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Kentucky Newspapers



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John Bradford And The 'Kentucke' Gazette---First Newspaper

By CHARLES R. STAPLES
Lexington, Kentucky

John Bradford, commonly called "Old Wisdom," the founder and for many years owner of the Kentucky Gazette, was born in Prince William County, Virginia on June 6, 1749, the son of Daniel and Alice Bradford. He was married to Elizabeth James of Fauquier County in 1771, by whom he had five sons and four daughters. He died at his home on southwest corner of Mill and Second streets in Lexington on March 20, 1830 and was buried in the graveyard on West Main street, now a part of the First Baptist Church property. His gravestone is six or eight feet below the level of the ground at a point fifteen feet northwest of the corner to the Main street entrance to this church. The burial lot of John Bradford was unknown until the construction of the foundation for the First Baptist Church was started. Then Mr. Frank Dalton, Stone contractor, while excavating found the gravestone of Mr. Bradford and sometime later informed Mrs. W. O. Bullock, stating that the stone had something on it about being the first printer in Kentucky.

At request of Mrs. Bullock, Mr. Dalton visited the spot in company with Mr. J. Winston Coleman and the writer, and marked the location of the grave. Mr. Coleman has prepared a drawing of the location of this grave and same has been filed in the archives of the Bradford Historical Society.

Very little is known of his life before his arrival in Kentucky. There is a tradition that Mr. Bradford served in the Fauquier county Militia during the years of 1775-1777 and to have received a commission as Ensign dated July 30, 1781. His name, however, does not appear as a Revolutionary War pensioner, nor in the list of Virginia Land Bounty Warrants. He did service during the campaign against the Indians at Chillicothe in 1779 as a member of the Kentucky Militia.

Just when Mr. Bradford arrived in Kentucky has always been a disputed point. He was not amongst the original lot owners of Lexington when the drawing for town lots took place in 1780 and again in 1781. William Meredith testified that, "In 1775 he came to Kentucky in company with John Bradford, who was then a deputy surveyor under Colonel William Preston." Mr. Bradford's answer in this same suit does not throw any light upon this point. In another suit, Mr. Bradford testified, "That in 1780 he was appointed deputy surveyor under George May and was assigned to the district north of the Kentucky River." There are other records which indicate he was in this county in 1779 and the tradition to that effect is probably correct. May gave him a large number of entries to survey, some of which Mr. Bradford purchased for himself and for Daniel Bradford. These entries represented something over 6,000 acres, laying principally on North Elkhorn, and Cane Run creeks in Fayette and Scott counties. Amongst his other land holdings

(Note: This is the first of a series of articles on John Bradford, and the "Kentucke" Gazette, that the Press will endeavor to run during 1937. As this year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the first Kentucky newspaper, plans are now being made by the John Bradford Society of Lexington to hold a fitting celebration of the event. Complete plans and dates will be announced in a later issue.)

was a purchase of 100 acres from John Coburn on which is now located the north eastern portion of Lexington, besides numerous lots in Lexington business district.

During the early part of 1785 he brought his family from Virginia and settled near Bryan's Station, and thereafter made his home in this community.

Notwithstanding his many excellent parts, it has become the custom of historians to rest his fame upon the successful establishment of the first newspaper in Kentucky and his ability in keeping it going during the formative period of our history, and, when our scanty population were actively engaged in defending their lives and property against the Indians.

His entrance as owner and editorship of a newspaper grew out of the second convention which met at Danville, in 1785, to discuss separation from Virginia. Amongst other actions by this Convention, "It was Resolved; to give publicity to its proceedings, it was deemed necessary to the interests of the country, to have a printing press." To accomplish this end James Wilkinson, Christopher Greenup and John Coburn were appointed a committee to use their best endeavors to induce a printer to settle in this district and publish a weekly newspaper. Bradford's story of his efforts were published in the Gazette dated March 2, 1827 as a part of "Bradford's Notes," No. 24:

"Wilkinson and Coburn applied by letter to John Dunlap of Philadelphia, to aid them in procuring a printer but as no assurance of a competent salary could be given by them, no printer could be found in Philadelphia. Colonel Greenup then wrote Mr. Miles Hunter of Richmond, Virginia, a young printer of that place. From the flattering prospects held out by the Colonel to the printer who should first establish himself in Kentucky, Mr. Hunter at first consented to remove to Kentucky, but afterwards informed of the difficulties likely to intervene before Kentucky would become a separate state and the uncertainty of a competent support from the printing business until that event should take place, declined altogether.

"The attempt of the Committee having failed entirely, John Bradford called upon General Wilkinson and informed him that—if the Convention would give assurance that he should enjoy the public patronage when the printing business should become profitable as to induce one or more printers to settle in Kentucky, that he would, as soon as an office could

be procured, establish a newspaper in Kentucky."

This offer was reported by the Committee and was accepted by the Convention and the patronage promised so far as they, from the nature of the attempt, were authorized. In consequence of the action of the Convention, Mr. Bradford went to Philadelphia where he secured a small second hand Washington press, with some type and hauling it overland to Pittsburgh, floated down the Ohio River to Limestone and then over Smith's Road to Lexington, where on August 11, 1787 he presented to the world the Kentucky Gazette, with 180 subscribers.

Fielding Bradford, a brother and partner of the Editor, was interviewed many years afterward and stated "that he went to Pittsburg in the Spring of 1787 and purchased some type from John Scull—with whom he stayed from March to June 1st."

