HISTORIC BOYLE COUNTY

Image courtesy of: Carolyn Crabtree

Image Selection Committee: Karl Benson, Carolyn Crabtree, Mary Girard, Clay Jackson, Marty Rogan
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Sheep

Sheep were a large part of the farming landscape in Boyle County. At one point in the 1970s, Bill Baldwin had the largest flock of sheep east of the Mississippi.

Image courtesy of: Martha McConnell

West T. Hill (1915-1987)

“West T. Hill Jr. loved drama and was devoted to the theater. He was a historian and scholar of the art form who in 1971 published *The Theatre in Early Kentucky, 1790-1820*. His book is the definitive source of information on that period, when hundreds of theatrical productions brought entertainment and culture to what was then America’s western frontier. But Hill was also a practitioner. Long after he retired from Centre College, and even after illness forced him to work from a wheelchair, he loved to produce and direct community theatre.”

~Kentucky Life, Episode 403  
Website: http://www.westthill.com/  
Image courtesy of: Pioneer Playhouse
Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD)

KSD was established as the Kentucky Asylum for the Tuition of the Deaf and Dumb on April 10, 1823. It was the first state-supported school of its kind in the United States and the first school for the deaf west of the Allegheny Mountains. The deaf were a special concern of General Elias Barbee, a Kentucky state senator, whose daughter was deaf. In 1822 Barbee and John Rowan wrote legislation authorizing the creation of the school. On December 7, 1822 it was signed into law by Kentucky Governor John Adair. With the help of Henry Clay, KSD received two federal land grants in 1826 and 1836. This land in Florida and Arkansas was eventually sold to finance the construction of school facilities.

The postcard, circa 1910, shows the three connected buildings, from left, The Girls’ Building, the Dining Room and Chapel (center) and the Boys’ Building. The latter two were demolished in the 1970s and replaced by Walker Hall, the Elementary Building. The Girls’ Building, now Jacobs Hall, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966 and now houses Jacobs Hall Museum. Below are the “Little Boys Cottage”, the “Colored Department”, and the “Little Girls Cottage.”

Website: http://www.ksd.k12.ky.us/content_page.aspx?cid=34
Image courtesy of: Boyle County Public Library Collection

Tobacco Farmers

Cultivation of White Burley tobacco spread rapidly from its first cultivation in Ohio to the Bluegrass area. In 1850 Boyle County produced 1,600 pounds of tobacco leaf. This had increased to 4,717,517 pounds by 1949. White Burley could be air-cured rapidly and inexpensively in barns painted black so as to hold the warmth of the sun. Narrow, vertical louvers or panels in the sides of the barns were opened or closed in accordance with the humidity of the outside air.

Information from: A History of Danville and Boyle County Kentucky 1774-1992 by Richard C. Brown
Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce
Boyle County Fire Truck

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

The new Boyle County Fire Truck from 1954/5. Cost $19,000 and could hold 600 gallons of water. It also had a portable pump.

Junction City School

Image courtesy of: Carolyn Crabtree

Kentucky School for the Deaf Outing at Blue Knob

Image courtesy of: Kentucky School for the Deaf Jacobs Hall Museum

This 1920s photo of a Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) staff picnic at Blue Knob was captured by Max Marcosson, a camera enthusiast, popular teacher and the first KSD athletics director. Blue Knob is located west of Junction City.

Website: http://www.ksd.k12.ky.us/content_page.aspx?cid=34
Photograph taken by Max Marcosson

On Strike

Image courtesy of: Peggy Galloway

Elite Cab Company

Photograph taken in 1947. Tiny Richardson and his brother, Leon Richardson of Danville, ran the Elite Cab Company on Second Street for 12 years. The drivers from left to right: George Harland, Buster Letcher, Calvin Bedinger, and David Robinson. All the buildings on this block were torn down in the 1970s.

Information from Looking Back: a pictorial history of Boyle County by the Advocate Messenger
Image courtesy of: Guy Richardson

Three Men in Tobacco Warehouse

Photograph taken in the mid 1950s. Tobacco, White Burley, replaced hemp as the major cash crop in Boyle County in the early 1900s. In 1850 Boyle County harvested 1,600 pounds of tobacco. In 1949 Boyle County harvested 4,719,517 pounds of tobacco. There were two tobacco warehouses in Danville starting in about 1910.

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce
Perryville Covered Bridge

Photograph taken in 1910. This bridge was located in Perryville and spanned the Chaplin River. Rowland was the name of a store owner in Danville who used the bridge for advertising. The bridge was a combination of king and queenpost truss type. It was built before 1862 and was replaced with concrete in 1921.

Image courtesy of: Main Street Perryville

Boyle County Public Library Reading Room

This is a picture of the main room of the Young-Rodes Library, built in 1939. Elizabeth Tunis sits at the desk helping a patron. She served the library for 50 years, many of those without pay. Mrs. Lucy Bosley sits at the table to the right.

Photograph taken by John Kalinich, circa 1960
Image courtesy of: Boyle County Public Library
Old Crow Inn

The Crow-Barbee House is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places as the oldest Stone structure west of the Allegheny Mountains. Today it is called “Old Crow Inn” in honor of John Crow, who settled here in 1776. The estate was called “Oakland” by the Barbees who lived in the house from 1781 to 1874.

Historians believe that Crow built a log cabin on the property in 1776 when he planted his first corn crop to claim the property. A land court record also states that he improved the property in 1777 when he built a 1 1/2 story stone cottage at the rear of what is now the main house. The stone cottage, approximately 19 feet square has walls of 18” thick dry stacked stone. All of the beams are 3” x 12” Cherry. The rafters in the half-story attic are 4” x 5” Cherry pegged at the peak and at the knee walls with Walnut pegs. The rafters have been marked with Roman numerals so as to properly align the mortise and tendon joints on the ground prior to pegging in place at the roof peak.

There is some disagreement as to who constructed the main Stone Manor House. There is some evidence to indicate that Crow built the central portion in 1780 since the construction of the stone walls, Cherry beams and Walnut woodwork and doors is nearly identical to the craftsmanship in the stone cottage. Crow sold the property to James Wright in 1781. However, Wright was killed by Indians before he and his family could move in. After his death, his heirs sold the property to Thomas Barbee in the mid 1780’s.

