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# History of Influence Roads Had in Developing [Warren] County

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HISTORY OF INFLUENCE ROADS HAD IN DEVELOPING COUNTY IS  
 WRITTEN BY LOCAL RESIDENT, Ola Henderson.  
 IN P. C. D. N. Aug. 20, 1928. p. 10. c. 1.

A History of the Influence of Roads upon the Development of Warren County and of Bowling Green:

Warren county was formed from a part of Logan county in 1796, and named for General Joseph Warren, an early victim of the Revolutionary War, being killed at Bunker Hill. It was the twenty-fourth county formed within the State and lies in the Southern portion, bounded upon the North by Edmonson and Butler, upon the South by Allen and Simpson, and upon the West by Butler, Third Congressional District, Second Appellate, Eighth Judicial, Eleventh Senatorial, and the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Legislative Districts.

This part of Kentucky was known, at that time, as "The Barrens," because there were only wide stretches of waste land that was periodically burned over each year by fire.

The first record of the Anglo-Saxon race upon Kentucky soil was discovered upon some forest trees, in what is now Warren county. This record is found on the north bank of Big Barren River, cut into the bark of a large beech tree, about three miles from Bowling Green. These are the names: J. Neaville, E. Bulger, I. Hite, V. Harman, J. Jackson, W. Buchannon, A. Bowman, J. Bowman, J. Drake, N. Hall, H. Skaggs, Thomas Slaughter, J. Todd, 1775, June 13. Close to this tree are other trees bearing other inscriptions as silent records of an early date.

Disputing the record of Virginia Dair's birth as being the first white baby born upon Kentucky soil is one, Isaac Goodnight, a Warren countian of Smith's Grove. Goodnight was born at Harrodsburg, came to Warren county in 1808, and settled at Smith's Grove. He was the father of twenty-one children, five generations survive him, many of whom still live in Warren county.

This county is in the cavernous limestone region. This stone lays in workable layers at an average of fifteen feet in depth, the top layer being nearly white, the middle a dark yellowish gray, the bottom layer being almost black; but it all bleaches to a light soft gray, and later to a pure white, when exposed to atmospheric conditions for a long time enough. This stone is recognized by government architects as being the finest building stone in the world. It is used in buildings all over the United States, from Florida to New York. A few of the buildings are: St. Thomas church, Fifth Avenue, New York, Hall of Records, Brooklyn, Church of Our Lady of Victory, Philadelphia, Governor's Mansion, Frankfort, First Christian Church, Louisville, Chamber of Commerce, Atlanta, Carnegie Library, Union Depot, and Government Building, Nashville, Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama, First Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City, Government Buildings, Gulf Port, Mississippi, Hotel Iothrop and Bailey Residences, Washington, D. C., Citizens National Bank, First Baptist Church, Western Kentucky Teachers College, and New L. and N. Depot, Bowling Green.

This stone is different from other building stones, in that it does not require a water proof coating to preserve it from moisture. This within itself saves an enormous

building cost.

Buildings in Bowling Green, that are from fifty to eighty years old, show no signs of disintegration.

More than a century ago stone was taken from these quarries to be used as hearthstones and chimney caps, and are still to be found throughout the county in a state of perfect preservation.

This white oolitic stone was awarded a gold medal at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893, and again in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, it received the highest award in 1904.

This stone is used in roadbuilding, as monuments, and as fertilizer for worn out soils. Kentucky rock asphalt, of Kyrock, Edmonson county, is barged by river of Bowling Green, for rail most every state in the Union and to the District of Columbia. In 1923 there were more than three thousand, five hundred cars shipped over the Union. It is the best natural road building material known, needing only to be ground and spread about three inches thick, on crushed rock, and rolled, then it is ready for use. The monthly pay roll for the workers during 1923, was approximately \$69,000. The supply of this asphalt is almost inexhaustive.

Warren county has numberless caves and caverns, and all of the natural wonders common to the cavernous limestone region. Some of these caves are of considerable magnitude. One of the largest is six miles north-east of Bowling Green. In it has been found great numbers of human bones. In a more level part of the county three miles south of Bowling Green is another called Lost River Cave. Even in this cavernous region it is somewhat of a curiosity, inasmuch as a large stream issues from the earth, flows only a short distance then empties its waters into the Big Barren River.

Within this cave, years ago, a water grist-mill and wool carding machine was erected--the rock ceiling serving as a roof for the mill. All that remains of this today is the crumbling ruins.

