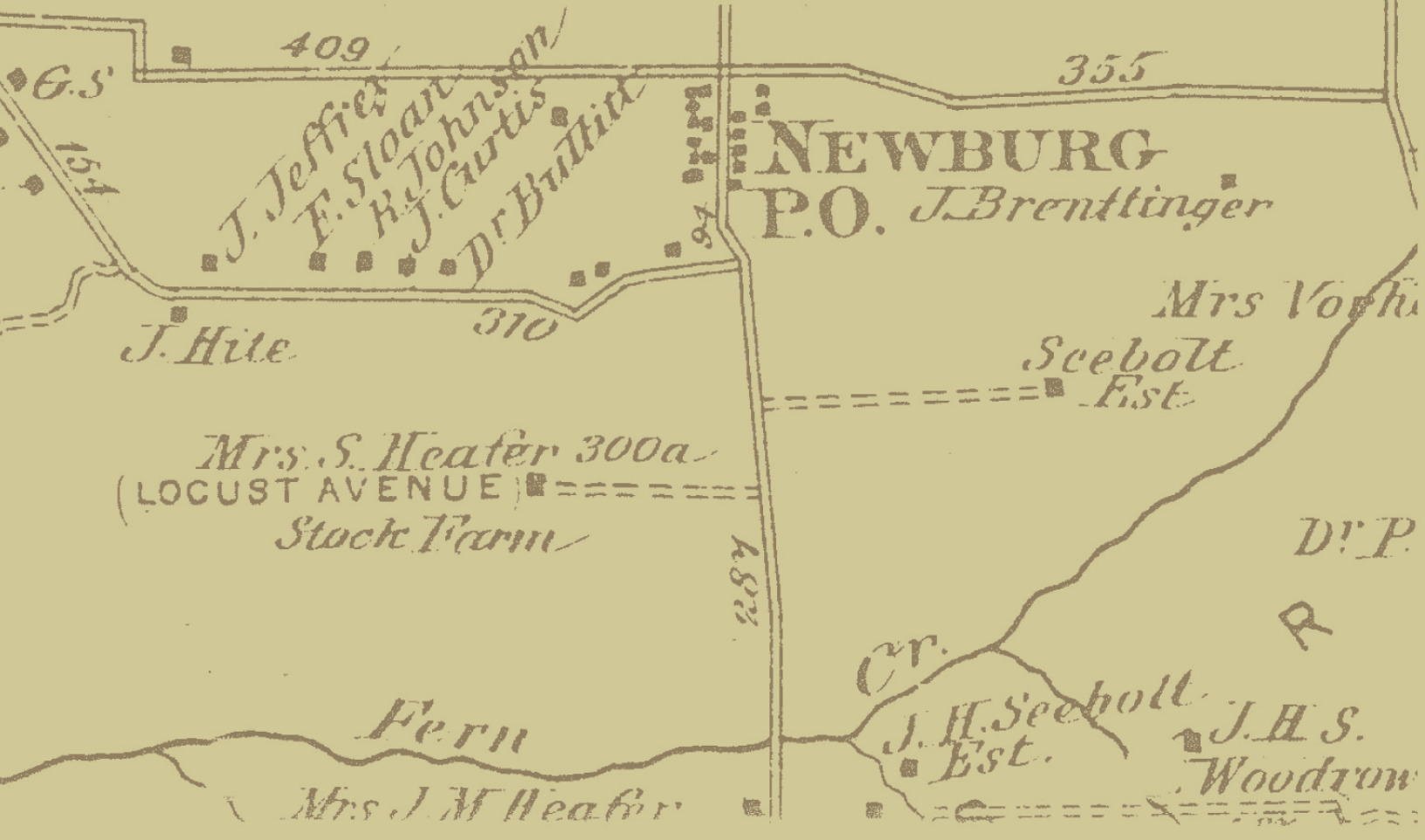




# Lest We Forget A History of Newburg

Source: 1879 Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Co., Beers and Lanagan, 1879, # 27







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**Introduction:**

The Newburg community has been an important part of Jefferson County for many generations. Families who have lived and worked in this area for generations or who are new to the area will enjoy reading the material collected in this volume.

**Contents of this collection:**

After reading the entries cited in well known sources such as the *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, *A Place in Time*, and *The Kentucky Explorer*, you may wish to browse through the various newspaper articles published in the *Courier-Journal* or the *Louisville Times*. You will see that this exhaustive compilation of articles, the earliest being 1952, have been arranged in chronological order for you. Following the section of newspaper articles, you might find interesting a collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century maps of the area. A demographic profile of the Newburg community follows showing what the community was like in 1870 compared to 2000 – you will see that a lot has changed! Next, we have included a few photographs found in local archives. We have added fascinating information (i.e. Federal Census and Will records respectively) detailing the lives of two prominent citizens who helped establish Newburg. In conclusion, we have included a typed transcript of an oral history interview of Mr. Nelson Goodwin, long term and respected resident historian of Newburg.

**Acknowledgments:**

Many hours were spent combing through collections, some very dusty and never seen before. Therefore, on behalf of the Louisville Free Public Library, I wish to express my deepest and sincere appreciation to a number of individuals and institutions who have a role in creating this work. Thank you for your time and efforts!

Mr. Richard Jett, Metro Historic Preservation Officer

Ms. Sarah Jane Poindexter of the Filson Historical Society

Ms. Susan Finley and Ms. Carrie Daniels of the Special Collections department of Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville.

Ms. Sally Bown of the Kentucky Historical Society

Mr. David Morgan of the Louisville Metro Archives

Ms. Amy Inskeep of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*

And last but not least...

Mr. Seth Cohen and Ms. Spring Brown of the Louisville Free Public Library whose assistance was absolutely indispensable – you did great work!!

Sincerely,

T. Joseph Hardesty, MLS, M.Ed.  
Kentucky History and Genealogy Librarian  
Louisville Free Public Library

# Nelson Goodwin

## Newburg's Historian

Nelson Daniel Goodwin was called “the grandfather of Newburg’s oral history” by the Courier Journal. President of the Petersburg Historical Society, Mr. Goodwin traced his heritage in the Petersburg area to 1790. He was a successful landscape gardener owning his own business that he ran from his home in Petersburg. His passion that began at the age of four was the history of Petersburg, now known as Newburg. Mr. Goodwin collected letters, maps, photographs, and other items that illustrated life in Petersburg, but oral history told from generation to generation was his favorite method of capturing history.

The following piece is a personal narrative by Mr. Goodwin June 15, 1988 titled “Lest We Forget” that depicts his search for evidence to support the oral tradition he had heard since childhood.

An oral history of the Newburg community provided by its long time and respected resident Nelson Goodwin provides readers with a fascinating and realistic glimpse of what life was like for most local residents in the 20th Century. An interview with Nelson Goodwin was conducted by Ken Chumbley of the University of Louisville Archives and Records Center in January of 1979.

You may read the transcript of the full interview or enjoy listening to it at the University of Louisville Libraries’ Digital Collection website or by with the following link:

<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/afamoh&CISOPTR=115&REC=7>



June 15, 1988

"LEST WE FORGET"

Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Deut. 6:12

Psalm 89:1b - "With my mouth will I make known Thy faithfulness to all generations.

This scripture is a description of the efforts of Mr. Nelson Goodwin who in the early 60's began researching the history of the Petersburg/Newburg area. In his heart and mind he saw this community as a rich legacy. When people who had lived here for a number of years and had inherited property from their fore-parents, from the days of slavery were being uprooted and scattered, he began a search for documentary evidence to support the oral traditions he had heard since childhood.

So much of what is stated here is the results of Mr. Goodwin's search.

The wealth of this community is not monetary but a rich legacy of spiritual values; such as faith, hope, love, courage, perseverance, labor, suffering, sacrifice, humility and pride. It represents a people coming over a stony road of humiliation, scorn, degradation, out of slavery, with no education, no experience of decision making for themselves as a community. No government helps as we have today, yet they built homes, started a community, built a church and the first school in this area.

Quote, "The memories handed down through my grandparents have given my life structure and value that it might not have had otherwise," unquote, said Mrs. Gwendolyn Buggs, an award winning teacher of Gary, Indiana; and a descendant of the Spencer-Samuels family. Mr. Goodwin founded the Petersburg Historical Society for the purpose of documenting the history so that our present and future generations would "beware lest they forget that hitherto hath the Lord helped us. The blessings

Source: Personal Narrative regarding the history of Newburg / Petersburg, by Nelson Goodwin, June 15, 1988.

built by a man named Peter Lowe. Some think the house was built at the tip end of Old Shepherd sville Road and Newburg Road which was owned by the Ed Green family. Mr. Goodwin says it was the was the Scott's house where some of the logs still remained on it until they tored in down in 1987. This area was called Peters- burg after this first house was built. To build one had to fell trees, split logs, uproot stumps, clear the undergrowth, and dig ditches to drain the land. The houses were generally one or two rooms log cabins with an attic room. Some had dirt floors.

Just look where we've come from- when we think of these log cabins compared with our modern homes all around us. Praise God for His mercy and Power!!

Besides the Tivis property, the Hikes property, and the property given, some families lived in nearby areas, such as the Old Brick Yard, Black Mud Lane now named Rangeland Road and on Poplar Level Road. Others lived on the places where they worked. Around 1924, a new subdivision was developed called the New Addition. It is the area of the Greater Faith Baptist Church, and those homes off Old Shepherdsville Road. In the 1940's off Newburg/Petersburg Road another subdivision developed called Golden Acres. This area is now Petersburg Estates. The Golden Acres area, the New Addition area, and the area in the center of Newburg were those homes which were torn down by Urban Renewal, and the people were scattered. Petersburg Park, Petersburg Road, and Petersburg Estates are named after this first home of Peter Lowe, and we see something of the growth of the community property-wise.

## II. Life In The Community.

When the freed slaves faced the responsibility of making decisions, etc. for themselves as a community, because it was a new experience, it was necessary that they learn to work together and lean upon each other. This created a community bond. In the early 60's people still left their doors unlocked compare with the fact that we have a high rate of crime, now. In their need of each other, they cut trees together, helped build their homes, planted gardens, shared the harvest, prepared the meat, helped each other in times of sorrow and distress. When a child



was left motherless, any one in the community might take them in, and most certainly any cousin, aunt, grandmother would take in the child or children and raise them as their own. All older people were called 'Aunt or 'Uncle' until children did not know who was, or was not blood kin.

Older women were never idle: They called themselves resting, if when they were visiting or sitting, they would be darning, knitting, patching, crocheting, quilting, doing embroidery work, or mending. Because of their small limited income, they were a saving people. An example: A watermelon was eaten, the rind pickled or preserved, the seed saved for next year's crop, or used as a medicinal tea. Chickens were killed, the feet were cooked and children ate at them. Feathers were saved for mattresses and pillows. Everything was used on the hog, even to the jawbones which was saved and the marrow taken out for medicines. Illnesses were treated by herbs, roots and home remedies. Some few women were blest with the natural gift of skills, patience and concern, and they were mid-wives and community nurse to be with anyone who needed them at that moment. Jobs were varied according to talents and abilities and training. At the close of the 1800's most jobs were farm or domestic. There were in the community those who had a natural ability to sew, barbers, carpenters, builders, beauticians, and other gifts. Their gifts made room for them. As the economic conditions of the United States improved, so did the jobs; slowly but surely things improved, a little, from year to year.

### III. The Church and School

The heart's desire of our foreparents were for freedom from slavery, for homes, a church and a school. Now being free and having homes, their third desire of the heart had been started before they could even meet together. That was a church or a meeting place for the church. The church is a spiritual organism set up in the hearts of men at the moment of regeneration. When we are born of the spirit, we are baptized

into the body of Christ. Jesus is the head and foundation; we are the body and the building. No matter what place or building we attend to worship, or what denomination, the church building is where the church meets. The meeting place is for corporate worship.

The first church in this area met in the woods, with no building. The church was in their hearts when they decided to build a meeting place. Those who had horses, mules, wagons, buggies or surries, rode to Green Street Baptist Church. Some walked, others who had small children and unable to walk, or for other reasons met in each others homes in winter or bad weather, and under the shade trees in the summer, with the logs split on stumps as seats. Uncle Sandy Carter provided the land for the first meeting place. The marble headstone on Petersburg Road across from Forest Baptist Church is in memory of this man and his family. The church was organized with the help of Rev. Sneathen of the Green Street Baptist Church. The first pastor according to our knowledge was Brother Jacob Kellar, who had been taught to read and write by his owner. The church was a one room log building. This was later torn down, and a frame church was built in 1894. Soon after the first building was erected, a Sunday School was started, meeting in the evenings, with two white teachers, God keeping watch over his own.

Baptisms were held outdoors in the Beargrass Creek on Old Shepherdsville. Also at the Hike's Pond, in the Broadmoor area, or Longs Pond in the now Fountain Square Apartment area. Some times ice was broken for the baptism and clothes froze before they arrived home to change. In 1926 Forest Tabernacle Baptist Church for convenience was organized by Rev. J. H. Lewis, pastor of Forest Baptist Church because of the rising waters from the Beargrass Creek covering the roads in rainy weather and the continuous growth of the New Addition area. Because of disagreement among the saints of God, Community Baptist Church was organized out of Forest Baptist Church in 1946 by Rev. Samuel H. Young. Star of Hope grew out of Community Baptist and Greater Faith grew out of Forest Tabernacle Baptist Church. Different meeting places, different denominational, but One Lord. We now



have many denominations in our Petersburg/Newburg Community, but still, One Lord, One Faith, and One Baptism. One Church, composed of every believer that is born again and we are united into one body.

Soon after Forest Baptist had her first meeting place, and elementary school was started. This was the fourth heart's desire of our founders.

Having been denied the privilege of getting an education they were deeply concerned that their children and future generations would have schools. Mr. William Faulkner was the first teacher. All schools in this area now are integrated, and there are several. But the first school was started by ex-slaves and for approximately twenty years they paid their teachers, not with money, (for they had very little), but with vegetables, milk, eggs, butter, fruit, meat, poultry, preserves, or whatever could be used. The Board of Education started paying teachers in this area in 1890 while the school was still meeting in the church. The Church built a one room school in the church yard around 1892. In 1912 under the untiring efforts of Mrs. Lottie Robinson a two room school was built. In 1890 Mrs. Nalfie King was the first teacher paid by the Board of Education. In 1929 a new modern, solid brick building was building was built on Petersburg Road where Forest Baptist Church now stands.

Mr. A. L. Garvin was the principal. The community continued to grow. They added portable buildings; then in the 50's the present Newburg Middle School was built. Most of us are aware of the changes since then. In the early 1900's when students finished the 8th grade in this area they had to go to Central High School to finish school, passing any number of white high schools which they could not attend. Some stayed in town with relatives, friends, or lived on the place where they worked to go to high school. If you lived in this area, you had to leave early and catch a trolley car that stopped at Bardstown Road and Hikes Lane. They only ran hourly so you had to catch it early. They were always the first ones at school. In 1929 students attended Jackson Junior High School for one year then went to Central.

All Newburg students were generally in the top 10% scholastically. Several were in the top 10, Margaret Warfield, 5<sup>th</sup>, Lottie Munford was valedictorian in 1931. Our first known Central graduates were Arthur Starks and Annie Neighbors in 1911 and 1912.

This is written that we, as citizens of the Petersburg/Newburg area will say with the Psalmist in Psalms 75:1 "Unto Thee, O Lord, do we give thanks; for that Thy name is near, Thy wondrous works declare." It is also written for future generations that they may be reminded as in Deuteronomy 8:11, 18; "that they beware lest they forget, for it is He that who giveth thee power to get wealth. It is He that giveth thee life breath and all things. Lest when thou hast eaten and art full and hast built goodly houses and swelt therein....and when thy gold and silver are multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied, then thine heart be lifted up and thou forget the Lord Thy God. So may this generation remember that Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised - one generation shall praise Thy works to another, and shall declare Thy mighty acts. With my mouth will I make known Thy faithfulness to all generations.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears-  
 Thou who hast brought us thus far on our way-  
 Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light-  
 Keep us forever in the paths, we pray.  
 Lest our feet stray from the places, our God  
 Where we met Thee Lest our hearts drunk with  
 the wine of the world we forget Thee-  
 Shadowed beneath Thy Hand may we forever stand  
 True to our God, true to our native land.

**LET US ALL BEWARE, LEST WE FORGET!!!!**

Done by the order of the  
 NEWBURG/PETERSBURG HISTORICAL  
 SOCIETY

Nelson Goodwin, President  
 Effie Lyons, Secretary



# Snapshots of Newburg

The devotion and determination of Eliza Tevis and the gratitude of John Hundley are well documented history of the Newburg community. General reference articles such as the ones that you will find in this section are perhaps the best way to get a quick, “snapshot” look at the extensive history of Newburg.

- [Encyclopedia of Louisville entry on Newburg](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Louisville entry on the Wet Woods](#)
- [A Place In Time: the Story of Louisville’s Neighborhoods](#)
- [The Kentucky Explorer](#)
- [Louisville Courier Journal article on The Legend of Eliza Tevis](#)
- A section of Dr. J. Blaine Hudson’s presentation to Riverside: The Farnsley-Moremen Landing on October 12, 1997. Blaine Hudson is a professor of Pan-African studies and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Louisville. He is also a well respected historian in Louisville, KY.

**NEWBURG.** An unincorporated residential community of 21,650 residents (1990 census), Newburg occupies the area roughly between Poplar Level Rd., Shepherdsville Rd., Newburg Rd., and Indian Tr., just west of the GENERAL ELECTRIC APPLIANCE PARK. It was settled in the late 1820s by four German families and within a decade had become a small village with several businesses and its own post office. As a "new town" it was appropriately named Newburgh.

The Newburgh post office was established on August 24, 1839, at the junction of the present Shepherdsville and Poplar Level Roads. It operated intermittently at several locations in that vicinity until it closed in early 1902. Several years before it closed, as part of the post office's name simplification process, the *b* was dropped from the name, and it became Newburg.

Since the late nineteenth century, Newburg has included the old African American community of Petersburg, centering just north and west of the junction of Shepherdsville and Newburg Roads and a mile north of Newburg's former post office sites. This was in a section of poorly drained land called the WET WOODS, 40 acres of which had been purchased in 1851 by Eliza and Henry Tevis, a free black couple who farmed and raised cattle in the area with slaves of their own. After the CIVIL WAR other AFRICAN AMERICANS acquired land in the area. Petersburg was named, probably after 1880, for one of these blacks, Peter Laws, who had built a cabin at a site just north and east of the Newburg Rd.

During most of the 1900s, the two communities were surrounded by farms. Slowly, Newburg became the name for the entire area, most likely because the post office bore that name. The biggest change came to Newburg during the urban renewal programs in the 1960s. The area gained more than a hundred new homes, along with paved roads, sidewalks, a community center, and sewer lines. Newburg is now largely an African American community. In the 1970s, following URBAN RENEWAL, hundreds of black families moved into the area from the West Louisville, SMOKETOWN, and Limerick NEIGHBORHOODS, as many whites moved farther out into the county.

Newburg was incorporated as a city for five years, from 1982 to 1987. A weak tax base and legal battles between residents about the need for a city finally resulted in its dissolution.

See M. David Goodwin, "Newburg," in *A Place in Time: The Story of Louisville's Neighborhoods* (Louisville 1989); Robert M. Rennick, "The Post Offices of Louisville and Jefferson County," in *Kentucky's Salt River Valley: A Survey of the Post Offices of the Greater Louisville Area* (Lake Grove, Ore., 1997).

*Robert M. Rennick*



**WET WOODS.** A large section of south-central Jefferson County clearly seen on old maps, extending from the present-day GENERAL ELECTRIC APPLIANCE PARK where Newburg and Shepherdsville Roads meet and stretching west to an area near Third Street Rd., southeast of IROQUOIS PARK. From there, it extends northward, east of the park, and eastward, clipping the southern edge of LOUISVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. The CSX Transportation's main line railroad tracks to the south divide it nearly in half.

Formed by the retreat of a Devonian-period glacier, the Wet Woods is positioned on a large deposit of NEW ALBANY shale, a highly erodible and impervious material that creates a water-tight seal when it weathers. The waters from FERN CREEK and its tributaries, draining from the central part of the county, discharged into the Wet Woods and accumulated there until it rose high enough to spill over in a broad sheet to find its way westward by way of several tributaries into the OHIO RIVER. The buildup and stagnation of water in the Wet Woods area produced the Big Pond, or Oldham's Pond, which in wet weather encompassed most of the Wet Woods. At such times, when the overflow from the Wet Woods met the backwaters from the river, thousands of big fish would come exploring upstream into the swamps, only to be trapped when the waters receded. They would fall prey to farmers armed with pitchforks and to the herds of wild hogs that came down from the ebb of the water.

Until modern times, the land was an impediment to travel. Preston Hwy., which parallels the historic Wilderness Road, was originally a log or plank road through the swamp. It and the more westerly Central Plank Rd., later Third Street Rd., were in constant danger of sinking. Wild hogs, escapees from nearby farms, wandered the swamp and were considered fair game for anyone brave enough to venture there. The poor natural drainage of the area provided a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The area was generally thought by early residents to be an unhealthy or insalubrious source of a number of human ailments, known collectively as consumptive diseases. The area was also the home of thieves and bandits. Farmers suffered heavily from the disappearances of horses, cattle, and now and then a valued slave. The thefts were blamed on a supposed gang of curthroats with hideouts in the woods. In October 1873, about eight hundred dollars' worth of goods were stolen from a store four miles from the old railroad depot at South Park. The following January, James Danall and West Watson were arrested when the stolen goods as well as other stolen articles were found in their cabin, one

mile and a half from the depot.

For many years the area was perceived as a no-man's land, devoid of development. The only prominent establishments were Blackjack Tavern, located south of the present JACOBS neighborhood and Iroquois Park, and Robb's Hotel on Preston Street Rd.

An account of the territory's early ownership reveals that a large section of the Wet Woods was promised to a slave woman named Eliza Curtis. Curtis was freed in 1833 in recognition of her service to John and, later, Thomas Hundley, owners of the land on which BASHFORD MANOR Mall now stands and from whom she also inherited money and property in Louisville. On June 17, 1843, she married Henry Tevis (ca. 1804-69), a free man of color, with whom she purchased forty acres of land near the Hundley property. They constructed a large log house near present-day Newburg Rd. and Indian Trail and began farming. The Tevis land was later subdivided and sold or rented to other AFRICAN AMERICANS after the CIVIL WAR. Along with an adjacent forty acres purchased by Peter Laws from Col. George Hikes in the 1870s, the entire area evolved into the African American community of Petersburg.

After 1900 drainage ditches and systematic filling permitted truck farms and the construction of homes in large parts of the Wet Woods. By 1923 a *COURIER-JOURNAL* article claimed that thousands of acres had been reclaimed and transformed into productive farmland. While the land previously sold for five dollars an acre, the fertile acreage, according to the article, could not be purchased now for less than three hundred dollars per acre. Most of the land was reclaimed for scattered residences and AGRICULTURE by 1941, and what was once estimated at twenty thousand acres of forests was reduced to just a few scattered hundred-acre patches of cut-over timber. By the 1950s, large-scale subdivisions in the OKOLONA and FAIRDALE areas had begun in the Wet Woods area.

During the first week of March 1997, following a downpour of more than twelve inches of rain in a twenty-four hour period, Oldham's Pond reappeared. Communities built in the Wet Woods—Okolona, Fairdale, and much of southern Louisville—were inundated by flood waters. The residential suffering was the result of unregulated wildcat development of the region in the 1950s and 1960s. In light of the devastation, both city and county governments reviewed their policy on the granting of construction permits in flood-prone areas. As has happened so often, the Wet Woods then disappeared awaiting the next big rain to be seen again.

See *Changes at the Falls: Witnesses and Workers* (Louisville 1982); C. Thomas Hardin, ed., *Rain and Ruin* (Louisville 1997); *Courier-Journal*, June 8, 1941, Aug. 5, 1923, Feb. 16, 1919.

James D. Kendall





# Newburg

## Freed slaves found land to call their own in a swampy section that took the name Petersburg

By M. DAVID GOODWIN/Staff Writer

**N**ELSON GOODWIN beamed as he reminisced about the intertwined histories of Newburg and Petersburg.

As Goodwin recounted days in the early 1900s, when he sat under a chestnut tree and listened to "Uncle" Ed Green describe his experience as a plantation slave, his raspy voice was not slowed by age.

"Life back then was simple but hard," the 82-year-old amateur historian said. "I loved those times. What gets me is that I can't believe how we were able to survive."

Little information exists on how these two racially segregated communities — less than one mile from one another along Shepherdsville Road — came to be. Together they form present-day Newburg.

The area that would eventually be known as Petersburg was settled by a freed slave, Eliza Curtis Hundley Tevis (also spelled Tives, Tivis, Travis and Tivas in various records), in the 1820s or '30s.

It was then known as the Wet Woods, a vast swamp thought to be uninhabitable. It was the only land in the area that whites would sell to blacks.

It was dubbed Petersburg after Peter Laws, a freed slave, built a log cabin in the area shortly after the Civil War.

The original Newburg, directly south of Petersburg, was settled by four German immigrant families in the 1830s.

Much of the area's early history is logged in Goodwin's mind. He has interviewed old-timers and pored over former slave owners' diaries, newspaper clippings, and history and deed books to settle contradictions and document oral traditions.

He is still considered the grandfather of Newburg's oral history. He recalled being mesmerized at age 4 by Green's stories of his brutal life in the antebellum, he said.

"Nobody could write then," said Goodwin, who has traced his own

slave heritage in the Petersburg area back to 1790. "A lot of the older people wouldn't let you talk to them about it [slavery]. Many of them raised their kids like they were. They thought they were supposed to keep them dumb and stupid."

Tevis was the first freed slave to own property in the Wet Woods, near the present Petersburg Estates. But there are discrepancies about the mulatto woman's history.

Some accounts say she was a half-sister and slave to John B. Hundley, a wealthy Louisville plantation owner and bachelor. Others say she was Hundley's mistress or a highly valued servant, said Mary Jean Kinsman, photography curator for the Filson Club.

It is known that when Hundley developed smallpox in 1819, Tevis was the only person who would go near him, and she nursed him back to health. Either in return for her goodness or after his death, Hundley or his brother Thomas freed her, the accounts say.

He left her \$2,000 and about 20 slaves in 1820, Goodwin said.

Accounts also say she inherited a farmhouse near what is now Preston and Liberty streets.

Ioia Symnes Coates, who lived in the area, said in a paper she wrote for the Filson Club that Tevis later became a slave holder and owned 50 slaves "whom she either hired

out, or compelled them to work for her on her farm."

Aunt Eliza or 'Liza, as she was called, later became wealthy because of her slave dealings, Coates said.

In 1919, Coates told Courier-Journal reporter Homer Dye Jr.:

"When families were separated at the old Louisville slave market, the owners often would give the little children to her [Tevis] and she would keep them till they grew up and hire them out to the neighboring plantations. My mother used to hire the children to do our work and whenever a child came recommended by Aunt 'Liza we were never disappointed."

Everyone agrees that Tevis settled in Petersburg after being freed. She married Henry Tevis, a freed slave, in 1843 but signed a marriage agreement putting all her property in trust.

Together, the Tevis couple paid \$600 for 40 acres in the Wet Woods in 1851, Kinsman said. The property was near or part of the original Hundley plantation, which was later called Bashford Manor estate.

They raised cattle and hogs and employed white laborers and black slaves on their farm, all of which has disappeared.

Today, a cemetery on Petersburg Road occupies the spot. The Tevises, slaves, and earlier settlers are buried there, as well as people from the modern-day community.

Oral tradition states that the Tevises owned land in the Wet Woods in 1820, not 1851.

"I really do think that the oral tradition was exact," said Kinsman. "But everything that has been written about the Newburg area was written by people who didn't even live there."

"They [blacks] were not into the tradition of keeping diaries or documents or writing letters. Their history has been based on oral traditions passed down from generation to generation."

Shortly after Eliza Tevis moved to the area, four German immigrant families established the original Newburg in the 1830s near Poplar Level and Shepherdsville roads. Newburg means "new town" in German.

The families — the Heafers, Harts, Hearings and Arnolds — built their community just southeast of the Wet Woods.

"In the 19th century, Newburg was considered a coach stop to Louisville," said David Morgan, a researcher at the Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation and Archives.

"It was only about a day's ride away on horse and buggy to the city."

It was a self-contained community with a post office, a blacksmith

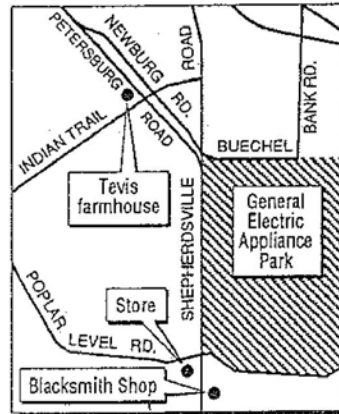
## DID YOU KNOW:

■ Forest Baptist Church, now at 3622 Petersburg Road, became the first church in Newburg in 1867 and held its first service in the home of Eliza Tevis.

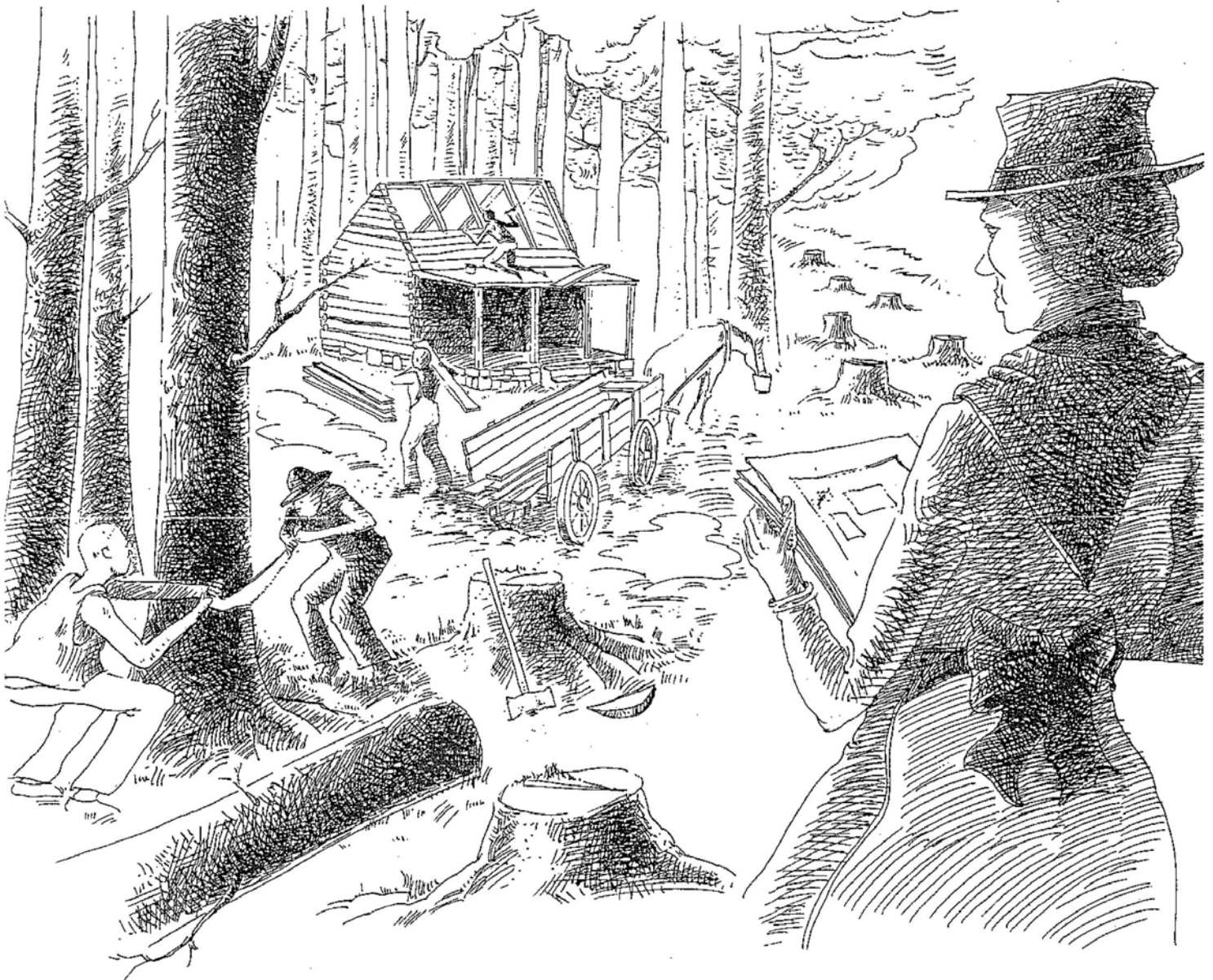
■ Legend has it that the night-wandering apparition of Pascal Craddock, a shyster lawyer who claimed to be the nephew of slave owner John Hundley and was later murdered, still wanders along the Wet Woods, west of Shepherdsville Road.

■ Broadmoor Estates, built in the 1950s, was the county's first subdivision for blacks.

■ In 1969, 24 sixth-graders at Newburg Elementary named 14 Newburg streets after famous blacks and community leaders.







shop, a hotel, a store and several homes and businesses.

By 1879, the Shively, Hikes, Oldham, Bullitt, Brentlinger and Seelbach families owned property in the area.

After the Emancipation Proclamation became effective in 1863, the family of Col. George W. Hikes, a Revolutionary War hero, wanted to sell some of its several thousand acres near present-day Newburg and what's now General Electric's Appliance Park.

Freed slaves were promised 40 acres and a mule after the proclamation. But for Peter Laws, one of the family's slaves, the promise apparently went unfulfilled.

Instead, the family decided to sell 50 acres — at \$1 per acre — to its freed slaves in the Wet Woods, an area shunned by white buyers as too swampy.

When Laws was freed, he built a log cabin in the Wet Woods in the 1860s.