Thomas Barbee, a landed statesman of that time, rose to the rank of General in the Kentucky Militia and became the first Post Master west of the Alleghenies. Thomas and his youngest brother, Col. Joshua Barbee, added the two wings onto the house as well as the 4 foot thick brick Doric columns and the triangle pediment Greek Portico. Thomas started on the project in 1786 and the construction was finished in 1797.

Website: http://www.oldcrowinn.com/
Photograph taken by: Dominique Brousseau
Image courtesy of: Chateau du Vieux Corbeau Winery
Royal Tires

This eye catching building is still located at the intersection of Stanford Avenue and Alta Avenue. The photograph is from the 1950s. It was owned by: Fred Turnbull, Brady Knight, and Howard Stilgull.

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

Forkland Community

“The Forkland Community Center was founded in 1971 when the Forkland School closed after operating for 43 years. People living in the Forkland community pledged money to buy the school buildings and incorporated the Community Center. Its aims are both to preserve and promote the rural heritage of our unique and scenic Knobs area, and also to provide a facility for many educational and recreational community activities.”

Website: http://www.forklandcomctr.org/index.html
Image courtesy of: The Forkland Community Center Lincoln Museum

Danville Motor Company

The Danville Motor Company honors the Centre College football team after their victory over Harvard University in 1921. They were located

Image courtesy of: Centre College Archives
Jack and “Uncle Willie”

Photograph was taken in 1907. William Tompkins (born 1863), “Uncle Willie”, worked for 26 years on the school farm. Jack, the campus mule purchased by Mr. Argo in the 1880s, pulled the lawnmower around trees and gardens and obstructions during the long mowing season. Jack lived to be 35 and was buried in a corner of the pasture.

Image courtesy of: Kentucky School for the Deaf Jacobs Hall Museum

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church

Located at 124 East Walnut Street in Danville. St. James AME of Danville was organized in 1872/3 after a schism with the Colored Methodist Church over whether they should worship under white or Negro bishops. On June 30, 1877 the trustees, George Taylor, William Tompkins, Julius Caldwell, S.W. Brumfield, and William Jackson, bought the land where the present church stands. They met in a blacksmith shop that stood on the land while the church was built. The original building was built in 1882 in a Gothic Revival style, under the leadership of Rev. J.M. Turner and is the oldest African American church building in Danville. In April 1885, the church was dedicated. An addition was constructed between 1908-1914. It was renovated in 1922 under the leadership of Rev. Herbert Brewer and is Colonial Revival in style. There is a pump organ donated by Mrs. Bell Rice.

The Bible of Aunt Betty Curd, a church janitor, is sealed in the cornerstone.

Image courtesy of: Mary Ashby Girard
SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

Located at 117 East Main Street in Danville. The first Catholic Church in Danville was St. Patrick’s, located at 141 North Fifth Street. Built 1807-1810 on land given by David McIlvoy, it was sold by the state to satisfy the estate of Mr. McIlvoy.

The corner stone for the Main Street church was laid in the summer of 1866 by Bishop Lavielle on the site of Gill’s Tavern. The church was dedicated in the fall of 1871. By that time Catholics in Danville had been without a church for at least 36 years. The foundation stone-work was done by Christopher Kehoe of Lebanon and the brick walls were partially erected by E.B. Russell of Danville. Carpenter’s work was done by Michael Redingher of Indiana, plastering by Barney Campbell of Louisville and painting by W.W. Tompkins & Co. The original church had a capacity of 200.

The church was rededicated on July 2, 1989, after a large renovation that enlarged the space to hold 600 people. In 2007 the church received a pipe organ from National College that had been designed by Centre College Professor West T. Hill and built by Centre to serve as the college's arts building around 1951.

Image courtesy of: SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

McDowell House

Dedication of the newly renovated McDowell House on May 20, 1939. Hundreds attended the dedication, including many descendants of Dr. McDowell. The house was purchased in 1935 by the Kentucky Medical Association and the renovations were part of the United States Works Progress Association.

Website: http://www.mcdowellhouse.com/
Image courtesy of: University of Kentucky Archives

Making Sorghum

Sorghum is a genus of numerous species of grasses, one of which is raised for grain and many of which are used as fodder plants, either cultivated or as part of pasture. Sorghum production began in the United States in the 1850s. This image shows them making sorghum molasses. The sorghum juice must be cooked all day, with continual stirring and skimming of the foam. Ten gallons of sorghum juice will make about one gallon of sorghum syrup.

Image courtesy of: The Forkland Community Center Lincoln Museum
Main Street Perryville


Image courtesy of: Main Street Perryville

Em Smith & Czelma Crosby

Em Ester Smith (1886-1968), violinist & Czelma Crosby (1889-1974), cellist, were musicians who played together for most of their lives. Ms. Smith was born in Danville, KY. Ms. Crosby was born in Nebraska. They met at school and moved to New York City where they became well respected teachers. They performed together both in and outside of the United States. They retired to Danville and are buried in Bellevue Cemetery.

Image courtesy of: Carolyn Crabtree

Gilcher Hotel

Peter and Frank Gilcher spent about $23,000 to build the Gilcher’s European Hotel which opened on December 22, 1876. It was located on the southeast corner of Main Street and Third Street. It burned down in 1914. It was rebuilt by the Danville Hotel Company, formed by the Pushin Brothers and partners. It reopened in April of 1917. This photograph is circa 1941.

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce
Benny Powell (1918 – 1992)

Benny Powell was a well known tinkerer in Boyle County. In this image he demonstrates his calliope.

He spent three years building *Little Toot*, his paddle wheel boat that was often seen on the Kentucky River. It earned its name from the array of whistles it had.

Joe Fahnestock described Mr. Powell’s workshop in the following manner, “A look-see into Benny Powell's magic-filled barn was like a visit to the back-shops of some movie set or carnival storehouse. There were other little vehicles, all of one-lung or two-lung internal-combustion torque; little racers and hot-rods, a tiny fire engine and various small cars, the like of which kids dream of, in various stages of planning and completion.”

