A History of Early Crittenden

Grant County, Kentucky

by

Lloyd W. Franks

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LEBANON

CHAPTER I

The Lebanon community west of Crittenden is among the oldest settlements in Grant County, dating before 1787. Among the earliest settlers were Andrew McCluir (McClure), Nathaniel Bullock, William Martin, Andrew Kincaid, William Anderson and their families and slaves. Attracted by fertile, well-watered land, they settled near a tributary of Ten Mile Creek. Nathaniel Bullock built a livestock corral near the creek which soon became known as Bullock's Pen Creek.

From Rockbridge County, Virginia in 1795 came Nathaniel and Jean Porter McClure, his half-brothers Alexander and Moses McClure, and Joseph Canady, Thomas Canady, William and Anne Canady, Joseph Meyers, Ax and Rebecca McPherson and Robert Stewart. Jean Porter's father had forbidden her to marry Nathaniel McClure, who started alone with the caravan. After one day's travel, Nathaniel returned at night, tapped on her window, and they eloped to Kentucky. Anne Canady carried a small infant on her lap the entire journey.

Each night a sentry was posted to prevent Indians from stealing the horses. On one occasion they met a party of Indians without incident. Nathaniel described the watershed of Bullock's Pen Creek as having "pea vines...in the heads of the hollows so you could track a turkey and run on its trail."

Realizing a need for spiritual guidance on the frontier, these pioneers petitioned the Synod of Virginia to organize a Presbyterian Church. Thus, Lebanon Presbyterian Church was organized by Samuel Rannels of Virginia in 1796 at the home of Andrew Kincaid. Shortly afterward, a small log building was erected near Bullock's Pen Creek where worship services were conducted by William Martin and Robert Stewart. Barton Stone, then an itinerant Presbyterian minister, may have held services at Lebanon as early as 1798.

Since Presbyterian doctrine dictated a well-educated ministry, the early ministers also taught school near the church. Thus, Lebanon School was one of the earliest schools in Northern Kentucky and was well-staffed for its day.

Among the early settlers of the Lebanon Community was Andrew Brann, his wife Frankey (Francis) and their three children. Prior to 1795 they had purchased a large tract of land and built a log house on Bullock's Pen Creek, about three miles southwest of Crittenden. He was appointed to survey a new road in 1803 and deeded an acre of land to the deacons of the newly organized Salem Old Baptist Church in 1804.

One late summer after, in 1805, the family was working in a field when they spotted Shawnee warriors. Although they attempted to reach the cabin, the entire family was tomahawked and scalped. After burning the Brann cabin, the Indians proceeded along Bullock's Pen Creek and burned the Lebanon Church before escaping across the Ohio River.

Meanwhile, Frankey pretended to be dead for over an hour, lying in a pool of her own blood. After the Indians left, she realized she was the sole survivor. Crawling up the hill to the houses of Thomas Canady and Alexander McClure, she received medical attention while the men quickly organized a futile pursuit after the Indians. Frankey recovered, but remained bald the rest of her life and wore a lace cap to cover the back of her head.

With help from the community, Joseph Meyers constructed a second log meetinghouse in 1806 along the Big Bone Road where Lebanon Cemetery is presently located. Land for the new church and cemetery was donated by Alexander McClure, Jonas Stephenson and Joseph Meyers. This building also burned in 1822 and Meyers again gave his talents to erect the present building in 1824 across the old road from the cemetery. A separate building was also erected for a schoolhouse.

CHAPTER II

THE WELLS & HENDERSON - ROUSE TAVERN

South of Crittenden, along the Old Lexington Pike, between KY 491 and the Crittenden - Mt. Zion Road, was the once thriving pioneer settlement known as The Wells. The name was derived from two large wells in a locust grove about 1/4 of a mile south of KY 491. Although situated less than 50 feet apart, one well contained clear, cold, sweet water, whereas the other was so sulfurous it could not be used.

The early history of The Wells is shrouded in mystery and legend. The old Indian trace on the Dry Ridge from central Kentucky to the Ohio River ran through this land of abundant springs and huge trees. An Indian village and burial grounds existed here in prehistoric times, as evidenced by an abundance of artifacts discovered in later years.

With the coming of the white man, the old Indian trace continued to be used as a road. Early travelers were described as "dirty...their dress a shirt and trousers of canvas; black, greasy and sometimes in tatters; their skin burnt whenever exposed to the sun; each with a budget (wallet) wrapped up in an old blanket; their beards 18 days old added to the singularity of their appearance which was altogether savage." Many were so poor and thin "they had to lean up against a sapling to cuss".

Crude taverns sprang up to accommodate travelers. Legend states that Charles Grinder and his wife operated a tavern at The Wells about 1780. Although he sold food, whiskey and lodging, Grinder, a half-Indian, made extra money by robbing and murdering his guests and disposing of their bodies in the woods. His son, having left home as a teenager, decided to pay his parents a surprise visit. Older and bearded he was not recognized, but went to bed with the intention of revealing his identity the next morning. While he slept, the father killed him by cracking open his skull with a hatchet. Later a friend who knew of the intended surprise inquired about the son. Sick and frightened, the parents secretly dug up the shallow grave. On the corpse's chest was a birthmark which identified young Grinder. It was said the Grinders immediately left the area, never to be heard of again.

The Wells emerged into the era of recorded history when Archibald Reed purchased land from John and Jordan Harris about 1791 and opened the first tavern. In connection with the tavern, Reed ran a store which sold bolts of cloth, gunpowder, lead iron, salt, molasses, coffee, tea, sugar and whiskey by

the drink or by the jug. His taxable property in 1795 included two horses and nine cows.

The tavern's location was strategic for trade. When Campbell County was formed in 1795, a road was constructed from Reed's Tavern on the Lexington Pike to Wilmington (Morning View), the first county seat of Campbell County. A second road ran west from the tavern to the Ohio River at the mouth of the Big Bone Creek. Mail enroute to Wilmington, Big Bone, Lexington and Losantiville (Cincinnati) was delivered to and sent from the tavern. In establishing Campbell County precincts "Reed's Tavern on the dry ridge" was a focal point. Reed himself was a magistrate from 1795 until 1800.

George Brown began a second tavern at The Wells in 1805. It was described as a small, dirty one-room cabin filled with saddles, bridles, blankets as well as the usual furnishings. Meals usually consisted of mush and milk and many travelers preferred sleeping outdoors rather than cope with the fetid air and vermin of the tavern.

James Brumback purchased 50 acres at The Wells in 1819 for $43.76 at a sheriff's sale. He then built a residence and a tavern which began operating in November of that year. In 1828, he sold one acre to Alvin Kyes, a Crittenden manufacturer and shareholder in the Lexington Turnpike Company. Here, Kyes built a five-room two story house for himself and a tollgate house.

The tollgate house was the scene of another local legend. Old Doty was a vagabond, thief and highwayman who plied his trade on unwary travelers passing through The Wells. Captured, he was tried in Justice Theobald's court at the Henderson-Rouse Tavern and found guilty. He was sentenced to have his ears cropped and to "thirty-nine lashes on the bare back well laid on" by the constable. Soon afterwards, he was killed near the tollgate house.

The identity of Old Doty's killer was never discovered, although Constable Sterns Kendall suspected an Indian named Black Snake. Another tradition claims Old Doty was being pursued on horseback by a posse when the tollgate keeper suddenly lowered the tollgate bar, causing him to fall from his horse and break his neck.

For years, many believed Old Doty's ghost never left the vicinity. "Not a Black in Grant County could be persuaded to pass The Wells after dark if avoidable. If such was his ill luck, he was sure to be accompanied for some distance by Old Doty's ghost. Loose-jointed with arms extended, hands outspread, head thrown back and slightly turned to face the traveler, mouth wide open, a vague yet well-defined substance

of shimmering light, the ghost always kept pace with the horse, running or floating by the horse's neck. If walking, the traveler was accompanied by the ghost about two feet ahead and always on the right. Two or three hundred feet beyond the tollgate house, the strange apparition would mysteriously disappear."

East of the tollgate house was the tanyard of Robert Gibson and Sterns Kendall. Just beyond the tanyard, Captain John Fenley owned and operated a sawmill. This mill was powered by horses walking on a huge wheel and furnished the lumber for most of the buildings erected around Crittenden at that time. (On a farm once owned by C. J. Hutsell, 500 poplar logs were cut on five acres in one day.) The mill was later purchased by R. J. Dyas who operated it until 1842.

Near the tollgate house James Henderson taught school for Indians from 1822 until 1832. His father, Rev. Thomas Henderson purchased 50 acres of James Brumback's estate in 1832 and the Kyes property in 1836. In 1841, Rev. Henderson taught school for both whites and Indians at The Wells in the old Kyes house. The Centre Ridge Baptist Church and the newly organized Presbyterian Church also used the Kyes house for worship services on alternate Sundays.

The most elaborate house at The Wells was a twelve-room, two story brick house built about 1830. Known as the Day house, it boasted carved marble mantles, molded plaster ceilings and a winding staircase.

Over the years, the settlement vanished. A post office was established one mile north, the taverns disappeared, the sawmill and tanyard shut down, the Baptist Church and school disbanded, the Presbyterian Church moved to Crittenden, the Kyes house was moved, the tollgate house and the Day house were torn down. Finally, the two wells themselves were bulldozed by the state when the Lloyd Wildlife Federation was created.

The tavern that survived The Wells by a century was the Henderson - Rouse Tavern. Located at the south end of Crittenden and next to The Wells, this Grant County landmark stood nearly two centuries. The land on which the tavern stood was once part of a 44,109 1/4 acre land patent obtained by John and Jordan Harris on May 17, 1786. On September 14, 1792 the Harris brothers sold 500 acres of land to John Fowler of Bourbon County for $500.00. Fowler sold the acreage to Archibald Bell in 1804 for $1,000.00, who, in turn, relinquished the land to Benjamin McFarling for $1,500.00 in 1818. William Sanders became the next owner in 1820 only to sell 341 acres of this tract to Rev. Thomas Henderson of Scott County for "$2,064.00 in hand paid" on February 20, 1822.