Eight miles east of Bowling Green there is a large deep sink known as Wolf Sink. It is about fifty yards wide, one hundred yards long, and on the south side the descent is nearly twenty feet. On the north side it is one hundred fifty feet. Large river trees are growing along its fringe, indicating that there is an abundant supply of water from beneath.

A number of mounds and earth works were in the county at the time of early settlement, but now almost all traces are gone. All the mounds that were investigated contained human bones.

Upon the bank of the Big Barren River, near Bowling Green, were the remains of a fort. In this fort was a number of graves.

Some ten miles from Bowling Green another fort was found situated upon a very high inaccessible bluff, containing only one point of access.

The topography of the county is gently rolling, the altitude running from four hundred thirty-two feet, the level of the railroad in Bowling Green, to more than eight hundred feet on the top of Chester Copped Hill, in the northern part of Warren county.

The climate of Warren is such that any type of vegetables and fruits can be grown that are grown in any temperate climate.

The soils are of many kinds, varying from the most fertile alluvial to the leaner sandstone soils, including the calcareous, or limestone, which covers three-fourths of the county. Some of the best farm land within the state is in Warren county.

Its chief products are corn, wheat, oats, rye, tobacco, hemp, strawberries, most all vegetables, and other fruits suited to the altitude and climate. All the forage grasses legumes, such as sweet clover, soy beans, and cow peas are extensively grown as soil builders, and to feed live stock. The past two years something like two thousand acres were grown.

Tobacco is a money crop for the county. This is what is known as The Dark Tobacco District, the tobacco grown being the one sucker type. This type is grown throughout twenty counties in Western Kentucky, and has its headquarters in Bowling Green.

There are three large warehouses in Bowling Green to receive the tobacco from the growers. Part of this is sold through Loose Leaf Houses to Independent buyers, and part is sold through the Co-operative Association. The Bowling Green warehouses handle eight to ten million pounds of tobacco annually. In 1920 there was more than eleven thousand acres of tobacco grown in Warren county.

There is quite a bit of corn raised in the fertile river valleys and creek bottoms, also some upon the upland soils. A great deal of this is fed to hogs and cattle, but some on the rivers is shipped by boat to other places.

Alfalfa is a comparatively new crop of Warren county. It is meeting with a wonderful success in its growth. It is especially desirable on account of its enormous dairy cattle.

Hemp used to be extensively raised in Warren county, but it did not bring in the money returns that its growers thought it should so they almost abandoned the growth of it, but of late years, the last four or five, its growth is beginning to be revived to quite an extent.

Warren county is noted for being the home of the Kentucky Aroma Strawberry. The first berries were grown in 1907 for home use, but they proved such a success that the acreage was increased, and in 1908 and 1909 berries were shipped to several other cities. This led the people to realize that they were a good money crop and they organized what is known as the Warren County Strawberry Association. The first year the sale amounted to \$6,000 and consisted of six cars. In 1915 there were one hundred fifty-six cars and \$135,000 received. In 1916 there were three hundred seventy-five cars, amounting to \$270,000. In 1917 more than three thousand cars were shipped and \$6,000,000 received. This, so far, has been the largest crop ever raised in the entire state of Louisiana. Since 1917, other shipping stations have been opened at Smith's Grove, Oaklana, Bristow, Richpond and Woodburn. The berries are shipped to Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Philadelphia and New York. There are twenty-four

quart boxes in each crate and one car contains from three hundred fifty to four hundred crates.

Large peach and apple orchards have been planted, and it is expected that within a few years these will be equal to the berry shipments.

The value of all crops is \$5,979,280. Cereals \$2,361,447. Other grain and seed \$64,267. Hay and forage \$866,185. Fruit and nuts, \$352,648. Vegetables \$195,476.

The timber of Warren county consists of beach, oak, poplar, sugar tree, elm, and other hardwoods, some one hundred fifty species in all. Little of this is Virgin timber, or of inferiro quality. Most of it is second growth timber.

The streams of Warren county are the most beautiful that God could make. Mr. Gordon Wilson says: "They are wild with a wildness that cannot be tamed. Wild tangles, cliffs of rare beauty, water-falls, and wildernesses of wild flowers are every where to be found along their courses." Its two navigable rivers are Barren and Green which connect with the Ohio River. The other smaller ones are Gaspar River, Bay's Fork Creek, Jennings' Creek, Trammel Creek, and Indian Creek with their numerous tributaries.