"A white man teased him about it and began calling it Petersburg. The named stayed," Goodwin said.

Soon, other freed slaves migrated to the area and built cabins.

During the early 1900s, the twin communities remained surrounded by farms. Gradually, Newburg became the tag for the entire area, presumably because the post office bore that name, Goodwin said.

General Electric brought more residential and commercial growth to Newburg in the 1950s. But the biggest change came in the late 1960s, when urban-renewal programs wiped out the area's unpaved roads, outhouses, unlighted streets and substandard housing. It brought sidewalks, sewer lines, new roads, a community center

and more than 100 new homes.

The next decade saw an expansion of the community's boundaries and an influx of nearly 3,200 blacks, many moving from areas affected by urban renewal in Louisville's West End, Smoketown and Limerick neighborhoods. During the same period, 4,000 whites moved out of Newburg.

Newburg was incorporated as a city for five years, from 1982 to 1987. A weak tax base and legal battles between residents about the need for a city finally resulted in its dissolution.

Through all its changes, Goodwin wishes Newburg was still known as Petersburg "because it's named after a black man. The only reason why that area grew so much was because Negroes couldn't buy any other white land so they moved there."



# Recalling The Unique Life Of Aunt Eliza Tevis, 1791-1887, A Freed Slave

*Oddly, Before Civil War She Bought & Sold Slaves*

By Ida Symmes Coats - 1928

**A**unt Eliza Tevis was a Negro woman freed by John Hunley who afterwards became an owner of slaves. She taught them to work and hired them out to the farmers of the neighborhood. She owned about fifty Negroes. Some she bought, and some small children and babies were given to her by dealers who could sell the mothers to greater advantage when unencumbered by children.

Eliza was born in Washington, D.C., in 1791, died in Kentucky in 1887, freed by John Hunley in 1830. Hunley owned a farm of several hundred acres and was a Negro trader who bought and sold Negroes for the southern market. His farm is now owned by George Long. It is called Bashford Manor and is about two miles from Louisville. It extends from the Bardstown Road to the Newburg Road. Hunley was a Presbyterian; he built a church, gave ten thousand dollars to a college, and left a will in 1830 which freed all his Negroes. Eliza nursed him in his last illness. He died of smallpox. He gave her all the handsome furniture in his bedroom, a beautiful mahogany bed whose posts were carved with fern leaves from floor to tester, a tall Dutch clock (six feet high), bureau, wardrobe, etc., equally handsome. He deeded her a house and lot in Louisville at Preston and Liberty Streets, and gave her two thousand dollars in cash.

Her first slaves were children. Later on, she paid as high as six hundred dollars for a woman, five hundred for a man, three hundred and seventy-five for a boy, and one hundred dollars for a child of ten years.

In 1838, she located near Louisville, Kentucky, in a segregated Negro district, known as the "Wet Woods." It soon grew to be a town of one hundred houses, a church, two or three stores for dry goods, groceries, etc., and of late years a Negro road house and dance hall, much to the chagrin of the pioneers of the settlement.

She bought forty acres of ground and built a two-story

log house of eight rooms, with porch in front and in the rear. Part of the old structure is still standing. She married Tevis, a free man of color; and on the day before her wedding with this Negro, she deeded all her possessions in trust to her lawyer, James Guthrie, he who was Secretary of the United States under President Pierce. A certified copy of this document was found among her papers; it gave an accurate idea of the number of her slaves and of her

property at this date, and also made evident her disposition to manage her own affairs without the assistance of the party of the first part.

The slaves not hired were kept busy at home with the out and indoor work. Some were given the children to care for or obliged to sew for the large family; and others again were made to practice small industries. Corn husks were prepared for mattresses, and door mats of the same were made in large quantities by half-grown Negro children. Feathers were sold for beds, peacock plumes for fly brushes. Turkeys, geese, ducks, and chickens, were dressed and sent to market. Aunt Eliza bought an orchard of apples and had the Negroes gather them for the market, saving the fallen ones for cider and vinegar. The mill to grind the fruit was worked by horse power, and the primitive press was a hollow square of split logs lined with rye straw, and a weight of stones, to

extract the juice, was piled on one end of the lever.

Aunt Eliza lived as an aristocrat in her Negro town. It required tact to hold her position for half a century among her colony of followers. Many of them were criminals who took refuge in the "Wet Woods" forest.

She was kind to the unfortunate, kind to the needy, kind to the sick, and nursed many who suffered. She had a certain knowledge of medicine which came from her long experience and occasional association with physicians. Her remedies had a great reputation among her neighbors. They tell of her herb teas, powders, and salves. To keep away chills and fever, she gave them red pepper tea every morning; and when ague attacked them, vervain was the



A typical plantation scene in Kentucky during the last century.

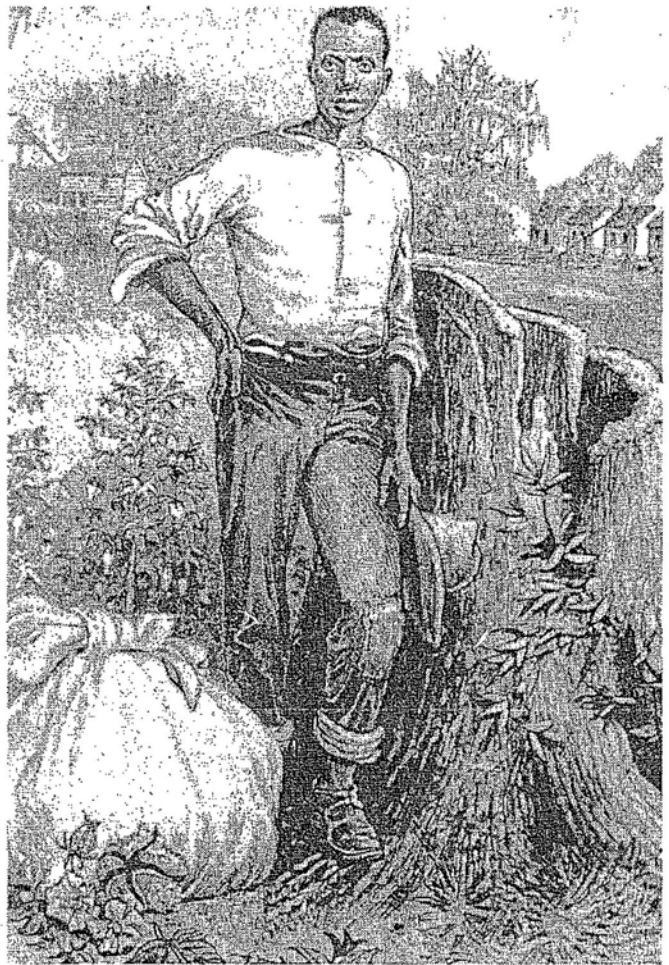


cure. A tea made of this herb will induce a profuse perspiration, and frequently after one day's treatment the chills will never return. For a headache, bruised horse radish leaves or red pepper pods, soaked in vinegar and bound to the forehead. For a sore throat, a tea made of red pepper, sage, and yellow root, and when at a boiling point, the patient was to inhale the steam. Mullein and vinegar for swelling or blue clay, and for nausea a teaspoonful of wood ashes in boiling water, taken as hot as possible. Instead of having a decayed tooth pulled she pulverized some kind of bark, wrapped it in cotton, and placed it in the cavity. This caused a rapid decay of the tooth, and in a few weeks, it came out a piece at a time. Many sores were healed by her salves and many lives saved by her efficient nursing.

She gave food to the starving and dainties to the sick, and they called her "a good old soul," "a blessed old lady," "the best old Mammy in the world," and "a captain of a woman." Of the many children she raised, you will hear many of them agree that she "raised 'em right, gave them many a whipping, but never a lick amiss." Her house was headquarters for servants and her recommendation a sure guarantee. Even after her slaves were freed, she still found them work, collecting their wages and giving them what she thought proper. The Civil War made but little change in her household.

She had an aptitude for naming her adopted children, and the unusual cognomens delighted the fancy of the Negroes. Some of them were: Alonzo, Zerald, Talleyrand, Bertrand, Columbus, America, Tisha, Venus, Priscilla, Venetter, Daphne, Clarissa, Leinth, Polyphemus, etc. The names of those who went forth were sufficient to have immortalized the home. She had a great deal of naming to do in her ninety-one years, as she lived to see the great-grandchildren of the children she raised; and some of the women had as many as nineteen to add to their generations.

She was buried at Forest Church, the meeting house near her home. They interred her in the family graveyard under her own cedars. She never had a child. Her slaves had been her children, and she willed her property to those who had been kind to her in her old age. The funeral sermon was preached by M. Hicks, a colored minister from the city, who took as his text, so he said, "She did all she could." In his simple way he enumerated her works of charity and told her mourning friends that he knew the Lord had "raised her color." It is the Negro belief that after a well-spent life, they are no longer of dark skin in the next world. He said she was the "openest hearted woman he ever knew, that there was nothing too grand to be said of Aunt Eliza." He held her up to the congregation as an example of every virtue. He commended her dignified behavior in church. He disapproved of the excited way many "get 'ligion." He obliged his converts to tell their experience in a quiet way or not at all. When discussing the subject, he said, "The ignorant man dreams many things the intelligent mind knows nothing of. Negroes are naturally superstitious; they comes from Africa whar thar is nothin' else, and that disease is in 'em yet."



After she was given her freedom, Aunt Eliza began to buy slaves for her own household. For sure, this was a rare thing in pre-Civil War Kentucky.

It might be interesting to know something of Aunt Eliza's contemporaries. Prominent among them was Henry Williams, who gave dancing lessons to children and led a band at fashionable parties. He played entirely by ear and was especially partial to square dances, the Virginia reel being his favorite. He had his own way of calling the figures of a quadrille:

*Balance de ladies!*  
*Swing your corners*  
*Chevalier all around*

Frequently he would sing two lines that rhymed and the band would come in with a chorus. One cotillion figure was called "Fire." Williams sang two lines that rhymed and the chorus gave the cry of "Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire!" and the dancers were set moving to very fast time; the figures terminating when they were almost out of breath with the order of "Lemonade all!" The last time that Williams played was at a country party in a suburb of Louisville. The dance music lasted from early in the evening until four o'clock in the morning. It had been a windy, stormy night and the dawn brought a blizzard. The old fiddler took cold on his homeward ride; he had pneumonia, and in his delirium he imagined he was still leading the band.

*You will dance, and we will sing*  
*And the merry bell will ring*  
*Ha! Ha! Haw! Ha! Ha! Haw!*  
*Ha! Ha! Haw! Ha! Ha! Haw!*



He would laugh in his raving; and then again he would scream "Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire!" "Balance de ladies," "Chevalier all around," "Swing your corners." These hallucinations excited him and made the fever worse. The dance was over, and he fell into his last sleep.

The songs sung by Aunt Eliza's slaves were mostly destitute of rhyme. After every line there was a refrain, as: "Jango, my lango, hey!" or "Ho! Jamboree," repeated five or six times. For their plaintive airs, they used:

*Heyho! Higho! Twing, twang de banjo  
Farewell Miss Julia! Fare you well  
Heyho! Higho! Twing, twang de banjo  
De slave tradêr's got me.*

*Farewell old Missus! Fare you well  
Heyho! Higho! Twing, twang de banjo  
De slave trader's got me.*

*Farewell old Master! Fare you well  
Heyho! Higho! Twing, twang de banjo  
De slave trader's got me.*

They would continue this way to say goodbye to all at their

Kentucky home. The song originated with those sold south. The cornshucking songs were also destitute of rhyme and frequently celebrated some remarkable feat of Brer Rabbit. The chorus was:

*Oh! Shuck dat corn you boys  
Oh! Ho-o-oooh! Ho-o-o-oh  
And pass dat jug round lively  
Oh! Ho-o-oooh! Ho-o-o-oh.*

The custom of having corn husked on a moonlight night out in the open by the slaves in the neighborhood making a frolic of it has passed away with slavery.

A few more years, and the "Wet Woods" settlement will have undergone changes. The woods has been cleared and the "wet" is not destined to remain much longer. The clay in this locality is just the thing for drain tile. A tile factory has been built on the border and a railroad runs through the town. The education and advantages that will come to the inhabitants will improve them, no doubt, but it is not probable there will ever be another Aunt Eliza. She will long be remembered by the Negroes of "Wet Woods" as one of the first who built a home there and lived as a queen among them.



## Down Memory Lane

Most of Kentucky was, until about 100 years ago, covered with fine forests. However, by 1930 most had been cut. These two old photos from about 1890 show what kind of trees once grew in our Kentucky. At left - note the size of this black walnut growing in Harlan County. At right - a huge yellow poplar tree (21 feet in circumference) grows in Bell County.





Nelson Goodwin, 71, founder of the Petersburg Historical Society, is convinced that the oral tradition about Eliza Tevis is true.

## The legend of ELIZA TEVIS

(And the equally fascinating truth, as far as it is known, about a liberated Louisville woman who rose from slave to "master" before the Civil War)

By JANET RINK

**W**AS SHE the half-sister and slave of Louisville plantation owner John Hundley, freed in 1820 after she nursed him through smallpox, and given \$2,000 and 20 slaves of her own?

Or was she the mulatto mistress of John's brother Thomas, also a plantation owner, named in his will in 1838 and bequeathed his bedroom furniture, \$2,000 and a house and lot in Louisville at Preston and Green?

Whatever her origins, evidence points to a very shrewd businesswoman in the person of Eliza Curtis Hundley Tevis. She rose from slave status to own a 40-acre farm in the Indian Trail-Newburg Road area, a house and lot in town and at least four slaves of her own.

Stories about Eliza Tevis have been passed down through four generations of her descendants and elaborated on in newspaper articles going back 50 years.

But it has been only in the last

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year that documentary evidence of the legends has been discovered.

Nelson Goodwin, who has traced his own slave heritage back to 1790, is the current repository of the oral tradition. Now 71, he remembers tales he first heard when he was 4 years old.

He's always been fascinated by the history of his people, but when he was a child few people shared that interest. "Many of the Negroes wouldn't talk about slavery. As a boy, I had to be very careful. I could get a whipping if I got too exacting in my questions."

Since "Roots" came out, Goodwin said, the attitude of blacks toward their heritage has changed. He has founded the Petersburg Historical Society, which has 15 members who can trace their ancestry at least 100 years.

Goodwin learned the story of Eliza Tevis from Lily "Miss Lennie" Davis, the granddaughter of Eliza Tevis' sister. (Mrs. Davis died in 1969 at the age of 91.) "Eliza Tevis belonged to John Hundley," said Goodwin. "She was his half-sister."

Continued

## Slave legend *Continu*

When Hundley was sick with smallpox in 1819, Eliza Tevis was the only one who would go near him. After she nursed him back to health, he freed her in 1820.

"He gave her \$2,000 and 20 slaves, many of them her own kin people," said Goodwin. "They weren't exactly like slaves. It was more, 'I'm in charge of you.'" Mrs. Tevis (then single) bought 20 acres of land at 50 cents an acre and set to farming. "She hired out the slaves to work, and the pay went to her."

While constructing a big log house on the property, Eliza Tevis and her slaves or kinfolk lived in tents for a year. The house faced Indian Trail and was directly behind where Star Hope Baptist Church now stands.

Eliza Tevis built a reputation as a healer and a strong religious influence in the community. "People say she made medicines that cure any ailment," said Goodwin.

An anecdote from Civil War days also has been passed down for generations. Mrs. Tevis' slaves were returning home one day with a wagonload of apples. "On the way," said Goodwin, "they passed General Nelson's troops. By the time they got home, there was only one apple left in the wagon."

After the Civil War, Col. George Hikes set aside 50 acres of his land for his former slaves and other blacks to build on. When the growing community wanted to start a church in the vicinity, Eliza Tevis offered her home until a building could be erected. Goodwin finds it fitting that four churches now stand on the property that once belonged to Mrs. Tevis.

Goodwin's mother told him Eliza Tevis "looked like a white woman and had long straight hair." She also had beautiful bedroom furniture and a large handsome platter for serving wild turkeys. "Miss Lennie" owned a piece of the bedroom furniture, a bureau, as well as the platter, and she enjoyed displaying them.

After Mrs. Tevis died in the 1880s, her property went to the son of her sister, Charles Beard. His descendants lived in the log house until they died in the late 1920s and early '30s. The house had deteriorated over the years and finally fell apart in the mid-'30s.

R.G. May acquired the property from the Beards in 1935 and established a cemetery next to the graveyard where Eliza Tevis, her relatives, slaves and descendants are said to be buried.

When Robert Samuels arrived to operate the new cemetery in 1938, the chimney was the only remnant of Eliza Tevis' house. A practical young man (he was 24 at the time), Samuels used the bricks as the foundation for the rambling frame house he built.

"Miss Lennie" soon made friends with Samuels and his mother. She showed them where Eliza Tevis is buried and told them all about the "slave graveyard."

"They buried facing east," explained Samuels. "When the Resurrection came, they believed Jesus would come from the east, and they'd all get up and follow Him." The dimensions of the graveyard are about 150-feet by 20-feet. It is overgrown with bridal wreath in spring and wild blackberry bushes in summer. Only one grave bears a marker: Alice Green — 1849 to 1928. She was the daughter of Eliza Tevis' sister.

May and Samuels set aside a portion of land behind the "slave graveyard" for free burial of any of the descendants of Eliza Tevis or her slaves. "Miss Lennie" Davis' grave is there.

When the Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory was compiled two years ago by the Kentucky Heritage Commission, a "slave graveyard" was listed as being a few hundred yards off Newburg Road at Indian Trail.

This listing brought the Eliza Tevis folklore to the attention of Mary Jean Kinsman, a researcher with the Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation. "I was intrigued by the mention of the slave graveyard."

Mrs. Kinsman traced ownership of the property back to Eliza Tevis and read the articles about her published in *The Courier-Journal* on Feb. 16, 1919, and June 8, 1941. In the articles, the oral tradition becomes embroidered with far-fetched fantasy.

Howard Hardaway wrote in 1941, "Aunt Eliza bought up a number of young huskies of her own race and went into the profitable business of hiring them out to work by the day. She owned as many as 50 young workers at a time, housing them in a two-story cabin she built on Newburg Road."

Both articles referred to an inheritance from John Hundley including \$2,000 in cash. The 1919 story mentioned a two-story log cabin, furniture and a small farm as well. The 1941 article described the inheritance as including mahogany and cherry bedroom furniture and a lot at the corner of Preston and Green.

Ida Simmes Coates told the Filson Club in 1915 that Eliza Tevis owned 50 slaves.

Mrs. Kinsman decided to pursue her research in the wills, deeds and marriage documents of the period. She did

Continued

## Slave legend *Continued*

not have high expectations. "So many times oral traditions don't check out."

Quickly, Mrs. Kinsman learned John Hundley was indeed a plantation owner in the early 1800s. At the time he died, Hundley owned more than 1,100 acres from Bardstown Road south and east to Newburg. (The land was later called the Bashford Manor estate.)

But Hundley's will proved to be a disappointment. He died in 1830, and the will was written in 1829. Nowhere was there any mention of bequests to an Eliza, although he did own a slave by that name.

"The will spelled out specific terms for the liberation of his slaves," said Mrs. Kinsman, "with those that did not qualify being transferred in ownership to his brother Thomas."

When she read Thomas Hundley's will, probated in 1838, Mrs. Kinsman discovered the source of the legends: He left "to a yellow woman now living with me called Eliza Curtis" \$2,000 in cash, his cherry bedroom furniture, and a house and lot at Preston and Green for her lifetime. After her death, the property was to be sold by an executor.

Mrs. Kinsman was so excited about finding that information she went whooping back to the office: "He really did give her the cherry bureau!"

She interpreted the phrase "yellow woman now living with me" to mean Eliza Tevis was Hundley's mulatto mistress or a highly valued servant.

Although Mrs. Kinsman found no emancipation deed for Eliza Tevis by John Hundley, she may have been freed under the terms of his will. Mrs. Kinsman found a reference in the Jefferson County Court Minute Order Books to an emancipation deed from Thomas Hundley to Eliza recorded in 1832.

"It is possible Eliza nursed John through smallpox and was later freed by his brother," said Mrs. Kinsman.

Verification of the ownership of slaves and the farm followed. When Eliza married Henry Tevis in 1843, she signed a marriage agreement putting all her property in trust. "She was a liberated woman before her time with amazing savvy," said Mrs. Kinsman. "Obviously, she didn't want her husband to have any control of her property."

Mrs. Tevis' lawyer was James Guthrie, a prominent Louisville financier and later U.S. secretary of the Treasury in the 1850s. He was also president of the L&N Railroad.

Listed among Mrs. Tevis' possessions were the Green Street (now called Liberty) property, four slaves, 40 hogs, 5 horses and two cows.

When Eliza and Henry Tevis were married, she gave her name as Eliza Hundley, taking her former master's surname. This was a common practice among slaves or free persons of color.

Mr. and Mrs. Tevis bought the property at Indian Trail and Old Newburg (now called Petersburg) Road in 1851. They paid \$600 for 40 acres. The property was near or part of the original Hundley plantations.

Although a graveyard is never mentioned in the deeds, Mrs. Kinsman thinks it highly possible a portion of the farm was a burial ground for slaves and not deemed significant enough to mention.

When Tevis died in 1869, Mrs. Tevis inherited half the land including the house. The other half went to Charles Beard, the son of Mrs. Tevis' sister. Five Tevis children — Elias, Henry, Lloyd, Louisa and Reason — received \$1 and their father's blessing.

When Nelson Goodwin learned of Mrs. Kinsman's findings, he was disturbed by the evidence that Mrs. Tevis had not bought the land until 1851. Oral tradition states positively that she was John Hundley's half-sister and came to the land in 1820.

Goodwin was astounded that Eliza Tevis had been married and flatly rejected the notion she had five children. "Somebody would have passed on word about a husband or children," he insisted.

Calvin Davis, great-grandson of Eliza Tevis' sister, agreed with Goodwin that there had never been any mention of a husband or children. He is 77.

Another resident of the area, 84-year-old Ella Allken, also knew of no husband or children. "It might could be true," she conceded, "because we don't know all about it."

But Nelson Goodwin was adamant. He's convinced that the oral tradition is true in all details.

Mary Jean Kinsman was not surprised by Goodwin's response. "His reaction is a very natural one," she said. "People don't like their family legends tampered with. But the evidence in the documents proves the oral tradition. It may not be wholly accurate, but it is legitimate."

The absence of any mention of the Tevis children in the oral tradition may have a logical explanation. The five children could have been Henry Tevis' by a previous marriage, suggested Mrs. Kinsman. That might be why Mrs. Tevis insisted on the prenuptial agreement.

Although she did not buy the land until 1851, she may have farmed it earlier and rented for 50 cents an acre.

As to whether Eliza Tevis was the half-sister of John and Thomas Hundley, the mulatto mistress of Thomas, or simply a highly valued servant, "there's no way we'll ever know for sure," said Mrs. Kinsman. "Over 150 years, little things get changed and elaborated upon. It makes a better story." □



John Hundley and Bashford Manor; Eliza Tevis and  
Newburg/Petersburg

Much of the history and oral tradition regarding the founding of Petersburg, the oldest African American settlement in Jefferson County (outside of Louisville), centers around the life of Eliza Tevis, which creates an interesting linkage to the Hundley family and Bashford Manor. Eliza Curtis Hundley Tevis was born a slave in Virginia, probably between 1800 and 1805, and became the property of John W. Hundley who, along with other members of his family, owned a large tract of land (1,100 acres) in southeastern Jefferson County which includes present-day Bashford Manor. The Hundleys were reputed to have been among the more notorious slave breeders and slave traders in the county.

According to oral tradition, Eliza Curtis was believed to have saved John Hundley's life during an 1819 smallpox epidemic--

and, when he died, his will provided that all slaves who had been in his service for fifteen years or more would be freed immediately. It is unclear whether Eliza Curtis was freed at the death of John Hundley. However, on July 1, 1833, Thomas Hundley did enter a "deed of emancipation" (which, in the context of slaves being chattel/property, gave Eliza Curtis ownership of herself) for "Eliza", now called "Eliza Hundley", in Jefferson County records. When Thomas Hundley died, his Item 3 of his Will (May 25, 1838) stated:

I give and devise to a yellow woman now living with me called Eliza or Eliza Curtis my house and lot on Green Street. . . together with the use of the alley adjoining the same for and during her natural life either to live in or rent out. I also give two thousand dollars in cash to be paid her. . . after my death and to be hers forever.

Eliza Curtis Hundley married Henry Tevis on June 17, 1843 and, on February 22, 1851, the two of them purchased 40 acres of land in the "Wet Woods" near the Hundley property from Nancy C. Bray for the sum of \$600.00. The Tevis family constructed a large log house on this property (on present-day Indian Trail behind the Star Hope Baptist Church). While construction was in progress, they and their slaves (or kinspeople) lived in tents.

The Tevis family fared well economically. In contrast to the 1850 Tax Records, which listed only Henry Tevis, the 1853 records list Eliza Tevis, a free woman of color, as the owner of 40 acres on the southfork of Beargrass Creek, worth \$700.00, 2 town lots worth a total of \$950.00, 6 slaves (2 of whom were adults) worth \$1,800.00, 5 horses, 6 cows and 2 hogs--for a total worth of \$3,600.00. According to oral tradition, Eliza Tevis was believed to have been given slave children when families were separated at the Louisville slave market. She then raised and hired out these children. If this tradition is true, it may account for the number of "slaves" (up to 50) reputed to have lived on the Tevis farm.

In 1880, the Census reflected a household (#370) in District 23 ("Two Mile House") of Jefferson County headed by Henry Beard. This household was comprised of Beard's mother, brother, two children and a "boarder" by the name of "Eliza Coleman." This boarder was 86 years old and, of course, could well have been Eliza Tevis since Census takers were not always accurate in recording information concerning African Americans (and freed African Americans were not always certain of their autobiographical facts). With the exception of two households, dwellings #364 through #387 were all African American households. The population had grown slightly to 105. Thus, the original Tevis land had been subdivided and a small, stable community of African American farmers and those who worked elsewhere as hired laborers had coalesced by the end of Reconstruction.

# Last Will & Testaments

## of John Hundley and Eliza Tevis

The following will of John Hundley was probated in Jefferson County on November 1, 1830 and can be found in Will Book 2, page 415. On the first page of his will, it states “That all the negroes who may have been fifteen years in my service from the time of their purchase be immediately set free...” John Hundley was a wealthy Louisville plantation owner who developed smallpox in 1819. Eliza Tevis was the only person who would go near him, and she nursed him back to health. For this thoughtfulness, she was freed after John Hundley’s death either by him or his brother, Thomas.

We have included the will of Henry Tevis. While we don’t know when he died, his last Will and Testament was probated on October 4, 1869, naming his “beloved wife” Elizabeth. After being freed Eliza Tevis settled in Petersburg and married Henry Tevis, a freed slave, in 1843. Though married to Henry Tevis, a marriage agreement was signed putting all her property in trust.

- Will of John Hundley
- Will of Henry Tevis, husband of Elizabeth Tevis

my hand and - fixed my seal this twenty second day of August in the  
 year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seven  
 Test  
 Samuel Pharris  
 Joshua McClawley  
 Benjamin Sharp  
 James Dawson

At a County Court held for Jefferson County in the State of Ken-  
 tucky at the Court house in the City of Louisville on the fifth day of  
 October Eighteen hundred and thirty. The within and foregoing Instru-  
 ment of writing purporting to be the last will and testament of  
 James Dawson dec'd was produced in Court and proved to be such  
 by the oath of Benjamin -- a subscribing witness thereto, the  
 said Sharp also proved the hand writing of Joshua McClawley a  
 subscribing witness to the said will who is dead. Whereupon the same  
 was established to be the last will and testament of the said Daw-  
 son and ordered to be recorded  
 Teste  
 Gordon Pope clk

In the name of God Amen. I John W Munday being of sound  
 mind and in the full exercise of my reason, under a clear con-  
 viction of my mortality do make and Ordain this my last will  
 and testament and hereby do revoke, annul and shake void  
 any will I may have made heretofore. In the first place belie-  
 ving most firmly the truth of the Christian Religion, I commend  
 my soul to the love and keeping of a sin pardoning God  
 through our Lord Jesus Christ. I do in the full hope of the  
 Resurrection of the Just at the last day I resign my body to the  
 dust and direct that it be buried decently in a manner be-  
 coming Christianity without unnecessary ceremony or parade  
 of worldly respects to that portion of worldly estate with which  
 God has blessed me. I will that after my funeral expenses  
 are discharged all my just debts be ascertained & promptly  
 and faithfully paid off. That all the negroes who may have  
 been fifteen years in my service from the time of their purchase  
 be immediately set free. That those not born mine who may  
 not have completed that length of service shall remain the  
 property of my brother Thomas Munday until the expiration of  
 fifteen years from their purchase and then to be liberated  
 that all which have been born mine shall be free when they  
 arrive at the age of twenty five or at the death of my brother  
 Thomas Munday be their age what it may or whatever  
 have been the term of service of the others above specified  
 and any child born of a female during the time of her  
 service shall go out free with its mother when she is of any age  
 that shall remain in slavery after my death  
 The plantation which I have bought of ...

W. M. set aside a drawing room to direct them as  
 and Thomas C. Munday in the 4th day of June  
 1832/ Sw County Court & Order Book pages 186. 10

Will of  
 John Munday



my hand and - fixed my seal this twenty second day of August in the  
 year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seven  
 Test Samuel Sharps  
 Joshua M. Crowley  
 Benjamin Sharp

James Harwood

At a County Court held for Jefferson County in the State of Ken-  
 tucky at the Court house in the City of Louisville on the fifth day of  
 October Eighteen hundred and thirty. The within and foregoing Instru-  
 ment of writing purporting to be the last will and testament of  
 James Harwood dec'd was produced in Court and proved to be such  
 by the oath of Benjamin - a subscribing witness thereto, the  
 said Sharps also proved the hand writing of Joshua M. Crowley as  
 subscribing witness to the said will who is dead, Whereupon the same  
 was established to be the last will and testament of the said Har-  
 wood and ordered to be recorded. Seal of  
 Warden Pope CLK

In the name of God Amen. I John H. Muddley being of sound  
 mind and in the full exercise of my reason, under a clear con-  
 viction of my mortality, do make and Ordain this my last will  
 and testament and hereby do revoke, annul and shake void  
 any will I may have made heretofore. In the first place believ-  
 ing most firmly the truth of the Christian Religion, I commit  
 my soul to the love and keeping of a sin pardoning God  
 through our Lord Jesus Christ. In the full hope of the  
 Resurrection of the Just at the last day I resign my body to the  
 dust and direct that it be buried decently in a manner be-  
 coming Christianity without unnecessary ceremony or parade.  
 With respect to that portion of worldly estate with which  
 God has blessed me, I will that after my funeral expenses  
 are discharged all my just debts be ascertained by inventory  
 and faithfully paid off. That all the negroes who may have  
 been fifteen years in my service from the time of their purchase  
 be immediately set free. That those not born mine who may  
 not have completed that length of service shall remain the  
 property of my brother Thomas H. Muddley until the expiration of  
 fifteen years from their purchase and then to be liberated.  
 That all which have been born mine shall be free when they  
 arrive at the age of twenty five or at the death of my brother  
 Thomas H. Muddley be their age what it may or whatever  
 have been the terms of service of the others above specified.  
 And any child born of a female during the time of her  
 service shall go out free with its mother if one of any dis-  
 tinction shall remain in slavery after her death.  
 The plantation on which I now live containing thereon

W. H. Muddley  
 and Thomas H. Muddley, in the 11<sup>th</sup> copy of same  
 1837 of 300 County Court Books pages 126, 127



and sixty eight acres more or less with all its improvements, together with any other lands in Jefferson County of which I may be possessed at the time of my death, I wish to remain in the possession of and use of my brother Thomas W. Hundley for the space of two full years after my decease then that it pass to my Executors as a fund in trust, the proceeds to be employed for the use of God forever in the manner following that is. If a Theological Seminary shall be placed on the premises so that the Avails may accrue to the Institution and be used by the Managers of the Seminary for the purpose of preparing pious young men for the Gospel Ministry and under the discipline of the Presbyterian Church then these lands shall not be sold but be vested in the legal Officers of the Seminary and their successors forever in trust for the use of the Seminary they giving legal security that the proceeds be faithfully applied according to the design of this instrument. The beneficiaries shall be chosen by my Executors during their natural life and forever afterwards by the legal Representatives of the two first named Executors in my will together with the legal Officers of the Institution for the time being; But if any of my blood relations shall offer themselves and be deemed suitable beneficiaries they shall always be received on the fund. The system of Theology taught in the Seminary shall be that contained in the Standards of the Presbyterian Church and as it is held by the Genl. Assy of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. But if such an Institution cannot be established with propriety on the premises, then the lands with their improvements shall be advertised twelve months previous to sale in public newspapers and be then sold on a credit of five years payable in annual instalments bearing interest from the date of the sale, the title to be retained as security until the last payment shall be made. The money thus accruing shall be held a permanent fund, the interest of which shall be employed by my Executors and their legal Representatives forever to aid in the education of pious young men in preparing for the Gospel Ministry, which provision shall extend both to a classical and Theological course. The above sum hereby bequeathed shall be vested under the Charter of Kenton College, the interest only to be used by the Executive Committee of the Education Society acting under the present Constitution. The whole and every part shall be so invested and secured as to prevent the danger of loss in the principle or unproductive use in the interest of any form there should be evident danger of the security of the fund or the misapplication of its use, or if the system of Theology taught there should materially differ from that of the Presbyterian Church as above specified, then my Executors shall vest the same hereby designed in some other Institution when the object as specified can be obtained. Should any of my blood relations be pious and be desirous of pursuing a course to qualify them for the Gospel Ministry, they shall be entitled to an interest in the fund to secure their education.

