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# THE GRAYSONITE

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## GRAYSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

122 East Main Street

P. O. Box 84

Leitchfield, Kentucky, 42755

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[www.graysoncokyhistsoc.org](http://www.graysoncokyhistsoc.org)

## March General Meeting

The first General Meeting of the Grayson County Historical Society for 2013 was held March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Jack Thomas House.

The meeting was opened by President Ken Robinson who began by welcoming the large crowd of over 30 people to the historic Jack Thomas House. He then began discussing society business items including the replacement of refurbished historic markers, completion of the indexing of the Volume 2 Cemetery Book, donations of items to the museum, and the donation of moneys to the General and Salary Funds. Upcoming events including the June general meeting with guest speaker Dixie Franklin speaking on quilts and the October general meeting at which Judge Kenneth Goff will speak about the community of Spring Lick in the western part of the county were noted.

With no further business to cover, the President then introduced the night's speaker, James Reed Woosley.

## 2012 Hometown Christmas

*By Scott Carter*

The Jack Thomas House was more festive than usual this holiday season. Of course the house is always beautiful this time of year thanks to the decorations hung by the Master Gardeners Club, but this year there was more. In conjunction with Leitchfield's Hometown Christmas activities, the Grayson County Historical Society had an open house from 2:00pm until the Christmas Parade passed the square.

The Board, with help from fellow Board Member Jan Kessinger's grandchildren and house host Phyllis Webb, had the house open giving tours, feeding the guests, and spreading good cheer. Stories of the past abounded as more than forty people visited while waiting for the Parade to pass. Thankfully, photographer Mike Williams was nice enough to take pictures of the event and donate a copy of the images to the Society.

It is our hope that this will become an annual tradition. Any help from the membership is appreciated!

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# One-Room School Stories

By Scott Carter

Recently perpetual donor Curtis Dewees has taken a renewed interest in expanding the research library. One of the books acquired has been "Tales from Kentucky One-Room School Teachers" by William Lynwood Montell. There are several stories pertaining to Grayson County; a few are listed below.

## Teaching in a Tent

The second time I taught at Walnut Grove, which was in the 1940s, a windstorm had blown the school off its foundation prior to the beginning of the school session, and I taught in a tent for six weeks while the school was being repaired.

*Bernice Shartzer; Caneyville, October 1, 2008*

## Bible Readings

I remember when we had Bible reading every morning, and I'm the one that did the reading most of the time. Back then we were free to pray if we wanted to. However, I think I depended on the Bible reading and didn't pray. I didn't have any trouble from and of the children, because they all listened while I was reading.

*Marguerite Wilson, Leitchfield, October 1, 2008*

## Cheese Will Bind You

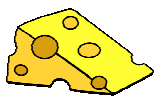
Even in second grade, after a spelling class, I'd have them write sentences with the words they had learned. It was sort of going on a little bit with their own work, instead of listening to somebody else there in the room.

One of the smartest little girls I ever taught had the word "bind" in her spelling. She wrote, "Cheese will bind me." [Laughter]

She was a beautiful little girl. Her mother had been talking to her some about what foods to eat. So, she learned that cheese would "bind" her.

That little girl went on and became a teacher.

*Marguerite Wilson, Leitchfield, October 1, 2008*



**Friday, April 4, 1884 - The school at Caneyville has over 50 pupils.**

*The Leitchfield Sunbeam, Grayson County, KY*



*Pictured is the Caneyville School in the early 1900s. The new school was built in 1928.*

## Caneyville Schools – a Primer

*A Presentation by James Reed Woosley*

For those members who went to Caneyville Elementary School or are from Caneyville will most likely know our speaker for the March General Meeting - James Reed Woosley. He will be provided his take on Caneyville history and his 36 years as an educator in Grayson County. This first meeting of the year was on March 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm at the Jack Thomas House on East Main in Leitchfield.

Mr. Woosley, who will be 90 in July, was born in Caneyville, and graduated from high school there in 1942. After serving in the Army from 1943 to 1946, he attended Western State Teachers College (now Western Kentucky University) and graduated in 1948.

