

“The Impact of WWII and Changes Brought by the War on a Small Kentucky Community”

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**Dedication**

This dissertation is dedicated to my Savior and Lord for giving me focus and guidance throughout the process and to my family, friends, and students that have believed in me and pushed me never to stop learning and to be the absolute best I can be.

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Lastly, I would like to thank my family, friends, and work-family for the support they have given me to complete this process. There were many days I wanted to give up, and you all encouraged me to continue my studies, to keep working, and, most importantly, to keep my faith throughout this process. As part of this group, I would like to also thank my committee and my readers for their feedback and support in the improvements of this project. God bless each and every one of you that have made this possible.

## **Abstract**

War is a regular tool that brings changes and new opportunities for people. For the people of Logan County, life was rather stagnated between the American Civil War and WWII. During the Civil War Logan County played a very important role in the pro-Confederate movement in Kentucky, even housing multiple meetings and a convention with the goal of Kentucky joining the Confederacy. While this did not happen, this movement continued in the years that followed the war, as a massive Confederate hangover reigned over the county. This hangover, which can be associated with the “lost cause” dominated the way of life for decades.

Many people in Logan County did not want change. They desired their pre-Civil War life, and ideas such as industrialization and acceptance of the Thirteenth Amendment were ideas that many in Logan County did not support. The period was filled with violence and aggression, much of which dated back to the days of the war, and this continued until the WWII Era. It is during WWII that the people at home and those that served were so impacted by the war that they wanted to change. They now wanted new industries, they wanted more news, and they wanted more opportunities. Each of these are rooted in WWII, and in the years that followed more changes occurred in the county than in the decades before the war.

WWII brought Logan County into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and changed the lives of the people in the county, in a way that did not happen before the war. Thus, making the WWII Era the most important event in the county’s history by bringing changes like factories, hospitals, a radio station and others after the war ended.

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## **Chapter 1: Introduction and Methodology**

World War II's most significant global conflict impacted virtually every aspect of human life. Since the war began, historians have analyzed WWII by focusing on topics such as why the war occurred, key battles and figures, the home front, and numerous other topics. In terms of the United States, the focus of study has predominantly been on national aspects of the war, while many Americans and communities have been omitted. This dissertation argues that for the people of Logan County, Kentucky, the events, and impact of WWII brought change to the county and broke the hangover of the Civil War that lasted in the county. This hangover includes an anti-federal government attitude, adopting the Lost Cause of the Confederacy, and limitations placed against former slaves after the war. These examples of the hangover will be discussed using specific examples of events and comments from the period, emphasizing how the pro-Confederate movement from the war continued in the hearts and minds of some after the war ended. This project discusses the impact of the war on the people at home, which is the basis for the most significant change, while including a discussion about the lives of servicemen and women. WWII changed the course of events in Logan County by changing agriculture, industry, media, and the general livelihood in the years following the war.

Logan County is a rural community in southern Kentucky, which borders the state of Tennessee. Throughout American history, Logan countians have answered the call to war and served the United States well, dating back to the county's origin in 1792. Before the Civil War, the county played an important role in state and national politics. During the conflict, anger, resentment, and hatred built and spilled over into the post-war period. The county became stuck, looking backward, with an anti-federal government and anti-change attitude. These attitudes continued into the 1900s. The event that ended these attitudes and brought change to the county

was WWII. This project aims to discuss Logan County and the war years of WWII, 1941-1945, and the approximately 2000 Logan countians that served in WWII.

The totality of WWII brought change to the county, not just one aspect of the war; therefore, questions driving this research focus on the WWII years and people's experiences during this time. How did the war affect the people who served in the conflict? How was the war covered locally? How did the war affect the home front in Logan County? This dissertation will uncover stories of soldiers previously unknown to the war and bring the effects of the war to the local level, outside of the focus of places like New York or Washington D.C. In many ways, this will be a combination of military, social, economic, agricultural, and cultural history as the war is analyzed and discussed through the eyes of the people of Logan County. World War II changed industry, agriculture, media, and people's daily lives. The answers to the research questions will paint a picture of a county that started to change during the war. In the years after, change will come to Logan County agriculture, news media and coverage, industry, medical care, and the people's livelihood.

This dissertation will follow a chronological and topical format, starting with background information about the county. A decision about how the war affected Logan countians at home and at war: then there will be a brief discussion about the county after the war, emphasizing how the war brought change. To accomplish these goals, a variety of interviews were conducted. These interviews will include the remaining WWII veterans living in Logan County. In addition to these living veterans, the author interviewed numerous other local citizens. These people, including Mary Lucy Franklin, Evelyn Richardson, and Jim Turner, have memories of significant events on the home front, or they can add context to issues such as rationing and shortages. The inclusion of veterans is important because in the concept of change, their lives

may have faced the most change. The war directly impacted them; many were farmers before the war, and when the war ended, they wanted more than farm life. They helped change the county by having more professional careers in the service industry. These interviews will provide firsthand primary memories of Logan County and the war years of 1941-1945. The memories of individuals are connected to documented events and the specific period. These sources add to the validity of the memories and ensure that people remember details correctly.

Why does Logan County matter? The answer to this question is that Logan County is an average rural county in the United States. The overall importance of the county is that the war impacted everyday common people. People and communities are often overlooked. While other counties could be studied, Logan County's unique role in Kentucky's pro-Confederate movement and the people's resistance to change until WWII, make the county's history an interesting one. It borders the South and the Midwest, part of the heartland of America. For generations, the people of Logan County, like many others, have worked, bled, and cried to make ends meet, providing for their families, serving their communities, and assisting in creating the modern-day United States. Someone could substitute the story of these people in hundreds of other counties nationwide. Chapter two outlines more detailed information on why the county was important to the state of Kentucky and the entire nation. Logan countians assisted in building the state and the country. For much of the history of the United States, rural America played an essential role in producing food for the nation and establishing policy, often reflecting the people's religious beliefs. Chapter two discusses Logan County in detail and the role the county has played in state and national history. Some highlighted areas include the number of governors from the county, the discussion of the Second Great Awakening beginning in Logan County, emphasizing the county's role in the pro-Confederate movement in the Civil War, and



how this continued to affect the county for decades after. For many rural counties across Kentucky and the rest of the nation, the struggle to accept the results of the Civil War was achieved in the following decades, not immediately.

The second method of research focuses on the local sources available. These sources will fill in information for the content that the interviews may not be able to. These sources include both the WWII files at the Logan County Public Library, the Logan County Archives, and The Special Collections Kentucky Library on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green have provided collections of manuscripts, family papers, and other sources that provide more context and information on the effects of WWII on the people of Logan County. In addition to the family sources, some of the records include draft records, military citations, and other government documents.

For most of the history of Logan County, the only source of local information or news was *The News-Democrat*, the local paper during WWII. This source is central to this project because of the first-hand content related to businesses and their advertisements. In addition, most of the information about the war came from two sources. First are national reports printed from Washington D.C. and sources like the Associated Press. Secondly, the local reports came directly from letters from soldiers to their families or to the paper directly. Unfortunately, all the local businesses that were open during the war are either closed, or their records are lost (this includes war letters) so the newspaper is relied on because it was the voice of the county for news. While using the paper, other sources are used to connect the content to other locations for comparison of information. The reporting on the events of the war as well as other local events such as prayer vigils, bond drives, and parades, the paper has been analyzed from right before the attack on Pearl Harbor, until after the war ended in the Pacific in the late summer of 1945. It is

important to note that most people who lived outside the county seat of Russellville did not have electricity during WWII. Their only source of news and information came from this paper, as well as work and church conversations. *The News-Democrat* also served as the place for business advertisements and communication with the public. These advertisements are analyzed for information or commentary about the war. They will also be a valuable resource to evaluate how prices for goods changed during the war effort, which would have affected the local economy. The people with electricity could only pick up state or national news broadcasts because there was no local radio station in Logan County until the mid-1950s. The local paper was the life source of news about the war and local events for the people of Logan County.

In addition to the previous records and methods mentioned, other sources that are used for this project to try to uncover as many primary sources as possible. These final sources include the records of local churches and the local governments of the Russellville City Council and the Logan County Fiscal Court. Sadly, virtually all business records have been lost. Other than the local paper, there is not a single business or industry that is still open from the days of WWII. This does create a hole and a problem for this project. To cover this aspect properly, local businessman Gaines Cooksey will be compared to other sources outside of Logan County. In his weekly sales ad, he communicated his thoughts and ideas on the war, price controls, and other topics with the public. Some of the other sources used include letters from servicemen, letters from civilians, personal and family papers, government documents, and secondary sources related to the war period. At the same time, many sources are no longer available. The records used paint the fullest picture possible of how the war affected the people of Logan County between 1941-45. Each of these sources provides evidence of how WWII brought change to the

county. Before WWII, the county was stuck in the past, but the war experiences changed the people and provided new opportunities for the people after.

### **Historiography**

In the roughly eighty years since the conflict erupted and changed the course of history, hundreds of authors have published thousands of books and articles on the subject. Many of these works attempt to provide a complete overview of the war, while others study specific aspects, including battles and leadership, as well as why the war began and why the Allies won. Since this project focuses on the experiences of Logan countians at home and abroad during the war, the historiography discussed will be related to the topics of the American experience in war and the American home front during the war. The study will then focus on Americans and their roles during the conflict from the perspective of rural America, narrowing on Kentucky and the experiences of Kentuckians during the war, which is the focus of this dissertation.

The focus on the American home front provides many different perspectives on WWII. The primary focus of this dissertation will follow within the context of the home front. While the stories of Logan countians in combat are discussed, most of the focus will be placed on Logan countians and their experiences during the war at home between 1941-45. Some more modern works cover topics such as key figures, battles, race, gender, and economics, according to Allan Winkler. In 2002, he published an article titled "World War II Homefront: A Historiography." In this article, he outlines the importance of discussing the American home front, and how many different topics fall within this topic. As stated, this includes subjects of gender, race, production, and even propaganda. According to Winkler, each of these subjects have been evolving, but

much more work is still needed to tell the entire story of the United States and WWII.<sup>1</sup> It should be noted, that in this article, Winkler never mentions anything about the role of rural America. He also does not discuss the impact of the war both on the citizens, and the role the citizens played in the victory, which is the basis of this topic. One of the first that attempted to examine the entirety of the home front was published in 1968. American historian Richard Polenberg edited a book titled, *America at War: The Home Front 1941-1945*, which traces the movement and activities in the United States in WWII. The book emphasizes the movement from an anti-Europe or isolationist foreign policy to the complete mobilization for war, allowing American victory. Polenberg uses a variety of sources, including government documents, propaganda sources, as well as interviews of Americans focused on the period and the transitions and changes, they experienced. The work also covers the lives of Americans during the war, discussing how the war, war work, and the pressures from both impacted the public.<sup>2</sup>

In 1999, David M. Kennedy wrote a more comprehensive work titled, *The American People in World War II*, which was the second part of his work subtitled *Freedom from Fear*. This Pulitzer Prize winner focused on the arduous work, innovation, and the spirit of the American people during WWII. In the process, Kennedy outlines how the war impacted individuals both at home and on the war front. Kennedy discusses the war's social, economic, and political aspects and how the war movement mobilized a military and a workforce unlike anything the world had ever experienced before. On the back of American workers, the United States played a significant role in the Allies victory over the Axis Powers. These ordinary

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<sup>1</sup> Allan Winkler, "World War II Homefront: A Historiography," *OAH Magazine of History*, Spring 2002, Vol. 16, No. 3, 5-6,8.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Polenberg ed., *America at War: The Home Front 1941-1945*, (Englewood Cliffs NJ.: Prentice-Hall, 1968).

Americans had to overcome challenges, and fear, and make sacrifices to ensure victory.<sup>3</sup> Kennedy used a variety of primary and secondary sources. Most of his sources include government documents, newspapers, periodical accounts of the period, and business and economic records related to war and no-war-related goods.

In 2012, distinguished historian Allan Winkler published the third edition of his work *The Home Front U.S.A.: America during World War II*. This work first was published in 1986, but the newer version pays more attention to women and the war, as well as the role of African Americans in the conflict. The book continues the debate on topics such as the use of the atomic bomb, among others including the morality of WWII. This work provides evidence over time of how the focuses of history have changed, including topics and people that were originally omitted from historiography on WWII.<sup>4</sup> Winker includes sources that highlight women and African Americans and their service during the war. He also uses economic sources to relate to business and industrial production and the roles both played in creating an arsenal that supported victory. This is important to the theme of this project because there is a focus on previously “forgotten” or omitted topics. This project follows the same type of research by including information on an unknown or not previously discussed area, Logan County. Winker points out that all Americans were impacted and changed by the war, which is compatible with this dissertation.