Henderson's purchase included a large six-room log tavern which had been constructed in 1815 by Joseph Meyers on land then owned by Archibald Bell. The first proprietor was Justice James Theobald who leased and operated the tavern from 1815 to 1822. Colonel Littleton Robinson then ran the tavern until 1832 when he was discharged and sued by Rev. Henderson for failure to relinquish $200.00 in proceeds from the sale of a slave belonging to Henderson. Rev. Henderson's son, James, became the third proprietor until a father-son dispute in 1841 led to James' operating a tollgate house on the Lexington Pike, 11 miles south of Crittenden. Henderson then operated the tavern himself from 1841 until his death in 1846.

The tavern was extremely large for its day and included three rooms on the first floor and three corresponding rooms on the second floor. All rooms were approximately 20 feet square. The center room on the first floor was a large reception hall where luggage, saddles and personal items of guests could be placed. Around the walls were wooden pegs for coats and hats. A staircase led to the second floor where the corresponding hallway held the overflow baggage from downstairs.

The south room on the first floor was the barroom where liquor was sold. This large room was heated by a fireplace and contained a writing desk for customer convenience, tables, chairs and a bar along the west wall. Whiskey, brandy, peach brandy and hard cider sold from 4 1/2 cents to 18 cents a drink. In early times, a homemade drink called metheglin was served instead of beer. Metheglin was a fermented mixture of crushed locust beans, water, honey, yeast and herbs.

This room also served as the magistrate's courtroom. Litigants would sit facing each other on opposite sides of a long walnut table running nearly the entire length of the room. The justice sat at the head of the table with spectators and jurors seated in hand-crafted captain's chairs placed around the walls. In this historic room, Justice James Theobald tried misdemeanor cases, appointed landowners to survey new roads and requisitioned others to maintain these roads. Felons were sentenced to public whippings as prescribed by law, boundary disputes over land claims were settled, persons were appointed administrators of estates, deeds for land sales were drawn, and public papers were notarized.

Tradition states Justice Theobald held court in the barroom to prevent witnesses, spectators and jurors from drinking during court proceedings. During these times the bar was closed and liquor was kept under lock and key. Anyone attempting to disrupt judicial proceedings was in danger of being cracked

over the head by a heavy wooden mallet wielded by either Justice Theobald or Constable Sternes Kendall. (This same mallet was used on other occasions by the tavern proprietor to keep order in the barroom.)

The north room on the first floor was the tavern dining room. Meals of venison, bear, wild turkey, pork, berries, fruit, cornbread, molasses and wild honey were served promptly at 5:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Guests had the choice of a hot meal for 15 cents or a cold meal for 12 cents. When mealtime approached, the first bell was rung to allow ladies and children to be seated. A second bell signaled the time for the men to enter. The menu seldom varied and meals were served family style with slave children to wait on the tables. A door once led from the north room to the brick kitchen in the back yard. Slave children bringing food from the kitchen to the dining room were required to whistle so they could not sample food intended for guests.

The cooking was done in two kitchens, both detached from the tavern and the family residence. Peggy, the head cook in the brick kitchen, prepared meals for the tavern and the Henderson family. A crane fastened on the inside of the large fireplace, about four feet from the hearth, swung out to receive kettles of water, or any other liquid to be boiled when swung back over the fire. The oven was a large flat-bottomed kettle about 10 inches deep which stood on three legs. It had a tight fitting cover with an upturned rim. When baking was done in the oven, coals of fire were placed under it with hot ashes being piled on the lid. Frying was done over the coals in the long handled skillets and frying pans. (Cooking for the slaves was done in the same way by Letty in one of the slave's cabins.)

On the second floor of the tavern, two large bedrooms opened off the central hallway. Each contained four to six four-poster double beds with rope springs, cornhusk mattresses, calico sheets and blankets. Large fireplaces provided the only source of heat. Guests would sleep three to four in a bed, with late comers sleeping on the floor. There was no false modesty, for both men and women travelers would prepare for bed in the presence of strangers without a second thought. On extremely busy nights, all rooms in the tavern were pressed into service for sleepers. Cost for spending the night was six cents, with or without the use of a bed.

The environs of the tavern resembled a small village, with the tavern itself, family living quarters, an octagonal bee house, well-house in front, saddle house, granaries, flax house, brick kitchen for the tavern, brick smoke house, 5 slave cabins,

barn for stagecoach horses, livestock barn, tobacco barn, cellar, corn crib, houses for chickens, ducks, geese, guineas - 18 buildings in all.

Being located south of town, the tavern catered to "drovers" -- people hired to drive great "droves" of pigs, cattle and sheep on their way to market. Large pens and corrals contained the livestock overnight as the drovers partook of the tavern's hospitality. Large flocks of turkeys driven down the pike with great difficulty would roost on the barnyard fence while a watcher saw they were unmolested overnight.

On May 6, 1818, Abner Gaines began operation of the first stage line from Lexington to Cincinnati. (A one-way trip was nine dollars and took two days.) He contracted with James Theobald to use the tavern as a way station to change horses. The contract called for stabling 24 horses at $120.00 per year each, and extra horses could be stabled at $12.00 each per month. The tavern itself was altered to include a two story portico on the front so a lookout could spot the approaching stage from the second floor and warn anyone in the front yard to clear the way. Mile posts were erected both north and south of the tavern and stage drivers were required to sound a bugle as a warning when the mile posts were passed. A prolonged sounding of the bugle meant the driver had important news such as the results of a presidential election, a declaration of war or other noteworthy events.

Passengers would often heat bricks in the tavern fireplaces and put them in stagecoaches in order to warm their feet. On one occasion the stage caught fire north of Crittenden when the bricks ignited the straw on the floor. The fire spread so quickly that the six passengers had trouble escaping.

Gaines' drivers prided themselves on punctuality, often at the expense of safety. More than one coach was overturned in the tavern yard when a speeding driver would swerve the coach to avoid hitting a hapless pedestrian. One driver of a south bound stage was in such a hurry that "he gave the horses the whip and they pitched off at full speed. In turning the acute angle from the tavern yard to the road, the stage upset, dashing the top into a thousand pieces. The lynchpin snapped causing the forewheels to separate from the other parts of the stage and the horses ran off with them with great fury for several miles." Every person in or upon the stage was more or less injured.

This zeal for punctuality peaked when President Franklin Pierce, scheduled to catch the Lexington-Cincinnati stage and visit Crittenden and other towns along the way, was left behind because he was 5 minutes late in arriving at the Lexington depot. (He later caught the Lexington-Maysville stage.)

Abner Gaines' stage line (later Pratt and Gaines) used the Henderson - Rouse Tavern as a relay station from 1818 - 1842. In 1824 the Marquis de Lafayette, hero of the American Revolution, made a triumphal tour of the United States and of Kentucky. After being greeted in Frankfort by 7 militia companies and by many citizens in Lexington, he proceeded to Cincinnati. Enroute, the Marquis and his escort stopped at the Henderson - Rouse Tavern for dinner. The proprietor, Colonel Littleton Robinson and the townspeople assembled on the Tavern lawn to pay their respects. Tradition states a pet deer of Colonel Robinson's young daughter was taken from the deer park at the back of the house and killed to provide a meal of venison for Crittenden's distinguished visitor. Other famous guests over the years included Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, Richard M. Johnson, John J. Crittenden, Zachary Taylor, numerous governors, congressmen and legislators.

After discharging Colonel Robinson, Rev. Henderson purchased a 50 acre tract of land from the estate of John Brumback for "$700.00 in hand paid" in 1832. One acre of the estate had previously been purchased by merchant Alvin Kyes in 1828, on which he had erected a residence and a tollgate house. Kyes sold these holdings to Rev. Henderson in 1836 for $1,200.00.

Rev. Thomas Henderson and his family personified a degree of culture, refinement and education rarely found on the frontier. Ordained a Baptist minister in Virginia, Rev. Henderson had been appointed superintendent of the Chocktaw Indian Academy situated on the farm of Colonel Richard M. Johnson at Great Crossings near Georgetown. The Academy was the only school under the auspices of the U.S. War Department with the exception of West Point.

Rev. Henderson's family moved into the Kyes house in 1838. That same year, he purchased an English piano in Philadelphia and brought it over the mountains to Crittenden in a wagon. This was the first piano in Grant County and one of the first in Kentucky. After joining his family in 1841, Henderson taught school in the Kyes house. Reading, ciphering (arithmetic), geography, history, Latin, algebra and the Bible were taught. For his students, he made two mechanical devices showing the movement of the planets in the solar system and the rotations of the moon in relation to the earth.

In addition to teaching, Rev. Henderson also operated the tavern and his farm. Against the advice of his physician, he organized and pastored the Centre Ridge Baptist Church of Christ, which met at the Kyes house on alternate Sundays. At Rev. Henderson's invitation, the newly organized Crittenden Presbyterian Church worshiped there the remaining Sundays.

Henderson decided to consolidate his operations by moving the Kyes house from The Wells and attaching it to the rear of the tavern. This was no small task for the house was a 5 room, 2 story structure with a 2 story porch and an outside staircase. (There was a tax on inside stairs.) It included a parlor, dining room, sitting room and two bedrooms. For years there was no connecting doorway between the tavern and the house, as Rev. Henderson wished to separate his family from the rowdier aspects of the tavern trade.

Tavern owner and operator, farmer, schoolmaster, Baptist minister--all these occupations took their toll on Rev. Henderson's health. He died quietly at his home on April 26, 1846. Without his leadership, the school and the Baptist Church soon disbanded.

