

Pleasant Ridge, Kentucky

By Jerry Long
c.2024



An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY
(Leo McDonough & Co.: Edwardsville, IL, 1876) p.18:



Pleasant Ridge (lower right corner) is plotted on 1876 map of Daviess County, Ky.

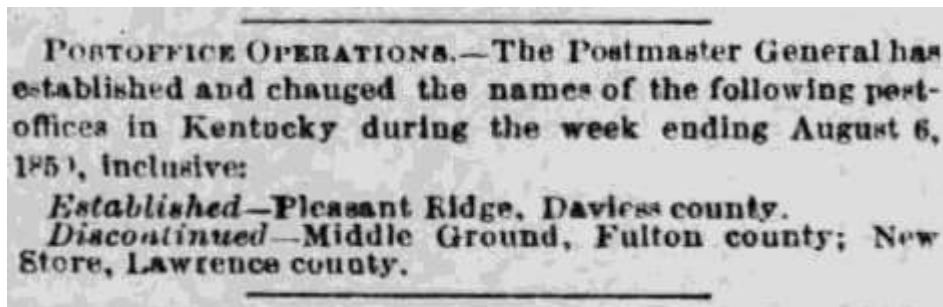


**Kentucky Place Names, Robert M. Rennick
(The University Press of Kentucky: Lexington, KY, 1984) p.237:**

Pleasant Ridge (Davie): This hamlet is now on US 231 and the Ohio-Davie County line, 11 miles south-southeast of Owensboro. Before 1950 it was centered on a post office on KY 764, established on August 3, 1859, by storekeeper Elijah Hatfield and named for the attractive view from the ridge on which it was situated. The post office closed in 1913.



Daily Journal, Louisville, KY, Monday, 15 August 1859, p.3:



Owensboro Examiner, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 30 June 1876, p.1:

PLEASANT RIDGE

Pleasant Ridge, Ky., June 27, 1876.

Editors Examiner :

Not having seen anything in your columns from this section of the rural districts by the Knights de Plume, I will endeavor to jot down a few items, whether of interest or disinterest, you may be the judge, and if you deem the material worthy a place in your valuable paper, at your option you may insert it or not; if not, commit it to the receptacle the waste basket decreed by the fates for such matter.

Pleasant Ridge is to a great extent environed by a fertile and productive country, especially, of the staple product of the Green river country, as well as being well adapted to the growth of wheat and other grain. The prospects for abundant yield in the crops are not as flattering as they were some weeks past, owing to the too continued and abundant rain fall. But, however, if the weather changes to be seasonable from now on, the tobacco and corn will not be materially injured or curtailed. The acreage of tobacco planted is said to be far exceeding the average for any of the preceding years for some time past. Wheat is being harvested and promises a tolerable fair yield if it is not further injured by wet weather. I have seen some wheat that is affected with what is called "the scab," and have heard several farmers speak of the same trouble. This condition is, as far as I have been able to under stand, caused by too much rain falling just at the time that the wheat is in

the bloom, which washes the bloom off, hence, an interruption in the budding process of the wheat, producing blasted grains. The late wheat is chiefly affected by this trouble, the early having passed pretty well the above stage when the wet weather set in. Of course, this trouble will to some extent curtail the yield, though at this age of developed genius and mechanical improvement, I do not think that we need apprehend such serious results from it as it was the case some years ago in some portions of Europe, from a similar condition of the bread stuffs. The improved machinery at the flouring mills which separates the seed of cockle and cheat from wheat will also eradicate this fungus.

Politics are at a rather low ebb at this time in this vicinage, very little is said concerning a candidate for any office, and none have made us a speech or given us a call. The matter rolls placidly on, workers work and loafers loaf with a degree of complacency not to be perturbed by the tide of political turbulence till their patriotism shall be inflamed by some rousing speech or their gastric regions satiated with a Fourth of July barbacue or picnic viands. It is said that the most direct way to reach a man's pocket is through his stomach, and probably the same is true in regard to his patriotism and enthusiasm.

Our affable and business-like merchants, Ford & Hite, are doing a good business in the dry goods line, notwithstanding the paucity of currency. Quick sales and small profits is their motto, and it has gained for them a large and extended trade. Their establishment seems to be a commercial market of great attraction, judging from the great distance that some of their customers travel to reach it. Our friend Stevens, the druggist, often has his soul gladdened by the dispensing of Quinine, pills and powders, though I don't think that they desire any one to get sick.

Emigration West, to some extent, still continues, though with an inclination to steer clear of the "Black Hills" since the scalping business has become so fashionable. Dr. F. M. Clements and L. M. Dennis bid adieu to their many friends on Thursday last for a home in some of the Pacific States. The former has been located at this place for three or four years and pursued his profession with much success and gained many friends who manifest a feeling of regret on account of his leaving the community. Mr. D. went to California something over a year ago and came home about a month ago to visit his family, and is well enough pleased to try his fortune again in that clime. Your readers remember the letters written by him from that State, over the self-applied sobriquet of "Rambler." He related to us many amusing incidents and trials in the interim of his getting through his ready cash till he become self-sustaining. Yours, Manfred.



**Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory For 1876-77,
R. L. Polk & Co., & A. C. Danser, Detroit, MI & Louisville, KY, 1876, p.453:**

PLEASANT RIDGE

A post office in Daviess county, 18 miles from Owensboro, the county seat.

Stephens & Co., druggists.



**Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory For 1879-80,
R. L. Polk & Co., & A. C. Danser, Detroit, MI & Louisville, KY, 1879, p.439:**

PLEASANT RIDGE

This village, which is in Daviess county, 16 miles from Owensboro, its shipping point by rail, has two churches, Methodist and Baptist, 1 free school, 100 population, and ships tobacco. Stage to Owensboro and Hartford 4 times a week; fare to each place \$1. L. M. Stevens, postmaster.

