroyed."

"Any grave is a cemetery according to Kentucky law," McDowell said. "There is no law that permits someone to destroy a cemetery."

Frank Martin Jr., the attorney who prepared and notarized the deed when the poorhouse property was sold by Ray Johnson of Hartford to the country club in 1970, believes the cemetery "was gone by the time Mr. Johnson sold it to the country club."

Johnson said, "There was no evidence, no cemetery markers of any kind – nothing" on the property when he purchased it in 1964 from the late E. P. Williams.

"I've heard the story about the cemetery. There have been a lot of rumors about it. But I've never had any documentation of it and there's nothing on the original deed to show that a cemetery was located there," Johnson said.

County records show the property was deeded to the county in the 1870s. It was used as the site for the county poorhouse farm until the 1950s. In 1958, Williams purchased the property. Williams' widow, Agnes, said at least one monument was still on the property at that time. She was unfamiliar with it when it was sold in 1964.

Martin said, "I don't see how the country club could be held responsible. There was no mention in the deed (that a cemetery was there). I don't know why the deed (didn't mention the cemetery). There should have been markings on the deed," Martin said.

Johnson said, "The blame lies with the county for not marking the graves" and not placing a notation of the cemetery's existence and location on the deed.

McDowell said the graves were originally marked "by sandstone rocks, one at the head of the grave and another at the foot." Tichenor agreed.

Tichenor said at least some country club officials knew of the cemetery's existence because they asked him to point out its location when the country club swimming pool was being constructed about 1970. He said an official, whose name he could not remember, drove him from

Owensboro (where Tichenor lived at the time) to the country club located on Fordsville Road, specifically to point out the cemetery.

Would Tichenor have built the garage there? "No ... I wouldn't have," he replied. "Although (those people) suffered misfortune, they're humans same as we are."

Tichenor said he buried "about 20 people" while working as keeper of the 50-acre poorhouse farm. He said persons were brought to the facility when they were "old and feeble-minded or when they couldn't take care of themselves." Those who died there were buried in the graveyard, he said.



McLean County News, Calhoun, KY, Thursday, 9 April 1981, p.14:

Outdoor Notes by Joe Ford

... I mentioned the "Poor Farm" in a recent column, and Norman Bilbrow phoned to tell me the Ohio County "Poor Farm" was located at the sight of the present Country Club near Hartford. Seems ironic, doesn't it, that the property went from one extreme to the other. As Norman recalls events, Lennie Tichenor was the last man to manage the farm for the county. It was supported by the Fiscal Court, and if a judge decided that you were too poor to buy food, and too ill to work, you were sent to the farm.



Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 11 December 2003, p.7A:

“Rough River Ripples” by Dorothy Gentry

The Ohio County Fiscal Court voted to set aside the money from the sale of the Alms House to be used for an addition to the Ohio County Hospital. That was on May 9, 1958.



Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 1 February 2007, pp.1A & 2A:

Country club put up for sale

County has applied for \$400,000 community grant to buy property

By Don Wilkins, Times-News editor

For sale. A nine-hole golf course with a clubhouse, outdoor swimming pool, four cart shed buildings, one shop building and a lake.

That's not the official classified listing but after operating more than 35 years as a private organization, the Ohio County Country Club is going public – not for the purposes of drawing more golfers but to find a buyer.

There's no sign on the property announcing the sale but Mark King, president of the County Club, confirmed last week that the board is looking for a buyer.

A sale price of \$300,000 has been rumored but King said there has been no figure set.

"We're exploring any potential buyers," King said. "We've never set a price and if there's one being talked about it has never come from the board."

There is at least one interested buyer – the county.

On Nov. 21, 2006, the Ohio County Fiscal Court voted unanimously to apply for a \$400,000 community assistance grant from the Governor's Office for Local Development (GOLD) that would go toward the purchase of the Country Club.

According to the Fiscal Court's minutes, the Country Club rests on 72.3 acres and appraised in August of 2006 for \$575,000. The appraisal did not include equipment and furniture valued at \$50,000.

The Country Club is home to the county's only golf course and King said the membership wants to keep it that way, which is why board members approached the county first.

"Our objective is to protect our membership because they want to keep it a golf course," King said. "We're not going to sell it to someone who wants to turn it into a subdivision. We would prefer to sell it to the county because we know it will be taken care of."

Judge-Executive David Jones said the previous administration made the grant request so he didn't have many details on the project as of yet.

Jones added that the Country Club would be turned into a public course and incorporated into the county's park system.



In the background from one of the golf greens sits the clubhouse of the Ohio County Club. The Country Club, which has been put up for sale, features a 9-hole golf course.

