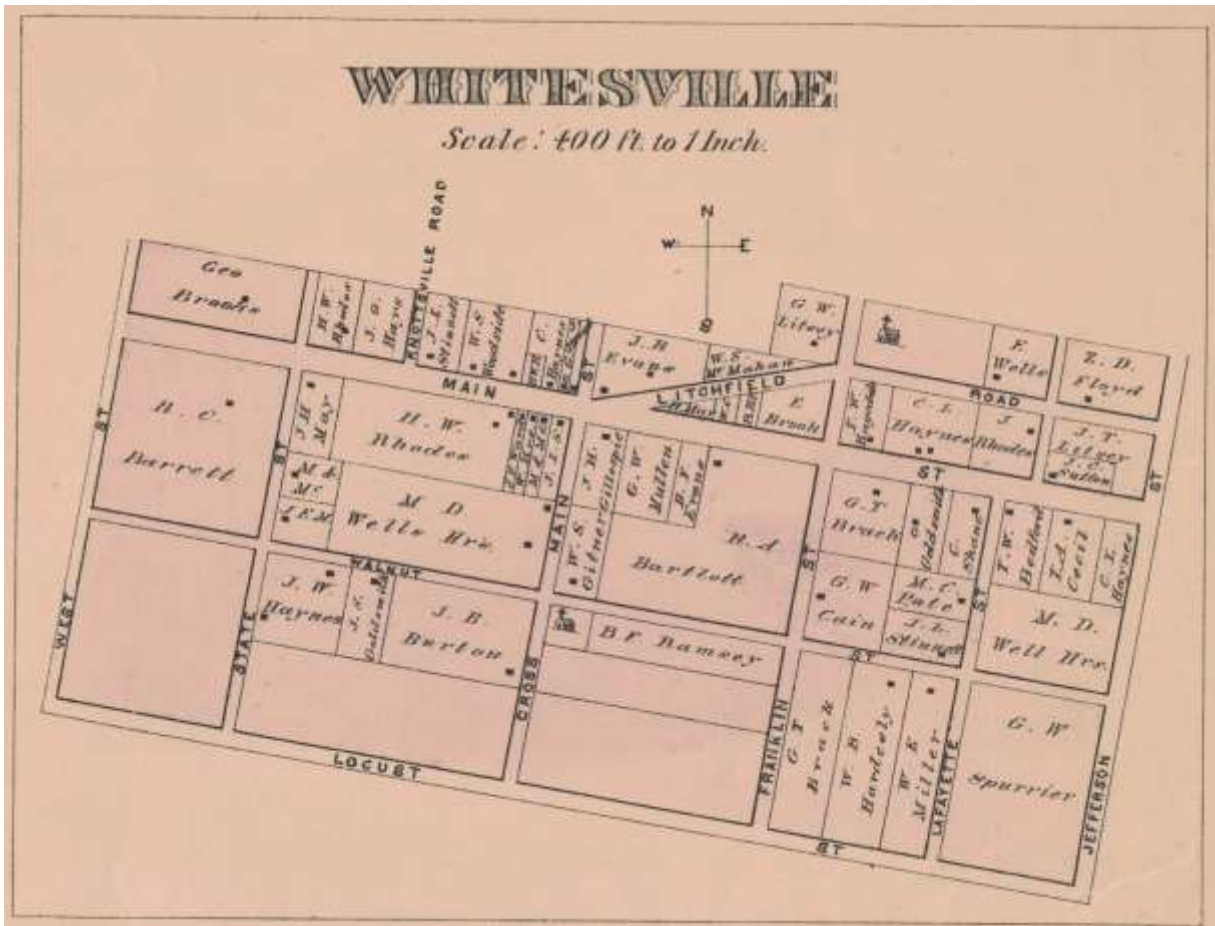


Whitesville – A Cross Roads

By Jerry Long



An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY.
(Leo McDonough & Co., Edwardsville, IL, 1876), pp.21 & 23:



Whitesville is a thriving business place on the Litchfield Road sixteen miles South-east from Owensboro. The population is three hundred and twenty. There are five dry goods stores, a drug store, two saddling shops, two blacksmith and wagon shops, and two Churches – Baptist and Christian. The Baptist church was built about 1854, and the Christian Church 1858. The new Christian Church was built in 1873. Hodge's lodge of Masons, No. 297, was instituted about 1854.

A flouring mill was established in 1868. The town received its name from William Lee White, who settled here in 1844. He was a cousin to B. F. Ramsey, Esq., and the two entered into partnership and carried on the dry goods business for some time together. Wm. S. McMahon, another old merchant of the place, came to the Town in 1854. and describes the Town even at that date as being composed of two or three old houses, and surrounded on all sides by a perfect thicket.



History of Daviess County, Kentucky
(Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, IL, 1883), pp. 509-518:

WHITESVILLE VILLAGE

Whitesville is situated in the eastern part of Boston Precinct and is the second town of importance in the county. Its population is in the neighborhood of 400 inhabitants, and is a good business center for a large extent of country for a number of miles in all directions. The village received its name from Dr. "Wm. Lee White. It was laid out in 1844.

The first house built was by Dr. "White and Ben. F. Ramsey, and used as a store. They did business some two or three years. The first wagon-maker was Wm. Miller. Afterward Martin Shanker was here a few years and then moved to Texas. Wm. Miller remained here till his death. His son, Wm. L. Miller, is now working at the business.

Among the first settlers in the village was Wm. Dillahay, the first blacksmith, who used to carry his coal in his leather apron from Ford's Knob to his shop. An apron full would last him a week or thereabout. He did all the blacksmithing in the neighborhood. Another early settler was John T. Kelley, who put up a log house, which is still standing. Thomas and Joe Burkhead, and Charles Brand, a German, all blacksmiths, came in an early day. The first shoemaker was John T. Kelley, commonly known as Terry Kelley, who carried on a shop in his house, remaining here a few years.

The first school-house was put up by Isaac E. Day, in 1853 or '4. The land was given by James Eddy, and comprised two lots; one was purchased for \$15, for a church, and the other he donated for a school-house. It was the only school-house in this neighborhood. The first school-teacher was Upton W. Hawkins, who taught a six months' school. After him, James Nall, Mason Haynes and Geo. Bagott were teachers. The school building stood some five or six years, when the Templars of Honor removed it and substituted a new building. They occupied the upper part of the building for their lodge, and the lower part was taken in charge by a stock company and used as a school-room. It was used for this purpose until the present Baptist church building was put up, when school was held in the old church. The present number of pupils is in the neighborhood of forty, and frequently many more; present school teacher, F. P. Purcell.

The first physician who settled in the place was Dr. Wm. Lee "White, who came from the upper part of the State, and remained for a few years. He is now a resident of Washington, D. C. Other physicians were two brothers, Dozier B. and Mars Lewis, who lived here a number of years. Dozier Lewis died here during the war, and his brother remained here a short time after that, and then went back to Nelson County, where they came from, and died there.

The first hotel here was built by James L. Stinnett, who kept it as a tavern a few years, when it was converted into a store-room. The present hotel was built by Dr. John Gillaspay, who

used it as a dwelling-house; it was afterward converted into a hotel, and is now run by Joseph G. McCarty.

The first postoffice was established in Boston, which used to receive mail once a week, via Owensboro. [p.509 – A postoffice was kept at Boston until about 1859 or '60, and was then removed to Whitesville. During the war, owing to the supposed disloyalty of the postmaster, it was again established at Boston, but remained only a short time, when it returned to Whitesville.] As Whitesville grew into popularity, business being centered here, the postoffice was transferred to Whitesville, where mail is now received three times a week. The present postmaster is Thomas C. Floyd. The place now contains five dry-goods and grocery stores, one drug store, one saloon, three blacksmith shops, one shoemaker's shop, two churches (Baptist and Christian), two tobacco houses, four physicians, one Masonic lodge and one flouring mill.

Whitesville was incorporated in 1867, through the efforts of Richard C. Barrett and Camden Riley, when Joseph Veech was Representative in the Legislature and aided the adoption of the bill. In February, 1882, an amended charter was drawn up by Mr. Barrett and submitted to the Board of Trustees, who indorsed it. It was then sent to J. A. Munday, then a member of the Senate, who took charge of it until it was adopted by the Legislature.

The first Board of Trustees, elected April 6, 1867, were: B. P. Yewell, Chairman ; Hardin Gregory, G. W. Mullen, A. D. Mattingly and W. Cate; J. E. Haynes, Clerk; John Lyons, Treasurer; and Henry Haynes, Marshal.

Present Board: C. Hale, Chairman; C. L. Haynes, G. W. Mullen, A. D. Mattingly and A. P. Brooks; J. W. Haynes, Clerk; T. C. Floyd, Treasurer; R. C. Barrett, Police Justice; J. F. Stockton, Marshal.

BUSINESS.

F. H. Haffey's Tobacco House was built in 1864, or '5, by Taylor & "White, who occupied the house a number of years. About 1861 or '62 it was purchased by Wm. S. McMabon, who put up tobacco a part of the time and then it was rented by several other parties. At his death, March 11, 1878, it passed into the hands of James L. Stinnett, who occupied it about five years. In December, 1882, it was purchased by P. H. Haffey. Size of the house, 50 x 70 feet; capacity, 150,000 pounds.

James L. Stinnett's Tobacco House was built in 1867 by M. D. Wells, who occupied it about seven years and died. After his death it was purchased by Neal & Mattingly, who ran it six or seven years, and then sold to J. C. Ashby, of Owensboro. He ran the house one year, and in December, 1882, it was purchased by James L. Stinnett, who now occupies the house. Size, 40 x 100; capacity, 20,000 pounds.

Geo. W. Mullin's Flouring Mill was built in 1868 by Jesse Haynes; probable cost, complete, about \$7,000; used by him as a flouring mill. In addition to it was a wool-carding machine which cost in itself about \$1,500, although included in the whole amount. Mr. Haynes ran the mill about two years, when it was rented by Mr. Mullin and Geo. F. Brack. These gentlemen ran the mill about eighteen months, when it was rented by J. Q. Haynes and B. R. Kelley. They ran the mill about one year, when it was sold to Geo. W. Spurrier for \$5,000. He carried on the business till 1877, when it was purchased by Geo. W. Mullen, the present proprietor. The mill was wanting repairs, and Mr. Mullen put in \$2,000 for repairs and machinery. In the fall of 1882 he again put in new machinery, to the amount of \$1,800, and the mill is now in good order, and one of the important business factors of Whitesville.

While under Mr. Mullin's management it has proved a success, and is run on the average five days in the week. The mill is capable of grinding 150 bushels each of wheat and corn in ten hours. It is run by a steam engine of fifty horse-power. Coal to run the machinery is taken from a mine close to the mill; a vein of coal ranging from twenty-two to twenty-six inches in thickness, and thirty feet below the surface. A shaft is sunk and the mine is worked most of the time. It also supplies a portion of the coal used in the village. Shaft twenty feet from furnace.

A.P. Brooks & Bro., dealers in dry-goods, groceries, saddlery, harness, queen's-ware and general merchandise; manufacturers of saddles and harness of all kinds. House started in 1877 by A. P. Brooks, who continued by himself till the winter of 1881, when D. F. Brooks went in as a partner, under the present style of the firm.

The mercantile house of *Thos. C. Floyd* was opened in the fall of 1880, and has a good stock of dry-goods, groceries, queen's-ware, hardware and farming implements; doing a good business. Mr. Floyd being the Postmaster of Whitesville, draws a large additional trade. He is a good business man, and is well liked by all. He carries a capital stock of \$1,500. Store situated on north side of Main street.

J. F. Hite's Drug Store. — One of the most attractive business houses of Whitesville is that of J. F. Hite, the popular druggist. Mr. Hite started in business here in August, 1877, and has a drug store equal to any outside of a large city. It is kept in a most attractive manner, everything arranged in accordance with the good management of the proprietor. He has a complete stock of drugs, stationery, notions and holiday goods generally. He has a fine prescription department in connection with the store, which makes it the headquarters of the physicians of the place. Mr. Hite carries a capital stock of about \$4,000. He first began business in a house on Main street, just below the hotel, where he continued for two years, and in 1879 moved to his present quarters.

EDUCATIONAL.

The first school that was taught before the town was laid off was by Dr. Wm. Lee White, who was there temporarily. During this time he bought a lot for the purpose of building a store-house, and with his cousin, Ben. F. Ramsey, built a store-house in 1844, which was the first house erected in the place. The house was opened on Christmas eve of that year, and the first yard of ribbon cut off and sold was by Mr. Ramsey. This was the beginning of the town, and from that on other settlers came in who made other improvements. The place was first called "Cross Roads," and shortly after was given the name of "Whitesville," in honor of its founder. Dr. Wm. Lee White. After the school-house was put up by Isaac E. Day, teachers in rotation were as follows: Upton W. Hawkins, J. G. Nall, Mason Haynes, George Bagott.

A school-house was erected on the farm now occupied by Joseph Ellis, in 1830, and was taught by his brother, Powhattan Ellis, for about three years, teaching a three months' school at a time. There are now nine school-houses in the precinct, located at different places, known as follows : Walnut Grove, situated on the Litchfield road, between J. McCarty's and T. Floyd's; Whitesville, Horace Burton's school-house ; Grandview, situated in Litchfield, about four miles below Whitesville; Little Hickory, situated on the Rumsey road, three miles south of Boston; Smith's, situated on Miller's Mill road, five miles south of Whitesville; Hogan's, two miles south of Whitesville; Bartlett's, two miles north of Whitesville; and Moseley's, three miles southwest of Whitesville.

Whitesville Academy. — This institution flourished after the war, under the principalship of Prof. J. E. Haynes. Music was taught by Jennie S. Haynes. The trustees were B. F. Ramsey, R. A. Bartlett and Dr. J. R. Gillaspy.