He married Vernna Lee Evans in 1947. They had two children. Mrs. Woosley died in 2000. In 1948 he started teaching agriculture in the Caneyville School and ceased teaching agriculture in 1956. He then taught science and biology until 1965 when he became assistant principal at Caneyville. From July 1969 to 1971 he was principal at Clarkson School. In 1971 he was named principal of the Caneyville School. In 1972, after the schools in Grayson County consolidated, he became bus supervisor for the county school system. From 1974 until he retired in 1980, he was principal of the Caneyville Elementary School.

Mr. Woosley has an extensive knowledge of Caneyville and the Grayson County School System. His presentation made for an interesting evening.



## A Long Journey Home...

*By Jan Kessinger*

Many of us remember a time, not so far back, when every small town on the tracks had a rail depot. Everyone identified his or her town with that big white and black sign. Today those old depots are no longer needed, and most have been torn down and long forgotten. Sometimes, however, a change of events occurs...

Mrs. Elbert D. Newton, of Paducah, has donated a unique gift to the GCHS. It is the wooden sign from a railroad maintenance building along the tracks designating the town's name, Millwood. As most Graysonites know, Millwood, located in the center of the county on US 62 and the P&L Railway, has long been a railroad town. At one point it was bigger than both Clarkson and Caneyville.

In 1979, Mr. Newton's daughter, also our new Board member, Janet, bought the building and its sign from the Illinois Central Railroad for grand sum of \$1.00. She gave the Millwood sign to her father for Christmas that year. The sign has been kept at Mr. Newton's Paducah home for almost 35 years. He passed away July 2009.

Betty, his widow, has graciously donated it to the Grayson County Historical Society. It will hang in our 2nd floor museum with the other railroad items that have been donated by other members of the community. As you know if you have visited our museum, we already have the Leitchfield station sign on display on our wall.

These returning relics are of great importance to our Grayson County preservation. If you or your family have any items from Grayson County you would like to donate or put on loan, please contact us. ❖

## House News

There is much afoot at the great Jack Thomas House. We have had an influx of input from every direction it seems. As mentioned before, we have had a near constant stream of additions to our library. We are very grateful to our donors like Curtis Dewees who has made a continual monthly pledge to help expand the library.

The library is not the only part of the house that has received a recent influx of new life. The computer system has received a complete makeover. We are running a new upgraded CPU and color copier/printer/scanner thanks to Scott Carter. Recent house visitors, James and Lena Milliner from Morgantown were so impressed with our library that they donated a new VuPoint Magic Wand Scanner and memory card. Curtis Dewees has also had a 6meg internet connection added to the house. In addition to the physical, we are alive in the virtual world! Board Members Scott Carter and Scotty Gore are now actively updating our web page and our new Facebook page respectively.

Vice President Mike Fleener with help from new Board Member Rose Booth has been making great strides in trying to link the kitchen door to its possible creator, Thomas Lincoln. What started out as a simple repair has lead to numerous contacts with other historical organizations and hopefully upcoming meetings that will positively link us to Kentucky National Heritage Area.

Thanks to a few of our new Board Members, we will hopefully be keeping the Jack Thomas House open to the public at least one Saturday every quarter to accommodate people that have to work during the week. Board Member Jan Kessinger is very active in genealogical research, and it is her hopes that we can start having genealogy workshops too.

As if this is not enough to keep everyone's heads spinning, as you may already know, the Buchanan Log Cabin is in dire straits. The southwest corner of the structure is rotting away. Last fall, with help from Millwood residents Kelly Wilson, Gordon Johnson, and Randy Carter, a new log was cut to replace the rotted base.