The grant will be the only way we can buy the Country Club," Jones said. "People out there who don't have water wouldn't understand using taxpayer money on a golf course. But I think it could be good for the county tourism and drawing industry."

According to the Ohio County Clerk's records, the Ohio County Country Club was incorporated in 1969 and then its board bought the land a year later from Ray and Kay Johnson for \$72,500.

Colleen Chaney, deputy commissioner with GOLD, said the county's grant is still under review.

"It's a pretty high dollar amount and there should be a decision made before the end of our fiscal year, which is June 30," Chaney said.

King said the current membership stands at 100 but ideally needs to be around 140 before extra money is available for constant upkeep of the grounds and golf course.

"We pay our bills but there's not enough equity to make improvements," King said. "It has a lot of potential if you have money."



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 14 September 2012, p.4B:

Ohio County buys 72 acres — including golf course — for park

By James Mayse, Messenger-Inquirer

Ohio Fiscal Court has acquired more than 70 acres of property in Hartford — including Royal Oaks golf course — which county Judge-Executive David Johnston says will be used to expand Ohio County Park.

On Monday, Johnston signed an agreement to purchase the 72.3 acres adjacent the park from Ron Peech for \$350,000. The property includes the nine-hole golf course, a swimming pool and a building formerly used as a restaurant.

The property was originally owned by Ohio County and was the site of the "county farm" — a facility for people who were homeless or suffered from mental disabilities — from 1887 to 1963.

"Three hundred and fifty thousand was a bargain, but that was more than we paid for it in 1887," Johnston said Thursday.

In 1963 [sic, should be 1970], the property was purchased by the Ohio County Country Club. The county club sold the land to Peech in 2007 after club membership declined to the point the members could no longer maintain the property. Peech operated the property as Royal Oaks golf course for a few seasons before shutting down.

In January, Johnston announced he was forming a committee to examine purchasing the property. But in May, Susan Matthews leased the property from Peech with plans to open Kentucky Music Park.

In July, Matthews said she and Peech had been unable to agree on a contract. The property never hosted any events as Kentucky Music Park, Johnston said.

Johnston, who was county parks director for years before becoming judge-executive, said the county had a long-range plan of acquiring the property.

"We actually made our offer before (Kentucky Music Park) took place," Johnston said. The county made an initial offer of \$305,000, received a counter-offer from Peech and then left the county's offer "on the table" while Peech and Matthews attempted to negotiate a deal.

"The \$305,000 (offer) was on the table until we made a sales agreement" with the \$350,000 price, Johnston said.

On Tuesday, Fiscal Court members voted 4-2 to purchase the property. Johnston said \$209,000 of it will come from coal severance dollars and the remaining \$141,000 will come from county funds.

"The coal severance that came to the county was more than anticipated," Johnston said.

Johnston said officials anticipated reopening the golf course next spring, "probably under contract," with an agency retained to manage the course. The parks department will manage the 2.5 acre lake and swimming pool, and the county will seek interested parties to establish a new restaurant, Johnston said.

The property contains the only golf course; the swimming pool will be the only county-owned pool, Johnston said.

"It has always been a dream to have" a pool, Johnston said. "That came about here, too."

Camping sites will likely be developed on the site, which is equipped with electrical hookups, Johnston said.

"We could have outdoor shows and festivals," Johnston said. "It's a golf course, but it's a lot more."



Commemorating Hartford, Kentucky's Bicentennial, 1808-2008
(by Beth Chinn Harp, Utica, KY, McDowell Publications, 2008, p.239)
and periodical, Kentucky Family Records (Vol.32, West-Central Kentucky
Family Research Association, Owensboro, KY, 2007, pp.57-58).

East Hartford Poor Farm Cemetery
 Submitted by Helen McKeown

name	birth – death	source
Marion Bailey	- May 18, 1929	death certificate
Hannah Brown	- September 7, 1914	death certificate
Marion Burgess	- May, 1889	Hartford Herald *
W. H. Burgess	June 9, 1856 - August 1, 1912	death certificate
Elizabeth Carter	November, 1826 - November 13, 1893	
	(moved to Oakwood Cemetery April, 1894. Served in Civil War)	Hartford Herald
Dave Chinn	- May 19, 1888	
Newton Chinn	1846 - February 21, 1914	death certificate
George Clark	- January 24, 1940	death certificate
Ann Cochran	1844 - July 2, 1911	death certificate
Joe Conner	1854 - February 12, 1914	death certificate
E. W. Davis	- June, 1892	Hartford Herald *
Clifton Duggins	June 23, 1917 - July 31, 1917	death certificate
Ike Duncan	January 23, 1928 - January 28, 1928	death certificate
Harden Duvall	- August 23, 1931	death certificate *
James Early	Civil War veteran	
Lillian Hunt Eskridge	- December 15, 1915	death certificate
Elizabeth Evans	- March 6, 1918	death certificate
Thomas Faught	- February 13, 1937	Ohio County News