Mr. Powell lost his arm in World War II while directing airbombings from the ground in Europe. He was a member of the Army Air Corps and flew a P-51 Mustang fighter plane over North Africa. He received a Purple Heart and Bronze Stars for his military service.

Image courtesy of: Advocate Messenger Archives

Hemp Crop

The first recorded hemp crop in Kentucky was grown on Clark’s Run Creek in 1775. The earliest settlers westward brought hemp seed in their baggage, James F. Hopkins points out in *A History of the Hemp Industry in Kentucky*. During the early 1800s, Kentucky hemp fibers were in demand for rope, sailcloth and rough fabrics used to wrap bales of cotton and make pants that were called Kentucky jeans.

In 1860 Boyle County produced 311 tons of hemp. By 1900 that number had dropped to 34 tons.

Website: http://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/108
Image courtesy of: Parksville Water District
**Coca-Cola Bottling Plant**

The image on the tile is of the interior of what was the new Coca-Cola Bottling Plant in 1954. It now houses Stephen R. Powell’s studio.

Images courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

**King’s Camp**

Image courtesy of: Convention and Visitors’ Bureau

**Willis Russell Memorial Cabin**

Named in honor of Willis Russell, a well-educated and emancipated slave of Revolutionary War captain Robert Craddock, relocated from Warren County, KY, to Danville around April 1838. He taught African-American children in what is thought to be the first school for African-American children. Russell had been educated in Craddock’s home by French soldier Peter Tardiveau, a political interpreter for Gen. George Rogers Clark. This cabin was built about 1790 on land that was owned by Thomas Barbee.

Website: [http://www.boylelandmarktrust.org/boylelandmarktrust/WRhouse/default.aspx](http://www.boylelandmarktrust.org/boylelandmarktrust/WRhouse/default.aspx)

Image courtesy of: Carolyn Crabtree
Perryville Battlefield

Photograph was taken in 1960 during one of the battle reenactments. On October 8, 1862, Perryville became the site of the most destructive Civil War battle in Kentucky which left more than 7,600 killed, wounded or missing.

Website: http://www.perryvillebattlefield.org/index.html
Image courtesy of: Main Street Perryville

Danville Train Station

The foundation was laid in 1906 and construction finished in 1908. Also known as the Southern Railway Depot.

Image courtesy of: Advocate Messenger Archives

Birney House

James G. Birney (1792 – 1857) was an abolitionist, politician and jurist born in Danville. From 1816 to 1818, he served in the Kentucky House of Representatives. In 1836, he moved to Cincinnati to start his abolitionist weekly publication, The Philanthropist.

Photograph taken by: Carolyn Crabtree
Image courtesy of: Carolyn Crabtree
New Austrian Family

Photograph taken in 1885 by William L. MacLean. Family relaxes on a porch.

New Austria was the name given to the area in the knobs of Boyle County settled by immigrants.

Image courtesy of: Kentucky Historical Society

Parksville Mill

Image courtesy of: Advocate Messenger Archives

First Christian Church

The original First Christian Church was built in 1847 with Rev. Curtis Smith as its first pastor. When it was destroyed in the 1860 fire that devastated much of Danville, the congregation built a new church at the corner of Fourth and Walnut Streets. In 1914, the building was sold and turned into an apartment complex, and the congregations moved into the new Main Street location pictured. It burnt down in 1965 and the congregation now meets in a church on Lexington Avenue.

Information from Images of America: Danville, by Lindsay Merritt
Images courtesy of: Irene Estes and the Advocate Messenger
Breckinridge Hall, Centre College

Photograph is circa 1905
Breckinridge Hall is a three story residence hall that was originally built in 1892 as a dormitory for students of the Danville Theological Seminary. When the seminary consolidated with the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in 1901, Centre took over Breckinridge as a residence hall for students. It was damaged by fire in 1908 and rebuilt. It was renovated in 1945 and 1999. It has not only been used to house Centre students, but also cadets from the Army Air Corps 20th College Training Detachment and workmen laying a gas pipeline immediately after World War II.

It was named after Dr. Breckenridge, a noted preacher, debater, journalist and teacher who was instrumental in the development of the Danville Theological Seminary.

Images courtesy of: Harold Edwards and the Centre College Archives

Mail Route in Parksville

George H. Preston delivered the mail on Parksville Route 2 from 1921 to 1934. The rig was called a mail wagon and had a charcoal burner inside for heat.

Information from the Danville Advocate Messenger

Cozatt

Two miles west of Parksville was the Cozatt Station where Louisville and Nashville trains were dispatched east and west. It was located a short distance from the lake where engines could get fresh water. Cozatt was founded in 1900. The original operators were Frank Westerfield and A.W. Bourne.

Cozatt was established because it was the western terminus of the doubleheader division of the Louisville and Nashville. Freight trains were pulled from Livingston to Cozatt by two engines, from Cozatt to Louisville by one. The other engine turned around and returned, unloaded to Livingston.

Information from: Danville Daily Messenger, June 1925, Page 1
Image courtesy of: Parksville Water District
Four Kids

Image courtesy of: Main Street Perryville

Fairgrounds

Image courtesy of: Martha McConnell

Rainey Bridgewater’s Shop

Rainey Bridgewater (1877-1971) was a blacksmith in Danville. His shop on West Walnut was torn down in 1966 to make way for the expansion of Farmers National Bank.

Bridgewater was a charter member of the Doric Lodge No. 18, F&AM.

Image courtesy of: Guy Ingram
Hunters, Dogs & Pelts

Hunters with their dogs and the pelts they have collected.

Image courtesy of: Main Street Perryville

Train 93

In Junction City 1915.

Image courtesy of: Carolyn Crabtree

ABC Grill

Three businesses that were once located on Main Street in Danville. Photograph was taken in the 1950s.

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce
Parks Store

Parks Store, one of oldest mercantile businesses in Perryville which opened in the 1840s and was in operation until the 1970s.

The store was opened by John Allen Burton. In 1867, William Houston Parks bought the business and ran it for many years. After his death, his daughter, Lora Parks, continued the operation until her death in the 1970s.