If any of my I may have on hand or at interest by bond or otherwise I bequeath to my beloved brother Thomas W. Hundley at my death the sum of twelve thousand dollars, including any sum

Of the same sale I will that my brother Thomas W. Hundley and the proceeds be paid over to my brother Jacob W. Hundley during his natural life

I bequeath to my brother Thomas W. Hundley at my death the sum of twelve thousand dollars, including any sum

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Of the same value I will that One thousand dollars be put to interest and the proceeds to pass over to my brother Jacob W Wendley during his natural life

I also bequeath from the same stock One thousand dollars to the American Tract Society of New York, to constitute a fund the interest of which shall be employed by the Branch Society of Louisville Kentucky, Auxiliary to the American Tract Society for the use of the Western Country, or in case that Branch Society should cease to exist, then to be used by some other Society having the same design and acting in the same manner under the influence of the parent Society

Out of the same monies I bequeath One thousand dollars to an Orphan Asylum to aid in the support and education of poor Orphan Children and if the Orphan Asylum now established by law at Middletown in Jefferson County - shall afford evidence of stability and permanency it shall enjoy the benefits of the proceeds of this fund, the principle to remain untouched. But if that Asylum shall fail or be unsafe, then my Executors are required to seek out such an institution where the funds may be usefully employed, giving preference to the State of Kentucky if practicable. All this fund may be placed black children not exceeding five at one time and no beneficiary of colour to remain longer than five years. Moreover if any of my blood relations should desire it, their children may be received into the Asylum as if they were Orphans.

Whatever further sum of money may be in my hand at interest or due by bonds at the time of my death I bequeath to the Education Society of Kentucky if established at Manville in order to fund permanent Scholarships according to their Constitution. The two Scholarships engaged already for twenty years shall be on a do permanent and the fund shall be employed to its extent in erecting other permanent Scholarships

To my brother Thomas C Wendley I bequeath four horses at his choice out of my stock, together with my walking gig, bed, secretary, book case, all my books and all my wearing apparatus for his own personal use.

To my brother Jacob W Wendley I give a second choice of my stock to the value of One hundred and fifty dollars. Before any dividend of my money at interest be made as above devised I will that five hundred dollars of the money be applied to the purchase and freedom of a black man named Daniel Hurkin, now in slavery near Woodville Mississippi, if he cannot be purchased the money shall be given to himself; but if he is dead then the money shall be given to the Education Society as part of a Scholarship.

The remainder of my stock, all the farming utensils, household and kitchen furniture, together with all my moveables on the plantation, after remaining two years in the possession and use of my brother Thomas C Wendley shall next to be sold on a credit of twelve months. Of the proceeds of that sale I will that fifteen hundred dollars be put to interest and the proceeds thence arising be annually paid over to my brother Elisha C Wendley during the term of his natural life and that of his present wife. At the death of these legacies these two sums united constitutes a fund in aid of the Public Cause.



Dated, Signed, Sealed as above  
The words "Thomas" and "old"  
intentioned before signed.  
It acknowledged in the presence of  
James Nile

John W Munday

State of Kentucky  
At a County Court held for Jefferson County  
at the Court house in the City of Louisville on the first day of  
November One thousand eight hundred and thirty  
An Instrument of writing purporting to be the last will  
and testament of John W Munday dec'd late of this County  
was produced in Court and proved to be such by the oaths of  
William M King and Francis Snowden two of the subscribing  
witnesses thereto. Also the first codicil was proved by the oaths of  
William M King and Francis Snowden two of the subscribing  
witnesses thereto and also the 2<sup>d</sup> and last Codicil to the said  
will was proved to be in the hand writing of and wholly written  
by the said John W Munday by the oaths of James Guthrie  
and Charles M Thurston Esquires and the said last will and  
testament and Codicils were established as the last will and testa-  
ment and Codicils of the said Munday and orders to be recorded  
And on the motion of James M Cunningham, Hugh M Elroy and  
Anthony M Elroy execution of the said will is granted them, they  
having made oaths according to law. Whereupon the said James  
M Cunningham gave bond in the penalty of Five hundred thou-  
sand dollars with John Frederick, Peter Goatey, Mordecai Warden, James  
Ewing, Elias Dawson, Henry Pope, John Galhoun, James Bentley, Saml  
Grundy, Andrew Cunningham, John Thomas, Edwards Berry, Jesse  
H Riney, William B Harrison, Abram McElroy, Alexander Hamilton,  
Paschal D Broadbuck, Hugh McElroy and Anthony M Elroy his  
securities conditioned according to law and the said Hugh  
McElroy gave bond in the penalty of two hundred thousand  
dollars with John Frederick, Peter Goatey, Mordecai Warden, James  
Ewing, Elias Dawson, Henry Pope, John Galhoun, James Bentley, Samuel  
Grundy, Andrew Cunningham, John Thomas, Edwards Berry, Jesse H Riney,  
William B Harrison, Abraham McElroy, Alexander Hamilton  
Paschal D Broadbuck, James M Cunningham and Anthony M  
Elroy his securities conditioned according to law and Anthony  
McElroy gave bond in the penalty of two hundred thousand  
dollars with John Frederick, Peter Goatey, Mordecai Warden, James  
Ewing, Elias Dawson, Henry Pope, John Galhoun, James Bentley, Saml  
Grundy, Andrew Cunningham, John Thomas, Edw<sup>d</sup> Berry, Jesse H Riney,  
William B Harrison, Abram McElroy, Alex<sup>r</sup> Hamilton, Paschal D  
Broadbuck, Hugh McElroy, and James M Cunningham his sec-  
urities conditioned according to law which will and Codicils are  
recorded in my Office as books of said Court

Warden Pope Clerk



Defferson County at the Court House in the city of  
 Louisville on the 30 day of May 1870 The fore  
 going instrument of writing purporting to be the  
 last will and testament of Joseph Hug dec'd late  
 of this County was produced in Court and proved  
 by the oath of Ignatz Habich and Fred Kink the two  
 subscribing witnesses thereto who also made oath that  
 they signed the same at the request of the testator in  
 his presence and in the presence of each other where  
 upon the same was established by the Court to be  
 the last will and testament of said Joseph Hug dec'd  
 and ordered to be recorded and is recorded in  
 my office as Clerk of said Court the probate  
 thereof being duly stamped as required by act of  
 Congress

Wm. Jaar Com. Clk

Teris  
 Hill

Defferson County Kentucky September 6<sup>th</sup> 1869  
 In the name of God Amen I Henry Teris  
 a free man of colour being of sound mind  
 & disposing memory do make constitute &  
 publish this as my last will & testament first  
 I wish & will to my beloved wife Elizabeth the  
 sole possession control & free use of the farm  
 on which I now live (being the same purchased  
 of Nancy Bray containing (40) forty acres &  
 recorded in the office of the County Clerk of  
 Defferson County Ky) during her natural life  
 at her death I leave will & desire to her one  
 half (20) 20 acres of said land in fee simple  
 to dispose of as she may see fit to her best or as she  
 may desire I also desire give & bequeath to my be-  
 loved wife Eliza all my personal property  
 of every kind description horses mules cattle  
 hogs and all farming implements and all  
 the household goods furniture in a word every  
 thing except the realty above mentioned to use  
 & dispose of as she may desire I also will & be-  
 queath to my (5) five children viz Eliza Henry  
 Isaac David Rezin my blessing and one dollar  
 each I hereby name my Executor who is

1869  
 Teris





to my Grand son George son of Elias One hundred  
 fifty Dollars to my Grand son William & my grand  
 daughter Harriet children of my daughter Louisa I  
 will & bequeath One hundred & fifty Dollars each  
 I leave well & give to Charles Beard the son of Henry  
 Beard now about (13) thirteen years old all the residue  
 & remainder of my estate after paying my honest  
 debts & the above mentioned legacies & bequests  
 I hereby appoint Amos Seibold my Executor  
 to carry out & execute this my last will & testament  
 I also wish desire & request my wife Eliza to pay  
 all my just debts from the proceeds of the farm  
 as fast as possible these debts must be paid  
 just as soon as possible & I hope my wife  
 will use every endeavor to do so signed the day  
 & date first written

Witnesses  
 Robert Montgomery  
 J<sup>m</sup> W Goldsmith  
 Thomas J Goldsmith  
 State of Kentucky

Henry <sup>his</sup> Seis

All a County Court held  
 for Jefferson County at the Court House in  
 the City of Louisville on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October  
 1860 The foregoing instrument of writing pur-  
 porting to be the last will and Testament of  
 Henry Seis dec<sup>d</sup> late of this County was produced  
 and in Court and sworn by the oaths of  
 Robert Montgomery, J<sup>m</sup> W Goldsmith and Thomas  
 J Goldsmith the subscribing witnesses thereto  
 who also made oath that they signed the same  
 at the request of the testator in his presence and  
 in the presence of each other where upon  
 the same was established by the Court to be the  
 last will and Testament of said Henry Seis  
 dec<sup>d</sup> and ordered to be recorded and is re-  
 corded in my office as Clerk of said Court  
 the Probate being duly stamped as required by act  
 of Congress

Wm J. Jackson, Clerk

# Newburg Accounts

## 1950 - 2008

Newspaper articles such as those found in this section provide more details of on the Newburg community, as well as documents the “collective memory” of a community. Articles from the Louisville Times and the Louisville Courier Journal range from 1952 to 2008. They embrace day-to-day life in the community relating to Newburg and Petersburg history, urban renewal, the incorporation and dissolution of a Newburg as a city, building of landmarks, neighborhood events, and personal connections with individuals of the area.

These articles have been listed chronologically so that a feeling of living the history of Newburg can be not only read but felt.

- Urban Renewal is defined as the redevelopment or rehabilitation of real property in a city, usually as the result of a cooperative effort by private developers and local government. Newburg saw two stages of urban renewal over two decades.
- Incorporation and dissolution of Newburg as a city (66)
- Forest Home Cemetery (67, 68, and 70, 73 can be moved up to have them together if you want)
- Individuals of the community: Mr. Nelson Goodwin, Worden Dorsey, and Rev. William T. Shumake
- Rangeland Elementary has 100% participation in the Louisville Free Public Library’s Summer Reading Program

# Subdivision Is Planned For Negroes

A 320-home subdivision for Negroes is planned on an 80-acre tract at Indian Trail and Old Shepherdsville Road.

The project came to light at a meeting of Louisville Water Company directors yesterday when they discussed plans for supplying water to the proposed homes.

Robert Adelberg, real estate man who is working with Eastern capitalists on plans for the subdivision, said the houses would be four rooms, with utility space, of frame or asbestos shingle construction.

The subdivision developers hope to get F.H.A. approval for the project. The homes would sell for about \$7,500 each, with down payments of \$500 or \$600, monthly payments of about \$45.

The chief obstacle at present is the question of water service, which also was raised in connection with a 2,000-family subdivision proposed by Dennis H. Long and associates on the Bashford Manor Farms, Bashford Manor Lane and Newburg Road.

## Water Rates Problem

Both subdivisions are near the General Electric Company's Appliance Park at Buechel.

Water company directors are reluctant to commit themselves to making new connections outside the city until the question of water rates is settled.

Efforts to raise rates to county customers were stalled when Circuit Judge Macauley L. Smith ruled they would have to take the proposal to the State Public Service Commission.

The directors authorized B. E. Payne, superintendent and chief engineer, to take bids on materials for a 60-inch main from the Crescent Hill pumping station to Bardstown Road and the Inner Belt Highway.

The purpose of this line would be to boost the capacity of a 30-inch line to the G.E. plant so that other customers could be served from it.



## AROUND AND ABOUT LOUISVILLE

# Newburg Area Road Route Protested

Negroes will be deprived of living space by a four-lane road proposed in the Newburg area. County officials were told yesterday.

One of the four leaders at the County People's Day, Nelson Goodwin said the road's right-of-way includes land needed for homes in one of the few Negro communities in Jefferson County.

"If a white man's land is taken for highway right-of-way he can move to another subdivision, but if a Negro's is taken it may mean he must go back to the alleys," Goodwin said.

A Newburg landscape gardener, Goodwin said he owns 2 1/5 acres on the route and he hopes

to develop some of it commercially.

The State Highway Department plans to build the new highway from Newburg Road near the Southern Railway crossing, skirt Newburg and connect with Buechel Bank Road and Old Shepherdsville Road. It will ease the flow of traffic to and from General Electric Appliance Park.

County Road Engineer W. Price Lane said the State made two plans for the route and chose the second one through open country. Present plans take in six or eight residences and some lots in a new subdivision for Negroes, he said.

The other plan was to widen

Newburg Road through the town of Newburg.

County Judge Bertram C. Van Arsdale and other officials expressed interest in the problem, but explained they had nothing to do with the road except obtain rights-of-way.

They suggested Goodwin prepare a petition objecting to the route and take it to the State Highway Department.

In one of two complaints on drainage, Mrs. O. E. Roberts, 5524 Bamberie Cross Road, said her lot is the lowest of several in the area and surface water and sewage seepage collect on her property.

Health and road officials will

investigate the problem, Judge Van Arsdale said, and suggested that Mrs. Roberts see a lawyer to learn whether she could get relief through court action.

The drainage complaint of Mrs. G. R. Walker, Valley Station, was referred to the road department. She said bad drainage on a County road near Orell causes her trouble.

John Gude, 1411 Rufer, asked the County to improve a private road near his property at Fin-castle Beach near Orell. Since the road is not in the County system it cannot be improved, he was told. However, officials suggested a road district might be formed to have the work done.

## New Protest Planned on Drainage Job

A meeting of property owners in the Newburg area has been called for 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Community Baptist Church, Indian Trail south of Newburg Road, to solidify opposition to the Pond Creek drainage project.

Purpose of the meeting is to raise money to hire an attorney and engineer so that objections can be filed with the Metropolitan Sewer District, according to Nelson Goodwin, 3820 Newburg Road.

"We have to file by August 14 or the action becomes final," Goodwin said. "Our main objection is that we don't know what it will cost. Can we afford it?" AUG 4 1958

Goodwin added that the Newburg group plans to join with Highview protestors in opposing the project.

The M.S.D. is currently advertising the boundaries of the Pond Creek project, which involves cleaning ditches in 92 of Jefferson County's 402 square miles and affects the property of 17,000 to 20,000 landowners.

Protesters can appeal to the Fiscal Court if overruled by the sewer district.

The Court of Appeals has ruled that property owners in the Pond Creek basin can be assessed for drainage improvements. The sewer district says assessments against individual property owners will be announced next February.

Source: Louisville Courier-Journal, Jan. 5, 1955

Source: Louisville Courier-Journal, Aug. 4, 1958



# Residents May Get Vote On 'Suburban Renewal'

By JAMES DRISCOLL

The residents of a "suburban renewal" area near Indian Trail may have a chance to vote on whether they want their neighborhood improved.

County Judge Marlow W. Cook last night told about 150 residents of the area, "If you people want an election on this program, I'm willing to leave it up to you." Most of the 150 applauded this statement.

The redevelopment area includes some 500 acres in the Indian Trail-Newburg Road section. The Federal Government has advanced \$53,584 for planning the project, and has set aside \$584,099 for the first stage of redevelopment.

## Project Opposed

Cook appeared at a meeting at Newburg School sponsored by the Newburg Civic Committee, which so far has opposed the project. Cook described the outlines of the program—details are not available.

The meeting was noisy and argumentative. The person who opposed the project most strongly, Nelson Goodwin, 55, of 3820 Newburg Road, accused Cook of planning the program without consulting the residents.

Cook said that no move has

been made, or will be made without participation of the residents.

## Commission To Be Chosen

"You are going to make the decisions—you are going to decide. A five-man commission will be chosen to direct the program, and two or three of them will be from this neighborhood," Cook said.

He added that he plans to appoint Goodwin to the commission.

Goodwin, a member of the Newburg Civic Committee, became angry when some people in the audience supported the program.

"The committee objects to this program. We paid for this meeting and we don't like the program," he said.

Mrs. Claude White, 3521 Bashford, told Goodwin:

"You should have put up a sign saying this meeting was only for people who object to a good living."

## Meeting Slated Next Week

Cook then said he would call a meeting at the same place sometime next week.

"I'll rent this room for \$15 from my own pocket. We'll sit down quietly and talk about it," Cook said.

Earlier Cooke made these points:

1. Rumors of bulldozers moving in along with a big industrial plant are not true. Most of the people will continue to live where they are, although a small number of "really substandard houses" will be torn down.

2. Sewer and water systems will be paid for by the County with money borrowed from the Federal Government. Residents will not have to pay for these improvements. Much of the area is without sewers and water lines.

The redevelopment area stretches south of West Buchel and southwest to include the Lincoln Park Subdivision. Most of the residents are Negroes.



## 200 RESIDENTS SPLIT ON

# Newburg Renewal

Jefferson County's urban-renewal director defended his program to the residents of Newburg last night and promised to try to get jobs for the unemployed, better housing for the poor, and educational programs for the unschooled.

The remarks of the director, Douglas G. Taylor, got a mixed reception from about 200 residents of the Indian Trail-Newburg Road area affected by the renewal project.

Some of them said they liked the project, and others vehemently opposed it in a meeting in the Newburg School cafeteria that was steamy with heat and frequently crackling with anger.

The opposition was led by Nelson Goodwin, of 3820 Newburg Road, who declared, "I just don't buy the plan." He criticized it because, he said, "It guarantees you a play-

residents of the area had been consulted about the renewal plan.

He said there should be a steering committee to represent the residents and declared:

"Until we have such a committee as this, as pastor of the Community Missionary Baptist, I'll do everything to stop it (the project). I'll take it to federal court."

"I'll be with you," shouted Goodwin. "I'll be with you." The crowd applauded.

But the pendulum swung back the other way a bit later.

The Rev. C. E. Salter criticized those who oppose the renewal project and said, "We want to take every step to get this thing going. We can get something good out of it if we'll try." He, too, got applause.

### Promises Not Specific

Without the renewal project, Mr. Salter, who lives at 3536 Bashford Avenue, said, the area would continue to lack sewers, good streets, and streetlights.

After a man who lived in the third stage of the project asked why he had to wait until that stage gets going to move out, Taylor responded:

"There's a good possibility that if you want to sell ahead of time, that we may be able to work something out. But I can't promise anything."

Taylor's other promises were similarly unspcific.

"We're working on a feasible method for those people who make \$100 to \$150 a month to stay in this area in good housing. We're working with the State on that problem," he said.

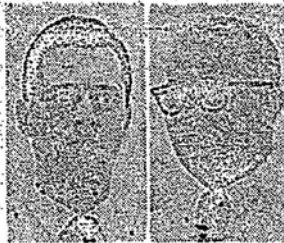
### Area Needs Surveyed

"There's a good possibility that we may have a provision for some hiring in this area," he continued, "but it's not certain yet."

Later he said that a survey of residents' needs and desires had showed many adults wanted to improve their education. He said he hoped something could be worked out with the County Board of Education.

Today, Taylor said that perhaps the churches in the renewal project—the only one the County has—might sponsor low-cost housing by setting up a non-profit corporation. Federally insured loans are available for such projects, he noted.

Taylor also said that the renewal agency would hire some people in maintenance capacities once land has been cleared in the project area. He acknowledged that the number would be few.



Taylor Dorsey

ground, but it doesn't guarantee you a job."

He attacked the basis for the plan—the feeling that many of the houses in the area, because they lack sewers and running water, are health hazards.

### 600 Houses In Area

The project reaches west from Newburg Road along either side of Indian Trail to include the Lincoln Park subdivision, and east from Newburg Road along the Southern Railway tracks.

Plans call for demolition of most of the approximately 600 houses outside the subdivision and for construction of single-family housing for the elderly, and a community center. The project would be carried out in three stages over a 10-year period.

"I'm all over this town. I know what's going on. I know there're worse places than this" shouted Goodwin, a big man with a booming voice. Murmurs of agreement swept through the crowd.

The Rev. W. T. Shoemaker, pastor of the Community Missionary Baptist Church on Indian Trail, questioned whether



# Newburg's Dilemma: Urban Renewal Or Enforced Sanitation

## Many homes may be ruled unfit under county code

By JAMES ALSBROOK, Staff Writer

ABOUT 400 families in the 600-acre Newburg Road-Indian Trail area must make a big decision: They must either accept a county urban-renewal program for their neighborhood or expect many homes there to be declared unfit for human habitation because of numerous violations of the city-county housing and sanitation code.

Bringing most of the deficient homes up to city-county requirements is almost impossible, many of the violators admit. The cost would be too much for low-income residents—many of them elderly, others of poverty status.

Some in this area, 2 miles south of Waterson Expressway, welcome the idea of urban renewal. Led by Rev. Charles E. Salter, 3536 Bashford Ave., they are seeking to create sentiment favoring the program. Others—led by landscape gardener Nelson Goodwin, 3820 Newburg Road, oppose it.

### Petitions Circulated

Both sides have been circulating petitions upholding their positions and intend to present them to County Judge Marlow W. Cook. Both sides claim the backing of a majority of the residents. Some residents admit signing both opposing petitions, saying they did so "to satisfy" or "to keep from arguing."

Pro-urban-renewal petitions reportedly are signed only by "property owners over 21," Rev. Salter said. Goodwin said anti-urban-renewal petitions are signed by "any person over 21 with his home, business or church membership in this area."

Judge Cook said he has not requested the signing of petitions and has not specified qualifications for petition signers.

No one has defined what evidence of opposition would cause county officials to abandon urban-renewal plans.

"We won't run urban renewal down their throats," Judge Cook said. "But the health of the entire county must be safeguarded, and the housing and sanitation laws must be enforced."

County officials said present conditions in the area are intolerable and unless most of the code violators get help from unforeseen sources, many homes probably will be declared unfit for human habitation and their occupants forced to vacate.

Fiscal Court already has appropriated \$22,000 for enforcement of the sanitation and housing code enacted last fall, and the Newburg Road-Indian Trail area probably will be among the first inspected.

Dr. Tom Wallace, director of the City-

County Health Department, said that two years ago—before the adoption of last fall's more-stringent regulations—county inspectors visited 83 homes in the area and issued 269 orders for correction.

### Violations Found

These concerned outdoor violations, such as faulty septic tanks, stagnant or standing water, improper trash or garbage disposal, and unsanitary wells, cisterns and hydrants. Sixty-four per cent of the homes in the sample area had unsatisfactory surroundings.

Inspectors found 61 outdoor toilets on the 33 properties. Twenty-nine homes had no running water, and 20 had substandard wells. Five of eight cisterns were below requirements. The attendant at a service station on Newburg Road said several customers living in the area still bring pails to the station for drinking water.

The inspectors did not record numerous violations inside the homes.

The area also lacks well-paved roads, adequate street lights and natural gas.

A major part of the area is bounded generally by Newburg Road, Bishoff Lane, Pfeiffer Avenue and Ironwood Road. An adjacent tract runs east across Newburg Road along the Southern Railroad tracks, and is bounded on the north and west by West Buchel, on the east by Old Shepherdsville Road, and on the south, roughly, by Pfeiffer Avenue.

Residents favoring urban renewal say the area's deficiencies are too many and too large for individual correction.

Robert E. Moran, 27, 1712 N. Gay, a mechanic, said "This place simply is not clean without sewers. And if other things weren't bad enough, I smell hogs and other bad odors when I go outdoors."

Mrs. Katherine Wright, 33, of 3704 Manchester, has seven children in a three-bedroom home.

"We rent for \$50 a month, and you see the house is not very good," Mrs. Wright said. "If urban renewal came, we could get a better place for a little more money. We heat with coal and have a bath without sewers."

A General Electric Company employe, Theodore Weaver, 40, of 1800 Winkfield, said, "I'm buying this home, but I believe urban renewal is good for us.

We need modern plumbing, modern heating and modern sanitation."

The father of seven children, Curtis Edwards, 31, of 3802 Doerr, said he favors the urban-renewal project because his home is "old and cold," requires coal for heating, and has no bath. It has an outside toilet, is on a badly paved road with inadequate street lighting, and rent costs him \$50 a month.

Among those opposing urban renewal are Mr. and Mrs. Julian White, 3655 Newburg Road. White, 50, is a retired foundry worker. He said, "The people should have a chance to fix up their

property. Some may have to be torn down. But if meeting the law requires more money, we'll just have to pay it."

Claudis Martin, 61, of 1610 Park Boulevard, a city-street-department worker, said, "We would not get enough money if we sold to urban renewal, and we'd have to go into debt again and pay a price we cannot afford."

Arthur Walton, 58, of 1608 Park, said, "Look at me. I'm gray-headed. I cannot get a loan. I can't stand a bit of debt for a new house."

Johnnie Keller, about 60, of 1732

Smith Drive, opposes the urban-renewal program, he said, because he believes it would impose financial burdens on the elderly. "The old folks just can't afford to move."

Rev. E. F. Brooks, pastor of Forest Baptist Church, Goffner and Newburg, said he thinks some were offered because "the people downtown didn't consult the people out here—they just came out and announced what they were going to do."

Others are indifferent. J. B. Goodwin, 59, of 4811 Indian Trail, a laborer, said he signed the petition his brother is circulating against urban renewal "because I got tired of talking about it. I'm really mixed on this—it would work a hardship on old folks, but it is needed. This area is a source of contamination."

Goodwin said his home cost about \$16,000, but has no septic tank and sits on shale that requires special sewage disposal.

### 'Wait And See'

Walter Myers, 66, of 4917 Indian Trail, is a retired caretaker for the University of Louisville. He said, "I am just waiting for someone to come and tell me what to do with my eight lots. I don't make sense out of the wrangling and arguing at the meetings they held."

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert McElroy live at 2091 Old Shepherdsville Road. They said their employer owns their home, and will get them another if urban renewal comes. "It doesn't make much difference to us what urban renewal does," Mrs. McElroy said. "Some of those places over behind us are in bad shape."

County Urban Renewal Director Douglas G. Taylor said that if the 400 families were displaced, most of them could be housed in Lincoln Park, a nearby subdivision with 320 vacant homes.

"A nonprofit corporation could be created to buy these deteriorating homes from the F.H.A., refurbish them and offer them for sale or rent at about \$40 or \$15 a month," Taylor said.

"This would care for all but 80 families, and provisions for them would be made before they were forced to move."

The Urban Renewal Agency finds homes for families forced to vacate, pays moving expenses, and gives them priority on the list of returnees when new homes are built.

But the opposition leader, Nelson

Goodwin, said the Lincoln Park homes "won't hold nails," are "crumbling down" on their occupants, and were "built too cheap."

"If we sell to urban renewal, where will our children buy and live?" he asked. "Urban renewal is a dictatorship, works hardships on the people," and is a scheme "to get land away from Negroes and to get Negroes out of Bashford Manor School."

The area he designated is near railroad tracks, and would be zoned industrial.

Judge Cook said the rights of all citizens are protected by laws governing urban-renewal policies and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Goodwin said, "This whole scheme was born and bred in politics," adding that he is a Democrat and Judge Cook is a Republican.

Rev. Salter, Goodwin's opponent, said, "Things are moving so slowly it seems that politics may be entering the picture. If so, we want to know it so we can get into the political battle. We want and intend to get urban renewal."

### Work Continues

Meanwhile, work on the project continues. The Federal Government has invested \$83,336 in it, with \$62,000 already spent for overall planning, studies, surveys, and day-to-day operation of the County Urban Renewal Agency.

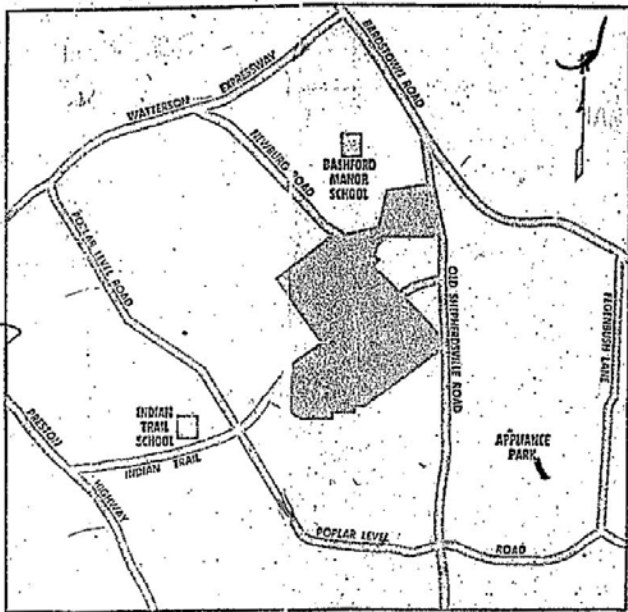
The General Neighborhood Renewal Plan has been approved by county officials and is under consideration at the urban-renewal regional offices at Atlanta. Washington headquarters approval usually comes soon after regional approval.

Also under consideration at Atlanta is a request for \$145,275 for detailed planning of Project No. 1, the area south of Indian Trail.

If county urban-renewal plans are effected without serious interruption, the first building could not appear before "a year or two," Taylor said. "Securing various government approvals, negotiating land purchases, getting clear titles, relocating displaced families and handling other details are quite time-consuming."

While the two-member County Urban Renewal Agency staff awaits the Atlanta approvals, it is arranging educational and recreational facilities for the area.

"We must renew people as well as things," said Taylor.



Staff Map  
About 400 families in the 600-acre area shown in solid gray above are debating whether to accept a county urban-renewal program. If they don't, many of their homes may be ruled unfit for habitation.



## Negroes Can Buy Homes There

# Area Fights Zoning Change

SEP 24 1966

By KENNETH LOOMIS

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Because it is one of the few areas in Louisville where Negroes can buy homes, the Petersburg area south of West Bucchel should be reserved for residential use, the chairman of the Newburg Opposition Committee told a planning official yesterday.

Nelson Goodwin, 3820 Newburg Road, and the committee's assistant chairman, Raymond Bowman of 4712 Indian Trail, conferred with Jack Segal, head

of the advanced planning section of the City-County Planning and Zoning Commission, in Segal's office.

Goodwin said he and Bowman represented more than 200 of some 300 residents of the Petersburg area who would be dispossessed if a tentative land-use plan is adopted, designating the area for industrial use.

A planning study about a year ago tentatively designated the area bounded by Newburg Road, Jennings Lane, Indian Trail and the Southern Railroad tracks for industrial use.

Goodwin said he had waited until now

to lodge a protest because it was only this week that the U.S. Senate defeated a civil rights law with open-housing provisions.

About 2,000 children live in the Negro community, Goodwin said, and "we want to make sure they have someplace to live in 15 years."

Goodwin said both Mayor Kenneth A. Schmied and Jefferson County Judge Marlow W. Cook have failed to support local open-occupancy laws, and "we better keep what we've got until we know we have something better."

Petersburg is growing now, Goodwin said, because "it's the only place a Negro couple know they can buy a home."

SEP 24 1966

Says Designation Only Tentative

Segal said that the industrial designation for the area is only tentative, and a permanent planning recommendation for it will not be made until neighborhood studies are completed about the end of the year.

He said the present industrial use recommendation was made because heavy industry already existing nearby makes the area unsuitable for continued residential use.

Goodwin replied that Petersburg has been a Negro community for nearly 100 years.

"We were there first," he said. "Move the industrial complex."

Goodwin said his committee, which has also resisted a proposed urban renewal project in the Newburg area, will seek a meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Source: Louisville Courier-Journal, Sept., 24, 1966

## Sees HUD Official

# Newburg Renewal Foe

## Goes to Washington

APR 26 1967

Nelson Goodwin, the Newburg resident who has been trying for years to keep urban renewal out of his neighborhood, yesterday took his battle to Washington and talked with the nation's urban renewal chief.

Goodwin spoke with Don Hummel, assistant secretary of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, and presented him with a petition signed by more than 400 Newburg families who oppose the project.

Goodwin claims that Negro residents of Newburg will have to move back to "city slums" if a renewal project forces them out of their homes.

Hummel did not promise to stop the project but said HUD will keep a close watch on the plan, particularly the relocation of the Negro families.

### 'Best I've Felt in Five Years'

Goodwin, 59, of 3820 Newburg Road, a nurseryman, said after the meeting, "I feel better than I ever felt. This is the best I've felt in five years."

Goodwin also took to the meeting photographs of some of the Newburg residents and their homes and told Hummel that the renewal project would force these people to give up their yards and gardens.

"We'll leave one slum and go to a worse slum. That's what's happening in Louisville," Goodwin said he told Hummel. "The Negroes who moved out of the urban renewal area downtown have moved up on East Chestnut Street and you ought to see that slummy housing."

### Snyder Says Hummel Impressed

Accompanying Goodwin to the meeting was 4th District Congressman Gene Snyder, who also expressed concern over the problem.

Snyder said after the meeting, "It was obvious to me that Mr. Hummel was im-

pressed by what Mr. Goodwin had to say. I was. He made it pretty plain that there's going to have to be an adequate plan for relocation. They aren't going to just gloss over it."

Hummel said that the federal government requires that in any urban renewal project "adequate standard housing will be made available to the people before they are required to move."

"We have to be satisfied that they have proper housing," he said. "And that doesn't mean substandard. We will not proceed until we are satisfied."



# Newburg Fight Over Renewal Is 5 Years Old, Going Strong

By **DON KEOUGH**  
Louisville Times Staff Writer

Newburg, the century-old Negro community in South Central Jefferson County, deserves more than to become a pile of rubble.

That's the opinion of Nelson W. Goodwin, a spokesman for opponents of the Newburg School Area Urban-Renewal project.

That project is bounded, roughly, by Newburg Road, Ironwood, Indian Trail

and Bishoff Lane. It would demolish 159 homes in the area and replace them with single-family and apartment residences built around a shopping center and parks.

Goodwin has been fighting the project for more than five years. He has been defeated at every turn. Now final local and federal approval of the project is virtually assured.

But Goodwin says his fight is not over. He says he intends to exhaust

every legal means possible to oppose the project.

"They're not going to move me to any legal slum," he said. His definition of that type of slum is Louisville's West End and Lincoln Park subdivision which is located adjacent to the Newburg area.