William Faught	- May 8, 1919	death certificate
Rachel Gilstrap	- February 23, 1917	death certificate
Susan Hardin	- August 14, 1917	death certificate
Owen Harris	- September 7, 1888	
Lafe Hicks	- June 30, 1930	death certificate
S. W. Hodges	1847 - November 30, 1912	death certificate
Squire Hodges	1870 - February 28, 1914	death certificate
Fanny Johnson	1896 - March 14, 1914	death certificate
Henry Johnson	- June 18, 1929	death certificate
Johnny Johnson	- February 6, 1939	death certificate
Letha Johnson	- February 26, 1933	death certificate
Lillian Johnson	December 1, 1913 - January 23, 1914	death certificate
Ollie Johnson	1882 - April 15, 1930	death certificate *
Mary Kay	- March 7, 1951	death certificate
Ben Kaysinger	1830 - February 19, 1914	death certificate
George Kenedy	- November 26, 1923	death certificate
Isaac Kinder	- June 9, 1921	death certificate
Hardin Kuykendall	- October 20, 1919	death certificate
Alfred Allen Leisure	- September 7, 1917	death certificate
William Lewis	- November 28, 1938	death certificate
Janey Loney	- June 1950	Ohio County News
Long female infant	August 28, 1901 - August 29, 1901	Ohio County Herald
John Lynch	August 24, 1856 - September 5, 1925	death certificate
Julia Lynch	- March 3, 1925	death certificate
Julia Ann Martin	- November 29, 1917	death certificate
Peter Martin	1831 - July 26, 1911	death certificate
Jessie Mathews	June 16, 1904 - March 2, 1920	death certificate
Isom Matlock	- June 12, 1928 (Civil War)	death certificate
Winston Mauzy	1859 - November 18, 1912	death certificate
Tobe Midkiff	January 10, 1848 - July 24, 1935	death certificate
C. Walter Miller	- September 5, 1892 (Civil War)	Hartford Herald *
Moore stillborn infant	April 22, 1922 - April 22, 1922	death certificate
Nannie Morgan	- February 25, 1936	death certificate
S. Morgan	- January 9, 1888	
William Neitman	- August 15, 1882	Hartford Herald *
Professor R. D. Newton	1868 - April 1, 1928	death certificate
Jim Bob Powers	- February 20, 1934	death certificate
Redmon (Redivan) Prior	- May 9, 1922	death certificate
Arvin (Aaron) Lee Pryor	March 13, 1921 - March 20, 1921	death certificate
George Robinson	March 16, 1857 - April 8, 1936	death certificate
James Royal	- April 12, 1886	Hartford Herald *
Dave Sanders	- November 26, 1916	death certificate
Frank Shrader	August 6, 1869 - October 17, 1938	death certificate
Harry Smith	1890 - October 25, 1912	death certificate
Thomas Jefferson Stevens	- January 5, 1911	death certificate
Ben Taylor	- April 9, 1888	



**Correspondence with Helen McKeown about the
Ohio County Poor Farm Cemetery Memorial in 2014:**

August 13, 2014 – e-mail from Helen McKeown:

We have talked some re Ohio County Poor Farm Cemetery. The court has approved funds for a marker listing names of those identified as buried there. That is done. Now the reverse of the marker, they would like an article on the history of the poor farm. So tomorrow it is off to courthouse and library. I have censuses of 1880 to 1920 where those living in the facility are identified. Also have 1904 article on the chapel. Some of what I am missing includes the number of acres, start date, finish date, sale date, etc etc. Just wanted to see if you have walked this road before and assembled any research on the facility/program. Thanks much, Helen

August 15, 2014 – e-mail to Helen McKeown:

Helen: I have collected some items about the Ohio County Poor Farm. I don't know if it includes anything that you don't already have or not. Several years ago while going through the Ohio County death certificates and newspapers I listed any that reported that the person was buried at the poor farm. My list matched closely what was published in the Hartford Bicentennial Book (p239) and the Kentucky Family Records (Vol. 32, p57-58). However, there were a few in these listings that I questioned. Like you I had copied the listings of the poor farm that appeared in the 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses. I also have copies of four deeds and about fifteen newspaper articles that deal with the poor farm. If you would like I can take these to the Kentucky Room at the library for you to look at. Just let me know when you are coming and I will be sure to have them there. Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library