Image courtesy of: Main Street Perryville

Cannon on Ice

This cannon, located at the Perryville Battlefield, was frozen during the ice storm of 2009.

Website: http://www.perryvillebattlefield.org/index.html
Photograph taken by: Kurt Holman
Image courtesy of: Perryville Battlefield
Bluegrass Garage

The Bluegrass Garage was located on Main Street in Danville.

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

New Austria Woman Milking Cow

Photograph taken in 1885 by William L. MacLean. Woman milks a cow on Alois Rosel’s farm in the “Swiss Colony” or “New Austria.” New Austria was the name given to the area in the knobs of Boyle County settled by immigrants.

Image courtesy of: Kentucky Historical Society

Students at Pioneer Playhouse

Founded in 1950 by Col. Eben C. Henson, Pioneer Playhouse is the oldest outdoor theatre in Kentucky and has been called the “Granddaddy” of Kentucky Outdoor Dramas. The Playhouse was also instrumental in pioneering the outdoor theatre movement in the state.

In the fifties and sixties it received national attention as the “King of Summer Stocks” in New York trade magazines and in 1962 was the first theatre in the nation to be accorded the legal status of State Theatre (by act of Legislation).

Website: http://www.pioneerplayhouse.com/
Image courtesy of: Pioneer Playhouse
The first Boyle County Courthouse was first used in November of 1844, although the construction was not completed until 1846. It was destroyed in the fire of 1860. The second courthouse was designed by James R. Carrigan and was finished about the summer of 1862. In late 1862 it was taken over by the U.S. Army for use as a hospital. Court was held in C.W. Mitchell’s building for the next two years. In 1899 an addition was added for the County Clerk’s office.

Image courtesy of: Sharon Stratton

Couple and Dog

Image courtesy of: Parksville Water District
Calvin Fackler (1872-1948), was a local historian and writer.

“Boyle County is one of the most happily situated in the whole state, for both fertility and for scenic attractions.”

- Calvin Fackler,
  *Early Days in Danville*

Image courtesy of: Carolyn Crabtree

Two Women on Car

Image courtesy of: The Forkland Community Center Lincoln Museum
Penn Store

Penn's Store is the oldest country store in America run by the same family since 1850. The age of the store is not actually known. It can be traced back to 1845 when William Spragens at age 21 ran the store; however, others are known to have run it before Spragens.

Gabriel Jackson "Jack" Penn was the first Penn to own the store. In c.1870 ownership and operation of the store was transferred from Jack Penn to his oldest son, Martin Wilson "Dick" Penn. Dick Penn was born the second child of nine children on February 19, 1852. He married Isabelle May and they had one son, David Martin Penn. Dick and Isabelle lived in a little house next to the store. Dick Penn was truly a man of many talents. Among his professions were being a surveyor, dentist, druggist, and postmaster. He was the community's first postmaster and Penn's Store was site of the first post office in the area known as Rollings, Kentucky. In c.1910 the post office moved to Gravel Switch to be close to the train, which would stop in the town to get gravel from the creek.

Penn's Store looked quite different in its younger years than it does today. There were many buildings that surrounded the store. There was a spirits shop to the right of the store, a poultry coop used to house chickens and assorted fowl that people brought to the store to trade for goods, and a storage building that Dick Penn used to keep his surplus drugs. Dick and Isabelle's house was to the left of the store, complete with a rock walk leading to the store. The store then carried a wide variety of goods. There were shoes, fabric, farming tools, lanterns, and just about anything that was needed by a rural inhabitant.

Website: http://www.pennsstore.com/
Photograph taken by: Dawn Osborn & Dava Osborn Jones
Image courtesy of: Penn Store
Sara Mahan 1871-1966

Sara W. Mahan, Secretary of State for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 1932-1936, was born in Clay County, Kentucky, 1871, the daughter of George D. and Katherine Cain (White) Mahan. She never married.

Mahan entered political life in 1907 when she managed the campaign headquarters of Judge S. W. Hagar, the Democratic gubernatorial candidate. W. P. Walter wrote in "The Frankfort Journal": “Miss Mahan displayed remarkable exec. ability and was the first woman to have charge of the successful management of a campaign for the nomination for the chief office of this Commonwealth.”

In 1908, Mahan became assistant state librarian, a position she held until 1920. From 1920 to 1921, she served as Centre College librarian. During the period 1921-29, she was Boyle County Circuit Court Clerk. She was one of six women who organized the Democratic Women’s Club of Kentucky. In recognition of her skills as an organizer, in 1921 she was one of the first women to become a member of the Democratic State Central and Executive Committee.

Mahan was elected Secretary of State in 1931 in her only statewide race. During her term she served for six hours as Kentucky’s Governor while Governor Ruby Laffoon and Lieutenant Governor A. B. Chandler were absent from the state. “I wasn’t much of a Governor,” she later said, “but I expect I was the closest Kentucky will come to having a woman Governor for many a day.”

Mahan was a member of many organizations, including the Democratic Women’s Club of Kentucky, Woman’s Club of Frankfort, and the Business and Professional Women’s Club. She died in Danville, Kentucky, on November 1, 1966, at age 96.

Website: http://apps.sos.ky.gov/secdesk/sosinfo/default.aspx?id=60
Image courtesy of: Kentucky Secretary of State

Military

Image courtesy of: Parksville Water District
On April 9, 1866, the Louisville & Nashville Railroad reached Junction City.

Website: http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/npc2008012683/resource/

Image courtesy of: United States Library of Congress
Man & Plow

Image courtesy of: Main Street Perryville

Buy Bonds

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

Dairy Dip

The Dairy Dip Drive-in with car hop service, was located on North Maple Avenue

Image courtesy of: Guy Ingram
Eben Henson During the Filming of Raintree County

Eben Henson speaking to one of the actors during the filming of Raintree County. His wife, Charlotte Henson sits, far right.

Website: http://www.pioneerplayhouse.com/
Image courtesy of: Pioneer Playhouse

Robert Todd Duncan

Robert Todd Duncan (1903 – 1998), born in Danville. He obtained his musical training at Butler University in Indianapolis with a B.A. in music followed by an M.A. from Columbia University Teachers College. In 1933, Duncan debuted in Pietro Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* at the Mecca Temple in New York with the Aeolian Opera, a black opera company.