Another aspect of the American home front is the emphasis on culture. In 1996, B. Lee Cooper published an article about romance, love letters, and popular recordings during the war. Cooper claims that most of the previous works completed about the patriotic nature of songs and

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<sup>3</sup> David Kennedy, *The American People in World War II*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), xiii-xiv.

jingles during the war, but that the focus on romance, and musings of love, which led to the rise of the love ballad. Using primary sources such as letters and personal romance stories, Cooper provides numerous examples of songs that were released and became extremely popular during the war period that connected to love or romance. Some of the songs include, "Wait for Me Mary," by Dick Haynes in 1943, "Will You Still Be Mine" by Tommy Dorsey in 1944, and even the song "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby in 1942. Many of these songs served as audio letters and allowed for the romantic connection to remain during the war effort. Cooper concludes that these songs laid the foundation for love ballads after the war that dominated radio stations including the 1960 hit, "I'll Save the Last Dance for You."<sup>5</sup>

While this dissertation focuses on Logan County during the war years, a few sources outside the war topic are discussed. Logan County is a rural county in Kentucky, and thus the impacts of WWII there are likely to be similar to other parts of the rural United States. David Danbom authored a book titled, *Born in the Country: A History of Rural America*, which discusses the history of the United States from an agricultural perspective. Danbom argues that rural communities are dominated by agriculture, which would include the family farm's effect in all aspects of these areas from the birth of the United States to the 1980s. While some works only focus on one region, such as the south, Danbom provides an overview to all regions. While this is helpful, it may also be viewed as a weakness because he is trying to cover too much area, instead of centering on a specific place or region. The book does allow for a comparison of regions and periods, but the depth of the material needs more focus. He provides information on agricultural programs and government controls during WWII, but there needs to be more

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<sup>4</sup> Allan Winkler, *The Home Front U.S.A.: America during World War II* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, (Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 2012), 1-3.

<sup>5</sup> B. L. Cooper, "From "Love Letters" to "Miss You": Popular Recordings, Epistolary Imagery, and Romance during War-Time, 1941-1945." *Journal of American Culture* 19, no. 4 (Winter, 1996): 15-27.

information included on the period. Overall, the book is a really good read, and full of information related to agricultural history with the idea that rural and agriculture are almost synonyms of each other. The book provides foundation content across the United States throughout the nation's history without focusing on one region.<sup>6</sup> This project compares the trends and changes that occurred in Logan County before, during, and after WWII.

Jack Temple Kirby wrote a more focused approach on rural America. In his work *Rural Worlds Lost: The American South 1920-1960*, Kirby points out that while the southern states claimed there would be a "New South" after the Civil War, that much of the region was still poor without many real changes. Many areas, including Logan County, fell backward as the Twentieth Century began, but many of these areas changed with the arrival of machinery like tractors, combines, and others. Kirby argues that one of the most important factors to the rural South change attributed to the policies of the New Deal during the Great Depression, and many of these policies would continue during WWII. During the book's forty-year focus, farms became increasingly dependent on machinery, and the old planter focus died. Farmers and rural communities were forced to deal with issues of race, gender, and even the types of crops they grew. They were forced in many ways to abandon the old ideal of "King Cotton," and grow other crops that were more food-based like corn, beans, and wheat. While Logan County never relied on cotton, the county did rely on King Tobacco. One of the best features of this work is on the focus of real individuals, which gives the title of farmers or rural Americans a face. To accomplish this, he used a variety of primary sources, including oral histories including interviews conducted by the Work Progress Administration (WPA). Kirby also discusses life and issues of marriage, health, class, and other topics from both the perspectives of the rich and poor

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<sup>6</sup> David B. Danbom, *Born in the Country: A history of Rural America* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Baltimore: John Hopkins

Southerners. Overall, Kirby argues that the period starting in the 1920s ended the centuries-old planter control of life in the South and ushered in a new era for rural Southerners, transforming their lives and lifestyles.<sup>7</sup> For the people of Logan, programs like the WPA continued into the war years, and people became dependent on government agencies and machinery to account for issues with labor and the demands of production.

Narrowing the focus of the study of rural areas related to WWII is Robert C. Daniels' *World War II in Mid-America: Experiences from Rural Mid-America during the Second World War*. This work is extremely important because it explores how typical small towns and communities were impacted by WWII, using communities in Wisconsin for context. In this way, this source is greatly like the subject of this dissertation. The book discusses both people who served in the war while also spending much time with the people at home. The people at home were affected by the war, and they did their patriotic duty to help the nation win the conflict. Roughly three dozen people had their stories told as they discussed the war years, including their feelings, their activities. Daniels argues that WWII is one of the most important, if not the most important, historical events regarding impact on people, shaping future events, and changing society in various ways at home and abroad. In many ways, this is very similar to the argument of this dissertation. The people of Logan and across rural counties served in any way they could, whether on farms, in factories, donating blood, or buying bonds, all for the nation's war effort. The war impacted everyone, rich, poor, men, women, children, the elderly, and all points between.<sup>8</sup> The importance of Daniels' work is very similar to this dissertation. A focus on common people, not political figures, but moms, dads, families, and the rest of the heart of

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university Press, 2017).

<sup>7</sup> Jack Temple Kirby, *Rural Worlds Lost: The American South 1920-1960*, (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987).



America. They survived rationing, price controls, and labor shortages. Ultimately, they overcame the challenges and won the day as a changed United States emerged from the depths of the war. This dissertation falls in the same scope, but it is different because of the analysis of a rural Kentucky county that was once driven to lead Kentucky into joining the Confederacy. That mindset continued for decades, thus making the story of the impact of WWII and thus bringing change to Logan County different than Daniels' work.

As stated previously, more recent works of WWII focus on previously ignored or less researched topics, such as women and WWII. In 2015, Amy Platt authored an article focused on the role of women in Oregon during the war effort. Platt used a variety of sources, including employment records in the shipyards and others, as well as records of the WASPs, and a variety of secondary sources. She outlined that over 100,000 women served in various capacities to help ensure American victory in WWII. In many cases, these women suffered poor treatment, and were often forced to shed their gender characteristics; as the title of her article states, they were workers, not women. The significance of this work and many others in more recent memory is that it outlines women's jobs in both the home front and the armed services, which allowed men to head to the front lines. The women of Oregon worked in factories, shipyards, farms, and a host of other positions. In these positions, these women were really serving their nation for the war effort, because they were necessary to ensure victory and success on the battlefield.<sup>9</sup>

Some historiography has focused on more localized topics within the American home front. This dissertation focuses on local history and the experiences of people often forgotten in

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<sup>8</sup> Robert C. Daniels, *World War II in Mid-America: Experiences from Rural Mid-America during the Second World War*, (Bloomington IN: AuthorHouse Press, 2012).

<sup>9</sup> Amy E. Platt, "Go into the Yard as a Worker, Not as a Woman": Oregon Women during World War II, a Digital Exhibit on the Oregon History Project." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 116, no. 2 (2015): 234-248.

broader history forms but who can and should be the focus of study within that broader context. In 2017, Taylor Jaworski published an economic history article on the industrialization of the south during WWII. Much of the industrialization for WWII in the south occurred because of government investments and subsidies. Using various primary sources covering economics and employment, Jaworski collected data that outlined how the South accounted for almost one-third of total investment and roughly thirteen percent of government contract spending during the 1940-1945 period. This investment allowed for not only great wartime production but economic growth for the South as well. This information is significant because the South was economically behind the rest of the nation before the war. The demands of WWII and the need for wartime equipment made the South an excellent place to invest government dollars. The article focuses on two areas: one in Georgia, and one in West Virginia, as support for Jaworski's claims. Simply stated, Jaworski believes that it was not just because of mobilization but because of government investment in the South that allowed for the economic boom during the war period.<sup>10</sup>

In 2016, nonprofessional historians named Dewaine A. Speaks and Ray Clift published a book titled, *East Tennessee in World War II*. This short book discusses the role that many people from East Tennessee played on the battlefield and the home front during the war. Much of the book focuses on Secret City, more commonly known as Oak Ridge, Tennessee, which was the location of much of the atomic work of the Manhattan Project. Speaks and Clift provides information on numerous people and their roles during the conflict, inferring over and over that the people of East Tennessee were willing to do their part to ensure victory over the Axis powers.<sup>11</sup> In 2013, a more focused work about Oak Ridge was published. Journalist Denise

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<sup>10</sup> Taylor Jaworski, "World War II and the Industrialization of the American South." *The Journal of Economic History* 77, no. 4 (12, 2017): 1048-82.

<sup>11</sup> Dewaine A. Speaks, and Ray Clift, *East Tennessee in World War II*, (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2016).

Kiernan published *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II*. This work narrowly focuses on the women who worked in secret factories and created the atomic bomb. They had no idea what they were doing, sworn to secrecy, and were in a location completely hidden from the world. From 1942-1945, Kiernan argues that the strange and difficult working conditions that these women had to endure were essential to the success of winning the war, and that these women deserve notoriety for their sacrifices and work.

Ultimately, they played an extremely vital role in victory over Japan.<sup>12</sup> These works are a good example of the story this project seeks to tell. The story of everyday people, working or fighting, but doing their best to ensure American victory. Each of the works relied on personal documents, letters, and government sources to tell the story of so many important people in East Tennessee. These are the stories that the world needs to know about, and it brings the subject of a faraway war to a local level. These are the real heroes of the Second World War.

In 1999, James Klotter drafted an article discussing the current scholarship and trends in Kentucky historiography, emphasizing topics of the 20th Century. He stated that many topics have been covered by historians and with the fiftieth anniversary of World War II some have investigated the topic of combat; there have been very few works on the home front.<sup>13</sup> It is within this context that this project will fall. While some works discuss the war, but the home front, roughly twenty years later, still needs more attention in terms of local history and the role local communities played in WWII, as well as an emphasis on topics such as news reporting on the war, the immediate impact on citizens, and local events during the war period, such as bond drives. More focus study on individual communities such as Logan County is needed. The more

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<sup>12</sup> Denise Kiernan, *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II*, (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2013).

<sup>13</sup> James Klotter, "Moving Kentucky History into the Twenty-first Century: Where Should we go from Here?" *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Winter 1999, vol. 97, No. 1, 91.

work completed on these communities provide more personal insight into how the war impacted and changed people. Each community is a piece of the puzzle to complete the complex WWII puzzle.

In 1982, Richard Stone authored a book that sought to outline the experiences of Kentuckians and their experiences in wars from the American Civil War through WWII. The book's last two chapters discuss Kentuckians and their experiences in WWII. Like many other works, he started by discussing Husband Kimmel and the blame he received for the attack on Pearl Harbor as the admiral. Stone points out that the United States knew roughly one year earlier that Japan was planning an attack in the Pacific, while the location was unknown. The first chapter discusses the attack and the immediate fallout of the war in the Pacific while focusing on the main campaigns of the European Theater and key Kentuckians' involvement in places such as North Africa, Anzio, and the Battle of the Bulge. The second chapter focuses on the Pacific Theater, emphasizing key battles such as Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima. A common theme in both chapters is that Stone discusses the experience of Kentuckians who were officers in the conflict. These commanders provide a personal account of the war. In these chapters, no single person from Logan County was discussed. A key takeaway from these experiences is that many of the men suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) from their experiences in the war and the things they saw. For example, the sight of Japanese Prisoner of War (POW) camps and Nazi concentration camps in Europe were the sources of nightmares for many.<sup>14</sup>

In 1943, the first of roughly 9,000 German prisoners of war arrived in Kentucky. Military camps and bases in the state became the homes for the POWs, including Fort Knox, Camp Campbell, and Camp Breckinridge. These men's lives and experiences are the subject of Antonio

Thompson's book, *German Jackboots on Kentucky Bluegrass: Housing German Prisoners of War in Kentucky 1942-1946*. Dr. Thompson's book falls within the larger study of German POWs in the United States, narrowing the focus on Kentucky, and including information on how these people were affected by their surroundings in the Bluegrass state. One fact to note is that some Germans developed permanent friendships with Kentuckians and were impressed by the concepts of southern hospitality they experienced. Many of the soldiers became labor for farmers, thus fulfilling a significant role in the Kentucky economy and even their homeland's defeat. Some Kentuckians were able to meet the Germans, which influenced their views on the people as well as the events of WWII. The experience was not always rosy, as Dr. Thompson points out, because some of the Germans came filled with extreme German nationalism that influenced their desires not to work, rebel, and even to escape. Overall, this book provides a well-balanced and detailed account of the German POWs in Kentucky.<sup>15</sup>

In 2002, Richard Holl published an article on Axis prisoners of war in Kentucky during the same period as Antonio Thompson. Holl argues that historians have ignored the POW camps in the United States and in Kentucky. He stated that the camps developed in three stages that overlapped. The second phase is the only one really important to this dissertation. During this period prisoners became a source of labor, especially on Kentucky farms. They provided to be a valuable source of labor and the emphasis on security and safety decreased during this more positive period of employment. In many ways, Holl's article follows a similar format as Thompson's book, but he also provides a slightly different focus. Most Holl's article emphasizes the importance of German workers in Kentucky. In some counties like Davies, businessmen and

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<sup>14</sup> Richard G. Stone Jr. *Kentucky Fighting Men, 1861-1945*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1982).