During the Civil War, the Eighteenth Michigan Regiment U.S.A., under Captain Hardeman, was camped in the pond field across the pike from the tavern. When they broke camp to leave, they destroyed all unused provisions, threw the windlass into the well, destroyed crops and did many other things to annoy the family. After the war, Mrs. Henderson called all the servants into the backyard. Standing on the porch, she explained to them that they were free -- their own masters. She had no more authority over them. Except for a 12 year old boy named Dick jumping up and down, slapping his sides, there was no demonstration among any of the slaves.

The ravages of the war, freeing of the slaves and stage coaches going to Crittenden to change horses ended all tavern operations, and the old building became a private residence. Crittenden's attention was focused on the old tavern only on one other occasion. When the Southern Railway opened on July 23, 1877, President Rutherford B. Hayes made a good-will trip from Cincinnati to Chattanooga with the Presidential train stopping at towns along the way. Gathering in the old tavern yard, the people of Crittenden heard the President speak briefly from the rear platform of the train and had an opportunity to shake his hand. A large gift of flowers was presented to President Hayes by the ladies of Crittenden.

Afterwards, the property was passed down through the family to the present time. Currently, it is owned by the estate of the late H. V. Rouse and his sister Eleanor Rouse.

CHAPTER III

CRITTENDEN BEGINNINGS

This history of present day Crittenden can be traced directly to John, Robert and William Sanders -- three brothers who settled in the Crittenden area prior to 1790. By 1795, Robert Sanders owned 1,616 acres along the dry ridge, 10 miles north of Campbell's Blockhouse. Campbell County tax records for the same year list John Sanders as owning 490 acres, 25 cattle, 4 horses and 8 slaves. He was appointed magistrate from the "Sanders Precinct" of Pendleton County in 1799 and was appointed County Road Surveyor and Tobacco Inspector in 1801. He went insane just before his death in 1809.

William Sanders owned several hundred acres which included the present site of Crittenden. He was appointed to "fix" the precinct boundaries in 1803 and was elected county commissioner in 1804. A deacon of the Salem Old Baptist Church, he served as guardian for several minor children, posted bond for county officials including William Arnold and Hubbard B. Smith and was in constant litigation over conflicting land claims. One of the many documents he and Justice Theobald witnessed, states "Eleanor Owen of Pendleton County sells to Augustus Easton a featherbed, 5 cows, 3 yearlings, 10 head of sheep and my whole stock of hogs -- June 15, 1802". He also willed a slave, Cato, "A negro man of dark complexion, bald head with scar on breast, 6' 1", aged about 45" to Justice Theobald, who later freed him.

In 1819, when stagecoaches began to carry mail over the Lexington Pike, evidence indicates a post office was established one mile north of The Wells, on Sanders' land with William Sanders as the first postmaster. Nearby, Charles Sechrist opened a tavern for stagecoach travelers in 1821. Next to the tavern, Henry Sayers of Campbell County began a carding mill, and on the next hill, the Christian Church had been organized in 1826. This settlement was called Sanders.

From the earliest times, many tobacco speculators plied their trade in the area. A whiskey-drinking carpenter named Grooms complained these speculators were so greedy and so dishonest they would "hook (steal) a pin". Thus the name "pinhooker" was used to describe a tobacco speculator and the town was nicknamed "Pinhook".

In 1829, John W. Finley purchased over 400 acres of the Sanders' land which included the present site of Crittenden. By 1831, he decided to establish a new town called Sanders, with Sechrist' Tavern, post office, Church and mill as a nucleus.

Word was received in 1834 the town could not be incorporated as Sanders since another town had already taken that name. A suggestion to name the town Lebanon was discarded for the same reason. Mrs. John W. Finley suggested the town be named for the distinguished statesman John J. Crittenden, who was three times elected to the United States Senate, was once Governor of Kentucky and twice appointed Attorney General of the United States.

Crittenden was finally incorporated by the Kentucky Legislature in 1837. At the July term of court, County Judge Woodyard appointed John. W. Fenley, George Buckner, Gustavious Fisher, Ephriam Carter and James Hudson town trustees until the next regular election.

Industry began in Crittenden several years before incorporation. In the early 1820's, next to the Sechrist Tavern, Henry Sayers of Campbell County built and operated a carding mill. (The millhouse stood where Johnny Farrell's barbershop is now located.) Freshly shorn wool would be taken to the mill where it would be cleaned, carded and prepared for spinning and weaving, which was still done in the home. The mill burned about 1832.

A second carding mill at the corner of Sayers and Main Cross (Harlan) Streets was begun shortly afterward by John Mitchell, which operated until after the Civil War. Boyer's grist mill also operated on Sayers Street, powered by horses walking a treadmill. This mill was later run by James Stephenson.

Crittenden's first steam sawmill, also on Sayers Street, was in operation as early as 1832. It was across the street from the brick meetinghouse used by the Christian Church. The sawmill was later sold to the Hutsell family who discontinued operations circa 1855.

A second steam mill was located in the hollow about 200 yards west of the new Bullock Pen Water District Office. Begun by T. M. Kyes about 1845, it was a multipurpose mill which ground wheat and corn, and sawed lumber. Kyes sold the building to W. H. Elstner, who soon afterwards sold out to Kellogg and Foote of Cincinnati, who converted it to a distillery. Several years later, David Craig purchased the building and converted it back to a flour mill.

Crittenden also boasted two tanyards, although both were south of the city limits. Kendall & Gibson's Tanyard was located near The Wells. James Hudson, in 1831, ran a second tanyard where the fairgrounds now is. He sold the yards to Hannah Henderson in 1853.

Crittenden also had two tobacco warehouses. One stood on Front Street, north of Schneider's Saloon. It's owner, E. K. McClure was taken to court for operating a public nuisance. This "public nuisance" (a hogpen) was built alongside the warehouse. The second warehouse is still standing on Sayers Street near Oregon Vallandingham house.

Crittenden's last flour mill was operated by the Collins family who had purchased the defunct seminary building at an auction, converted it into a flour mill and operated it until the 1920's.

CHAPTER IV

CRITTENDEN BUSINESSES

Crittenden's central business block, located at the southeast corner of Main and Sayers, consisted of two three-story buildings and a three-story frame building. Fires on May 5, 1867 and April 14, 1897, all but destroyed the entire block, although some parts survived and are in use today.

On the corner, Alvin Kyes built a large three-story brick building around 1845. One half of the first floor contained Kyes tobacco factory where cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff and chewing tobacco were made. The other half was his dry goods store. The second floor was a lodge hall used by the Masons and the I.O.O.F. Living quarters occupied the third floor. The building partially burned in 1867. It was rebuilt by Ratcliffe and Mansfield (later Hogsett & Ratcliffe), who removed the third floor and used the ground floor as a mercantile. The second floor continued as a lodge hall. The fire of 1897 did minor damage, which was repaired, and a two-story porch was added to the front. Virtually unchanged since 1867, this is the oldest standing business building in Crittenden and now houses the W. W. Market.

Circa 1845, Kyes built a smaller three-story brick building next to his tobacco factory. The first floor was Arthur Barr's Boot and Shoe Store where footwear for ladies and gentlemen were both made and repaired. The second and third floors were used by Union College. This building was completely destroyed by the fire of 1867 and the lot remained vacant until 1893 when the newly organized Tobacco Growers Deposit Bank purchased the lot from J. T. Mitchell for $800.00 on March 10, 1893. The bank constructed a small brick building with a cast iron front. It escaped the 1897 fire with minor damage and was used by the bank until its new building was built across the street in 1929. It then became the post office until the 1970's and currently it is an annex of the W. W. Market.

Next to the Kyes buildings, a three-story frame building was built in 1849 by the Sons of Temperance, a social organization opposed to the use of alcoholic beverages. One of Crittenden's slave traders and wealthiest citizens, Homer Hudson, operated a tobacco factory on the first floor with the Sons of Temperance Lodge and the Knew-Nothing Political Party headquarters sharing the second floor. The third floor was used for living quarters. This building completely burned in 1867 and was replaced by a three-story brick building erected by Marshall Hudson, whose general store occupied the first floor. The second and third floors housed Union College. The two top floors were completely destroyed by the fire of 1897 and were

consequently removed. The ground floor was repaired and remains intact at this time.

CRUTCHER AND VALLANDINGHAM: Although described as a hardware store, this business was one of the most picturesque in Crittenden's history. Oregon Vallandingham purchased a double lot with a barn from Littleton Fenley on June 20, 1882 for $451.37. This parcel was on Front Street, south of the main business block. With Sam Crutcher as his partner, Vallandingham converted the barn into a livery stable and built a large one-story brick building, which housed a multitude of enterprises. A 1910 sale bill listed Crutcher and Vallandingham as "dealers in furniture, hardware and tinware -- undertakers and embalmers -- roofing and guttering a specialty --livery and feed stable -- telephone 1042".

The partners had a finger in nearly every pie in Crittenden. Vallandingham was the city treasurer for over 20 years. As early as 1894 the partners contracted with the Grant County Court to furnish 245 coffins for paupers, for which they received $2,450.00. Moreover, Vallandingham was an officer in the Crittenden Building and Loan Company in 1893, and in the Crittenden Creamery Company. (He sold them a lot for $325.50 in 1909 just before the creamery went out of business).

Oregon and Eugenia Vallandingham lived in an imposing two-story house on Sayers Street next to the Christian Church cemetery. Sam Crutcher built an imposing two and one half story house on Front Street about 1900 which still stands immediately north of the present post office.

Oregon died about 1916. His widow Eugenia sold her half of the store to Crutcher and Brown in 1917 for $800.00. She soon sold the Crutcher house to Mrs. Lula Carlisle in 1920 for $1,800.00, and another house to C. M. Gardner for $4,000.00. After the death of Sam Crutcher, about 1918, the business limped along until Crutcher and Brown formally closed in 1925.