RELIGIOUS.

The first religious services held in the precinct were by the Methodists on Walter Ward's farm, then owned by his father, John Ward, in 1829, and Johnnie Pinckston and Joe Miller were the first preachers. Services were held in various houses for a number of years before any established church was built. There are now three churches in the precinct : Baptist, erected in 1854, and the Christian in 1855, both in the village of Whitesville, and the Catholic church about 1860.

Baptist Church.— In 1853, when not even a school-house could be had in which to hold worship, the first religious meetings of this church were held in the log-cabin residence of William Bartlett. This cabin was of the most primitive kind, described elsewhere in this volume. Here a protracted meeting was held, which resulted in the addition of many to the church, among them thirteen heads of families. They first united with the church at Panther Creek; but subsequently, in 1854, they organized a church at Whitesville, with forty-six members, under the ministration of J. P. Ellis and K. G. Hay.

The first officers of this church were: J. P. Ellis, Pastor and Moderator; S. C. Arrington, Clerk; and Horace Burton and J. S. Taylor, Deacons. Mr. Taylor served from the date of organization until May, 1856, when he was ordained to the ministry, and M. D. Wells was chosen in April, 1858, to fill the vacancy. J. C. Miller and F. W. Haynes were chosen Deacons in July, 1860, at which time the four Deacons were ordained, the first two having served up to this time before ordination. In April, 1874, G. W. Mullen, G. T. Brack and J. L. Stinnett were chosen and ordained. The present Deacons are: J. C. H. Burton, G. W. Mullen, J. L. Stinnett, A. P. Brooks and Wallace Haynes, the latter two elected March 8, 1879.

The pastors of the church, have been: Elder J. P. Ellis, who was chosen at the organization and served till November, 1859, when he resigned, to serve the Daviess County Association as missionary a year; Elder J. B. Haynes accepted the care of the church, and preached till Mr. Ellis's time as missionary had expired. Mr. Ellis resumed as pastor and preached till October, 1870, when he resigned. Elder J. M. Dawson accepted the pastorate and preached till April, 1873, and resigned. In June, J. P. Ellis was called again and served till March, 1876, when, in consequence of continued ill health, he resigned. Elder J. D. Arnold was called in April, 1876, and died in June, 1881, while serving as pastor. R. S. Fleming was called to fill Rev. Arnold's unexpired time and served from June, 1881, till April, 1882. At this date F. P. Purcell, the present pastor, was chosen .

Moderators: F. W. Haynes, from organization to June, 1873; H. J. Hunter, to March, 1877; J. P. Ellis, to date (March, 1883). Clerks: S. C. Arrington, from organization to November, 1856; J. C. Miller, to March, 1877; R. E. Haynes, to April, 1878 ; J. F. Hite, to April, 1879; Wallace Haynes, to the present.

The first church building was erected in 1854. It was 30 x 40 feet, two stories high, and was put up by the Baptists and Freemasons together, on a two-acre lot. The Masons held their lodges in the upper part and Baptists their meetings on the ground floor. The Baptists occupied this building till 1878, when the present brick house was completed, and Rev. J. S. Colman, D. D., dedicated it on the second Sunday in July. Size of new house, 36 x 56; cost, about \$3,000. It was on account of a large revival service held in the neighborhood that gave rise to the building of the first church, in 1854. Just preceding the organization of the church, thirteen men who were heads of families, together with a number of women and children, professed religion and joined neighboring churches.

Shortly after the organization of the church a special revival service was held in a school-house on the farm of J. P. Ellis in the fall of 1854. During the continuance of this meeting there were thirty-one additions to the church. A number of different meetings have been held, almost annually, in different parts of the territory with marked success.

The present condition of the church is prosperous, the members numbering nearly 200. A Sunday-school has been in existence for many years, holding the school all the time with the exception of a few months in the winter on account of bad weather. For the past few years school has been held the entire year, having strength enough in town to support it.

St. Mary's Catholic Church. — This religious denomination is one of the oldest in this part of the country, that at Knottsville being the oldest in the county. As early as 1830 or 1832 services were held in this precinct, at the residence of Thomas C. Hogan [sic – Hagan]. When the congregation was first organized it comprised six or seven families, and, as their meetings continued, their numbers increased. The first church structure was erected in 1845. The land, donated by R. W. Barrett, consisted of two acres, and was intended for church and school purposes, although no school was held for some time after.

Until within a few years priests from the Knottsville church supplied the pulpit, it being an outgrowth of that church, holding services once, and sometimes twice, a month.

The first preaching was by Father John Wathen. The ones who followed him in rotation were Fathers Joseph Adams, Michael Caughlan, O'Calahan, Vaulk [sic – Volk] and Egermont.

In 1879 Father K. W. King, the present priest, was given charge of the congregation, and from this date they have had a permanent pastor, holding services each Sunday.

The present building, erected in 1862 or 1863, is a good substantial frame building, however at present not large enough to accommodate the congregation, which now numbers over 100 families. The church is located one mile and a half south of Whitesville.

Christian Church. — The first religious service of the denomination was held in 1833, at the house of Spencer Ford, in the northeastern part of the precinct, close to the Ohio County line. The first members who constituted the congregation were James Milton and wife, Sallie Milton, William Crawford and wife, Minor Ford and wife, Nancy Ford, Spencer and Sallie Ford, his wife, and Sarah Ford. These constituted the congregation in May, 1833. They held their meeting at the school and private houses till they were strong enough to build a church. The first church building was a hewed log house, 24 x 36 feet, erected at Boston. The first preaching was before the church was built, by William Ford and Samuel Helm. The dedication sermon was preached by Isaac Mulkey, a traveling evangelist.

The first preacher in the church was Minor Ford, who had charge of the congregation for six years. S. G. Marshall was the next preacher, who continued about seven years. When he first took charge of the congregation it had a membership of 150. The first Elders in church were William Crawford and Cornelius Westerfield. The first Deacons were James Milton and Minor Ford. Samuel Greer was the first clerk after the church was dedicated. The church remained at Boston till 1855, when it was moved to Whitesville. The church at Boston was known as the "Antioch Church." The first church building erected at Whitesville was in 1855. It was a frame building, 30 x 40 feet. The moving of the church to Whitesville occurred during Marshall's administration. There was a change made in the offices. James Milton still continued Elder, and the others were Joseph Sinnett, Robert Roby and John Helm. The Deacons were L. C. Anderson and Hayden Westerfield. L. C. Anderson acted as Clerk. The present building was erected in 1872-'3. The building committee were B. F. Ramsey, James A. Bartlett and Dr. Bedford.

The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. Stone, of Illinois, who spent two weeks here holding revival meetings. The preacher in charge at that time was H. C. Ford. Size of the present building, 30 X 50. The present pastor of the church is John L. Bremer, who took charge of the congregation in November, 1882. The present Deacons are J. S. Helm, S. W. Bartlett and J. T. Bartlett. The Treasurer is S. W. Bartlett, and the Clerk, Isham Wells.

Bible Lodge, W. D. granted April 26, 1854. Organized June 22 1854. Officers: – Henry Whitely, W. M.; Felix G. Bannon, S. W.; Jacob Cooper, Jr. W. ; Creed Burton, Sec. ; Henry J. Cooper, Treas.; Edmund F. Smith, Sr. D.; Michael D. Wells, Jr. D. ; Hardin Gregory, S. & T. ; organized by John J. Daveiss and Stephen, F. Ogden, proxies for the G. M. Chartered by the G. L. Aug. 31, 1854. Organized as Hodges' Lodge, No. 297, Sept. 23, 1854. Officers as above. Changed to A. G. Hodges' Lodge in October, 1874.


Present Officers:— J. W. Barrett, M.; Rev. F. P. Purcell, Sr. W.; B. F. Ramsey, Jr. W. ; I. F. Wells, Treas.; J. W. Haynes, Sec.; D. T. Hays, Sr. D.; L. B. Wells, Jr. D.; J. M. Colyer, S. & T.

Whitesville Enterprise. — This interesting little sheet was issued in March, 1883, edited by one of Whitesville's enterprising citizens, J. W. Haynes. It is designed as a monthly paper, four pages of four columns each, and devoted to the interests of the people with whom it circulates.

Its first issue has been received with a great degree of pleasure.



Daily Courier, Louisville, KY, 1 December 1852, p.3

 The Postmaster General has discontinued the office at Oak Springs, Ballard county, Ky., and has changed the name and site of Burtonville, Daviess county, to Whitesville.



Whitesville, Daviess County, KY 1860 Federal Census, pp.753-756:

“Whitesville Commenced”

[Note: All listed as being born in Kentucky except for those reported as being born elsewhere.]

- 756 GIST, Wm. M. (55) born Virginia, farmer
- 757 RHOADES, H. W. (42), farmer; & Sarah J (38); Wm. L (12); Ellen H. (6); Louisa (2)
- 758 BARTLETT, S. W. (30), saddler; & Catharine (23); Julia Ann (1); BARTLETT, Julia Ann (60) born Virginia
- 759 RADDINS, Wm. (22), farm hand; & Nancy (22)
- 760 RADDINS, Thos. (42), farm hand; & Harriet (38); Lou Ellen (18); Louisa (11); Sarah M. (7); James T. (5); MCLEAN, John (23) born Pennsylvania, clerking

- 761 WELLS, Leona (45), farming; Isom (19), farm hand; SAMUELS, Amos (10)
 762 MILLER, Wm. E. (39), mechanic; & Harritt (35); Wm. L. (13); Lucinda (11); Elizabeth
 (9); Stephen R. (6); Edney (10/12)
 763 BARRETT, R. C. (30), gentleman & Sarah A. (20); Chas. D. (8/12)
 764 BARRETT, J. W. (36), merchant & Nancy (31); Mary F. (11); Richard T. (9); Sarah E.
 (7); Harry C. (5); James F. (4); Jno. W. (1); ASHBY, Jno. S. (58), farm hand; CECIL,
 Joseph (23), farm hand
 765 GLOVER, A. N. (28) born Indiana, merchant & Sarah F. (20); Ruth D. (3); George
 B. (11/12)
 766 HELMS, Geo. S. (40), farmer; & Louisa J. (28); Joseph A. (14); Josephine (12); Jno.
 W. (8); Sariah (5); Annie (3); George M. (7/12)
 767 DITTO, Jno. (23), farm hand & Martha (20); John (7/1 2)
 768 GILLASPIE, J. R. (35), merchant & Sarah A (35); Stephen R. (15); Mary E. (12);
 Frances L. (9); Jno. T. N. (7); Caleb (3)
 769 CAMERON, Edward G. (33), physician & Mary A. (30); Alfred (18); MONARCH,
 Thomas (24), carpenter
 770 PATE, M.C. (46), physician & Charlotte S. (40); M. S. (21); J. A. (19); Safronia (14) ;
 Emma A. (11); James E. (8); Sally C. (3); Mary E. (1/12); DAY, T. (28), carpenter
 771 HINDS, Joshua (47), carpenter & Emily J. (14); Joshua, Jr. (13); Thomas (12); Sarah
 (10); Wm. H. (8); Fountain (4); C. C. M. (3)
 772 MATTINGLY, A. D. (31), farmer & Eliza A. (25); Florence (1) ; CLEMENTS, Edward
 (17), farm hand; MCMAHON, Wm. S. (35), merchant
 773 SUBLEIT, Lafayette (25), carpenter & Saml. D. (69) born Virginia, school teacher;
 Emeline (29); Chas. J. (7); Sarah T. (4)
 774 CROSBY, E. (24) born England, mechanic & NORRIS, Burr (25) mechanic; BRAND,
 BRAND, C. F. (30) born Europe, mechanic; BRAND, Georgia A. (19); BRAND, Ida (1);
 WESTERFIELD, Frances (14) born Missouri
 775 DAILY, Francis M. (39), physician; & Narcissus P. (31); Annie M. (12); Sarah E. (10);
 Emily C. (7); Joseph A. (5); Mary B. (2)
 776 WESTERFIELD, J. W. (23), student

“Whitesville Concluded”



Courier Journal, Louisville, KY, 24 January 1867, p.4:

Kentucky Legislature – Senate – Report of committees

Mr. Dudley—Same—A House bill to amend an act incorporating the Salomon Gas Company.

Same—A House bill to incorporate the town of Whitesville, in Daviess county, with an amendment. Adopted and passed.



Owensboro Monitor, Owensboro, KY, 7 August 1867, p.3:

The Whitesville Academy, in this county, under the charge of Professor J. E. Haynes, begins the next session the 2d of September next. Mr. H. has acquired a considerable reputation as an instructor of the youth and we trust his school may be well patronized as it has been in the past and as it so richly deserves.



Whitesville, Daviess County, KY 1870 Federal Census, pp.117A-120A:

Inhabitants in town of Whitesville

[Note: All listed as being born in Kentucky except for those reported as being born elsewhere.]