There is a tradition that the Convention seemed to think the paper was to be established in Danville, and it is evident the citizens of that town were under this same impression, but Mr. Bradford had already received substantial encouragement from the citizens of Lexington, as the Trustees of the Town, at a meeting held July 28, 1787 resolved;

"That a part of in lot No. 43, containing two poles in front on Main street and six poles back, adjoining lot No. 44, be granted to Mr. John Bradford on condition that the printing press be established in the town of Lexington, in consideration of which Mr. Bradford shall be entitled to the sole use of said lot as long as the press continues in the said Town, with the right of preemption for the sum of five pounds if the press should be removed from town.

A further condition shall be that the said John Bradford, his heirs and assigns shall be forever prohibited from erecting any improvements so as to injure the public spring."

In 1823 the Trustees of the Town of Lexington filed suit against Mr. Bradford seeking to dispose him from In Lots No. 42 and 43, known as the Public spring lots, but they dismissed this action leaving him in possession.⁶ These lots are now occupied in part by the Van Deren Hdw. Co., the Gas Office and Purcell Department Store. The wording of the resolution contained nothing that required Mr. Bradford to occupy these lots, they simply gave him the use of them as long as the Press was in Lexington. On a portion of these lots was erected in 1792 the Market House the 2nd floor of which was used as a State House when the first Legislature of the New State of Kentucky had its inaugural session in June 1792.⁷

The actual spot upon which stood the cabin used by him as the printing office of the Gazette is not known. The first issue of the Gazette has a date line reading, "published at Main and Cross streets," the last named street being now known as Broadway. On March 8,

1788, this date line was changed to read, "On Main street." On July 11, 1789, the date line was changed to read "On Main and Cross streets." On October 8, 1791, another change caused this line to read "On Main street." On April 13, 1793, it again read "On Cross street," and another change was made on December 27, 1794, when the date line again read "On Main street." There were other changes during the succeeding years, which are too numerous to be detailed at this time, but evidently, the first few years of the life of the Gazette were spent not far from the four corners of what is now Main and Broadway.

Mr. Bradford had no sources of information excepting such newspapers as were brought to Lexington by visitors or travelers from the East. From these he extracted desirable items which were reproduced upon his rude and unwieldy hand press. "He daubed the ink by hand with a dog skin ink ball and managed to run off 50 to 60 copies printed on one side in the course of an hour." The Printer's devil must have had a strenuous night's work. The editorial desk was evidently only a slab of wood supported by cross legs and equipped with an ink horn, a Deckart rifle and possibly a pair of dueling pistols. His lights were only candles or the burning logs in the stone fire place.

For some time during its early history the Gazette was printed on paper made at the mill of Craig and Company located where North Elkhorn passes under the Cincinnati Pike at Georgetown.

In his first issue Mr. Bradford says:

"My customers will excuse this, my first publication, as I am much hurried to get an impression by the time appointed. A great part of the types fell into PI in the carriage of them from Limestone to this office, and my partner, which is the only assistant I have, through an indisposition of the body, has been incapable of rendering the smallest assistance for ten days."⁸

The early files show great dearth of local items, but contain many weighty editorials and communications from customers which breathed death and destruction, and assaulted political opponents with the heavy artillery of words.

(1) William Kelly vs. John Bradford—Complete Record Book, "D," page 159.

(2) Complete Record Book "G," page 172—Fayette Circuit Court.

(3) Supreme Court Order Book—Harrodsburg, shows he was litigant or Jurymen in various law suits during July, August, and September, 1785.

(4) Draper MSS. (Wisc. Historical Society, No. 13, CC211)

(5) At a meeting of same board November, 1787, this spring is described as being "wall of stone thirty feet square and four and one-half high.

(6) Fayette Circuit Court—Complete Record Book "G," page 132.

(7) Eighty feet of this lot is still owned by the City of Lexington and is occupied by J. D. Purcell under a ninety-nine year lease.

(8) The Gazette dated Aug. 18, 1787, contains advertisement stating a good journeyman printer who understood the printing business in it different branches could find employment by calling upon the Editor.

Mr. Brad Foreign and items all six weeks items such as wages and were at first Gov their absence one in I news.

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Mr. Bradford published details of Foreign Wars, Napoleon's Career and items from European Capitals, all six weeks or more old, but local items such as births, deaths, marriages and what the fair visitors wore at the inauguration of our first Governor are conspicuous by their absence. Evidently, what every one in Lexington knew was not news.

We can easily imagine the local interest in this newspaper as it was the only newspaper printed within 500 miles, and was the only reliable source of information to our pioneer citizens regarding the happenings in the balance of the world. It was carried to other settlements by post riders, employed by Mr. Bradford and they were permitted to carry letters and packages, constituting the first efforts to establish a Postal Service in Kentucky. "For several years Mr. Bradford maintained pigeon holes in a frame over the mantle to the fireplace in his office, where the post riders left letters and packages to be called for."⁹

The first issue of the Gazette was a small half sheet which stated "Subscriptions 18 shillings per annum, advertisements of moderate length 3 shillings." It was printed in the old style—the German "f" being used for the letter "s," and Kentucky in the title head was ended in a small "e," which was changed to "y" in 1789. For several years he carried facsimile of State Seal between Kentucky and Gazette but discontinued this in 1794. This reproduction is entirely different from the seal used by the State of Kentucky at this time, and certainly more artistic.

In one of the early issues the editorial page announces:

"The editor presents his readers with the Kentucky Gazette, executed on paper equal to any western newspaper, and a new type. The following will be taken for subscriptions: Corn, Wheat, Country made linen, linsay, sugar, whiskey, Ash flooring, and cured bacon."