CRITTENDEN DRUGSTORE: The Crittenden Drugstore was first operated by Kirtley Dyas, then by Collins and Pettit, and finally by O. D. Hemmingway. It occupied a small frame building just north of the present Bank of Crittenden. The drug laws were not as strict as they are today for strychnine, cobalt, opium, morphine and chloroform, as they could be sold across the counter. The record book indicates the date, the poison purchased, purchaser's name, age, sex, color of purchaser, purpose intended, for whom intended, residence and remarks. This book lists several persons as "opium eaters". However, most of the poisons were for killing rats, bedbugs,

dogs and varmits. A new product soon appeared on the market - Paris Green. There was a "run" on the drugstore to purchase this new poison for potato bugs and rats. One entry has a Ben Acre of Georgetown purchasing laudnum. Customers came from Crittenden, Mt. Zion, Verona, Walton, Key West (north of Crittenden), Zion Station, Sherman, Flingsville, Gardnersville and Knoxville. The last entry in the poison book was 1889.

CHAPTER V

TAVERNS, SALOONS AND STAGECOACHES

From the earliest times, Crittenden experienced a proliferation of taverns due to demand created by stagecoach travel. Two distilleries ran full time to supply the taverns with liquor. Three types of tavern and merchant licenses were issued, which cost from $10.00 to $25.00 per year. Hotels and saloons were issued a two year license which permitted liquor to be sold by the drink. A merchant's license allowed storekeepers to sell liquor only by the quart, gallon, or barrel. Individuals licensed to "operate a tavern in their homes" would take surplus corn to a distillery to be converted to liquor, which was then sold for additional income. During the middle 1800's, nearly every resident had a tavern license.

SECHRIST TAVERN: Located on Front Street opposite the main business district, Sechrist's Tavern began operations in March, 1821. Unlike the Henderson-Rouse Tavern, travelers were afforded private rooms and were not disturbed by noise and odors of livestock pens. The tavern was owned and operated by Charles and Anne Franks Sechrist. (Anne was the daughter of John Martin and Elizabeth Franks of Mt. Zion.) From his wife's family, Charles came into possession of several slaves, which were utilized in tavern operations.

The Sechrists were rough-hewn people interested in making money. Charles was said to have fed his family, his slaves and his hogs on left-overs and table scraps from the tavern dining room. Both husband and wife kept a cowhide strap handy to chastize erring slaves and erring children. One slave named Mandy was reportedly beaten and bruised so severely by her mistress that she was unfit to be seen by tavern guests. Charles reportedly struck a stablehand with a picket slat hard enough to cause a brain concussion.

Their marriage was all but tranquil. Contemporary sources claimed that Charles was "crazy when drunk" and Ann, a sturdily-built woman, was "mean-tempered, drunk or sober". Shortly after their marriage, she ran away with a man from Fayette County but returned to her husband some months later. Overnight guests were often awakened by loud domestic quarrels. Late one night, Constable Sterns Kendall heard loud noises and obscene language emitting from the bar room. Thinking rowdies had broken into the tavern, he ran inside only to find Charles and Anne wrestling and punching each other on the barroom floor amidst pieces of splintered furniture. Incensed by her husband's excessive drinking, Anne had locked the tavern liquor cabinet and had thrown the keys into the well.

Shortly afterwards, Anne left Charles a second time and lived with her parents until her death in 1825 at the age of 19.

Charles' penchant for brawling did not die with his wife. On September 7, 1835, Lewis Webster and Charles Jenkins "did assault said Charles Sechrist with sticks, stones, clubs and chairs ... brained him and did beat and bruise him". The case came before the Grant Circuit Court but was dismissed when Sechrist refused to press charges.

Never having remarried, Charles died in 1857. The tavern was inherited by Charles and Anne's children. Charles Sechrist, Jr. later bought out the other heirs; he and his sons continued operations in a more law abiding manner until the early 20th century.

The prosperity of the Sechrist Tavern, Crittenden House and other local taverns accelerated when new stagecoach lines began operating in the 1830's and 1840's. Unlike Gaines' coaches, these new lines used taverns in Crittenden as relay stations to change horses and mail. Thomas Irving, who operated a second stagecoach line from Lexington to Covington, used the Sechrist Tavern as a relay station. By 1842 all stage lines were discharging passengers and mail in Crittenden. (Henderson-Rouse Tavern clientele, by this time, was primarily drovers and private trade.)

That same year, John Fenley began a third stagecoach line, which operated from Williamstown to Cincinnati, with headquarters in Crittenden. Fenley's first coaches were two converted farm wagons with wooden tops, canvas sides and backless wooden benches. As the line prospered, concord coaches were used. About 1850, Fenley entered into a partnership with Carey Hawkins and the line was extended to Lexington. Some of the drivers were Calvin Holton, Larkin Brown, Kit Bates, George Beasley and Kit Webster.

Fenley advised anyone traveling from Lexington to Cincinnati to carry an overcoat, umbrella, a small flask of brandy, a ball of opium and gum camphor (for motion sickness). Fenley's drivers were known for courtesy and anyone was welcome to ride with the driver a few miles and catch up on gossip and local news. Passengers would often play cards and sing songs to pass the time.

Competition between Irving and Finley's lines inspired frequent races, which often resulted in overturned coaches and injured passengers. Two drivers "drag racing" on Front Street caused a spectacular accident, when one northbound driver sideswiped Alvin Kyes store porch (W. W. Market building) causing it to collapse and then narrowly avoided a head-on collision with the Crittenden House. The second driver slammed his coach into

R. D. Dyas' Drug Store, pushing the small frame building from its foundation and shattering many of the apothecary jars. Passengers sustained bruises and broken bones and three pedestrians were injured and the coaches severely damaged.

An angry town council passed an ordinance requiring drivers to sound their bugles one mile from the city limits as a warning, to drive no faster than a trot within the city limits and to drive only on the right-hand side of the street.

Stagecoach wrecks were not the only hazard of early travel. During the cholera epidemic of 1853, a stagecoach carried a passenger who seemed well on leaving Crittenden, but was dead of cholera before the coach was a mile out of town.

With the completion of the Kentucky Central Railroad in 1852, the stage lines either shut down or operated commuter service. Finley sold his interests to Hawkins & Co., which continued operations around Lexington. For a short time, Irving ran a commuter line from Williamstown to Covington. A second commuter line through Crittenden was begun by O. P. Hogan of Williamstown. With the building of the L & N Railroad in 1867, Hogan's stagecoaches carried passengers from Williamstown and Crittenden to the railroad depot in Walton. The last stagecoach ran through Crittenden on July 22, 1877 - the next day, the first train passed over the newly-constructed Southern Railroad.

THE CRITTENDEN HOUSE: The Crittenden House was a three-story frame building which stood on Front Street immediately south of the present City Hall and Firehouse. Built about 1847, it was owned and operated by Peyton Woodyard.

The hotel boasted having "imported carpets for the public rooms . . . the finest furnishings for the comfort and convenience of the traveler . . . a walnut staircase winding upward from the lobby to the ballroom on the third floor and large coal lamps which, suspended from the ceilings of both public and private rooms, give the greatest possible illumination". Woodyard also claimed to serve "the finest food and the choicest spirits". Other innovations included the kitchen being located in the main building, thus allowing food to be served hot without reheating.

Travelers getting off the stage would often dine and spend the night at the Crittenden House. Many glittering parties, dances and soirees were held in the ballroom as Crittenden became known for its social activities attended by young ladies and gentlemen from surrounding counties. Young men from other

states also came to enjoy the dances and other festivities and some later married local girls. In 1849, the whole town threw a farewell party at the hotel ballroom for John and Will Elstner, two local sons, when they left Crittenden with a fine outfit of mules and wagon for the California gold fields. An invitation to a ball given at Christmas that same year showed there were floor managers from Covington, Walton, Crittenden and Dry Ridge.

This luxury was not long lasting, for the hotel burned a few years later. The vacant, weed-grown lot was purchased by Ben Sechrist, a descendent of Charles Sechrist. Ben built a much more modest hotel on the site which he named the Blue Goose Hotel and Boardinghouse.

SCHNEIDER'S SALOON: This two-story building was built about 1850 and was town down in 1987, although the top floor had been removed many years ago. It was one of two examples of palladio architecture (recessed front porch) in Grant County, the other being the Sherman Tavern.

Samuel Chambers obtained his tavern license and began selling whiskey by the drink and by the jug in March, 1850. Court records indicate he was in continuous legal trouble for allowing disorderly conduct on the premises and selling whiskey to slaves, which was then a felony. His license was revoked on February 4, 1860 for liquor violations but was restored in December, 1860. He sold the business to Esau Clark in 1869 who in turn sold out to John Schneider on April 8, 1871 for $1,800.

A German from Harrison County, Schneider was among the first to introduce beer to Crittenden. Deciding to expand his operations, he applied for a hotel and coffeehouse license in 1872. A coffeehouse license would allow him to have live entertainment at his saloon which could range from traveling minstral shows to vaudville to burlesque shows. Fearing the saloon would become the nucleus of a new red light district on Front Street (there was an active red light district between Sayers Street and the railroad), the town trustees turned down his request. This decision was upheld by the County Court.

Undaunted, Schneider ran for trustee in 1873 and was defeated. Smarting from this second defeat, he thoroughly examined Crittenden's articles of incorporation to discover the last trustee election was held on a Saturday instead of Monday, as required by law. He then filed a motion to declare the 1873 trustee election null and void and for the County Court to appoint new trustees, including himself, until the next election. In 1877, the Court appointed Thomas Rouse, Littleton

Fenley, James Ranton, John W. Williams and Richard L. Collins as new trustees. The Court also ruled that John Schneider pay all court costs.

Schneider continued to run the saloon until 1884 when financial difficulties forced him to sign it over to T. O. B. Northcutt as trustee to prevent foreclosure. After Schneider's death in 1888, the saloon was sold as part of his estate for $402.50. From 1888 until prohibition in 1920, the saloon continued operating, although under several different owners. It was purchased from N. O. Tully by R. S. Craig in 1922 for $4,100, who ran a grocery store and a speakeasy where illegal liquor was sold. Miss Ella Monehan purchased the building in 1928 and ran a grocery for several years. During the 1940's, it was converted into a restaurant. The last restaurant was operated by Mrs. Christine Smith from 1973 to 1976. Harold Worthington, the last owner, dismantled the building in 1987.