<sup>15</sup> Antonio Thompson, *German Jackboots on Kentucky Bluegrass: Housing German Prisoners of War in Kentucky 1942-1946*, (Clarksville, TN: Diversion Press Inc., 2008).

farmers greatly needed the labor and the POWs became invaluable to Kentucky industry. Overall, Holl provides an insightful, but shorter, account of the German POW experience in Kentucky over Thompson.<sup>16</sup> These sources are important to Logan County, because of the labor shortages that farmers faced during the WWII era. A section later in this dissertation focuses on how farmers of Logan used German POWs to try to account for the labor shortage and increase production on their farms.

Philip Ardery was a bomber pilot in WWII from Kentucky. In 1978, he wrote memoirs of his WWII experience by focusing on his training in the new Army Air Corps, then his missions with the Eighth Air Force in North Africa and then Europe. The author's experiences and his involvement in notable raids and campaigns provide the reader with an eagle eye experience of the war, from the perspective of someone in the Air Corp, not the Marines or the Army. Because of his unique perspective, Ardery's book is worth reading because in some discussions of the war, the air war is omitted. He provides accounts of attacks in Africa, Crete, Italy, and other locations in the Mediterranean theater of war. Ardery provides insight into his feelings and the gut-wrenching moments of the conflict. Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the book is Ardery's recollections and details from his raid on the oil fields outside of Ploesti, Romania, on August 1, 1943. This attack was hair raising because the B-24 Bombers would be at their maximum distance because of fuel, as well as all the German forces they would have to fly over and through for the raid to be success. While the author does not provide much detail of his emotions, the account presents the true dangers of the campaigns. Ardery presents everything as calculated hard-core facts, which could make it difficult for readers to feel his experiences, so it is up to readers to create their own emotion while reading through the pages of his accounts and

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<sup>16</sup> Richard E. Holl, "Swastikas in the Bluegrass State: Axis Prisoners of War in Kentucky, 1942-46," *The*

war experiences.<sup>17</sup> Ardery was impacted by his service during WWII. Many men from Logan faced similar hardships in battle and they have the wounds and scars to prove it. Ardery's story relates to the stories of roughly 2000 men that served from Logan County. Each one of them were impacted by their experiences and they came back changed men. Many no longer wanted to stay on the farm, they wanted new opportunities. It is in the area of experiences as to why this source and the stories of other matter because they impacted change on their communities when the war was over.

In 1982, Frank F. Mathias provided another personal account of his experiences in WWII. This account differs from many others because of the focus on the personal nature and the experiences of the war. Before, during, and after the war, Mathias was a great saxophone player and his accounts of his war experiences, especially related to the Philippines, provides an insight into many Americans of the day. He was young and inexperienced to the world. He played in the army band while stationed and he used a collection of letters and personal memories to create his account of WWII. Before the war many places like the Philippines were locations that most Kentuckians could not locate on a map. Mathias detailed the hardships that he and others faced from the eyes of a private, the lowest of all soldiers, who most died during the war. He was an eyewitness to the assaults and horrors of the city of Manila, one of the most devastated cities impacted by WWII. He came face to face with the evil actions of the Japanese in that city and the war hardened his innocence. According to Mathias, one of the best ways he coped with the war was his love for music. It was a way for him to express himself and to co-exist with the world around him. His memoir is a prime example of the impact the war had on

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*Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Spring 2002, Vol. 100, No. 2. 139-165.

<sup>17</sup> Philip Ardery, *Bomber Pilot: A memoir of World War II*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1978).

those who served, and while each account may be similar, the perception of death is truly a personal and individualized experience.<sup>18</sup>

In 1988, James Russell Harris published an article on a group of soldiers from Harrodsburg, Kentucky. According to Harris, each of the sixty-six men reinforced with Kentucky toughness, resilience, and interdependence. These qualities bred into these young men kept them alive and going when the times were harsh. The majority of information came from interviews obtained by the author through a variety of sources, but one thing was clear these men went through Hell during their service in WWII. While the article discusses the men's lives briefly before and after the war, the focus was the men's experiences in the Philippines. The men arrived in Manila roughly two weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor. They would encounter the Japanese attack several weeks later. At this point in the war the Japanese were like a buzzsaw cutting through forces and territory with great speed and ferociousness. The men from Harrodsburg would eventually surrender and become prisoners of war at the infamous Bataan Camp. There they were treated as sub-humans and came under the harsh treatment of the Japanese. Throughout the entire article, the theme is service and the bond of humility these men experienced during their service in WWII. They encountered some of the hardest days of any soldiers in WWII, and they were subjugated the evils of the Japanese while they were prisoners. This article really presents the human side of the war, as some of the men express bitterness, anger, and even hatred for the U.S. Government and the Japanese because of the conditions they suffered. This article, like others, provides valuable insights to the experiences of soldiers in different realms of WWII, stories that need to be told and stories that bring a faraway war, much

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<sup>18</sup> Frank F. Mathias, *GI Jive: An Army Bandsman in World War II*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1982).



closer to home.<sup>19</sup> The experiences of these men, and others are important to this project because they provide foundational evidence of the impact of war. While this project does focus on the home front, the stories of those in combat must be included, because these men were changed by the war. When they returned home many of them wanted more in life. This along with government programs allowed many to go to college, many to start businesses, thus changing places like Logan County and the rest of the nation.

One of the best sources of information on soldiers' experiences in WWII are the letters written to their families. In these letters, soldiers often tried to put on a brave face so mothers and wives would not worry about them, but they also captured the raw emotions in the moment they wrote the letters. In 1990, Nancy Disher Baird published an article on the letters of Special Services Officer Harry Jackson. These letters were written, in the middle of war-torn Europe. Jackson saw combat from Normandy to the southern borders of Germany and Czechoslovakia. His letters outlined his experiences, what he saw, and the plight of civilians across Europe. The bulk of the article focuses on these experiences and the war through Jackson's eyes. Some of the most heart-wrenching moments of the article surround the civilians and the war's impact on them. Jackson discussed how many of them were old, feeble, and starving. They lost their homes, their livelihoods, and in many cases their families. In this respect, Baird performs the best and brings the realism of the war to any reader.<sup>20</sup> The story of Harry Jackson may be unknown to many, but his experiences in WWII deserve to be told. Why? Because these men played vital roles in the victory over evil. Jackson, like many men from Logan wrote about their experiences. Some did not. Many of those that did may have viewed it as a form of therapy. Like

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<sup>19</sup> James Russell Harris, "The Harrodsburg Tankers: Bataan, Prison, and the Bonds of Community," *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Summer 1988, Vol. 86, No. 3, 230-277.

<sup>20</sup> Nancy Disher Baird, "To Lend my Eyes...:the World War II letters of Special Services Officer Harry Jackson," *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Summer 1990, Vol. 88, No. 3, 287-317.

the communities at home, everyone's story is a piece of the WWII puzzle. Thus, each story explains the impact the war had on each person, and these stories contribute to the reality of war while putting a face on "average soldiers," making the conflict more real to readers, which this project discusses in some detail in chapter six.

In 1997, retired army colonel Arthur Kelly published a work focused completely on the stories of Kentuckians and their experiences in WWII. The book provides a fantastic account of battles, harrowing escapes, and intense moments during WWII, as witnessed by Kentuckians. In his collection process, he conducted dozens of interviews with veterans who served in various locations, including Iwo Jima, Normandy, the Bataan Death March, and countless others. Kelly primarily focused on twelve stories of soldiers he deemed ordinary men who rose to the occasion to keep the world free from dictators. This work aimed to tell stories that might not be otherwise told and shine light on Kentuckians and their fight against the Axis powers in WWII. The realism of Kelly's writings allows for the stories to flow off the pages and whisk the reader to the various fields of battle and to the hardships and pain that soldiers, specifically Kentuckians, experienced in their fight for freedom.<sup>21</sup> This work is important to this project because it discusses soldiers and how their experiences changed them, and the content is connected to the material presented in chapter six.

Most of these articles focus on Kentuckians' experiences during WWII. One of these articles written by Teresa Sharkey focuses on one specific group of people, the women of Lexington. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, many women were encouraged and willingly joined the workforce to cover the labor shortage caused by men going to war. Propaganda played a huge role in this era with posters of "Rosie the Riveter" and numerous other women compelled

to do their part to join the war effort and to assist in victory. Even though these women are essential to victory, Sharkey states that often women are told that their place was in the home, and they were part of the war service to fight the enemy in Lexington. One of the issues that women faced, other than long hours and sometimes demeaning bosses, was that their children faced being orphaned during their shifts. They were forced to stay at home with an older sibling or to try to find a form of a sitter. In March 1944, the Lexington Planning Board allowed for permits for childcare centers and nurseries, which were the city's first kind. All women were regularly told that their service was needed, but they were also criticized for neglecting their children and their other domestic duties. In many ways, these issues reflected the struggle between the demands of the war, the demands of being a mother, and the traditions of society. Sharkey stated that African-American women were treated even worse than others based on the racist nature of the state at the time. Women who regularly worked were “Amazons” or less than women, and that they were becoming too masculine. Women did all kinds of jobs, not just hard labor in factories. They filled clerical positions and used their knowledge to help the Red Cross and the USO domestically.<sup>22</sup>

Dana Caldemeyer provides more of an overview of the war years of 1900-1945. In this article, she outlines that at the beginning of the century in Kentucky, women were taught to not speak on issues that were not related to women because they could not understand those issues. Over the next forty-five years, there was a struggle as society changed, and life for women changed as well, even though they faced criticism and backlash for this. It was not just in the war that women faced hard labor. Caldemeyer points out that women and girls have traditionally

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<sup>21</sup> Arthur L. Kelly, *BattleFire! Combat Stories from World War II*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1997).

<sup>22</sup> Teresa Cecilia Sharkey, “The Home Front: The Women of Lexington Kentucky, During World War II,” *Filson Club Quarterly* 68, (October 1994): 466-83.

worked on family farms raising crops like tobacco. They worked hard, were baked in the heat, and still had to fulfill their domestic responsibilities. When new doors opened for women, there was always criticism. The most common criticism throughout the period, even in WWII, was the idea that women were neglecting their children; women were losing their feminine nature in the workplace. Poor women and African American women faced even more challenges, but they were all needed to accomplish a job to ensure victory in WWII.<sup>23</sup>

In 1994, Michella Marino provided insight to another aspect of the effects of WWII on the American home front by focusing on children in Madison, Indiana, and Louisville, Kentucky. As pointed out in other sources, some children became orphaned every day because their father was away at war and their mother was working for the war effort. Daycares and child centers were not a concept yet, because in most families, someone was there to care for the children. Marino states early in her article that while the content discusses children, she emphasizes girls in the two cities. The sources primarily came from interviews with women who were girls between the ages of five and twelve when the war began. The girls in Louisville lived in the western, more industrial portion of the town, so they were very much neighborhood girls. The author states that the industrial growth of WWII greatly impacted the city of Louisville after years of dealing with the Depression and the great flood of 1937. In cities like Louisville, as mothers went to work, children were left largely alone or stayed with nearby family members or neighbors. Stated mothers were no longer present all day. The changes of habits and employment related to the war changed the girls' lives, and in some cases, juveniles found themselves in trouble with the law. Older girls largely had to step up in some ways to manage the home while mom was at work. If workers worked the night shift, then children had to be quiet, and they

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<sup>23</sup> Dana M. Caldemeyer, "Yoked to Tradition: Kentucky Women and Their Histories, 1900–1945." *The*

struggled to find time to play. All these factors and many others changed the lives of children. They had to struggle with rations, responsibilities, and the unknown. In return, some children did well with autonomy and independence, and laid the foundation for their success, while others did not. For many girls and children in general, they found ways to cope and survive.<sup>24</sup>

In 1994, Mary Jean Kinsman published an article titled “The Kentucky Home Front: World War II.” This article attempted to provide an overview of some of the major contributions of Kentuckians to the war effort. Even within this article, most of the focus was on the city of Louisville. This is understandable because of the role of Ford Motor Company producing jeeps for the war effort. In addition to this, Louisville is the largest city in the state. Thus, more people served in the war effort from Jefferson County than any other place in Kentucky.<sup>25</sup> This source used pictures and government documents as well as industrial and personal accounts of service in WWII. As stated, a weakness of the source is that most of the focus was on metropolitan areas such as Louisville and Lexington.

In 2005, Bruce Tyler published a short book titled, *Louisville in World War II*, which was part of the Images of America series. This book is full of pictures and brief information about the role of Louisville in WWII. Companies like Ford Motor Company are the focus, as well as the number of men who served in combat during the conflict. Women who volunteered for service received special attention, as well as the 808th Army Air Force Base soldiers, all of whom were African Americans.<sup>26</sup> While the book is short on content and does not really provide a great

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*Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 113, no. 2/3 (2015): 453–75.

<sup>24</sup> Michella M. Marino, "Children, Conflict, and Community: Madison, Indiana, and Louisville, Kentucky, during World War II." *Ohio Valley History* 12, no. 1 (2012): 7-26.

<sup>25</sup> Mary Jean Kinsman, “The Kentucky Home Front: World War II, *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, vol. 68, no. 3, July, 1994.

<sup>26</sup> Bruce M. Tyler, *Images of America Series: Louisville in World War II*, (Charlestown SC.: Arcadia Publishing, 2005).

number of specific facts and details, it serves a purpose of outlining key contributions of the people from Louisville using the local archives. At the same time, the work indirectly highlighted the amount of work that needs to be done across the rest of the state.