Only one advertisement appears in the early issues, that of Jacob Myers' paper mill located on Dick's River.¹⁰ In this same issue the editor thought necessary to explain his condition in the following:

"After having expended much in procuring the materials and conveying them from Philadelphia, I have ventured to open a printing office in the town of Lexington in the district of Kentucke. Notwithstanding these expenses and that of procuring further supplies of paper for my business and of supporting necessary hands, I shall content myself at present with the prospect of small gains. I consider this country as being yet an infant State, harassed by the most savage enemies, having no profitable trade and being drained of money by its present intercourse with the eastern part of America. However, the exertions made by a great number of gentlemen in favour of the press convinces me that a spirit prevails amongst my countrymen superior to their present circumstances. I am satisfied that every possible encouragement

will be given to perfect undertaking.

It is impossible to recount all the advantages that the public will receive from the publication of a Gazette in this district.

FIRST—it will give quick and general information concerning the intentions and behavior of our neighborhood enemies and put us on our guard against their future violence. SECONDLY—it will communicate timely information of the proceedings of the legislature and prevent us undergoing various evils by being acquainted with the laws of our country, some of which have been in force sometime before they reach this district.

THIRDLY—it will call our attention to the transactions of Congress and show us the policy which predominates in our great American Confederacy. It will teach us when we are to prepare for foreign wars; when we are to admire the successful here, the generous patriot and the wise statesman; and to greet with abhorrence the betrayer of his country. FOURTHLY—it will carry our attention to the ancient world and gratify our curiosity with respect to the different nations who flourish in arts of arms or peace. It will lay open all the republic of letters to our view and furnish us with all necessary instructions to avoid the danger, or secure the blessings which may wait on our rising Community. FIFTHLY—it will afford us an early method of understanding one another and coming to a better agreement on the execution of every design which may be necessary for the common good.

It will bring the latent sparks of Genius to light and give the World a respectable opinion of the people who have come across so many leagues to cultivate a desert land. When others see what we have done and what we shall still be able to do, they will come and strengthen our hands and be pleased to partake of our future blessings. Indeed it was upon a promise of patronage from the convention of 1785 that induced me to first attempt what I have now accomplished. I shall therefore rest satisfied that all my countrymen will be sensible of my claim to their notice as the first adventurer in a business which has been chiefly instrumental in bringing mankind from a state of blindness and slavery to their present advancement in knowledge and freedom.

John Bradford."

This newspaper lived through the most exciting periods of Kentucky's history; the granting of Statehood; Spanish Conspiracy; Burr's Conspiracy; repeal of the United States Bank Charter; War of 1812; The Texas Movement for Independence; The Mexican War and the Gold Rush of 1849. The purchase of the Louisiana Territory was not mentioned until months after it was known by gossip.

After the first year we find the pages of the Gazette adorned with

crude wood cuts, no doubt made with the jack knives of the newspaper staff. Advertisements are conspicuous by their absence for several years as our pioneer merchants seem not to have learned the value of advertising until the Gazette had reached its fifth birthday. After that we find mentioned flints, knee buckles, hair powder, spinning wheels, buckskins and saddle bag locks, gartering and hardware. Several issues contain notices by the editor condemning the practice of "taming bears" and "lighting fires by shooting rifles." He often mentions stealing, murdering and kidnapping by the Indians especially whenever they made a raid near Frankfort, after the Capitol had been removed from Lexington.

One of his enterprises was to publish the Kentucky Almanac in 1788, probably the first pamphlet published in the west. It was issued yearly until 1807 and usually contained from 30 to 40 pages. In 1789 in conjunction with Thomas Johnson, he published the Kentucky Miscellany if we may judge by the advertisements in the Gazette. No copy of it is known. It was reissued in 1796, 1815, and 1821, a copy of the last one named being the only copy known to the writer. This beginning was only the first of a long series of imprints many of which are unlocated and we know of them only through the advertisements in the Gazette. There were over 100 books and pamphlets printed by him before 1820.

No complete file of the Kentucky Gazette is known to exist. The Executors of Mr. Bradford's estate advertised for sale a nearly complete file, which is probably the one The Lexington Library acquired, but even this remarkable file lacks a copy of the first issue. The last known copy of the original issue was destroyed by fire when the office of H. H. Cratz burned many years ago. This copy had been discovered amongst some old papers in Mercer County by a descendant of a member of one of the early conventions. A few issues of the Gazette are to be found in the Congressional Library at Washington, a few in the Library of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Mass., a few in the John Freer Library at Chicago, and a few in the Virginia State Library at Richmond, Va. The files for the years 1829 and 1830 were borrowed many years ago and never returned. There are a number of missing issues during the years 1843 to 1847.

As a result of his enterprise Mr. Bradford received 100 pounds sterling a year from the Legislature of Kentucky as Public Printer, which amount was increased to 300 pounds, but he failed to control this appointment after some competition had arisen in his chosen field.

Mr. Bradford was shrewd and ingenious and is reported to have worked with Edward West on many inventions that never saw the patent office. He was a fine mathematician and amateur astronomer, and was so uncommonly well informed he was often called upon to settle disputed points, and it was from this—he was so frequently called "Old Wisdom." He was a strong, clear writer, his English left nothing to

be desired in the wilderness of Kentucky. It was distinctly understood by the pioneers who supported his paper for many years after he had severed all connections with the Pioneer Press. He was extravagantly fond of Mr. Henry Clay with whom he spent considerable time when that statesman was in Lexington. "Mr. Bradford believed the newspapers would never reach perfection, but he considered its office was to publish the news and educate the reading public by familiarizing them with the doings of the World east of the mountains." He knew ten people would read the news of a battle, or punitive expedition against the Indians, where one would read the news of a whist party or basket picnic.