CHAPTER VI

EARLY EDUCATION (1846 - 1892)

Shortly after the death of Rev. Thomas Henderson in 1846, a private school for boys known as the Crittenden Grammar School, was organized. Supported by student tuition and based on the English style, the school had a primary form (grades 1-3) and an upper form (grades 4-6). The curriculum included various classes in reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, history, geography, the Bible, elementary surveying and bookkeeping. The school met in the old Methodist Church building. The first two teachers were Rev. B. G. Fields and A. Allfriend who were followed by W. T. Simmons and Mr. Foree in the early 1850's.

Demand for better educational opportunities in the late 1850's led to the organization of a college for young men with an enlarged curriculum and more qualified teachers. The moving spirits in this enterprise were Judge James O'Hara, Captain John W. Fenley and Captain Calvin Holton, the first trustees (Centre College at Danville had a less auspicious beginning in 1820 with 2 professors and 5 students).

The college occupied 4 classrooms on the second and third floors of Kyes' brick building where the old Post Office building now stands. A frame building immediately north of the old Reschulte Hotel was also owned by the college. With its arched double doors, it was the college chapel, the city hall and a meetinghouse for a small Universalist congregation.

The college was organized into departments, or "schools". The grammar school (grades 1-6) taught various levels of reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling and the Bible. The preparatory school (grades 7-10) offered college arithmetic, algebra, plane geometry, surveying, bookkeeping, grammar, Latin, American history, military history, literature and world geography. The college department taught courses in solid geometry, conic sections, plane and spherical trigonometry, botany, Greek, classical Greek and Roman literature, ancient history, European history, philosophy, rhetoric (elocution) and logic.

Rev. Jesse H. Corwin, a Yale graduate and a Universalist minister, was the first president and professor of the college department. Assisting him were Miss Mary Bauman, of Connecticut, in the prep school and Miss Elizabeth Durbin in the grammar school. The hiring of a Universalist minister as president was a shrewd tactic in gaining support of all the churches, for no particular church could dominate the college through the presidency. To further enhance church support, the school was named Union College.

For the next two decades, the college attracted students from Grant, Kenton, Boone, Gallatin and Bourbon Counties, thus enriching the academic, cultural and social life of Crittenden. During the 1860's, increasing enrollment necessitated the hiring of additional teachers. With some assistance from local ministers, Professors Jones and Santee taught the expanding college department with Mr. Hendee and Mr. Ireland in the preparatory and grammar schools.

Tragedy struck with the fire of 1867, which destroyed the classroom building, books and furnishings. The college utilized makeshift quarters all over town until the completion of Homer Hudson's new brick building, upon which the college occupied 6 classrooms on the second and third floors.

A Crittenden native, Professor John Hogsett, became president in the 1870's. During his 9-year tenure, the college's academic level reached an all-time high as the curriculum expanded. A law "school" taught by Crittenden attorney J. M. Collins, was added to the college. Several young men studied law under his professorship, passed bar exams and became successful attorneys in various states. A medical school was also added to the college with Doctors O. J. Lindsey, Thomas Jeffrey, John Fenley and William Henderson as part-time faculty. Courses in human anatomy, physiology and medicine were taught from time to time by local physicians which enabled several young men to pass state medical exams. Local ministers continued to offer courses in theology and philosophy.

So successful was Professor Hogsett's administration that one contemporary noted "the impress of his influence . . . may still be seen on those who were fortunate enough to be his pupils, many of whom are now prominent in communities much larger that the old home town". About 1880, Professor Hogsett resigned as president to become a professor at Centre College.

Professor C. M. Arnold became the next president, soon followed by Miss Belle Ballou and Evan S. McCord in the college department, assisted by Miss Floy Moore and Madame Edwards in the preparatory and grammar schools respectively.

Over the years, Union College had many distinguished alumni: Worth Dickerson, Congressman; Milt Barlow, comedian; Rev. Will Taylor, Methodist Minister and Bishop; C. C. Bagby, Danville attorney; E. S. McCord, Seattle attorney; John Radcliffe, millionaire; General N. F. McClure of the U.S. Army; Willis Violette, Vice President of Standard Oil of Kentucky; Basil Pollitt, Professor of law at the University of New Jersy; Dr. William Henderson, Hayden Kendall, Dr. Charles Mann, Homer

Hudson, J. M. Collins, Judge W. M. Fenley, C. Y. Dyas, Weeden O'Neil, John O'Neil, Dr. Craig Menefee, Dr. B. K. Menefee and Shelly Rouse.

The school sharply declined in the 1880's due to financial problems and the lack of qualified teachers. The college department was discontinued and although the Union College name was retained, the curriculum and staff was more akin to that of the old Crittenden Grammar School Teachers were Mr. & Mrs. Morris, followed by Rev. N. C. Pettit and Rev. B. E. Goode. The school closed with the opening of the Crittenden Graded Public School in 1892.

Union College was not the only school in Crittenden. About 1860, Mrs. Holton began a private school for girls. The curriculum included reading, writing, grammar, poetry, painting, music, literature and belles-lettres, French, fine sewing and embroidery. Girls were believed "destined for maternal ornaments in the home and . . . never trained in business, for feminine sensibilities are far too fine to be grated by crude everyday affairs". This school had many excellent teachers and continued until 1892.

After the Civil War, a demand arose for free public education. Crittenden's existing schools were private institutions open only to students whose parents could afford to pay tuition.

In 1868, Crittenden Seminary, a co-educational eight grade public school, was organized with Littleton Finley, L. M. Ratcliffe, F. J. Marshall, A. J. Hogsett, J. Poore and Thomas Rouse as trustees. A new schoolhouse would be financed by public subscription and operating expenses would be paid by a tax levy. Temporary quarters in the Galt House Hotel were used until the new building was completed in 1869. Located immediately north of the Roger Saylor house, the new school was a square, two-story frame building topped by a cupola.

Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Lloyd taught from 1868 - 1870, followed by Mr. & Mrs. Purcell who, in turn, were replaced by Mr. Nathaniel Stephenson and Miss Mary Wood. However, public support was short lived; the school was discontinued in 1872 and the building sold to R. L. Collins for a flour mill.

In 1875, the Kentucky Legislature passed an act creating "separate but equal" schools for Blacks with the stipulation no "white taxes" could be used for Black education. With a large Black population, Crittenden soon opened a Black school. (The building, still standing, is behind the Black Church on Violette Road.) To support the school, Black residents were

taxed 45 cents per $100.00 worth of property, required to pay a poll-tax in order to vote and pay a special "dog tax" of 10 cents for each dog owned. The school merged with the County School at Dry Ridge for Blacks in the 1920's.

CHAPTER VII

LAW AND ORDER

The frequent brawls at the Sechrist Tavern may well serve as an example of the seedier aspects of life in antebellum Crittenden. A major stagecoach stop with several taverns, two distilleries, numerous places of entertainment and close to three neighboring counties, Crittenden and its officials were often faced with a major task of keeping law and order.

Early Crittenden church records are filled with excommunications of members for drinking, dancing, gambling, public brawling and "associating with women of easy virtue". Excommunications were so common among the Baptists that at one time their membership dropped to an all-time low of 19 members and faced extinction. It is said the Presbyterians prospered during this era because of their more lax attitude toward drinking, dancing and card playing.

Voting for public officials was conducted over a three day period and since it was widespread, the voter could openly state his choice of candidate to the clerk of the polls, who would record his choice of candidates to the clerk at the polls, who would record the vote. Election officials representing various political parties made certain the votes were recorded and tabulated correctly. Thus everybody in town knew who had voted for whom, which led to heated disputes, fights, election fraud and killings. During the hotly contested Adams-Jackson presidency, two citizens were killed at the polls as 110% of constituents cast their votes.

Like most towns of that era, Crittenden had a "red light" district, located behind the factories and shops of Sayers Street. The term may have originated in Crittenden as many stage drivers would hang their red lanterns by certain houses before entering. This custom continued with the coming of the Southern Railroad and the section gangs. One enterprising wife conducted a clandestine operation of this nature at her home on Front Street while her husband was delivering mail.

From the earliest times, slavery, "the peculiar institution", had been an integral part of town life. Stagecoaches and tavern owners demanded a source of cheap human labor. Blacks were considered as highly intelligent animals but could never have the intelligence of a white male adult. They were sometimes whipped on conviction of minor felonies, but would whip their own children for disobedience. Unfortunately slaves were treated like children by their owners in a quasi-paternal system. The owner realized how close the slaves were to the Ohio River and freedom.

There were many farmers and shopkeepers around Crittenden who had no desire to own black slaves but thought it best for the slaves. A doctor's bill for one farm illustrated an example of how expensive slavery was for the owner:

July 4	Visit lady, self and two children	$3.00
July 6	Visit lady & self; consultation	$5.00
July 14	Visit Negro Child; 3 doses medicine	$2.00
August 3	Extract tooth, Negro girl	$ .50
August 17	Vaccinates 7 persons	$5.00
August 17	Spell of sickness -- wife	$7.00
October 19	Obstetrical services (black woman)	$8.00
October 19	Visit Negro child plus medicine	$1.75
October 23	Visit Negro child and self; 2 pres.	$2.50

Master and slave often worked together in the fields; marched together against the Indians and slept side by side in family cemeteries. There were no overseers; no extreme state or local anti-Negro laws and it can be said that the area had one of the mildest slave codes in the U.S.A.