The wild life consists of rabbits, squirrels, muskrats, opossum, etc., and the small song birds--mostly. Mr. Wilson says again, that on one single trip into the country, upon the banks of these rivers, he had seen as many as sixty-five species of native Kentucky birds.

The area of the county is five hundred thirty square miles with a total population of 30,928. Whites 26,268, negroes 4,660. Birth rate of whites is 12.4 per cent, birth rate of negroes is 29.7 per cent. Death rate of whites is 21.5 per cent, death rate of negroes is 15.7 per cent. Average marriages annually 300. Average divorces annually 70. Criminals 400. Children sent to reform school 6. Paupers 18.

The total assessed valuation of the land of the county is \$19m066,982, and the total assessed valuation of the live stock is \$621,165. The various separate taxation rates are:

State .....	30c
Road	32c
School	40c
County Support Tax	50c
Auto Tax	\$65,000
Dog Tax	\$24,000
Poll Tax	\$17,874
Manufacturing	\$82,956
County Tax Rate	50c

There are many other taxes collected by the county from agents, stock license, groceries, cold drink stands, factories, peddlers, etc.

The live stock of the county consists of horses, mules, cattle, hogs, sheep and goats.

In 1920 there were 5,183 horses in the county valued at \$516,590. Many of these are fine saddlers, but the majority of them are a draft type of horse, suitable to draw only heavy hauling along smooth roads.

There were 6,275 mules valued at \$847,482. These are not so valuable now as formerly.

The Poland China, Hampshire, and Duroc Jersey hogs are the hogs grown for lard. They numbered, in 1920, something more than 28,550 and were valued at \$28,633.

There were 6,379 sheep valued at \$73,894, in 1920. The number of sheep shorn was 47,635, and the pounds of wool were 26,019 valued at \$13,939.

The number of goats were 4,832, valued at \$15,803. They are grown mostly for meat.

The cattle is divided into two distinct types, the dairy and beef breeds. The principal dairy cattle are Holstein and Jersey, numbering 9,283, valued at \$429,156. The beef cattle are the Hereford and Shorthorn, numbering 6,026 and are valued at \$244,868. The dairy products are valued at \$282,763.

There is one creamery located on the Western Kentucky Teachers College Farm. Many people sell their cream there, but some sell to local buyers or ship it to Louisville or Nashville. This industry is growing rapidly and many people are investigating in dairy cattle. The locating of a branch factory of the largest condensary in the South, The Pet Milk Company, near Bowling Green, will be the making of the county financially, as the soil and climate is especially adapted to dairying, producing pasture most of the year, and it can be supplemented by silage.

The poultry of Warren county is of a variety, consisting of many types of chickens, turkeys, etc. The chickens number 168,997 and are valued at \$155,113. The value of both chickens and eggs is \$202,467. Geese are raised for their meat, eggs, but mostly for their meat, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas times.

Warren county ranks fifth in the production of oil, producing 40,000 to 60,000 barrels a month.

There is more than one thousand miles of public roads in the county, of which one hundred eight miles are asphalt and high grade pike, four hundred fifty miles gravel pike. The Dixie Highway is the main road. Other main roads are the Scottsville, Russellville, Richardsville, Nashville and Morgantown Pikes. The Scottsville Pike has been a county road up until three years ago, and Morgantown Pike up until one year ago, when they were taken over by the state to be maintained by state roads.

Bowling Green has the distinction of having had the first railroad tracks in the state of Kentucky, which extended from the present site of the court house to a landing on Barren River. This track was one mile in length, and was constructed by Rumsey McKays in 1832, and it is known until this day as the Portage Railroad, but now it is a part of our regular railroads. There are forty-five miles of railroad in the county, all of which is owned by the Nashville Railroad Company. A short branch runs out to the White Stone Quarry and another branches off at Memphis Junction, passing through Woodburn and Richpond. The first Louisville and Nashville railroad was completed in the latter part of 1858 or the early part of 1859. The first train passed through Bowling Green in 1839, the engine being of the small wood burning type. When the engineer blew the whistle it almost caused a panic among the crowd.

During the Civil War the station, round-house, and other buildings were burned.

Texas rangers burned the depot and round-house one night about nine o'clock. But from the ashes of these old buildings larger and better ones were built. The new depot is surpassed by none of its size. It is built of Bowling Green's white stone, of classical origin of the Ionic style.