Business Directory

Bennett, Norris, blacksmith.	Ford & Hewlett, leaf tobacco.
Davis, A., physician.	Mahan, G. B., blacksmith.
Edgerton, E. D., professor of music.	Stevens & Johnson, druggists.
Ford, D., general store.	Yeiser, F. W., wagonmaker.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 4 June 1879, p.1:

PLEASANT RIDGE RIPPLES

Pleasant Ridge, May 31, '79.

Editor Herald:

There are several copies of the Herald coming to this office which are read with much pleasure and interest.

I have noticed communications from every portion of Ohio county, but seldom ever see anything from our village. We have aspirations like other people, and would like to see the name of our town in print.

I am not much of an – well, I can not think of that big word – Ink-slinger, and never attempted to write a descriptive letter for publication.

Pleasant Ridge is situated in Davis county, on the Hartford and Owensboro road, near the Ohio county line, and contains two churches, with regular services, a Sabbath school, meeting every Sunday at 4 P. M., a singing school, conducted by Prof. Edgerton, which is very instructive, one dry goods and drug store, each doing a good business, three blacksmith shops, one tobacco factory, conducted by Messrs. Ford & Hewlett, who will prize about one hundred hogsheads of the weed this season, a school, conducted by Miss Julia Davis, and about seventy-five inhabitants, among whom are some fascinating young tames and three old bachelors.

The following are some of the things that we do not have: No saloons, no intoxicated men lying on the streets, no crowd collecting to play marbles or pitch, quoits on the streets, no loafers, and only one lazy man.

The wheat crop is looking fine, oats and corn are doing well, considering the season. Tobacco plants are looking well and are very plentiful. Farmers in this section will be ready to plant then crop by the next rain.

As this is my first attempt to contribute to the Herald, I will close, by wishing it success.

S. B.



Semi-Weekly Messenger & Examiner, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 5 April 1881, p.2:

PLEASANT RIDGE MESSAGES

Pleasant Ridge is a live, progressive village. We have three blacksmith shops, one drug store, one grocery, one dry goods store and one undertaker's shop. We have a good school under the management of Miss Fannie Westerfield, an accomplished lady and an experienced teacher. We have four extensive stock dealers, one M. D., and as many old bachelors as any place twice the size of Pleasant Ridge.

Uncle Billy.



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

PLEASANT RIDGE. This village, which is in Daviess county, 16 miles from Owensboro, its shipping point by rail, has two churches, 1 free school, 100 population, and ships tobacco. Stage to Owensboro and Hartford 4 times a week; fare to each place, \$1. L. M. Stevens, postmaster.

Bennett, Norris. blacksmith.
 Davis, A., physician.
 Edgerton, E. D. professor of music.
 Ford, __, leaf tobacco.
 Ford D., general store.
 Hunter, H., grocer.

Mahan, G. B., blacksmith.
 Skillman & Bro., live stock.
 Stevens & Johnson, druggists.
 Westerfield, Miss Fannie, teacher.
 Yeiser, F. W., wagon-maker.
 Yeiser & Johnson, undertakers.



History of Daviess County, Kentucky
(Inter-State Publishing, Co., Chicago, IL, 1883) p.719:

PLEASANT RIDGE is located on a ridge running through the precinct from which it derives its name.

The first house (a storehouse) was built by Elijah Hatfield. From that other settlers came in, among them Ben Kelley, who bought out Hatfield.

The first blacksmith was a German named Seymour. The first carpenter was Wiley Ryan, who was also a blacksmith.

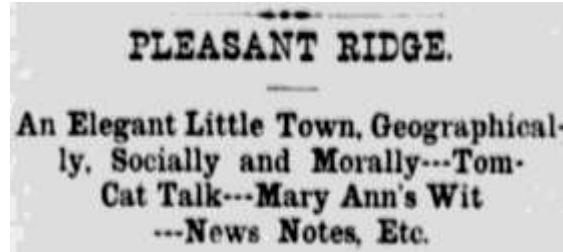
The first physician was Dr. Roselle; the next Dr. H. Clements. The present physician is Dr. Amos Davis. A tobacco house was erected in 1869 by Ben Briggs, who occupied it a year. Coffee & Dawson occupied it two years, and Turpin & Cox a year. It was then unused till 1878, when it was purchased by D. Ford. The house is 30 x 80, with a capacity of 25,000 pounds of tobacco.

Churches

The Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1871; size, 35 x 50; cost, \$1,200. The building committee was A. A. Davis, G. B. Mahan and James Cortis. No man was more instrumental in raising subscriptions than A. A. Davis. Many citizens not members of the congregation contributed liberally to the building of the church. The first pastor was Rev. Brown. The dedication sermon was preached by Presiding Elder Lawson. The church has had five different pastors Robert Bennett is the present pastor. The congregation numbers seventy-five members.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 8 December 1886, p.2:



Your scribe having at I extricated himself from the effects of a poorly observed Thanksgiving, is now aspiring to the forthcoming holidays, with visions of custard-pie and turkey floating before him serenely.

While we have confidence that to many of your readers the geographical situation of our village is not confusing, we are conscious that to the outside world, New York, Boston Chicago, and a few other points of less interest to us, may be more familiarly known in this sense, hence the following :

On the Owensboro and Hartford road, about equi distant from either place, (and about the center of the universe,) in the most remote southeastern corner of the county, immediately along the Daviess and Ohio line, is our quiet burg – a place that the name implies in every sense. To the most exquisitely moral and refined, there is scarcely an element here to mar the pleasure of that taste. It seems as though every one was born a whole-souled, good-natured being, and was not only living to be individually happy, but to cast sunbeams along the pathway of others. Our village has a population of sixty-odd, and to say that we stand almost solidly Democratic, we hope will cast no material reflection upon our future reputation, or stand as a rebuke to the moral status of rising posterity. With two blacksmith shops, one dry goods establishment, drug store and grocery, all doing a good business, our town presents usually a thrifty and business like aspect, exceptionally characteristic of many country villages. What more could we desire, further adding that we have two churches, two doctors and an undertaker's establishment, for comforts and happiness here and a chance for the next world....
Mary Ann.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 26 May 1892, p.4:

Pleasant Ridge

Pleasant Ridge, May 23 – Saturday and Sunday the long talked of Baptist church was organized at this place. Dr. J. S. Coleman, of Hartford, was chosen moderator, and Rev. B. Davis secretary. Each day a bountiful dinner was spread upon the ground, and the occasion was altogether interesting throughout. The young church makes their debut with a membership of fifty, principally from Mt. Carmel, Bells Run, and Sugar Grove.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 20 July 1892, p.2:

PLEASANT RIDGE, KY.