In 2015, Richard Holl, published one of the first complete works on Kentucky and WWII, titled *Committed to Victory: The Kentucky Home Front during World War II*. In this work, Holl offers a variety of primary and secondary source material to support the essays on topics related to Kentucky, Kentuckians, and the Kentucky home front during the war. Some of the sources include government and defense documents, as well as personal experiences during WWII.

According to Holl, WWII transformed the Kentucky economy and provided some opportunities for citizens of the state that had never existed before. Another impact of the war was the rise of more urban areas, and the populations of places such as Lexington and Louisville increasing because of war work. Some of the essays included topics on African Americans and women in the workforce. These topics provide evidence of changes in the landscape of Kentucky, and in some regards, WWII was a catalyst for these changes. Holl states that Kentucky was critical to wartime production because of geography, and political alliances before the war. While Holl defines and discusses some of the positive impacts of the war, production, and mobilization, he also outlines issues that plagued Kentucky before, during, and after the war. Some of these topics include corruption and partisan politics, both of these problems have been common throughout the history of the commonwealth.<sup>27</sup> The major difference between Holl's work and this dissertation is that Holl still places most of his focus on the metropolitan areas of

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<sup>27</sup> Richard E. Holl, *Committed to Victory: The Kentucky Home Front during World War II*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2015).

the state, such as Louisville and Lexington, but this project will focus on the importance and impact of the war on rural America, more specifically Logan County Kentucky.

Another aspect of the American home front discussed is the migration of people for work during the World War II period. Many Americans lived on farms and believed they needed to move to nearby cities to find work. For them, this work represented a way to serve their country's needs, but it was also an opportunity for them to improve their economic standing and their lives through industrial work. In 1943, Olaf Larson completed a study on the movement of people in thirty-three counties in eastern Kentucky using the 1940 census and estimates from late 1942. Overall, roughly 85,000 people moved from rural farms to nearby cities, sometimes within the same county, but also outside of the county. He noted that the percentage of people who moved was not consistent and varied among the counties, but there was a common trend. The largest group of these migrants were younger people, most less than forty years old. The article also compares the movement of men and women, but he notes that many of the men moved because of joining military service.<sup>28</sup>

In 1945, Wayne Gray published a similar article that covered migration with a focus on Knox County Kentucky. He stated that many people left farms and rural areas during WWI to find war work, but many of them returned to the rural areas in the 1930s because of the Great Depression. When WWII broke for the United States, many of the same people and many of the younger generation again searched for war work. He stated that this group was largely more educated and were able to take advantage of more economic opportunities in their service to the nation during the war. Roughly fifty percent of the people who moved during WWII did not

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<sup>28</sup> Olaf F. Larson, "Wartime Migration and the Manpower Reserve on Farms in Eastern Kentucky," *Rural Sociology*, Vol. 8, Issue 2, June 1943, 148-161.

return to the mountain regions where they grew up. He also went on to speculate that if another depression occurred, he expected the people to then return to their rural roots.<sup>29</sup>

In 2001, another article discussing migration by Luther Adams discussed the movement of African Americans to Louisville. Many left smaller counties in Kentucky to move to Louisville because they perceived life and opportunities to improve. War work and opportunities only appeared sometimes for some African Americans. They suffered many of the same issues in Louisville in their previous homes, including discrimination, segregation, and prejudice. Most who found war work found menial jobs, while very few found semi-skilled war work. The massive number of African Americans moving to the city caused some housing issues, which the city attempted to solve by building multiple public housing locations, including Parkway Place and Sheppard Square. Overall, for most African Americans, Louisville represented a better opportunity, and a location to improve their lives and the lives of their family. Jefferson County grew by roughly 100,000 people during the 1940s, with most of those relocating living in or very close to Louisville.<sup>30</sup>

In 2007, Kentucky Educational Television produced a show titled, *Kentucky WWII Veterans: In Their Own Words*. This program interviewed numerous Kentucky WWII veterans and allowed them to express their memories about topics such as Pearl Harbor, campaigns they were involved in, and memorable moments from the war.<sup>31</sup> The overall mood of the documentary was a tempered excitement. Many of these men were happy to tell their stories and

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<sup>29</sup> Wayne T. Gray, "Population Movements in the Kentucky Mountains," *Rural Sociology*, Vol. 10, Issue 2, 1945, 380-386.

<sup>30</sup> Luther J. Adams, "African American Migration to Louisville in the Mid-Twentieth Century." *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 99, no. 4 (2001): 363-84.

<sup>31</sup> *Kentucky WWII Veterans: In Their Own Words*. Directed by Thomas Biekell. Kentucky Education Television, September 24, 2007.



experiences. All the men were senior citizens, and they were happy that someone wanted to hear their contribution to victory during WWII.

In June 2021, a group of students at Eastern Kentucky University were among the first to see a new documentary titled, *The Six-Triple-Eight: No Mail, No Morale*. This documentary concerns the only African American female unit in Europe during WWII. It consisted of 955 members; eighteen of the women were from Kentucky. The goal is to tell the story of these women and their sacrifices during WWII. The producer stated that these women were patriots and recounted evidence of the horrible conditions that they had to endure. Some of these conditions were because of the war, but they also faced racism and sexism during their time of service.<sup>32</sup>

These last two documentaries are included in the historiography of the war and Kentucky because they provide more evidence of the need for more work. Both documentaries, as with the written sources, are rather new in publication. Most works have been published in the last twenty-five years. These facts show the need for more information on specific aspects of WWII and the American home front. These thousands of WWII veterans deserve to have their story told to the world. In addition to those who served in combat, the people at home made important contributions and their lives changed forever by the war; it is within this context that this dissertation connects to previous works, while also providing more insight into Logan County during the war.

In 1994, the Kentucky Historical Society opened an exhibit dedicated to Kentuckians and World War II titled *Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition*. The exhibit was dedicated to the

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<sup>32</sup> *The Six-Triple-Eight: No mail, No Morale*. Directed by James Williams Theres. Lincoln Penny Films, 2019..

7,902 Kentuckians who died during the conflict, and to their families who still struggle with their loss. With the fifty-year anniversary of the start of WWII, the exhibit opened to Kentuckians, and it helped to engage historians with the topic of Kentucky and WWII. The exhibit started with the attack on Pearl Harbor then chronicled Kentuckians' experiences in each of the theaters of war. The exhibit also covered the home front in Kentucky with an emphasis on urban locations, such as Louisville and Lexington in war production. Women and African Americans also had their experiences discussed in terms of the war. Like many of the other works on Kentucky in WWII, the exhibit tended to focus more on the "golden triangle" of Kentucky, which is the Louisville, Lexington, and northern Kentucky areas. This is the area of the most population and frankly, more activities and people served there. Other areas discussed, the more populated regions overshadow them. For example, in the pamphlet produced for the exhibit, only one person from Logan County was mentioned: an African American named Jesse Puckett Warders.<sup>33</sup>

The previous source is last because in many ways, this is an inspiration or a model for this dissertation. The goal is to provide an in-depth discussion of Logan Countians, and the impact of WWII between 1941-1945. What role did the newspaper play in providing information for the public? Was this information more national or local based? Were there holes in reporting on the war? How did people serve (men and women)? How did their experiences impact servicemen and women during the war? How did the war impact agriculture and businesses? What events or activities occurred during the war in the county? How did people respond to the demands of the war? How successful were bond drives and other drives during the war? What role did the war play in bringing the community new industry and other changes? How did the events of WWII bring change to the county after the war? Lastly, how did the totality of WWII

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<sup>33</sup> James C. Klotter editor, "Praise the Lord and Pas the Ammunition: Kentuckians and World War II," *The*

impact the community and thus bring change in the years after? These questions drive this project, detailed in the following chapters (minus the second). This dissertation will connect to previous works of Kentucky history and WWII. Still, it will provide new information related to Logan County and thus expand the historiography of the subjects.

The second chapter will serve as a background chapter to the history of Logan County.

The purpose of this chapter is to introduce readers to Logan County. The chapter places the county within the contexts of Kentucky and American history, by discussing the impact of the people on history. The chapter will also discuss the Civil War, and the foundation the war had on the people of Logan. The anger and hatred from the war spilled over and the people of Logan were stuck in the past until WWII. Much focus is placed on the issues that relate back to the Civil War, and how the people refused to move forward and accept industry and change. Therefore, the Civil War is a turning point for the county, and the county's path changes with the anger and issues of the war spilling over into the next fifty years. Finally, the main themes of the county are discussed on the eve of WWII. This information provides the foundation for the WWII years. How did the Civil War and the following years impact the county on the eve of WWII? The main goal in the chapter is to explain why Logan County is important to the history of Kentucky, and the United States outside of WWII, while also laying the foundation for the WWII years. Local historians in southern Kentucky often remark that Logan has played a more significant role in state and national history for a county of its size than any other. This chapter provides much of the evidence they cite for that claim.

The third chapter and fourth chapters focus on the home front from 1941-1945. Each of these chapters focus on three topics each. Each topic of the war provides a foundation for why

the county changed after the war. For example, while there was some machinery in farming before the war, WWII changed the farms because more crops needed to be produced. This continued after the war ended, thus more tractors, combiners, and larger equipment. The three aspects in chapter three include information on farms, farmers, and labor issues during WWII. Second, the impact of the war on businesses. The focus will be on Gaines Cooksey and comparing his experiences with other sources available. Third, the local governments and their activities during WWII. Questions answered in this chapter include how the war impacted these aspects of the county. How did farmers try to overcome the labor shortage? What did the local governments do to support the war effort? These questions are answered in detail by analyzing and discussing information from the 1941-45 period. The information supports the claim that the totality of the war brought change to the county and not a singular person, event, or thing.

Chapter four also focuses on three topics. The first topic covered focuses on civilians in the county. How did the war impact them? Did civilians seek war work inside or outside the county? The second topic is rationing. Were there any issues with rationing? Did people follow the rules? What role did victory gardens play in support of rationing? The last focus is events related to the war effort. Were there many acts of patriotism? Were there parades in the county? There will be some overlap between chapters three and four because only some things fit into one category. For example, some government activities are connected to events such as the war's end. For both chapters a variety of sources are used, including the local paper, personal interviews, letters, and journals, along with Government documents and church histories. Each of these sources provides a valuable insight into Logan County during the war years and how the citizens of the county responded to the nation's greatest crisis. The information in these chapters provides the foundation for changes in attitude towards the federal government. It was difficult

to be anti-government if you were working a job that the government funded. It was difficult to be anti-government when the nation was in a massive fight and patriotism was everywhere. The context of the information provided in these chapters allows one to see what many Logan countians experienced during WWII, and as noted in chapter three, it is the war as a whole that brings changes and more opportunities to the county.

The fifth chapter focuses on reporting the war from 1941-1945. In Logan County, there was only one source of local news, and the question is, how did the local newspaper report on the war? Did the paper report update from families who had loved ones serving overseas? Did the paper report on the local war activities, such as the prayer vigils? Did the paper report accurate information? And where did this information come from? Did the paper change its format because of the war? These questions are very important to a community that only has one source of local information. Many people in the county did not have electricity, so they could not listen to the radio. The reporting on the war will help to provide an insight into the minds of Logan Countians during the war. The reporting on the war made the people of Logan hungry for more information. With only one real local source, that was published weekly, people had to wait for information. After the war changes occurred with the advent of a radio station and a second county newspaper, thus breaking the power of the single paper. The need for these changes occurred during the WWII years.

Chapter six discusses Logan Countians serving in the war, with an emphasis on how their experiences helped to bring changes to the county in the years after the war. How many Logan Countians served in WWII? Where did they serve? What were their experiences? What awards were won by Logan Countians? How many Logan countians died in combat? How many Logan countians became prisoners of war? Did any Logan countians witness the remains of any

Holocaust camps? What battles were Logan Countians involved in? These questions will provide answers that serve many purposes. First, they define the role that Logan countians played in the war, and thus the victory of the United States. Second, their experiences impacted their lives both during and after the war, which is an important aspect of how the war changed individuals. Before the war, many of the men were simple farmers. They had never traveled a hundred miles. The war introduced them to people from around the United States. They came back different men (and women). They wanted change because the war opened eyes to a much broader view than the one in Logan County. Third, is how did the war impact African Americans? How did African Americans from Logan County serve in WWII? What information exists about Company M, stationed at the Logan County National Guard? Lastly, these answers provide information on the war's impact on the combatants' families and friends. Another aspect of this chapter is the role of women. First, how did women from Logan County serve in WWII? Did many women from Logan County join the war effort? Did very many women from Logan County participate in war related activities? Were there any USO type of activities in Logan County? The answers to these questions will describe how the war affected women and their willingness to serve. In many areas of the United States, WWII opened doors for women that were previously closed; did this happen in Logan County? If not, why?

Chapter seven is the concluding chapter highlighting the main points and trends discussed throughout the project. The chapter will also serve to acknowledge and discuss potential areas for follow-up and other fields of research beyond this project. The driving questions for this chapter surround how did the main points support the thesis? What were the problems or issues uncovering content and sources? Where can the research go from this project? These topics are important within the concept of the dissertation and other areas of history related to WWII and

the American home front based on the question of how the war brought change to the American public and society.