"They'll Have to Kill Me"

"When they move me out of here, they'll have to kill me. They haven't got enough tanks in Ft. Knox to move me out of here," he said.

Goodwin is 60, doesn't look it. He has lived in Newburg all his life. So did his parents and his grandparents. He is descended from slaves, and Newburg was their first free home.

Goodwin can't understand the reasoning behind the Urban Renewal project in Newburg. Sure, he agrees, Newburg isn't a "fancy place." But, he asks, is it any worse than the places to which the Negroes in Newburg will be moved?

Goodwin contends the majority of the people in Newburg feels as he does. "It's our homes, they're talking about," he said.

However, the city's Charles E. Salter, chairman of a committee that favors the project, says the majority of Newburg residents do not oppose it. In fact, he says, the opposite is true.

Salter says urban renewal is the only way the living conditions of people in Newburg will improve. Goodwin, he reports, represents "40 or 50" people at the most.

Behind Salter is the weight of official opinion. An urban renewal survey lists 93 per cent of the structures in Newburg



Urban-Renewal plans to raze this house, others like it, on Jewell.

as "substandard to a degree warranting clearance."

There are no sewers in Newburg, and only a few septic tanks. Health conditions have been termed "deplorable" by county officials.

From there the arguments and counter-arguments ring back and forth.

Essentially, the problem in Newburg is typical of all urban-renewal areas.

There are two Newburgs. Goodwin speaks for one, Salter speaks for the other.

And both purport theirs is THE Newburg.

Goodwin represents, primarily, property owners along Newburg Road and In-

See **NEWBURG**

Back page, col. 1, this section



Staff Photos

Nelson W. Goodwin's house at 3820 Newburg Road will be torn down.



Continued From Page One

dian Trail. Their houses, they contend, are snug, well-built and pleasant.

True, they have no sewer connection. But that is a problem easily solved. And, better yet, most of those homes are paid for. They say the homes represent long years of hard work.

Salter represents, primarily, tenants who live in what must be called hovels that stand on the rutted, dirt roads that wind through the center of the Newburg area.

That center is a face of trees and underbrush pockmarked by refuse heaps, abandoned vehicles and outhouses.

In their initial surveys in 1962, urban-

renewal workers decided that Salter's Newburg had the heavy majority over Goodwin's.

In their discussions, they did note that some structures in Newburg could possibly be rehabilitated to meet county building codes which had never been enforced in the area.

#### Court Accepts Demolition Plan

However, the rehabilitable structures were in the minority. To preserve them would make land assembly difficult and construction of a "planned community" almost impossible.

The recommendation was demolition of 161 structures in the area's 204.54

acres. The recommendation was accepted by Jefferson County Fiscal Court.

One of the two remaining structures in the project area was the Newburg Elementary School. Where and why was the other?

Lewis H. Hammond, Newburg project director for urban renewal, pointed it out and in the process gave an example of urban-renewal thinking.

The lone house was in the center area. It was relatively new and built from brick.

Did that house have a sewer, Hammond was asked.

No, he replied.

Was it of sounder construction than some of the houses like Goodwin's along Newburg Road?

Oh no, Hammond replied. Goodwin's house at 3820 Newburg Road was well constructed, a fine house.

Why, then, did this house get the nod to remain?

It fit into the plan, Hammond concluded.

It's this kind of thinking that Goodwin and his supporters can't understand. They are not interested in plans.

They only know that their homes are at stake and that those homes are, really, in better condition than some homes in areas that are not slated for urban renewal projects.

Here is something about some of those people and their comments:

Raymond Bowman, 4712 Indian Trail.

Bowman, 64, lives with his wife, Ethel, 59, in a house that is 25 or 30 years old. He is a retired construction worker and owns two acres in the Newburg area. His grandmother was a slave and his family has always lived in Newburg. "They're all buried here and I want to be buried here," he said.

Bowman reports the house was given to him by his mother who at the time advised him:

"Don't ever mortgage or sell this home. When you can say 'I'm going home,' you've said a mouthful."

Mrs. Laura Gathright, 3803 Newburg Road.

Mrs. Gathright, 76, has lived in Newburg for 67 years, 34 of them at her present address. She is retired and owes no money on her home.

"When urban renewal comes through here, I don't know what I'm going to do. I'm too old to pack up an move."

Mrs. Gathright conceded that she did not have a septic tank or sewer. However, she replied:

"That's not bothering me near as much as them rats are bothering them folks in Louisville."

Joseph F. Chandler, 3843 Newburg Road.

Chandler said he has lived at his present address for 37 years. "It's all mine," he said, "and not some bank's."

Chandler said he was not so much against urban renewal, it was just that he didn't want to move where they would probably have to move him.

Cottrell Smith, 3840 Newburg Road.

Smith, 61, still works at Our Lady of Peace Hospital. Over the years, he has invested his money in property, he reported, "not in big fancy automobiles."

Smith said he had not painted his two houses recently because the "threat of urban renewal" has been over the area for nearly six years.

"I don't want to go to town and I don't want to live in a subdivision," he said. "And besides, those places-down-town (public housing) looks like army barracks."

"It ain't no use saying I'll go out and buy some land to build a house. There ain't none (for Negroes)."

Mrs. Viola Grundy, 3842 Newburg Road.

Mrs. Grundy, 73, is retired and owns a home with a septic tank. She takes great pleasure in her garden and is renowned throughout Newburg for her cooking.

"I've worked all my life, worked hard, too," she reported. "Where am I going to find a place that has a garden with peach trees like mine?"

It is with the support of people like these that Goodwin planned to carry his long fight to a public hearing this afternoon on the project.

The hearing is regarded as a formality leading to final approval. But Goodwin is convinced what he has to read into the record will change officials' minds in Washington.

Urban renewal is equally convinced final approval will follow preliminary approval already given the project. Their field office which will direct land acquisition is already set up.



# Mrs. Gathright Finds a System Can Be Human

Urban renewal has decided to consider the people first in its planning for Newburg

JAN 5 1968

By DON KEOUGH  
Louisville Times Staff Writer

Just a few months ago, the future promised little for Mrs. Laura Gathright, 76, of 3803 Newburg Road.

She lives in a section of the proposed Newburg School Area Urban Renewal Project. She is a widow, retired, and has a limited income. Her house, on which she owes no money, is slated for demolition.

Mrs. Gathright was going to have to move. She did not know where. She did not know how much money she would receive for her home. She feared, after all was done, that she would be in debt.

At 76, Mrs. Gathright was not ready for an adventure. But the quiet of her retirement in the century-old Negro community of Newburg had been plunged into uncertainty.

Today, the future is brighter for Mrs. Gathright and others like her, because after five years of controversy and in an unplanned chain of events, the Newburg project has taken on some unusual characteristics.

It will consider human values above those of real estate.

Real effort has been made to get builders to say they will put something on the land after it has been cleared and after Newburg residents have been moved. In the past, the city-county Urban Renewal Commission has tended to demolish and then wait patiently for developers to come along.

A new type of program will be started to make housing available for the poor.

Planning for Newburg has taken place amid extensive public debate and public participation. And it is clear that initiative for the changes in Newburg came not from the Urban Renewal Agency but from outside groups.

## 159 Homes Were to Be Wrecked

As it was conceived five years ago, Newburg was to be a typical urban renewal project.

The home of Mrs. Gathright and 158 others were to be demolished. As soon as possible after final approval of the project. And quickly.

Only two structures, one a school, would remain standing after the onslaught of the bulldozers and wrecking cranes. More than 200 acres bounded by Newburg Road, Indian Trail, Ironwood Road, and Bishoff Lane would remain empty.

As was usual, urban renewal planners could give a fairly accurate timetable for acquisition of property, relocation and demolition.

But also, as usual, the plans for re-

development of the area were somewhat more vague.

On that point, urban renewal administrators generally are defensive. In Louisville, they point out that redevelopment, under the law, is essentially someone else's affair.

Urban renewal is a land-assembly program, they say, sponsored by government funds. Redevelopment belongs to the realm of the "free enterprise system," or to other government agencies with authority and funds to construct public buildings.

## Opposition Was Determined

Mrs. Gathright is fond of living in Newburg. She has been there most of her life. But under the typical approach to urban renewal she had no idea of when she might be able to return to the new "planned community" in Newburg. If at all.

But almost immediately in 1962, urban renewal in Newburg began taking a different turn.

Nelson W. Goodwin, 3820 Newburg Road, began leading a determined op-

NELSON W. GOODWIN

Persistent, vocal opponent



position to the program. He was persistent and articulate. The Mrs. Gathrights of Newburg were his most effective weapon.

Goodwin, at the slightest invitation, told of the long community history of Newburg. His graphic illustrations of the plights of the aged and the infirm began to tell.

As nearly always with initial action in public debate and public participation, there was reaction.

Here and there in officialdom, a thought threatened to disrupt the pat formula of past urban renewal projects. Urban renewal might be something more than land-assembly. Human beings were involved.

## New Agency Came Into Being

Jefferson County Judge Marlow W. Cook appointed a citizen's advisory committee to assist the county on the project.

Cook also appointed a citizen's com-

mittee on relocation. That committee was to assist in finding housing for Newburg residents who would be relocated after the project was finally approved and land acquisition began.

Many members of the relocation committee this year became commissioners of the county Housing Authority. The new agency came into existence to direct locally a new federal rent-supplement program.

Application for that program had its roots also in the controversy over Newburg.

## Rental Difference Paid by U.S.

Goodwin and others made the point that the county had no public housing projects and that the poor in Newburg would have to move into homes they could not afford.

But along came the new federal rent-supplement program. Under that program, persons who normally would qualify for low-rental public housing can move into privately owned housing with moderate rental rates. The federal government will pay the difference between the normal public housing rental fee and the higher rate for private housing.

Jefferson County applied for funds to lease 200 dwelling units and made clear in its application that it intended to administer the program primarily in assistance of the Newburg poor.

In announcing approval of the \$169,000 federal grant, Cook said it was one of the first rent-supplement programs in the country to be approved. And, he continued, it was the first program anywhere that would be tied directly to an urban renewal project.

## Always a Shortage in Housing

Housing has always been a problem with urban renewal projects. People who are displaced are usually Negro and poor, a group for which there is not an abundance of available housing.

That is, until Newburg. It was at a recent meeting of the county Housing Authority that the agency announced what amounted to another victory for public participation.

There had been the fear that the program would be limited to Lincoln Park, a primarily Negro subdivision adjoining Newburg.

Again, the ever-present and ever-vocal Goodwin had hit hard at this point. He pointed to early announcements of the rent-supplement grant which mentioned only Lincoln Park as a possible rent area.

But the Housing Authority said persons receiving the supplement would not be confined to any one certain area.

In a discussion after the meeting, El-

mer P. Lysle, 3543 Bashford Lane, confirmed just how much Newburg project planning had changed.

Lysle is a member of the Housing Authority and a member of the Newburg Steering Committee. He strongly disagreed with Goodwin, who has always contended that Newburg residents can improve their area by a voluntary effort without urban renewal.

Newburg has deteriorated too much for that, Lysle contended.

However, Lysle has been a consistent advocate of a "more human approach" to Newburg.

Lysle said the Urban Renewal Agency, at the suggestion of the Newburg Steering Committee, is seriously considering a "partial development" approach to the Newburg project.

That approach was suggested for planning about three months ago. Under the method, Newburg would be developed a street at a time, beginning with vacant areas first.

It is conceivable that relocation in Newburg under partial development could become a matter of moving across the street.

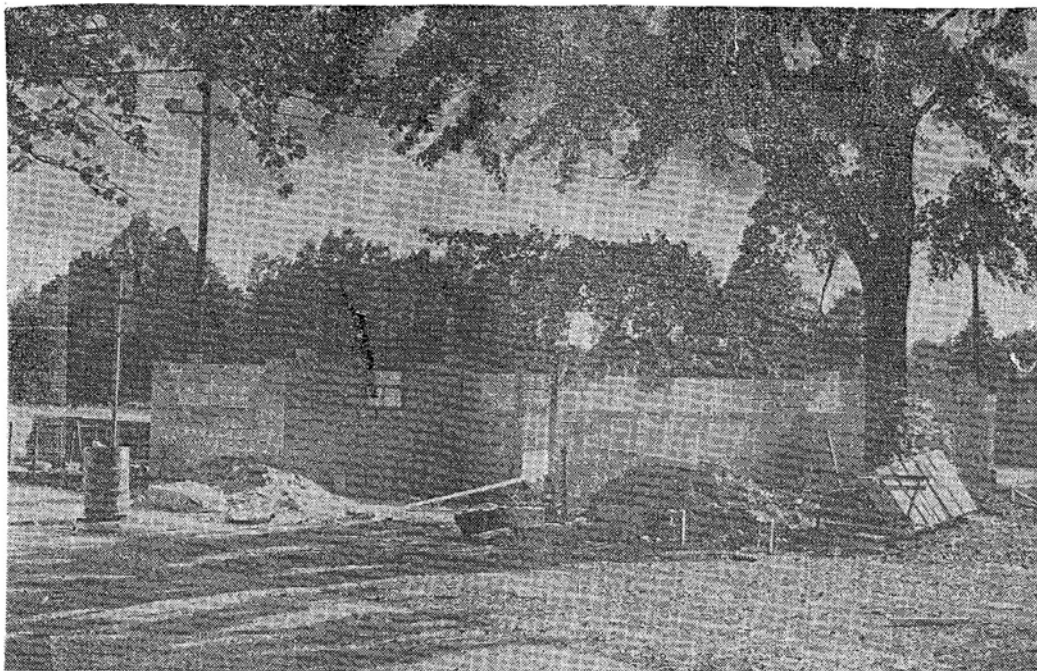
Lysle saw partial development as a means to ease relocation and preserve the community spirit of Newburg. He said the agency saw nothing wrong with the method as long as it was economically feasible.

## There Newburg stands today

It is highly probable that partial development, different from the massive demolition approach of past projects, will be used. Housing for the poor will be supplied under flexible administration of a new federal program. Developers have been contacted and have promised their support.

Mrs. Gathright may get to remain in Newburg after all. Among her neighbors, if not in her longtime home. And at no financial burden.





A new Newburg Community Center rises from the ashes of the one destroyed by fire.

# Helpful Spirit Lifts Newburg's Center Out of Its Ashes

By **KAREN BURROUGHS**  
Louisville Times Staff Writer

The fire that destroyed Newburg Community Center kindled a common spirit of helpfulness among many Louisvillians.

Individuals and organizations have rallied behind Newburg residents with donations of money, time, building materials and sports equipment.

The recreation building on the grounds of the Newburg Elementary School, 5008 Indian Trail, was set afire on Aug. 16, causing damage estimated at \$10,000.

The building served as a social and athletic center and was headquarters for the Newburg Area Council, an agency in the anti-poverty program. The fire damaged mainly the rear and roof of the building and destroyed football and baseball gear.

## Contributions Total \$4,768

Charles Unseld, who guided the construction of the building over the last five years, and five youths in his work-training program have been reconstructing the building, using concrete blocks and a concrete top. The new center will have a 50x34 foot room for boys' club meetings and a 20x12 foot room for arts and crafts.

As the walls go up, offers of help come in. Mrs. Charles Unseld reported that cash contributions now total \$4,768.20. Piles of sports equipment are pouring in, and tables, chairs, a pool table and a popcorn machine have been received.

Perhaps one of the best-organized, most widespread offers of help has come from high school students in social clubs in the Hikes Point and surrounding areas.

Meeting at the home of Mrs. Eva Spaid, president of the Hikes Point Recreation Committee, in September, about 40 representatives of 15 social clubs decided against donating proceeds of a dance to the center. The youngsters wanted to do more for Newburg, and suggested a solic-

itation campaign among small businesses for money and sports equipment.

Social clubs, not sponsored by schools, usually include students from more than one school in their membership. Students attending the meeting at Mrs. Spaid's home were from Seneca, Westport and Waggener high schools.

## Making Special Effort

Phyllis Monteith, a senior at Seneca and president of the Zeta Tau social club, said students at her high school are making a special effort for Newburg. "At Seneca, most of the kids are from Newburg, and due to that, we've won quite a few trophies. That's why I think the kids at Seneca are working harder," she said.

In conjunction with these students, the Seneca High School Student Council has collected \$150 in homerooms.

About 150 other social club members have spent the past two Saturdays trekking through shopping centers asking merchants for donations. According to Johnny Hampton, a University of Louisville student who is leading the campaign, far too many businessmen have been "apathetic."

Hampton said the Tau Alpha Gamma social club, after an unsuccessful campaign in the business district assigned to them, collected \$150 from parents of club members.

But almost as often as one store owner declines to contribute, another pulls a football helmet or basketball from his shelf or reaches into his pocket.

Schools have cooperated in the effort by allowing students to solicit from football fans at weekly games.

Hampton said the students will continue collecting at ball games and in shopping centers through October.

And as the new Newburg center rises, the sports gear and money to make it hum again pile up in carpools and homes of the high school students who had wanted to do something more helpful than throwing another dance.

Source: Louisville Times, Oct. 17, 1968



## Newberg Elects Foe of Renewal To CAC Board

MAY 29 1968  
Newburg residents yesterday elected Nelson W. (Goodwin) of 3820 Newburg Road, an outspoken foe of the proposed Newburg Area Urban Renewal project, commissioner to the Louisville and Jefferson County Community Action Commission (CAC) by a 4-1 margin over a field of eight other candidates.

Five of the 15 members of the Newburg Area Council board of directors were re-elected. They are Ernest Mucker, Juanita Moore, Charles Sickles, Joseph Goodwin and Worden Dorsey.

The 10 new board members elected were: Christine Jones, Nelson Samuels, Robert L. Burks, Ernest Bass, Samuel Chatman, the Rev. Clifford Butler, Charles Unseld, Paul Martin, Fannie King and Elizabeth Unseld.

The CAC commissioner's position became vacant last month when Mrs. Katherine Stroman resigned. Goodwin, in leading opposition to the proposed Newburg renewal project, has maintained it will force poor people to move into homes they cannot afford.

## Rent-Subsidy Complex For Newburg Rejected

DEC 19 1969

By JOE WARD  
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

A rent-subsidy apartment project proposed for the Newburg community by state Sen. Georgia M. Davis failed to win approval of the Louisville-Jefferson County Planning Commission yesterday after residents said they have their own housing development plans.

But the commission did approve, despite opposition by some 40 persons at the hearing, a different request for a zoning change. That one would permit construction of a 26-acre apartment com-

plex off Brownsboro Road just east of the 6th-class city of Crossgate.

The rent-subsidy proposal for Newburg, a predominantly Negro community in south eastern Jefferson County that is undergoing urban renewal, was the latest of several such low-income housing proposals that have met stiff opposition in county neighborhoods this fall.

The Rev. Charles Salter, of the Newburg Steering Committee, told the commission that Newburg residents don't want

See NEWBURG  
Back page, col. 3, this section

Source: Louisville Courier-Journal, Dec. 19, 1969

Source: Louisville Courier-Journal, May 29, 1968

# County, Newburg Form Housing Corporation

By GERALD HENRY  
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

A nonprofit group has been formed to build housing and commercial facilities in the Newburg renewal area, County Judge Todd Hollenbach announced yesterday.

The group, called the Newburg Development Corp., will be eligible for 100 per cent financing under a number of federal programs.

Directors and members of the Newburg Community Council, plus Hollenbach, make up the new corporation.

Hollenbach made the announcement at a press conference at the county courthouse. He said the housing and commercial facilities "will now be constructed by a housing corporation sponsored by the community council and supported by the presence of county government on its board."

An attorney working with the group, William Friedlander, said he expects the group to receive land from the urban renewal agency this spring.

## 200 Lots Ready by Spring

He said he thinks by then the group will have obtained the necessary money from the federal government to start work.

Later, Jack Leeth, urban renewal director, said his agency is presently overseeing the installation of utilities and

streets in the first section of the renewal project. He expects these to be finished by late spring, when about 200 lots will be available for development.

Leeth said about 70 of the lots are reserved for public housing. Leeth said his agency will not give any developer exclusive rights in the renewal project, but would give priority to a nonprofit group.

A spokesman for the Federal Housing Administration said the nonprofit group was formed to take advantage of FHA assistance programs, including rent supplement.

He declined to estimate the time needed for application to approval of federal assistance, because of the many variables involved.

Source: *Louisville Courier-Journal*, Jan. 8, 1970



# County gets \$6,595,182 renewal aid, also receives Newburg center money

JAN 6 1971

By DAVID HOLT  
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Jefferson County has received a \$6,595,182 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help finance development of the second phase of the Newburg area urban renewal project.

Plans released yesterday by Fiscal Court show the development of 282 acres for residential, industrial and commercial use north of the first-phase project that extends southeast of Indian Trail on the west side of Newburg Road.

The land to be acquired for the second phase is irregularly shaped and bounded generally on the south by Indian Trail,

on the west by Ironwood Avenue, on the north by Bashford Avenue and on the east by Old Shepherdsville Road.

The second phase—known as the Indian Trail Urban Renewal Project—is

*The first family to occupy a house in phase one of the Newburg project moved in this week, Page B 1; other Fiscal Court action, Page A 10.*

expected to cost \$10,489,000. The county's share will be \$2,500,000.

In a related development, County Judge Todd Hollenbach told Fiscal Court that funds have become available for a

multi-service center adjacent to and south of the Newburg School, located at the intersection of Old Newburg Road and Indian Trail.

Hollenbach said the county will receive additional money and "credits" from the federal government amounting to \$800,000, and \$250,000 of this will be used for the multi-service center. He pointed out that the building is possible only because Newburg has been designated an urban renewal area.

Some 20 agencies and citizens' groups will be able to use the building for social, health, recreational and welfare purposes. About 32 acres of park land will surround the structure.

Plans for such a multipurpose building have been under way since 1968. Commissioner Thomas Helm said yesterday that this "is one time where a lot of different agencies and groups have worked together." He called it a "real cooperative effort."

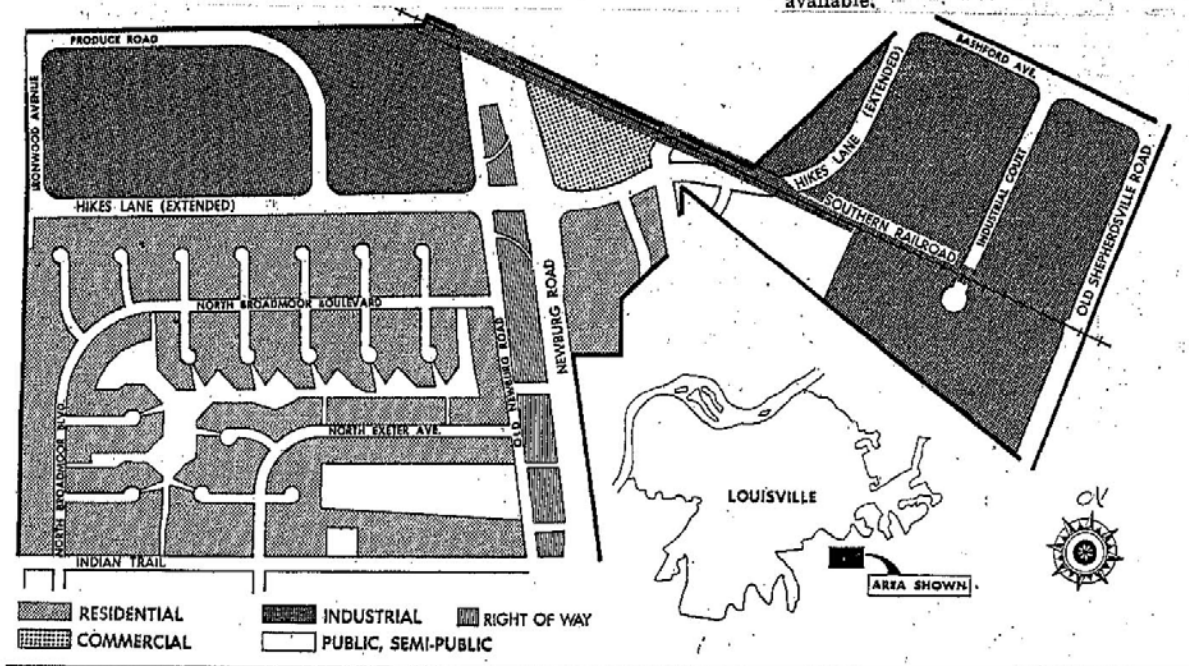
Hollenbach said he believes the building will be "physical evidence of planning between residents and government." Newburg residents will be kept informed and involved as final plans are drawn up and priorities set, he said. A date to begin construction has not been set.

Jack Goldberg, deputy director of the city-county Urban Renewal Agency, said yesterday that 188 families will be displaced by the second phase project in the Newburg area.

He said people in the area have been contacted and that Urban Renewal hopes to begin buying property within 60 days. He said consideration will be given to families that do not want to move out before the present school year is over.

The new project will include new streets and separate storm and sanitary sewer systems. Between 200 and 250 single-family lots are expected to be made available.

Source: Louisville Courier-Journal, Jan. 6, 1971



Staff Map by Mervin Aubespin

PROPERTY IN THE SECOND PHASE OF THE NEWBURG URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT



# Officials meet in apparent effort to save Newburg self-help project

By JIM NOLAN

Courier-Journal & Times Staff Writer

Jefferson County and Urban Renewal Agency officials met behind closed doors yesterday with members of the Newburg Development Corp. in an apparent effort to avert collapse of an ambitious effort in Negro self-help.

The non-profit corporation, made up primarily of businessmen and leaders from the predominantly Negro com-

munity, is lagging about eight months behind schedule on its contract to build 141 houses in the first phase of the Newburg renewal project.

The slow pace of construction, coupled with complaints about the quality of the handful of houses already built or under way, prompted yesterday's two-hour session in the county judge's office.

Jack Leeth, Urban Renewal director, said afterward that the agency has approved plans for only 24 houses so far and would not authorize starts on any more until some unspecified "problems" on the existing units "are straightened out."

"There's no question about it," said County Judge Todd Hollenbach when asked if the development corporation had been put on notice to improve its performance or face termination of its Urban Renewal contract.

Leeth said the agency did not place a time limit on another re-evaluation of the contract, except to indicate that another extended delay probably would not be tolerated. Any final decision would come from Urban Renewal's board of commissioners.

The Newburg Development Corp. was formed early last year at residents' urging to allow the residents to redevelop their community themselves on a non-profit basis.

Loss of its first contract at this point would be a serious blow to the group's plans to use money from sale of the first 141 houses to bid on a proposed shopping center for the area as well as the 250 single-family homes planned in the project's second phase.

The problems of the plan that was

supposed "to be a model for the nation," according to Community Relations Director Charles Dibowski, also overshadow still another dispute in the history of the Newburg program.

The development corporation, together with the Newburg Area Council, filed suit in federal district court two weeks ago over the right to build 71 units of public housing on urban renewal land.

Jefferson County's Housing Authority last November gave the public housing contract to another contractor, Earl Robinson Homes, Inc. The development corporation, however, claims that it was the only one of nine bidders to meet all specifications.

These problems are compounded by the county's commitment to the development corporation through Judge Hollenbach.

At the urging of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is financing the renewal project, the office of the county judge was included on the corporation's board of directors to provide "continuity" from year to year and to allow the non-profit group to participate in federal programs.

Hollenbach has stood by the Housing Authority's decision to award the public housing contract to Robinson, and, according to aides, has been considering withdrawing from the board if legal action proceeds much farther.

Only about a dozen complete houses have actually been built so far by the development corporation in the 141-house project and only five families have moved in.

Complaints about such defects as

faulty paneling and walls being out of plumb first surfaced at an area council meeting earlier last week and apparently were confirmed by inspections made by Urban Renewal and Federal Housing Authority officials.

FHA has approved financing for the first 30 homes in the project under its 235 mortgage-subsidy program for low-income families. The houses being built are three- and four-bedroom units in the \$15,000 to \$17,000 price range.

The development corporation's chairman, Jerry Lucas, a retired grocer, said after yesterday's meeting, "We believe we can resolve our problems. We know we're behind schedule, but we're getting things straightened out now."

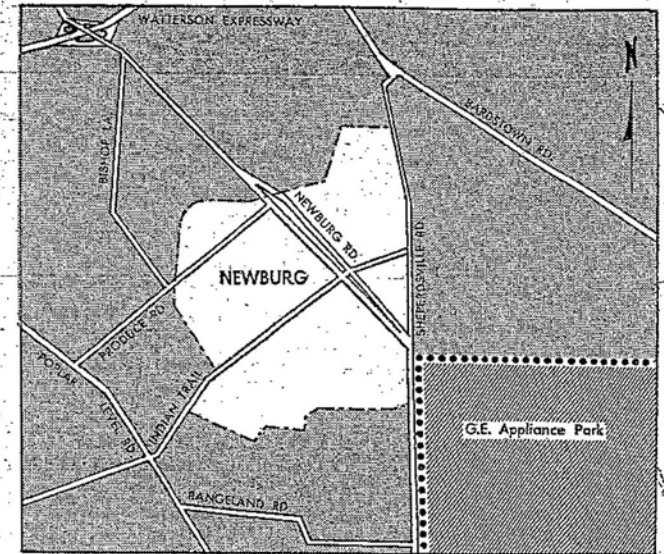
Part of the development corporation's problems have stemmed from inexperience, Lucas said in an earlier interview. The corporation, for example, has been training previously unemployed Newburg residents as workers on the project.

"Don't judge us too harshly," Lucas said. "We've learned a lot in the last few months."

The entire urban renewal effort in Newburg has sputtered through a series of controversies and disputes for the last eight years. Residents, in effect, brought planning of the program to a halt in 1965 when they felt they weren't being consulted in decision making.

The area itself is an unincorporated section of Jefferson County lying roughly two miles south of the Watterson Expressway between Poplar Level and Newburg Roads.

When county officials first discovered



its problems in the early 1960s, Newburg was a suburban ghetto of 5,000 or more persons living mostly in shacks surrounded by masses of junked automobiles piled on wooded, swampy ground broken only by a system of chuckholed streets.

There were no sewers, and the city-county Board of Health said many of the houses were unfit to live in.

A drive along old Newburg Road north of Indian Trail and along such streets as Fleenor Avenue reveals that much of that way of life of a decade ago still exists in parts of Newburg, especially in the Phase Two portion.

Relocation of families living in the area has been a subject of some bitterness among the residents, although many Newburg leaders and government officials say the hostility has dwindled.

Some 73 families were relocated by the Phase One clearance south of Indian Trail, where the development corporation is now building. Some moved to nearby subdivisions, while the rest moved to Louisville's West End or into one of the inner-city public housing projects.

Some 188 families will face relocation when work begins this year on the Phase Two portion north of Indian Trail.

When urban renewal is finally completed about four years from now, more than \$17 million in federal and local dollars will have been injected into the two project areas. The total 450-acre area will include nearly 400 new single-family homes, apartments, a small park, a shopping center, new streets, street lights and sewers, and a multi-purpose community center.

Source: Louisville Courier-Journal, March 2, 1971



# Black Newburg residents probe the past

MAR 7 1972  
By TINSLEY STEWART  
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

A black flower whose seed was planted in Wet Woods, Ky., more than a century ago is beginning to sprout in that area—now known as Newburg.

Led by an aging amateur historian, a group is searching for the skimpy historical data about Wet Woods and their ancestors—slaves and ex-slaves.

The Newburg Historical Society held its second meeting last night, and the handful of members present talked about their ancestors and their ancestors' owners.

The conversation was cheerful, though its content was chilling.

One would say something like, "Your great-grandmother was owned by

\_\_\_\_\_," and the reply may have been, "No . . . she was owned by \_\_\_\_\_ and was given to \_\_\_\_\_ as a wedding present."

"We're proud of it," said the historian, Nelson Goodwin, a landscape gardener, who spends much of his spare time poring over old, yellowed letters, musty records and newspaper accounts. He feels it "is an insult to the memory of our ancestors not to commemorate them."

Echoing his sentiments were Mrs. Margaret Warfield, Mrs. Ann Merritt and Mrs. Lottie Munford, sisters, whose great-grandfather was John Speed's slave. As a slave, he made the bricks to build the famous mansion, Farmington.

(Many people apparently think that Farmington was built by Joshua Speed,

but a check of Courier-Journal files indicates that John Speed, Joshua's father, built it in 1810. Abraham Lincoln, a friend to Joshua Speed, visited Farmington, 3033 Bardstown Road, in 1841.)

Facts about Wet Woods' history are few, probably because its founders could neither read nor write, Goodwin said.

One of them, Eliza Tivis (or Travis), was the first Negro, according to Goodwin, to own slaves in Kentucky. She was awarded her freedom, some land in Wet Woods, and the slaves because she reportedly treated her master for smallpox when nobody else would go near him.

Newburg then was thick with wildlife and vegetation. Sometime after the Civil War, Miss Tivis set aside a piece of the

land for ex-slaves. And a number of their descendants still live there.

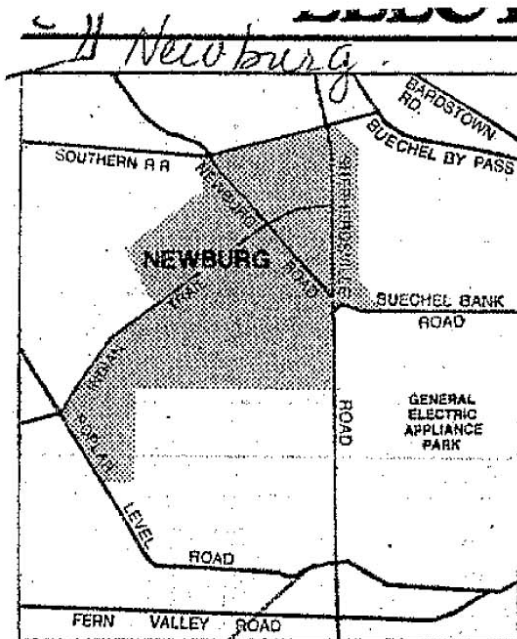
As late as the mid-1930s, Newburg was still somewhat mysterious to nearby Louisville residents, according to newspaper accounts. Homer Dye Jr., a reporter for the old Herald-Post, once wrote as if Wet Woods were some far-off, exotic land ". . . there is a beauty and a certain kind of human nobility there . . . the nobility of an existence that asks little of life and gets less, and takes it with a song . . . that sings for the joy of singing."