July 16, 1892. – Mr. W. H. Wells, of Whitesville, has secured the contract for building the school house here and active work will begin Monday and be pushed until the structure is completed. Several parties from different sections of the country have been negotiating for property here recently with a view to locating for the purpose of educating their children. This is most commendable and for all who may exercise a spirit of enterprise thus laudable. Pleasant Ridge has a suitable place and a hearty welcome.

Mr. Tom Ralph's store is under rapid process of construction and will perhaps be ready for the new stock early in August.

.... Profs. I S. Mason and C. M. Crowe, assisted by Miss Ella Hunter, will, be the teachers in Pleasant Ridge Seminary for the next ten months. Dr. J. C. Hoover will deliver lectures upon hygiene, physiology and anatomy during the term. MARY ANN.



Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1895-96
R.L. Polk & Co., Louisville, KY, 1895, p.269:

PLEASANT RIDGE. Daviess county, 15 miles from Owensboro, the judicial seat, banking and shipping point. Population, 100. J. W. Reynolds, postmaster.

Barnhill, J. W., physician.
Bennett, Norris, blacksmith.
Fielden, G., music teacher.
Jones, Mrs. Belle, hotel.
Jones & Morehead, general store.
King, W. T., blacksmith.
McKinney, A., physician.
Mahan, G. B., blacksmith.

May Bros., general store and painters.
May, H. E., carpenter.
Pleasant Ridge Milling Co., flour mill.
Ralph, T. R., undertaker.
Reynolds, J. W., druggist.
Welsh, G. W., livery.
Yeiser, N. A., wagonmaker.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 8 January 1896, p.2:

Pleasant Ridge High School
PLEASANT RIDGE, KY.
Lee B. Mills & Silas Griffin, Principals.

Third Term begins.....	January 20, 1896
Fourth Term closes.....	June 5, 1896

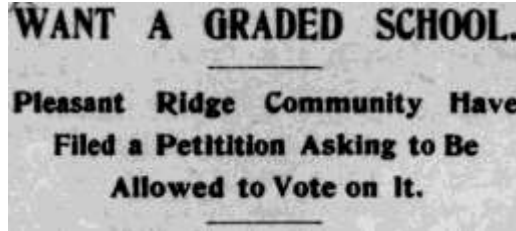
GOOD, BOARD REASONABLE.

Tuition, per Term of Ten Weeks.....	\$5.00
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TEACHERS' COURSE A SPECIALTY



Daily Tribune, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 23 April 1896, p.1:



The people at Pleasant Ridge, this county, want a graded school and today filed a petition with Judge Kara asking him to issue an order at the next regular term of the county court calling for an election taking the sense of the patrons of the district on the matter.

As the district lies partly in Daviess and partly in Ohio county, Judge Karn is in rather a quandary as to what he should do in the case. He says that he feels that he has no authority to call an election for any part of Ohio county, and to call it for that part of the district lying in Daviess would not get at the full vote of the district. He says he will seek advice in the matter, and act according to what is found to be the law in the case.

The people of the district are eager for a graded school, and if the question can be presented to them in a legal shape they will vote on the proposition through with a whoop. Pleasant Ridge is one of the go-a-head communities of the county, and this step to have a graded school is only in keeping with their commendable spirit of enterprise.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 22 August 1897, p.4:

Articles of Incorporation.

The Pleasant Ridge Mercantile company filed its articles of incorporation in the county clerk's office yesterday. Its principal place of business is to be at Pleasant Ridge, Daviess county. The capital stock is fixed at \$6,000, and the incorporators are J. W. Reynolds, C. P. Morehead, W. J. Jones, J. M. Westerfield and Geo. W. Welsh.. The business of the corporation shall be the buying and selling of dry, goods, clothing, groceries, hardware, tinware, coffins and undertakers goods.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 13 April 1899, p.2:

COAL FAMINES
WILL BE NO MORE AT PLEASANT RIDGE, THIS COUNTY.

Fine Vein, Four Feet Under Surface,
Discovered and Will Be Extensively Worked.

Ever since it has been a town Pleasant Ridge, Daviess county, has known coal famines every winter. The people in the little town suffered for fuel the winter just past. The flouring mill

sometime has to close down for lack of coal to make steam, but all these inconveniences will soon be a thing of the past. About a month ago the Pleasant Ridge Milling company employed Jacob Frantz, an expert of Pennsylvania, to come to Pleasant Ridge and prospect for coal. Right in the little town, and on the land of the milling company, Mr. Frantz began to sink a shaft for coal believing that plenty of it could be had near the surface. After going down just nine feet a vein of very fine coal, four feet thick, was found. The people of the town are very jubilant over the find. The vein was discovered Wednesday and last night everybody there was celebrating the event in some way. The milling company will open up a shaft and operate the mine extensively.



Hartford Republican, Hartford, KY, Friday, 31 October 1902, p.2:

PLEASANT RIDGE

Pleasant Ridge is a little town situated on the Owensboro and Hartford road, sixteen miles from Owensboro. We have two large dry goods establishments run by Welsh & Welsh and Westerfield Bros., two drug stores run by A. J. Bell and J. M. Ragland two churches – Methodist and Baptist – Rev. R. D. Bennett, of Hartford, pastor of the Methodist and Rev. R. T. Bruner, of Owensboro, pastor of the Baptist; two doctors Shultz and Barnhill, one undertakers establishment run by L. Johnson two milliner shops, run by Mrs. Westerfield and Mrs. Tanner, one large flouring mill, owned by Westerfield Bro., two blacksmith shops, run by Litsey and Johnson, one restaurant, run by Lawrence Taylor, one tobacco factory, run by C. Smith, one graded school, taught by Prof. Cox and Miss Stoy, two livery stables, all doing nicely under Republican times.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 1 April 1905, p.5:

ANOTHER BANK WILL BE ORGANIZED AT PLEASANT RIDGE.