August 15, 2014 – e-mail from Helen McKeown:

Jerry, Would Monday be a good day? That would be such a help, I was headed to the courthouse basement to try for old court records otherwise. I will bring what I have put together thus far, don't think I have the 1930 census for it either. Helen

August 16, 2014 – e-mail to Helen McKeown

Helen: I am sorry but Monday is the one day I have off next week. For the rest of the week my schedule is – Tuesday 9 to 5 (except 1-2); Wednesday 12-9 (except 4-5); Thursday 12-9 (except 4-5); Friday 11-8 (except 4-5); Saturday 9-6 (except 2-3); and Sunday 1-5. Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library

August 16, 2014 – e-mail from Helen McKeown:

I will be there Tuesday, hopefully morning, if not then after 2

August 19, 2014 – contact with Helen McKeown:

Helen McKeown stopped in the Kentucky Room today. She is researching the Ohio County Poor Farm for a proposed historical highway monument to be erected at its site. I allowed

her to see my file of newspaper articles, deeds, census reports and death certificates I had compiled on the Ohio County Poor Farm. She copied 25 pages.

August 20, 2014 – e-mail from Helen McKeown:

Please feel free to critique this. It is for the monument at Ohio County Poor Farm. Let me know what you think, I am supposed to submit later today, I can stall if you feel indicated. Helen - Ohio County Poor Farm was in existence from at least 1851 to after 1950 serving a population of black and white races, ages from infants to nearly 100. The residents included orphans, crippled, elderly, infirm, blind and people with no other place to live, usually numbering seven to twenty two residents. An earlier location was sold in 1873. This location was purchased in 1871, from John & Sally Ann Pirtle a farm ‘for the use and benefit of the county paupers.’ One hundred acres of this property was advertised for sale in 1883, again in 1897 (to build a new poorhouse or almshouse) again in 1918. It being sold in 1958 with the money from the sale to be used for addition to Ohio County Hospital. Ohio County repurchased this land in 2012. In 1904, dedication of new chapel for the Ohio County Poor Farm. ‘The little chapel has been erected mainly for the edification and accommodation of the inmates of the county infirmary, and although of humble pretensions, is an elegant little structure. It is thought to be the only chapel of a county poorhouse in Kentucky. It adjoins the west wing of the main structure, and is so built that it can be reached by the inmates without stepping upon the ground.’ The cemetery was used for residents of the poor farm, transients and other county residents, it was not moved but original tombstones were eradicated to allow for golf course construction.

August 23, 2014 – e-mail from Helen McKeown:

Hello Jerry, Someone has approached the Ohio County Judge Executive that they do not like the name Poor Farm. So I wanted to contact a few people such as yourself. Do you have a name you would rather change it to? Either way if you would let me or the judge know your feelings, I would appreciate it. I cannot go back and change all the deeds, obits, death certificates and newspaper articles about the poor farm so it does not seem logical to me. I feel you have more say in this than I do and always respect your opinion. Helen

August 25, 2014 – e-mail to Helen McKeown:

Helen, In various sources the Ohio County poor farm has been referred to as county poor house, county poor farm, county farm, county house, county infirmary, county cemetery, or county alms house. It appears that in the majority of sources prior to 1900 it was referred to as the County Poor Farm. But in sources after 1900 County Alms House seems to be more prevalent. In the 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses it is referred to as the “County Alms House”. This may be due to the negative stigma attached to the phrase poor farm. For what it is worth I believe that if the name “Ohio County Poor Farm” is not used the next alternative should be “Ohio County Alms House”. Have a good day! Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library