It is unfortunate that we are accustomed to associating John Bradford's name only as the owner and printer of the first Kentucky Newspaper. He was a man of unusual force of character and his influence was felt in many ways in the early days of our settlement. He kept abreast of the changing conditions and the rapid growth of this community after Statehood was achieved. His name appears in every effort for the public good and he was himself, the author of many improvements for the town. He was one of the organizers of the Lexington Library, one of the original contributors to the Lexington Hospital, now the Eastern State Hospital, which was the first west of the Allegheny Mountains and the second of its kind in the United States. He was one of the group who purchased what is now Cratz Park and offered it as an inducement for the removal of Transylvania College from Danville to Lexington in 1788.¹¹ He served from 1790 to 1830 as a member of the Board of Trustees of that institution and was frequently elected Chairman. He was elected Trustee of the Town of Lexington many times and often was chairman of that body. He was filling this position at the time of the inauguration of Isaac Shelby, the first Governor of Kentucky, and also, at the time of the visit of General LaFayette in 1825. While a member of the town trustees he compelled regular and prompt attendance by the members when he introduced a resolution requiring a member "as much as 15 minutes late to the meetings to buy a bottle of wine." The minutes of this Board show there was a full attendance at every meeting after this resolution became effective.

His death brought many expressions of grief. He was buried from his home at Second and Mill Streets. His wife survived him until October 12, 1833. From this same house was buried John V. Bradford, a grandson, on August 20, 1824, and

(9) The Pioneer Press—Perrin.
(10) Baker Ewing advertised he was disposing of the stock of Semple, Wynkoop & Co., at Danville account dissolution of Partnership.
(11) Complete Record Book "F," page 96—Fayette Circuit Court shows John Bradford, Robert Barr, and Stephens Collins were trustees of a School of Water street. This school property was sold in 1805 and was probably the school mentioned by Robert McAfee.

(Please Turn to Page 5)

The Kentucky Press

Official Publication Of The Kentucky Press Association

VICTOR R. PORTMANN.....Editor

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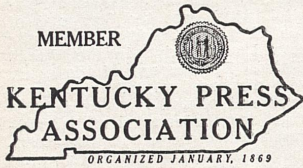
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ADVERTISING BUREAU SET UP

The Kentucky Press Advertising Bureau is now a matter of reality. Following a comprehensive and all-inclusive report of the advertising committee, Robert Kincaid, chairman, the executive committee of the Kentucky Press association, under authority of a resolution passed at the mid-winter meeting, established the Bureau for a trial period of three months.

The members of the advertising and executive committees, meeting at Louisville, Feb. 27, after exhaustive study and discussion, retained the services of Hal V. Brown who began work immediately. The members were optimistic enough to declare that the possibility of continuing a permanent bureau were encouraging and will be of lasting benefit to the member newspaper who signed the contracts. Other newspapers, who have not signed the contracts as yet, are invited to join the Bureau. Information and blank contracts will be sent out this week from Secretary Alcock's office. Secretary Alcock is also serving as secretary of the Bureau.

Mr. Brown is a well-known advertising and syndicate man from Atlanta, Georgia. He had been in Louisville for three weeks prior to the meeting and had made a preliminary investigation and survey contingent on the set-up of the

Bureau. His findings were of much interest and showed the need of a Bureau as well as indicating the probable success of the undertaking.

The Press urges every newspaper in the state to join the Bureau. The united strength of every newspaper in the state will do much in impressing the prospective advertisers of the power of the advertising columns of the united press, and will make Mr. Brown's preliminary surveys much easier. It is also urged that every newspaper comply with any and every request from the Bureau for information and data concerning that newspaper and its territory. It means advertising prestige and advertising revenue. Write Secretary Alcock today; or, better yet, send in your signed contract without delay.

SMALL FUND ON HAND

The editor of the Press holds a small fund, forwarded by friends, for the newspaper folk who suffered financial loss during the flood. Please send your application for your share at once.

JUDGE DELIVERS OPINION ON ADVERTISING COSTS

A newspaper is entitled to just and fair compensation for advertising inserted by a federal court receiver, U. S. District Judge H. Church Ford ruled in the cases of H. R. Thornton, receiver, versus J. G. Gault, surviving partner, etc., and versus Iram Gault, etc.

The receiver had inserted advertisements in a newspaper printed by the Hazard Publishing Company without agreeing upon the cost and had been billed for \$582.20 in the two cases. He had contended that the amount was far in excess of the

rate set by an act of congress of Feb. 26, 1853, and asked the court to set the rate.

Judge Ford ruled that an adequate and reasonable rate more than 80 years ago might fall far short of that mark today and that if it were applied, newspaper, as private enterprises, might exclude such advertisements from their columns. Since no agreement as to costs was made and since the federal law does not set a fair rate, Judge Ford ordered the Kentucky rate of 50 cents a lineal inch effective. This amounted to \$453 and that cost was ordered.

TENNESSEE GAG BILL IS KILLED IN COMMITTEE

The judiciary committee of the house of representatives, following a public hearing Feb. 11, tabled and killed a press gag bill that the senate had passed, 29 to 1.

It was sponsored by Senator Fletcher R. Morgan, Chattanooga attorney, who said editors were "unbridled" and that he had been forced to submit to "blackmailing articles."

Senator Morgan forecast a few days ago that the bill would fail in the house.

It provided that publication on a newspaper editorial page of "any untruth" about a person would subject the editor or publisher, or both, to a lifetime expulsion from Tennessee journalism, in addition to fines and damages. Such publication also would have been deemed to have been done "willfully."

"What is truth?" asked George Fort Milton, editor and president of the Chattanooga News, who appeared in opposition to the bill. "This question has puzzled more men than Pontius Pilate. But the phrase in the bill, 'any untruth of any kind or character' assumes that every statement of every kind and character can quickly and easily be found true or false."

He added that the "untruth" provision was not limited to living persons, but was unlimited so that "anybody in or out of Tennessee could sue a Tennessee newspaper for any untruth about Julius Caesar or John Wilkes Booth" and cause an editor or publisher to be barred forever from his profession in the state.