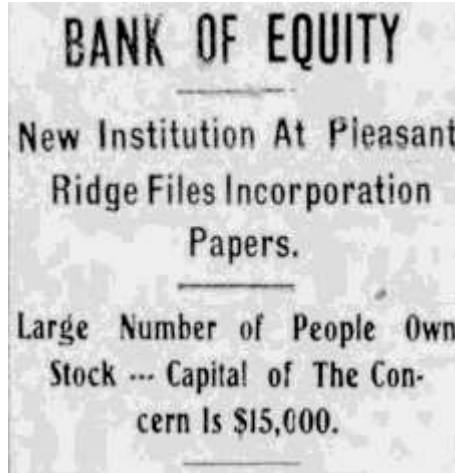
It Will Be Known As the Bank of Equity – Capital tock Already Subscribed.

There is still another bank to be organized at Pleasant Ridge. It will be known as the Bank of Equity. The capital stock is said to have been subscribed, and it is understood that the business of the new concern will be pushed as rapidly as is practicable. Some financiers and promoters of other banks have had an eye on this location for some time, and some of the progressive farmers anticipating this fact resolved to organize a bank composed entirely of local capital. The success and co-operation with which this plan has met has been surprising to everyone. Some of the main features of this organization are both unique and business like. The amount of stock that may be held by any one person is limited, the object being to distribute the stock through the entire neighborhood, for it is believed that having the interest of the people centered in the incorporation its success is unquestionable. Although the stock is secured there is a proviso whereby the amount held by the larger holders may be reduced and thereby make a greater distribution of the stock.

There seems to be a bright prospect for the new institution, for it is said that there is scarcely a progressive farmer in the community who is not an interested party. This will undoubtedly make a strong army of coworkers for its success.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 19 May 1905, p.4:



Incorporation papers of the Pleasant Ridge Bank of Equity have been filed with the county clerk and the institution will begin business at once. The location for the present is to be at Pleasant Ridge but the board of directors may change location when they deem well to do so They shall also have power to establish branches.

Provision is made in the articles for a general banking business. The capital stock is \$15,000 in shares of \$100 each. This may be increased, but not to exceed \$100,000. Not more than twenty shares shall be owned by any one person. There are fifty-four stockholders and their shares vary in number from one to ten. Business is to begin at once and continue for ninety-nine years. The usual provisions are made for the control of the bank by a board of directors. Dents shall never exceed two-thirds of the capital stock

The following are the incorporators: Jacob Weller, W. T. Hewlett, D. S. French, Kate Skillman, T. J. Ratcliff, D. C. Hewlett, J. C. Westerfield, Jr', T. H. Hewlett. Jo C. Park, J. L. Carter, J. L. French, G. E. Barr, C. D. Hudson, Herman Barr, B. F. Graves, J. C. Westerfield, Sr., Jessie K. Westerfield, S. B. Westerfield, H. C. Magan, Noah Jolly, T. B. Bell, Seth H. Riley, M. J. Cook, Sr., O. C. Magan, J. L. Calhoun, G. W. Jewell, W. H. Westerfield, Lawrence Riley, Bettie Hewlett, Laura K. Magan, Naomi Cox, H. D. Cox, Eli Dodso, W. J. Westerfield, Luther Johnson, A. Hunt, J. M. Westerfield, W. A .Hewlett, A. H. Johnson, T. M. Maple, J. A. Prindle, J. C. Park, W. D. Faut, L. E. Charlet, Coleman Hewlett, Benj. Newton, W. R. Murray, R. L. Hardy, W. B. Wigginton, C. C. Ambrose, T. J. May, N. W. Salmon, A. S. Tanner and J. L. Massie.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 1 March 1906, p.7:



Mr. E. A. Collins and H. J. Vertrees are doing the carpenter work on the Pleasant Ridge Baptist church. They are both competent workmen, both having had considerable experience at the trade.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 29 October 1922, p.2:

COLORED FAIR HAS GOOD SHOW

Eight Hundred People Attend Pleasant Ridge Community Club.

The colored division of the community club at Pleasant Ridge held an all day fair, stock and farm products show yesterday that was attended by about 600 people and that was a most creditable exhibition.

There were displays of tobacco, corn and all garden products, poultry hogs, cattle, and also displays of canned and preserved fruit and vegetables, butter and pastry. The woman also had an exhibit of fancy work.

In the afternoon the best horses of the section were brought together both in the show ring and on a improvised race course, their having been a fast trot and a spirited pace, run in heats, between the best horses in that section.

The affair was arranged under the direction of Ed. Tinsley, president of the club and the judging of the grain and stock was done by Clarence Welsh and Raymond Daniels. Mrs. Welsh judged the women's work.

This is the first affair of the kind that has been held in the county and it proved to be such a fine attraction and to hold so much Interest for the people of that section, that the same plan will be urged in other sections.



Messenger and Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 17 November 1929, p.5:



A large number of Daviess and Ohio county residents took part in the dedication of the Pleasant Ridge high school Saturday, which was recently completed and pressed into service. The building was built jointly by the Daviess county and the Ohio county boards of education for use of students from both counties.

During the morning R. Miller Holland, of Owensboro, was the chief speaker. Other events of the forenoon were orchestra selections, an address of welcome by the Rev. W. A. Shipp which was responded to by W. R. Carson.

At noon lunch was served at the building. Supt. J. W. Snyder of Daviess county schools and Supt. O. L. Shultz of the Ohio county schools spoke in the early afternoon and a basketball game between Pleasant Ridge and Center town high school teams closed the program.