*continued on page 5*

## WE ARE RICH!

I am sure that statement attracted your attention. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The Grayson County Historical Society is a non-profit, and we are always trying to expand both our museum and our library. This requires money. Please consider donating to the cause. Donations can be placed in the donation box at the house, mailed to our post office box, or soon, you will be able to make a donation via credit card or PayPal on our website: [www.graysoncokyhistsoc.org](http://www.graysoncokyhistsoc.org)!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**APRIL 13** - 11th Annual Book Fair & History Jamboree. Pritchard Community Center in Elizabethtown. 9:30am-4:00pm cst

**JUNE 11** – General Membership Meeting at the Jack Thomas House at 7:00pm cst. Speaker will be Dixie Franklin. She will be speaking about quilts and quilting.

**OCTOBER 8** – General Membership Meeting at the Jack Thomas House at 7:00pm cst. Speaker will be Kenneth Goff. He will be speaking about the community of Spring Lick.

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*Don't forget – Your membership to the Grayson County Historical Society renews in JANUARY;*

*Late payment cost us money to send reminders!*

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## Memorial Contributions

**In Memory of - Norma Stevenson**

Given by - Joyce L. York

**In Memory of - Ruth Hayes**

Given by - Eleanor Kinser and Steve Willis

**In Memory of - Patsy Jones**

Given by - Eleanor Kinser

**In Memory of - Carol Skaggs**

Given by - Ken & Nancy Robinson

**In Memory of - Sherman Clements**

Given by - Joyce L. York, and Ken & Nancy Robinson

**In Memory of - Charles Haynes**

Given by - Ann Marshall, Ann Smith, Martha Hughes, and Ken & Nancy Robinson

**In Memory of - Jane McCall Babson**

Given by - Dr. Bill & Dot McCall, and Ken and Nancy Robinson ❖

## Additions & Donations

### LIBRARY

**REPORT OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE STATE OF KY - CIVIL WAR**

– Donated by Curtis Dewees

**TALES FROM KENTUCKY ONE-ROOM SCHOOL TEACHERS**

– donated by Curtis Dewees

**KY SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF 1812**

– Donated by Curtis Dewees

**GRAYSON COUNTY SOIL SURVEY**

– Donated by Curtis Dewees

**JOSEPH DUVAL FAMILY BIBLE**

– Donated by Jane Jones Fletcher

**SCHOOL RALLY AND PROMOTION DAY 1913, BELONGED TO EVA MAE JONES**

– Donated by Jane Jones Fletcher

**FEBRUARY 1985 CALENDAR**

– Donated by Jane Jones Fletcher

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS KY – INTER-SCHOLASTIC LEAGUE CONTESTS – LEITCHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, MARCH 15, 1930, (ALSO FEATURES CANEYVILLE AND CLARKSON SCHOOLS)**

– Donated by Fred and Marietta R Boling

**VUPOINT MAGIC WAND SCANNER**

– Donated by James & Lena Milliner

**COMPUTER TOWER AND HP COLOR LASER COPIER**

– donated by Scott Carter

### MUSEUM

**FRAMED PICTURE OF LORENZA CARBY, FORMER GRAYSON CO. SCHOOL TEACHER (DRAWN BY REGINA AND JO NELL WILLIAMS)**

– Donated by Judy Cass

**MILLWOOD RR DEPOT SIGN**

– donated by Betty Newton

**GRAYSON COUNTY SUPPLY Co HANDHELD FAN**

– Donated by Martha Hughes

**QUILT RACK (MADE BY ROWN FRANKLIN)**

– donated by Phyllis Logsdon in memory of her father Howard Pittman

REMEMBER – DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!



## SPECIAL GIFT TO THE SOCIETY

A very generous contribution has been made to the society in memory of Jane McCall Babson by the Jane Hope Hastings Philanthropic Trust. It was sent to the society by her husband, David Babson. . The Society greatly appreciates this gift!

## A Message from Nancy

By Nancy Robinson

Time has come to pass on the torch. I have been doing the newsletter since 1999 and now it is time for younger and more agile minds to take over. I have really enjoyed doing the newsletter and thank all that have written articles through the years.

Scott Carter, a board member and our treasurer, is going to take over as editor as of this issue. Another younger board member, Jan Kessinger, will be helping him. I know Scott will take the newsletter to new and different directions. Younger minds and computer savvy people are what we need for the future.