Nelson Goodwin seems to be the perfect leader of the journey back. He loves things past. His home is filled with memorabilia: a ship's lamp, an old railroad signal light, slate foot warmers for "rich ladies" and a 175-year-old meal box, which looks like a crude water trough, for storing firewood.

Last night's meeting at Goodwin's home, 3820 Newburg Road, was just a small step in making Louisville-area residents aware of a part of black history. It was mostly small talk about "during slave times" and "after slave times."

But it also may have been a small celebration of the freedom their ancestors longed for.

Source: Louisville Courier-Journal, March 7, 1972



*Elections from Jeff Co Staff Map*  
*Newburg Area*  
**Vote favors**

**dissolving**

**Newburg**

*CJ Nov. 5, 1986*  
 By MICHAEL QUINLAN  
 Staff Writer

Newburg residents voted to dissolve the fourth-class city by a 2-1 margin yesterday, but the dispute over the city's incorporation will continue at least until Nov. 14.

Opponents of the effort to dissolve the city filed suit Oct. 31 challenging the constitutionality of the dissolution referendum. A temporary restraining order prevents the Jefferson County Board of Elections from certifying the vote until after a hearing on the lawsuit in Jefferson Circuit Court next week.

With all precincts reporting, according to an unofficial count by the Jefferson County Board of Elections, the vote on dissolution was:

For	805
Against	399

"It's a shame that the pro-city people seek to drag this out with a lawsuit," said Newburg Mayor Robert King, a leader in the drive to dissolve the city. "The voters have spoken, and we should abide by their vote."

Jessie Tucker, a City Council member who favors keeping the city, said she and 10 other residents filed the lawsuit because "the referendum is unconstitutional."

Tucker said yesterday's referendum was not necessary because a 1984 referendum to dissolve the city failed and that vote was upheld by Jefferson Circuit Court, the Kentucky Court of Appeals and the Kentucky Supreme Court.

She also said King sought and received "special legislation" in order to circumvent the previous referendum.

The latest referendum was made possible by a state law that went into effect in April. The law, sponsored by state Rep. Tom Burch, D-Fern Creek, requires a dissolution referendum if 20 percent of a city's voters in the last presidential election sign a petition asking for the vote.

King submitted the petition calling for yesterday's referendum.

King said he hoped the vote results would finally settle a controversy that has divided residents since the city was incorporated in 1982. Barring a successful court challenge, dissolution is scheduled to take effect 30 days after certification of the vote.

If the lawsuit fails and the city is dissolved, a community council would have to be formed to help the Newburg community realign itself with county government, he said.





STAFF PHOTO BY PAT McDONOUGH

## Burying history?

### Black cemetery in Newburg is facing an uncertain future

By LAWRENCE MUHAMMAD  
Staff Writer

Bordering a section of neat suburban tract homes near Newburg Road and Indian Trail, rows of cracked and weather-beaten gravestones dot a rough cemetery landscape that for many residents is — despite its appearance — hallowed ground.

Founded by the late mortician Robert G. May, the 10-acre Forest Home Cemetery at 3650 Petersburg Road has been the final resting place for residents of the Newburg community for more than 50 years.

And among its dead lie half-forgotten chapters in the story of how this predominantly black community came to be.

In a secluded plot behind one of the cemetery's old embalming shacks is a burial ground for slaves and their descendants, who were among the first to settle the land.

But despite its historic importance and value as a community institution, the cemetery's future looks uncertain.

The owners of Forest Home have long considered the cemetery a "deficit operation," according to a 1971 investment feasibility report the May family commissioned.

And relatives of those buried

there have complained to state authorities that it hasn't been properly maintained.

Last month, the cemetery's custodian for more than 50 years, Robert Samuels, left after a guardian for the cemetery's owner obtained a Jefferson District Court order evicting him. His departure aroused concern that the cemetery may fall into total ruin.

"My mother and sister are buried there," said Ann Dunbar, a Prospect resident who has roots in Newburg. "There are some aunts, some of my mother's people and my father's people, it just goes on back. So what I want to know is, who will be responsible for the upkeep?"

The court-appointed guardian for Nettie Bryant, an invalid survivor of May who now owns the cemetery, wants it sold to pay Bryant's medical bills.

Wilford E. Payne, a Newburg funeral director, has expressed interest in buying the cemetery, but declined to say how much he would invest in maintenance or whether he would replace two rundown frame structures built when the cemetery was established.

Some community ministers who

See CEMETERY'S  
PAGE 3, col. 1, this section



# Cemetery's future is uncertain

Continued from Page B 1

have former church members buried there say they want to see the graveyard maintained but can't afford to buy it.

Calvin Winstead, a Louisville funeral director who has performed many burials at the cemetery, offered this grim prediction:

"It's either going to grow up and become a wilderness," said Winstead, of G. C. Williams Funeral Home, "or the state or the county is going to have to come in and take care of it with taxpayers' money."

The prospect is particularly disheartening to preservationists like Gina Kinchlow who say that further deterioration of the cemetery's slave section would mean the loss of a vital record of history.

"That graveyard is a reminder of our past in that community," said Kinchlow, director of Private Eyes Inc., a historical research firm in Old Louisville. "If for no other reason than that, we need to preserve it."

The site of Forest Home Cemetery was once part of a 40-acre farm bought in 1851 by former slave Eliza Tevis and her husband, Henry.

Tevis was freed in 1832 by Louisville plantation owner Thomas Hundley, who also willed her \$2,000, ownership of several of her relatives and other slaves, and a home at what is now Liberty and Preston streets.

According to oral histories accumulated by Nelson Goodwin, founder of the Petersburg Historical Society, Hundley was beholden to Tevis because she nursed his brother John, the Louisville planter who had owned her, through smallpox in 1819.

John Hundley died in 1830, leav-

willed her with other property to his brother Thomas, who died in 1838.

Tevis apparently used part of Thomas Hundley's bequest to help her husband buy the farm, which bordered the 1,100-acre plantation John Hundley owned that was later called the Bashford Manor estate.

Researchers believe that Forest Home's slave section was originally a family graveyard on the Tevis farm.

She was buried there when she died in the 1880s, in a spot Samuels said was marked by an old tree that is now so covered with brambles it is barely approachable.

May, also founder of the R. G. May & Sons Phoenix Hill Funeral Home on East Chestnut Street, acquired 10 acres of the property in 1935 for Forest Home Cemetery.

In an agreement with Tevis' survivors, May reserved the slave section, about 20 feet by 150 feet, as a burial ground for family members free of charge.

Today, some Newburg residents can still trace their ancestry back nearly a century to those buried in the historic plot.

Effie Lyons, 74, traces her lineage to Alice Green, a daughter of Eliza Tevis' sister, Mary Beard.

Green died in 1928 and is in one of the few graves bearing a marker in the slave section.

May established the rest of the acreage for general public burial and installed Samuels as custodian in 1938.

Samuels, who said he was adopted by Ida Samuels, a cousin of May, worked as an apprentice to May before earning an undertaker's license in 1936, two years before coming to Forest Home.

Now 75, Samuels says he developed an interest in mortuary sci-

ences for embalming.

He never married and has spent most of his life on the cemetery property.

Samuels had, in fact, labored under the belief that he held ownership interest in Forest Home.

"Mr. May and myself owned it together," he said.

According to Bob Winlock, director of the Louisville office of the attorney general's Consumer Protection Division, Samuels filed a complaint with the office in an unsuccessful attempt to halt his eviction.

With Samuels gone, Forest Home is left in the hands of Bryant, who can no longer manage it.

If a buyer isn't found soon, Winlock said, Forest Home may have to be declared abandoned, a complicated legal process that would leave responsibility for maintenance to Jefferson County taxpayers.

Lyons said the historical society, which for years promoted the cemetery's historic value, can do little to save it now.

Marty Perry, a spokesman for the Kentucky Heritage Council, the only state agency that funds the restoration of historical sites, said the agency's limited budget usually goes for buildings.

But Perry said the cemetery's unique association with Tevis could qualify it as an archetype for the many slave graveyards in Kentucky.

Said Kinchlow of Private Eyes: "An unfortunate thing is going to happen if we're not careful. Nobody is going to believe there were slaves in this country if we don't do something to preserve our past."





Courtesy of Bonnie Hackbarth

The student body of Jacob Elementary joined Mayor Jerry Abramson, left, and Louisville Free Public Library Director Craig Buthod last year. The school had 100 percent participation in this year's Summer Reading program.

## Summer Reading program in JCPS again a success

### Four schools had 100% participation

By Sheldon S. Shafer  
sshaffer@courier-journal.com  
The Courier-Journal

More than 26,900 Jefferson County schoolchildren read at least 10 books in this year's Summer Reading program.

Mayor Jerry Abramson will recognize the young readers at a press conference this morning at Rangeland Elementary School, 1701 Rangeland Road, one of four schools that had 100 percent participation in the Summer Reading program.

All four schools — Jacob, Rangeland, Roosevelt-Perry and Mill Creek elementaries — will receive a trophy, paid for by the Library Foundation.

"Reading makes children — and adults — smarter," Abramson said in remarks prepared for today's event. "And these four schools are full of smart, A-plus readers."

Milessa Barnes, coordinator of Rangeland's family resource center, said 448 Rangeland students read the required 10 books. Rangeland has a year-round program and the school got "everyone involved" and made reading a part of the students' daily routine, Barnes said. She acknowledged that some of the books were read to the students.

Mia Jones, a Rangeland fifth-grader, read "Katie Kazoo" and nine other books, adding that it took almost an hour to read each one.

"I like mysteries," she said, adding that she enjoys the rewards of the program — a backpack and "A Library Champion Lives Here" sign that's stuck in her front yard.

She said she has taken part in the summer reading program nearly every year since she started school. "I'll probably read 10 more books next summer," she said.

Louisville Free Public Library Director Craig Buthod said some version of a summer reading program has been a library program

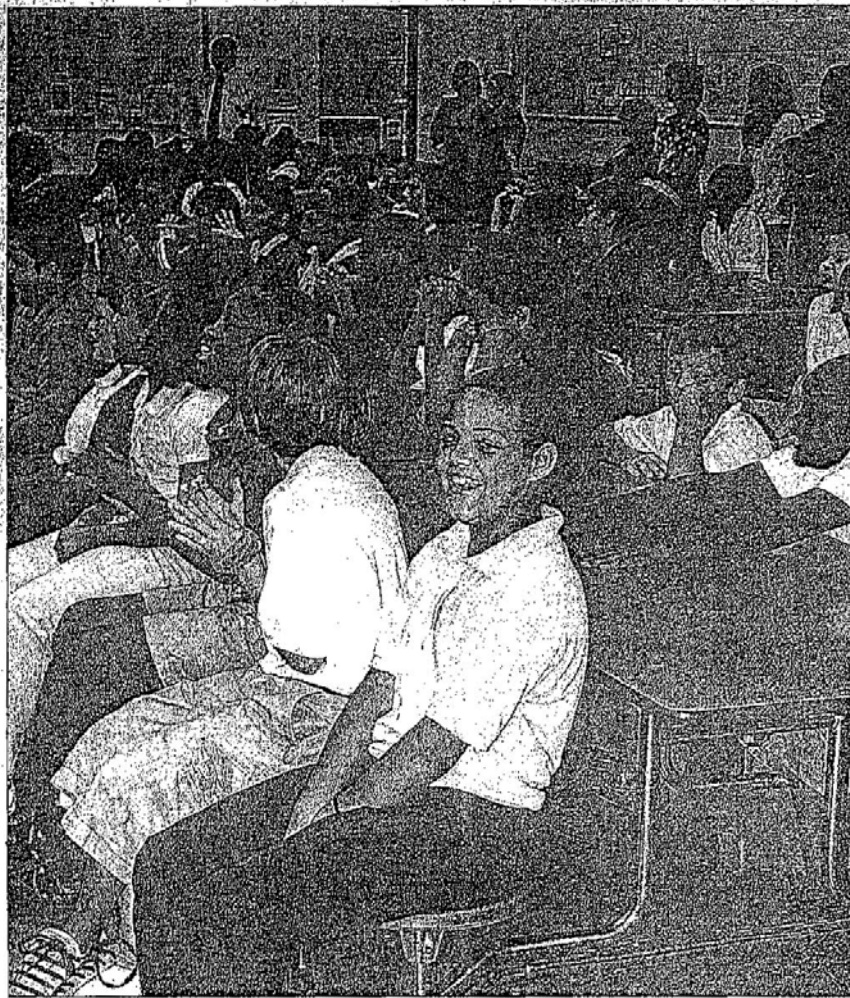
staple since the 1920s. This is the 10th year for the current format, he said.

The number of this year's summer participants included pupils at almost every Jefferson County public and private school and was just less than the record 31,000 children who read at least 10 books a year ago, Buthod said. Participation was probably extra heavy last year because the library was prominent in the news, with a petition drive and a campaign for a library tax in progress. The tax was defeated last November.

The theme of the summer program this year was "Reading Rocks." The 10-book readers received black backpacks in the shape of a guitar. Other awards included free passes to University of Louisville sporting events and the yard sign.

Buthod said the Library Foundation provided about \$110,000 for the incentives.

Reporter Sheldon S. Shafer can be reached at (502) 582-7089.



By Sara Cunningham, The Courier-Journal

Alyssa Luckett, II, smiled during the ceremony at Rangeland Elementary School. Every student at the school read at least 10 books for the Louisville Free Public Library's summer reading program. Fifth-grader Alyssa said she read 15.

## School basks in reading honors

### Rangeland receives trophy for its effort

By Sara Cunningham  
and Antwon Pinkston  
The Courier-Journal

Students at Rangeland Elementary School read more books this summer than Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson.

Rangeland's 448 students all participated in the Louisville Free Public Library's summer reading program, reading at least 10 books or having 10 books read to them.

To reward the eager readers, Abramson and library officials presented a trophy to the school last week.

"I read a lot of books this summer, but not 10," Abramson told the Rangeland students during the trophy ceremony. "Obviously, you all are reading better than me."

Children all over Jefferson County were invited to be a part of the annual summer reading program, but Rangeland Elementary was one of just four public schools to have all of its students partici-

pate. Overall, more than 26,900 students in the county's private and public schools took part.

Jacob, Roosevelt-Perry and Mill Creek elementary schools also received trophies for having 100 percent participation.

The students who completed the summer program received free passes to University of Louisville sporting events and a yard sign announcing their reading accomplishments.

The program's theme this summer was "Reading Rocks!" and included lots of rock 'n' roll fun like free backpacks that had guitars on them.

Rangeland was picked for a special ceremony last week because the school has participated in the program for about five years, said Craig Buthod, the executive director of the Louisville Free Public Library.

Buthod also spoke to the children during last week's event, calling them the library's most loyal summer readers.

Rangeland's fifth-graders have participated in the program since they were in first grade, he said.

"We're really impressed," he

said.

Several students admitted that they were a little impressed with themselves.

"It shows our parents that we're a good school and we're working hard," said Briana Lee, 10. "We want to be ready for middle school."

Briana, a fifth-grader, said she read 15 books over the summer.

Fellow fifth-grader Aron Goin said he also read 15 books.

"Reading can help you learn and it shows what you need to work on," said 10-year-old Aron. "All kids should do this next summer."

Mashelle Kiggins, Rangeland Elementary's principal, said having the reading trophy at the school is an awesome feeling for the students and staff. "I can't thank the parents of our students and the staff here enough," she said. "We have a great partnership with the parents and you can see the fruits of our labor with a trophy like this."

Reporter Sara Cunningham can be reached at (502) 582-4335. Reporter Antwon Pinkston can be reached at (502) 582-4241.



# Photographs

Photographs of the Newburg community belonging in the “public domain” are very rare. Nevertheless, we have found a few. Perhaps someone you know can be found in these historical photographs. These photographs were found at the Kentucky Historical Society, Digital Collection and the Louisville Courier Journal. Current photographs of the Forest Home Cemetery, also known as Petersburg-Newburg Cemetery and the Kentucky Historical Marker were taken by Joe Hardesty, Kentucky History and Genealogy Librarian at the Louisville Free Public Library.

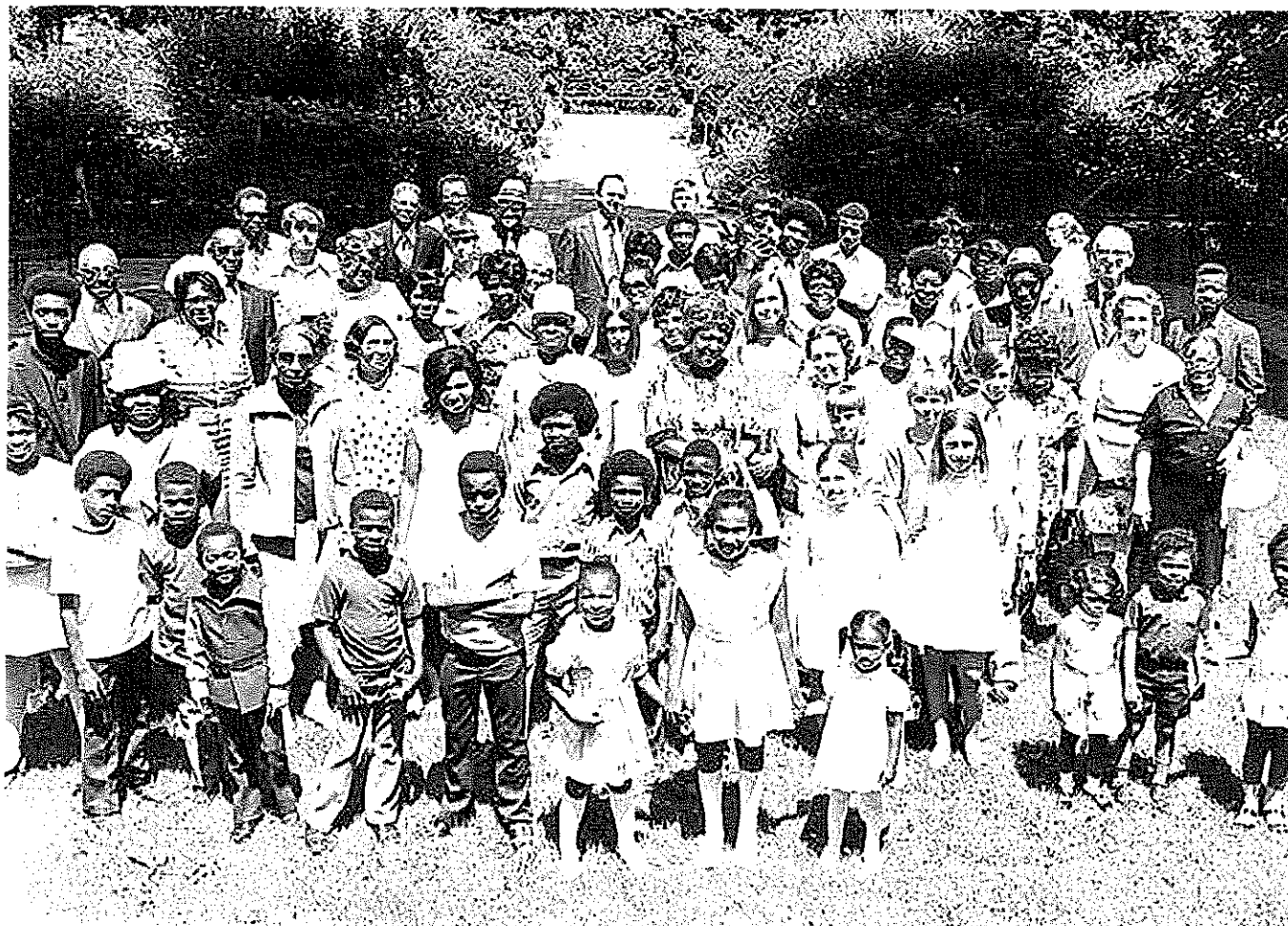
- Joseph Zahner, 1915, Newburg Settlement
- Newburg Neighborhood Association meeting at Farmington, ca. 1970's
- Newburg Days festival at Newburg-Petersburg Park, 1991



Joseph Zahner with 1915 Ford automobile, at Newburg Settlement.  
It is believed that he is at Lizzie Grayson's house located on Newburg Turnpike.  
Ms. Grayson was the daughter of former slaves. Her husband Joe plowed the  
field behind the house.

Source: Kentucky Historical Society, Digital Collection, Accession #  
JFL.1990ph2.3JEFL8. Contributed by Rev. Joseph and Rev. William Zahner.





Newburg Neighborhood Association meeting at Farmington, ca. 1970's.  
Many from the group were descendants of slaves and slave owners, including  
the Hite family, at Farmington.

Source: Kentucky Historical Society, Digital Collection. Accession #  
JFA.1990ph2.2JEFA16 Contributed by Linda Rogers Farmington Founders



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL LUSTER

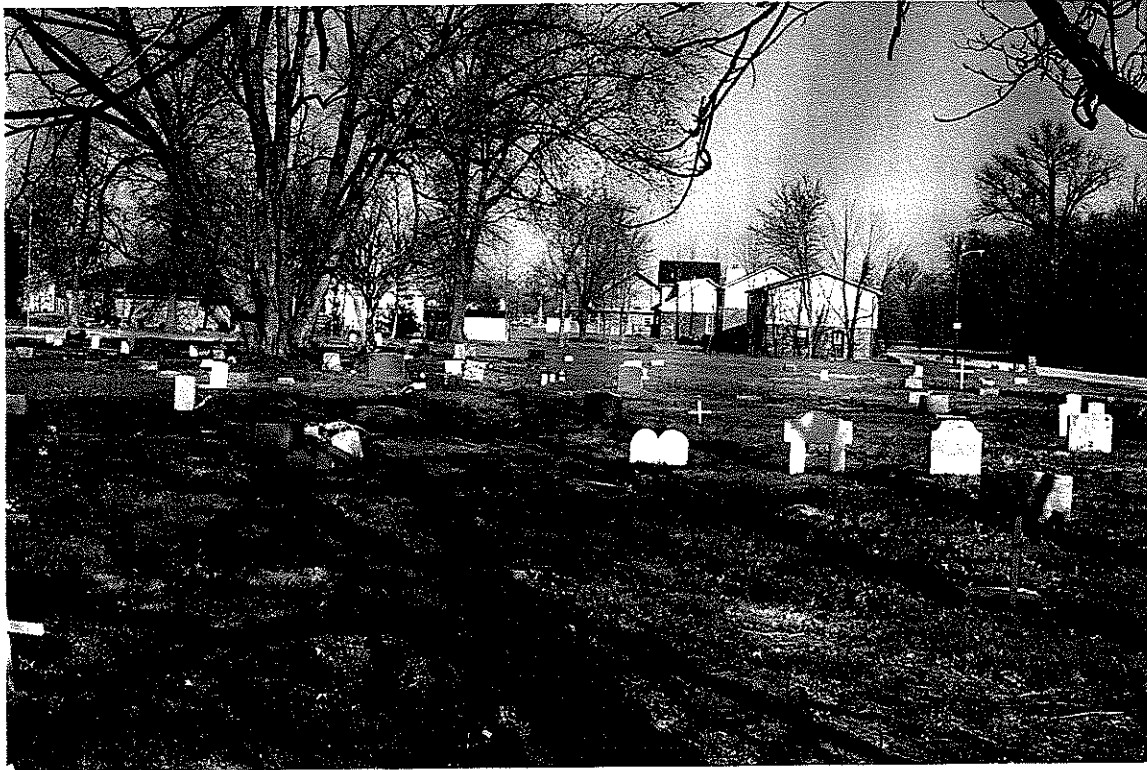
**RAPPIN' IT UP:** Desmond Allen, left, and Kevin Thomas showed some moves as they danced to rap music yesterday during the Newburg Days festival at Newburg-Petersburg Park, Indian Trail at Petersburg Road. The weeklong celebration ends today.

Source: Sept. 1, 1991, *Louisville Courier-Journal*, Section B, Page 4.



①

Forest Home Cemetery near E. Indian Trail + Newburg Rd  
Louisville, KY



← homes:  
Petersburg  
Estates

Star Hope Baptist Church



↑  
Cinder block  
marker

↑  
Wooden cross

3-2001

2

Some new graves (some co. indigent graves?)



Graves and markers are scattered in some areas of cemetery

3-2001



Problems: Sinkholes



A few sinking headstones, but not many.



④

Major earth moving: Dirt mound below...



Clearing woods? Wetlands? (Swamplands?)



3-2001



Homemade monuments are plentiful.



Eliza Tevis (freed slave) grave site marked by a rock

# Kentucky Historical Marker

## Forest Home Cemetery

(Marker Number: 2094)

County: Jefferson

Location: Louisville, 3650 Petersburg Rd.

**Description:** Forest Home Cemetery evolved from an old slave burial ground and is final resting place of Eliza Curtis Hundley Tevis (ca. 1802-84) and other early settlers of Petersburg community. Tevis was born a slave but gained freedom in 1833. She and her husband Henry purchased 40 acres in 1851 in Wet Woods, where Tevis had lived for many years. Presented by African American Heritage Foundation.

(Reverse) Forest Home Cemetery - Tevis was a significant African American landowner in antebellum Jefferson County. After the Civil War, the Tevis property and 40 adjacent acres purchased by Peter Laws were subdivided by 1880 to form rural African American community of Petersburg. Forest Home Cemetery is located near site of Tevis home and is one of oldest dedicated African American burial grounds in Ky.





# Maps

**The maps of the Petersburg/Newburg community are arranged in chronological order.**

(92) The first map is from 1858. In the upper right corner, the property of Henry and Lizzie Tevis is circled. Henry and Lizzie Tevis, freed slaves, were married On June 17, 1843. In February 1851, they purchased 40 acres of land in the Wet woods near John Hundley's property.

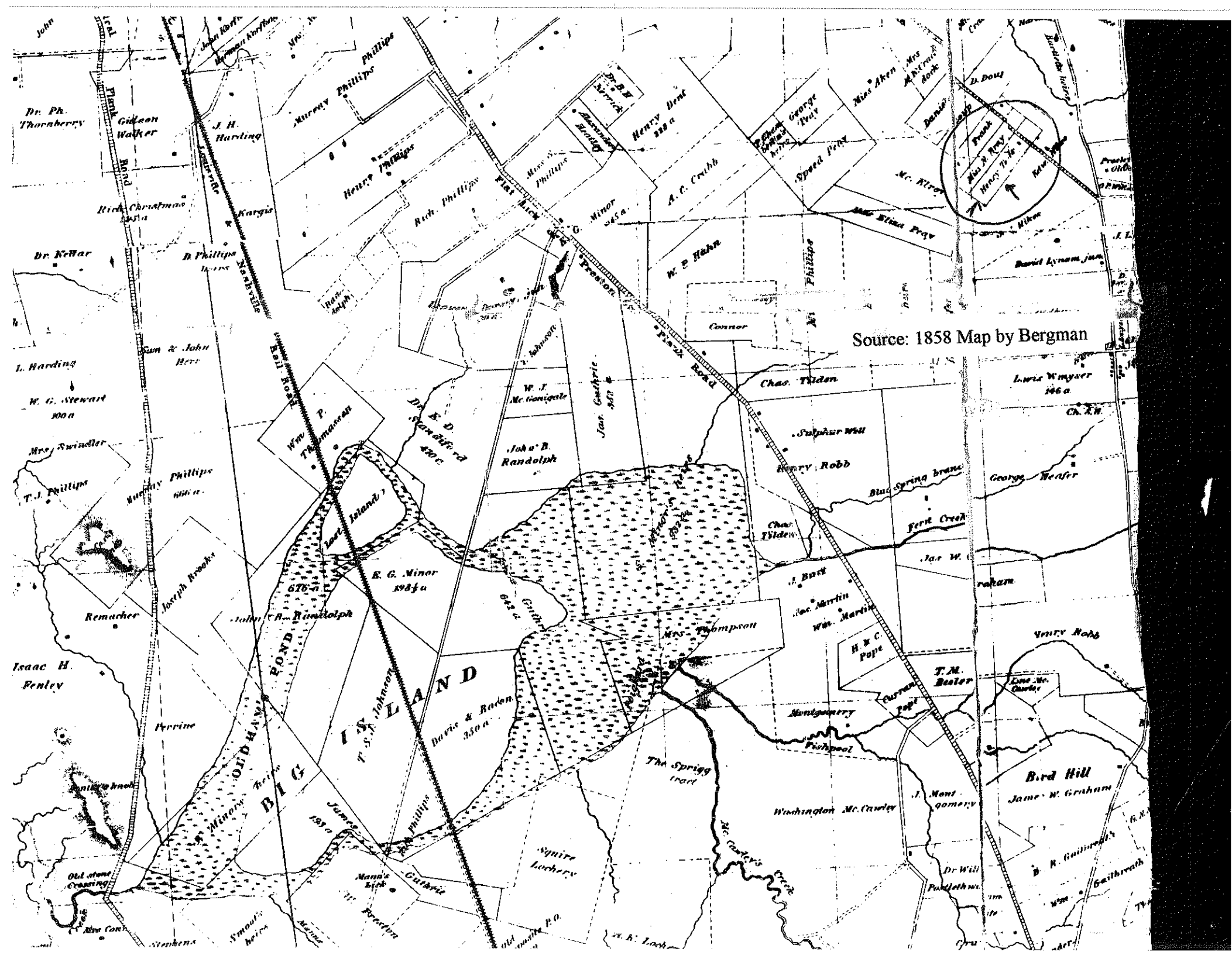
(94) A look at the entire Two Mile House area which then included Petersburg can be found on the 1879 map. A closer look at this map (95) shows the location of the property owned by Peter Laws whom Petersburg was named (underlined here).

(96) In the center of the map dated 1913 you will find a church and school in the center. This is believed to be the current site of Forest Home Cemetery, the burial place of Elizabeth Tevis.

(97) The Wet Woods were depicted in this Louisville Courier Journal article, June 1941. The Wet Woods were formed by the retreat of a Devonian-period glacier and is positioned on a large deposit of New Albany shale that is a highly erodible and impervious material that creates a watertight seal when it is wet.

(98 and 99) Louisville East Quadrangle Topographic Maps, 1950 and 1982 shows the Newburg area in relation to other areas in Louisville. Circled you will find the current location of Forest Home Cemetery, Newburg Middle School, Newburg Community Center, and Newburg Library.

(100 and 101) The maps have circled the street location and an aerial view of the Newburg Library location.