A History of the Daviess-McLean Baptist Association
in Kentucky, 1844-1943, by Rev. Wendell H. Rone
(Messenger Job Printing Co., Inc., Owensboro, KY, 1943)
pp.190-192:

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church

This Church is not to be confused with another by this name that was located at Philpot and was a member of this Association in the 1860's and which later became extinct. For many years there was no Baptist Church in the village of Pleasant Ridge. Most of the Baptists living in that immediate vicinity were members of Bell's Run, Mt. Carmel, and Sugar Grove Churches. As these Churches had been organized for some time and their numbers had grown to such proportions it was deemed advisable to constitute those members living in and around Pleasant Ridge into an organization. In accordance with previous arrangements the Baptists of Pleasant Ridge met on May 21, 1892, and were organized into a Church by Elders J. S. Coleman, D. E. Yeiser, and A. G. Davis. The following members went into the constitution:

From Bell's Run – J. C. Westerfield, M. M. Westerfield, J. U. Westerfield, R. E. Westerfield, S. B. Westerfield, J. M. Westerfield, Joseph Westerfield, Lydia J. Westerfield, Emma Westerfield, S. R. Westerfield, Florence Westerfield, J. C. Westerfield, Jr.

From Mt. Carmel – M. M. Fitzgerald, N. A. Yeiser, W. T. Hewlett, L. E. Hewlett, Ella Hewlett, Bettie Hewlett, Addie Hewlett, W. A. Hewlett, N. L. Hewlett, R. J. Hewlett, Mrs. E. G. Hewlett, D. C. Hewlett, T. H. Hewlett, Camie Yeiser, May Thorp, M. A. Hunter, Anne Hunter, Ella Hunter, Lizzie Johnson, Lucy Taylor, J. W. Barnhill, J. H. Taylor, Lucindia Taylor, A. E. Taylor, U. J. Westerfield, L. A. Westerfield

From Sugar Grove – A. Hunt, M. W. Hunt, Sallie M. Barnhill, Allen Johnson

From Green Brier – Mrs. S. F. Patton, Mrs. M. F. Hewlett,

From Curdsville – J. W. Reynolds, Lydia Reynolds

From Owensboro First – Maggie Martin

On Relation – Caleb Smith, Mrs. M. E. Smith

By Statement – Eva Westerfield

This is a total of fifty members and of this number we note that fifteen are Westerfields and twelve are Hewletts – more than half of the total.

The Articles of Faith commonly accepted by Baptist Churches were adopted as well as Rules for the Decorum. Brother J. W. Reynolds was elected as Moderator and Brother A. Hunt

was selected as the first Clerk Brethren J. W. Reynolds and Joseph Westerfield were recognized as the first deacons as they had come from sister Churches as such. The new Church adopted the name of Pleasant Ridge from the village in which it was located.

The Church called Dr. J. S. Coleman as the first pastor and he began his labors in October, 1892. Since her organization the Church has been served in the pastoral office by the following brethren:

Dr. J. S. Coleman	1892-1895	O. J. Cole	1916-1917
R. T. Bruner	1895-1903	O. M. Shultz	1917-1919
J. H. Burnett	1903-1904	J. H. Chissom	1920-1922
T. J. Ratcliff	1905-1907	W. S. Shipp	1922-1925
A. N. Couch	1907-1912	D. Arthur Dailey	1925-1928
A. B. Gardner	1912-1915	W. S. Shipp	1928-1929
Norris Lashbrook	1915-1916	L. M. Winstead	1930-1943

The office of Clerk has been held by the following brethren: A. Hunt, 1892-1898; Earl D. Hewlett, 1898-1910; T. A. Hewlett, 1910 to the present time. This is a unique record – three clerks in fifty-one years. Besides J. W. Westerfield and Joseph Reynolds the Church has also been served by the following deacons : Brethren O. P. Skillman, J. M. Westerfield, and D. C. Hewlett were ordained in March, 1891, by Elder R. T. Bruner and deacons from sister Churches; G. E. Black was recognized as a deacon in June, 1923; Brethren Henry Lashbrook, Lester Wright, and Autra Hewlett were ordained in April, 1929; Brethren Barney Taylor, who was recognized as a deacon, and W. H. Harrison, Gola Stewart, and Herbert Evans became deacons in 1941 by ordination.

For a number of years prior to the organization of the Church the Associations Missionary preached at Pleasant Ridge. A meeting house was begun in the year 1890 and the District Mission Board assisted in paying for it. This was the first house of worship used by the Church. By the year 1902 an effort was made to erect a new house of worship but the plan was later abandoned. By February, 1905, another plan had been offered. This time it succeeded and the present commodious structure was erected during the pastorate of Elder T. J. Ratcliff. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. W. D. Nowlin on the Fifth Sunday in June, 1907. The building is now about thirty-six years old and is in a good state of repair and should serve the congregation for some time to come.



Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church erected in 1906

As far as is known the Church has never had a Woman's Missionary Society. A Sunday School has been functioning, except at small intervals, since the time of organization. A B. Y. P. U. was organized in 1925 with Brother Noel Patton as the first President. This ceased to function a few years later.

The pastorate of Brother L. M. Winstead has been the longest in the history of the Church and the clerkship of Brother Autra Hewlett has likewise never been excelled. The character of the men who have served this Church in the pastorate has been a molding influence in making this Church strong both doctrinally and spiritually. The Church has always stood consistent in doctrinal matters. In July, 1924, a resolution opposing the teaching of evolution in the schools was unanimously adopted.



A History of Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky,

**Hugh O. Potter (Herff Jones-Paragon Publishing:
Montgomery, AL, 1974) p.161, Financial Institutions:**

The Pleasant Ridge Bank of Equity was organized in 1906 and was owned by the Hewlett family. Its first president was Uriah Westerfield; the cashier, Hewlett Johnson. Its published statement for December 31, 1907, showed assets of \$31,866.38. This bank liquidated in 1916. At this time the cashier was Hewlett Johnson, who then became associated with the Utica Deposit Bank. At some time during this period, there was a second bank at Pleasant Ridge which was a branch of the Farmers and Traders Bank of Owensboro.