I know Scott will do a great job. I know that if at any time you have any articles or ideas you want to share with him, he will be glad to receive them. Just send them to him in care of the Historical Society or e-mail him on our web page.

Thanks again, Nancy Duncan Young Robinson, retiring editor.❖

*I would like to take this time to thank you for all you have done with both this newsletter and the Society in general over the years. I and the other Board Members know you have had some recent medical issues, and we all hope you will devote your time to getting well and feeling better. You can be of little help to the Society if you are laid up in bed!*

*You are welcome to contribute to this newsletter at any time, and I always look forward to your advice. I will do my best to make this and all future editions of the Graysonite as educational and entertaining as you always have. If you need us for anything, we are always here.*

Scott Carter – Editor

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*We are on the web: [www.graysonco.kyhistosoc.org](http://www.graysonco.kyhistosoc.org)*

*LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!*

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## House News

*Continued from page 3*

The new log has been inside seasoning with hopes that it will be ready to install this spring or summer.

Need we not forget, the Master Gardeners have very kindly offered to maintain our flower bed and new herb garden on the East Side of the house. Its members have put in many hard hours making our house beautiful for everyone to see. We only hope that they can keep up these great additions to our beloved house.❖

## An Old Interest Renewed...

By Curtis Denees

I started acquiring books for the Society library in the mid to late eighties, with the help of Joan Saunders, now deceased. In those pre-internet days, it was difficult to locate materials on Grayson County. So we depended mostly on word-of-mouth to obtain books. With the advent of the Internet, the job became easier.

After a hiatus of six years, I am again started buying books for the library. I am finding lots of genealogy books and other relevant documents. I am surprised at the tremendous wealth of things available.

Starting in December of 2012, I have bought quite a few items. It is my personal goal to make our library one of the strongest county historical libraries in the Commonwealth.

Since December, the library has acquired the following:

- Grayson County, KY: including its history
- KY Soldiers of the War of 1812
- Report of the Adjutant General of the State of KY: Confederate KY volunteers
- History of the Gibson Family: Green, Hart and Grayson Counties
- Descendants of David Duggins, Sr.
- Let there be light: The story of rural electrification in Kentucky
- Tales from Kentucky one-room school teachers

We also have plans to catalog all of the holdings of the library.❖

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

“Historical Sketches & Family Histories of Grayson County”- \$50.00

The First Grayson County Court Record Book, July 23, 1810 – April. 28, 1814 - \$35.00

Vol. I Grayson Co. Cemetery Book (revised) - \$50.00

Vol. II Grayson Co. Cemetery Book (revised) - \$50.00

Vol. III Grayson Co. Cemetery Book (revised) - \$50.00

Grayson County School Census 1899-1900 - \$27.50

1903 Special Edition of the Grayson County Gazette - \$15.00

1926 & 1937 Maps of Grayson Co. - \$15.00 ea.

George Washington’s Land in Grayson Co. – By Curtis Dewees - \$20.00

DVD –“PATCHWORK a History of Grayson County”  
copied and distributed by the Historical Society - \$10.00

Movie (DVD) – “My Kentucky Home – Grayson County”  
(documentary made for KET) - \$20.00

*A \$5.00 mailing fee should be added for each item ordered*

Books may be ordered by writing the Grayson Co. Historical Society, P. O. Box 84, Leitchfield, KY 42755 or by phone: 270-230-8989

Business hours: Tues. – Fri. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Please add 6% sales tax if in Kentucky.

## WE NEED YOUR INPUT

As everyone knows, the US Postal Service is having a rough time like the rest of the country in this bleak economic climate. As a result, they have raised the price of postage, and paper and printing is not as cheap as it used to be. This great newsletter you receive three times a year (hopefully it will soon be four), costs more than it used to.

As you hopefully read in the Donations section, we have acquired new computer and printing equipment. Plus, Curtis Dewees had DSL Internet service added to the house. We are ready to take the Grayson County Historical Society into the digital age.