Source: 1858 Map by Bergman





**ATLAS**  
**OF**  
**JEFFERSON**  
**AND**  
**OLDHAM**  
**COUNTIES**

**KENTUCKY.**

*From New and Actual Surveys*

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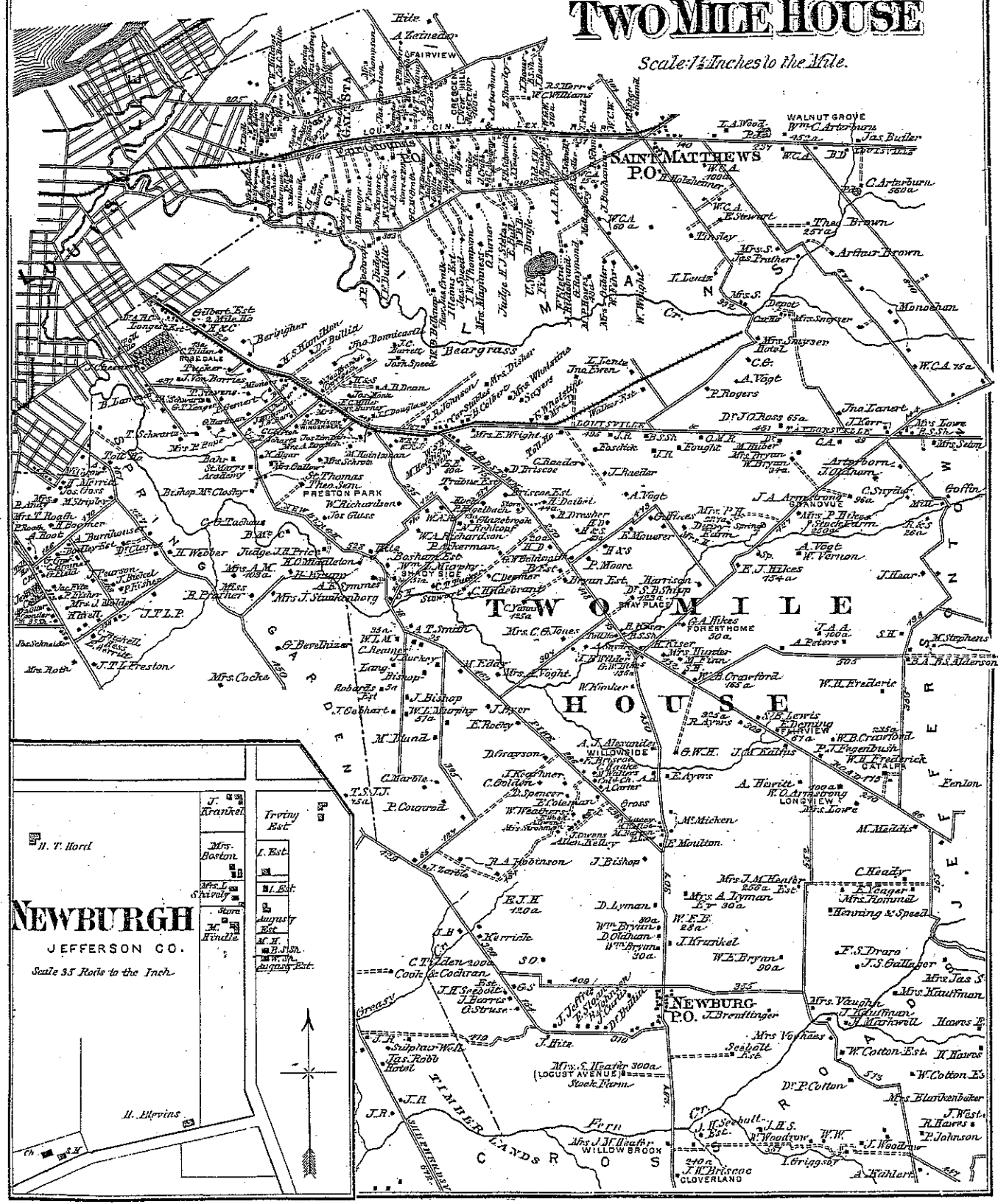
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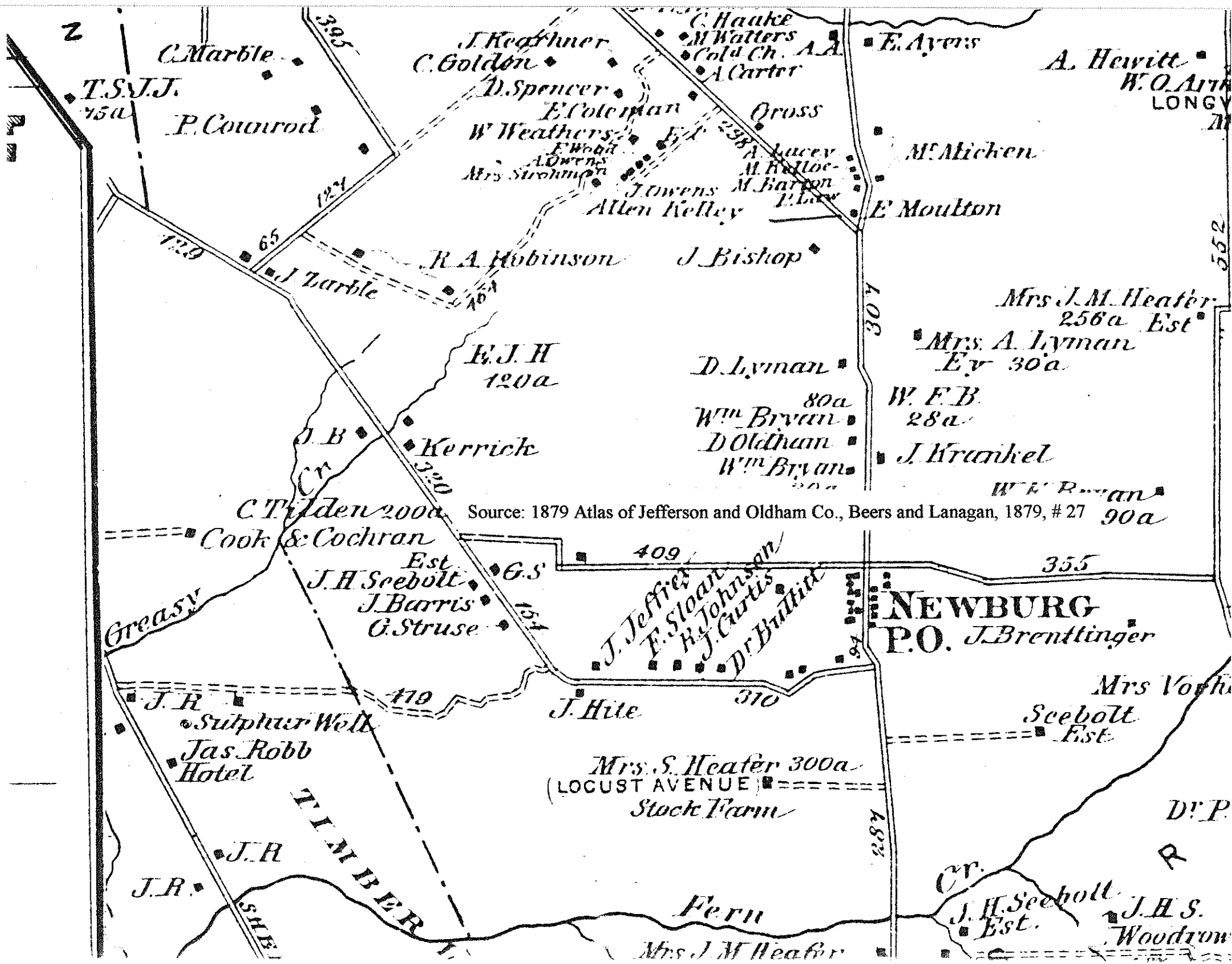
# TWO MILE HOUSE

Scale 1/4 Inches to the Mile.



Source: Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Counties, 1879



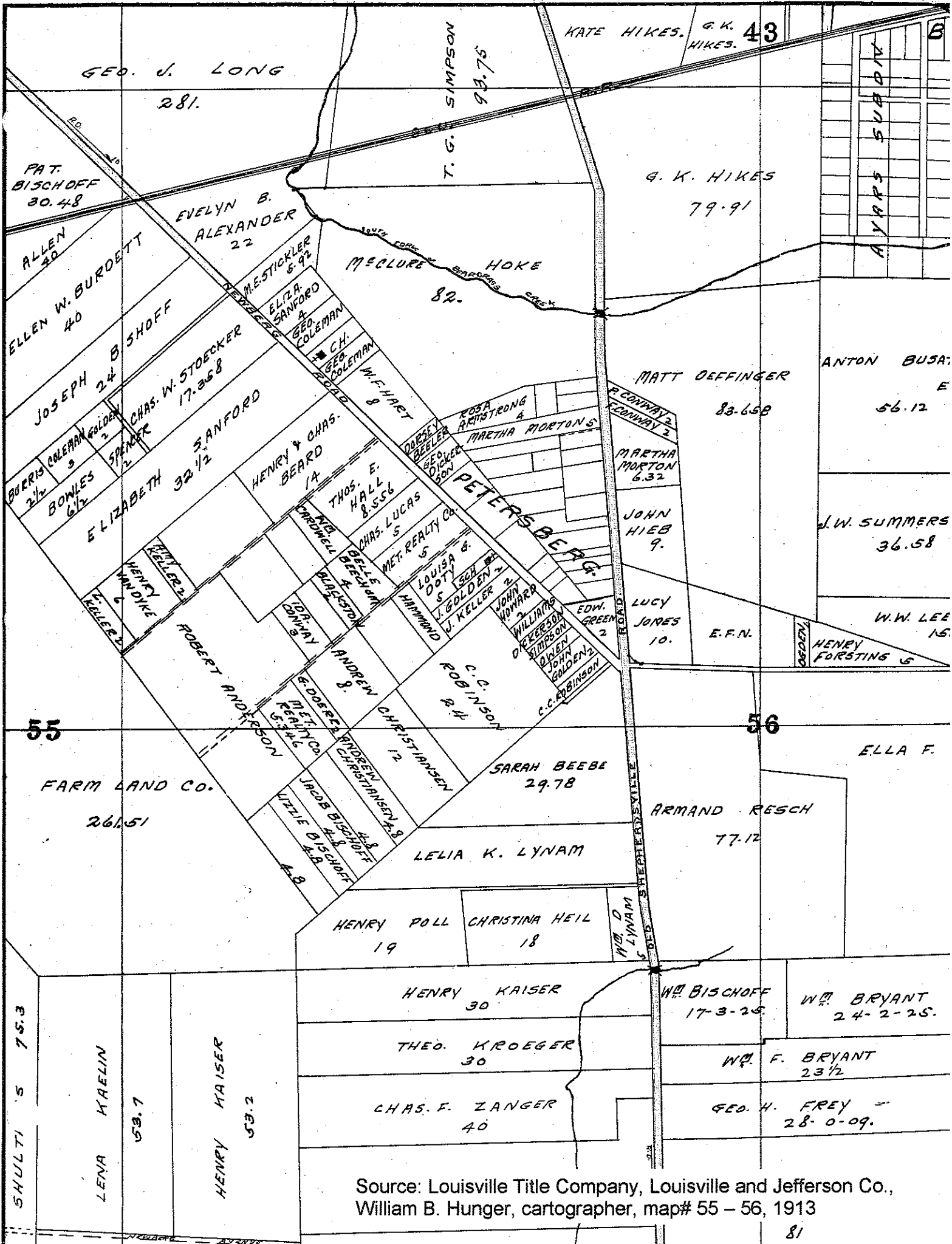


Source: 1879 Atlas of Jefferson and Oldham Co., Beers and Lanagan, 1879, # 27

**NEWBURG**  
P.O. J. Brentlinger

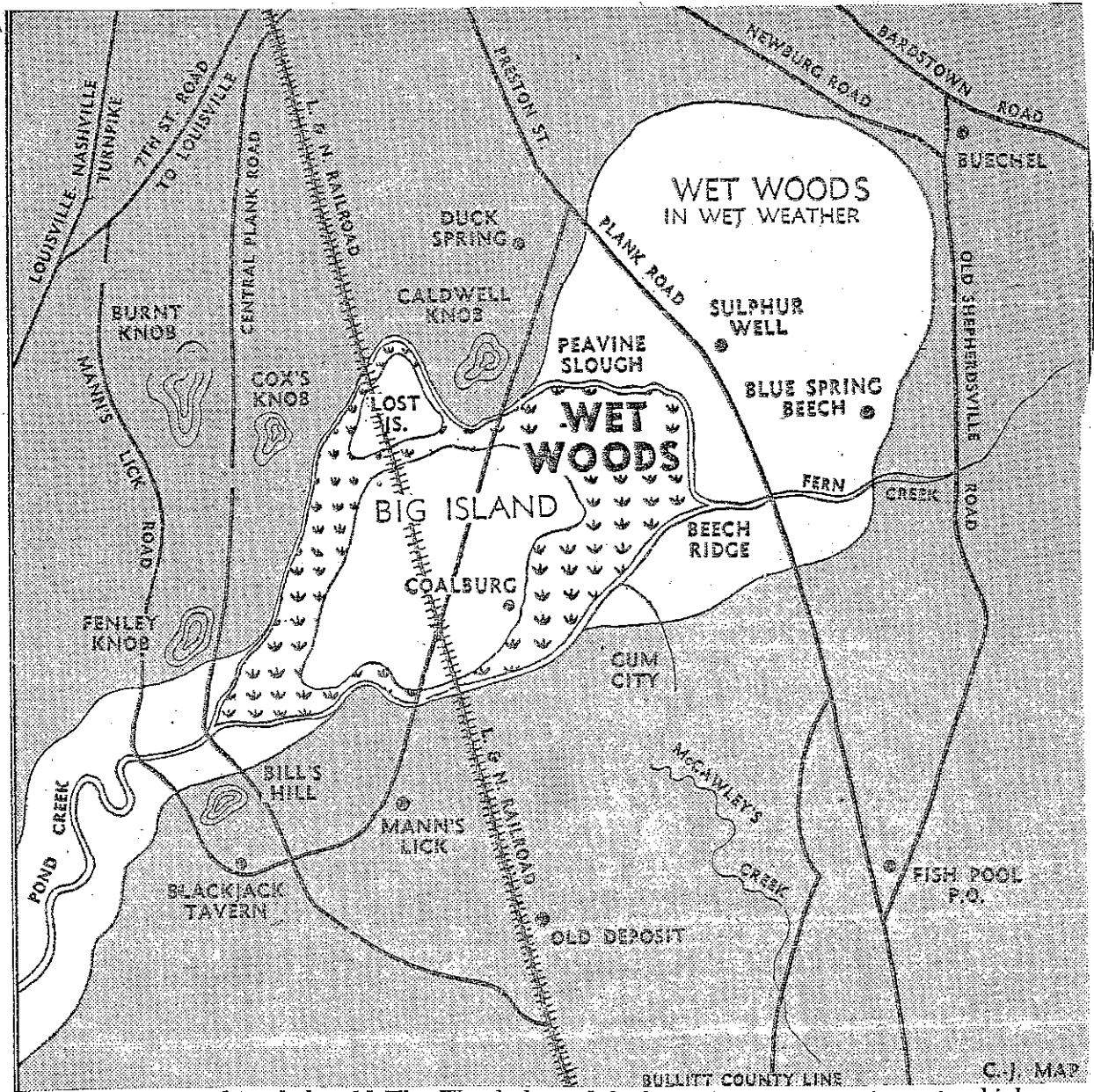
Mrs. S. Heater 300a  
(LOCUST AVENUE)  
Stock Farm

J.H. Seebolt Est.  
J.H.S. Woodrow



Source: Louisville Title Company, Louisville and Jefferson Co., William B. Hunger, cartographer, map# 55 - 56, 1913

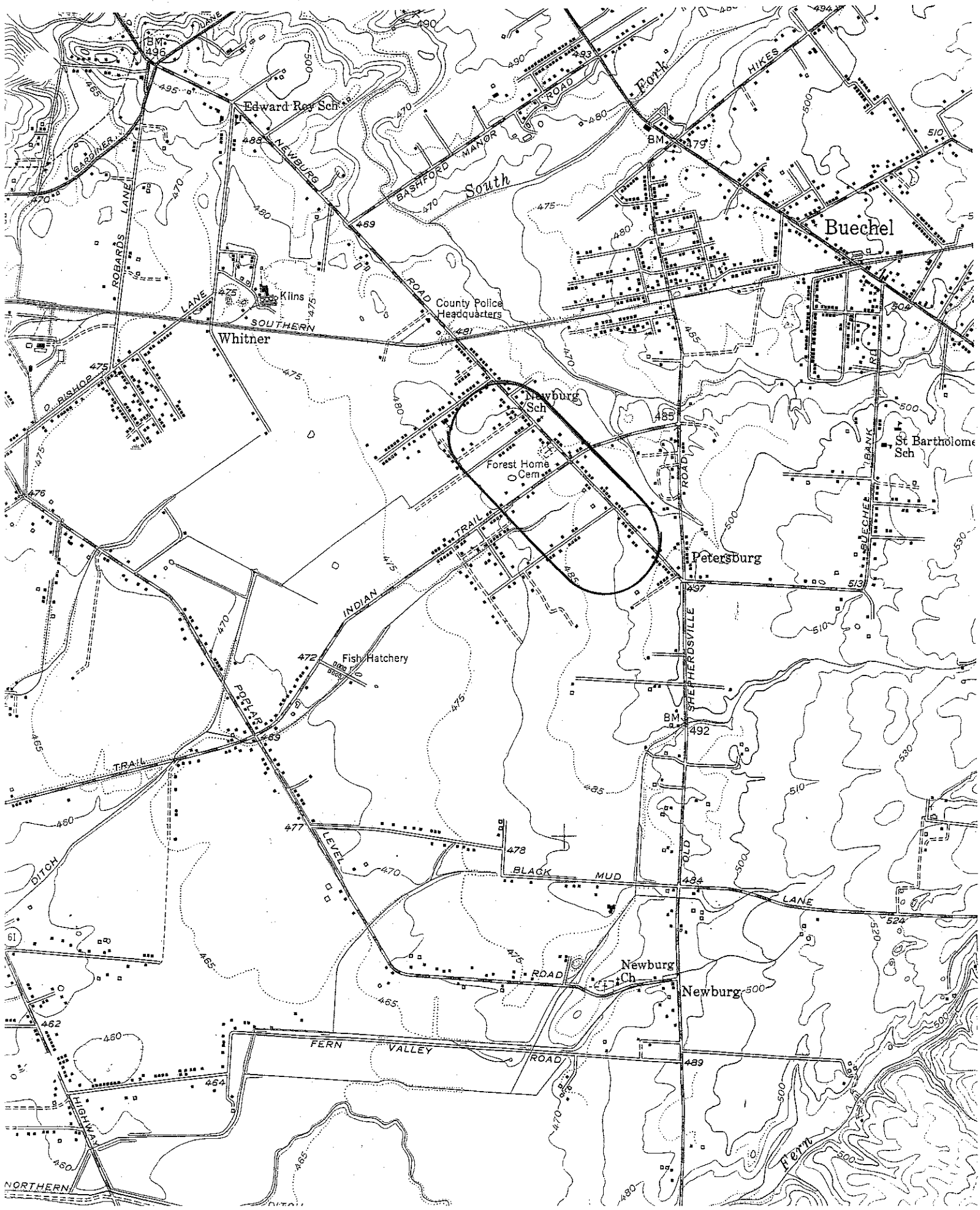




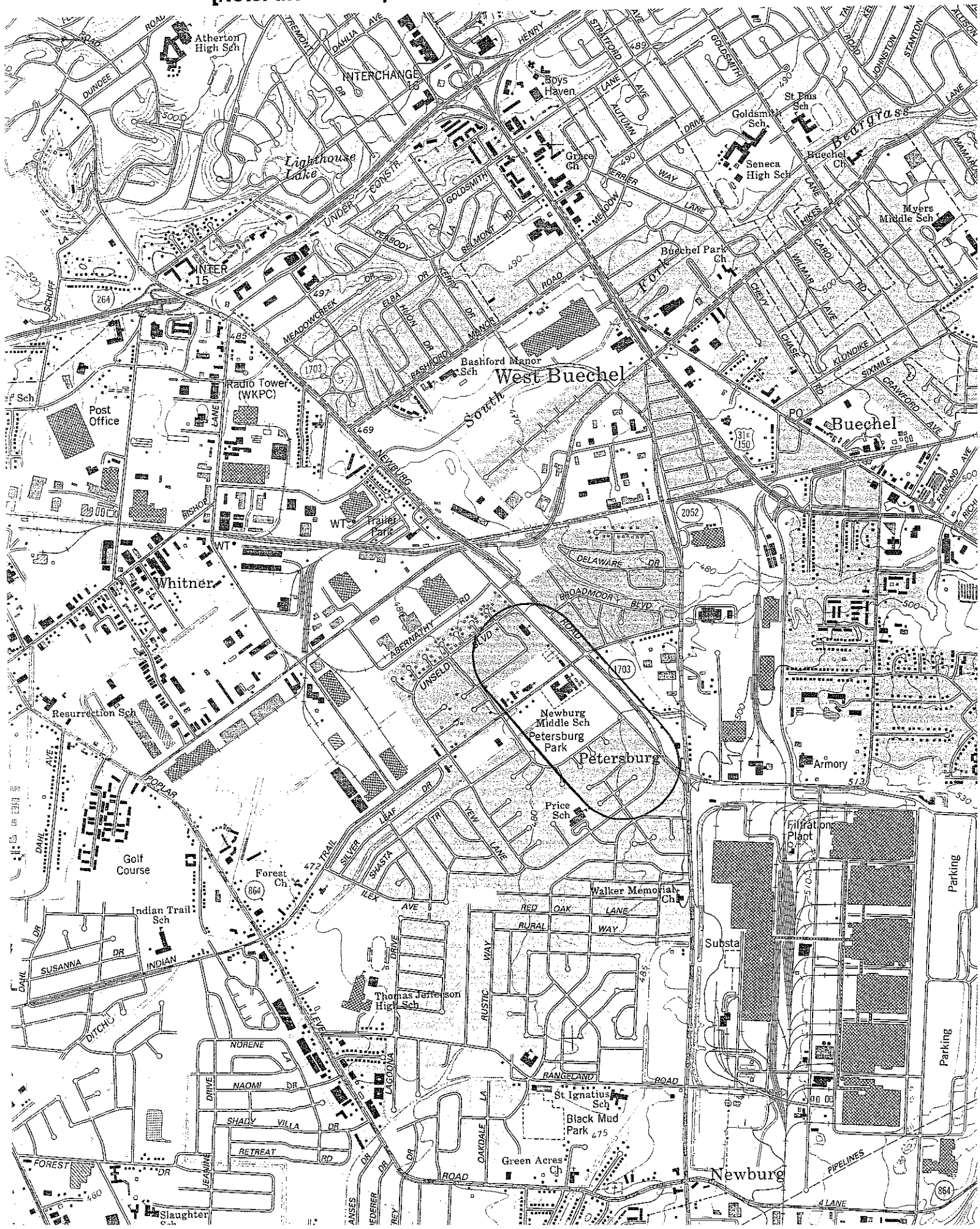
Boggy trails that skirted the old Wet Woods have left their pioneer names to motor highways.

Source: Louisville Courier-Journal, June 8, 1941

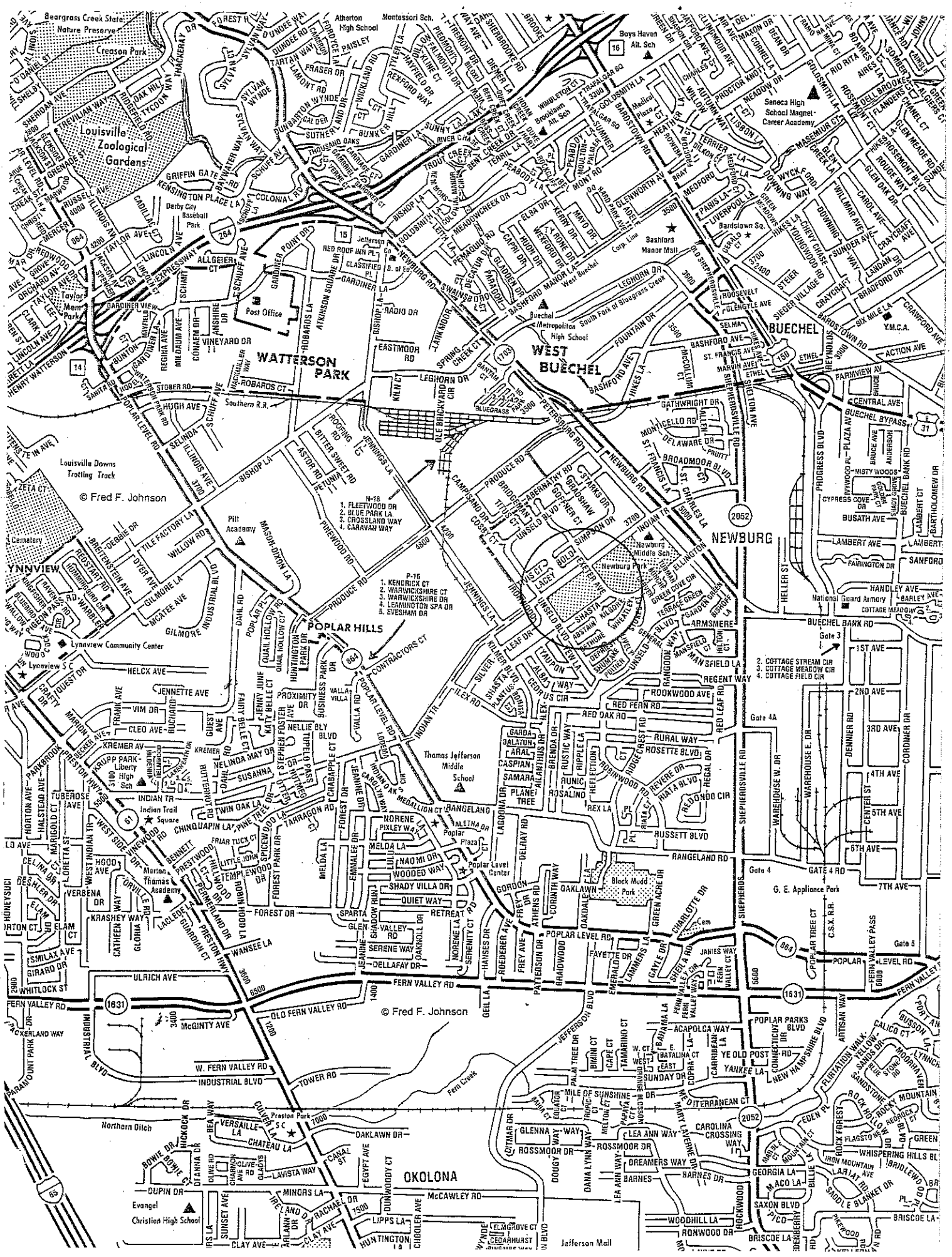
Source: Louisville East Quadrangle Topographic Map, 1950  
[Note: the small square black dots represent private dwellings]



Source: Louisville East Quadrangle Topographic Map, 1982  
[Note: the small square black dots represent private dwellings]







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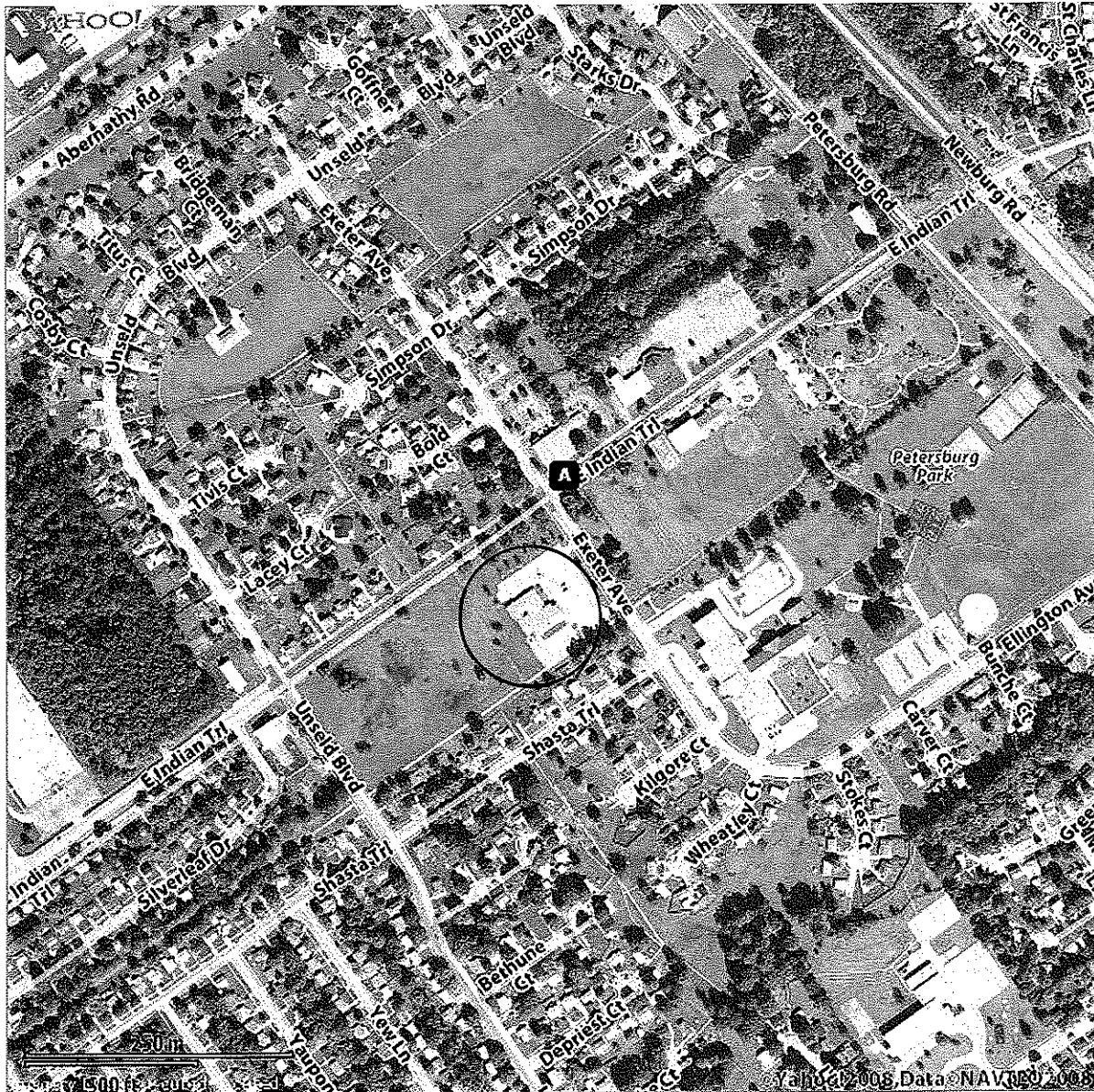
**WATERSON PARK**  
**WEST BUECHEL**  
**NEWBURG**  
**POPLAR HILLS**  
**OKOLONA**

**Streets:** BROADWAY, WASHINGTON, MAIN, MARKET, CENTER, BROAD, WEST, EAST, NORTH, SOUTH, etc.

**Landmarks:** Louisville Zoological Gardens, Jefferson High School, Saneca High School Magnet-Career Academy, Louisville Downs Trotting Track, National Guard Armory, Jefferson Mall, etc.

**Other Labels:** Louisville, Buchanan, Newburg, Poplar Hills, Okolona, etc.

# Arial View of Neighborhood surrounding Newburg Branch Library



Source: <http://maps.yahoo.com>, Retrieved Oct. 28, 2008

# Population History

Demographic profiles provide another look at the make-up of a community. General characteristics of the population and race as well as social, economic and housing characteristics are described for the 40218 and 40219 zip codes making up the Newburg area.

(102) In the upper right hand corner you will see the Population of the U.S. Census of 1870. The area that included Newburg was called Two-Mile House precinct, named for the closest stage coach house.

- Population from U.S. Census of 1870
- 2000 Census Demographic Profile for 40218
- 2000 Census Demographic Profile for 40219



POST OFFICES.

POPULATION FROM U.S. CENSUS OF 1870

OLDHAM COUNTY.

JEFFERSON COUNTY.

JEFFERSON COUNTY.

OFFICE.	PRECINCT.
Board's Station.....	Rollington.
Brownsboro.....	Brownsboro.
Buckner's Station.....	La Grange.
Goshen.....	Goshen.
La Grange.....	La Grange.
Pura.....	Floydsburg.
Pewee Valley.....	Rollington.
Westport.....	Westport.

OFFICE.	PRECINCT.
Anchorage.....	Anchorage.
Cross Roads.....	Cross Roads.
Eden.....	Middletown.
Fairmount.....	Fairmount.
Fern Creek.....	Jeffersontown.
Fisherville.....	Fisherville.
Floyd's Fork.....	Middletown.
Harrod's Creek.....	Harrod's Creek.
Jeffersontown.....	Jeffersontown.
Lochland.....	Shiveley's.
Long Run.....	Boston.
Louisville.....	Louisville.
Lynon.....	Gilman's.
Middletown.....	Middletown.
Newburgh.....	Two-Mile House.
O'Bannon.....	O'Bannon.
Orell.....	Meadow Lawn.
Pleasure Ridge Park.....	Shiveley's.
River View.....	Meadow Lawn.
Saint Matthew's.....	Gilman's.
Taylor's Station.....	Boston.
Valley Station.....	Johnstown.
Worthington.....	Springdale.

	TOTAL.	NATIVE.	FOREIGN.	WHITE.	COLORED.
Blankenbakers.....	605	429	176	59	76
Boston.....	652	554	98	506	146
Cane Run.....	645	514	129	437	206
Cross Roads.....	783	754	29	604	179
Fairmount.....	329	321	8	347	42
Fisherville.....	1,085	1,078	7	886	199
Gilman's.....	1,685	1,334	351	1,287	398
Harrod's Creek.....	876	795	81	553	318
Hays'.....	885	331	4	863	22
Jeffersontown.....	1,620	1,543	77	1,338	282
Louisville.....	109,753	75,085	25,668	85,796	14,956
Lower Pond.....	1,353	1,295	58	1,026	327
Middletown.....	2,074	1,923	151	1,472	602
Middletown.....	244	241	3	213	31
Shiveley's.....	335	655	130	560	275
Shiveley's.....	738	635	103	632	106
Spring Dale.....	792	737	55	475	317
Spring Garden.....	327	638	194	634	143
Two-Mile House.....	2,340	1,932	408	1,798	542
Woods.....	518	485	33	508	10
Summary.....	118,953	91,143	27,810	99,806	19,146

	Anchorage.	Ballardsville.	Boston.	Brownsboro.	Buckner's Station.	Centerfield.	Cross Roads.	Fairmount.	Fern Creek.	Fisherville.	Goshen.	Harrod's Creek.	Jeffersontown.	La Grange.	Louisville.	Middletown.	Newburgh.	Oldhamburgh.	Orell.	Pleasure Ridge Park.	Pewee Valley.	Seatonville.	St. Matthew's.	Westport.	Worthington.	
Anchorage.....																										
Ballardsville.....	14.9																									
Boston.....	7.6	13.8																								
Brownsboro.....	8.6	10.1	11.2																							
Buckner's Station.....	12.6	7.2	15.0	4.1																						
Centerfield.....	10.3	3.7	11.5	6.4	8.5																					
Cross Roads.....	17.	31.1	21.3	25.7	29.7	13.1																				
Fairmount.....	12.8	26.5	16.8	21.2	25.2	23.9	7.6																			
Fern Creek.....	10.1	24.1	14.3	18.7	22.7	21.4	7.0	2.5																		
Fisherville.....	8.7	18.7	5.4	17.3	20.4	16.9	17.4	12.9	10.4																	
Goshen.....	11.9	16.2	19.5	7.8	10.9	14.4	27.8	24.5	23.0	20.6																
Harrod's Creek.....	9.2	18.2	16.8	9.2	13.2	14.5	21.0	19.0	17.1	17.9	6.6															
Jeffersontown.....	6.6	20.0	10.2	14.6	18.6	17.2	11.1	6.6	4.1	6.3	17.8	11.0														
La Grange.....	15.6	4.1	16.8	7.8	3.8	5.3	22.1	17.6	13.1	22.	12.	17.0	21.5													
Louisville.....	13.7	25.1	18.7	18.4	22.1	21.4	12.7	15.0	12.5	18.7	15.8	9.2	12.4	23.2												
Middletown.....	1.5	15.5	6.1	10.1	14.7	11.8	15.6	11.1	3.6	7.3	13.4	10.7	4.5	17.1	12.1											
Newburgh.....	13.8	27.3	17.5	21.5	25.9	24.6	5.4	7.1	5.4	13.6	22.4	15.7	7.3	32.9	9.3	11.9										
Oldhamburgh.....	15.4	12.5	18.5	7.5	7.3	10.3	31.4	23.1	25.5	24.1	8.1	10.2	21.4	8.5	19.4	16.9	25.9									
Orell.....	23.0	29.6	32.8	32.8	36.8	35.8	18.5	27.6	25.1	31.1	30.1	23.6	24.8	49.6	14.4	23.5	20.6	23.8								
Pleasure Ridge Park.....	22.9	24.4	27.5	27.7	31.7	30.7	13.5	22.7	20.0	26.0	25.1	18.5	19.7	35.5	9.3	21.4	13.5	23.7	5.1							
Pewee Valley.....	4.6	9.4	9.1	4.0	8.0	5.7	21.7	17.2	14.7	13.3	11.5	9.8	10.6	11.0	16.7	6.1	17.9	11.5	31.1	23.0						
Seatonville.....	11.8	25.8	12.9	20.4	24.4	23.1	11.0	4.5	4.3	7.5	23.7	16.8	5.3	27.4	16.5	10.3	9.4	27.2	20.1	24.0	16.4					
St. Matthew's.....	7.4	19.6	12.4	14.3	13.3	15.9	12.9	12.3	9.5	13.5	13.9	7.3	7.7	22.1	5.8	6.3	8.4	17.5	20.2	15.1	11.0	13.5				
Westport.....	19.6	15.1	22.2	11.0	8.6	12.1	36.7	32.2	29.7	23.3	8.9	15.5	25.8	9.0	24.7	21.1	31.2	5.3	31.1	44.0	15.0	31.4	22.8			
Worthington.....	4.9	12.9	12.5	6.7	10.7	9.2	21.5	17.5	15.0	13.6	7.0	5.3	10.9	14.5	12.2	6.4	16.0	10.6	26.8	21.5	4.5	16.7	7.0	15.9		

OLDHAM COUNTY.

