

Dear Editor:

Your editorial on Swans Creek or Green Castle was read and its memories cherished as I was a mighty little boy and a long long time ago when I was first there. And as the old place may pass into oblivion you were old enough to have said more about it. So what I may say will be in memory of the old mill and old Mt. Zion Church and the noble people that lived there and near there. The locks and dam were built about 1845 by Jas Ford and Thomas L. Stephens, Jr. The mill was built before the sixties by Wm Brown. At that time it was the only mill North and West of L & N Railroad and many people came there to do their milling from Butler and Edmonson Co. Wm Brown was a business man of his day, Christian and a Mason. He came to this county in early sixties. After the Civil War he celebrated the 4 July by having what they called Muster Day and he would beat the drum and great crowds of people would attend. The old mill fell in river a few yrs ago. Mr. Brown died 1874 and the old Colonial home burned some 30 yrs ago when Wm Bolton owned it and was Mr. Browns miller. Wm Bolton was an Englishman. When I could first remember Rev Levy Morgan was Pastor of the Church. He had 12 daughters and one son. A large no of the people in the Fork Country are his decendants--and all good people. These daughters and son were his choir and much talk of their singing as if John McDormack were to sing. But it was a live Church and many people worshiped there until the organ split the Church. Rev Ed Smith was also pastor in the early days of the Church. The old Church like many other country churches and the little villages has about passed into oblivion. The first houses and store was built by Robt Alexander succeeded by Thomas Roup father of the Editor. John Thacker ran a store at that time. Commodore Burchfield ran the Hotel and Saloon on the bank of Swan Creek. Thomas Threlkell was the blacksmith. John Wetzel was lock-

keeper for many yrs. Gorg Shields was our only (sutler). Proff Ben Ellis was the teacher of the school. Dr. S. B. Johnson was the only Dr in the village. Tom Johnson, Miss Lou Madison, Mrs. Allie Roup Taylor were teachers that laid the foundation for noble characters of good men and women. Green Castle and the Fork Community has produced more good Drs than any other section of the County--

Dr Jim? Taylor, Dr. J. L. Taylor, Dr Everett Taylor, Dr Henry Taylor, Dr. Alfred^{red} Cherry, Dr Reighly Cherry, Dr E.E.Cherry, Dr Monaker, Dr. Chas Francis and Dr Burris were all fine Drs as well as gentlemen-- were products of that Community. I believe all are dead but four. Many things happen in the little villages. If you dont believe it ask Raleighy Shelton and O. P. Roup. There was a Mr. Salmon an early settler that liked the mint that grew by the well when Old Oken Bucket hung in well and the ingredients that went with it. And tis fresh to the writers mind when he fell by the way side near the Ferry on a cool bright day and 4 little boys, Henry and ? Johnson, Tom and O. P. Roup, bright-faced little boys, found him and carried water from the river in Oyster cans from Hotel and poured it on the old man and other 3 with paddles beat it in till the mint and ingredients lost its effects. I might mention many other things these boys did. Many fights and sometimes a killing occured in or near the village but Prohibition took the little village and for many years it has been a quiet place and many good and noble people lived in that Community. Among the early settlers of that Community-- Terry Tarrants, Allen Taylor, Sr., Warner Hudnell, Jim Reeves, Wesley Hudnell, Alfred & Wm, Robt & Jim Taylor, Thomas Richards, G. E. Speck, Thomas & Pete Davenport, Wash Runner, Ben Miller, Hezekiah White, Jim Hudnell, ^{James} ~~Jon~~ (?) Lum & Cass Cole, Ab Upton, ^{George} ~~Waggett~~ Cherry, John Stahl, Clay Stahl, Dave Stephens, Wm. Miller, John Shields.

The Morgans, Elkins, Alfords were the early settlers of the little Village and Community--many of their decendants live in the Community now. All have gone to their reward but a few. As they were men of Noble character may we long cherish their memory.

Barren River

The above letter to an Editor was written by Mr. Charles Davenport (1862-1937). We have copied it from the original as nearly correctly as possible on Sept. 23, 1980. This original was loaned for this purpose by Ora Calista Spradlin Nichols (Mrs. W. H.), Barren River Rd., Bowling Green, Kentucky. She is a grand-daughter of Mr. Davenport.