SEND US YOUR STORY

As a matter of historical interest, the Press contemplates publishing the story of the flood as it affected the newspapers and newspaper folk in the flood area. This includes the newspaper plants that were forced to suspend publication and the individual members of the association who were marooned in Louisville, or elsewhere. What did you do? Were your papers published elsewhere? How much damage was done? These, and other similar questions will suggest answers that will be of historical interest. Forward your story to the Press by the 20th of March for inclusion in the March edition.

The Pine Mountain Settlement School, Pine Mountain, has installed a Linotype and a font of 10 point Textype with italics and small caps.

MALCOLM BAYLEY JOINS CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Malcolm Bayley, a member of The Courier-Journal staff for fourteen years, has resigned to join the staff of the Christian Science Monitor at Boston.

A newspaper man for thirty-one years, most of them spent in Louisville, Mr. Bayley began his career on the old Evening Post in 1906. Six months later, he went with the old Louisville Herald, of which he was sports editor when he resigned three years later.

After working for short periods in Indianapolis and Toronto, Canada, he returned in 1911 to join the staff of The Louisville Times. During his twelve years on that paper, he worked as reporter, telegraph editor and, finally, as city editor. He was transferred to the editorial staff of The Courier-Journal in 1923.

Mr. Bayley was president of the Kentucky Press Association in 1927. His many friends in the association wish him God speed and best wishes in this new responsible position.

Prof. Victor R. Portmann Editor, The Kentucky Press My Dear Comrade:

I should be grateful if you could find space in your interesting paper for this acknowledgment of the fine and feeling expressions of interest and concern for me as reflected by both a telegram from the Kentucky Press Association in its mid-winter meeting, and its generous message in flowers.

I should like for my friends in the association to know that I deem myself lucky beyond measure of mere words ever remotely to merit their kindly thoughts. The fact that they could find time in the midst of threatening disaster to stop and send a message of cheer to a fallen and fighting comrade, will abide as a happy memory.

Cordially,
(Signed) Enoch Grehan

MORGANFIELD ADVOCATE IN NEW HOME

"Moving a complete weekly newspaper and job printing plant between editions is some job. And getting sufficient material together and finding enough scattered parts of this and that to get out eight pages right in the middle of the 'darndest mess' you ever saw, is another job," said R. M. Munford when he moved the Morganfield Advocate to its new home.

E. A. Bryant, Lexington, is owner and publisher of the Wolfe County Herald, which began publication recently in Campton. J. C. Koppendorf is editor and manager of the weekly paper and is in charge of the office at Campton. The paper at present is being printed in Lexington but later, when the circulation has grown sufficiently, will be printed in Campton, Mr. Bryant announced.

Wolfe County Paper

For the first time in more than three years, Wolfe county has a newspaper published. The Wolfe County Herald made its first appearance last week.

Maria E on April Bradford tember 4
"The E ducted b when he Bradford the Kent which h ington jr This arr years wh trol of " 1809 to afterwar Reporter again pa Bradford Jr., appe time al Norvell. again b maine d years it Fielding ly took sold it Louisville in the o er."12 I ment an but few It was l and livev existence The e newspa personal all item John Br ing any unless t signed p many e successor were not establish dom" at John Br it was Bradford branch o ed for t public p had pass ularity a public p isted on have be to secur I can f Bradford attempt office. I 1812, we ment of of Lieut sue of s 1812, the given: Richm Young James John He wa from Fa again in sever He had of Fayette his death Mr. B first new ed a la pamphle benefit t importan tuckiana "Bradfo history o began i

Maria Bradford, a granddaughter on April 30, 1827. His son, Daniel Bradford, died in Georgetown, September 4, 1849, aged 60 years.

"The Kentucky Gazette was conducted by John Bradford until 1802 when he turned it over to Daniel Bradford, while he took charge of the Kentucky Herald, his first rival, which had been established in Lexington in 1795 by James H. Stewart. This arrangement lasted only a few years when he again assumed control of "the old ship." He sold it in 1809 to Thomas Smith, who was afterwards editor of the Kentucky Reporter, but in 1814 the Gazette again passed into the hands of the Bradfords, and Fielding Bradford, Jr., appears as editor part of the time alone and partly with John Norvell. In 1823 John Bradford again became the owner and remained so until his death. For five years it was run by Daniel and Fielding Bradford, but Daniel finally took entire charge and in 1840 sold it to Josiah Cunningham of Louisville, who had been a foreman in the office of the Daily Advertiser.¹² It declined under his management and finally, in 1848, died with but few mourners, aged 60 years. It was revived later by Mr. Graetz and lived a few years of precarious existence.

The editor of a small frontier newspaper in those days was held personally responsible for any and all items appearing in his pages. John Bradford's policy of not printing any cards or personal items unless they were written out and signed probably saved him from many encounters. Several of his successors and some of his rivals were not so fortunate. In 1798 he established the "Guardian of Freedom" at Frankfort under name of John Bradford and Son, but in 1803 it was conducted by James M. Bradford and was evidently a branch office for the Gazette, opened for the purpose of securing the public printing but the Bradfords had passed the crest of their popularity and were not again elected public printers. The Guardian existed only for six years. It may have been established in an effort to secure a State office. So far as I can find at this writing, John Bradford was defeated in his only attempt to be elected to a State office. In the Gazette for June 9, 1812, we find his modest announcement of his candidacy for the office of Lieutenant-Governor. In the issue of same paper for August 11, 1812, the results of the election are given:

Richmond Hickman . . . 23,444
Young Ewing 7,489
James Crutcher 3,611
John Bradford 3,180

He was elected a representative from Fayette County in 1797 and again in 1802. His name appears on several important committees. He had been elected High Sheriff of Fayette only a short time before his death.