The following is a list of slaves for sale by Youncey and Hudson:

John	age 18	selling for $1,800
Dick	age 21	selling for $1,400
Charles	age 31	selling for $1,145
Billy	age 18	selling for $1,140
Lucy (w/ infant)	age 18	selling for $1,280
Patience	age 18	selling for $1,350
Catherine	age 15	selling for $1,130
Old Jim	age 51	selling for $ 445

The largest slave owners in Crittenden were Homer Hudson and Mrs. Kendall, each with 14 slaves. However, the vast majority of slave owners each owned a single slave.

Legally there was no binding marriage among the slaves. They were property and not citizens. The men were urged to take their wives or mates from anyone available on the home plantation or one nearby. Marriages took place by jumping the broomstick. In case a black preacher was not available, the master would read some scripture and after they had jumped the broomstick, they were pronounced "hitched". One slave preacher married a couple with the admonition, "till death or distance do ye part".

A slave's clothing consisted of blue and brown attahapas, plain and striped osnaburgs, farm twills, Kentucky jeans, plain cashmere, lindsey woolsey, calico, Kersey's plain lindsey, blue linen, check linen, tow-linen, duck and clothing the master and mistress had discarded. There were surtouts, roundabouts, roundcoats, frock coats, waist-coats and butternut jeans.

Slaves usually were allowed small plots of ground for their gardens of sweet potatoes, tobacco and melons. Sale of the items gave the slaves opportunity to make some money. Others would earn extra money by cobbling shoes, making footmats and shuck bottom chairs. Being a station of the stagecoach lines, many Blacks were hired out as cooks, wash women, ironers, housemaids, hotel waiters, porters, draymen and simple mechanics. The money of $100 to $150 per year would be turned over to the owner or "stashed" in order to buy his freedom at a later time.

Locally, slaves were better off than most northern laborers. In spite of their monotonous farm work, they had a better built-in social security system. They had no rent to pay, no doctor bills to settle, no grocery bills and guaranteed medical service and old age care. State law dictated how much each slave should receive in rations -- 1 peck of cornmeal, 4 pounds of pork and all the vegetables that can be raised and consumed. Age was not a criterion for "dismissal". They were cared for from birth until death.

Most slaves around Crittenden were content with their circumstances. Most would never leave their "beloved white folks". Many who did escape had a spouse who had acquired a home and were raising families in peace and contentment -- the other spouse being under slavery. If no money could be raised for the purchase of the slave-spouse, it was easier for the spouse in bondage to slip away some night and head north for reunification.

Christmas, a much longed for season for rest and respite from farm work -- the master and mistress would kindle a fire in the backyard with plenty of food, singing and dancing with bolts of calico for the women and trinkets for the children. The men usually got three days off, except for doing the necessary chores of milking, feeding and livestock, etc.

LAW, ORDER .

As previously stated, Crittenden had a town patrol to keep law and order. Their duties included keeping the blacks off the streets after sundown. The patrollers for Crittenden included Captain John W. Fenley, with John Henderson and William Vallandingham. Any slave caught wandering the streets would be put in jail overnight.

Many of Crittenden's slave owners were opposed to the slave trade. One hard bitten slave owner stated "I mean the diabolical, practice of SOUL PEDDLING" on the purchase of Negroes like so many cattle and driving them to the southern markets. Thus, Homer Hudson and Robert Yancey were looked down upon by the people of Crittenden who had less wealth.

The most sinister feature of the "black codes" was the fact that the slaves' right of self-defense was nothing but legal fiction. Slaves could not appear as witnesses against any white person but could testify only against blacks or mulattoes. This made punishment almost impossible for whites and sometimes harsh treatment and brutal punishment almost a necessity for the blacks. Everyone knew Charles and Anne Sechrist abused their slaves beyond the legal limit, but nothing could be done since there were no white witnesses. Several years before, James, a black, was tried for stealing. An all white jury found him guilty and sentenced him to five lashes on the bare back "well laid on by the sheriff".

Behind the present W. W. Market, there was a stile-block next to the jail. The jail wall formed one side of Crittenden's "Negro Pen", a small yard surrounded by buildings on the other three sides plus a large gate with heavy iron hinges and clasps. The slaves were kept in the jail during the night and turned out in the yard during the day.

Before slaves were exhibited for sale, they were dressed up and driven into the yard. Some were set to dancing, some to jumping, some to singing and others to playing cards -- anything to give them a happy look. After the most likely slaves were sold to buyers around Crittenden, the less desirable were auctioned from the stile-block and sent south.

The stile-block was placed near the jail supposedly for the convenience of women alighting from their saddle horses. Usually it was used as a selling place for slaves in an estate sale, for nearly everybody in Crittenden was attached to their slaves. There was a mulberry whipping post set in the ground next to the jail yard where recalcitrant slaves and whites were tied up awaiting the sheriff to do his duty of "39 lashes on the back, well laid on".

CHAPTER VIII

THE CHURCHES

CRITTENDEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH: In 1826, Barton Stone, a former Presbyterian minister, held a revival meeting on a hill northeast of Sechrist Tavern. Among the topics expanded upon were those of baptism, salvation and the Bible as the sole source of faith and practice. From the revival grew a congregation, later known as the Crittenden Christian Church.

Early services were held in members' homes or out-of-doors. Young people were required to memorize long passages of scripture and it was said the loud, boisterous hymns and fiery preaching of these "New-Lights" could be heard for a long distance. The family as a whole revolved around the activity of the congregation, as it provided spiritual nourishment as well as relief from the drudgery and rigors of pioneer farm life.

Several times in 1827, Stone preached at the Grant County Courthouse accompanied by Elders John Johnson (brother of Vice President Richard M. Johnson) and "Raccoon John" Smith, who received raccoon skins as compensation for performing marriages. During these times, Stone, Johnson and Smith visited the fledgling congregation.

The hill where Stone conducted his revival, plus 500 acres, was purchased by John W. Fenley in 1829 from William Sanders. A brick meetinghouse was constructed on the hill sometime after 1830 to be used for public meetings and by religious organizations. Fenley reasoned the prosperity of Churches would promote the growth of the new town. Thus, the congregation used the town meetinghouse for its monthly services.

Alvin Kyes purchased the east side of Sayers including the brick meetinghouse from Fenley in 1834. The meetinghouse burned sometime before Kyes sold the 1/2 acre site to the Crittenden Christian Church in 1847.

Shortly afterward, the new meetinghouse, known as "The Church on the Hill", was built. It was a plain rectangular structure with four windows on each side and two front doors -- one for men and the other for women. The pulpit and baptistry were in the front, between the doors. An inclined floor led to the rear which was much higher than the front. The entire edifice was crowned by an imposing spire.

THE CHURCHES

By 1850, Crittenden had four churches -- Methodist, Christian, Baptist and Presbyterian -- all too small to afford a full time minister. Thus, the churches decided to rotate Sunday services to which every church had a minister for that particular Sunday. One Sunday morning during the Civil War when the Christian Church congregation was assembled and many horses were tied to the hitching posts in the yard, a Confederate detachment paid a visit to the churchyard and captured the horses. On coming from the church, the congregation learned of their loss. Mr. W. L. Collins hastened to his stable, selected a valuable horse and went in pursuit of the raiders. He then traded this horse for the more valuable one taken from the churchyard.

In the 1870's, the building was remodeled. A single set of doors was installed in front, the floor leveled and the pulpit and baptistry moved to the rear.

On September 5, 1906, lightning struck the chimney of the church causing it to collapse along with a portion of the ceiling. The congregation used the old Baptist meetinghouse on Violette Road while repairs were being made. On Sunday, April 7, 1907, at 3:14 p.m., a second bolt of lightening hit the steeple causing the entire building to burn within 42 minutes. Only the pews and furniture were saved, as the building was not insured.

Using the old Baptist meetinghouse for the second time, the congregation made plans for rebuilding. A business meeting netted $700 for rebuilding, and a lot on Front Street, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Worcester, led to the decision to move the church site. The new building was of Gothic architecture with a large window in the front depicting Christ as the Good Shepherd. This window was also a gift of Mr. & Mrs. Worcester.

The church plodded along with its usual cycle of births, marriages and funerals interspersed by Sunday worship services until Sunday, December 7, 1941. Rev. L. G. McAllister, then pastor of the church, made the following commentary in his notebook:

> "I preached one of my first sermons on Sunday, December 7, 1941, which was the Sunday of Pearl Harbor and the start of our participation in World War II. My sermon was on "The Lessor of Two Evils", taken after the idea no war could be a ±good war', but is the lesser of two evils."

In 1950, a basement was added to the church to provide classrooms, a kitchen and a fellowship hall. The present parsonage was purchased in the 1970's and the church was re-roofed and aluminum siding added in 1981. The current membership is 72.

CRITTENDEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Samuel Lynn, pastor of the Lebanon Presbyterian Church, began conducting Presbyterian services at Crittenden as early as 1837. In 1842, the Crittenden Presbyterian Church was organized with 17 charter members and Rev. George B. Armstrong as the first pastor.

The church first met in the Kyes house at The Wells on alternate Sundays until 1846. Soon afterward, a meetinghouse was built in Crittenden just south of the Howard Blackburn house. (Years later it was used as a storage building for the C. W. Harvey Lumber Company.) In 1884 a new sanctuary and manse was built just south of Schulte's Hotel. Constructed in the "carpenter Gothic" style, the sanctuary contained a stained glass window depicting Christ in Gethsemane.

Over the years, the church was a staunch supporter of Union College and other local educational institutions. By taking a moderate view of drinking, dancing and card playing, the Presbyterian membership included tavern owners and merchants, who were not welcomed into church membership elsewhere.

At one time, several members complained they got tired standing on their feet during the 30 minute pastoral prayers. Rev. Bedinger proceeded to give a blistering sermon on "Rendering unto God that which is God's". He reminded the grumblers they had not only stood on their feet for several hours at a dance the previous Saturday night, but had also engaged in a drunken brawl. Thus, standing for prayer for 30 minutes was indeed a light penance for their revelry.