Ballardsville.....	1,144	1,063	81	810	334
Brownsboro.....	1,277	1,277	40	837	440
Floydsburg.....	800	769	31	563	237
La Grange.....	2,137	2,071	66	1,423	714
La Grange.....	612	589	23	372	240
Rollington.....	891	793	103	531	310
Saltillo.....	1,194	1,116	78	659	535
Westport.....	1,584	1,583	15	1,314	270
Summary.....	9,027	8,663	414	6,217	2,810

TABLE OF DISTANCES.

Showing the Distances in Miles and Tenths of Miles, measured on the nearest Public Road between the Principal Villages.

AMOUNT OF PRODUCE, &c. FROM U. S. CENSUS OF 1870.

	Acres of Improved Land.	Value of Farms.	Value of all Farm Productions.	Value of Live Stock.	Number of Horses.	Number of Mules and Asses.	Number of Milch Cows.	Number of Working Oxen.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Swine.	Number of Hogs.	Number of Cattle.	Number of Horses.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Swine.	Number of Cattle.	Number of Horses.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Swine.	Number of Cattle.	Number of Horses.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Swine.	Number of Cattle.
JEFFERSON COUNTY.....	162,434	\$17,253,397	\$3,231,078	\$1,304,615	8,369	1,292	2,273	114	7,018	34,573	102,827	12,451	1,059,729	368,152	9,574	33,262	377,142	101,122	312,253					
OLDHAM COUNTY.....	86,605	4,919,230	1,201,111	578,745	3,101	78	2,023	133	9,220	19,001	22,525	8,109	314,745	127,550	201,285	25,718	28,312	21,000	124,380					

## Census 2000 Demographic Profile for 40218 Zip Code:

<b>General Characteristics -</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent U.S.</b>	
<b>Total population</b>	29,094		
Male	13,589	46.7	49.1%
Female	15,505	53.3	50.9%
Median age (years)	35.3	(X)	35.3
Under 5 years	2,004	6.9	6.8%
18 years and over	22,020	75.7	74.3%
65 years and over	4,214	14.5	12.4%
 <b>Race:</b>	 28,468	 97.8	 97.6%
White	16,392	56.3	75.1%
Black or African American	11,078	38.1	12.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	48	0.2	0.9%
Asian	493	1.7	3.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	8	0.0	0.1%
Some other race	449	1.5	5.5%
Two or more races	626	2.2	2.4%
 Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	 998	 3.4	 12.5%
 Household population	 28,708	 98.7	 97.2%
Group quarters population	386	1.3	2.8%
 Average household size	 2.24	 (X)	 2.59
Average family size	2.93	(X)	3.14
 Total housing units	 13,853		
Occupied housing units	12,825	92.6	91.0%
Owner-occupied housing units	6,536	51.0	66.2%
Renter-occupied housing units	6,289	49.0	33.8%
Vacant housing units	1,028	7.4	9.0%
 <b>Social Characteristics -</b>	 <b>Number</b>	 <b>Percent U.S.</b>	
Population 25 years and over	19,108		
High school graduate or higher	15,629	81.8	80.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher	3,801	19.9	24.4%
Civilian veterans (civilian population 18 years and over)	3,055	14.0	12.7%
Disability status (population 5 years and over)	5,672	21.4	19.3%
Foreign born	2,175	7.5	11.1%
Male, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	4,921	47.2	56.7%

Female, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	4,870	38.9	52.1%
Speak a language other than English at home (population 5 years and over)	2,740	10.2	17.9%

<b>Economic Characteristics -</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent U.S.</b>	
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	14,812	65.5	63.9%
Mean travel time to work in minutes (workers 16 years and older)	21.9	(X)	25.5
Median household income in 1999 (dollars)	32,984	(X)	41,994
Median family income in 1999 (dollars)	40,577	(X)	50,046
Per capita income in 1999 (dollars)	18,398	(X)	21,587
Families below poverty level	925	12.5	9.2%
Individuals below poverty level	4,120	14.5	12.4%

<b>Housing Characteristics -</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent U.S.</b>	
Single-family owner-occupied homes	5,442		
Median value (dollars)	91,200	(X)	119,600
Median of selected monthly owner costs	(X)	(X)	
With a mortgage (dollars)	776	(X)	1,088
Not mortgaged (dollars)	235	(X)	295

(X) Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3)



Census 2000 Demographic Profile for 40219 Zip Code:

<b>General Characteristics -</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>U.S.</b>
Total population	36,933		
Male	17,785	48.2	49.1%
Female	19,148	51.8	50.9%
Median age (years)	35.9	(X)	35.3
Under 5 years	2,612	7.1	6.8%
18 years and over	27,824	75.3	74.3%
65 years and over	4,708	12.7	12.4%
One race	36,321	98.3	97.6%
White	29,431	79.7	75.1%
Black or African American	6,012	16.3	12.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	116	0.3	0.9%
Asian	393	1.1	3.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	21	0.1	0.1%
Some other race	348	0.9	5.5%
Two or more races	612	1.7	2.4%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	1,037	2.8	12.5%
Household population	36,631	99.2	97.2%
Group quarters population	302	0.8	2.8%
Average household size	2.47	(X)	2.59
Average family size	2.95	(X)	3.14
Total housing units	15,463		
Occupied housing units	14,831	95.9	91.0%
Owner-occupied housing units	9,515	64.2	66.2%
Renter-occupied housing units	5,316	35.8	33.8%
Vacant housing units	632	4.1	9.0%
<b>Social Characteristics -</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>U.S.</b>
Population 25 years and over	24,387		
High school graduate or higher	19,004	77.9	80.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher	2,411	9.9	24.4%
Civilian veterans (civilian population 18 years and over)	4,288	15.5	12.7%
Disability status (population 5 years and over)	7,941	23.3	19.3%
Foreign born	1,152	3.1	11.1%
Male, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	7,552	53.6	56.7%

Female, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	7,474	49.4	52.1%
Speak a language other than English at home (population 5 years and over)	1,924	5.6	17.9%

<b>Economic Characteristics -</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>U.S.</b>
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	19,166	66.6	63.9%
Mean travel time to work in minutes (workers 16 years and older)	22.3	(X)	25.5
Median household income in 1999 (dollars)	37,078	(X)	41,994
Median family income in 1999 (dollars)	43,211	(X)	50,046
Per capita income in 1999 (dollars)	17,541	(X)	21,587
Families below poverty level	905	8.8	9.2%
Individuals below poverty level	3,985	10.9	12.4%

<b>Housing Characteristics -</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>U.S.</b>
Single-family owner-occupied homes	8,975		
Median value (dollars)	91,300	(X)	119,600
Median of selected monthly owner costs	(X)	(X)	
With a mortgage (dollars)	795	(X)	1,088
Not mortgaged (dollars)	232	(X)	295

(X) Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3)

# *the Newburg Library*

## News Articles

The Newburg community sought a public library for decades. This section details the journey that brought the wishes of the community to fruition with the Newburg Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library. The newest chapter in the history of Newburg captured in newspaper articles and a personal accounts.

- Various Courier-Journal clippings related to the Newburg Library
- Article in The NYC Voice written by Ms. Gloria Forte Allen
- Greetings from the Newburgh Library in Newburgh, Fife, Scotland



## Louisville to buy land for 3 suburban libraries

Courier - Journal. Louisville, Ky.: Feb 2, 2006. pg. A.1

### Abstract (Summary)

The allotment of the money is the first step in the city's massive plan to upgrade its libraries, which pack too many books in too little space and inadequately serve the growing suburbs, city officials said. Officials acknowledge that Louisville's library system, recognized as among the nation's best decades ago, now lags behind the state's recommended library standards.

Full Text (905 words)

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By Sheldon S. Shafer

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<b>The Courier-Journal

Louisville will set aside \$2 million to buy land for three regional libraries outside the Watterson Expressway, Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson will announce today.

The allotment of the money is the first step in the city's massive plan to upgrade its libraries, which pack too many books in too little space and inadequately serve the growing suburbs, city officials said.

The proposed libraries in the northeast, southeast and southwest parts of Jefferson County would cost \$6 million to \$8 million each and hold about 175,000 volumes. Although there is no timetable or funding yet, Abramson said he hopes to break ground on at least one site "within a couple of years."

undefinedundefinedundefinedundefined

A southeast regional library is an attractive idea to Lydia Whitford, who travels 2A 1/2 miles from her Highlands home to the Bon Air Regional Library on Hikes Lane for books and tapes to help home-school her 8-year-old daughter, Rebekah.

Sometimes she finds that she needs items from a larger selection, like the special math books Rebekah uses. For more choices, Whitford drives to the Main Branch downtown, where parking can be a pain.

"Oh sure, I would use it," she said of a new regional library, "especially if it has a lot of books that Bon Air doesn't have."

Officials acknowledge that Louisville's library system, recognized as among the nation's best decades ago, now lags behind the state's recommended library standards.

A 2002 comparison of 16 library systems in the region showed Louisville at or near the bottom in spending, volumes, circulation and space.

The Louisville Free Public Library's master plan would address many of those deficiencies, officials say.

<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?index=10&sid=1&srchmode=1&vinst=PROD&fmt=3&st...> 7/7/2009

In addition to the regional libraries, the plan calls for spending about \$80 million to expand the Main Branch on York Street and renovate more than a dozen branches.

"The new regional branches come first," Abramson said.

Abramson's plan is to buy the three sites, each about four acres, and hold them for construction .

The mayor is asking the Metro Council to earmark \$2 million for the sites from a \$2.9 million, one-time windfall the city is receiving from the Louisville Water Co. because of heavy water use last summer. The city owns all the stock in the water utility.

The remaining \$900,000 will help pay for projects such as the installation of surveillance cameras in high-crime areas, Abramson said.

Metro Council members were enthused about Abramson's plan.

"This is fantastic," said Metro Council member Glen Stuckel, R-17th, who has been looking for a library site in his northeast district for three years.

"I think the recommendation will probably be received favorably," said Kelly Downard, R-16th, who is running against Abramson for mayor. Downard said the need for a large library in the northeast area he represents is critical. "We don't have one," he said.

Council member Barbara Shanklin, D-2nd, has been lobbying for a Newburg library for several years. She called the \$2 million for library land "a really good idea."

Negotiations on several sites are under way, with the deals expected to be finalized soon, Abramson said.

He wouldn't identify the land for fear it might affect the price.

Once the land is secured, Abramson said, the city will begin seeking money from individuals, corporations and foundations, or even state and federal officials. The city also might conduct a capital drive similar to the one Humana founder David Jones is undertaking for the City of Parks project.

Mary Griffith, chairwoman of the Louisville Library Foundation, said the foundation expects to help raise money to build the three regional libraries.

Library Director Craig Buthod said there would be extensive community dialogue before decisions are made about the regional libraries' designs and services .

When the new branches are built, the Bon Air site would be reduced to a neighborhood-level facility and the southwest branch would probably close and be folded into the new southwest regional facility, Buthod said.

Although Lyubov Gavrilova lives near Middletown, she returns regularly to Bon Air because she once lived nearby.

She predicted a new regional branch offering more services would be heavily used.

"It would be great if there were more activities for kindergarten kids," she said.

The Rev. Glenn Williams of Mount Hermon Baptist Church comes to Bon Air several times a month, mainly to do research for sermons. Although he likes Bon Air, he said, a large new library with more computers and books "would be great. I am sure I would use it."

Reporter Sheldon S. Shafer can be reached at (502) 582-7089.

Louisville Free Public Library

**Sites:** Main Library on York Street, plus 16 branches

**Budget:** About \$16 million a year

**Cardholders:** About 370,000

**Total volumes:** About 1.3 million

**On the Web:** [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

**Share your thoughts**

A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. today at the Main Library for the Americans for Libraries Council, a national research group on library use and fund raising that wants to hear suggestions on what services, programs and materials libraries of the future should have.

The council will use the information in a report to be published later this year called "The Future of Libraries." The effort is being underwritten by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



## **Speakers support library tax**

**Courier - Journal.** Louisville, Ky.: Jul 20, 2007. pg. B.1

### **Abstract (Summary)**

Newburg has too many pawn shops, liquor stores and bingo halls, and now "it's our time," said Newburg resident Roland Allen.

### **Full Text (684 words)**

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**Metro Council holds**

hearing on proposal

By Sheldon S. Shafer

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The Courier-Journal

A string of library supporters turned out last night at the only scheduled public hearing on a proposed occupational-tax levy to expand and operate the Louisville Free Public Library system.

A county wide referendum is set for Nov. 6 on a proposed tax of two-tenths of 1 percent, which would generate nearly \$40 million a year for the library system.

Business people, educators and ordinary citizens were among the 40 people who spoke at City Hall in favor of the library improvement plan. About 100 people attended the hearing conducted by the Louisville Metro Council.

The sentiments of businessman Anthony Mapp were reflected in the words of many subsequent speakers. "I don't like taxes," he said. "But at the same time, this is not a tax. This is an investment. "

Ed Kimmel said he goes to the library and sees the "the joy and hope ... a feeling of magic" on the faces of children there, adding that "the library represents the best opportunity for personal growth at very little cost."

Many speakers mentioned the worth of specific branches they use, and several residents of Newburg said the tax offers a chance for that neighborhood to finally get its own branch.

Newburg has too many pawn shops, liquor stores and bingo halls, and now "it's our time," said Newburg resident Roland Allen.

Another proponent, the Rev. Frank Smith Jr., said, "We can build buildings. We can build bridges. But if we don't build minds, we will be in a bind."

Humana co-founder David Jones and his wife, Betty, both spoke in favor of the tax. David Jones said that as a child growing up in western Louisville he would take books home from the library in a wagon.

Several youths added their voices, including D.J. Pressley, 16, who will be a Presentation Academy senior. She said she has been going to the library since she was 3 years old and now volunteers shelving books and CDs and helping with children's activities at the Crescent Hill branch and the main library. She said she is often on waiting lists for books and that the library plan means more materials would be available to users.

No organized opposition to the library proposition has yet formed, and there were few discouraging words last night.

Dissent came from Norman Morton, who said he resigned recently as the library system's marketing manager in protest of the tax. He contended that the tax will not raise enough money to fund the library's master-facilities plan, which calls for about \$120 million in improvements over the long term.

He also said the Library Foundation, which has pledged to raise money to fund the pro-library campaign this fall, could better spend the money on books and materials. Morton said he favors quality libraries, but "the proposal before us is not worthy of the task."

Ten of the 26 Metro Council members attended the 2 1/2-hour hearing, even though the council has no say on the library proposal.

Afterward, library Director Craig Buthod said he was pleased with what he termed "vigorous support" for the library. He said the outpouring of support indicates a strong chance that the tax will be approved.

Similar proposals were defeated in 1991 and 1986.

Under the proposed tax, which would go into effect Jan. 1, a worker earning \$38,000 a year would pay \$76 a year to the library district. Businesses would also pay the tax on profits.

A service plan submitted with petitions seeking the referendum calls for spending more than \$75 million on library capital projects over the first 3 1/2 years. The plan calls for three new regional libraries, new smaller libraries in Pleasure Ridge Park and Newburg, and replacement or renovation of nearly all branches along with a major overhaul of the main library.

The city now provides about \$17 million a year to the library, money that would be freed up for other uses if the tax is approved.

Reporter Sheldon S. Shafer can be reached at (502) 582-7089.

# New library is promised for Newburg

## 17th branch to cost \$1 million

By Sheldon S. Shafer  
sshaffer@courier-journal.com  
The Courier-Journal

Newburg is getting a library that residents have pushed for since the 1950s, Mayor Jerry Abramson said yesterday.

In an interview, he said the new branch will be the first step in a long-stalled library improvement plan.

It will be adjacent to the Newburg Community Center on city-owned land near Indian Trail and Exeter Avenue and will be the first new branch in the Louisville Free Public Library system since Fairdale opened in 1998.

It will be the system's 17th branch, in addition to the main library downtown.

Abramson said he will propose spending \$1 million to build and equip the library in the 2008-09 metro budget that he will unveil next Thursday.

See **NEWBURG**, A6, col. 1



Abramson

## NEWBURG

## Branch library to be built

Continued from A1

He said the Newburg library, which should open late next spring and have 5,000 square feet of space, will be one of the very few bright spots in an austere budget.

The money to build it, he said, would come from unspent library funds budgeted for this fiscal year.

Of many library-related needs, "most people agree that Newburg is the top priority," Abramson said.

He said the Newburg branch was at the top of a list of capital-project requests from members of the Louisville Metro Council, which must approve the new budget by June 30, the end of the current fiscal year.

Gloria Allen, president of the Library and a member of the nonprofit group Library Lovers, said she has been praying that the library would become a reality.

"He knew we've needed this library for over 40 years," she said. "And we deserve it. I am thankful that I have lived long enough to get it done."

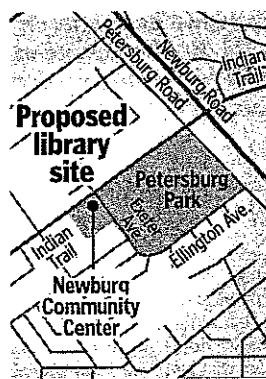
The Newburg branch is "exactly where we need to go" as a first step in implementing the library-expansion plan, said library director Craig Buthod. The need in Newburg "is strong, the population is ready and the kids deserve it."

The expansion plan has been dormant since a proposed occupational tax to fund about \$200 million in proposed improvements was soundly defeated in a countywide referendum last November.

The plan called for three new regional libraries and new branches in Newburg and Pleasure Ridge Park, as well as the overhaul or replacement of most of the branches and the main library.

Abramson, the Metro Council and library officials have struggled since November to find a way to proceed with some library improvements. Council members have talked about holding off on any major work until around 2011, when the city will gain some additional bonding capacity.

Metro Council member Barbara Shanklin, D-2nd District, who represents Newburg, said the proposed library "is great. The people in Newburg have been talking about a library since the



By Steve Durbin, The Courier-Journal

1950s. It will mean so much for the education of our young people. They will have access to computers without having to leave the community."

Shanklin said the nearest branch is the one in Bon Air, about two miles away.

Council President Jim King, D-10th District, predicted that "the council will be enthusiastic" about the Newburg branch, adding, "I don't see anyone who will be negative about this."

He said the Newburg branch has a higher priority than the three regional branches, which might cost \$10 million each.

"It can be built with very little money," he said. "It will reach thousands of children and adults who don't have access to the technology it will have."

King said the branch will

serve Petersburg, Bashford Manor, Buechel and other communities.

Abramson said the \$1 million for the branch is part of \$2.5 million that the Metro Council set aside for library design work and programs in this fiscal year's budget that hasn't been spent.

He said he will not recommend spending the other \$1.5 million. But he said he is proposing to spend about \$70,000 to staff the new library when it opens next spring.

King said the council also probably will not spend the other \$1.5 million set aside for library projects.

Buthod said he recently did a study that found two of the schools with the highest library-card usage were Thomas Jefferson and Newburg middle schools — both close to the Newburg library site.

Abramson said the branch will serve as a prototype for others to follow. He referred to it as a "cyber-library," to be stocked with computers, study carrels and children's books and materials. Buthod said it will have self-service checkout.

Abramson said a public meeting will be held in Newburg, probably in midsummer, to explain the plans and get citizen input.

Reporter Sheldon S. Shafer can be reached at (502) 582-7089.



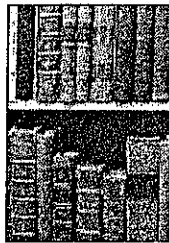
# Courier Journal Community Section May 24, 2008



## A library for Newburg

There's a bright spot in metro Louisville's spartan budget: The city is going to build and outfit a state-of-the-art branch library in Newburg. It should be open next year.

Librarian Craig Buthod notes that among county school students, those with the highest library-card usage were from Thomas Jefferson and Newburg middle schools — both near the Newburg library site.



A new library for underserved Newburg will be a step forward.

Mayor Jerry Abramson, who announced the new branch plans, said that the Newburg library will be a prototype for others — a “cyber-library” with computers and other high-tech services.

Newburg is precisely the kind of neighborhood that needs expanded library services, especially to provide students with the kinds of computerized research tools that are readily available in more affluent areas. Of course, if Louisville voters had not been flimflammed by opponents of the library referendum last fall, the community would be seeing branches like Newburg's all over metro Louisville.

# Council: Library plan is overdue

COURIER JOURNAL  
METRO SECTION  
June 11, 2008

## Metro officials want action on expansion

By Dan Klepal

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The Courier-Journal

Louisville Free Public Library Director Craig Buthod said yesterday that by the end of the summer, he will have hired two firms to help complete a new, scaled-down master plan for library expansion.

But that's a few months too late for many Metro Council members, who grilled Buthod yesterday during a budget hearing at which they expected to see the new plan.

When Buthod had nothing new to show, council members — who had unanimously approved a \$2.5 million bond in March for Buthod to finish revising the plan and pay for architectural design of the first new buildings — became frustrated with him.

"I'm concerned we're headed in the wrong direction, or maybe no direction at all," said Councilman Hal Heiner, R-19th District, who along with council President Jim King, D-10th, drew up a \$100 million library financing plan.

"We set aside \$2.5 million for you to get moving and you've not taken any action," Heiner said. "Get something going."

Last fall, the library was pushing a \$200 million expansion that would have relied exclusively on a permanent increase to the city's occupational tax. Voters rejected the tax hike by a wide margin.

In yesterday's hearing, Buthod said several times that voters "rejected the master plan" as he described the failed referendum for the tax.

Budget committee Vice Chairman Kelly Downard, R-16th, then said to Buthod: "Please stop saying that. It upsets me."

Robin Engel, R-22nd, added: "I don't believe (voters) rejected the master plan. I think they rejected

## LIBRARY | Council wants to see plan

Continued from B1

an occupational tax (increase) that was going to be forever."

Stuart Benson, R-20th, then asked Buthod if he was getting pressure from the outside, from either the library's advisory commission or Mayor Jerry Abramson, not to spend the money the council set aside.

"I've not experienced that particular conflict," Buthod said. "Part of the problem is you gave us \$2.5 million for a master plan, and master plans don't cost \$2.5 million."

Council members then started shaking their heads and rolling their eyes.

"I grew up in a large family, and this is typically the point where voices are raised," said Republican caucus leader Kevin Kramer, 11th District. "No one on this council expected you to spend \$2.5 million on the master plan. We gave you

more than you needed ... to move ahead with the design work."

Councilman Glen Stuckel, R-17th, urged Buthod to deliver the council's frustration back to the library's advisory commission.

"Everyone on this council wants this to happen," Stuckel said. "We've got to get our library system out of the doldrums. I hope you hear the message."

A new branch library in the Newburg area is in the mayor's proposed \$812 million metro budget, which the council will continue reviewing over the next two weeks.

It will be a small, 5,000-square-foot branch focused on technology, with more computers, Internet access that extends beyond the building's walls and features such as do-it-yourself check-out and scanners that automatically sort books to make it easier to restock shelves.

Abramson has proposed using \$1 million of the \$2.5 million the council set aside for the master plan and design work to pay for the Newburg branch.

King, the council president, indicated the council might have other plans for funding the branch.

"You wouldn't object to us finding money for Newburg from another source," King asked. "One way or another, we'll find it."

King said in an interview after the hearing that construction of any library branches is still two years away. And the council still doesn't know how it will pay for higher operating costs that will go with more and bigger library buildings.

Paying for operations "is where the rubber meets the road," he said, and the council will have to take that up soon.

Reporter Dan Klepal can be reached at (502) 582-4475.

## **Some cuts may be restored**

**Courier - Journal**. Louisville, Ky.: Jun 25, 2008. pg. A.1

### **Abstract (Summary)**

Saving \$1.5 million by delaying three bond issues by a matter of months: for the Museum Plaza skyscraper project downtown; the Center City development, an 18-acre downtown development including the former Louisville Water Co. headquarters block and the old Louisville Gardens; and the general-obligation bond that pays for most capital projects in the budget. The city funding pays for three programs, the largest of them is the child advocacy center, which provides a physician and mental health services for kids after abuse is alleged.

**Full Text** (987 words)

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**Metro Council could add**

**\$8 million for programs**

**By Dan Klepal**

[dklepal@courier-journal.com](mailto:dklepal@courier-journal.com)

**The Courier-Journal**

The Louisville Metro Council is proposing an \$8 million addition to Mayor Jerry Abramson's 2008-09 budget - with money for programs for the poor; a larger branch library in Newburg; and a variety of neighborhood projects, from sidewalks to parks.

Abramson's \$812 million spending plan forecasts a scant 2.2 percent growth in revenue for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. It would be smallest revenue increase in five years.

But council members say they can cover the additional spending by:

Using \$3 million of an estimated \$5 million in savings the city should realize if the legislature approves a pension reform bill this week, which would affect local and state government workers' pensions. The remaining \$2 million would go in the bank.

Saving \$1.5 million by delaying three bond issues by a matter of months: for the Museum Plaza skyscraper project downtown; the Center City development, an 18-acre downtown development including the former Louisville Water Co. headquarters block and the old Louisville Gardens; and the general-obligation bond that pays for most capital projects in the budget.

Increasing the general obligation bond by about \$3.5 million.

Council President Jim King, D-10th District, said the \$3 million in pension reform revenue is dedicated to capital projects that won't begin until later in the year. If the windfall is not realized, the money won't be spent.

King added that the additional \$3.5 million in bonds will cost taxpayers about \$125,000 in debt service payments in



the coming year, and about \$225,000 every year thereafter.

"It's immaterial considering what we're accomplishing with it," King said.

Chad Carlton, a spokesman for Abramson, said there are options on the land for the Center City development that require the city to buy it within a specified time frame.

The city is checking to make sure the savings projected in the council's proposal are real.

"Our goal is to make sure the dollars balance," Carlton said.

All of the changes are proposals at this point. The council's Budget Committee will vote on them during a meeting today, and the full council is expected to pass the 2008-09 budget tomorrow.

Council member Kelly Downard, R-16th and vice-chairman of the Budget Committee, said budget negotiations between Democrats and Republicans went smoothly this year.

"We've got \$2 million we're not even spending," Downard said. "When government isn't spending all the money, it's going pretty easy."

Getting there wasn't easy.

The council heard about tremendous need in the nonprofit community to provide services for the poor.

Those agencies collectively were cut to \$4.2 million from \$6.8 million in the current budget.

The council is proposing putting \$1.2 million back into the budget for them.

Zandra Lyons, executive director of the Kling Center, which provides meals and social services for the elderly, would have received nothing in the mayor's proposed budget, a \$40,000 reduction from the current year.

The council's revisions would restore \$35,000 for the center, which has an overall budget of less than \$200,000.

Lyons said the Kling Center, which also is receiving less funding from United Way, might have been forced to close unless new funding could be found.

"For many of our clients, we give them the only warm meal they get each day," Lyons said. "Why the city would cut us 100 percent, I don't know. But we were already feeling the pinch, and definitely our day-to-day operations would be in jeopardy eventually."

The council also would provide \$68,800 for Family and Children First, an agency that in the next year will help more than 1,000 victims of child sexual abuse.

Executive Director Dan Fox said it was a shock to see the city's funding go from \$86,000 this year to zero under the mayor's proposed budget.

"It's terrific news for the families we're helping," Fox said. "It would mean the families are able to continue getting the services they've come to expect over the years."

The city funding pays for three programs, the largest of them is the child advocacy center, which provides a physician and mental health services for kids after abuse is alleged.

"City funding is critical to keep the advocacy center in operation," Fox said.

The proposed changes also include \$750,000 for new water spray facilities at Breslin, Shelby and Wyandotte parks, where public swimming pools were closed.

The closings at Shelby and Breslin parks caused a public outcry and sparked a fundraising effort by local businesses and community leaders.

The council also is talking about putting \$600,000 toward redevelopment of Waterfront and Riverview parks; \$700,000 for maintenance of Slugger Field; and an extra \$500,000 toward the Newburg library, bringing the total for that project to \$1.5 million.

There are smaller amounts - \$100,000 or less - for several neighborhood projects, such as mowing vacant lots (\$50,000), the Shawnee neighborhood plan (\$25,000), safety projects on Brownsboro Road (\$100,000) and several others.

As part of the budget process, the council also is expected to pass an ordinance that will increase the occupational tax for most people who work in Jefferson County. Because of a change in state law, all cities must now apply the occupational tax to previously untaxed health care, child care and transportation expenses taken out of pay checks.

That change is expected to generate \$5 million a year for the local government.

Reporter Dan Klepal can be reached at (502) 582-4475.

#### AT A GLANCE

\$1.2 million for nonprofit agencies that provide services for the poor

\$1.5 million for Newburg library branch. The money will be bonded so \$2.5 million set aside for a library expansion master plan and building design will remain

\$600,000 for redevelopment of Waterfront and Riverview parks

\$700,000 for maintenance at Slugger Field

#### WHAT'S NEXT

The council's budget committee considers the proposed changes at 4 p.m. today; the full council votes on the budget tomorrow.

## **Council OKs budget, won't slow buying land**

**Courier - Journal.** Louisville, Ky.: Jun 27, 2008. pg. B.1

### **Abstract (Summary)**

Partisan debate erupts over development By Dan Klepal [dklepal@courier-journal.com](mailto:dklepal@courier-journal.com) The Courier-Journal Louisville has a new budget today, but not until after some harsh words, unexpected theatrics and the entire Republican minority on the Metro Council voting against one of its two spending plans. Abramson's budget forecasts revenue growth of only 2.2percent and held funding for many city departments level while cutting deeply into money for social services, housing, the arts and business associations, so-called "external agencies."

Full Text (1058 words)

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Partisan debate erupts over development

By Dan Klepal

[dklepal@courier-journal.com](mailto:dklepal@courier-journal.com)

The Courier-Journal

Louisville has a new budget today, but not until after some harsh words, unexpected theatrics and the entire Republican minority on the Metro Council voting against one of its two spending plans.

The council approved an \$820million total budget for 2008-09, a combination of a capital budget for building projects and an operating budget for things such as employee salaries, fuel and programs for citizens. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

But a fierce, 90-minute partisan debate erupted over an unsuccessful effort to delay \$17million in spending for downtown land that is intended to become a development called Center City. The \$442million project, which will include the old Louisville Water Co. block, is expected to include shops, a hotel, nightclubs, restaurants, a cinema complex and a refurbishing of Louisville Gardens.

Council Republicans tried to force a six-month delay in buying land for the project, saying they wanted Mayor Jerry Abramson's administration to give the council details about the project's finances and land appraisals before spending the money.

Administration officials opposed the delay because they are scheduled to close on two parcels of land in about 40 days. They said Wednesday night it was really an attempt by Republicans to hijack economic deals by the mayor.

Councilman Kelly Downard, R-16th District, led the delay effort, holding up a stamp to make his point.

"We should just give this rubber stamp to the mayor and tell him that any time you want to buy \$17million or \$25million worth of property, just do it," Downard said. "We find ourselves in a position that we've been in before, with a multimillion bond issue for a project we've not seen."

The vote to eliminate the delay, approved during a council Budget Committee meeting Wednesday night, split along



party lines, with 14 Democrats in favor and 11 Republicans opposed. Democrat Vicki Welch, D-13th, was absent.

Republicans felt so strongly about the issue that they voted in a bloc against the entire \$97.5million capital budget, which passed 14-11.

"It's the magnitude of a \$17million land buy," said council member Hal Heiner, R-19th. "I, we, can never vote for spending without oversight."

Council President Jim King said he was disappointed by the Republicans' vote. "I was surprised given the bipartisan spirit in which we attempted to work through the whole budget process," King said. "But I respect their right to their opinion."

Democrats argued there will be plenty of fiscal oversight for the Center City project. The administration will need council approval for the final design plans and for the financing, if city money is involved.

Council member David Tandy, D-4th, said the council's proper role "is when this matter comes back for final agreement of the project itself." Tandy said the council inserting itself at this stage would be having "too many cooks in the kitchen."

The budget process started with a dire speech from Abramson, who said it was one of the most difficult financial years since Louisville and Jefferson County governments merged.

Abramson's budget forecasts revenue growth of only 2.2percent and held funding for many city departments level while cutting deeply into money for social services, housing, the arts and business associations, so-called "external agencies."

The council restored some of that funding, thanks in part to a \$5million windfall expected to come with state pension reform, holding back on several bond issues and increasing the amount of the city's general obligation bond by \$3.5million. The administration agreed with spending some of the pension windfall.