Duncan was George Gershwin's personal choice as the first performer of the role of Porgy in *Porgy and Bess* in 1935 and played the role more than 1,800 times. He led the cast during the Washington run of *Porgy and Bess* at the National Theatre in 1936, to protest the theatre's policy of segregation. Duncan stated that he "would never play in a theater which barred him from purchasing tickets to certain seats because of his race."

Duncan taught voice at Howard University in Washington, D.C. for more than fifty years. Duncan was awarded the George Peabody Medal of Music from the Peabody Conservatory of Music of Johns Hopkins University in 1984. Other awards he received include a medal of honor from Haiti, an NAACP award, the Donaldson Award, the New York Drama Critics' Award for *Lost in the Stars*, and honorary doctorates from Valparaiso University and Butler University.

Duncan was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Image courtesy of: National Archives
Clock Barn

J.A. Shuttleworth, a Lousiville business man who owned the farm in the late 1800s and early 1900s, had the clock placed on the barn. In 1916, Shuttleworth sold the farm to M.T. Minor who owned it until his death in 1959 when his son, M.C. Minor took over.

The clock was operated with weights until 1956, when the L.T. Verdin Company of Cincinnati, renovated it and installed an electric motor. At that time, M.C. Minor said the clock had been erected in May 1910.

The bell, at least three feet in diameter is struck by a small hammer connected to a network of cogs and rods. M.C. Minor would keep the four clock faces illuminated by spotlights at night.

As the barn deteriorated and the clock was installed at the Bluegrass Community and Technical College.

Information from: Kentucky Stories by Brian Crawford
Image courtesy of: Boyle County Public Library

Constitution Square

Image courtesy of: Carolyn Crabtree

Ice Storm

The ice storm of 2009, brought the area to a halt.

Photograph taken by: Clay Jackson
Image courtesy of: Advocate Messenger Archives
Centenary Methodist

The Danville Methodist Church was the first Methodist Church organized west of the Allegheny Mountains. A log church was constructed on this site in 1789. A brick church was built on the south side of Walnut in 1835. By 1901, the old 1835 church was being used as an agricultural implements store and it was torn down about 1952 when the hospital was built.

In July 1891 the cornerstone of the current, Romanesque structure pictured, was laid, a century after the original log church. The dedication of the church was August 28, 1892.

The cornerstone of 1891 contained the following items: Bible, Discipline of the Methodist Church South, Hymn and Tune book used by the church, roll of membership, photograph of the official board, Sunday School roll, names of the building committee, names of the official board, copy of the invitation to the cornerstone ceremonies, wood from the Dunlap Building, list of subscribers to the building fund, cards used in the work of the church, the address given by Rev. E. H. Pearce in 1886, Copies of the Nashville Christian Advocate, Central Methodist, Kentucky Methodist, The Investigator, Danville Advocate and Kentucky Deaf Mute, catalogues of KY Wesleyan College, Vanderbilt University, Centre college, Danville Theological Seminary, Caldwell Female College and Hogsett Academy, report and circular of the Dumb and Deaf Institute, calendar of Kwansei Gakum Kobe, Japan, Minutes of the KY Conference of the Methodist church South, Deaf Mute’s Arithmetic, roll of pastors and official boards of sister churches in Danville, photograph of the old church building, photograph of the first excavation in Sept 1890, The Church and Education Address by J.W. Proctor in 1883, and the Sunday School Song Book, Magazines, etc….

In 2007 a flood and the growth of the church forced the church, now called Centenary United Methodist Church, to relocate

Image courtesy of: Harold Edwards

Kentucky School for the Deaf Students

This photograph was taken about 1917. The Boy Scouts were started on the Kentucky School for the Deaf campus in 1912 and are seen here delivering newspapers. From left to right: Claud Wesley, Louis Aronovitz, Orville Holley, Mark Woodruff, Ollie Cundiff.

Website: http://www.ksd.k12.ky.us/content_page.aspx?cid=34
Image courtesy of: Kentucky School for the Deaf Jacobs Hall Museum
Pioneer Girl Scouts

From left to right: Carolyn Jones Prince, Viola Langford Pittman, Deloris Whitley Smith, Sadie Jones Turner from Troop 131. Each summer they would travel to a Girl Scout camp by Ft. Knox.

Information provided by: Carolyn Prince
Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

Judge Boyle & History of Boyle County

The portrait is of Judge John Boyle.

Constitution Square Dog Sale

This image was taken at the corner of Walnut. It shows dogs going up for sale.

Image courtesy of: Carolyn Crabtree
Mildred Stites

Image courtesy of: William Forsythe

Interior of the Corning Plant

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

Children Playing “Horse and Wagon”

Image courtesy of: Martha McConnell
Great American Brass Band Parade

The Advocate Messenger Brass Band in the Great American Brass Band Parade.

Image courtesy of: Carolyn Crabtree

Political History of Boyle County


Danville Birdseye View

Photograph taken in 1910. View of Danville looking east along Main Street; taken from the steeple of First Presbyterian Church.

Image courtesy of: Kay Arnold
Burke’s Bakery started in Junction City.

Image courtesy of: Convention and Visitor’s Bureau

The bank was organized in 1896 by George W. Edwards. In 1970 this building was dedicated as St. Mary’s Catholic Church.

Image courtesy of: Harold Edwards

Social History

First Baptist Church in the background.

On August 1, 1846, the First Baptist Church for whites separated its 126 African American members into their own independent church known as the African Church. The first pastor was Rev. Jordan Meaux. Rev. Henry Green was the second minister, followed by Rev. Isaac Slaughter who served for 26 years.

The original church was at 72 Green Street, now Martin Luther King Blvd. The church at the corner of 2nd and Walnut was built about 1901.

The building pictured burned down on December 26, 1966. The current structure was dedicated on December 24, 1967 at the same location.

Image courtesy of: Centre College Archives
Sorghum Press

Sorghum is a genus of numerous species of grasses, one of which is raised for grain and many of which are used as fodder plants, either cultivated or as part of pasture. Sorghum production began in the United States in the 1850s.