The emphasis on the American home front is a topic that needs more work and attention because many of the works only focus on larger nationalistic topics. The study of the people of Logan County and how the war impacted the citizens between 1941-1945 provides a basis for how small communities, like Logan, were affected and how WWII brought true change to the county for the first time since the start of the Civil War. In closing, this study is a microcosm of how World War II affected the citizens of Logan County both in war and on the home front between 1941-1945. The study of Logan County also may provide more evidence as to the true hangover of the Civil War. This project will uncover how WWII ended the hangover from the American Civil War. The events and impact of the totality of WWII brought change. People experienced a different world. It was industrialized; it was modern. After the experiences of WWII, the people of Logan wanted change, and they embraced and accepted new opportunities. World War II in Logan County changed and modernized the county.

## **Chapter 2: “Unfinished Business: Logan County and the Hangover of the American Civil War.”**

Logan County is not a populous place, nor does it stand out on a map of the United States. These facts may lead one to ask why Logan County matters. Why must we learn about the county's history before analyzing WWII? The people of Logan County have left their mark on state and national history, and a discussion of the county before WWII provides insight into why the WWII years are pivotal to changing the county. The county's history is divided by two important wars, the American Civil War and WWII. To fully understand the county during WWII, one must look backward at the events that created the county and state the importance of these wars. This chapter has two sections. The first section outlines Logan County's importance to the state and even national history before the American Civil War.

The second section explains how and why the Civil War and its aftermath changed the county. This focus is essential to understand WWII's full impact on the people of Logan County. One must examine why the county was the way it was before the war. These sections are important to the thesis of this chapter which is that the Civil War and the war's aftermath caused a massive hangover that limited change and growth in the county until the WWII era, largely based on the dominant pro-Confederate movement that began in Logan County during the Civil War. From the Civil War until the start of WWII, While the world marched on, Logan County was stuck in the past, and a variety of events will be discussed to prove that the remains of the pro-Confederate movement lived on. The county's inability to move on from the Civil War, to accept the results of the war, and continue to move forward economically, socially, and culturally plagued the growth of the county, which is why WWII became the divisive turning



point in the county's history that brought a change in the years after. This chapter aims to highlight some of the county's history while focusing on the Civil War and the pro-Confederate hangover the war caused the county that lasted until WWII, thus making the events of WWII and the impact of the war the most important event in the county's history in terms of bringing change to the county.

Logan County, Kentucky, is rich in heritage and history. A few months after Kentucky became a state, Logan County was formed on September 1, 1792, becoming Kentucky's thirteenth county. The county originally ran from the Little Barren River in the east to the Mississippi River in the west, with the Ohio and Green Rivers as boundaries to the north and the state of Tennessee to the south. Twenty-eight counties were formed in the 19th Century from part of the original county's land. The county's geography is rather flat and fertile in the south while being rather hilly and rocky in the north. The county is roughly 559 square miles. The four cities in Logan County are Auburn, Adairville, Lewisburg, and the county seat, Russellville. Russellville is the oldest town in southern Kentucky.<sup>1</sup>

Logan County has been home to numerous vital people in local, state, and national history. For example, Logan County has been home to four Kentucky governors and governors of five other states. The Kentucky governors are John Breathitt, James Morehead, Charles Morehead, and John J. Crittenden. Crittenden would play an essential role in trying to prevent the Civil War with his famed Crittenden Compromise, which barely failed in 1861. Numerous other men have served as senators, members of Congress, Kentucky Chief Justices, and other positions in state and national history.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Edward Coffman, *The Story of Logan County*, (Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1962), 10-12.

<sup>2</sup> Coffman, 22-23.

In 1800 the Second Great Awakening began at the Red River Meeting House under James McGready. The revival would be the biggest in American history. It would spark a new generation of Christians, and hundreds of new churches were founded in Kentucky and other regions impacted by the revival. The Shakers set up two colonies in Kentucky because of the revival. One of the colonies was South Union in northeast Logan County. The Shakers moved to the area because they thought the people of Logan County had great faith and religion.<sup>3</sup>

Logan County also hosted one of the most famous duels in American history. On May 30, 1806, future president Andrew Jackson shot and killed Charles Dickinson near Adairville in the county's southern portion. On March 20, 1868, a group that may include members of the James-Younger Gang robbed the Southern Deposit Bank of Russellville. The famous rumor is that Jesse James was present for the robbery, which is highly unlikely because he was believed to be in another county then, but the county still celebrates the event every fall.

Before the Civil War the people of Logan County were very involved in state and national history, in fact, early historians have referred to the period before the Civil War as Logan's golden age. The county's course changed with the American Civil War. This conflict created divisions and anger that lasted for decades. The violence, anger, frustration, and other factors laid the foundation for the county to hold on to the past until WWII. In many ways the county after the Civil War dramatically resembles the county on the eve of WWII. The pro-Confederate movement must be analyzed to fully understand why the county did not open up to change after the war. After a discussion of the war, the focus will turn to the aftermath and how the violence and anger from the war spilled over. These decades of discord as they are commonly called left Logan County and much of Kentucky stuck in the past while the rest of the

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<sup>3</sup> Darlynn Moore, Caretaker of the Red River Meeting House, personal interview by author, Russellville,

world moved forward. This is why the county stayed mostly the same between 1865-1940, which also provides the foundation for why the impact of WWII brought change to the county.

The war that affected the people of Russellville and Logan County the most (outside of WWII) was the American Civil War. Logan County is in the heart of the Pennyroyal region, one of the main agricultural regions in the state. In 1850, roughly forty percent of the population of Russellville was black. In Logan County in 1860, slaves comprised 35.4% of the population.<sup>4</sup> According to Marian Lucas, similar numbers throughout the rest of the agricultural regions. These numbers prove that before the Civil War began, Logan County and Russellville depended on slave labor and were thus more likely to support the Confederacy once the war broke out. Once war broke out, the pro-Confederates sought to bring the county and town under control.

Another aspect of why Russellville and Logan County were important during the Civil War relates to the railroad system. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad was the main railroad in the state on the eve of the Civil War. Most goods on land in and out of the state came through the railroad. The original L&N is roughly one to ten miles east of Logan County. In 1859, the Memphis branch of the L&N finished construction. This branch, or extension of the railroad, broke with the mainline just south of Bowling Green and cut Logan County right down in the middle, as it went to Clarksville and, eventually, Memphis, Tennessee. In the short time before the Civil War started, traffic skyrocketed on the Memphis Branch, making it an important route from Bowling Green to Clarksville.<sup>5</sup>

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Kentucky, March 30, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Marian B. Lucas, *A History of Blacks in Kentucky Volume 1: From Slavery to Segregation, 1760-1891*, (Frankfort: The Kentucky Historical Society, 1992), XX-XXI.

<sup>5</sup> R.S. Cotterill, "The Louisville and Nashville Railroad 1861-1865," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 29, No. 4 (July 1924), 704-705.

Shortly after the election of Abraham Lincoln, the pro-Confederate movement in Russellville and Logan County began and remained very strong throughout the Civil War and the years that followed. Many Logan Countians expressed their hatred for Lincoln and feared he would destroy their livelihood. Many, like Governor Magoffin, claimed neutrality, hoping to keep Union forces out of the state and county until the Confederates could bring in forces.<sup>6</sup> The Shakers of South Union, a community in northeast Logan County, referred to Russellville as the hotbed for secession.<sup>7</sup> Russellville's proximity to Tennessee and the transportation routes of the railroads, along with the fact that slavery was the principal labor, made Logan County and Russellville a perfect spot for anti-union activities.

This support of the Confederacy laid the foundation for the county's issues after the Civil War ended. When the war concluded, many people in Logan County maintained their loyalty to the Confederacy, limiting change and economic growth, socially and culturally. Numerous events occurred to support this fact and are key to establishing the pro-Confederate movement even after the war concluded. Many of these events were rallies. Sadly, very little documentation exists of these events. According to some, there were monthly meetings at the courthouse in Russellville for most of 1861. Many of these events have very little documentation. Some documentation only states that a meeting occurred. There is folklore in the county that other meetings occurred, but only confirmed meetings are cited. The first documented meeting or rally took place in May 1861. According to witnesses, a large and enthusiastic crowd met at the Logan County Courthouse in Russellville to protest the quartering of federal troops in Kentucky. They passed a resolution stating that the blockade of Louisville must end, along with the federal

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<sup>6</sup> Logan County Vertical Files: The Civil War, The Special Collections Kentucky Library, Western Kentucky University, September 23, 2021.

<sup>7</sup> *Shaker Journal September 17, 1861. The Official Journal of the Shakers at South Union.* South Union Kentucky.

government's overreach in Bowling Green and other communities.<sup>8</sup> These records come from famed Russellville citizen John Caldwell. Caldwell was very important in organizing the pro-Confederate meetings and would later join the Confederate army. His notes were gathered and sent to newspapers around the state to publicize the growing movement in Logan County.

The meetings continued into the summer of 1861. Less than two weeks after the first meeting of the pro-Confederates, they felt the urge to meet again and voice their displeasure with the federal government. Many were calling for a States' Rights Convention. They hoped that Kentucky would act to dispel and reject the power of the federals and the federal army. This meeting became the first Russellville Convention (Kentucky States' Rights Convention), which approved not just neutrality, but an armed neutrality. Most information suggests that these meetings' leader was Mr. Bates. Sadly, there was no information on Mr. Bates besides this reference. Bates was the fiercest and bitterest dis-unionist in the county.<sup>9</sup> From accounts, the major debate at these meetings was whether Kentucky should truly be neutral and not favor or support either side and the dis-unionists, who wanted to join the Confederacy. The fact that they chose armed neutrality, and the majority of the rhetoric was anti-union proves that the pro-Confederate gained more control as time passed. There would be more meetings. As the people continued to gather, their influence and anger grew with each meeting. The power and influence of the pro-Confederates grew as did the number of people involved.

In July 1861, more meetings took place in Russellville. There was fear among the pro-Confederates that some pro-Union candidates could win in the upcoming elections. Many

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<sup>8</sup> Dr. J.B. EVANS, and John W. Caldwell. "Meeting of the People of Russellville, Ky." *Memphis Daily Appeal (1847-1865)*, May 18, 1861. 1, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?qurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Fmeeting-people-russellville-ky%2Fdocview%2F505329232%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>

Confederates had no desire to vote in the corrupt Kentucky midterm elections. They believed that the Union would find ways to slant the election in their favor to eliminate any hope for Kentucky to join the Confederacy. These thoughts drove their motivations in supporting all planned efforts to join the Confederacy. These meetings passed more resolutions in support of the Confederacy and endorsed their form of neutrality (Pro-Confederate thoughts) throughout the state, bringing Kentucky one step further to joining the rebellion.<sup>10</sup>

These movements started to pick up and gain more steam in early September 1861, when Kentucky declared it would stay in the Union and neutral. The Confederates found this a major insult and wanted and demanded action.<sup>11</sup> As many other sources stated, Logan County, specifically Russellville, was the hotbed for this movement. Many people started to pay more attention to the actions in Russellville. There was a desire for a meeting for the pro-Confederates to state their displeasure with the state government and to leave the Union, and the state.<sup>12</sup> George Blakey was an important businessman in Russellville. He noted that in September 1861, pro-Union men were hard to find in the city. In all the town there may have been half a dozen pro-Union men. One of them was an elderly man named Mr. B., Blakey does not provide any real information on Mr. B other than the fact that he was a loyal supporter of the Union. When he

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<sup>9</sup> L. "Article 4 -- no Title." *The Louisville Daily Journal (1840-1865)*, May 30, 1861. 2, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Farticle-4-no-title%2Fdocview%2F506091949%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>

<sup>10</sup> Nicholas Orr and JAMES BAMEE. "Article 17 -- no Title." *The Louisville Daily Journal (1840-1865)*, Jul 15, 1861. 3, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Farticle-17-no-title%2Fdocview%2F506096779%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>.

<sup>11</sup> Lowell Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2000), 151-152.

<sup>12</sup> Lewis Collins, *History of Kentucky Volume 2*, (Frankfort: Kentucky Historical Society, 1878), 181.

spoke out against the Confederates, they threatened him with assassination, and he was ran out of the town and the whole county.<sup>13</sup>

The Secessionists decided that the time to act came after the September state meeting. The meeting occurred October 29-30, 1861, and the Pro-Confederates were determined to secede from Kentucky and the Union. In many ways, this planning meeting occurred to organize the people, so that they could lead Kentucky to secede from the Union. They believed that Kentucky had was sold to the abolitionists and that the only choice for Kentucky is to have a convention to withdraw.<sup>14</sup> Many of the key players, including George Johnson, and H.C. Burnett (or Bernett, in some sources), assisted in the planning and calling of the eventual Sovereignty Convention.<sup>15</sup> All men involved identified as pro-southern or anti-Union. The thought of the other side caused them anger, hatred, and repulsion. Thirty-two counties were represented in the meetings. They condemned the state government and their lack of action to protect Kentuckians and their rights of life, liberty, and property. They stated that they would secede if the state government did not act immediately to protect their rights. One of the key achievements of this meeting was the passing of a Declaration of Independence, which protected their property and lives from Union control. In their minds, protecting their property (namely slaves) was extremely important. This right they believed to be God given, was to be protected at all cost, even by war and rebellion against the Union.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> George Blakey, *The Family Papers of George Blakey*, Logan County Archives and Genealogy Society, Russellville, Kentucky.