Ohio County newspaper [Times or News], Hartford, KY, Thursday, 9 October 1975:

**Grocery business today and
yesterday at Diamon Taylor's**

Being in the grocery business today is much different than it was 27 years ago when Diamon Taylor purchased the Pleasant Ridge general store from Virgil Jackson.

Jackson had been in business for 22 years and before that time, Westerfield Brothers ran a store at the same location, however Jackson re-built it.

Taylor, who plans to retire next year, has some of the items he started in business with such as some hardware like coal buckets, dippers, water buckets, some hand gardening tools etc. hanging along the back wall. He has discontinued men's work shoes and clothing, feed, seed and fertilizer, but has kept abreast of the modern grocery line.

"When we went in business, all we had in the way of freezers, etc. was a drink box, a meat box and an ice cream box. Now we have frozen food counters and refrigerators."

The store which still has a yester-year appearance with addition of some modern conveniences has changed its soap from the P & G and Oxydol look to more than two dozen kinds of liquid and powdered detergents, has gone from corn flakes and oatmeal in the cereals to many varieties, never had any dog and cat food, and other unheard of items to Taylors 27 years ago included the deodorants, but there were bananas on the stalk, fish arriving in salty brine in barrels.

Mrs. Taylor tells about a lady ordering \$1 worth of factory cotton and the clerk thought she asked for a \$1 worth of soda crackers. This was in by-gone days when a \$1 worth of loose crackers from the barrel was a lot. The clerk sacked up the crackers and sent them to the customer with the explanation that she couldn't get a \$1 worth in the sack.

The days of hair spray, cake mixes etc. are here to stay however, Mr. Taylor believes.



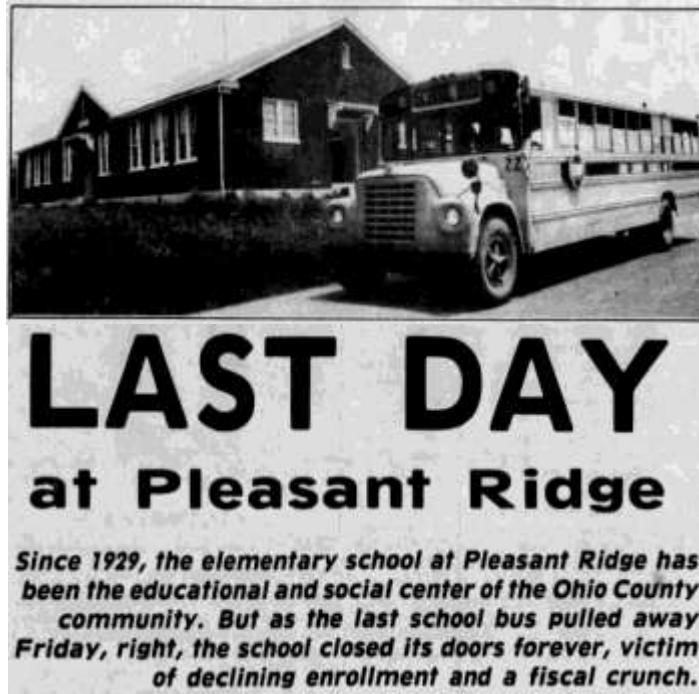
Diamon Taylor's store as it looked almost 60 years ago when it was owned by Virgil Jackson. The Pleasant Ridge store which still has a thriving business has changed much in its wares and customers also. Customers of the past include Jim Bales, Virgil Johnson, Jake Westerfield, Tom Sharp, Mark Thorp, Claud Sharp, Arch Lloyd, John Lanham, Jim Cooper, Ella Lee Lloyd, Nellie Gabbert, Neck Gabbert.



The store has a new front, different Coca Cola signs and a different mode of transportation shown, [a truck instead of a buggy.] The bench on which to sit and chat still remains today.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 31 May 1981, pp.1E & 2E:



By Lynnette McIntire, Messenger-Inquirer

PLEASANT RIDGE – The squirming children at the elementary school here had a hard time concentrating on their classwork Friday, the last school day. Even though summer was just beginning, the students and teachers couldn't help thinking about next fall when their town's tiny school will be empty. The Ohio County Board of Education voted to close Pleasant Ridge Elementary School at the end of this school year.

The wood-and-brick building, with its five classrooms, has been the educational and social center of Pleasant Ridge since it was built in 1929.

It's a school where several generations have suffered through homework, played during recess and cried together when summer separates teachers from their students.

Even the school's head teacher, Dorothy Wigginton, attended Pleasant Ridge School – back in the days when it housed as many as 200 elementary and high school students. Then the school had no indoor bathrooms or electricity, she remembers.

Now, the school has 97 students. Its declining enrollment was one of the reasons the school board cited when it voted to close Pleasant Ridge. The board also decided it would be too costly to upgrade the building to meet fire code standards.

All of Pleasant Ridge's students, grades 1-5, will attend Wayland Alexander School in Hartford next fall. The proposed school change has made some students anxious, according to

teachers and parents. All will have to be bused to Hartford, which concerns some parents who don't want to see their children travel the 14 miles or so to Hartford.

Last week, the two schools' administrators decided to let Pleasant Ridge students visit the new school. Most had positive comments, according to Mrs. Wigginton. The children remarked about the bigger playground, the nice teachers and new classrooms.

But others complained about the cold food. At Wayland, lunches are transported from the county high school about a mile away.

At Pleasant Ridge, two women, Wilma Stone and Arlene Reagan, prepare breakfast and lunch for students. Both mentioned good and bad things about the move.

At Wayland, where they will work in the fall, there will be a dishwasher. But students won't be able to help plan the menu. Last week, the students chose Mexican Haystacks, a mixed-up version of tacos, for their last lunch at the school, Mrs. Reagan said.

And the lunchroom ladies won't be able to hand-decorate Christmas cookies or bake birthday cakes for each teacher.