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*As a result, we are now able to give the option of receiving the Graysonite in digital format via email.*

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We have been updating the membership list and adding it to our new database in our new accounting software. Unfortunately, all we have for most members is a name and address. We would like to get phone numbers and email addresses for everyone.

As a result, we are now able to give the option of receiving the Graysonite in digital format via email. There are several advantages. First, it is cheap! Second, it is available in color. Finally, it takes up absolutely no physical space in your house!

If you would like to have the Graysonite delivered to you electronically at no charge to the Grayson County Historical Society, please send us an email at: [info@graysoncokyhistsoc.org](mailto:info@graysoncokyhistsoc.org) or follow the update link on our website at [www.graysoncokyhistsoc.org](http://www.graysoncokyhistsoc.org)

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Renee Pinkston – Morgantown, KY**

**Debra Webb – Clarkson, KY**

**Deanna Lashley – Leitchfield, KY**

**Kimberly Taylor – Eastview, KY**

**Mark Milliner – Mt. Washington, KY**

**Anne Bader – Louisville, KY**

**John & Scotti Decker – Leitchfield, KY**

### THANKS - - -

**To** all members who have made contributions to our general fund and the salary fund; you help keep us going.

**To** All of the Board Members, families, and Phyllis who helped with the Hometown Christmas Open House.

**To** the Leitchfield Tourism Commission for a \$5000 donation to the Salary Fund.

# Caneyville, KY Train Wreck, Dec 1902

*Paducah Daily Sun Kentucky 1902-12-27*

FOUR MEN KILLED.  
DISASTROUS WRECK ON THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL  
THIS MORNING.  
FAST PASSENGER STRIKES A WORK TRAIN AND  
KILLS THREE AND FATALLY INJURES ANOTHER.  
CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.

One of the worst wrecks the Illinois Central has had in recent years occurred this morning at Caneyville, Ky., 84 miles this side of Louisville, when the fast train No. 104, which was due to leave Paducah at 1:25 for Louisville, ran into a work train at 6:32 o'clock and killed three men and fatally injured another.

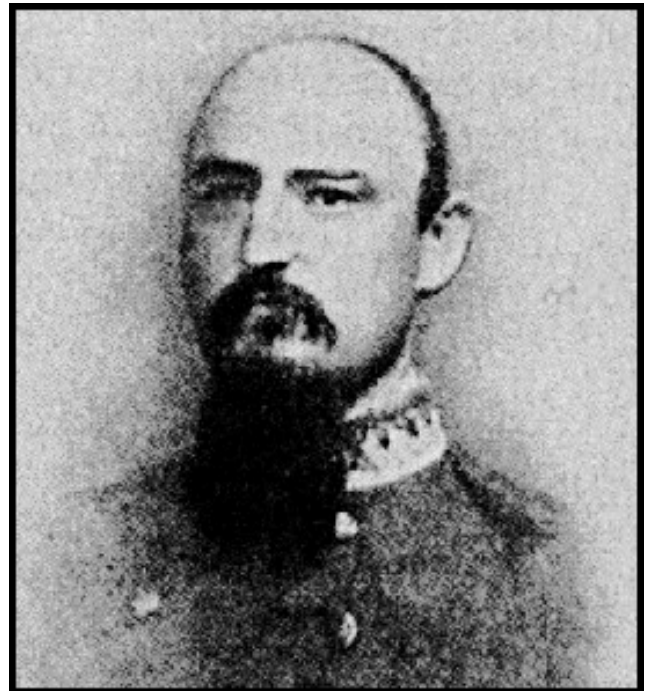
The killed are: Fireman W. O. ROBERTS, of Central City, of the passenger. Fireman STITH, of the work train. Flagman THOMAS BELL, of the work train. Engineer LOUIS COFER, of Louisville, is seriously injured and death is expected momentarily. Conductor D. G. McCANN, of the work train, was injured by having his foot badly mashed, and was taken to Louisville for treatment.