- 1 HUNTER, William (41), carpenter & Martha (27); Minnie (8)
- 2 PATE, Joseph A. (29) works in tobacco house & Laura V. (28); John M. (3); James E. (2)
- 3 KOSMINSKI, Joseph(44), born Poland, painter & Mary (36) born France; Albert (14)
born Illinois; Minnie (13) born Missouri; Emma (12) born Illinois; Elizabeth (11) born
Illinois; Michael (7) born Indiana; son Eddy (5) born Indiana
- 4 MILLER, William (50), wagonmaker & Harriott (47); William L. (23), carpenter;
Lucinda (21); Robert (16); James T. (8); COPPAGE, Archable (23); GIST, William
(70) born Virginia, stable keeper
- 5 MATTINGLY, John (50), shoemaker & Annie (44); Elethia (21); Mary C. (18);
Christena (16); Rosa (14); Lucy (12); Benjamin (10); Charles (6); Mary A. (4);
Elizabeth (10/12, Aug)
- 6 BRUNER, Saml (45) shoe maker & Mary (30); Calestia (14); David C. (11); Margaret
(7); Edward (4) RUCKER, Allice (15)
- 7 WOODSIDE, William (40), farm hand & Sallie (14); Mattie (12); Nannie (6)
- 8 PATE, Mason C. (56), physician & Charlotte (50); Amy Ann (20); James E. (18); Sallie
C. (13); Ella D. (10) SMITH, John (17)
- 9 BRACK, George T. (37) works in sawmill & Mary E. (35); Allice J. (13); William E.
(12); Emma K. (10); Ella W. (7); George L. (2)
- 10 LYONS, John (63) born Virginia, drygoods merchant & Cathandra (52)
- 11 GREGORY, Harden (63), farmer; JETT, Stocky (62), insane; GREGORY, Elizabeth
(41), black; Adaline (18) black; William (12) black; Catharin (10) black; Amanda (4)
black; Samuel (11) mulatto; Annie (9); HATFIELD, Catharin (35) black; HATFIELD,
Clarence (6) black; HATFIELD, Mat (4) black; HATFIELD baby (1/12, May) black
- 12 YEWELL, Benjamin (54), saddler & Catharin G. (35); MILLER, Mollie (12); RUCKER,
George W. (45), physician; ABLE, Martha (17), black, domestic servant
- 13 BROWN, James L. (38), bar tender & Mary J. (24); Susan A. (5); Eliza J. (2)
- 14 ABLE, Lloyd (27), farm hand & Martha (32); Frances (14); Thomas A. (12); Benadict

- (8)
- 15 SHANE, Charles (31), drygoods merchant & Annie(32); Mary E. (7)
- 16 GOLDSMITH, Owen (70), drygoods merchant & Mary E. (71); Walter S. (17);
MCMAHAN, William (47), drygoods merchant
- 17 EVANS, James F. (38), hotel keeper & Nancy E. (37); Marcella (15); Susan R. (13);
Littleberry (10); Henrietta (8); Beauregard (6); Dora Etta (3)
- 18 GOLDSMITH, James (27), saddler & Mary E. (24); Clarence (2); Lillie (1)
- 19 GILLASPIE, John (41), physician & Sarah A. (40); Stephen R. (22), carpenter; Mary E.
(20); Francis (18); Nathaniel (16), laborer; Cabob (14); Nannie M. (10); Benjamin (8);
Clarence (4)
- 20 SENNETT, James (33) keeping hotel & Martha J. (30); Virginia (7); Joel (3); POWELL,
Reuben(35) bar tender
- 21 CAIN, Samuel (37), druggist & Mary E. (31); Joseph W. (12); Archie (5); Kate (2) ;
POPE, Harrott (57), POPE, Isaac (10)
- 22 BEDFORD, Thompson (34), physician & Susan M. (27); Samuel W. (8); Ella S. (6);
Mary E. (4)
- 23 HALE, Calub (35), physician & Sarah F. (32); Laura (13); Susan (11); Mattie (4);
Sallie (2)
- 24 MAY, James H. (47), blacksmith & Ellen J. (37); James T. (17); Lloyd R. (15); Charles
H. (13); Ida Bell (11); Lucy W. (9); Lulia (2)
- 25 BARTLETT, Richard (59), farmer & Sarah J. (44); Richard J. (12); Elizabeth (10);
Adelia (7); ALSUP, Robert (48) clerk in drygoods store; DTTTO, Emerley, black, (40)
domestic servant; DITTO, Jack(7) mulatto, idiotic
- 26 LITSEY, George W. (32), blacksmith & Leticia (26); James (4); Rosalla (2); KELLEY,
Rebecca (18) black, domestic servant
- 27 SHANKER, Barney (29), wagon maker & Emma (23); Jefferson (1)
- 28 SHANKER, Martin (59)born Switzerland, wagon maker & Elizabeth (61) born
Switzerland & John (22) born Indiana, laborer
- 29 WOODS, Thomas (58), wagon maker & Charaty E. (48); Mary C. (22); Elizabeth (20);
Martha J. (15); Robert (9)
- 30 DAY, James M. (27) wagon maker & Mary (24); Mary E. (2); Lurance (6/12,Dec)
- 31 BRUNER, Joseph L. (23), carpenter & Sarah F. (22); Alonzo (6/12 ,Dec); BRUNER,
Thomas (17), carpenter
- 32 SUTTIN, James C. (30), physician & Sallie C. (17) md Nov 1869; PATE, James M. (28),
clerk in tobacco house & PATE, Sephronia (25); PATE, Amy (1/12,May)
- 33 CATES, Webster (33), plasterer & Eliza Ann (26); William (5); Susan (3); Isaac (1);
CATES, Bell (19) black, domestic servant
- 34 FLOYD, Zachariah (49) & Mary C. (40); Thomas C. (21), farm hand; Hardin L. (18)
farm hand; FLOYD, Frances (30)
- 35 DICKEN, Banister (30), farmer & Cynthia (22); Sarah (6/12 ,Dec)
- 36 MATTINGLY, Austin (41), farmer & Ann Eliza (33); Sally F. (11); Hattie D. (3)
MCMAHAN, John (27), farm hand
- 37 MONTGOMERY, James (33) mulatto, farm hand; FRY, Dicy (40) black; SMITH,
Daniel (10) black; MAYES, Milton (17) black, farm hand
- 38 MAY, Josiah (30), druggist & Sarah (25); William (8); Isaac (6); Richard (4); Frank (2)
- 39 WELLS, Michael (55), works in tobacco house; & Susan (45); Melissa (18); Richard

- (15); Teodosia (9)
- 40 HAYNES, Jessey (49), miller & Louisa (35); Fidelia M. (19); James D. (17), works in cardy mill; Andrew C. (15); Ella E. (13); Scott (10); Ella C. (9); Cora Alice (6); Webster D. (4); Atwell (2)
- 41 TRAVIS, Isaac (43) works in grist mill & Mary E. (35); Millie A. (5); Martha B. (3); Malindy E. (1/12,May)
- 42 KELLEY, Benjamin (26), peddler & Rody Ann (22); Ammon (4); Jon (2)
- 43 VAN RUSSELBURG, James (26) & Malinda (23); Charles (8); Mary Florance (6); Felix (4); John (2)
- 44 GLOVER, Fannie (40); & Ruth (15); Blanch (11); Sallie (9); Jefferson (7)
- 45 LITSEY, John T. (27), farmer & Mary J. (25); Mary E. (7); Neoma (5); Lafayette (3); HULST, Sallie (21), domestic servant



Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1876-7
R. L. Polk & Co. Publishers & Louisville, KY,, 1876, p.522:

WHITESVILLE.

An incorporated village of about 300 inhabitants, located in the southeastern part of Daviess county, 15 miles from Owensboro, the county seat.

Business Directory

Bartlett, R. A., general store.
 Bedford, W. T., physician.
 Burton, H. & Son, druggists.
 Goldsmith & Shane, dry goods.
 Hale, C., physician.

Lyons & Mullin, general store.
 McMahan & Mattingly, dry goods.
 Mullen & Haynes, general store.
 Stinnett, James, hotel.



Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory For 1879-80,
R. L. Polk & Co. & A. C. Danser, Detroit, MI & Louisville, KY, 1879, p.506:

WHITESVILE.

In the northeastern part of Daviess county, 15 miles south-east of Owensboro, the county-seat, its nearest shipping point, on the O. & N. branch of L. & N. R. R., and the Ohio river. Tri-weekly stage to Owensboro; fare \$1.50. Weekly mail. T. C. Floyd, postmaster.

Business Directory

Barrett R C, lawyer
 Burton H , justice.
 Bowman James, blacksmith.

Brooks E M, express agt.
 Day J H, blacksmith.
 Day J M, wagonmaker.

Floyd T C., groceries.
Goldsmith James S., saddler & harness maker.
Hale C, physician.
Hile J F, druggist.
McMahon & Mattingly, dry goods.
Miller W L, blacksmith.
Mullen G W, flour mill

Neel & Mattingly, tobacconist.
Pope J S, general store.
Rhodes G W, general store.
Rhodes H W, general store
Stinnett, Bray & Co, tobacconist.
Stinnett J L, hotel and general store.



Whitesville, Daviess County, KY 1880 Federal Census, pp.387A-390A:

[Listed are name, age, relationship to the head of the household, birth place if other than Kentucky and occupation; b. = born.]

236	Haffey, Patric H., 29 merchant, b. Ireland	b. Minn.	241	Pope, John S., 31, merchant
	“ Mary H., 20, wife			“ Sallie C., 22, wife
	Wedding, Robert, 60, father-in-law, widowed, carpenter			“ Ethel, 3, daughter
	“ John S.R., 16, brother-in-law			“ Birthie, 1, daughter
237	Hite, James F., 33, druggist		242	Miller, William, 33, undertaker
	“ Sarah, 25, wife			“ Annie, 22, wife
	“ Alice, 5, daughter			“ Pearl, 4, daughter
	“ Leslie, 3, son			“ infant, 1, son
	“ Mary E., 6/12, daughter		243	Brooks, Aretus, 32, merchant
	“ John R., 56, father, widowed, gardener			“ Artelia, 27, wife
238	Haynes, William H., 28, teacher			“ Eula, 6, son
	“ Sallie C., 23, wife			“ Eunice, 3, daughter
	“ Birtha A. 6/12,			“ Nina, 6/12, daughter
239	Swearer, John , 47, wagoner, b. PA		244	Floyd, Thomas, 31, merchant
	“ Josephin M., 48, wife			“ Rosie, 25, wife
	“ Juda A., 14, daughter			“ Ada, 8/12, daughter
	“ John T., 10, son		245	Stinnet, James, 42, tobacconist
240	Cain, Samuel, 46, clerk in store			“ Marthia R., 35, wife
	“ Mary E., 43, wife			“ Virginia, 16, daughter
	“ Archel, 14, son			“ Joel L., 12, son
	“ Katie M., 12, daughter			“ William A., 6, son
	“ Milvillie, 8, daughter			“ Lou. A., 4, daughter
	Pope, Isaac S., 20, brother-in-law, fruit agent			“ Lawrence M., 2, son
	“ Amanda, 15, servant, b. Ill.		246	Burrs, Thomas, 26, wagoner
241	Goldsmith, Mary, 82, widowed			“ Nancy J., 27, wife
	Stevens, Walter, 27, grandson, b. ?			Knott, John, 13. brother-in-law,
	“ Clarence, 12, grandson,		247	Haynes, Charles, 54, farmer
				“ Arrena, 50, wife
				“ Ollie, 20, son, work on farm
				“ Oscar, 18, son, work on farm

	“ Mary A., 16, daughter		b. Md.
	“ Ida B., 13, daughter		“ Elizabeth, 54, wife
	“ Robert E, 11, son	255	Martin, James, 33, house carpenter
	“ Alton, 9, son		“ Annie L., 33, wife
	“ Loretta, 7, daughter		“ William E., 3, son
	“ Nettie, 7, daughter	256	Nell, Samuel W., 28, saloon keeper
248	Bowlds, John, 27, carpenter,		“ Marcella J., 26, wife
	“ Mary E., 29, wife		“ William D., 5, son
249	Pryor, Joseph, 21, work at brick yard	257	Shane, Charles, 41, plasterer
	“ Sarah I., 20, wife		“ Annie, 41, wife
	“ William W., 3, son		“ Minnie E., 18, daughter
	“ Ada, 8/12, daughter	258	Mitchell, Francis, Rev., 30
250	Goldsmith, Sant. J., 37, barber		“ Rosina, 28, wife
	“ Mary E., 32, wife		“ Francis J., 9, son
	“ Lillie, 10, daughter		“ Lettie J., 7, daughter
	“ Delia E., 6, daughter		“ Nannie L., 5, daughter
	“ Annie, 4, daughter		“ William L., 8/12, son
	“ Harriett F., 2, daughter	259	Floyd, Mary J., 51, widowed
	“ Cicero M., 4/12, son		McCubbins, Ann, 6
251	Mattingly, John, 59, boot & shoe maker	260	Clark, Redmon, 47, wood workman
	“ Annie S., 56, wife		“ Unice, 43, wife
	“ Christena, 23, daughter		“ Sarah M., 18, daughter
	“ Lucy, 19, daughter		“ Annie, 11, daughter
	“ Benjamin S., 18, son		“ Palestine, 6, daughter
	“ Charles, 13, son	261	Rhodes, John, 54, merchant
	“ Mack, 12 daughter		“ Mary A., 49, wife
	“ Lizzie, 10, daughter	262	Floyd, Harlind, 28, farmer
252	McClary, Robert, 42, wagoner, b. Ind.		“ Sallie A., 28, wife
	“ Jane, 25, wife		“ Myrtle J., 4, son
	“ Owen, 2, son		“ Lula L., 1, daughter
	“ Perlle, 1, daughter	263	Litsey, George W., 41, blacksmith
253	Sels, Edward, 54, hotel keeper, b. Hanover		“ Loutice, 37, wife
	“ Mary, 52, wife, b. Hanover		“ Junius, 14, son
	“ Herman, 24, son, work at sawmill		“ Allie, 11, daughter
	“ Mary, 20, daughter		“ Ettie, 7, daughter
	“ Annie, 17, daughter		“ Fred., 5, son
	“ Edward, 15, son, work at tobacco factory	264	Litsey, Thomas, 38, fruit agent
	“ Rossie, 12, daughter		“ Mary J., 35, wife
	“ Mellie, 9, daughter		“ Emma M., 17, daughter
	Whalen, John, 35, boarder, constable		“ Naoma, 15, daughter
254	Wells, Edward, 76, house carpenter,		“ Layfayett, 13, son
			“ Annie, 10, daughter
			“ Edward T., 7, son
			“ Walice, 4, son
			“ Henrey, 2, son
		265	Haynes, Delus, 24, farmer