By 1928, membership had declined to the point that the church was dissolved.

PASTORS

George B. Armstrong
Edward Eels
L. B. W. Shyrock
John A. Liggett
Rev. Spillman
Charles Hill
W. W. Evans
William Bailey

CHARTER MEMBERS

Jane Barker
Nancy Barker
Catherine Champ
Margaret Current
Elizabeth Gibson
Hannah Henderson
Mary A. Hogsett
Moses McClure

William McElroy
W. O. Cochran
D. E. Bedinger
Martin Luther
J. B. Cochran
Alexander Henry
W. H. Davis
I. P. Loose
James M. LaBach
H. R. Overcash
A. B. Morrow
Edgar Hubbard

Jane McClure
Mrs. Jane McClure
William McClure
Eunice McClure
Martha McKenzie
Elisha Ratcliff
Thomas Ratcliff
Catherine Sayers
Rebecca Stephenson

CRITTENDEN BAPTIST CHURCH: After Rev. Henderson's death in 1846, the Baptists remained disorganized until 1850 when a small group met at the home of John Tewel. Messengers were sent to neighboring churches and Wilmington and Mt. Zion for the rules of decorum and the confessions of faith. On March 2, 1850, the Council of Messengers from neighboring Baptist churches met in the Crittenden Presbyterian Church, with Elder David Lilland as moderator.

The church covenant and rules of decorum were examined and approved by the Council. The new church, known as the Baptist Church of Jesus Christ at Crittenden, had 45 charter members. Rev. J. W. Lee was called to be the first Pastor at the first business meeting, with Thomas Cunningham as both Clerk and Treasurer. The first Deacons were Albert M. Carlisle and Thomas G. Cunningham.

Growing, the church's membership had increased to 90 by 1854. A plot of land was secured on Violette Road beginning at the rear of the old church lot and extending to the now Black Church building. While the meetinghouse was being built, the congregation met in the Old Methodist meetinghouse on the south end of town.

In September of the first year, there was a revival conducted which resulted in nine additions. A black slave also joined.

Many people walked several miles over dusty roads to attend the services. It was the custom to wear an old pair of shoes and bring along a good pair. The good pair was exchanged for the old before entering the church. It seems that the shoes left at the door were molested or stolen from time to time and so, finally in a business meeting, the church elected a "shoe keeper".

The social life was a great temptation to the church. Many members succumbed to the temptations and almost every page of the church record of the first years tell of some brother or sister being excluded from membership because of dancing, drunkenness or bad language. In 1857, Miss Nancy Tewel was excluded for "improper conduct and using foul language". Exclusion was so prominent that at one point in the church's history, the membership was reduced to 19 and the congregation faced dissolution.

In the 1850's all members moving a distance without asking for a letter and being absent 12 months would be excluded. At this time the church practiced a very strict discipline. Members were excluded if they refused to ask forgiveness of the church after having been found guilty of public sin.

During the Civil War, church activists went on about as usual, but in the fall of 1862, there was a two month period when military excitement prevented the church from having its regular services.

A. Carlisle charged S. Cook, who had been recently elected a Deacon, with using bad language and sowing seeds of discord among the members. After investigation, the church rescinded the action of the previous business meeting, which had elected the new Deacon.

At this time the church still practiced a very strict discipline. In October, 1869, Brother Massey came forward and made an acknowledgement to the church for his "backsliding and evil doing" and the church agreed to forgive him.

Elder Lafayette Johnson became the Pastor of the Crittenden Baptist Church in 1864 and was Pastor of the church four different times for a total of eleven years. When he was called as Pastor in 1891, the church bought a new hanging lamp for the pulpit. At a business meeting, Sister Oldham was excluded because she "could not leave off dancing".

During these years the church gave some money to missions and to the orphan's home. Also at this time the church practiced the annual roll call. At this time the entire roll was called and usually with most members responding. The church often had great difficulty paying its debts and sometimes owed the housekeeper and the pastor part of their salary for several years past.

In 1899 the public school paid the church $3.00 for the use of their building for an entertainment. This resulted in trouble within the church and a set of resolutions were passed prohibiting the use of the building for entertainment.

The church reached the half-century mark with a membership of 113 with 23 baptisms and a total gain in membership of 29.

CRITTENDEN SLAVE OWNERS AND NUMBER OF SLAVES OWNED IN 1850

Lewis Kendall	14
Hannah Hudson	14
John McClure	12
Lewis Myers	9
John W. Fenley	8
David Barker	6
Alfred Kendall	6
Nancy Hogsett	5
John Myers	4
Charles Sechrist	4
Ralston Cummings	4
Rich A. Dickerson	4
Mary Dickerson	4
Robert M. Daniel	4
James Collins	4
William Boner	4
John Dickerson	3
Cornelius D. Reed	3
James Sechrist	3
Walter Doud	3
James Hudson	3
William Henderson	3
Ben Dickerson	2
Alvin Kyes	2
William L. Mitchell	2
John Tongate	2
John Myers	2
John A. Collins	1
Champion Hutsell	1
William Penick	1
Lewis T. Daniel	1
Robert Gibson	1
John Daniel	1
Henry Northcutt	1
David E. Craig	1
I. M. Pettis	1
Homer Hutchinson	1

Crittenden Postmasters
(Sanders prior to 1837)

? John Sanders	1818
? Thomas Henderson	1824
S. T. Singleton	1835
Reuben Coleman	1838
Ephriam Carter	1835
James A. Taylor	1839
Ellis Moore	1841
Calvin Holton	1842
Joseph Smith	1849
David Craig	1850
James Kerns, Jr.	1858
Isaac Slade	1861
Widen Doreal	1866
James T. Taylor	1867
A. S. Conyers	1869
Allanze T. Jeffrey	1874
Mrs. Mary Jeffrey	1875
James Ranton	1878
Edwin Roberts	1886
Fannie Drinkard	1889
Carl Colling	1893
John Mitchell	1897
John Allphin	1897
Ranson Allphin	1912
William Schmerder	1914
Alvin Alphin	1923
Mollie Alphin	1924
Ruth Crowe	1949
William Lillard	1950
Alice Bonar	1959
Chlora Blackburn	1961
Robert Collier	1965
Ray Smallwood	1978

Constables

Joseph Childers	1820
Sternes Kendall	1821
Jesse Cook	1833
A. P. Drinkard	1846
W. J. Penick	1848
Peyton Woodyard	1850
Francis Sechrist	1857
F. R. Reed	1858
William Collins	1863
J. B. Mann	1871
E. K. McClure	1873
R. T. Dickerson	1879
H. C. Lawrence	1880
Ezra McClure	1877
H. C. Lawrence	1882
K. Kinslow	1886
Charles Caldwell	1892
J. M. Risen	1895
Isaac Plummer	1896

Police Judges

S. B. Owens	1868
B. F. Menifee	1883
G. W. Follett	1884
Ron Allphin & J. W. DeJarnett	1897
Oregon Vallandingham	1899
C. F. Hogsett	1901
C. W. Harvey	1906

Militia Captains

William Vallandingham Sr	1827
John Henderson	1829
John W. Fenley	1831

Magistrates

Archibald Reed (Campbell County)	1795
John Sanders (Pendleton County)	1799
James Theobald (Pendleton County)	1802
Benjamin McFarland	1820
Charles Daniels	1821
Thomas Horton	1831
Lewis Myers	1832
John McClure	1845
C. D. Reed	1855
William Collins	1865
Hugh Baird	1875
T. B. Northcutt	1875
Littleton Finley	1879
T. M. Hutsell	1887
W. F. Kinslear	1891
E. J. Green	1901

CRITTENDEN CENSUS - 1860

Physicians
Opie J. Lindsey
Thomas R. Jeffrey
John Fenley
William Henderson

Lawyers
David E. Craid
J. Hamilton Webster
Joseph M. Collins

Teachers
George W. Follett
John Simmons

Landlord (Hotel)
George W. Drinkard
Orrsemis Canfield

Pilot
Joseph W. Bryan

Tailors
Isaac N. Slade
Oliver W. Turner

Medical Student
Charles Mann

Law Student
William Fenley

Farmers
Robert N. Daniel
John Webster
Philip Taliaferro
John Fenley
Joseph Barnett
Moses Jacobs
Elijah J. Green

Peddlers
David M. Brooks
Thomas Matthews
Joseph Huff
James Eskridge

Carriage Maker
Charles Newmaster

Stage Drivers
Larkin Brown
John Beasley

Saddler
R. J. Dyas

Slave Traders
Robert Yancey
Homer Hudson

Merchants
Thomas H. Taylor
Richard L. Collins
Calvin Holton
James Stephenson
Fallis & Lucy Reed
Ezra McClure

Carpenters
Thomas Radcliff
Joseph Jacobs
Wooster D. Carpentar
William P. Mitchell

Stonemasons
Willis Boling
Lewis H. Jenkins

Shoemakers
Arthur Barr
John Sullivan

Tinsmiths
Robert Williams
Jacob Mount

Painters
Robert Taylor
Moses K. Jacobs

Tobacconists
James Boling
William J. Westlake
A. C. Harrison

Clerk
William H. Taylor

Blacksmith
Elias Moore
Jacob Wolfe
Henry T. Wolfe
William W. Wolfe
John W. Williams

Tanner
John Daniels

Engineer
David Evans

Miller
William Elliot

Day Laborers
John Ferrell
James Rouke
Thomas Hinder
George Bowen
John Pierce

SETTLERS IN CRITTENDEN - MT. ZION AREA PRIOR TO 1800

Andr. McCluir (Andrew McClure)	(2 slaves)	1787
Nathaniel Bullock	(1 slave)	1787
Joseph Bledsoe	(1 slave)	1787
John Martin Franks	(1 slave)	1787
William Barker		1788
Thomas Brown		1789
William Martin		1789
Alexander McClure		1787
John A. McClure		1789
Nathaniel McClure		1789
William McClure		1789
Joshua Hudson		1789
John Fenley		1789
Thomas McClure		1790
Andrew Kincaid		1790
John Henderson		1790
John W. Collins		1790