The passenger train arrived at Paducah an hour late this morning and changed engines. Engineer LOUIS COFER, of Louisville, with Fireman W. O. ROBERTS, of Central City, handled the engine while Conductor W. S. FORSYTHE looked after the train.

Of late the trains have been running a little later than reported and the cause of the wreck is supposed to have been an oversight of the work train crew who thought that the fast train would be later than reported. The work train was in charge of Conductor D. G. McCANN, formerly a switchman in the Paducah yards, but now of Louisville; Engineer ROBERT STITH, of E'town and Fireman STYCHE of Louisville. The work train pulled into the siding to take water but did not quite clear the main line, a portion of the train being left across the main line. The passenger came along and struck before the train was sighted and so heavy was the force with which it struck that the big passenger engine was turned completely around and over, killing the fireman instantly and mortally wounding the engineer. The coaches of the passenger train did not leave the rails and none of the passengers are seriously injured.

There were several passengers bruised slightly but not

seriously. The passenger engine is a total wreck and also are several cars of the work train, the wreck being principally a side swipe. Engineer STITH was on Engineer Barney Keegan's engine when it left the track at Kuttawa and plunged into the lake. Fireman STITH is an engineer but was firing on account of a shortage in firemen. Both STITH and ROBERTS were married men and leave wives. COFER is married and has a family in Louisville. Little could be learned of BELL, who was reported killed. All those who were killed are well known here and the news of their death will be received with much sorrow by their many friends. ❖

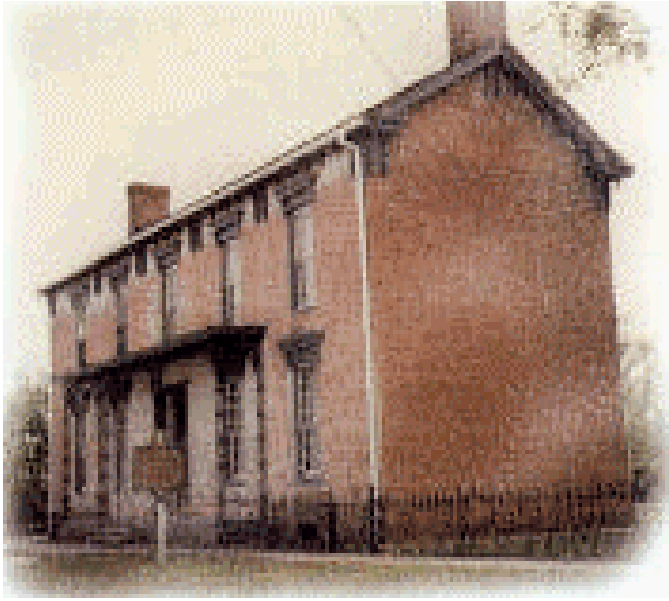


## Grayson County History

*Found By Mike Fleener*

Can you identify this man? He is responsible for destroying one of our oldest civic buildings! This is the Confederate Army General that was responsible for the burning of the first Grayson County Court House.

Do you know who he is? From my research it appears to be General Lyons. It was the defense of the Confederates that all the court houses burned on the raid through Kentucky were in every case used as Federal Garrisons or prison-houses for their Southern friends!



### THE HISTORIC JACK THOMAS HOUSE

The Jack Thomas House is the oldest brick house in Grayson County and is on the National Historic Register. It is owned and operated by the Grayson County Historical Society.

## The Grayson County Historical Society

The Board of Directors currently consists of President Ken Robinson, and seven voting members:

Mike Fleener – Vice President

Scott Carter – Treasurer

Scotty Gore – Secretary

Nancy Robinson – General Board Member

Joyce Thomas York – General Board Member

Jan Kessinger – General Board Member

Rose Booth – General Board Member

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*LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!*

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Board of Director's meetings are usually the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 at the Jack Thomas House. Members are welcome to attend – advance notice would be nice so that we may put you on the agenda. We are always looking for input!❖

GRAYSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 84  
LEITCHFIELD KY 42754