	“	Lena H., 20, wife, millinery		“	Georg A, 6, daughter
	“	Emer, 1, son		“	Eliza, 4, daughter
266	Evans, James, 48, saloon keeper			“	Thomas, 6/12, son
	“	Nancy E., 47, wife	274	King, Kyran, 26, pastor St. Marys,	b. Ireland
	“	Little Berry, 21, son, work at sawmill		Rauschist, Ida, 64, wd., b. Belgium	
	“	Boragard, 16, son, work at sawmill		—	Mary E., 19, servant, b. Belgium
	“	Dora E., 12, daughter	275	Glover, Fannie, 40, widowed	
	“	Paterson A., 9, son		“	Ruth, 21, daughter, teacher
267	Anderson, James, 37, carpenter			“	Blanche, 19 daughter, teacher
	“	Amy A., 30, wife		“	Sallie, 19, daughter
	“	Nola, 8, daughter	276	Crisp, William, 37, work on farm	
	“	Iliff, 4, son		“	Susan E., 20, wife
	“	Ivis, 1, son	277	Dickens, Banister, 40, stone mason	
268	Mattingly, James, 42, tobacconist			“	Cynthia M., 32, wife
	“	Clarar J., 26, wife, b. Ind.		“	Sarah A., 10, daughter
269	Neel, Zack T, 34, tobacconist			“	Frances L., 6, daughter
	“	Susan J., 27, wife		“	Sylvester, 3, son
270	Barrett, Richard, 50, attorney at law			“	Amos Van, 1, son
	“	Sarah A., 39, wife	278	Dye, George, 27, miller	
	“	Searles, 20, son, work in tobacco factory		“	Sarah, 27, wife, b. Ind.
	“	Emma D., 17, daughter, teacher		“	Perrey, 7, son
	“	Alaric, 16, son		“	Joseph, 1, son
	“	Sarah A., 11, daughter	279	Wilkey, Charles, 30, miner, b. Ind.	
	“	Birchie, 8, daughter		“	Loucretia, 25, wife, b. Ill.
	Miller, Hannah, 22			“	William H., 5, son
				“	George H., 10/12, son
271	Brooks, George, 64, farmer, b. Va.		280	Wilke, Robert, 44, miner	
	“	Elizabeth, 66, wife		“	Marthia, 38, wife
	“	Ed M., 36, son. mail carrier		“	Margaret, 16, daughter
	“	Catherine, 2, daughter-in-law		“	Nancy, 13, daughter
	“	Loyes, granddaughter		“	James, 12, son
	“	Mortimor G., 4/12, grandson		“	John, 11, son
272	May, James H., 57, blacksmith			“	Robert, 9, son
	“	Ellen J., 47, wife		“	Mary E., 6, daughter
	“	Theodore J., 27, son, work in tobacco factory		“	Emma, 5, daughter
	“	Charles, 23, son, work at coal bank		“	Lula, 4, daughter
	“	Ida B., 20, daughter		“	Watter, 10/12, daughter
	“	Lucy, 17, daughter	281	Mullen, George W., 47, merchant miller, b. Va.	
	“	Lola, 12, daughter		“	Frances, 43, wife
273	Tindle, George, 27, farmer			“	Cicero, 20, son, pharmica student
	“	Maggie, 21, wife		“	Emit, 8, son
					Burnes, Frances, 15, niece

282	Hunter, James, 37, sawyer		b. Miss.
	“ Sarah, 35, wife, b. Mo.		“ Arrena, 26
	“ Lula, 17, daughter, b. Ill.	292	Pate, Mason C., 66, physician
	“ Adelbert, 14, son		“ Charlott, 60, wife
	“ Edgar, 12, son		“ Sophrona, 33, daughter, widowed or divorced
	“ Herbert, 8, son		“ James E., 28, son, tobacconist
	“ Kate, 6, daughter		“ D. Ella, 19, daughter
	“ Mabel C., 1, daughter		“ C. Holt, 7, grandson
283	Day, James M., 36, wood workman	292	McCarty, James, 32, physician
	“ Mary E., 34, wife, b. Switz.		“ Susan M., 25, wife
	“ Mary E., 12, daughter		“ Arnold B., 3, son
	“ Lawrence E., 10, son	293	Boarman, James M., 47, blacksmith
	“ Bertie, 7, son		“ Mollie, 33, wife
	“ Maude, 4, daughter, b. Texas		“ Jeff, 15, son
	“ Clarry, 2, daughter		“ Joseph L., 11, son
284	Sutton, James C., 39, physician		Jones, Hattie, 9, step-daughter
	“ Sallie C., 27, wife	294	Hale, Caleb, 45, physician
	“ Estel E., 6, son		“ Sarah F., 42, wife
285	Brock, Allen, 39, sawyer		“ Susan, 20, daughter
	“ Kate, 33, wife		“ Mattie, 13, daughter
	“ Nettie, 6, daughter		“ Sallie, 11, daughter
	“ Charles, 2, son	295	Haynes, John W., 37, farmer
286	Mattingly, Austin, 51,		“ Sallie G., 24, wife
	farmer & machinist		“ Rollie E., 5, son
	“ Ann Eliza, 44, wife		“ Rossie, 1, son
	“ Sallie F., 21, daughter		Woodside, Willis, 50, father-in-law, invalid, widowed
	“ Hattie D., 13, daughter		
	Hays, Daly, 28, servant, work on farm	296	Hays, Thomas, 51, farmer
287	Russle, Joseph, 23, work on farm		“ Mary A., 48, wife
	“ Malinda A., 20, wife		“ Frank, 25, son, work in tobacco factory
	“ James W ., 2, son		“ James L., 19, son, work on farm
	Rhodes, James, 69, father-in-law, widowed, stone mason		“ Richard K., 17, son, work on farm
	Rhodes, John, 23, brother-in-law		“ Mary E., 14, daughter
289	Travis, Joseph, 40, work on farm		“ Emma Z., 11, daughter
	“ Elizabeth, 30, wife		“ Charles A., 9, son
	“ Sallie A., 15, daughter		“ Lonnie E., 6, son
	“ James, 9, son		Ragsdale, Robert, 86, father-in-law, Widowed, house carpenter
	“ Millie A., 8, daughter		
	“ Eddie, 5, son	297	Bristow, Nancy J., 47, widowed
	“ Coalman, 1, son		“ Dozier B., 23, son, farming
	Rhodes, Rosie, 16 sister-in-law		“ Mary E., 25, daughter
290	Crigler, Taylor, 33, physician		Griffith, John F., 20, servant,
	“ Louisa, 33, wife		
	Duvall, Virginia, 13, step-daughter		
291	Stockton, Joseph, 33, farmer,		

wok on farm
Norris, Sam H., 28, boarder,

School teacher

“Here ends the village of Whitesville”



Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1881-82
Vol. III, R.L. Polk & Co. & A. C. Danser, Detroit, MI & Louisville, KY, p.557:

WHITESVILLE.

In the northeastern part of Daviess county, 15 miles south-east of Owensboro, the county-seat, its nearest shipping point, on the O. & N. branch of L. & N. R. R., and the Ohio river. Tri-weekly stage to Owensboro; fare \$1.50. Weekly mail. T. C. Floyd, postmaster.

Barrett R C, lawyer.
Brooks A P, general store.
Brooks E M. express agent and livery.
Barton H A, justice.
Chambliss & Hix, harness-mkrs.
Day J M, wagon -maker.
Evans J ., saloon.
Floyd T C, grocer.
Goldsmith James S, saddler.
Haffey, P H, general store.
Hale C, physician,
Hile J F, druggist.

Mattingley & Abell, shoemakers.
May J H, blacksmith.
Miller W L, undertaker.
Mullen G W, flour-mill.
Neal & Mattingley, tobacconists.
Neel H S, saloon.
Pate Mrs S C, milliner.
Pope J S, general store.
Rhodes John, general store.
Sells E, hotel proprietor.
Stennett J L, tobacconist



Owensboro Family Directory and Daviess County Gazetteer For 1891-92,
Geo. H. Cox, Messenger Job Rooms, Owensboro, KY, pp.261-263:

WHITESVILLE

This village named after William Lee White is on the O. F of R & G R R, 16 miles from Owensboro. Its population is 407. It has 3 general stores, 2 hardware and grocery stores, 1 grocery, hardware and furniture store, 1 drug store, 1 confectionery, 1 barber shop, 2 blacksmith shops, 3 tobacco factories, 1 feed and livery stable, 1 flour and grist mill, 1 boot and shoe shop, 2 hotels, 3 churches, 1 Catholic, 1 Christian and 1 Baptist. There is also one bank, of which J L Stinnett is president and John Kittenger is cashier. Of professional men, Whitesville has 5 physicians, 1 lawyer, 1 dentist. The justices of the peace are H A Burton and Geo. W. Neal. The public school has 120 pupils enrolled. There is a Masonic lodge. Of the Churches, St. Mary's Catholic church has 730 members, 435 communicants, a ladies' altar society of 60 members, a sodality of 45 members, and 1 total abstinence society of 43 members. Rev. L. B. Ford is the pastor. The Christian (Disciples) church had 275 members, and the Rev. John Ligon is pastor. The Baptist church has

390 communicants, with a ladies' aid society, and a children's "Sunbeam" society. The Rev. J. S. Coleman is pastor.

Barrett R C, lawyer and justice of the peace.
Bartlett F, clerk.
Bartlett J, laborer.
Bartlett J T, retired farmer.
Bartlett J A, farmer.
Bowlds, A P & Bro, merchants.
Brooks Geo, retired farmer.
Brown Nancy, seamstress.
Coleman Rev J S, pastor.
Cooper Nancy J, seamstress.
Crigler T, physician.
Crisp Wm, laborer.
Cumpton C, miller.
Dickens B W, plasterer.
Early Mrs Sallie, farmer.
Evans H, carpenter.
Evans, sawmill owner.
Floyd Mrs M J, seamstress.
Floyd H L, farmer and bricklayer.
Ford Rev. L B, Catholic priest.
Gillespy Nancy, seamstress.
Graham J, laborer.
Haffy P H, merchant.
Hagan S, laborer.
Hale C, physician.
Hardesty C, farmer.
Hardesty E, farmer.
Hardin Mrs E C, seamstress.
Haynes C, retired farmer.
Haynes D, dentist.
Howard Mrs N, retired farmer.
Hunter Wm, teamster.
Jackson R, carpenter.
Jackson J (col.), laborer.
Karnes J B, teamster.
Kittinger J, cashier bank.
Knott B, farmer.
Knox W R, physician.
Kopp C, timber dealer.
Lanham R A, laborer.
Lewis C W, painter.
Ligon Rev J, Christian preacher.
Little C W, section foreman.
Litsey J T, insurance agent.

Litsey Mrs L, seamstress.
Martin J, carpenter.
Martin Nancy, retired farmer.
Mattingly Ed, saw miller.
Mattingly J L, boot and shoe maker.
Mattingly B S, fanner and teamster.
Mattingly A D, tobacco merchant.
May Wm, merchant.
May F, insurance agent.
May H, blacksmith.
McCarty Mrs E, seamstress.
McDonald M A, physician.
Miller, W L, merchant and undertaker.
Morgan R S, barber.
Mullen G W, druggist.
Nave H H, proprietor hotel.
Neal W S, trader.
Neal R P, laborer.
Pate J E, teamster.
Pate A, livery stable.
Pate J A, laborer.
Pryor J, laborer.
Pryor E, laborer.
Purcell L. miller.
Ragsdale E, hotel proprietor.
Ramsey B F, farmer.
Rarrick R, blacksmith.
Rice J, coal miner.
Rummage M, teamster.
Rummage J F, distiller.
Shane C, postmaster.
Simpson, P stock trader.
Smith W (col), laborer.
Smith Julia (col), laborer.
Spurrier Wm, saw miller.
Spurrier G W, saw miller.
Stinnett J L, tobacco merchant.
Stockton J F, horse breeder.
Swear J, teamster.
Tamer J D (col), farmer.
Tindle, G, blacksmith.
Travis S, laborer.
Ware I B, blacksmith.
Ware I J, carpenter.

Wedding T J, physician.
Wells J B, carpenter.
Wells L B, retired farmer.

Wells W B, tobacco merchant.
Wheatley J H, merchant.



Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1895-96
R.L. Polk & Co., Louisville, KY:

WHITESVILLE.

On the O., F. of R. & G. R. R. R., in Daviess county, 15 miles east of Owensboro, the county swat. Exp., Adams. Tel., W. U. Population, 500. C. M. Mullen, postmaster.

Bank of Whitesville (capital \$15,1800),
J S Stinnett pres, John Kittinger cash.
Barrett R C, lawyer.
Birkhead Marietta, milliner.
Bourman E F, blacksmith.
Bray H, tobacco.
Brooks A P, Agt Electropoise,
Du Bois & Webb Genl. Agts.
Brooks D F, grocer.
Burrett W L, physician.
Burton H A, justice.
Cecil W L, railroad and exp agt.
Compton F L, jeweler.
Dickens Bannister, mason.
Evans J R, saw mill.
Haffey P H, general store.
Hale C, physician.
Haynes Delos, dentist.
Hicks W G, harnessmaker.
Knox J S, physician.
Litsey & Knox, Drugs.
McBrady P, groceries and hardware.

McDonald & Purcell, flour mill.
Martin James, carpenter.
Mattingley A D, tobacco.
Mattingley J L, shoemaker.
May J T, painter.
Medcalf G W & Co, distillers.
Miler J L, grocer.
Miller W L, undertaker.
Nave H H, hotel.
O'Sullivan Rev Hugh (Catholic)
Pate Bros, barbers.
Rice Jesse, coal miner.
Simpson W P, meats.
Skillman W R, general store.
Stennett J L, tobacco and
pres Bank of Whitesville.
Swearer & Son, livery.
Ware I B, blacksmith.
Wedding Thomas J, physician.
Wells W B, tobacco.
Wheatley J H, general store.
Williams S M, physician.