And in the classroom, knowing each parent helps teachers with discipline, said Judy Downing, who lives in Pleasant Ridge.

With a small neighborhood school, parents are closely tied to a child's school work, she said. "If somebody has a question, they call you at home. When the school is bigger, they don't always do that," Mrs. Downing said.

Being a country school teacher means more than just 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., said Alma Riggs, whose father was janitor of the school when she was growing up. Miss Riggs talks to parents on the phone, sees them at church and will even have parents pick up their child's report card at her home.

In Pleasant Ridge, many parents volunteer their time and talents to help teachers, said Donna Barnett, who has one daughter at the school. She said she would help the teacher grade papers, run off dittos and do other errands. "It makes you feeling like you're doing something to help out," she said. "I don't think I'll be able to do that now with it being in Hartford."

Parents also built the ballpark concession stand and baseball diamond, she said.

The school board still hasn't decided what to do with the property or the school building, according to Superintendent Reathel Goff. The building will probably be sold, he said. But Pleasant Ridge leader Joe Galloway said the community's Playground Committee holds a 20-year lease on the playground, which was signed in 1978.

He and other community members say they will be examining the lease to see what rights they have to retain the property for public use.

Thurlow Roberts, the owner of a grocery store in the community, is concerned about what will come of the school building. "If it's put to good use, like a business, it may be okay. But if it's let set there to run down, it's going to be a sore thumb. It will make the town look terrible," she said.

Susie Fogel, who has three children, said the closing of the school is one of the reasons why she and her husband are considering moving after living there six years. "If the school hadn't been here, we probably wouldn't have moved here," she said.

But the children of Pleasant Ridge School weren't thinking about the far reaching effects of their town's center closing. It was summer, they screamed as the last bell rang. Loaded with books, and crayons and art work, they headed for home.

The few parents and teachers left behind were reminiscing about their years in the school, saying goodbye to the people who had shared the year with them.

"I'll say goodbye now because I don't know if I'll see you next year," said Carol Braden, choking back a tear as she gave Mrs. Wigginton a squeeze.

"You can come visit over there," said Mrs. Wigginton, who will be a teacher at Wayland School.

"Yeah, but it won't be the same," Mrs. Braden said as she walked out the door for the last time.

The school was silent. There would be no more school years filled with children's laughter here.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 10 April 1982, p.11B:



PLEASANT RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Approx. 5,000 Sq. Ft. (including gym)
1.25 Acres.
\$25,000
For further information contact
Ohio Co. Board of Education
298-3249



**The History of Bells Run Baptist Church, 1820-1990, Rev. Wendell H. Rone
(McDowell Publications: Utica, KY, 1990) pp.108-109:**

Pleasant Ridge. 1892. As early as 1877, the Pleasant Ridge community, located on the Daviess County – Ohio County line on the old road leading from Owensboro to Hartford, became a focal point for religious work. The Mission Board of the Daviess County Baptist Association added the following appendix to its report that year, as follows:

"We also take pleasure in reporting to the Association that a missionary meeting was held at Pleasant Ridge just on the line between Daviess and Ohio Counties, by J. S. Coleman and J. M. Peay, which continued two and one half weeks, and resulted in the additions of about seventy persons to the Churches of Mt. Carmel, Sugar Grove, and Green Brier, for which they received \$110.00 on the field, it being fully satisfactory to the laborers."

It is assumed that, this meeting was held at a chapel building erected at about. this time by Brother Mark Thorpe. he had built the chapel on a corner of his property, with the help of a Mr. Hamilton, and it was of frame construction. It had been built so that the Baptists in the community

might have a place of worship. Also, a Sunday School was held there in the summer months, as well as protracted evangelistic meetings, as described above.

According to a story related by Mr. R. E. Cundiff, Austin Magan's grandfather, there was a meeting held in this building at Pleasant Ridge in November, 1882, with 110 conversions. The baptismal service was at a mill on Panther Creek near Sugar Grove Church, Baptist Ministers B. F. Swindler (Sugar Grove) and J. S. Coleman (Mt. Carmel) officiated for their respective churches. There was snow on the ground and the ice had to be broken. The two ministers took turns baptizing the people approved for the ordinance. The wagons were filled with quilts and hot bricks to keep the people warm. The meeting lasted for three or four weeks.

For several years, after 1877, no organized church existed in Pleasant Ridge; with the Baptists living in that immediate area holding membership in Bells Run, Mt. Carmel, and Sugar Grove Churches. As these churches had been organized for some time and their memberships had grown to such proportions, it was deemed advisable to constitute those members of the three churches and others living in and around Pleasant Ridge into a separate congregation of the Lord.

Therefore, in accordance with previous arrangements, the Baptists of Pleasant Ridge met on May 21, 1892, and were organized into a church by Baptist Ministers J. S. Coleman, Daniel E. Yeiser, and Archer G. Davis. Fifty members went into the constitution – 26 from Mt. Carmel, twelve from Bells Run, four from Sugar Grove, two from Green Brier, two from Curdsville, one from Owensboro, First, two by relation, and one by statement. Of the total, fifteen were Westerfields and twelve were Hewletts – more than one-half of the total number.

The Bells Run members were all Westerfields, as follows: J. C., M. M., J. U., R. E., S. B., J. M., Joseph, Lydia, Emma, S. R., Florence and J. C., Jr. Other Bells Run members joined there later.

Brother J. W. Reynolds from Curdsville Church was elected as the first moderator and a deacon of the new church. Brother Joseph Westerfield, from Bells Run, was elected as a deacon, too, of the new church. Dr. J. S. Coleman became the first, pastor, serving in 1892-1895. Brethren George Hinton, George C. Jackson, Benjamin W. Taylor, Sr., Joseph Taylor, and James C. Taylor represented Bells Run Church at the organization of Pleasant Ridge Church.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 12 May 1998, p1D:



The Pleasant Ridge School was built in 1929 and closed in 1981. Sam McDowell in 1982 purchased the former Pleasant Ridge School. Until his death in 2007 Mr. McDowell operated his printing business, McDowell Publications, and made his residence in the building.