Image courtesy of: The Forkland Community Center Lincoln Museum

Horses

Photograph taken by: Mr. Estes
Image courtesy of: Irene Estes

Singer Dealer

Ed Fraysur (1901-1982), had a store and office in Danville. He was manager of the Singer Sewing Company in the western counties of Kentucky. The movie advertised in the background, “The Duke Steps Out” was released in 1929.

Information from: Images of America: Danville, by Lindsay Merritt.
Image courtesy of: Guy Ingram
Tribble House, Junction City

Alexander Tribble, of Junction City, was born at Richmond, Ky., December 5, 1844. Mr. Tribble enlisted as a private in the Confederate Calvary and was paroled by General Palmer at Athens, Ga., May 7, 1865. Mr. Tribble was the proprietor of the Tribble House, at Junction City. In 1866 he was married to Fannie Helm.

In 1903 Mr. A. Tribble offered the Tribble House for sale. It was described as “located at the crossing of the Cincinnati Southern and the Knoxville division of the L. & N R.R. and is the dinner stand for the latter road. It is a large two-story frame metal roof building, containing 35 rooms, fronting 200 feet on the L. & N. R.R. and 70 feet on the C.S. The lot contains about 2 1-2 acres of ground, has splendid barn and outbuildings, plenty of fruit and splendid water. This is one of the best hotel stands in Kentucky, has an establishment Commercial trade. It failed to sell. In 1910 it burnt down and Tribble rebuilt. In 1915 the Stanford Interior Journal reports he swapped the hotel to Elias and Lee Harmon in exchange for their Marion County farm. The Danville Daily reports Adolph Bodner sold it to the Harmons.

Oliver Chilled Plows

Image courtesy of: Lee Estes

Education

Image in background is of Elmwood Academy in Perryville.

What is now known as Elmwood Inn was built by Perryville merchant John Burton in 1842. The massive limestone foundation blocks were hewn from a local quarry and thousands of clay bricks were made onsite.

Alabama troops camped here in the days leading up to the Battle of Perryville. Following the October 8, 1862 battle, the home served as a major surgery center for several weeks.

The Greek Revival house was purchased by Dr. Thomas Poynter and his sister in 1896. Natives of Shelbyville, they named the former Burton House Elmwood Academy. The boarding school had a reputation as one of Kentucky's finest private schools from 1896 until 1924. The school closed that year with the death of Professor Poynter.

Image Courtesy of: Elmwood Inn Fine Teas
Centre Commencement

This image is from the front of the 1894 Commencement invitation. It shows the exterior view of Old Main on the Centre College campus. Built in 1871, Old Main was demolished in 1964.

Image courtesy of: Advocate Messenger Archives

Blessing of the Berries

A church service known as “Blessing of the Berries” used to be held in Parksville by The Associated Fruit Growers, Inc. “In the service, the grateful people of a community that has been blessed by the maturity of their raspberry crop meet and give thanks to God. During the service, the berry growers make offerings of the berry and these offerings are sold and the returns given to the churches of the community.”

The Associated Fruit Growers, Inc. was formed in 1925 at the suggestion of J.A. Cheek to the County Farm Agent, C.E. Miller. The organization’s goal was to promote better berry and fruit growing, to systematize the development of these crops and to market through an organization that commands better prices than individuals are able to obtain.

When begun, total berry acreage was only 3 1/2 acres. Eight years later there were 70 acres of berries with an expected 20,000 gallons of berries to be shipped within a three week period.

Image courtesy of: Parksville Water District

Economic Growth

Background image of the Corning Plant.

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce
**Tobacco Crop**

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

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**Freddie DeCristofaro (1914-1994)**

Ferdinando "Freddie" DeCristofaro, was the longtime owner of Freddie's Restaurant in Danville.

Mr. DeCristofaro, a native of Frosolone, Italy, came to the United States in 1950, and a few years later entered the restaurant business with his first wife, Amelia Marshall.

Mr. DeCristofaro met Marshall while she was vacationing in Italy, and they married in 1942. Together they ran the Italian eatery on Fourth Street in downtown Danville.

Before moving to America, Mr. DeCristofaro served in the Italian army during World War II and spent almost six years as a prisoner of war.

Image and information courtesy of: Advocate Messenger Archives


**Bunny Davis (1917-2001)**

This photograph was taken just after William E. “Bunny” Davis had been elected to the Danville City Council. He earned his nickname because of his speed on the football field. He also once ran the 100-yard dash in 9.6 seconds.

He was the first African American to make the high school All-American team. In 1947 he joined the Lexington Hustlers, a semi-pro baseball team, where over the years he played against: Jackie Robinson, Willie Mays, Roy Campanella and others. After his baseball career ended, he took up umpiring and became the first African American to call baseball games in the Southeast Conference and at the Kentucky State High School Tournament.

He was an active part of Danville politics for many years. He was city commissioner for 13 years and served as mayor pro tem. He was the first African American selected to serve on Ephraim McDowell's Board of Directors, on Danville's United Way Board of Directors, on Danville's Selective Service Board, on Danville's Policeman's and Fireman's Merit Board, and on Danville's Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. To show their appreciation for his lifetime of stewardship rendered to his community, the City of Danville named its recreation building, "The William E. “Bunny” Davis Recreation Complex," in his honor. He is widely remembered for his faithful service as the doorkeeper for the Kentucky House of Representatives, an office he held for 28 years. For 15 of those years, he served as the chief doorkeeper and was responsible for a staff of 15. His notable role was to ceremoniously present to the house speaker and members, important guests and visitors who were then escorted by staff onto the House floor.

Image courtesy of: Advocate Messenger Archives

**Red Cross Children**

The Junior Red Cross was established by President Woodrow Wilson after the United States entered World War I. Students knit scarves, rolled bandages and built furniture for hospitals and convalescent homes. They prepared and sent Friendship Boxes containing school and personal items to students overseas. They worked in Victory Gardens (vegetable gardens that added to the nation's food supply) and raised funds.