Daily Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Special Illustrated Edition,
29 January 1899, p.9B:

Articles on: Bank of Whitesville; St. Mary's Catholic Church; P. H. Haffey; A. Shapero;
Pictures of: Shapero's Store (Whitesville); Whitesville Catholic Church; Whitesville Bank; and
Whitesville Post Office:



Whitesville Catholic Church



Whitesville Bank



Whitesville Post Office



Shapero's Store



**Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 8 May 1925,
Section Two – “Whitesville Development Edition”, pp.1B & 9B:**

**“RUDE SCHOOL HOUSE” WAS
BUILT AT “CROSS ROADS”
BY DR. WHITE IN 1842**

Now Thriving Commercial Center; Banks Have Combined Resources of Near Half Million.

"On a May morning in 1842 I started two negroes to cutting logs and began the erection of a rude school house, which was the first building at the point which is now known as Whitesville. "This quotation from a letter written a few years ago by Dr. W. Lee White of Washington, D. C, to M. J. Holbrook is perhaps the only written record of the beginning of the settlement first known as "Cross Roads," and for more half a century called "Whitesville" in honor of its founder.

That a rude school house should be the first building in Whitesville is peculiarly appropriate when one sees the community as it is today a center of culture made possible only through long years of educational progress. Two magnificent school buildings stand today literally on the foundation of the "rude building" erected by Dr. White 93 years ago, a description of each being given in another column of this section, reference being made here only as an incident in a feeble attempt to portray in words the story of the life of a now prosperous and perhaps soon to be immensely rich center of industrial development.

Ninety-three years is a long time to trace back and while the "dead past may bury its dead," yet it is always interesting to go back to the beginning when one views things modern and progressive and such is Whitesville.

Helm Recalls Old Days

J. A., Helm. 80 years young and remarkably vigorous for one of his years, gave the writer much interesting data concerning the town he is proud to call his home and glad to have had no little part in its building. Mr. Helm's grandfather, John Helm, built for Dr. White the first store room at "Cross Roads," so named because the settlement was made at the crossing of the Knottsville and Leitchfield roads, "trails" they were at that time. A line of merchandise such as was required to meet the needs of the early settlers was carried in this building by Dr. White and Benjamin F. Ramsey, cashier of the Farmers and Traders Bank. Following this, Mr. Helm says, Dr. Ike Westerfield erected a double log cabin on the lot where is now located the large warehouse belonging to J. W. Spurrier and Sons and the next building started was the "tavern" which was located near what is now the Wells Hotel. The "tavern" was run by Terry Kelly, whose descendants are now well known citizens of the community. Mr. Helm recalls that the west room of the building contained the bar where weary travelers found refreshments of a kind now unknown save in the memory of the "oldest inhabitants." The Kelly family lived in the east room of the same building.

The fourth building was one of much note in those days, according to Mr. Helm. It was a double log structure a story and a half high used as a residence by Hilary Rhodes, a man of affluence, and the "show place" of the "Cross Roads." This pretentious building was just across the street from the Farmers and Traders Bank.

Second Business House

Gillespie and Schultz was the second firm to engage in business at Cross Roads, the store building, of course, being built of hew logs, "chinked and daubed." The first location did not exactly suit the firm of Gillespie and Rhodes, so trucks were placed under the building and ten yoke of oxen pulled it to the spot now the home of Conductor Frank Marcell, the feat of moving a log house intact attracting the attention of settlers for miles around.

These are but a few incidents regarding the early settlement of Whitesville, space and the purpose of this article making it necessary to come down to the present day. Dr. White, who builded so wisely and well has passed on many years ago after an honored career in the service of his government. He left Whitesville at the outbreak of the Civil war and served with distinction in the Union army and at the close of the war became connected with the pension department at Washington. Some of his grandsons are now wealthy business men in Louisville.

Now Busy Center

If one of these should come to Whitesville today he would find on the sites of the old log store houses and the "tavern" modern business houses. Here are two banks with combined assets of \$423,230.71, two large general stores, two drug stores, three grocery stores, two practicing physicians, a millinery store, concrete works, blacksmith, machine and woodworking shop, cafe and novelty store, two garages, filling stations and automobile agencies, telephone exchange, real estate and insurance agencies, railroad stations, churches and two school buildings, and several fraternal orders including Masons, Knights Columbus and Modern Woodmen.

That Whitesville is thoroughly modern is shown by the fact that the chairman of the board of trustees and by virtue of that fact "mayor" of the town, a woman, Miss Beulah May. Miss May takes an active interest in community work and is a leader in every progressive movement. On the board with her will be found William Rogers, W. L. Litsey, Frank Brooks, J. T. Brown. Omar Rowland is judge of the police court and Harve Embry city marshall. Evil doers and lawbreakers never visit Whitesville out once.

Live Commercial Club

The Commercial Club is a newly formed organization that is doing much, for the advancement of Whitesville in a civic, social and commercial way. The club was organized three months ago with O. L. Greer, president, Lafe Litsey, vice president, Austin Ramsey secretary and Bernard Barrett treasurer. The membership is composed of practically every business and professional man in the town.

The Masonic Lodge , No. 297, meets in the frame building erected jointly by that organization and the Baptist church in 1854. F. L. Compton is worshipful master and W. P. Griffin, secretary and treasurer. The lodge meets regularly every __ night.

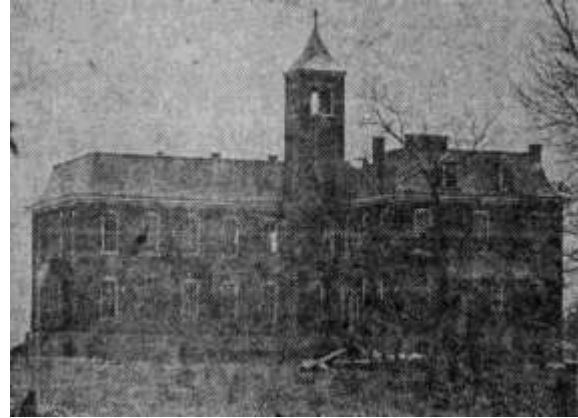
Woman Postmaster, Too

In addition to a woman "mayor," a new voter has also captured the postoffice. Miss Mildred Day is serving the present administration at Washington efficiently and well as postmaster. She has as her assistant her father, A. V. Day and the rural patrons of the office are served by three carriers, William P. Griffith on route, one, Philander R. Kelly, route two, and Ivo L. Howard, route three.

[Section two of the 10-page "Whitesville Development Edition" also contained articles on : Oil industry, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Bank of Whitesville, I. B. Ware Machine Shop, Omar Rowland, Dr. James Lee Carter, Brooks & Street Store, Spurrier & Sons Store, Whitesville Baptist Church, Whitesville Christian Church, Whitesville Catholic Church, Wells Hotel & Brown's Café.]



Whitesville Public School



Whitesville Parochial School



Week-day morning scene at I. C. station



Brooks & Street Store



Charter members Whitesville Commercial Club: Back row, left to right – J. T. Brown, Frank Litsey, Frank Brooks, Rev. Arthur Holland, Barnard Barrett, treasurer. Front, left to right – O. L. Greer, president; Austin Ramsey, secretary; W. L. Litsey, vice president; O. H. Bartlett, Herman Spurrier, Dr. J. L. Carter.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 5 April 1967, p.1B:

(EDITOR'S NOTE – Today, April 5, 1967, is the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Whitesville, a sixth-class city of Kentucky. It is located southeast of Owensboro near the Daviess-Ohio County border. Statistics concerning Whitesville have been compiled by Bud Rowland, a Whitesville merchant. His permission has been granted the Messenger and Inquirer for publishing them to commemorate this day. Rowland's report on 100 years of Whitesville's progress follows.)

1844 "Cross Roads"

Whitesville is situated in the eastern part of Daviess County, about one and one-half miles from the Ohio County line. Whitesville is a sixth class city with a population of about one thousand persons, and is about , 500 feet above sea level.

In 1844, Dr. William Lee White, who came here from the northern part of the state, and Benjamin F. Ramsey, who ; moved here from Owensboro, built the first store at what was then known as "Cross Roads." The store was opened on Christmas Eve of that year and the first sale was a piece of ribbon by Mr. Ramsey. A dwelling house was built opposite the store, and thus the foundation of what was later to be called Whitesville in honor of Dr. William White, was laid.

The first settlers in Whitesville were William Dillahay, the first blacksmith; William Miller, the first wagon maker. Latter settlers were Thomas and Joe Burkhead, blacksmiths and John T. Kelley, a shoemaker who operated a shop in his house. These men drew business from all directions.

In. 1853 the first school was built by Isaac E. Day on land purchased from James Eddy for \$15.00 The land was comprised of two lots, one for a Baptist church the other for a school. The school was used some five or six years when the Templars of Honor removed it and substituted a new building of two stories. The Templars of Honor occupied the upper part of the building for their lodge, and the lower part was taken in charge by a stock company and used as a school. In 1854 the Baptist and Freemasons, together, built a building. The Masons held their lodges in the upper part and Baptists their meetings on the ground floor. In 1878 the Baptists built the present church and the school was moved to the lodge and church building. The number of pupils was in the neighborhood of forty and sometimes more. The teacher at that time was F. P. Purcell.

The first hotel here was built by James L. Stinnett, who kept it as a tavern a few years, then it was bought by Dr. John Gillaspay, who used it as a dwelling house; it was afterward converted into a hotel, and was run by Joseph G. McCarty.

The first post office was kept at Boston until 1859 or '60, and was then moved to Whitesville. During the civil war, owing to the supposed disloyalty of the postmaster, it was again established at Boston. As Whitesville grew in popularity, business being centered here, the post office was moved back. Mail was received three times a week.

Whitesville Incorporated 1867

Whitesville was incorporated in 1867, through the efforts of Richard C. Barrett and Camden Riley, when Joseph Veech was Representative in the Legislature and aided the adoption of the bill. The act to incorporate Whitesville took effect from and after the 5th day of April, 1867.

The town of Whitesville was laid off under the direction of J. E. Haynes, M. D. Wells, and John Lyons, beginning at the center of Whitesville and extending North, South, East, and West so as to include not more than one square mile.

Board of Trustee members were elected on the first Saturday in May of each year. The first election was held on the first Saturday in April, so that the new town could seat its Board members the first day of May. The election was held under the supervision of J. E. Haynes and M. C. Wells as judges. The first Board of Trustees were: B. P. Yewell, Chairman; Hardin Gregory, G. W. Mullen, A. D. Mattingly and W. Cates. Others elected were: J. E. Haynes, clerk; John Lyons, treasurer; and Henry Haynes, marshal. In February, 1882, an amended charter was drawn up by Mr. Barrett and submitted to the Board of Trustees, who endorsed it. It was then sent to the members of the Legislature who adopted it April 6, 1882. This amended Charter reduced into one the various acts in regard to the town of Whitesville.

In 1883, Whitesville contained five dry goods and grocery stores, one drug store, one saloon, three blacksmiths, one shoemaker, two churches (Baptist and Christian. The Catholic Church did not move from where the cemetery is to its present location until 1884) two tobacco houses, four physicians, one Masonic lodge, and one flour mill.

Town Nearly Destroyed

In 1911, Whitesville was nearly destroyed by flames. The records of the Owensboro Daily Messenger show that on Tuesday, May 9, 1911, a fire was discovered in the store room of the A. P. Brooks store by Joe Sinnett and R. E. Knox at 9:40 a.m. Upon receiving the alarm firefighters used a bucket brigade and pulled down surrounding buildings to contain the fire. Dynamite was ordered from Owensboro to be sent to Whitesville with the greatest of speed as it would be necessary to dynamite several buildings to check the flames. A supply left Owensboro by automobile but was not used.

Injured during the raging blaze were: Dr. Edge, who fell from the roof of a stable; Dr. Carter, who was injured on the arm by falling timber; and John Taylor, who was severely injured when a heavy scantling fell on his head.

The Haffey store had originally been destroyed years before and was the only one with insurance. The hotel also had caught fire several times, but was checked each time.

On February 6, 1928, the town of Whitesville offered for sale an electric-energy franchise in the town of Whitesville. The franchise was sold to the Cumberland Public Utilities Co. The company was given free tax exemption for a period of five years by Whitesville.

February 4, 1929, a franchise for sale of gas was placed on sale. On April 7th, 1930, the Missouri-Kansas Pipe Line Company purchased the franchise.

Street Lights Installed

In June of 1929, Whitesville agreed to have the Cumberland public utilities install seven street lights with individual switches to be operated by the nearest resident, at a cost of \$2.50 each. By 1930 with electric lights, city gas, and street lights the city began to take a modern look. In June of 1930, the State of Kentucky agreed to pave the Main street through Whitesville. The road bed was to be 18 feet wide with concrete curb and gutter, but no curb or gutter was ever constructed. The curb and gutter was to run from the Knottsville road to the Bank of Whitesville.

The streets of Whitesville seem always to have been in trouble. In February of 1931, the town put up \$180.00 for rock for the streets. It was to be matched by \$125.00 by the citizens of

Whitesville, this amount was soon lowered to \$100.00 and finally to \$89.50. In many instances the records show work done on the streets by several men at the rate of 20 cents per hour.

Claims paid by the board of trustees in April of 1931 were as follows: Harve Embry, \$15.00, salary; J. L. Sinnett \$15.00, salary; Cumberland P. W. \$18.75, lights; Harve Embry, \$2.50, light bulbs; F. F. Mattingly, \$.50, burying dog; Pete Morton, \$2.50, labor on streets; W. A. Probus, \$11.00, labor on streets.