<sup>14</sup> E. Merton Coulter, *The Civil War and Readjustment in Kentucky*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1926), 137.

<sup>15</sup> "IMPORTANT MOVEMENT IN KENTUCKY." *Memphis Daily Appeal (1847-1865)*, Nov 03, 1861. 2, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Fimportant-movement-kentucky%2Fdocview%2F505345391%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>.

<sup>16</sup> The Nashville Louisville CourierH, C. BURNETT and T. S. BRYAN R McKEE. "OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE AT RUSSELLVILLE: AFTERNOON SESSION RESOLUTIONS." *The Louisville Daily Journal (1840-1865)*, Nov 16, 1861. 4,

Many people were angry with the Union, Lincoln, and the state government. A prime example was Matilda Whitaker. Her diary outlines her disdain for the unionists, or as she called them, "Lincolnites." Her brother was a raider with John Hunt Morgan, and she wrote regularly about troop movements and rumors. She mostly documented her life, the war, and her scathing remarks on the evils of the Union. Her April 1, 1863, entry is a prime example of this. She attended a morning church service. She was a regular member at Red Oak Methodist Church, a few miles southwest of Russellville. This church had mostly pro-Confederate members, but a few unionist folks were there. It is important to note that if someone did not fully support the Pro-Confederate movement, she viewed them as Yankees. This morning, she became very angry that a "Yankee" was asked to pray; she got up and stormed out of the church service.<sup>17</sup> This is important to note because this type of behavior for a young woman was rare. Her thoughts and writings reflected many of the people in Russellville and Logan County.

The most important meeting took place in Russellville on November 16, 1861. After the October 30th meeting, there was a formal call for Sovereignty. Newspapers around the state published the meeting call. The resolution passed during the October meeting was public for people to view.<sup>18</sup> The resolution stated that they would create a new provincial government to secure domestic tranquility. In their minds, the federal government had violated their rights (namely to own slaves), and the state government failed to meet the needs and wants of the people, so this was the only option. The pro-Confederates called the convention to order on November 18, 1861, and meetings continued through the 20th of November. Russellville was the

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<http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?qurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Fofficial-proceedings-southern-conference-at%2Fdocview%2F506103933%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>.

<sup>17</sup> Matilda Whitaker, *The Diary of Matilda Whitaker April 1, 1863*, Logan County Archives and Genealogy Society, Russellville, Kentucky.



perfect location because it was the headquarters of John C. Breckinridge's army.<sup>19</sup> The Forst House (currently the Clark Building) was the home of the majority of the convention, along with the Bethel College Chapel.<sup>20</sup> The key agenda was creating a new constitution for Kentucky, creating a government, and formally joining the Confederacy. George Johnson was elected as the new Confederate governor and selected nearby Bowling Green as the capital, and the roughly one hundred and twenty men voted to formally join the Confederacy. It should be noted that the number of men involved varies. Some stated that over two hundred men attended the convention and voted to join the Confederacy. They organized the government and created a variety of committees.<sup>21</sup> The exact number of men really does not matter, because in their eyes, the federal government had become a tyranny. This government had violated states' and individuals' rights, so they had the right and obligation to secede.<sup>22</sup> Information about the convention was published in newspapers across Kentucky, most of the southern states, and a few of the northern states in the days after the meetings ended. The participants wanted the world to know that they were joining the Confederacy. They printed their chief arguments with the state and national government clearly stated in their statement of separation document.<sup>23</sup>

So, did Kentucky ever officially join the Confederacy? This is a debate in which many historians have engaged. As Kenneth Noe discusses, the Confederates did everything they could to win over the border state of Kentucky, especially early in the war as highlighted by the

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<sup>18</sup> "Article 4 -- no Title." *The Louisville Daily Journal (1840-1865)*, Nov 16, 1861. 2, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Farticle-4-no-title%2Fdocview%2F506104728%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>

<sup>19</sup> The Logan County Vertical Files, WKU.

<sup>20</sup> Edward Coffman, *The Story of Logan County*, (Nashville: The Parthenon Press, 1962), 189.

<sup>21</sup> Logan County Vertical Files, WKU.

<sup>22</sup> *Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the Provincial Government of the State of Kentucky*, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 1861, Special Collections Library at Western Kentucky University.

<sup>23</sup> "Kentucky: ... OF INDEPENDENCE AND ORDINANCE OF SEPARATION." *The Daily Dispatch (1852-1865)*, Dec 02, 1861. 3,

meetings and convention in Russellville. In his focus on Perryville, he points out that the savage nature of battle changed men. In many ways, it helped to harden the hearts of men on both sides, believing firmly that they were in the right and the opposing side was wrong.<sup>24</sup> The Convention that met in Russellville sent ambassadors to Richmond to join, and on December 9, 1861, the Confederacy did vote in secret session to admit Kentucky into the Confederacy.<sup>25</sup> Many in Russellville were happy with this decision. One unnamed person wrote the Louisville Journal and stated that the pro-Confederates were right for their actions. They were standing up to a tyrant and fighting for liberty and for the people oppressed by the federal and the state government. According to the author, individuals who did not stand united with them were weak and had no faith. The people must unite to protect each other and their rights.<sup>26</sup> While there may be debate about Kentucky joining the Confederacy, for many in Logan County, their county did. This concept is important because it outlines the devotion to the pro-Confederate movement that will continue after the war. This movement will take many forms, including violence, racism, and an anti-industry attitude until the WWII era.

In the months and years after the meetings and conventions ended, the pro-southern attitude dominated Russellville and Logan County. Many believe that these people assisted the guerillas that supported the Confederacy. It was well known that from 1862 to the end of the war, there was a great amount of guerrilla warfare and "raiding" in the area. Many raids occurred right outside Logan County, namely in northern Tennessee. Sources do not confirm many of

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<http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Fkentucky%2Fdocview%2F505724006%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>

<sup>24</sup> Kenneth E. Noe, *Perryville: the Grand Havoc of Battle*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2001).

<sup>25</sup> Logan County Vertical Files, WKU.

<sup>26</sup> Correspondence of the Louisville Journal. "LETTER FROM RUSSELLVILLE." *The Louisville Daily Journal (1840-1865)*, Dec 15, 1862. 4,

these activities, but there is evidence regarding regional activity and common sense. Documented guerrilla activities in all the counties in Tennessee and in Kentucky around Logan County, were common, especially in the summer of 1862.<sup>27</sup> In July 1862, the guerrillas retook the city of Russellville, which became a common occurrence during the war. The belief is that these were Morgan's men (Whitaker's brother was with them).<sup>28</sup> It is very probable that locals gave them support and that they even received intelligence from families like the Whitakers.

In late March 1863, the guerrilla attacks continued. One resident wrote about the difficulties of the federals occupying the community. The people had lost their rights; some even said it was almost like martial law, regarding the rule of Union troops. They longed for the brave guerillas to return and help the people.<sup>29</sup> It was the guerrillas who protected the community from the evils of the Lincolnites. The pro-Confederates based all their hopes on the thought that they could still win, and they would be protected by the Confederate troops.

Perhaps the most telling event in terms of the people of Russellville's feelings on the Union occurred in 1864. General Stephen Burbridge, the highest-ranking Union General from Kentucky (from Logan County) ordered that two of the guerillas be executed. Many others had bounties put on their head. This did not stop the raiders coming into Logan County for supplies, intelligence, and rest.<sup>30</sup> On July 29, 1864, the two guerrillas were executed publicly in

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<http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?qurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Fletter-russellville%2Fdocview%2F506139349%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>.

<sup>27</sup> Richard Gildrie, "Guerrilla Warfare in the Lower Cumberland River Valley, 1862-1865," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, 49, no. 3 (1990): 165-6.

<sup>28</sup> Logan County Vertical Files, WKU.

<sup>29</sup> Correspondence of the, Louisville Journal. "AFFAIRS AT RUSSELLVILLE." *The Louisville Daily Journal (1840-1865)*, Mar 25, 1863. 1, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?qurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Faffairs-at-russellville%2Fdocview%2F506143554%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>.

<sup>30</sup> John W Ricks, "THE DEMOCRAT'S LOGAN COUNTY LETTER." *The Louisville Daily Journal (1840-1865)*, Jan 26, 1864. 1,

Russellville. They were shot on the city square. Businesses were ordered to close, and to attend the execution, but according to accounts, many of them left out the back door and refused to watch the rebels murdered.<sup>31</sup> While other parts of the state faced division, Logan County held to its beliefs and received a scathing editorial from *The Louisville Daily Journal*. This editorial, published three years after the convention, condemned the city of Russellville and the pro-Confederates that tried to secede. They stated that the convention was a farce and that those involved should face heavy property taxes levied against them to pay for the public debt. The editorial even stated that they should lose their property, and it should be given to the people who lost everything fighting for the Union.<sup>32</sup> Men living in Russellville did not care about the thoughts of the people in Louisville. According to M.B. Morton, the people of Logan County were completely committed to their cause, whether right or wrong. In their minds, they were fighting for their livelihoods, their property. These pro-Confederates truly believed they should be allowed to do whatever they wanted regarding owning slaves.<sup>33</sup>

While much of the attention to this point focuses on the city of Russellville, it is important to note that most of the county was a hotbed for pro-Confederate thought. Many people, especially in the southern and western areas of the county, were very pro-Confederate. This is because these regions were the farming regions, and these people were the slave owners in the county. According to county records it is from these areas that the majority of Confederate

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<http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Fdemocrats-logan-county-letter%2Fdocview%2F506165660%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>.

<sup>31</sup> Logan County Vertical Files, WKU.

<sup>32</sup> "Editorial Article 4 -- no Title." *The Louisville Daily Journal* (1840-1865), Nov 18, 1864. 2, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Feditorial-article-4-no-title%2Fdocview%2F506198612%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>.

soldiers lived as well as the city of Russellville. While they did not serve in the war, Matilda Whitaker and George Browder lived in these regions in the county and were very pro-Confederate. Browder was a Methodist preacher in Olmstead, in the southwestern part of the county. He supported slavery and thought that the Bible defended the practice of slavery. Browder regularly used terms such as "southern rights" in his diary throughout the Civil War. Browder believed that union troops were wrongly arresting good, honest southern men. These upstanding southern men were mistreated, and the crimes committed against them, such as damaged or stolen property. One of the prime examples was the theft of their horses.<sup>34</sup> He believed that the Southerners were right, and that the Union infringed on their rights as both Americans and Kentuckians by restricting their property and their liberty.

A major issue for the pro-Confederates was how they could support and raise money for the cause. In 1861, many of the pro-Confederate men on the board of The Southern Bank of Kentucky wanted to keep the banks money out of the hands of the state government, or the military board. In their minds, the bank needed to assist the pro-Confederates regarding funds and supplies. By April 1862, many of the pro-Confederates were on the run. Their power and influence had decreased because of the region's arrival of federal or Union troops. The purpose of the April 1862 meeting was to discuss the board's loyalty. The new board needed to elect a president and did not want money spent on the rebel's cause.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>33</sup>M.B. Morton, *The Family Papers of M.B. Morton*, Logan County Archives and Genealogy Society, Russellville, Kentucky.

<sup>34</sup> George Browder, *The Diaries of George Browder*, Logan County Archives and Genealogy Society, Russellville, Kentucky.

<sup>35</sup> "Editorial Article 6 -- no Title." *The Louisville Daily Journal (1840-1865)*, Apr 19, 1862. 2, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Feditorial-article-6-no-title%2Fdocview%2F506113806%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>.

During the war, 500 men fought for the Union, while over 1,000 fought for the Confederacy. These facts support the fact that while Russellville and Logan County faced divisions, the majority were pro-Confederate, and this is important because this is foundational for the movement to continue after the war concluded. There were many skirmishes in Logan County. Over one hundred of these men fought in the famed Orphan Brigade. Many young men attending Bethel College, the all-male school in Russellville, had to close for most of the war, because of the number of men from the college serving during the war. Dozens of the young men never returned, and the war deeply scarred those who returned.<sup>36</sup>

Most of the battles that took place in Logan County were very small, normally less than one hundred men. As discussed earlier, many took place because of Russellville's location on the Memphis Branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. This railroad ran from Bowling Green to Clarksville, Tennessee. The first battle, or skirmish, in Logan County was the Battle of Whippoorwill Bridge (December 4, 1861). This battle involved the famed Orphan Brigade, and it would be the only battle they would fight in Kentucky for the entire war. John Hunt Morgan left behind a few Confederate troops to guard the railroad bridge of the Memphis Branch that crossed Whippoorwill River (Creek), located five miles southwest of Russellville. This small battle was a loss by the Confederates, as roughly fifty Union troops defeated them.<sup>37</sup>

In February 1862, Union troops started to attack nearby Bowling Green. As the Confederates left, many of them came down the Memphis Branch railroad, including Breckinridge and his forces. They stayed in Russellville for a short time as they were trying to reorganize forces and plan their next move. A small skirmish with Union scouts occurred outside

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<sup>36</sup> Edward Coffman *The Story of Logan County*, (Nashville: Parthenon Press), 202.