Website: http://www.redcross.org/about-us/history/red-cross-american-history/contributions-young-americans

Image courtesy of: Carolyn Crabtree
Danville & Boyle County Hospital Operating Staff

Photograph is circa 1954, it was taken around the same time as the new Ephraim McDowell Hospital was accredited by the state of Kentucky. In 1911 The Danville and Boyle County Hospital Association was organized and in early 1912 opened on Fifth Street in Danville. In 1916 it moved to Walnut Street and Third Street. It was renamed the Ephraim McDowell Hospital in 1949.

Image courtesy of: Advocate Messenger Archives

Advocate Printers

Printing the newspaper. Front left: Lewis Landrum, front right: Robert Jackson.

Image courtesy of: Advocate Messenger Archives

Danville Lumber Boy with Goat and Cart

Image courtesy of: Guy Ingram
African American School

Until 1964 schools in Boyle County were segregated.

Railway Workers

From left to right: John Sims, Monty Bryant Sr, Joe Carey. These gentlemen worked the Cincinnati to Danville line of the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Railway Workers

Railway workers were grouped into “gangs.”
Boyle County Band in Parade

Boyle County High School band performing in a Danville parade.

Image courtesy of: Heart of Danville

Signs at Darnell Hospital

The ground breaking for the first building was observed on July 31, 1937. Initial work was done by 50 prisoners. Contractors completed the erection of the main building, the power house and one other building in 1940 at a cost of $1,163,882, of which amount the state paid $856,000 and the Federal Government, through WPA, paid $307,882. In 1941 the three buildings stood, without equipment as mute testimony that no more funds were immediately available to proceed.

The Federal Government selected the site and unfurnished buildings, in 1941, as facilities for service men who needed psychiatric treatment. The project was leased from the state for $1.00 and the Government spent $5,000,000 to build and equip the overall plant.

From June 27, 1941, until December 15, 1945, the Kentucky State Hospital, now Northpoint Training Center, was known as Darnall Hospital and was operated by the Government as 880 soldiers, suffering from psychiatric illness, were treated there.

On February 9, 1946, the state “bought back” the entire plant for $1.00, the pennies being contributed by the employees who wanted to have a part in the transaction.

The Pioneer Playhouse started with its first show at the Kentucky State Hospital on May 31, 1950.

Website: http://www.pioneerplayhouse.com/
Image courtesy of: Pioneer Playhouse
Veterans with American Flag

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

Perryville Battlefield Spring

Image courtesy of: Perryville Battlefield

Danville Main Street circa 1876

Photograph of the south side of Danville's Main Street, looking west, circa 1876. The steeple in the foreground (left) is Trinity Episcopal Church. The one in the background (right) is the Presbyterian Church.

Image courtesy of: Heart of Danville
Mobile Post Office

A mobile post office parked outside the regular post office.

Image courtesy of: Irene Estes

Raintree County Parade

In the summer of 1956 Danville was overtaken with the filming of the movie “Raintree County.” It starred: Montgomery Clift, Elizabeth Taylor, Eva Marie Saint, and Lee Marvin. This image is from the parade given in their honor. Pioneer Playhouse acted as the base of operations.

Image courtesy of: Guy Ingram

Danville Ice and Coal Company

Photograph taken circa 1914. At the time it was still known as Thurmond & Coleman “Coal, feed, lime and sand.  The building was located on Second Street and is now a part of Main Street Furniture.  On the left is O.J. Thurmond, W.B. Coleman.

Image courtesy of: Martha Jett
Danville Coal and Seed Company

Photograph taken circa 1929. Building was located at 457 West Walnut and is now a part of the hospital. From left to right: Ernest Bridgewater (peddled coal by tub on a cart), Nep Hargis, Bob Munday, Gene Dunn, Dink Conover, Jeptha Jett, Vola Marcum (bookkeeper), W.B. Coleman (owner), John Sewell, Sylvester Jones.

Image courtesy of: Martha Jett

Cities Towns and Bends in the Road

Most of the towns listed no longer exist in any form. Some are subdivisions of larger towns. Zion Hill, although not listed, had a church and a school.
Kentucky College for Women (KCW) can trace its origins back to 1854 when the state legislature granted a charter to "earnest Christian men who desired for the young women, not only of this community, but of the state at large, educational advantages similar to those afforded young men in the historic Centre College." The school was to be known as Henderson Female Institute. A board of trustees was elected and efforts began to raise funds for the new institution and select a site. In 1859, the college began erecting a four story brick building, and in the same year selected Professor A.E. Sloane as its president. The school opened in September, 1860, under a new name - Caldwell Female Institute.

The Civil War delivered a harsh blow to the young institution as the school struggled to attract students and remain solvent. Sloane resigned in 1864, and Professor Augustine Hart assumed the presidency for one year. Rev. L.G. Barbour succeeded Hart in 1865 and brought the school into new-found prominence. Barbour resigned in 1874. Later that year the school came under the control of the Second Presbyterian Church. In 1876, the institution underwent another name change, and would now be known as Caldwell Female College.

Catastrophe struck in April 1876 when Caldwell's building and most of its components were destroyed by fire. The school remained closed until 1880 when Caldwell purchased the property of the Danville Classical and Military Institute (current site of Danville High School). In September 1881, Caldwell reopened with Rev. John Montgomery as president. In 1885, Caldwell consolidated with another local girls' school, Bell Seminary, retaining the name of Caldwell Female College. The name was shortened to Caldwell College as early as 1887.

Charlotte A. Campbell took over as president in 1886, and served until 1897, when she was succeeded by Dr. John C. Ely. Ely served until 1902, to be succeeded by John C. Acheson - the only Caldwell president to serve two terms. During Acheson's first term, the school grew and a major building program was instituted which resulted in the construction of the gymnasium, Morgan Hall, and East Hall. In addition, the curriculum was expanded beyond elementary and college preparatory work to include fully accredited Junior College work.

In 1913, the charter was amended and the school became Kentucky College for Women. During the same year Princeton Collegiate Institute of Princeton, Kentucky consolidated with KCW in Danville. When Acheson resigned in 1914, Mrs. Richer served a very brief term and M. Marshall Allen assumed the presidency in 1915.

By 1922 KCW offered four years of standard college work leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Acheson returned to the presidency in 1922, and the college seemed to be prospering as never before. Still, funding problems remained, and Acheson resigned in 1925. Paul B. Boyd was named president in 1925, but KCW's days as an independent institution were numbered.