Mr. Bradford gave Kentucky its first newspaper, and he also printed a large number of books and pamphlets which were of much benefit to the pioneers, but his most important contribution to Kentuckiana was the publication of "Bradford's Notes" on the pioneer history of Kentucky. These notes began in 1825 and continued until

1829. There appear to have been 62 of these notes, the first appearing on August 25, 1825, and it is unfortunate that a considerable number are missing. They are wonderful source material for historians and no history of Kentucky has been written without reference to these notes. Mr. Bradford personally knew many of the pioneer leaders and was often a participant to many of the incidents he describes. As the years grow he will be awarded imperishable fame as a distinguished historian of pioneer Kentucky. The most beautiful imprint of the year 1932 was the Grabhorn Press publication of the first twenty-three of these notes. It was oversold three time before issued.

There has been an attempt to criticize Mr. Bradford for his failure to mention those associated with him during the early days of the Gazette. Fielding Bradford, his brother, was a partner for many years but the scope of this paper has prevented any research into his activities. Mr. Bradford did neglect to mention his first typesetter, but then, our newspapers do not do so even today. From statements secured from Henry Parvin,¹³ and also one from Fielding Bradford,¹⁴ which now are in the Wisconsin Historical collection, we learn that Thomas Parvin was the first typesetter who had served a regular apprenticeship in the business, to work on the Gazette and who also set up some of the forms for the early issues. "Parvin was a weak little man who suffered from the palsy." He was the father of a large family and had taught school in Virginia before removal to Kentucky. He lived for a time near Strode's station and was outside the stockade one day when the Indians made an attack. He managed to get some of the children into the stockade but two of them were shot, as was the man with him. Parvin declined several offers of employment by Mr. Bradford, but finally moved to Lexington in the Fall of 1787 and assisted in getting out the paper.¹⁵ He remained on the Gazette until sometime during the Spring of 1788, and then began to teach a school in Lexington. It is possible he took over the school advertised by John Pilson who had announced he was to open a school in Lexington that year, but removed to Cincinnati instead. "Parvin taught the week and worked on the Gazette on Saturdays," but later in the year moved to Bourbon County. I have found nothing to show that Parvin worked on the first two issues of the Gazette, and the fact that Mr. Bradford in his second issue was advertising for a printer would confirm this belief.

Fielding Bradford spent three months with John Scull at Pittsburg and then had more than two months after his arrival in Lexington before the first issue of the Gazette, in which to set it up in the forms. This was certainly not an impossible task, even for the inexperienced.

Time will permit only a brief mention of Mr. Bradford's activities as owner of real estate. In addition to the acres mentioned above, he made an entry on 21 February, 1784, by treasury war-

rent for 2,500 acres, and another on 19 September, 1798 for 1,711 acres all running westward from the Russell Cave property. There was a long drawn out law suit with Francis Patterson, father of Colonel Robert Patterson, which was compromised by division. Part of the acreage secured by Mr. Bradford is now included in the boundries of the Spindletop Farm. In 1785 Mr. Bradford made claim to a large part of Lexington, but when the case came up for trial on June 21, 1786,¹⁶ the jury returned a verdict for the town with costs against Mr. Bradford. A portion of their verdict reads:

"That the settlement of the Town of Lexington was made in April 1779—that the town was laid off into lots in April 1779. That the town then made improvements and the lots then laid off were upon lands now a part of the town of Lexington. That the improvements then consisted of a blockhouse and a dwelling house; that the settlers had begun in April to clear lands and corn planted in May. That Colonel Floyds corner tree has not been found, but it appears to us from the return of the survey that the dwelling house and part of the blockhouse were on Colonel Floyd's lands and the other part of the block-house and the greater part of the clearing were on vacant lands."

Mr. Bradford was more successful in some of his other real estate ventures. He secured possession of the old court house in 1790 and used it as his residence. In the Minute book of the Trustees of the Town of Lexington, under date of September 1789 we find:

"Robert Barr the purchaser of old the court house is ordered to pay to the Treasurer the sum of 59 pounds, 10 shillings, the purchase money for the same, and that the same be deducted out of the money to be paid by the Sheriff to Captain Cape for the building of the new Court House."

On March 11, 1790, the trustees book shows that—for a consideration Robert Barr assigned same to John Bradford. In July, 1790, a deed was executed to Mr. Bradford,¹⁷ for in lot No. 11. The map of the town shows this lot to have been located on the northwest corner of Main and Cross streets (now Broadway) and extending back to Short street. During July court, 1792, Mr. Bradford conveyed 35 feet of this lot to Charles Hill,¹⁸ the description reading, in part, "a lot in Lexington on Main street—beginning at west corner of Bradford's house, formerly the old court house, thence, etc." which would confirm the tradition that Bradford resided in the Old Court House. He could easily have done so, as the description of the house,¹⁹ found in an old advertisement, reads: "For Rent—that excellent stand at corner of Main and Cross streets Lexington, known by the name of the Old Court House. The house is two story high with two rooms on each floor, eighteen feet square, with fire place in each and two good dry cellars eighteen feet square." Another description of this building shows it to have been of

chinked logs with slab board roof.²⁰

The indices in the Clerks office of Fayette County Court show twenty-one conveyances of property to Mr. Bradford, and sixty-four by him. The property at corner of Mill and Second streets, where he resided so many years, was conveyed to him by deed dated March 20, 1806, by Thomas Hart, et. al., for \$5,000. This lot was described in the deed as 100 feet on Mill street and 191 feet on Second street, and "being next to Clay's lot." In this same house in 1799 Henry Clay and Miss Lucretia Hart were married. Another occupant of this same corner was John Breckinridge during the year 1794.²¹

No doubt he resided in other locations before removal to this corner, as Joseph Ficklin has left a statement that Mr. Bradford lived opposite his home, but the property at Mill and Second has long been associated with his name and in it he passed to his reward.