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Pendleton County Court Records

Grant County Court Records

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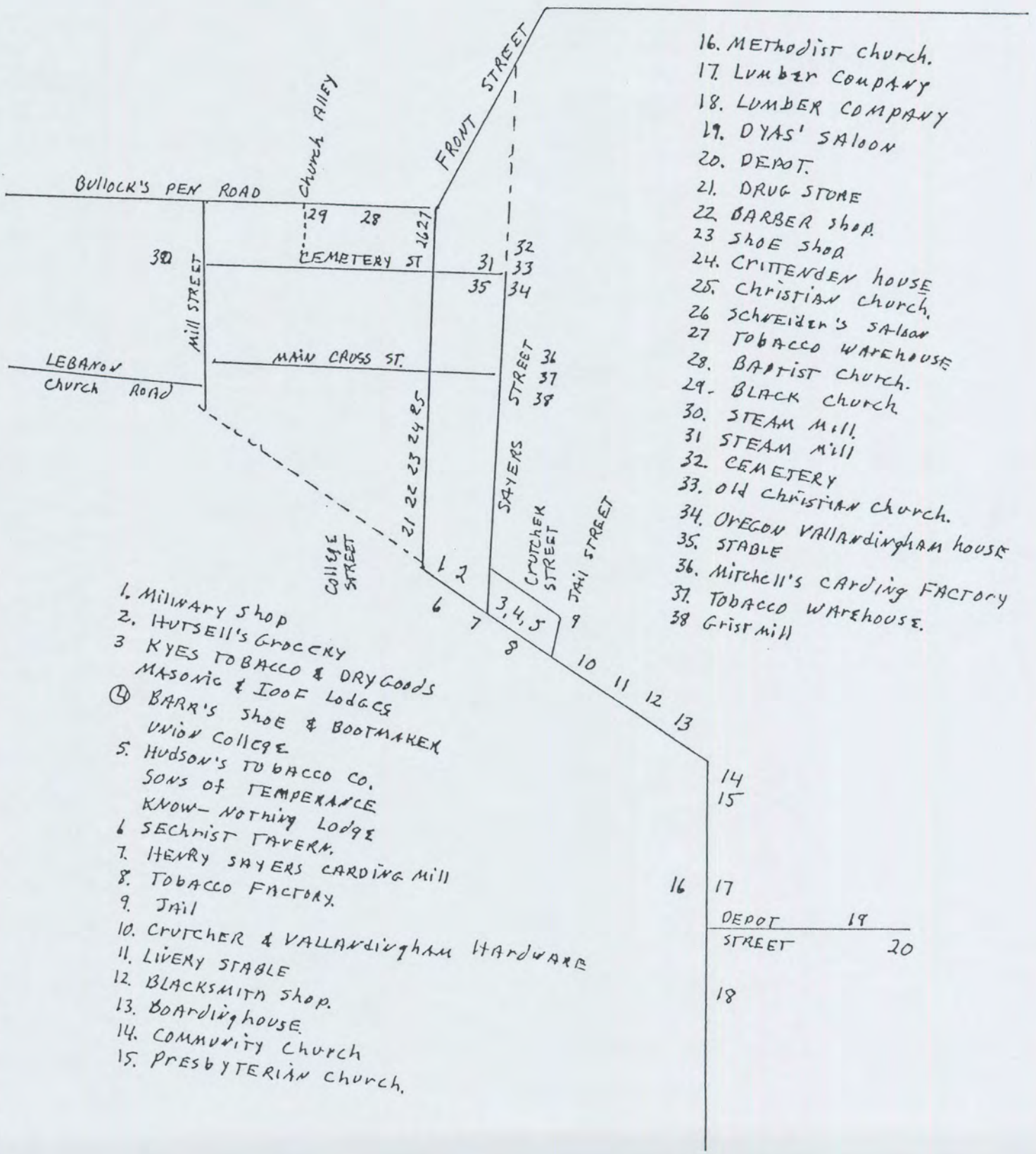
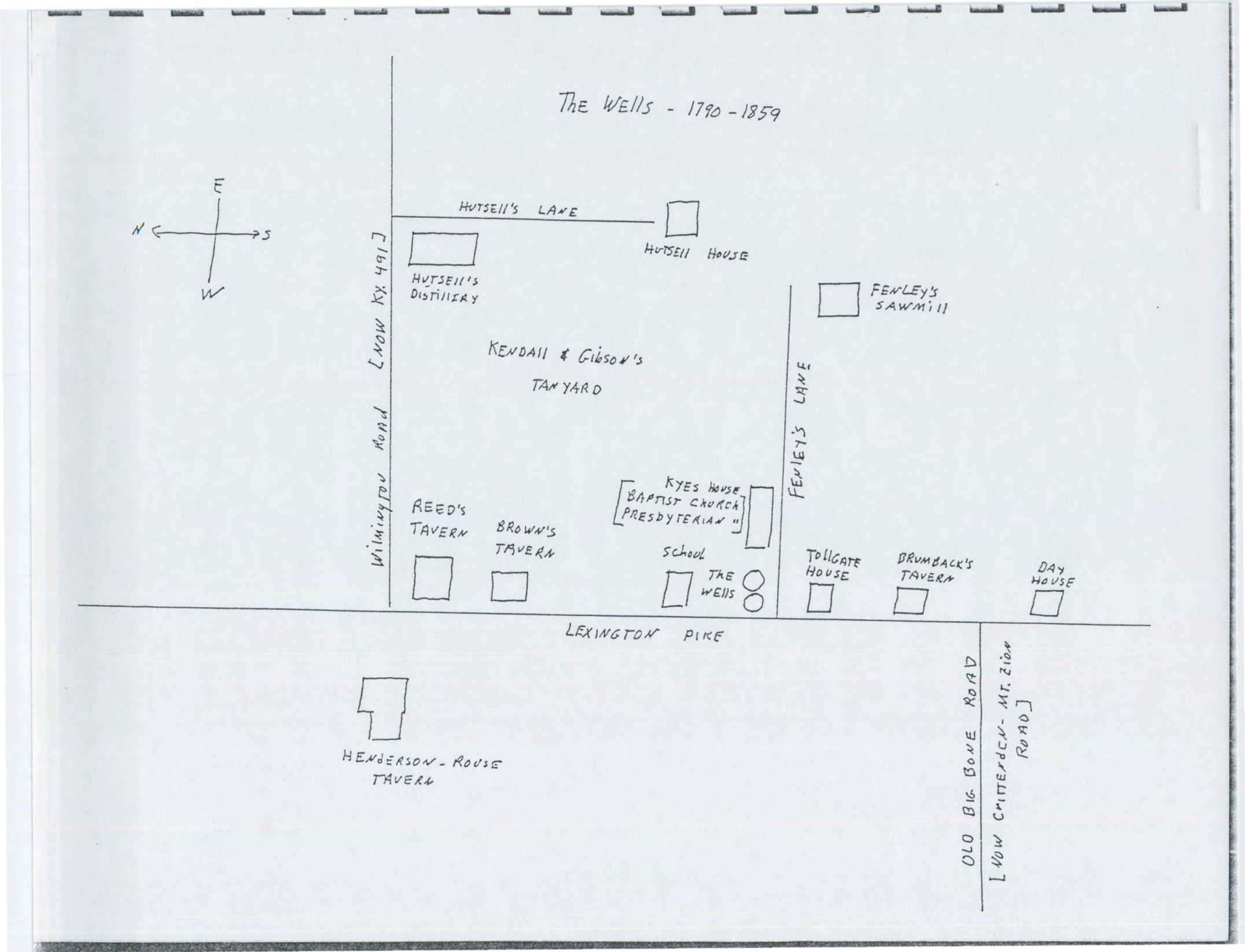
"Stage Coach Days in the Bluegrass" - J. Winston Coleman

Conferences by author with K. Harold Connelly and the late H. V. Rouse.

MAP OF HISTORIC CRITTENDEN



1. Military Shop
2. Hutsell's Grocery
3. Kyes Tobacco & Dry Goods
   Masonic & IOOF Lodges
4. Barr's Shoe & Bootmaker
   Union College
5. Hudson's Tobacco Co.
   Sons of Temperance
   Know-Nothing Lodge
6. Sechrist Tavern
7. Henry Sayers Carding Mill
8. Tobacco Factory
9. Jail
10. Crutcher & Vallandingham Hardware
11. Livery Stable
12. Blacksmith Shop
13. Boarding House
14. Community Church
15. Presbyterian Church
16. Methodist Church
17. Lumber Company
18. Lumber Company
19. Dyas' Saloon
20. Depot
21. Drug Store
22. Barber Shop
23. Shoe Shop
24. Crittenden House
25. Christian Church
26. Schneider's Saloon
27. Tobacco Warehouse
28. Baptist Church
29. Black Church
30. Steam Mill
31. Steam Mill
32. Cemetery
33. Old Christian Church
34. Oregon Vallandingham House
35. Stable
36. Mitchell's Carding Factory
37. Tobacco Warehouse
38. Grist Mill


THE WELLS - 1790 - 1859
E
N
S
W
HUTSELL'S LANE
HUTSELL HOUSE
HUTSELL'S DISTILLERY
WILMINGTON ROAD [NOW KY 491]
KENDALL & GIBSON'S TANYARD
FENLEY'S SAWMILL
FENLEY'S LANE
KYES HOUSE
[BAPTIST CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN "
REED'S TAVERN
BROWN'S TAVERN
School
THE WELLS
TOLLGATE HOUSE
BRUMBACK'S TAVERN
DAY HOUSE
LEXINGTON PIKE
HENDERSON-ROUSE TAVERN
OLD BIG BONE ROAD
[NOW CRITTENDEN-MT. ZION ROAD]