<sup>37</sup> George Blakey, *The Family Papers of George Blakey*.

of Russellville.<sup>38</sup> It is a legend that Albert S. Johnston considered headquartering in Russellville because he thought he would have plenty of pro-Confederate support, but he did not stay. This is only mentioned because it has become an undocumented urban legend.

As discussed earlier, in July 1862, Confederate guerillas raided Russellville and defeated a small Union force and regained control of the city.<sup>39</sup> This victory was short-lived as the Union forces regained Russellville a couple of weeks later. This was common throughout the war. Most people would have preferred the rebels to stay in control, but the threat of change was a nightmare for all people. The pro-Confederate troops were well treated each time they were in Russellville. The Forst House, a luxury hotel, always accommodated the forces. The troops reported that the fares were high, but the rooms were good, and even churches, including the Methodist church, would allow soldiers to have quarters.<sup>40</sup>

The most important battle in Logan County occurred on September 30, 1862. Colonel Benjamin Harrison led the Union army in this was the largest battle. As Harrison started to close in on the Memphis Branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, the rebels burnt the bridge over Black Lick Creek in Auburn. Harrison ordered his men to repair the bridge and then he

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<sup>38</sup> "FROM CENTRAL KENTUCKY!: THE EVACUATION OF BOWLING GREEN NOTHING LEFT BUT A FEW OLD WAGONS! NO REBEL FORCES IN KENTUCKY EAST FOR BOWLING GREEN--GEN. CRITTENDEN TRYING TO ORGANIZE ANOTHER ARMY--THE REBEL ARMY AT RUSSELLVILLE." *The Boston Herald (1846-1865)*, Feb 18, 1862. 4, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Fcentral-kentucky%2Fdocview%2F506495649%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>

<sup>39</sup> "THE RAIDS OF THE GUERILLAS: REPORTED CAPTURE OF THE TOWN OF RUSSELLVILLE, KY. PROCLAMATION OF GOV. MAGOFFIN THE LEGISLATURE OF KENTUCKY CONVENED, &C., &C., &C. ATTACK OF THE GUERILLAS ON MOUNT STERLING--THIER COMPLETE DEFEAT, WITH THE LOSS OF ALL THIER HORSES, EIGHT KILLED AND FORTY-EIGHT CAPTURED, &C. PROCLAMATION OF GOVERNOR MUGOLLIN." *The New York Herald (1840-1865)*, Jul 31, 1862. 1, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Fraids-guerillas%2Fdocview%2F505585671%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>

<sup>40</sup> Correspondence of the, Louisville Journals. "LIBRCH KENTUCKY CAVALRY AT RUSSELLVILLE." *The Louisville Daily Journal (1840-1865)*, Nov 22, 1862. 3, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical->

drew up his battle plan. He planned to divide his forces a few miles outside of Russellville to surprise the enemy by circumventing them, and then quickly defeating them.<sup>41</sup> As stated earlier, this is the largest battle in Logan County, but the accounts provide differing numbers of troops. Between five hundred and fifteen hundred is the actual number. Harrison's men captured about fifty men as prisoners, along with numerous horses and weapons.<sup>42</sup>

The Battle of Shiloh did not occur in Russellville or Logan County, but it was the deadliest battle for the people of Logan County. Nine Confederates from Logan County died during the two-day battle at Shiloh, while two died fighting for the Union. One year later, in April 1863, the city of Russellville celebrated to honor and remember the men that died on that hallowed ground. According to reports, the sky was without a cloud. The people of Russellville and Logan County still had great hope that the Confederacy would be able to win the war.<sup>43</sup> A poem published in the local paper dedicated to the Confederates that died so bravely fighting for their cause, fighting for their freedom. It stated that though they sleep in Shiloh's fields, their shields, honor, and stories of their heroism will last for eternity.<sup>44</sup>

In 1868, another tribute poem appeared as an editorial in the Russellville Herald newspaper. Unlike the previous piece which is dedicated to the Confederates from the county, this editorial poem remembers numerous Logan Countians who died in the war, both Union and

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[newspapers%2Fibrch-kentucky-cavalry-at-russellville%2Fdocview%2F506126871%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085](http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Fcelebration-shiloh-at-russellville%2Fdocview%2F506126871%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085).

<sup>41</sup> *War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, October 1, 1862*, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1882.

<sup>42</sup> Coffman, 200.

<sup>43</sup> Correspondence of the, Louisville Journal. "CELEBRATION OF SHILOH AT RUSSELLVILLE." *The Louisville Daily Journal (1840-1865)*, Apr 15, 1863. 1, <http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.proquest.com%2Fhistorical-newspapers%2Fcelebration-shiloh-at-russellville%2Fdocview%2F506143914%2Fse-2%3Faccountid%3D12085>.

<sup>44</sup> "Tribute to the Logan Dead," Printed in the *Russellville Herald*, April 1863, Logan County Vertical Files, WKU.



Confederate. One, Campbell, was just a young boy when he died at Whippoorwill Bridge a few days after he joined the military. The author discusses men who died in many states, including Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. The author mentioned only one woman, Callie Tison. She was shot in the chest before she could retreat behind protected lines and died later. No other information exists about this woman. The letter is very sober in its tone, and it appears the author is grieving, perhaps the loss of each one specifically named.<sup>45</sup> No organization, person, or group in Logan County was affected more by the Civil War than by the South Union Shakers. Before the Civil War, they were self-sufficient people. They grew everything they needed and made products to sell, including food and furniture. They documented everything in their community and news in the surrounding area. They were also pacifists, anti-slavery, and very loyal to the Union. During the war, they encountered thousands of troops along the Memphis Branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. These self-sustaining people would feel the wrath of the war. They encountered many well-known Confederates (or rebels, according to their journals) such as Nathan Bedford Forrest, Simon Bolivar Buckner, and Albert Sidney Johnston, among others.

A prime example of the attacks they suffered occurred on October 29, 1861. On this date, Simon Bolivar Buckner and his men took eight wagons, eleven horses, and forty-eight yards of blankets. All this property was valued at \$2000.00.<sup>46</sup> Why did the Shakers not fight for their property? They were a passive group that did not believe in conflict. Unfortunately, word would spread that they were not armed, and they documented many losses to soldiers coming through. In 1862, they were attacked even more. As the rebels left Bowling Green, they set to the local

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<sup>45</sup> "Our Dead," Editorial in the *Russellville Herald* May 3, 1868, Logan County Archives and Genealogy Society, Russellville, Kentucky.

<sup>46</sup> *Shaker Journal* October 29, 1861, Shaker Colony Archives, South Union, Kentucky.

railroad depots, burning bridges, and destroying tracks. As they passed the colony, many items were stolen by the "perfect thieves."<sup>47</sup>

In March 1863, the guerrillas burned the South Union Depot during a small skirmish. A band of Confederate guerillas had set the fires.<sup>48</sup> The rebel guerillas were determined to cause problems for the Union forces by disrupting train traffic. Burning the depots and bridges, and destroying railroad tracks disrupted traffic. Most events were so small that the documentation may not always exist, but the Shakers were very-detail driven as noted earlier. They documented weather, transactions, and visitors. In October 1863, the Shakers note that rebel guerrillas again burned the railroad depot in nearby Auburn and that many "soldiers" raided their property. Most of the items stolen were bread, clothing, and saddles.<sup>49</sup>

In 1864, the guerrillas continued their attacks and raids against the Shakers. They demanded the normal items of food, clothes, and horses. The Shakers documented that during a small skirmish, and the death of two guerillas.<sup>50</sup> For the most part, the Shakers had negative encounters with the Confederates, but in July 1864, they had a negative encounter with Union troops. The troops tried to steal some horses for their calvary. In response, the Shakers held one of the men as a prisoner, until the troops returned and threated to fire upon them, so they released the man.<sup>51</sup> It is important to note that this is the only negative encounter documented by the Shakers regarding the Union army. All the other negative comments were about the rebels, as they normally called the Confederates.

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<sup>47</sup> *Shaker journal February 5-13, 1862*, Shaker Colony Archives, South Union, Kentucky.

<sup>48</sup> *Shaker Journal March 7, 1863*, Shaker Colony Archives, South Union, Kentucky.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, October 13, 1863.

<sup>50</sup> *Shaker Journal June 9, 1864*, Shaker Colony Archives, South Union, Kentucky.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, July 10, 1864.

In 1865, the Shakers drafted a letter to President Lincoln in February. They outlined all the damages they had incurred, listing dozens of losses, including roughly two dozen wagons, countless food items, clothing, and other materials. They hoped President Lincoln would help them recover their losses, perhaps with a payment from the federal government. They stated their allegiance to the Union for the entirety of the conflict. They stated that they aided Union troops with intelligence and only gave in to the rebels under fear of death.<sup>52</sup> The letter was never answered, as both Lincoln and the war met their end a couple months later. The losses suffered during the war were too much for the colony to recover from. The greatest scholar on the South Union Shakers stated that the war drained the colony of its wealth, strength, and property. The colony began declining immediately after the war and never recovered.<sup>53</sup> By 1900, the colony had dried up. The Shakers were a casualty of a war that they did not want to be part of.

The pro-Confederates in Russellville and Logan County dominated the Civil War period. While some supported the Union, including the Shakers, the pro-Confederates outnumbered them. The Confederates were also much more active and involved in the local politics of the war. When the war ended, the scars of the war continued. In Kentucky history, this period is commonly referred to as the Decades of Discord, a multi-decade period of anger, resentment, and violence, much of which carried over from the Civil War. Logan County and Russellville were no different. It took years for the community to place the war events behind them and move on with industry and change. The Civil War is the most popular topic in the county's history that people want to discuss. The shadow of the Civil War and the pro-Confederate movement lingers large over the county's past, present, and future up to WWII.

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<sup>52</sup> *Shaker Journal February 13, 1865*, Shaker Colony Archives, South Union, Kentucky.

<sup>53</sup> Julia Neal, *By Their Fruits: The Story of Shakerism in South Union, Kentucky*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1947), 215.

As the Civil War concluded, Kentucky and Logan County transitioned into the period titled the decades of discord (1865-1900), During this era the county continued to be dominated by agriculture. Coffman stated that life remained rather prosperous because of the fertile ground. Crops like tobacco, wheat, and corn dominated the agricultural community.<sup>54</sup> While there was great wealth, there was also great violence. The people of Logan, as many across the state became angry with what they believed to be Union overreach during the war. They believed the Union abused the people, ignoring their rights. Raiders like John Hunt Morgan and others became heroes and a symbol of rebellion. Many historians have said that Kentucky joined the Confederacy, or at least took up the Confederacy's cause when the Civil War ended. The statement is true for the people of Logan faced division, which set the stage for violence. No industry, no looking forward, only a backward thought with anger and resentment facing Washington D.C.<sup>55</sup>

Hamilton Tapp and James Klotter documented many of these themes in the book *Kentucky: Decades of Discord 1865-1900*. As early as 1865, Tapp reported that the pro-Confederates were ready to seize power in Kentucky, eliminating federal troops, the Freedman's Bureau, and establishing their own Kentucky despite the federal government.<sup>56</sup> They also would limit change in the state, and one such example is the refusal to create a new state constitution until 1891. Anne Marshall took a similar approach, but she contends that the Confederate influence in Kentucky continued until the 1930s. She outlines that the "lost cause" was taken to heart by many in Kentucky. They believed that if they had fully joined the Confederacy and did more than the Confederacy would have won the war. She discusses the creation of numerous

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<sup>54</sup> Coffman, 210.

<sup>55</sup> Hambleton Tapp, and James C. Klotter, *Kentucky: Decades of Discord: 1865-1900*, (Frankfort: The Kentucky Historical Society, 1977) chapter 1.

<sup>56</sup>Tapp, 14.

Confederate societies and groups, their desire to build monuments, and that the federal government was the true enemy of the people of Kentucky and their liberties.<sup>57</sup>

Between 1867-1885 Laura and George Thompson wrote numerous letters to each other about the situation related to Logan County. While neither claim to be part of the Confederate movement, they write about how dominant it was in Logan County. They write about violence, fraud, and concern over the future. They realize that many people in Logan and across Kentucky refuse to move on and accept the past. Their letters present many common thoughts that others expressed across the county and state as outlined by Tapp, Klotter, and Marshall. On August 4, 1867, Laura Thompson wrote to her brother stating that it was election day and people are being intimidated to either not vote or to vote against the aggressors. She said that times are unsettled, and peace destroyed. In a letter dated August 29, 1870, George stated that he has friends on both sides in the rebellion, but fraud is commonplace in elections. Because of this, many of the elections are being contested, and no one knows the state of the future, but people are concerned. One of the last letters is the most telling of the atmosphere during this time. On November 30, 1879, George states that many houses encountered robbers in the area. One neighbor killed two men and he was found not guilty at the trial. In addition, he complained about the raising of taxes for railroad repair and the building of a new building at Baugh Station.<sup>58</sup>

When the war ended, Logan County did not cease to be the hotbed for Confederates. In addition to all the events outlined in this chapter, it is important to note that multiple men who held the position of sheriff and county judge (executive, not judicial) were either Confederate soldiers or known Confederate sympathizers. Between 1862 and 1922 George Blakey, George

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<sup>57</sup> Anne Marshall, *Creating a Confederate Kentucky: The Lost Cause and Civil War Memory in a Border State*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010).