Mr. Bradford wrote a will dated 19 May, 1823, in which he named his heirs; his wife Elizabeth, daughters Mary Story, Dinah A. Hart, and Margaret Barbæ. His sons— heirs of Benjamin James Bradford, James M. Bradford, heirs of Charles Bradford, Fielding Bradford, Daniel Bradford, "my eldest son now living." His second will was dated 5 July, 1826, which was probated during July court 1830. Executors gave bond for \$20,000.

This resume of our first editor and his newspaper, represent only a sketch of his activities. It is hoped additional light will be thrown upon his career by some one with more time, with a better power of interpretation and a keener sense of historical values.

Mr. Bradford changed the entire outlook of our people. Before the birth of the Gazette, the pioneers were simply a group of people living in a typical frontier community, situated hundreds of miles from the seat of Government and many months separated in knowledge of the outside world. Further more, there was no contact even with adjoining stations and neighborhoods, excepting by means of messengers sent through the Indian infested forests. The Gazette changed all this and welded the entire area into a community with a purpose. It placed before them the goal of Statehood, of churches, schools and of a well organized society with a knowledge of the doings of the World. The pioneers knew they were dependent upon the activities of Mr. Bradford to keep them informed. In September 1791 when it became known that statehood was just over the horizon, and an

(12) The Pioneer Press—Perrin.
(13) Interview with Henry Parvin, Draper Mss. 11CC172-173, and 11CC16.
(14) Interview with Fielding Bradford, Draper Mss. 13CC211.
(15) Trustees Boob dated Sept. 11, 1787. Jeremiah Robinson conveyed in lot No. 27 to John Bradford and Thomas Parvin (16) District of Kentucky—Supreme Court signed same as witness.
Order Book, page 500-501, Harrodsburg, Ky.
(17) Burnt Record Book No. 3, page 280.
(18) Burnt Record Book No. 7, page 396.
(19) Kentucky Gazette, January 16, 1800.
(20) Draper Mss.—Interview with Ned Darnaby—11CC164-167.
(21) McAfee Journal—Kv. Hist. Society Register, Vol. 25, page 138.

Correspondents Not Listed as Employees

Country newspaper correspondents are not employees of newspapers within the meaning of Section 907 (c) Title IX of the Social Security act, the commissioner of internal revenue has officially advised the Washington office of the National Editorial Association. This decision was the direct outgrowth of an appeal submitted to the bureau of internal revenue by William L. Daley, manager of the Washington N. E. A. office.

Estimates show that the general application of this exemption will affect about 250,000 correspondents and relieve publishers of an enormous bookkeeping task involved in computing and reporting taxes of this class of news contributors.

The full text of the decision reads as follows:

Treasury Department, Wash.
February 10, 1937

Office of
Commissioner of Internal Revenue
National Editorial Association,
528 Investment Building,
Washington, D. C.
Attention: Mr. William L. Daley.
Sirs:

Reference is made to your letter of January 26, 1937, and prior correspondence relative to the status of "country correspondents" engaged in furnishing articles for country newspapers.

It is shown that, as a general rule, small newspapers have correspondents throughout the community served by them; that the publishers do not have any direction or control over the correspondents; that in most cases it is left entirely to the judgment of the correspondents as to what news items they shall submit; that the publisher is at liberty to either print or refuse the items or to make changes therein before printing them; that when the correspondents actually receive money for the items only those parts accepted and published are paid for; that individuals often become correspondents through submitting items on their own account which are accepted and published; and that the correspondents pay their own expenses incurred in the compilation of news matter submitted to the publisher.

Inasmuch as evidence submitted indicates that the publishers of country newspapers exercise no control over their country correspondents as in the hours to be worked, the subject matter of items to be written by them, or the manner in which work is to be performed, it is the opinion of the Bureau that the relationship of employee and employer does not exist and that such correspondents are not engaged in an employment within the meaning of section 907 (c), Title IX of the Social Security act.

Your attention is invited to the fact that the foregoing relates only to those individuals acting in the capacity of "country correspondents" and not to any of the employees of the publishers who are engaged in an employment within the meaning of the act.

Respectfully,

(Signed) CHAS. T. RUSSELL
Deputy Commissioner.

Many Conferences

The above decision represents several weeks of conferences with the officials of the bureau of internal revenue. Oral arguments presented by the Washington N. E. A. office were supplemented by briefs to show the status of these correspondents in various states. Two or three earlier decisions involving individual appeals for rulings were adverse to these petitioners. These unfavorable opinions in particular cases handicapped the N. E. A. at the outset, but subsequent conferences in which reliable data gathered from research and in the field gave government officials a clearer understanding of the problem. The result was a reversal of previous case rulings so that the latest opinion is of general application.

Important excerpts from the argument prescribed by the N. E. A. follows:

"The best estimates available show that there are approximately 250,000 correspondents listed as contributors to 11,000 newspapers. Surveys show that the main compensation of these contributors comes from other than their newspaper writing."

"The various state unemployment commissions, which have handed down rulings exempting the correspondents as independent contractors from the obligation of paying contributions, have obviously been governed by the fact that in their respective states the newspaper correspondents are not exclusively employed by a particular paper and, therefore, subject to a diversity of control."

"The preponderance of opinion throughout the years has been to the effect that correspondents (other than those on a salary basis) are paid by results; that the details of performance—gathering and writing news or the time devoted to the work—are not within the control of the editor or publisher."

"The data submitted by state editorial associations shows clearly that the newspapers have always regarded the country correspondent as a free agent. The independent contractor relationship is further strengthened by the fact that the editor is likewise free to accept or reject any or all material submitted for sale by a correspondent. The correspondent who ordinarily is gainfully employed in some occupation other than newspaper correspondence supplements his income by selling news items to newspapers."