The board members, in 1932, felt that the rate charged by the Cumberland Utilities Company was excessive. They notified the company to reduce the rate or remove the street lights. The current light bill was \$20.00. Whitesville made an offer of \$10.00 a month and would accept the use of 50-watt bulbs instead of the 100-watt ones, being used. The matter was settled with the town paying \$12.50 and using 50-watt bulbs. The board members at about the same time, lowered their salaries from \$1.00 per month to \$.75 cents.

Speed Limit 12 MPH

The speed limit in Whitesville at that time was 12 ½ mph. The marshal's job not only confined him to keeping the speed down but he also was instructed to caution children about the use of sling shots.

The town jail, which was recently torn down, was built in 1936 by J. A. Hinton for \$645.00.

Water System Built

As the town grew the need for a public water system was great. In 1935, members of the Board of Trustees drew up an ordinance authorizing application to the P. W. A for a grant to build a water system. The board members were, F. V. Chambers, chairman; S. F. Whitley, L. B. McCarty, J. W. Spurrier and S. K. Barrett. The lawyer for Whitesville was David C. Brodie of Owensboro, the engineers were Westcott & Thornton of Owensboro. In August of 1939 the town accepted the water works plant for operation.

In January of 1942, Whitesville sold to Green River Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation a franchise to maintain and operate electric power within the city limits of Whitesville.

For some reason or other there are no records of the town of Whitesville from 1949 to 1954.

The Bank of Whitesville closed on September 16, 1954. In 1955, an Owensboro bank, the Owensboro National, bought all its assets and opened a branch in Whitesville.

In 1962, the water tank was reworked by the Globe Construction Co., of Henderson, Kentucky. The tank was taken down from the walkway up and replaced, then painted on the outside.

In May, of 1963, the Whitesville Volunteer Fire Department was formed and a truck was purchased from Beaver Dam fire department. Glenn Wood was elected fire chief and presently holds that position. The fire department makes an average of 30 runs a year and serves an area of approximately five miles in all directions from Whitesville. The department now operates one pumper, two tank trucks and one rescue vehicle. An average of eighteen volunteers make up the department.

An application was filed with the Farm Home Administration in September of 1966, for a grant and loan to construct a sewage system and to repair and update the present water system. The board members at this time were: H. E. Spurrier, Chairman, J. R. Shively, Glenn Wood, James Greer, and Louis Hamilton, Rose Crowe, clerk, and Roger Igleheart, Water Superintendent. There has been no action on granting the loan to date.

Water System

An ordinance authorizing the building of a public water system in Whitesville was passed by the Board of Trustees August 20, 1935. On February 23, 1939, more than three years later, an ordinance accepting the offer of the United States to aid by way of a grant in financing the construction of the water works was accepted by the board members. Under this agreement, the Federal Government would pay 45 per cent of the cost of construction of the water system. This agency was the Federal Emergency Administration of public works, better known as the P.W.A.

A lot was obtained from J. G. Howard for \$50.00 for the purpose of building a storage tank of 25,000 gallons for water. The wells were drilled on the Haynes Station Road. A right of way was purchased for 10 cents a rod, from the wells to the tank.

The low bidder on the construction of the water system was Ruby Lumber Company, Madisonville, Kentucky, in the amount of \$26,761.00. The low bidder for the construction of a tank was W. A. Caldwell & Company Louisville, Kentucky, in the amount of \$5,365.00. The Board of Trustees at this time consisted of: C. T. Day, Chairman, R. T. Matthews, F. C. Martin, and G. H. Kelley. The water bonds were sold August 1, 1938.

The town of Whitesville was to pay a \$3.00 rental on each fire plug until the system was paid for. In 1939 when the water system was finished there were only 48 persons using it.

In 1959 a total of \$15,000 of Water Works bonds remained unredeemed. A bond issue in that amount was sold and today only \$2,000 is left to be paid on the system.

Today there are 230 water meters and an average of 40,000 to 50,000 gallons of water used daily in Whitesville.

Odds & Ends 1967

240 automobiles registered in town

42 street lights in town

5 miles of streets in town

221 homes in town

Coldest day, 18 degrees below zero, was Fri, Jan. 19, 1940 (This date was recorded on the vault wall of the old Whitesville bank).

230 water users in town

25,000 gallons capacity of water tank

40,000 to 50,000 gallons of water used each day by Whitesville.

\$4,383.14 in taxes collected by Town of Whitesville in 1966.

245 light meters in town

approximately 225 gas meters in town

board members' pay is \$5.00 each meeting.

clerk's pay is \$80.00 per month

judge's pay is \$25.00 per month

water superintendent's pay is \$70.00

police officer, (vacant, at this time)

fire chief receives no pay.

4 churches, Catholic, Baptist, Church of Christ, Christian

4 grocery stores

2 service stations

2 restaurants

3 schools
2 funeral homes
1 drug store
1 hardware store
1 furniture store

3 persons from Whitesville have been elected to public office: George "Hoppy" Keown, sheriff of Daviess County; Dr. E.: M. Day, member Daviess County School Board, recently resigned; B. W. Barrett, county commissioner two terms from 1922-30.



A History of Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky, Hugh O. Potter
(Herff Jones-Paragon Publishing, Montgomery, AL, 1974), pp.241-242:

On April 5, 1967—the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Whitesville, the only incorporated city in Daviess county other than Owensboro—the *Owensboro Messenger and Inquirer* published a story of the community which had been compiled by "Bud" Rowland, a local merchant. Excerpts from it reveal that "Whitesville is situated in the eastern part of Davies county, about one and one-half miles from the Ohio county line. It is a sixth class city with a population of about one thousand persons, and is about 500 feet above sea level.

"In 1844, Dr. William Lee White, who went there from the northern part of the state and Benjamin F. Ramsey, who moved there from Owensboro, built the first store at what was then known as 'Cross Roads'. The store was opened on Christmas eve of that year The first settlers in Whitesville were William Dillehay, the first blacksmith and William Miller, the first wagon maker. Latter settlers were Thomas and Joe Birkhead, blacksmiths, and John T. Kelley, a shoemaker In 1853 the first school was built by Isaac E. Day and on land purchased from James Eddy for \$15.00. The land was comprised of two lots, one for a Baptist church, the other for a school. The school was used some five or six years when the Templars of Honor removed it and substituted a new building of two stories. The Templars of Honor occupied the upper part of the building for their lodge The first post office was kept at Boston until 1859 or '60, and was then moved to Whitesville. During the civil war, owing to the supposed disloyalty of the postmaster, it was again established at Boston. As Whitesville grew in popularity, business being centered there, the post office was moved back. Mail was received three times a week.

"Whitesville was incorporated in 1867, through the efforts of Richard C. Barrett and Camden Riley, when Joseph Veech was representative in the Legislature and aided the adoption of the bill. The act took effect from and after the 5th day of April, 1867. The town of Whitesville was laid off under the direction of J.E. Haynes, M.D. Wells, and John Lyons, beginning at the center of Whitesville and extending North, South, East and West so as to include not more than one square mile.

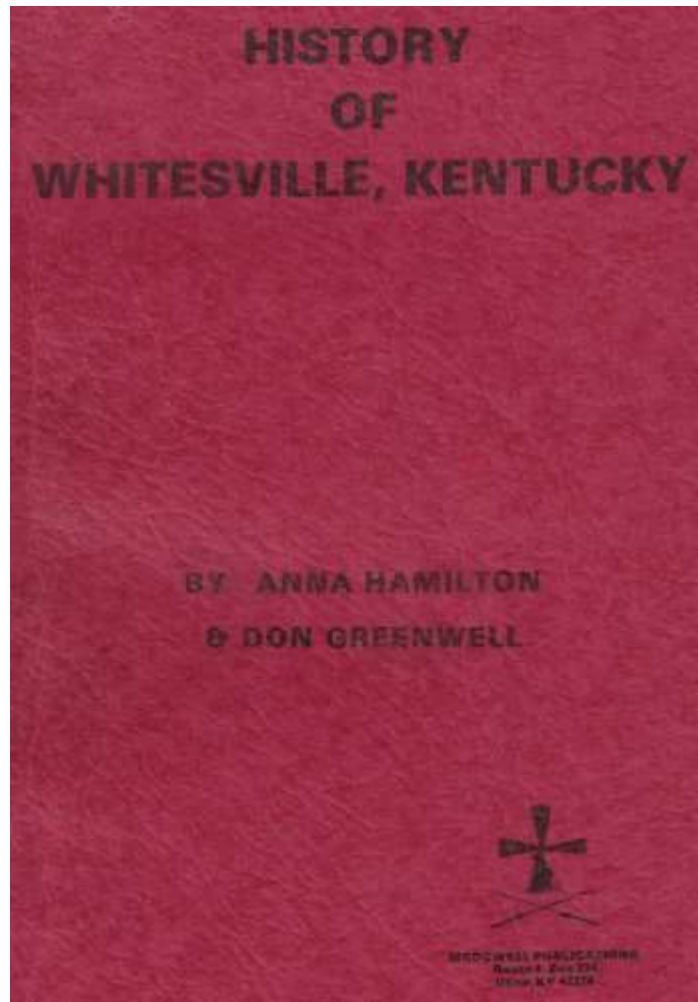
Board of Trustee members were elected on the first Saturday in May of each year. The first election was held on the first Saturday in April, so that the new town could seat its board members the first day of May. The election was held under the supervision of J.E. Haynes and M.C. Wells as judges. The first Board of Trustees were: B.P. Yewell, Chairman; Hardin Gregory, G.W. Mullen, A.D. Mattingly, and W. Cates. Others elected were: J.E. Haynes, clerk; John Lyons, treasurer; and Henry Haynes, marshal. In February, 1882, an amended charter was drawn up by

Mr. Barrett and submitted to the board of trustees, who endorsed it. It was then sent to the members of the Legislature which adopted it April 6, 1882."

On the 100th anniversary of Whitesville as an incorporated city, Rowland's report showed the community had a bank, a volunteer fire department, a public water system with 230 subscribers, 42 street lights, five miles of streets, 221 homes, 245 light meters, approximately 225 gas meters, one police officer, one unpaid fire chief, four churches, four grocery stores, two automobile service stations, 240 registered automobiles, two restaurants, three schools, two funeral homes, one drug store, one hardware store and one furniture store. A town jail, built in 1936, was torn down before Whitesville's anniversary.



History of Whitesville, Kentucky, Anna Hamilton & Don Greenwell
(McDowell Publications, Utica, KY, 1982), 195 pages:



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 23 April 1982, p.3C:

Historians publish book on Whitesville

History buffs will be able to catch up on 138 years of Whitesville this summer when two amateur historians publish their labor of love in Owensboro.

Donald E. Greenwell, who wrote and co-researched the book, says "The Story of the Crossroads of Whitesville, Kentucky" will include a history of the city of 788 people and biographies of some of its residents.

It may also include photographs, but no decision has been made on illustrations yet, he said Wednesday. Photographs may appear in a separately published album, he added.

Greenwell, a surgical assistant at St. Mary's Hospital in Evansville, was born in Whitesville 32 years ago. He and Ann Hamilton, a Whitesville resident, spent 1 ½ years researching the history of the only other incorporated city in Daviess County.

The title plays on the original name of the city, Crossroads, which was founded in 1844 on an old buffalo trail, Greenwell said. The community was the scene of several battles between white settlers and native Indians.

Mrs. Hamilton did most of the research for the book, although Greenwell says he spent some time in the genealogy section of Willard Library in Evansville studying the family histories of Whitesville's founders.

Both plowed through old records at the Daviess County Courthouse in Owensboro, interviewed longtime residents of Whitesville, studied old Bibles and stomped around several old cemeteries in and around the town, Greenwell said.

Greenwell said he wrote about 100 pages of manuscript to give to McDowell Publications of Owensboro, the publisher. The pre-publication cost of the book has been set at \$9.95, but Greenwell says the price could change.

His narrative is written along the lines of "The History of Daviess County," which was first published in 1883, he said.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 6 December 1994, Community p.5:

Community History

By Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer

Whitesville is the second-largest incorporated town in Daviess County. It has a population of about 700, a new elementary school, a 22-acre park and its own chamber of commerce. But in its early days, the community on the Leitchfield Road, 16 miles southeast of Owensboro, lived in the shadow of its predecessor – a place called Boston.

Boston was just 2 1/2 miles up the road, northwest of what is now Whitesville. It was established in 1810 when Bassett Burton and his wife, Polly Carter, came to Daviess County from near Harrodsburg. The Burtons purchased a large section of land on the Leitchfield Road and built a log cabin.

It wasn't until the fall of 1811 that the Burtons had any neighbors. John Ward and John Cooper built homes nearby. David French, Joseph Stephen, William Ellis and Josiah Haynes came in 1816. The first settlement was called Burtonville.

Soon thereafter, someone built a store near Burton's farm, and in 1822, Burton opened a horse mill. People living within a 15-mile radius of the mill brought their corn and wheat to have the grain ground into meal and flour.

Three years later, a number of other families had come to the community, and there were children to educate. A school was erected on Burton's property, and classes were taught by a well-educated Irishman named William Maxwell.

By the time Burton died in 1832, Burtonville had become Boston. No one seems to know how or why the name change came about, but the town included a store, mill, church and several residences. Burton's son, Horace, took over operation of the mill and followed in his father's footsteps.

The community had virtually died out by 1854, when only two or three old homes were left.

Many families had moved onto the land down the road southeast of Boston, where Owensboro's Robert Triplett, who owned the property, formulated plans for a town. That area's first settler, Dr. William White, arrived there in 1842 and taught school for a short time in what was then known as the Boston Precinct. Then he opened a store with his cousin, Ben F. Ramsey, in 1844. As the settlement grew, White again took up the practice of medicine.