In all, the council added about \$8million in spending to Abramson's proposed \$812million budget, giving more to programs for the poor, parks, aquatics, a new library branch in Newburg and more.

The council added \$2.2 million for the external agencies and changed the way they will get the money. Language in the budget now requires any grant awards of \$25,000 or less to be given in a lump sum, and awards between \$26,000 and \$50,000 to be given in two payments within six months.

There were major problems last year with nonprofit groups getting their checks late - in some cases several months late - as the grants were split into four quarterly installments.

Anne Smith, director of Ministries United South Central Louisville, said timely payments are especially important to her organization because they pay social workers' salaries. "We need the money on a timely basis," Smith said. "We serve some of the poorest areas, and we're getting poorer by the day."

The council also had proposed adding \$600,000 for new spray grounds at Shelby and Breslin parks, where public swimming pools were closed this year. There was public outcry over the pool closings.

The language in the budget has since been changed to allocate \$600,000 for "aquatics facilities," with a decision to be made later on what will happen at those parks. Metro Parks Director Mike Heitz has promised public hearings in the Irish Hill and Phoenix Hill neighborhoods over the future water facilities.

Cindy Kinloch Brown, a member of the Phoenix Hill Neighborhood Association who led the effort to reopen the Breslin Park pool, said she was pleased that there will be public input. "Part of our frustration was that they just decided to close these pools with no input at all," she said.

While all council members praised the process and bipartisanship during three weeks of budget hearings, not everyone was happy with the end result.

"It was a tough budget," said councilwoman Mary Woolridge, D-3rd. "We spent three weeks giving and taking. But it is somewhat flawed. Some districts got everything, and some were told to wait."

Reporter Dan Klepal can be reached at (502) 582-4475.

#### ON THE WEB

See how council members voted at [www.courier-journal.com](http://www.courier-journal.com)

#### Budget amendment highlights

Spends \$3 million and banks \$2 million of the expected \$5 million windfall from state pension reform

Delays three bond issuances to save \$1.5 million

Adds \$3.5 million in borrowing through the city's general obligation bond

Adds \$2.2 million in funding for nonprofit social-service, housing, arts, youth and business organizations

Adds \$500,000 for a new and larger-than-proposed Newburg library branch, bringing total funding to \$1.5 million

Adds \$700,000 for Slugger Field maintenance

Adds \$600,000 for Riverview Park redevelopment

Requires a new library expansion master plan by Dec. 31

Adds \$50,000 for an EMS deployment study

## **Newburg in line for 'cyber-library'**

Courier - Journal. Louisville, Ky.: Oct 21, 2008. pg. B.1

### **Abstract (Summary)**

'A new standard' By Sheldon S. Shafer [sshafer@courier-journal.com](mailto:sshafer@courier-journal.com) The Courier-Journal Construction will begin next month on a new library branch in Newburg - a 21st century "cyber-library" that will cater to children, be generously stocked with computers and serve as a model that Mayor Jerry Abramson said "will set a new standard" for the city.

### **Full Text (687 words)**

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### **'A new standard'**

By Sheldon S. Shafer

[sshafer@courier-journal.com](mailto:sshafer@courier-journal.com)

The Courier-Journal

Construction will begin next month on a new library branch in Newburg - a 21st century "cyber-library" that will cater to children, be generously stocked with computers and serve as a model that Mayor Jerry Abramson said "will set a new standard" for the city.

Louisville Free Public Library director Craig Buthod said the system "will no longer build cookie-cutter libraries. Each will be designed around the community's needs."

And in Newburg, the need is making sure children "won't have to go out of the neighborhood to get an education," said Gloria Allen, president of the Newburg Friends of the Library.

Allen, 59, said she remembers people talking about the need for a branch library in Newburg when she was a child.

Though none was built and many area children had to use the Bon Air branch nearly four miles away, "We prayed about it the whole time," Allen said. "We didn't give up. The Lord told us to keep on going."

Allen noted that many Newburg residents don't have home computers, so the new library will provide "a safe place to go to do homework."

Construction should start in mid-November just southwest of Indian Trail and Exeter Avenue, near the Newburg Community Center and Newburg Middle School.

A construction contract is being negotiated with Sullivan & Cozart, the general contractor, Buthod said. A Minnesota firm, Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, developed preliminary concepts for the branch, but the project architect is Godsey Associates Architects of Louisville.

Abramson earlier this year set aside \$1 million for the project, to which the Metro Council added \$500,000. The final cost won't be known until the construction contract is signed, Buthod said.



Louisville voters soundly defeated a proposed library tax a year ago, in effect killing an ambitious library master plan that would have cost several hundred million dollars. The tax revenue was to pay for three new regional libraries, a new main library and renovation or replacement of many of the branches.

The Louisville Metro Council has asked Buthod and the administration to come up with a scaled-back master plan by year's end.

Buthod said the Newburg site will be the first library in the new master plan.

The library will be on one level, with about 8,000 square feet. Much of the space will be one large, open room divided only by shelving and furniture. The design is expected to feature energy conservation, with high ceilings and lots of natural light.

The library will have 35 to 40 computers with Internet access - twice as many as most branches. It will have multi purpose space for one-on-one tutoring and for group study, story telling and meetings. The space will be able to be converted for other community activities.

There also will be an area for adults to relax, including rocking chairs they can use to read to small children, Buthod said.

The Newburg branch, which will have a self-service checkout system, will have fewer books than other branches, Buthod said, along with its CDs, DVDs and recorded books. Roughly half of the books will be for children; it will have a strong emphasis on early childhood literacy and reading readiness. And it will have extra space for children's activities.

The library staff is developing learning packages for some solar-powered laptop computers that the branch will have for Newburg Middle School environmental science and technology students.

Shannon Wilson, the middle school's media specialist, said the branch will greatly supplement the school's computers, books and other resource materials.

And, she said, teachers are excited about having the library's resources so near.

Newburg will be the system's 17th branch, plus the main library.

Reporter Sheldon S. Shafer can be reached at (502) 582-7089.

## Meeting seeks input on library

Courier - Journal. Louisville, Ky.: Aug 13, 2008. pg. C.7

### Abstract (Summary)

Craig Buthod, director of the Louisville Free Public Library, and program architect Jeffrey Scherer of MS&R Ltd. will be at the meeting, which will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Newburg Community Center, 4810 Exeter Ave. The new branch, which is expected to open next spring, will be built adjacent to the community center on city-owned land near Indian Trail and Exeter Avenue.

### Full Text (350 words)

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### Branch moves closer to reality

By Charlie White

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The Courier-Journal

Newburg residents - some of whom have pushed for a library since the 1950s - will be able to voice their ideas for the new branch and ask questions about the project at a meeting Tuesday.

Craig Buthod, director of the Louisville Free Public Library, and program architect Jeffrey Scherer of MS&R Ltd. will be at the meeting, which will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Newburg Community Center, 4810 Exeter Ave.

The new branch, which is expected to open next spring, will be built adjacent to the community center on city-owned land near Indian Trail and Exeter Avenue. A date for the groundbreaking has not been set.

The Metro Council set aside \$2.5million last year so Buthod could create a slimmed-down master plan for a systemwide library expansion, using some of the money for planning and design work of the first buildings, including the Newburg branch.

In May, Mayor Jerry Abramson proposed using \$1million of the \$2.5million to pay for the Newburg branch, but the council decided not to use the expansion money. Instead, it found \$1.5million from other sources to build a bigger library than first proposed.

The Newburg branch would be the first new branch in Louisville since 1998, when one was opened inside the Playtorium in Fairdale, 10616 W. Manslick Road.

The closest library for Newburg and Norfolk residents currently is about two miles away in the Bon Air neighborhood, said Councilwoman Barbara Shanklin, who represents the area.

"The people in Newburg have been talking about a library since the 1950s," Shanklin said when plans were announced in late May. "It will mean so much for the education of our young people. They will have access to computers without having to leave the community."

Reporter Charlie White can be reached at (502) 582-4653.

### IF YOU GO

What: Public meeting about Newburg library branch

When: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Newburg Community Center, 4810 Exeter Ave.

Information: 574-1611.

# THE VOICE-TRIBUNE

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Thursday, October 23, 2008 50 cents

Thursday, October 23, 2008  
Page A-2

## NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

### **Newburg 'cyber-library' will focus on children**

Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson recently announced that the new library in the Newburg neighborhood will "set a new standard" for Louisville. Construction of the 8,000-square-foot "cyber-library" will begin in a few weeks near Newburg Middle School. It will feature 40 computers with Internet access, areas for tutoring and a self-checkout system for its limited number of books. About half of the volumes will be for youngsters.



# \$120 million in work urged for libraries

Plan cut back  
 after tax defeat

By Sheldon S. Shafer  
 sshafer@courier-journal.com  
 The Courier-Journal

Louisville's cramped and aging libraries would get a \$120 million makeover over the next 12 years under a slimmed-down plan that library officials will make public today.

The plan, which comes 13 months after voters soundly rejected a tax increase to pay for a more ambitious proposal for the Louisville Free Public Library, shaves roughly \$80 million from a master plan that the Louisville Metro Council adopted in 2003.

But the revised version still proposes spending tens

of millions of dollars through 2020 on three regional libraries and on new or renovated branches.

Most of those improvements would focus on providing more public space for meetings, more technology (especially computers) and new facilities and activities catering to children.

The plan, adopted last week by the Library Advisory Commission, makes no recommendations for how to pay for the projects.

And it depends on President-elect Barack Obama's pledged economic-stimulus money to provide roughly \$8.6 million for more immediate spending.

"We believe the plan is responsive" to the public, said Cecelia Wooden, chairwoman of the commission's

See **LIBRARY**, A2, col. 1

## Revised library projects

Library officials have proposed more than \$120 million in renovations and new buildings by 2020.

Start date	Library	Size (square feet)	Cost (adjusted for inflation)
2009	Newburg	8,348	\$2,563,189
	Main Library	14,000	\$4,350,000
2010	Portland	5,960	\$1,425,661
	Western	6,216	\$792,757
	Shawnee	10,024	\$2,108,738
2011	Jeffersontown	14,000	\$1,582,442
	South Central Regional	40,000	\$14,556,381
2012	Fern Creek	9,900	\$953,515
	Shively/PRP	16,000	\$5,822,552
2013	Bon Air	17,888	\$1,233,770
	Southwest Regional	40,000	\$16,455,039
2014	Crescent Hill	10,180	\$1,127,479
	Iroquois	15,042	\$2,279,684
	Northeast Regional	40,000	\$17,341,079
2015	St. Matthews	14,607	\$4,221,951
2016	Middletown	15,000	\$6,502,905
2018	Highlands-Shelby Park	11,275	\$1,559,305
2019	Fairdale	3,312	\$447,692
By 2020	Main Library	153,031	Up to \$40 million

Source: Louisville Free Public Library

The Courier-Journal

*"Libraries are a high priority. Despite economic conditions, we are prepared to go forward" with all the improvements that are possible.*

**ROBIN ENGEL**, Louisville Metro Council member

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW PLAN

- ▶ Build three regional libraries, each with about 40,000 square feet of space and costing up to \$17 million each.
- ▶ Make up to \$40 million in renovations at the Main Library.
- ▶ Use \$8.6 million in federal economic-stimulus funding to improve the Western, Shawnee and Portland branches, add a solar project at the new Newburg branch and fund about \$4 million in work at the Main Library.
- ▶ Abandon plans for new branches in Fairdale, Fern Creek and St. Matthews, instead renovating or expanding each.
- ▶ Build a combined new library to serve Shively and Pleasure Ridge Park and another new library in Middletown.
- ▶ Renovate, rather than expand, the Bon Air, Crescent Hill, Iroquois, Portland and Western branches.
- ▶ Renovate the Highlands-Shelby Park and Jeffersontown branches.
- ▶ Merge the Westport branch into the new Northeast Regional library and the Okolona branch into the new South Central Regional site near Jefferson Mall.

For information on the master plan, go to: [www.lfpl.org/masterplan](http://www.lfpl.org/masterplan)

## LIBRARY | Plan calls for \$120 million makeover

Continued from A1

planning committee.

Library Director Craig Buthod, who is scheduled to present the new proposal to the Metro Council's Parks & Libraries Committee this afternoon, acknowledges that with the city's revenue shortfalls, there "won't be a lot of local capital available in the early years."

Although projects are proposed through 2020, Buthod said, "The timetable is really speculative. Who knows how long it will take for the economy to come back?"

Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson yesterday credited Buthod with "trying to keep hope alive for an enhanced library system. Unfortunately, it is going to take many, many years to bring it to fruition."

### Library's shortcomings

Louisville's library system has faced criticism for failing to meet the needs of suburban residents and falling short when compared with library systems in other cities.

For example, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives suggests a minimum of 2.5 books per person. The Louisville system has 1.83.

The new plan calls for spending nearly \$80 million on branches through 2020, plus up to \$40 million to renovate the Main Library, part of which is a century old, at Third and York streets.

If the revised plan is fully implemented, the library's \$17 million annual operating budget would increase by 2020 to nearly \$29 million (adjusted for inflation).

The plan doesn't estimate how many more employees would be needed.

The library system paid a consultant, Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle Ltd. of Minneapolis, a specialist in library design, \$34,500 to help develop the plan, Buthod said.

Portions of the plan are already under way.

Construction of a \$2 million Newburg branch, already funded, should be completed by July 1.

And the city has acquired land for the three regional libraries — in the 9900 block of Dixie Highway, in Okolona near Jefferson Mall and off North Hurstbourne Parkway.

The Metro Council approved a long-range strategic plan for the library in 2003 that called for spending about \$200 million over seven years and for replacing or renovating nearly every branch, along with building the three new regional libraries and replacing or overhauling the Main Library.

Library backers proposed a library tax in 2007 that would have raised about \$40 million a year. But it was defeated by a 2-1 margin in a countywide vote in November 2007.

### Budget constraints

Abramson and the council then asked Buthod to scale down the plan, with the council asking for a revised version by the end of this year.

Metro Council President Jim King, D-10th District, said renovations, instead of new construction, make economic sense and that the city will try to build improvements "within the budget constraints."

But King cautioned, "We can't count on growth in tax revenues."

Most of the Republican Metro Council members opposed the library tax last year and contended that the system could be expanded with existing revenue.

Although the council members had not seen the plan as of yesterday, Hal Heiner, R-19th, noted that the city will have new bonding capacity in 2011 and 2012, when old bond debt is paid off.

He said the plan's proposed cost appears in line with the council's suggestions.

"Libraries are a high priority. Despite economic conditions, we are prepared to go forward" with all the improvements that are possible, said council member Robin Engel, R-22nd, chairman of the council's Parks and Libraries Committee.

Doris Johnson, who lives in South Louisville, visits the Iroquois branch nearly every week. She likes to check out fiction, she said, adding, "I think new library facilities are needed," with free offerings especially welcome amid the recession.

Reporter Sheldon S. Shafer can be reached at (502) 582-7089.

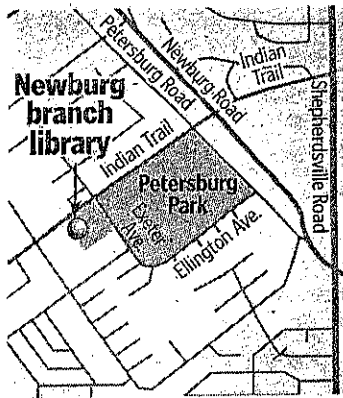
## FRIENDS OF THE NEWBURG LIBRARY



Photos by Arza Barnett, The Courier-Journal

Sean Pylforth, left, and Ray Durham, both seventh-graders at Newburg Middle School, shared a laugh before the ceremony at the Newburg branch library that is being built at Exeter Avenue and Indian Trail. Construction is to be completed by July 1.

# Group 'never gave up,' so branch is now taking shape



The Courier-Journal

By Sheldon S. Shafer  
sshaffer@courier-journal.com  
The Courier-Journal

Two years ago, Friends of the Newburg Library helped circulate petitions that put a proposed library tax on the ballot. Even after that countywide referendum was defeated, Newburg residents kept pushing.

"We never gave up" on the effort to fund construction of a Newburg branch of the Louisville Free Public Library, said Gloria Allen, president of the Friends group.

Yesterday morning, Allen was on hand as city officials and residents celebrated progress on construction of a branch at Exeter Avenue and Indian Trail, which is



"We kept the dream alive, and now it's coming to light," said Gloria Allen, president of Friends of the Newburg Library.

about one-third completed. The concrete foundation is in place and the exterior framing is nearly finished.

"We kept the dream alive, and now it's coming to light," said Allen, adding that she, for one, has been dreaming of New-

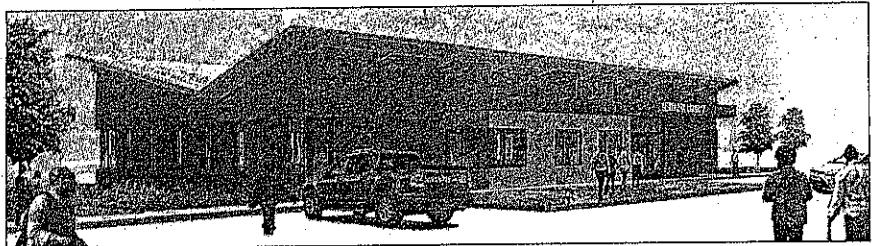
See LIBRARY, Back page, col. 1

### MORE PHOTOS

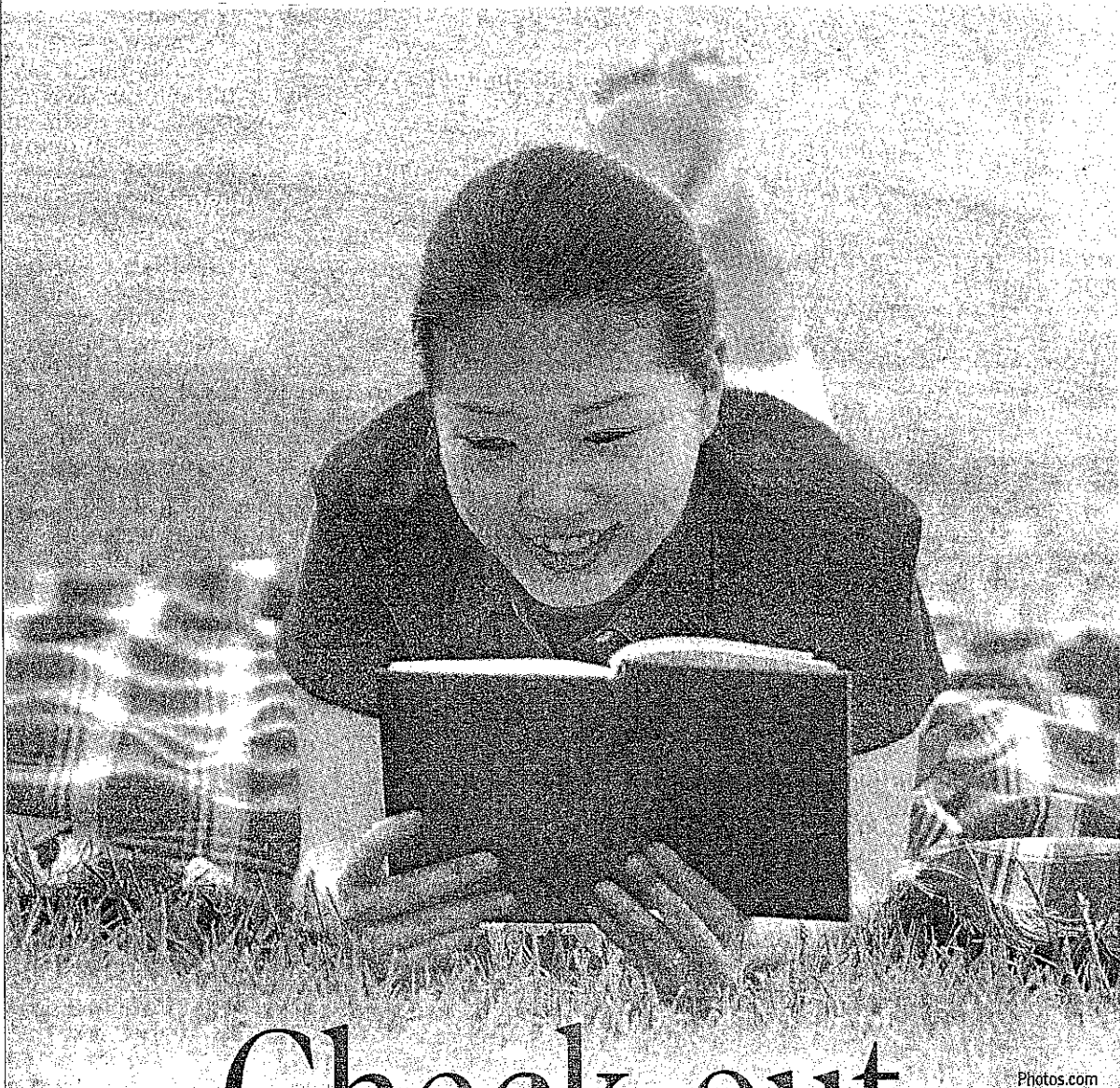
See more photos of the celebration at [www.courier-journal.com](http://www.courier-journal.com).

A rendering of the Newburg library. Construction began around Dec. 1.

Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd.







Photos.com

# Check out THE LIBRARY

Special programs and new branch make it the place to be

**By Ken Neuhauser**  
kneuhauser@courier-journal.com  
The Courier-Journal

If you haven't booked plans for the summer, don't worry. The Louisville Free Public Library and its 16 — soon to be 17 — branches plus the New Albany-Floyd County Public Library and Jeffersonville

ing the right book to take to the beach," said Craig Buthod, director of the Louisville Free Public Library. "When it's 95 degrees and 95 percent humidity, a nice glass of iced tea and a best-seller make for a great Saturday afternoon."

Also, parents looking for free family entertainment should drop by the library for a

programs for kids this summer that we published a book about it," said Buthod.

So far, thousands of copies of the 16-page booklet Library News: Summer Reading Edition! have been mailed out. They are now available at the branches. All library programs

# LIBRARY | It's the place to be

Continued from D1

are posted online at [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org).

"We're building toward a big event this summer — the opening of a new library in the Newburg neighborhood. It will be state of the art with new technology and dramatic architecture," said Buthod, who anticipates the 17th branch opening in mid-summer. "We will do things more differently at that library than anywhere else. I expect we'll have visitors from all over the city come to visit the Newburg library to see what libraries will be like tomorrow."

Among the library's summer attractions:

► More than 60,000 children and teens are expected to participate in the Louisville Free Public Library's Summer Reading Program, which began a few days ago and continues through Aug. 1. This year's theme is "Read for the Stars." A "Reading Space Jam" official kickoff will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at the Main Library, 301 York St. It will feature performances by the Hi-Tops (a local girl band), Hwang's Martial Arts and hip-hop dancer Safiyyah. Participation requirements and prizes vary for different age groups. For details, visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org).

► During the "Reading Space Jam" the library will open an exhibit that combines breathtaking photos of the universe with traveling displays and artifacts from NASA's Langley Research Center, including a space suit and a space survival kit. "NASA at the Library" will be displayed from May 30 through Aug. 1 in the Main Library's Bernheim Gallery.

► Jon Jeter, former Washington Post journalist and author of "Flat Broke in the Free Market," will be the next "Authors at the Library" guest speaker at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, at the Main Library. Free tickets are available online or by calling (502) 574-1644.

► The Friends of the Louisville Free Public Library Book Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 6 and 1 to 5 p.m. June 7 at the Salvation Army (the old Male High School), 911 S. Brook St. However, June 5 is Preview Night for



More than 60,000 children and teens are expected to participate in the Louisville Free Public Library's Summer Reading Program.

members, and that's the perfect time to get a head start on stocking up on the bargains. The hours are 6 to 9 p.m. Not a Friends of the Library member? No problem. Memberships will be sold at the door (\$15 individual/\$30 family).

► "Be Creative at Your Library" summer reading program for ages 14 and younger begins Tuesday, May 26, at the New Albany-Floyd County Public Library, 180 W. Spring St., New Albany, Ind.

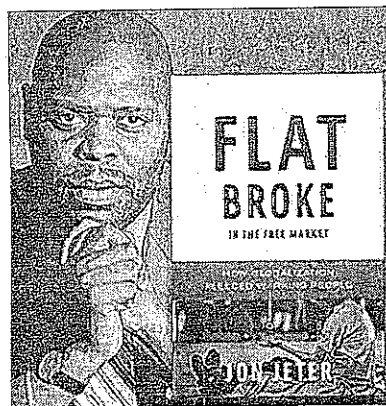
► Additional summer events include Conner the Clown entertaining and teaching juggling (11 a.m. and 1 p.m. June 10), a Gallery Talk with fiber artist Penny Sisto (7 p.m. June 18), puppet and magic shows, woodworking and knitting programs, pretzel

making and "Intercambio" (conversations between people who speak different languages). Call (812) 944-8464 or visit [www.nafclibrary.org](http://www.nafclibrary.org).

► The Jeffersonville Township Public Library has assorted programs planned at its main location, 211 E. Court Ave., Jeffersonville, Ind., and at its Clarksville branch, 1312 Eastern Blvd.

This summer's indoor fun includes Silly Safari (July 15 in Jeffersonville, a movie release party for "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" (July 11 in Jeffersonville), Kentucky author Bethany Griffin ("Handcuffs," July 18 in Jeffersonville), author Leigh Anne Florence with miniature dachshunds Woody and Chloe (July 25 in Clarksville) and a "Be Creative" crafts projects (June 10, 17 and 24) in Clarksville. Call (812) 285-5636 or [www.jefferson.lib.in.us](http://www.jefferson.lib.in.us). Some programs may require advance registration.

► Library director Buthod and his staff predict that the following books by best-selling authors will be this summer's hot page turners: "A Rogue of My Own" by Johanna Lindsey, "Razor Sharp" by Fern Michaels, "Burn" by Linda Howard, "Killer Summer" by Ridley Pearson, "Undone" by Karin Slaughter, "Die for You" by Lisa Unger, "Roadside Crosses" by Jeffery Deaver and "Swimsuit" by James Patterson.



Jon Jeter, author of "Flat Broke in the Free Market," will speak June 2.

Reporter Ken Neuhauser can be reached at (502) 582-4204.

July 5, 2009

## Library's first new branch in 11 years set to open

By Charlie White  
cwhite@courier-journal.com

Workers are putting the finishing touches on the Newburg Library, the first new branch in the Louisville Free Public Library system since Fairdale opened in 1998.

A grand opening is being planned around the time students go back to school in August, although no date has been set, Louisville Free Public Library director Craig Buthod said.

Library officials aren't quite ready to show off the interior of the building at Exeter Avenue and Indian Trail because they are still adding furnishings and have to stock it with books and other media.

"The new library is going to have a lot of technology," Buthod said.

On June 29, workers removed a large oak tree along Indian Trail near the building because arborists told library officials that it was 65 percent dead. Masons also were adding brick pavers to accent the building's facade, which faces the nearby Newburg Community Center.

John Washington and Kevin Gaines, who live in Newburg and work for Skyline Construction, were among a group of bricklayers who have weathered the heat in recent weeks to work outside the library. Both said they were proud to have helped build the library, which they said is much needed for the area.

"A lot of people from the neighborhood have seen me out here and said they were glad to see minority contractors on the job," Washington said.

Until now, the closest branches for Newburg residents have been on Preston Highway in Okolona and on Del Rio Place in Bon Air. The Fairdale branch is located inside the Playtorium, 10616 W. Manslick Road.

Construction began late last year to build the one-story, 8,000-square-foot building in Newburg. Metro Councilwoman Barbara Shanklin, who represents Newburg, is among the residents who have pushed for years for a library. And longtime residents have said they've dreamed of having their own branch since the 1960s.

"It's really for the kids," Shanklin said.

About half of the new library's books will be geared toward youths and teens, and it will have about 40 computers to increase Internet access for the area's residents. That would be twice as many computers as most other Louisville Free Public Library branches.

The Library Foundation has made the Newburg Library its top fundraising project over the last year and Buthod expects the foundation will donate about \$500,000 for book collections, furnishings and computers.

Buthod said recent rains have already tested the building's gutters and drainage system, which allows rain water from its v-shaped roof to cascade down into a rain garden instead of water running directly into the city sewers.

"It's worked like a charm," he said.

Solar panels may be added after the library opens. The city has submitted a federal-stimulus grant application for about \$7 million in energy-efficient projects, including \$200,000 for the solar panels, but Buthod said it's still too early to know whether it will get the grant.

Reporter Charlie White can be reached at (502) 582-4653.



## ***Uplifting Our Community:***

*The following entry was submitted by Ms. Gloria Forte Allen*

“Recently when I heard supporters of the library speak of walking with their parents or children to the library it tugged at my heart. I have lived in the Newburg community for over 40 years and yearn for the opportunity to walk my grandchildren to our Newburg library-but there has never been one here.

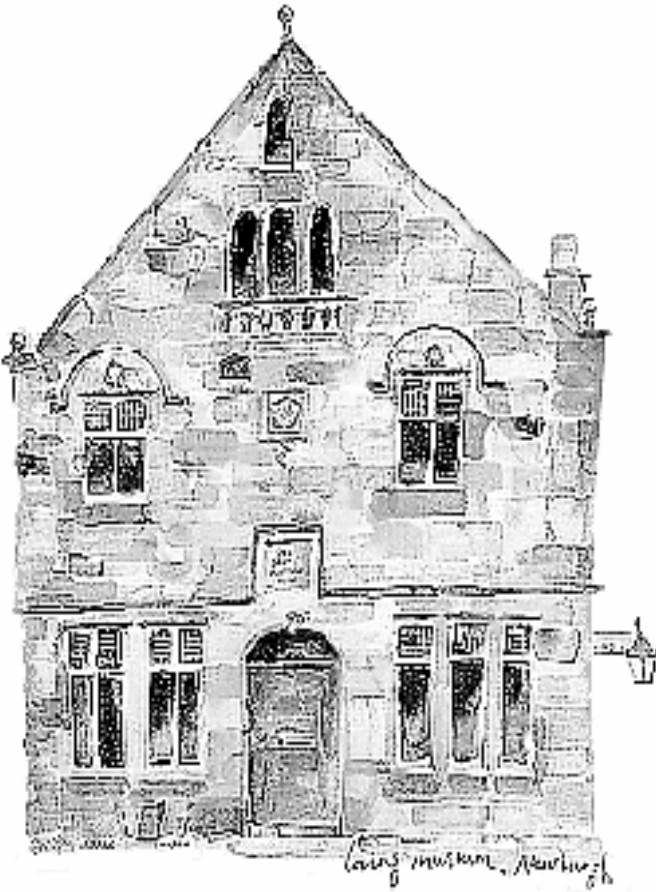
Newburg is a community comprised of businesses, homes, churches, schools, social and civic organizations but our greatest asset is the people. It takes a village to raise a child and a library is what this community needs-it is symbol of a community with a future. A place where the young and old everyone in between can gather in a wholesome environment

When Councilman Barbara Shanklin asked me and my husband to spearhead the signature campaign for the Library referendum, as always, before we say yes, we pray for guidance, the answer came quickly YES. It was a win-win for Newburg. The thought of Newburg finally having a library was a dream come true. Within 3 days we had formed a committee of 10 Shedrick Jones, Linda Spencer, Gwen Jackson, Carletta Bell, Gayle Shumake Graham, Darryl Smith, Marna Miller, Dee Dee Masden, Roland Allen and Councilman Barbara Shanklin. Our strategy was to get others involved so we had a luncheon and invited all the people we knew to help spread the word and get the signatures. We asked people of all ages but especially the “seasoned” citizens, churches, neighbors, students. Originally we thought we had a month, but after the first week, we were told we had 2 weeks. So we went door to door in our neighborhoods, to the parks, beauty shops, barber shops, churches, grocery stores, wherever people gathered and asked for their support. Before we knew it, we had collected over 2,033 signatures.

From the library signature campaign we noticed that many residents of our community were not registered to vote so began a voter registration drive to make sure the residents could vote in the November election. Next we became involved in the Friends of the Library. Because we are confident Newburg will have a library we have created a Newburg Friends of a Library group. When an opportunity arises, we are eager to speak about “our library”. We’re not concerned that we won’t get a library, we just hope it will be large enough for the amount of people waiting to enter its doors.

Gloria J. Forte Allen is a 57 year old Christian woman married to Rev. Roland H. Allen for 36 years with three children, and seven grandchildren. She and her husband work together within the community to make a positive difference.

## Newburgh Library & Laing Museum, Newburgh, Fife, Scotland



Newburgh Library is one of 52 libraries in the County of Fife, Scotland. Our main library is in Dunfermline, Fife - the world's first Carnegie Library - which celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> birthday last year.

Newburgh's small and welcoming community library is located in the heart of the town, sharing the premises with the Laing Museum. Situated in the High Street, the building was gifted to the town by local historian and benefactor, Alexander Laing.

Laing had always been a fervent scholar and student of local and Scottish history and in 1860 he began a movement for the foundation of a Public Library. He bequeathed his own extensive library and antiquarian specimens to the town, and also a sum of £1220 for the erection of a building to house them.

The library provides a range of books suitable for all ages and has a variety of information and reference resources. There are also two computers, providing the local community with free access to the internet.

Children are very welcome and there are occasional storytimes and activities



Liz Rosser & Ishbel Ancell

**Liz and Ishbel, along with all the other staff in Fife Libraries & Museums wish you good luck in your newest venture – the opening of Newburg Library.**

# *More About Newburg*

This electronic account of history touches on the rich past of the Newburg community. From Eliza Tevis to Newburg today, the residents of this neighborhood are a proud, strong, and caring people. Celebrations and events that were held decades ago are still being attended to today and history continues to be made in Newburg.

A print version of this account of the history of Newburg can also be found in a scrapbook at the Newburg Library.