"The correspondent is free at all times to choose the hours of labor and select the material he has gathered to send to one or more newspapers. These correspondents usually pay whatever expense that is incurred in the compilation of this news matter without expecting remuneration from their customers (editors). The editor has no control (as in the case of a salaried employee) over how the correspondent shall gather the news nor can he specify the identity or qualifications of whatever assistance the correspondent may utilize in order to retain his standing as an independent salesman of news from a particular region."

"The editors of the smaller daily and weekly newspapers, who offer the principal market for country correspondence, believe that the state commission's data is persuasive to one conclusion that country correspondents have always been regarded as independent contractors and have never been considered direct or indirect employees of newspapers. Even the workman's compensation laws with their strict construction as to the relation of employer and employee have never regarded the country correspondent as an employee of a newspaper unless the correspondent had contractual relations with the publication."

J. Curtis Alcock, Secretary
Kentucky Press Association

Dear Sir:-

Young man came here calling himself William E. Sloan, claimed to be the man putting on "Go to Church" pages and showed samples of papers where he had put this page on in several towns in Kentucky.

He appeared to be all right, but somehow here let liquor and women get the best of him, then bumed and gave cold checks, ran off and left his hotel bill.

I am just advising you what he did here, so if you get any inquires about the man from any of the Kentucky publishers. In one of his conversations to me he said he was going into Virginia, Appalachia or Norton.

I hesitated to put him on, but he had so many papers with his page adv and so many recommendations wrote on letter heads of other publishers, he fooled me.

While he did not sting me for much, he leaves a bad taste with the people I do business with and they hold me more or less responsible.

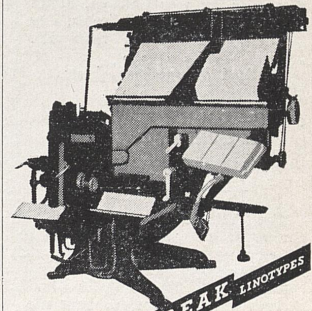
I think this is my last one of any kind, as I have made up my mind to pass all speciality men, as many of them are crooks.

Yours very truly
H. C. Chappell

J. W. Webb, formerly circulation manager of the Danville Daily Messenger, is now in the advertising department of this paper following the resignation of Max Lanchester from the Messenger staff. J. Curtis Alcock publishes the Messenger.

The Lexington Herald's annual horse and live stock edition on January 28 upholds the tradition of this newspaper in publishing a striking newspaper on this occasion. It contained 108 pages. Thomas R. Underwood is the editor of the Herald.

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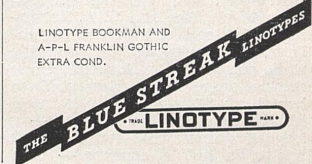
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WESTERN NEWSPAPER UNION
22 E. 12th St. Cincinnati, O.

William E. Hacker disposed of his interest in the Flemingsburg Gazette to Charles E. Rankin, a business man.

The Greensburg Record-Herald has added a Blue Streak Model 14 Linotype to its equipment. Three Blue Streak Linotypes have

been added by the Dickson Company, Louisville—a model 8, another 8 with self-quadder, and a Two-in-One model 14 with self-quadder.

The Winchester Sun, William Caywood, Jr., editor, recently established a news bureau at Irvine with R. E. Lynch as manager.

Mrs. R. R. Pitchford, Scottsville Citizen-Times is convalescing nicely from a tonsillectomy.

The Elizabethtown Enterprise, Wesley E. Carter, editor and publisher, C. J. Richardson, advertising manager, recently inaugurated two progressive steps when it went to twice-a-week publication and adopted carrier boy service for its city delivery.

Twenty-two fonts of 5½ point No. 1 Linotype Excelsior with bold face No. 2 have been added by the Louisville Courier-Journal and Times.

The Daily Independent, Maysville's morning newspaper, resumed publication Monday, March 1. The paper suspended operations after the issue of Jan. 22, when flood waters invaded the plant of the daily. The waters were in the second street plant of the paper to the depth of eight feet, the owner of the publication said.

Many friends of Harry Sommers, veteran editor of the Elizabethtown News, will wish him speedy recovery from the effect of being marooned in Louisville during the recent high waters of the Ohio river, which resulted in Mr. Sommers experiencing a severe general nervous shock.

Undoubtedly one of the most thorough-going and best-written newspaper stories among the hundreds produced by some of the best reporters in the country about the Louisville flood was that by Bernice Bird Browning in the Williamsburg Republican. She and H. A. Browning, editor-manager of the Republican, were marooned in Louisville while attending the Kentucky Press association meeting. Excerpt from her story: "During the night, we'd lie and listen to the stillness — a kind of stillness that corner hadn't known in half a century — with nothing to break it except the sound of water swishing against the sides of great buildings."

The Bowling Green Daily News, C. M. Gaines, publisher, began its 85th year recently.

Editor and Mrs. Cecil T. Williams of the Somerset Journal with their daughter, Mary Ann, recently returned from a month's sojourn at Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Because of flood conditions the Clinton Hickman County Gazette and the Arlington Citizens-Courier, both edited by W. L. Waterfield, were printed as one paper the issue of February 4.



Worth Remembering

Gentlemen of the Press:

Many Kentucky towns would have been sadly out of luck if they had been forced to depend on local isolated power plants for electric service during the recent flood.

With only minor interruptions or failures, we were able to maintain service in our territory and to help others because our high-voltage transmission systems linked together seven big generating stations in Kentucky, Virginia, and Illinois.

This is an important fact to consider when municipal ownership advocates ask you to support their cause.

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AND ASSOCIATED COMPANIES