

Ellettsville was first known as Richland

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The post office, instead, got the name of Ellettsville, after Edward Ellett. The name, "Richland," however, continued to be the name of the community until the spring of 1838, when Alonzo Beaman laid out 17 additional lots for the community. At that time it was decided to rename it "Ellettsville" to conform with its post office.

Beaman himself was a community leader, like Ellett. The former's general store was reputed to have merchandise worth \$1,000, which was a lot of money in those days. Fellow early settler, James Parks, who later became a county commissioner and state legislator, was also a leading citizen. It is con-

ceivable that the town could as easily have been named either "Beamansville" or "Parksville."

According to Parks, who lived to the ripe-old age of 101 and wrote about the early days of the community, the 1840 version of Ellettsville consisted of two stores, one liquor shop, a blacksmith, a saw mill, grist mill and five families. Twenty-six years later in June of 1866 there was a plan underway to get the town incorporated. One county history states that there was "stubborn opposition from the moneyed element" whoever they were. But when the referendum ordered by the County commissioners was held, the "ayes" had it.

Shortly afterward the

voters again went to a polling place and went through the motions of electing some town officials, but within a year or two they mysteriously lost interest. It was some years later before the town government was revived.

Ellettsville had its rivals as the second largest town in the county. Mt. Tabor, at one time, was larger, but faded away when it was bypassed by the New Albany and Salem Railroad. Smithville and Harrodsburg both blossomed with the coming of the railroad, but Ellettsville outgrew them because of the diversity of the business interests that developed there — diversity the other two communities lacked.