OHIO COUNTY FARM CEMETERY

NAMES	DATE OF DEATH
ELIZABETH ASHCRAFT	JANUARY 25, 1901
MARION BAILEY	MAY 18, 1929
HANNAH BROWN	SEPTEMBER 7, 1914
MARION BURGESS	MAY 6, 1889
WILLIAM H BURGESS	JUNE 9, 1856 - AUGUST 1, 1912
ELIZABETH CARTER	NOVEMBER, 1826 - NOVEMBER 13, 1893 (MOVED TO OAKWOOD APRIL, 1894. SERVED IN CIVIL WAR)
DAVE CHINN	MAY 19, 1888
NEWTON CHINN	1846-FEBRUARY 21, 1914
GEORGE CLARK	1860-JANUARY 24, 1940
ANN COCHRAN	1844-JULY 2, 1911
JOE CONNER	1854-FEBRUARY 12, 1914
E W DAVIS	JUNE, 1892
CLIFTON DUGGINS	JUNE 23, 1917 - JULY 31, 1917
IKE DUNCAN	JANUARY 23, 1928 - JANUARY 28, 1928
HARDEN DUVALL	AUGUST 23, 1931
JAMES EARLY	SERVED IN CIVIL WAR
LILLIAN HUNT ESKRIDGE	DECEMBER 15, 1915
ELIZABETH EVANS	MARCH 6, 1918
THOMAS FAUGHT	1831 - FEBRUARY 13, 1937
WILLIAM FAUGHT	MAY 4, 1919
MR. FLAX	JUNE 2, 1907
MARTHA RACHEL GILSTRAP	FEBRUARY, 1822 - FEBRUARY 23, 1917
SUSAN HARDIN	AUGUST 14, 1917
ANDREW JACKSON HARDIN	1863 - FEBRUARY 25, 1910
OWEN HARRIS	SEPTEMBER 7, 1888
LAPE HICKS	JUNE 30, 1930
B W HODGES	1847 - NOVEMBER 30, 1912
SQUIRE HODGES	1876 - FEBRUARY 28, 1914
FANNY JOHNSON	1896 - MARCH 14, 1914
HENRY JOHNSON	JUNE 18, 1929
JOHNNY JOHNSON	FEBRUARY 6, 1939
LETHA JOHNSON	FEBRUARY 26, 1933
LILLIAN JOHNSON	DECEMBER 1, 1913 - JANUARY 23, 1914
OLLIE JOHNSON	1882-APRIL 15, 1930
MARY KAY	MARCH 7, 1931
BEN KAYSINGER	1839 - FEBRUARY 19, 1914
GEORGE KENNEDY	NOVEMBER 26, 1923
ISAAC KINDER	JUNE 9, 1921
HARDIN KUYKENDALL	OCTOBER 20, 1919
ALFRED ALLEN LEISURE	1846 - SEPTEMBER 7, 1917
WILLIAM LEWIS	NOVEMBER 28, 1938
JANEY LONEY	1887 - JUNE, 1930
FEMALE LONG	AUGUST 28, 1901 - AUGUST 29, 1901
JOHN LYNCH	AUGUST 24, 1856 - SEPTEMBER 3, 1925
JULIA LYNCH	MARCH 3, 1925
JULIA ANN MARTIN	NOVEMBER 29, 1917
PETER MARTIN	1831 - JULY 26, 1911
JESSIE MATHEWS	JUNE 16, 1904 - MARCH 2, 1920
ESOM MATLOCK	1845 - JUNE 12, 1928 (SERVED IN CIVIL WAR)
THOMAS BAXTER 'TOBE' MIDKIFF	JANUARY 16, 1846 - JULY 24, 1915
C WALTER MILLER	1827 - SEPTEMBER 3, 1892 (SERVED IN CIVIL WAR)
INFANT STILLBIRTH MOORE	APRIL 22, 1922 - APRIL 22, 1922
NANNIE MORGAN	FEBRUARY 25, 1936
S MORGAN	JANUARY 9, 1888
WILLIAM NETTMAN	AUGUST 15, 1882
PROFESSOR R D NEWTON	1868 - APRIL 1, 1928
WILLIAM P PARIS	1853 - AUGUST 7, 1918
JIM BOB POWERS	FEBRUARY 20, 1934
REDMON (REDIVAN) PRIOR	MAY 9, 1922
ARVIN (AARON) LEE PRYOR	MARCH 13, 1921 - MARCH 20, 1921
GEORGE ROBINSON	MARCH 16, 1857 - APRIL 8, 1936
JAMES ROYAL	APRIL 12, 1886
DAVE SANDERS	NOVEMBER 26, 1916
FRANK SHRADER	AUGUST 6, 1869 - OCTOBER 17, 1938
HARRY SMITH	1890 - OCTOBER 25, 1912
THOMAS JEFFERSON STEVENS	JANUARY 5, 1911
BEN TAYLOR	APRIL 9, 1888
JAMES TOOLEY	AUGUST 6, 1938
HENRY WHITEHOUSE	1870 - MAY 22, 1935
MALISSA WILSON	MARCH 2, 1912
GALEN VIRGIL WISE	1846 - JULY 7, 1920
MISS MATTIE WOODWARD	1830 - APRIL 4, 1920
THOMAS WRIGHT	APRIL 13, 1924

UNKNOWN INFANT DIED 1924
 UNKNOWN MALE MURDERED ON ICE - TRUSS DIED APRIL 11, 1914
 LENX GARY DIED HERE DECEMBER 3, 1900

Ohio County Poor Farm memorial erected in 2014 at the Ohio County Community Golf Course