In 1926, the school opened as a department of Centre College, and formally consolidated with Centre in 1930. The Women's Campus was vacated in January 1962 when the two campuses consolidated and the women students took up residence in new dormitories on the Centre campus.

Information from Centre College
Image courtesy of: Marty Rogan
Wahpanoochis

Photograph of the Caldwell College Wahpanoochis intramural basketball team from 1907. Members identified as (l-r) Grace Dyer, Mary Ashby Cheek, Lucie Waller (captain).

Website: http://centre.omeka.net/items/show/27
Image courtesy of: Centre College

Blue Ribbon Cow

A young man earns a blue ribbon with his cow.

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

Danville Laundry and Dry Cleaning Company Softball Team

Photograph taken circa 1935. Sanitone, the name on the shirts, is a dry cleaning supply company.

1st Row (left to right): Bill Edminston, Lucien Robertson, Bob Whitehouse, mascot John Acton, Harry Fitzpatrick, Johnny Wofford, Harold Reynierson, Jr., Lloyd Kelly

2nd Row (left to right): Charles Barksdale, Harold Reynierson, Sr., Wellington Cooper, Jimmy Robinson, James Fleming, Sam Watts

3rd Row (left to right): John M. Nichols, Bush Nichols, Henry Nichols, Jimmy Horner, Lawrence McGhee, Sammy Douglas, Roy Bryant, Lefty Arnicar, James Sparrow

(Name of young man in front not known.)

Image courtesy of: Advocate Messenger Archives, from Isabel N. Bell
In this picture, David Highbaugh interviews a woman on the street.

WHIR 1230 went live on the air at 2 p.m., October 26, 1947. The executive officers were: David Highbaugh, program director; W.T. Isaac, commercial manager, and James D. Russell, technical director. P.C. Malone was chief engineer. Henry C. Lovell, engineer; Clara Lee MacCaddam, program department; Francis Smith, secretary and bookkeeper.

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

Danville Aviation Corp

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

The Hub Department Store

Located at 236 West Main Street in Danville. The Hub was opened in 1906 by the Pushin Brothers; they sold every type of thing. It was bought by the Frankel brothers and by 1948 was called the Hub-Frankel.

Image courtesy of: Sharon Stratton
First Baptist Church

First Baptist was the third church to organize in Danville on June 7, 1823. On November 12, 1825, they purchased land on Broadway Street. From that time, until around 1839 or 1840, the church met in a small cabin in the south center of the lot.

The church first built a simple brick structure for services. There were two doors, one of the men and one for the women. Between the two doors was the pulpit and a rear balcony was built for use by slaves.

In August of 1881, a fire destroyed the brick building. By the light of the blaze, the pastor took pledges for a new church. In less than a year the new building was completed and was entirely debt free. The church continued to grow and in 1902 the sanctuary was dedicated. Major renovations of the sanctuary were completed in 1972.

It was torn down as part of the Boyle County Public Library expansion.

Image courtesy of: Sharon Stratton

Caboose

Photograph of a Louisville & Nashville (L & N) caboose taken in 1976. The Knoxville branch of the L & N runs through Boyle County from west to east, crossing with the Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific line in Junction City.

Photograph taken by: Jay Thomson
Website: http://www.flickr.com/photos/hunter1828/6949405225/
Image courtesy of: Robert Thomson

King’s Mill Outing

Photograph taken about 1920. An outing for Kentucky School for the Deaf students at King’s Mill on Dix River. The Mill was a popular place for picnics. King’s Mill stood five miles east of Danville. The mill gets its name from Allen King, a Scotchman, who ran the mill for many years. The mill was three stories tall. The first two stories were built of hand-hewn stones laid on each other without mortar. The upper structure was made of wood and used in storing grain. The first floor housed the undershot wheel which turned the mill stones, used in pairs with one stationary and the other turning. Large gears, made of seasoned oak and hickory, stepped up power.

Image courtesy of: Kentucky School for the Deaf Jacobs Hall Museum
Three Men in a Boat

Three men take advantage of one of the beautiful waterways in Boyle County.

Image courtesy of: Advocate Messenger Archives

Flaig Curry

Part of a portfolio of photographs of the nature of Boyle County.

Image courtesy of: The Forkland Community Center Lincoln Museum

King’s Mill at Flood Stage

King’s Mill stood five miles east of Danville. The mill gets its name from Allen King, a Scotchman, who ran the mill for many years. The mill was three stories tall. The first two stories were built of hand-hewn stones laid on each other without mortar. The upper structure was made of wood and used in storing grain. The first floor housed the undershot wheel which turned the mill stones, used in pairs with one stationary and the other turning. Large gears, made of seasoned oak and hickory, stepped up power.

Image courtesy of: Boyle County Public Library, donation of Edna Heck
Road Through the Trees

Part of a portfolio of photographs of the nature of Boyle County.

Image courtesy of: The Forkland Community Center Lincoln Museum

King’s Mill Covered Bridge at Flood Stage

King’s Mill covered bridge spanned Dix River on the Danville/Lexington turnpike. Built in 1826 by Lewis V. Wernwag, it was a double barrel structure.

Ann Preston has a document, dated June 5, 1925, that says her grandfather, Ed Nikirk, and his uncle, W.T. Nikirk, helped dismantle the bridge and distribute the materials. The Danville Daily Messenger ran an article on July 11, 1925 stating that the bridge had been removed.

Information from the Advocate Messenger, 5 June 2006, Looking Back, by B. Edwards

Image courtesy of: Boyle County Public Library, donation of Edna Heck

Hanging Fork Bridge

This bridge spanned 100 feet over the Hanging Fork, between Boyle County and Lincoln County. It was replaced with a concrete bridge in the 1940s.

Image courtesy of: Martha McConnell
**Broad Water View**

The Chenault Bridge over Lake Herrington.

Image courtesy of: Danville Boyle County Chamber of Commerce

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**Hirch Tractor**

A farmer with his wife and workmen and a Hirch Tractor.

Image courtesy of: Boyle County Public Library
## Further Reading

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