Wagonmaker William Miller, blacksmith William Dillehay and shoemaker J.T. Kelley opened shops there, and the center of business moved from Boston to the new village, first called "Cross Roads."

Dr. White left Kentucky several years later, and by 1851 was living in Washington, D.C. He later died there at the age of 86.

Just when "Cross Roads" first bore the name of its first settler is not known, but when it was incorporated in 1867, the name of the new village in the Boston Precinct was Whitesville.

The town was growing by leaps and bounds in the mid-1850s and had long since outgrown Boston – which became just a hill bearing that name. Whitesville remained unrecognized in the state legislature and didn't have a post office. It was the largest town in the Boston Precinct but was considered only a temporary settlement, and the election poll was not moved there until years later.

The post office stayed at Boston until 1859 and then was moved to Whitesville. During the Civil War, it was established again at Boston because of the alleged disloyalty of the postmaster. It soon returned to Whitesville.

Finally, through the efforts of James L. Stinnett, Richard Barrett and Camden Riley, Whitesville was incorporated in February 1867. The town of Whitesville was laid out under the direction of J.E. Haynes, M.D. Wells and John Lyons, beginning at the center of Whitesville and extending north, south, east and west so as not to include more than a square mile.

By that time, Whitesville was a town of 320 people. There were five dry goods stores, a drug store, two saddling shops, two blacksmith and wagon shops, and two churches Baptist and Christian.

In a small way, Whitesville became an industrial center with the advent of a flour mill started in 1868 by Jesse Haynes. A few years later, the mill was purchased by G.W. Mullen, who added improvements and made it one of the most successful mills outside of Owensboro. The mill

could grind 150 bushels of wheat and corn in 10 hours and accommodated farmers from Daviess and Ohio counties.



Kentucky 54 divides downtown Whitesville in this recent aerial photo of the town. Daviess County's second largest incorporated city has a population of 700, a new elementary school, a 22-acre park and a chamber of commerce. Photo by Gary Emord-Netzley, Messenger-Inquirer.

The Cap Medcalf Distillery was a few miles outside the present Whitesville. Medcalf had a formula for rich Kentucky bourbon and first placed his distillery in an open field near a spring as sort of an experiment. Whitesville at that time was militantly dry, and Medcalf's experiment proved to be a huge success to those who couldn't buy within the city limits.

The still only had a capacity of 71.28 gallons and was not a commercial success. But the distinct flavor of Cap Medcalf bourbon earned the reputation of being the best ever produced in Daviess County.

Whitesville has had several disastrous fires in its history. The most destructive occurred on the morning of May 8, 1911, when flames raged through the downtown business district. The fire was discovered at 10 a.m. in the warehouse of the A.P. Brooks store. The lack of water and fire-fighting equipment allowed the fire to consume buildings on one entire block fronting on Main Street. The burned structures included the Brooks Store, the R.E. Knox drug store, the Christian Church, town lockup and W.L. Miller's undertaking establishments. Only the hotel, bank and two other stores survived.

One of Whitesville's best economic periods occurred in the 1920s when oil was discovered in that part of Daviess and Ohio counties. The oil boom began in 1925 and lasted about 10 years.

When Whitesville celebrated its 100th anniversary on April 5, 1967, the town had a bank, a volunteer fire department, public water system, 42 street lights, five miles of streets, 221 homes, one police officer, four churches, four grocery stores, two restaurants, a hardware store and a furniture store.

[Note: Glenn Hodges also wrote an article on Whitesville that was published in the book, Daviess County, Kentucky, 1815-2015, Celebrating Our Heritage, Daviess County Bicentennial Committee, M. T. Publishing Company, Inc., Evansville, IN, 2015, p.40-41.]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 6 March 2017, pp.1A & 2A:

**'It's a place like Nowhere Else'
Whitesville to celebrate its 150th birthday**

By Austin Ramsey, Messenger-Inquirer

Whitesville, Kentucky, looks back of 150 years of history this spring.

The city, founded in 1867, replaced a surviving measure of Kentucky wilderness. And now, leaders say, it lies at the fringe of an expanding metropolitan city.

But Whitesville remains a cross section of small-town living and industrialization. It's inspired by the tenacity of hard-working men and women and flavored by a beloved taste of Southern charm. Whitesville, they say, stays true to its namesake: Cross Roads. It's a liminal section of a county caught between farmland and factory lights, city traffic and dirt roads.

As it celebrates its sesquicentennial, residents and historians alike are remembering an old highway town that, for all its change, has preserved a sense of community.

"It's a place like nowhere else," says Mayor Greg Beyke. "We're a family here in Whitesville, and we always will be."

The city of Whitesville, in the eastern part of Daviess County, was founded on Feb. 27, 1867. There is some misconception about the date the charter was officially signed. Some state documents mark its birthday on April 5, but local historians believe it had taken that long for the February signing to reach recordkeepers in Frankfort.

Regardless, the area had been settled 20 years before in 1844 by a Dr. William Lee White, who traveled here from northern Kentucky by horse and buggy. He joined his cousin, Benjamin F. Ramsey, an Owensboro native, and together they built the first store at the intersection of two important thoroughfares -- highways known today as Kentucky 54 and Kentucky 764. It was a place known then as Cross Roads, and it grew to be an important stop for travelers between Fordsville and Owensboro.

According to the Whitesville Historical Society, early settlers included William Dillaway, the first blacksmith, and William Miller, the first wagon-maker. Others included Thomas and Joe Burkhead, other blacksmiths, and John T. Keley [sic – Kelley], a shoemaker who operated a shop in his house. The first school was built in 1853, laying the foundation for families to settle nearby.

"It was a nucleus," says Jackie Bickett, a member of the historical society. "You had old log homes surrounding the area and a few important shops at the intersection of those two roads. It was your typical frontier town with old dirt roads and a wooded community. We have several early stories of wagons getting stuck in the road up to your knees in mud during the wintertime."

Baptists and Freemasons built one of the few first churches in 1854, and records show that they met in the same structure -- one on the first floor and one on the second -- before local Baptists built their present church and school nearby in 1878. A hotel and tavern was built not long after, and it operated there for years under a number of different owners.

The first post office was kept in the neighboring community of Boston until about 1859 or 1860, and it moved back there once again at the outbreak of Civil War amid concerns of disloyalty by the postmaster. After the war was over, and Whitesville gained in popularity, the post office moved back and received deliveries three times a week.

Richard C. Barrett and Camden Riley lobbied then- Rep. Joseph Veech to submit a bill in the General Assembly to form the city of Whitesville and name it after its first settler. The bill was approved, and three men, J.E. Haynes, M.D. Wells and John Lyons, surveyed the land extending in all cardinal directions for a single square mile from the intersection of the two main highways. The Board of Trustees members were elected on the first Saturday in May of each year.

By 1884, Whitesville had five dry goods and grocery stores, one drug store, one saloon, three blacksmiths, one shoemaker, three churches (Baptist, Christian and Catholic), two tobacco houses, four physicians, one Masonic lodge and a flour mill.

Bickett said the farming industry grew quickly near the turn of the century in Whitesville, and logging companies profited off the fast-clearing land.

In 1911, a devastating fire nearly demolished the town. The Owensboro Daily Messenger reported that on Tuesday May 9, 1911, a fire was discovered in the storeroom of the A.P. Brooks store by Joe Sinnett and R.E. Knox shortly before 10 a.m. Upon receiving the alarm, firefighters used a bucket brigade and pulled down surrounding buildings to contain the fire. Dynamite was ordered from Owensboro to be sent to Whitesville "with the greatest of speed, as it would be necessary to dynamite several buildings to check the flames." A supply of explosives left Owensboro by automobile but wasn't used.

Three men were injured in the blaze.

Then in 1928, Whitesville offered for sale an electric-energy franchise that was purchased by Cumberland Public Utilities Co. A franchise for the sale of gas was purchased by the Missouri-Kansas Pipe Line Company on April 7, 1930. Later that year, the first streetlights were installed in the city at a cost of \$2.50 each.

With electric lights, city gas and street lamps, the city began to take a modern look, and the state agreed to pave Main Street through Whitesville near the end of the year.

As the town continued to grow, the need for a public water system became overwhelming. In 1935, members of the Board of Trustees drew up an ordinance authorizing application to the Public Works Administration for a grant to build a system.

Unfortunately, said historical society Executive Director Judith Mosley Ralph, roads between Owensboro and Whitesville were completely paved near that time, and the city's growth began to decline. In 1942, the electrical cooperative was sold away, and the Bank of Whitesville went out of business in 1954.

By its centennial in 1967, the city reached its peak population of about 788 residents, and the public high school was closed by the early 1970s, partly because of damage from a tornado that ripped through the town. Trinity High School and St. Mary of the Woods Elementary School

consolidated other area Roman Catholic schools and maintained a strong Catholic presence in the region, but Ralph said the loss of a public high school came as a real blow.

"There's been a steady decline after the high school left," she said. "People moved away for better jobs and more opportunities. The schools have always been the lifeblood of the community. They were the source of entertainment and public gatherings, and still today, Whitesville Elementary School, Trinity and St. Mary's are hugely important."

Mayor Beyke said the schools are what keep the city of Whitesville going. They contribute to much of the community's remaining businesses and connect residents through their children.

About 20 years ago, Whitesville built a public park on the south end of town and opened a Senior Citizen's Center for area residents. It's an example, he said, of that undying commitment Whitesvillians have to preserving what is theirs and what remains theirs 150 years later.

"There isn't much growth here anymore," the mayor said. "And sure, I'd like to see it grow, but the people here like the close-knit, small-town life. People want a simple life, and they have it here in Whitesville.

Byron Martin, 90, is one of those who lived near the heart of Whitesville for all his life and cherished it for its family feel. He and his wife, Birda, sold their estate to the historical society only recently and have moved to Owensboro, but Martin, who was the city's funeral director for 50 years, said change has always been slow to come in the old town.

"There was a time long ago when a person's word was their bond," Martin recalls. "That hasn't changed much for the better anywhere. But the city itself has improved, and people's lives have improved.

"Change," he said, "change is, I guess, just how you look at things."

Editor's Note: Much of the history recorded in this article is from newspaper clippings from The Owensboro Messenger and the Owensboro Inquirer.



Some Newspaper Headlines on Whitesville

- Owensboro Monitor, 28 February 1866, p.3 – Ad for Whitesville Academy
- Owensboro Examiner, 16 June 1876, p.5 – Incorporation of Whitesville Cooperative Association
- Owensboro Weekly Messenger, 21 November 1877, p.3 – New Whitesville Baptist Church almost completed
- Owensboro Examiner, 21 June 1878, p.1 – New Baptist church at Whitesville to be dedicated; see also 19 July 1878 p.5, 16 August 1878, p.1
- Owensboro Weekly Messenger, 10 July 1878, p.3 – New Baptist Church at Whitesville to be dedicated on July 14; see also 17 July 1878, p.2, 14 August p.3
- Owensboro Weekly Messenger & Examiner, 1 June 1881, p.3 – Description of Whitesville
- Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger, 17 April 1883, p. 4 – “Whitesville Enterprise” newspaper to be published at Whitesville
- Owensboro Weekly Messenger & Examiner, 14 May 1884, p.3 – New St. Mary’s Church at Whitesville to be dedicated; see also 11 June 1884, p.3

- Owensboro Semi Weekly Messenger, 13 May 1884, p.4 –Dedication of the new St. Mary’s Church at Whitesville; see also 10 June 1884 p.4 (dedication attended by 1000)
- Owensboro Tri-Weekly Messenger, 20 August 1885, p.4 – Suit filed over the Whitesville elections; see also 24 September 1885, p.4
- Owensboro Tri-Weekly Messenger, 12 September 1885, p.4 – Temperance issue in Whitesville
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 30 April 1889, p.4 – Bank at Whitesville organized; see also 15 May 1889, p.8
- Owensboro Weekly Messenger, 2 May 1889, p.9 – Whitesville Bank organized
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 27 Jul 1889, p.4 – St. Mary’s picnic at Whitesville attracts 4000
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 30 August 1889, p.4 – Catholic Total Abstinence Society meets at Whitesville
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 22 February 1890, p.1 – Bank of Whitesville will open next Wednesday
- Owensboro Weekly Messenger, 27 February 1890, p.3 – Bank of Whitesville opens Wednesday
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 9 June 1891, p.1 – Whitesville organizes a volunteer police force
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 29 March 1892, p.1 – G. W. Mullen, of Whitesville, to start brick making firm
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 14 April 1892, p.1 – Telephone lines to Whitesville and Knottsville completed
- Owensboro Daily Inquirer, 17 July 1898, p.1 – Picnic at St. Mary Church, at Whitesville
- Owensboro Daily Inquirer, 29 January 1899, p.9B – Articles on: Bank of Whitesville; St. Mary’s Catholic Church; P. H. Haffey; A. Shapero; Pictures: Shapero’s Store (Whitesville); Whitesville Catholic Church; Whitesville Bank; Whitesville Post Office
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 9 July 1899, p.5 – 6000 attend barbecue at Whitesville’s St. Mary’s Church
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 20 August 1899, p.2 – New parsonage at St. Mary’s Church in Whitesville to be built
- Owensboro Daily Inquirer, 12 July 1901, p.4 – Whitesville St. Mary’s annual barbecue; see also 14 July 1901 p.8
- Owensboro Daily Inquirer, 28 July 1901, p.3 – Parochial school to be established at Whitesville
- Owensboro Daily Inquirer, 9 February 1902, p.1 – Free parochial school at Whitesville
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 25 September 1902, p.7 – New Christian Church to be built at Whitesville
- Owensboro Daily Inquirer, 26 April 1903, p.1 – Whitesville votes to go dry
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 21 May 1904, p.4 – New Whitesville Christian Church dedicated; see also 31 May 1904, p.4
- Owensboro Daily Inquirer, 25 May 1904, p.1 – Dedication of the Whitesville Christian Church; see also 30 May 1904, p.1
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 25 September 1904, p.2 – Story of Bob a noted dog of Whitesville

- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 21 July 1907, p.1 – Electrical storm causes extensive damage in county and kills one, several injured at Whitesville picnic; see also 23 July 1907, p.3
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 12 November 1908, p.1 – Fire destroys part of Whitesville business section; see also 13 November 1908, p.1, 14 November 1908, p.1
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 10 January 1909, p.2 – New hotel of W. L. Miller opened at Whitesville
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 4 March 1909, p.3 – Whitesville and Utica have secured new high schools; see also 11 April 1909, p.5, 27 June 1909, p.1B
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 21 May 1909, p.5 – High schools to be erected at Utica and Whitesville; see also 24 July 1909, p.2, 30 July 1909, p.3, 13 August 1909, p.1, 7 September 1909, p.4
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 2 June 1909, p.2 – Silver Jubilee of Whitesville’s St. Mary’s to be observed; see also 6 June 1909, p.1B, 9 June 1909, p.2
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 26 June 1909, p.3 – Teachers named for new high schools at Whitesville and Utica; see also 27 June 1909, p.2, 29 June 1909, p.4
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 1 August 1909, p.1 – New bank being organized at Whitesville; see also 6 August 1909, p.4
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 5 September 1909, p.3 – Building boom at Whitesville
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 31 October 1909, p.2B – Whitesville is on a boom; see also 10 December 1909, p.8
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 27 January 1911, p.3 – New Whitesville high school now occupied
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 27 December 1913, p.2 – Obit of George W. Hagan, 85, states that St. Mary’s Catholic Church at Whitesville was organized at house in which he was born
- Owensboro Daily Messenger, 19 December 1916, p.6 – Rev. Hugh O’Sullivan pastor of St. Mary’s Church at Whitesville for 25 Years
- Owensboro Inquirer, 16 October 1923, p.6B – “Whitesville Is Complimented By Illinois Central Officials: Called Best Town In Kentucky Of Size, Has Good Schools”
- Owensboro Inquirer, 8 May 1925, p.1B – “Rude School House Was Built At ‘Cross Roads’ By Dr. White In 1842”
- Owensboro Messenger, 3 June 1934, p.1B – “Whitesville Was First Known As ‘The Cross Roads’”
- Owensboro Messenger, 7 March 1943, p.5B – History of Boston Precinct, Whitesville – Basset Burton the first settler
- Owensboro Messenger, 8 August 1954, p.1D – 100th anniversary of history of Whitesville Baptist Church
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 5 April 1967, p.1B – “Daviness County’s 6th Class City Incorporated on April 5, 1867” Centennial of Whitesville
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 23 February 1975, p.1D – “Whitesville business center for Hancock, Ohio, Daviess”, by Keith Lawrence
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 23 April 1982, p.3C – “Historians publish book on Whitesville”, book by Anna Hamilton & Don Greenwell
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 6 December 1994, Community p.5, “Community History”, by Glenn Hodges

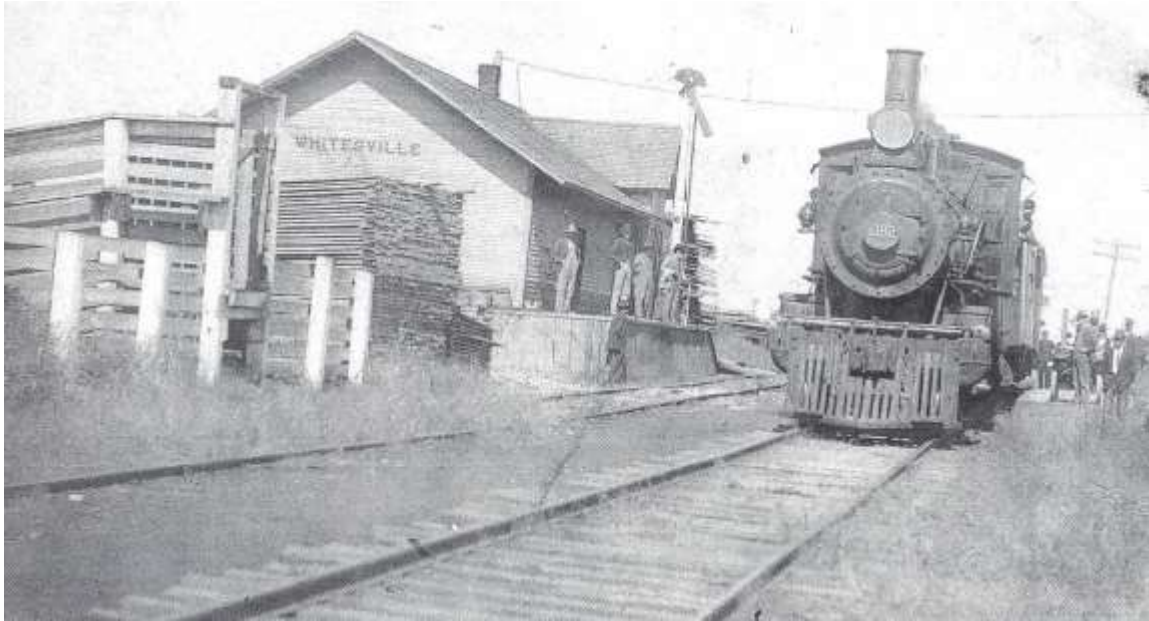
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 1 July 2001, p.2A – “Whitesville dates to 1867”
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 1 July 2001, pp.1A & 2A – “Whitesville’s vitality belies its size”, by Steve Vied
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 1 July 2001, pp.1A & 2A – “Mayor: Town has basics covered”, by Steve Vied
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 1 July 2001, p.2A – “Whitesville residents enjoy friendly, relaxed way of life in small town”, by Steve Vied
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, 6 March 2017, pp.1A & 2A – ‘It’s a place like Nowhere Else’: Whitesville to celebrate its 150th birthday”, by Austin Ramsey



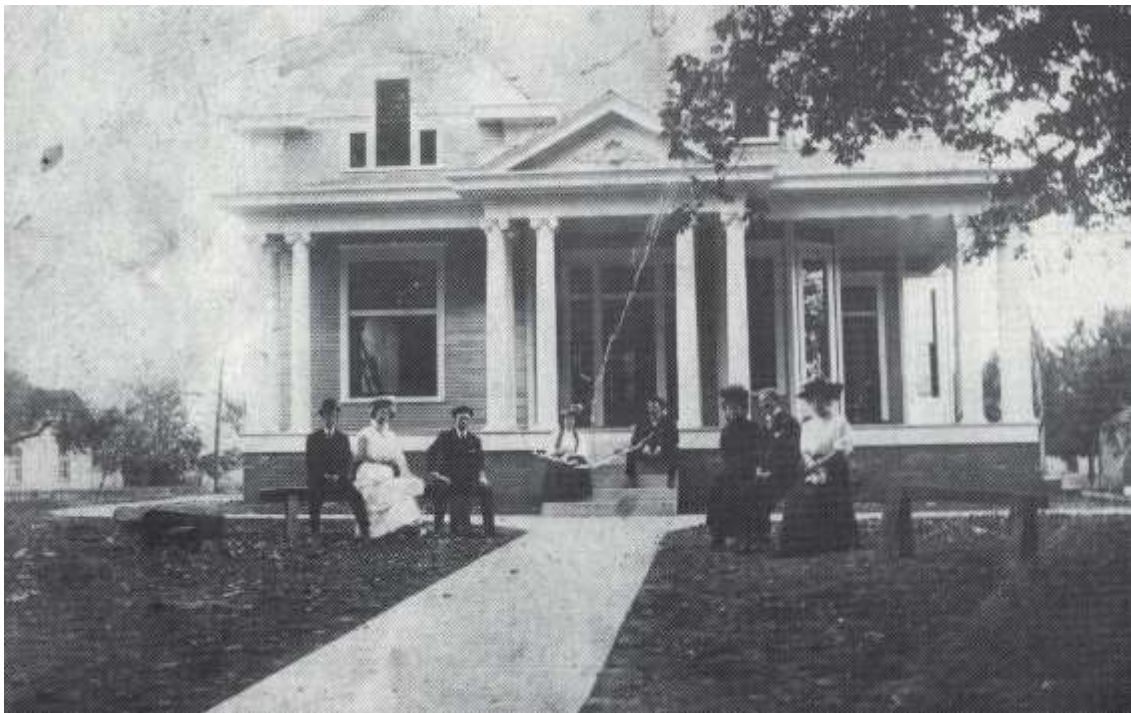
Whitesville Baptist Church. Erected in 1878; annex in 1929. Picture from A History of the Daviess – McLean Baptist Association in Kentucky, 1844-1943; Rev. Wendell H. Rone (Owensboro, KY, 1943) p.208.



St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, Whitesville, built in 1862. Picture from The Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky (Paducah, KY, Turner Publishing Company, 1995) p.155



Men surround the train at the Whitesville Train Station; circa 1909. Picture from Owensboro: Our people – Our places, Volume 1 (Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 2006) p.6



A social on the front lawn of the Stinnett home on Kentucky 54 in Whitesville in 1906. The note on the postcard says: “Mr. Stinnett, this is the only picture that was any good, so I mail you the same. How do you like it? Our crowd are anxious to see your new house finished.” It was signed by R. W. Rowland and is postmarked on Nov. 6, 1906. The home was built by James L. and Martha Stinnett. Picture from Owensboro: Our people – Our places, Volume 3 (Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 2010) p.10



“The Main Street of Whitesville looking west on Leitchfield road before fires destroyed the buildings shown above. It was made the year the telephone line to Whitesville was completed. The first building was the P. H. Haffey store, which was originally the A. P. and D. F. Brooks general merchandise store. Next was the original Stinnett hotel, the first hostelry in Whitesville, but which, when the photo was made, was the A. P. Brooks store, and beyond, the R. E. Knox drug store. Across the street, on the right, were the stores of Pat McBrady and J. H. Wheatley. Telephone linemen are shown putting finishing touches to the line. On the wagon is Rommie Brooks. On the left, is the road leading to Oklahoma. Inset, left, is Isaac Day, who built the first school house in Whitesville, in 1853, and right, Dr. Caleb Hale, who practiced medicine in Whitesville for many years.” – From article “Basset Burton Was First Settler Of Boston Precinct, Now Whitesville,” by Mrs. Ida F. Cockriel, Owensboro Messenger Staff Writer, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, 7 March 1943, pp.5B.

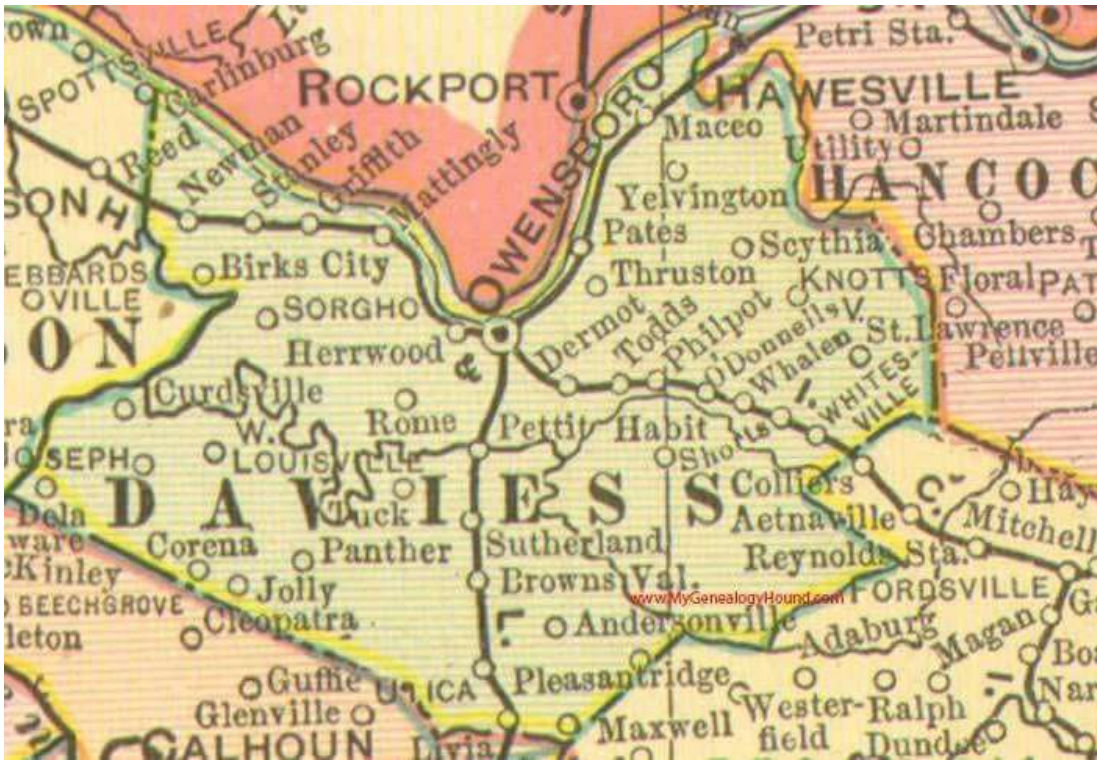


St. Mary's School, 1917



"OLD WHITESVILLE SCHOOL"
1909-1970
By Rex Robinson





Whitesville is on the right – center. The black line to its left is the Leitchfield Road.



See also article, “Dr. William Lee White (1821-1909) –
Founder of Whitesville, Ky.”, by Jerry Long on
Website: West-Central Kentucky History and Genealogy