Former Pleasant Ridge School, Pleasant Ridge, Ohio County, KY



Early Schools In Ohio County Kentucky, Anna Laura Duncan,
(McDowell Publications: Utica, KY, 2003) pp.543, 545 & 546:

PLEASANT RIDGE SCHOOL HISTORY

As told by old timers.

The first school in Pleasant Ridge was in a log building in the southern part of the community. This was before the state organized each county with a board of education and with trustees to organize and operate their schools. In the early 1870's, the parents of children in the community hired and paid a teacher to teach their children. They would also provide fuel to heat the school. Felix French says he remembers his father telling about teaching here before he got married. He said the children whose parents provided fuel would get to sit nearer the stove than other children. One child caught cold and was sick so the teacher moved him nearer the heat, but the boy's parents came and got their son and he died the next day.

Evidence of the next school in this community is a deed recorded in Daviess County in 1892 for one-half acre (Book 56, page 318). It was from Dr. J.C. Hoover and his wife Imogene to the trustees of School District No. 4 in Daviess County for the purpose of erecting a two-story building. The school was located just across the Owensboro-Hartford Road in front of the Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. It is pictured below.



This school was built of wood and was weather-boarded. It was a district school, collected its own taxes, hired its own teachers and administered its own school programs with trustees.

They had five trustees on the school board, elected by the patrons of the school district. They had two teachers. One taught the first six grades on the first floor and the other teacher taught grades seven through ten upstairs.

According to Diamon Taylor, a short distance down the road from the two-story school was a Methodist church which closed due to declining membership. The building was sold to Dr. A. J. Gordon. They had school in this building for some time. Diamon said he attended there for one year. It was known as the Pleasant Ridge Lodge. Dr. Gordon tore the building down later to build his son a dwelling, which is still standing.

The Daviess County Board of Education sold the half-acre lot which the school building was on to Virgil Jackson in 1929. At that time, he owned the store building that Diamon Taylor owns now. The school was just north of the store. Mr. Jackson tore the two-story school building down and used the material in building the dwelling that stands there today (2003).

Pleasant Ridge is divided by the boundary between Daviess County and Ohio County. In 1929 J.C. and J.M. Westerfield and their wives sold a tract of land which was to be used for Pleasant Ridge High School. The building still stands today(2003).

As children from both counties attended this school, both the Board of Education of Daviess County and the Board of Education of Ohio County operated it until 1959. At that time Daviess County Board of Education deeded the property to the Ohio County Board of Education. After this occurred, children living in the Daviess County part of Pleasant Ridge were bused to the Masonville school.

The first classes in the 1929 school building were held in 1930. The school operated as a high school for several years, then went to eighth grade and finally to sixth grade. Due to declining enrollment and the cost of upgrading the building to comply with fire codes, the Ohio County Board of Education voted to close Pleasant Ridge Elementary School at the end of the 1980-1981 school year. At that time the school had 97 students enrolled. All the students in grades 1 – 5 would be bused to Hartford the next year.

It was a school where several generations studied and had good times. The school's last head teacher, Dorothy Wigginton, attended this school back in the days when there were as many

as 200 elementary and high school students attending. At that time the school didn't have electricity or indoor restrooms.



Postcard History Series: Owensboro, Terry Blake & David Edds, Jr.
(Arcadia Publishing: Charleston, SC et al, 2007) p.48:



This is a real-photo postcard of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church. The congregation first organized in 1892, and this building was erected in 1906. An educational wing was added in the 1950s, and the church's brick veneer came sometime in the 1980s. [Church is on the west side of U.S. Highway 231.]



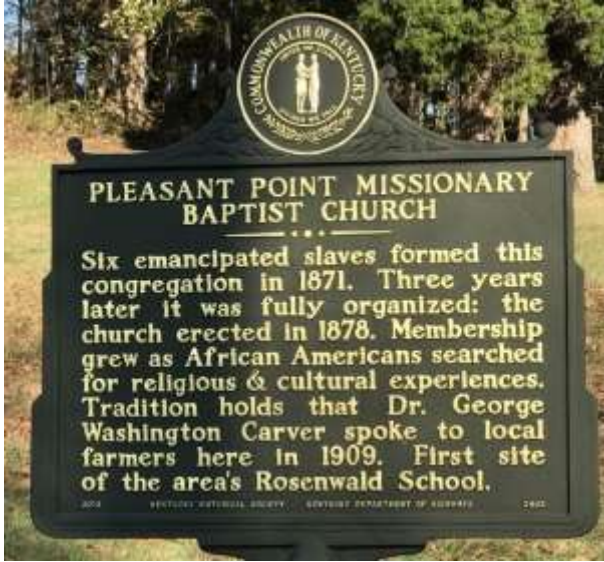
The Church of God at Pleasant Ridge was located just east of U.S. Highway 231 at the Ohio and Daviess County line.



Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Pleasant Ridge, KY



Pleasant Point Baptist Church, Pleasant Ridge, Daviess County, KY



Kentucky Historical Highway Marker erected in 2013 by the Kentucky Historical Society and Kentucky Department of Highways. Marker is located near Pleasant Ridge in Daviess County, KY on Kentucky Route 764 just south of U.S. 231, on the right when traveling north. Inscription:

Side 1: Pleasant Point Missionary Baptist Church – Six emancipated slaves formed this congregation in 1871. Three years later it was fully organized: the church erected in 1878. Membership grew as African Americans searched for religious & cultural experiences. Tradition holds that Dr. George Washington Carver spoke to local farmers here in 1909. First site of the area's Rosenwald School.

Side 2: Pleasant Point Missionary Baptist Cemetery – Oldest marked grave is from 1873, although there may be earlier unmarked graves in the cemetery. Among those buried here are veterans who served from the Civil War through Desert Storm. The church has played a vital role in shaping the community of Pleasant Ridge & the lives of its citizens.