The building consists of a general waiting room, a ladies' waiting room, ticket office, and the express room. Some one has aptly said: "Many moons will come and go, the children, grand children, and even the great grandchildren of those who witnessed the dedication of the new station on October 1, 1925, will grow up and pass away, and still it will continue to afford shelter and comfort to the weary traveler who stops within its portals."

Bowling Green is the county seat of Warren county, situated at the head of navigation, on the Barren River, one hundred fourteen miles south of Louisville. It was settled by Robert Moore in 1790. Moore was scouting around looking for a suitable place to locate permanently. He came upon a big spring not far from McFadden's Station, and he decided to settle there. This spring still exists near the present square. In 1799, George, a brother of Robert Moore, dedicated the spring and a portion of land around it twenty by one hundred twenty feet, for public use, and two acres for public buildings. The men who were acting as justices, met for the first time at the home of Robert Moore in April, 1797, and organized the county court. Moore's home was located near the center of the county, and it was used for the meeting of the court on the first Monday of each month until March 1798, when the new hewn log court house and jail was completed and ready for use. The court house was twenty feet and one and one-half stories tall. During the time of court meetings at Moore's home he had caused to be built a bowling alley on his lawn to furnish pleasure to his visitors. It was from this suggestive pastime that the city received its name. The city grew rapidly, and soon the Moores gave an addition of twelve acres that extended from the old Moore homestead, which is still standing upon the corner of State and Eighth streets, up to Reservoir Hill. In 1804 a new court house was ordered built, and this same year Robert Moore made an addition of two more acres to the city which now extends to the river. Moore died in 1810.

The court house of today is the finest in the state, except in Louisville, and its building cost was \$125,000, with a native townsman as architect, John C. Underwood. The building was completed in 1869.

The educational facilities of Warren county and Bowling Green are equal to those of any other part of the country. The county schools are the best in the state, being under the management of trained teachers from the Western Kentucky Teachers College, which is located in Bowling Green with a present enrollment of more than two thousand, one hundred students. It is one of the finest institutions of the Southland., and it gets its inspiration directly from its great President, Dr. H. H. Cherry, who is a native citizen of this county, and from the faculty who co-operate with him.

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This college contains within its domain a Training School for children, that ranges through all the grades. It also has a Kindergraten and a Gymnasium. The other schools are the Bowling Green Business University which has enrolled more than a thousand students this school year; Ogdon College a preparatory school for boys. The first site chosen for Ogdon College was upon Reservoir Hill, before the Civil War, by the Methodist, but when the war came on the project was abandoned and not taken up again for years. When it was resumed they chose a site up near the present one of College Hill. Other schools of the city are St. Joseph's Parochial School, Bowling Green Senior High School, Bowling Green Junior High School, and two other large buildings for the grades for white children. One is located on College street, the other on Center and Eighth streets, with a new one to be erected soon upon Laurel avenue also the buildings for the grades for the negroes.

The first public school for the county was organized by uniting The Tax with the Craddock Fund, and it was taught in the old Blackburn home which was located on Adams street. Mrs. Blackburn was the first principal with her young daughters as her assistants. Later Mrs. Walker Hines and Mrs. Lida Calvert Obenchain were the teachers.

The last school census, of both county and city reported seven thousand, two hundred forty-two school children, both black and white, in Warren county, between years inclusive. Out of that number five thousand, nine hundred fifty-nine were attending school regularly.

The schools of the city are under the supervision of Superintendent T. C. Cherry, an elder brother of Dr. H. H. Cherry. Of the supervision of a board of education consisting of five men and the county superintendent besides, Mr. G. R. McCoy. There are fifty-six one and two room schools in the county, and eight high schools. The high schools are located at the following places: Woodburn, Smith's Grove, and Oakland, all of four years; Boyce, Riverside, Richardsville, Hadley, all of two years.

Bowling Green is a city of parks and churches. It contains three parks and twenty churches. The churches are of every denomination. It also has a very fine country club building, it is headquarters for the western division of C. C. C. Bus lines, it has a Y. M. C. A. building, two outstanding hotels, a water supply excelled by none, oldest literary club in the state, and still in existence. It was organized in 1858 under the title "The Woman's Literary Club," with officers as follows: President, Mrs. John Sharp; Vice-President, Mrs. El. H. Blackburn; Secretary, Mrs. Julia Weston; Treasurer, Mrs. Saddle Ray Stubbins.

There are seven banks in Warren county, three in Bowling Green, one in Oakland, two in Smith's Grove, and one in Woodburn.

In 1818, Bowling Green received from the state \$300,000 to begin banking.