<sup>58</sup> Thompson Family Files, Logan County Archives, Russellville, Kentucky.

Gillum, and George Price all held the position of sheriff, and other than Blakey (his personal papers proved him to be a Confederate) served in the Confederate Army and fought in multiple battles. The same is true for John Caldwell, Charles Grubbs, James Clark, and John Edwards as they served in the position of county judge.<sup>59</sup> These elected positions provide evidence into how deeply many of the people of Logan County were to the Confederacy. These elections and the events below provide evidence of the hangover from the Civil War and a desire for some to hang on to the past.

In the period after the Civil War, violence was common across Kentucky. Much of this violence was a hangover from the war and the pro-Confederate movement. Much of the violence and anti-government attitudes were from former pro-Confederates that were angry about the outcome of the war. The war continued to be the source of conflict in Logan County and across the state for the decades that followed. Neighbors were divided and angry with one another. Many former Confederate rebels still roamed the area, causing problems, burning buildings, committing violence, and theft. A group of people can't move forward when they are hanging on to the past. Many in Logan County wished that the rebels would have won the war. This attitude was formed during the war and continued, and along with the violence, set the stage for the county to be stuck looking backward while the rest of the world moved forward.

It is known during this period that people continued to rely on agriculture for everything. The county had great fertile land, especially in the southern part of the county. While local historian Edward Coffman stated that this was generally a prosperous time, this statement is very misleading. There is very little information on poor people and African Americans. It is well known that during this period of history, these groups were regularly forced to become

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<sup>59</sup> County Records, Logan County Archives, Russellville, Kentucky.

sharecroppers, which has been compared to slavery by many historians. This is the beginning of the segregation or Jim Crow era in American politics. During the elections in the 1870s, it was stated that Kentuckian politicians were not concerned with improving the lives of African Americans across the state. They were only concerned with enforcing prejudice and hatred against African Americans.<sup>60</sup>

This statement applies to Logan County, and the fact that the KKK and other forms of violence existed against African Americans serves as proof. In Coffman's research, he says virtually nothing about African Americans, especially during the 1865-1900 period. He only mentions the subject when discussing some major violence against them. With the evidence around the state and the violent activities later, it is reasonable to state that African Americans faced many challenges during this period, whether it was all documented or not. Life was not prosperous for them, as they encountered racism, violence, and a society that wished they were still slaves for the most part.

In 1865 according to census records cited by Marian Lucus, African Americans accounted for 35.4% of the total population in Logan County; most were slaves. In 1850 the city of Russellville, African Americans accounted for 40% of the population, which was 560 people. In 1860, the number in Russellville dropped to 290.<sup>61</sup> One of the reasons for the decline, which was common after the Civil War across the state, was the lack of opportunity for African Americans. As early as 1866, Kentucky revised much of the old state slavery code. They were determined to control the population and not allow civil rights. They were second-class citizens in the minds of many, and the information presented in this chapter argues that the same was true

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<sup>60</sup> Hamilton Tapp and James Klotter, *Kentucky: Decades of Discord 1865-1900*, (Frankfort: The Kentucky Historical Society, 1977) 150-151.

in Logan County, with regular mistreatment and violence commonplace.<sup>62</sup> Again, similar stories are found throughout the works of Marshall, Klotter, and Tapp. More evidence is supported by the number of African Americans living in rural areas in 1900. 40% of the entire state's population of African Americans lived in cities, with the rest sprinkled in rural areas and smaller towns. The greatest percentage lived in Lexington and Louisville, and while they faced discrimination, the discrimination was more uniform in rural areas. In 1910, only 35% of African Americans lived or worked on farms. They tried to create their best life in segregated America, but they continually faced prejudice, racism, and the threat of violence.<sup>63</sup>

Perhaps the James Brothers, Frank, and Jesse were the most famous former Confederates causing trouble. As noted before in the years following the war, many former Confederates were involved in violence and illegal activities. They had relatives that lived outside Adairville in southern Logan County. After the war they teamed up with Cole Younger and formed the James-Younger Gang. They were involved in numerous robberies and violent actions throughout the 1860s-1880. On March 20, 1868, some members of this group robbed their first bank in Russellville. For a few days, a strange man tried to cash notes for various amounts before the robbery, but the clerk refused to cash them fearing that they were fake.

The gang either was trying to get a quick buck and escape town, or they were possibly "casing out" the area around the Southern Deposit Bank owned by Nimrod Long. Regardless of the true motives a group considered to be members of the James-Younger gang marched into the bank about 2:00 P.M. on March 20, 1868. The two clerks were gone on break, so Mr. Long

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<sup>61</sup> Marion B. Lucas, *A History of Blacks in Kentucky Volume 1: From Slavery to Segregation, 1790-1891*, (Frankfort: The Kentucky Historical Society, 1992), xx-xxi.

<sup>62</sup> Lucas, 292-293.

<sup>63</sup> James C. Klotter, *Kentucky: Portrait in Paradox, 1900-1950*, (Frankfort: The Kentucky Historical Society, 1996), 37, 119.



was alone in the bank. Three men went into the bank while the others remained outside. When Long refused again to cash the note, they jumped the counter and fired multiple shots. One of the shots struck Mr. Long and they left him for dead, while another shot struck the wall. The gang escaped with \$9,000 in cash and possibly another \$5,000 in dollar and half-dollar coins. A young girl claimed that she saw one of the robber's faces and it was the famed Jesse James.

The first reports of the robbery do not mention the names of the gang, but weeks later, a similar robbery took place in Columbia. This robbery is known to be committed by the James Gang. The story grew into legend and many people believe that Jesse James "robbed the bank" in Russellville. There are multiple issues with this idea. First, the witness that claimed to have seen Jesse James was very young. Second, with faces possibly covered and the fact that the gang had not yet become famous, it would be hard to know who the strangers were. Lastly, it is regarded as a known fact that Jesse James was recovering from a wound in Nelson County, many miles away on the day of the robbery.<sup>64</sup> Regardless of who committed the robbery, this violence was a sign of the times. The lawlessness, anger, and frustration across the county and state.

The Procter Family was involved in numerous acts of violence between 1875-1900. In 1875, Bill Procter, Hoss King, and numerous others were involved in a street fight in Russellville. It is unknown why the fight occurred, but everyone was fined five dollars and told to go home. Over the years more violent actions occurred. An African American name Prince Wells reported that the Procters were involved in an altercation with Ed Traughber. Prince said he drove everyone out of town, and the Procters hanged Traughber. Before Prince Wells could testify at the trial, he died, which allowed the Procters to escape conviction.

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<sup>64</sup> Jesse James, Logan County Public Library, Local History Files, Russellville, KY.

A couple years later, Bill and Arch Procter were involved in a fight in an Adairville tavern. An argument ensued between the Procters and two of the Crafton brothers. The tavern owner put the Procters out the front door and the Craftons out the back, hoping to defuse the situation, but his plans failed. As the Craftons rode out of town the Procters followed them. They caught them and killed both Craftons with knives. Bill, Arch, and Dink Procter were all arrested, charged with murder, and taken to the jail in Russellville.

That night a mob of thirty men attacked the jail. The mob was tired of the Procter's violence and were ready to take justice into their own hands. Bill attempted to resist the mob, and they killed him where he stood. Arch and Dink were beaten and taken along with the dead body of Bill to the southside of town. There the three men were hanged on a small cedar tree outside the Russellville city limits on Adairville Road.<sup>65</sup> Sadly, this will not be the last time men would hang on this tree.

In the thirty-five years after the end of the Civil War, Logan County resembled the wild, wild west. Violence was common. As previously discussed, many people were still angry over the Civil War, especially the pro-Confederates. People were killed in the streets by gangs or mobs. Lawlessness was rampant in the county like many envisioned places like Dodge City. African Americans were under threat from the KKK during the period. Sadly, in the local sources available, it is only mentioned that the Klan was active in the county. No other information really exists to discuss their activities. As previously mentioned, details on subjects that may bring negative light in Logan County were often underreported. As pointed out, the creation of Jim Crowe and segregation exist across the state. As stated, Logan County was the average rural county. It was no different than the other agricultural dominant areas in the state.

Each area relied heavily on slave labor before the Civil War, and racism, and prejudice became common after the war. In many ways the county was stuck, looking backwards, longing for a time that no longer existed. The sources of Lucas, Klotter, Tapp, and Marshall all echo the common themes of the period in terms of rural western Kentucky. When one considers that there were no real changes to society during this period, along with the violence, much of which was connected to the Civil War directly or indirectly, it is easy to see why the county could not, or perhaps would not move forward. The world continued, but like much of Kentucky, Logan County was stuck in the past. As the calendar turned to 1900 one might hope things would improve, sadly, they did not.

Businesses and industries had no desire to open in a place of crime and lawlessness. Many people would have rejected the change if available because they were too busy looking backward, as previously discussed. Life was difficult for people, and the county longed for a day that had passed. While the railroad ran through Auburn, Russellville, and Tennessee, farmers still used it for their needs, believing that the railroad was an evil that they must use to get their crops to the market. In Logan County, the Civil War hangover lingered into the Twentieth Century. For most people in Logan County, life was the same as in 1865, with no real change. The pro-Confederate movement continued to hold on to the county and it could be stated that many people were too busy looking back at the war instead of moving on. It is difficult to move forward when one is living in the past, especially a past that has no reality in the present of future. For the pro-Confederates, this was the reality of the Lost Cause. For many people in Logan County this was their reality.

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<sup>65</sup> Edward Coffman, *The Story of Logan County*, (Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1962), 226.

As previously discussed, there was a great amount of violence in Logan County and Kentucky between 1860-1930. This violence slowed progress because business owners want to build their industries in stable environments. Jack Temple Kirby highlighted a similar thought in 1987. He stated that as the new century started, nothing had changed throughout much of the "New South" from 1865. Most Southerners were in danger of falling further behind the rest of the industrialized world. The South was opposed to mechanized progress and was still hanging on to the dying plantation system.<sup>66</sup> In many ways, Kirby's description of the South was true for Logan County. The people continued to hold on to the old way of life, refusing to move on. They refused industry and progress to hold on to pre-Civil War ideals. The violence, racial tension, and refusal to change did not end until after the WWII years. As the new century approached, the same problems continued, starting with The Black Patch Wars erupting in western Kentucky, including Logan County.

On the night of May 22, 1905, Marie Gladder was criminally assaulted outside of Russellville, about six miles on Lewisburg Road near Epley Station. Gladder was an Austrian immigrant that did not speak much English. According to the evidence presented in the trial, three men planned and attacked the girl after dark. There were witnesses nearby protecting their tobacco plant beds, and when they saw the attack, they could not prevent it. W.R. "Polk" Fletcher, John Sacra, Guy Lyon, and Jim Lyon were all charged in the crime.

The young woman had to use an interpreter to tell her story of what happened on the dark and rainy night. Gladder and her family walked into Russellville on the day of the crime. As noted, they spoke very little English and they wanted directions to Hopkinsville but were sent the wrong way on accident. A mob attacked the jail on July 4th after information about the event

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<sup>66</sup> James Temple Kirby, *Rural Worlds Lost: The American South, 1920-1960*, (Baton Rouge: Louisiana

leaked from the trial. The men hid and Sacra was shot when he ran. Troops had to be sent to Russellville to protect the men so they could receive a fair trial. Jim Lyon and John Sacra received prison sentences, while Guy Lyon and Fletcher received death as their sentence. On February 15, 1907, they were killed in a public execution. While no numbers exist, many people attended the public hangings, which was common during the period.<sup>67</sup>

Between 1904-11 violence erupted across much of western Kentucky and Tennessee over tobacco. In the late 1800s, farmers attempted to unionize through the Granges. The attempt would fail largely due to the diversity of agriculture in terms of size, crops, location, livestock, and other topics. While the unionization failed, many farmers still wanted to protect themselves from the more significant tobacco industries, which operated a trust over the industry and increased crop prices. As a result, cooperatives started to rise across the area, aiming for farmers to unite and protect themselves and each other while demanding higher prices for their cash crops. The issue became that not all farmers wanted to join the Planters Protective Association (PPA). Those that did not join found themselves harassed and ridiculed for not joining.

Many farmers within the PPA became radicalized and angry over those who did not participate and decided to act into their own hands. They created a group called the Night Riders, which resembled the Kul Klux Klan, but they were not concerned with race. There were more African Americans in the PPA, than whites. They were concerned with farmers joining the organization and not operating independently. If a farmer did not join and sold his tobacco, at the given rate, then it would be more difficult to the PPA to receive their asking price., but if all the farmers united and held out, they believed that this would drive up prices. One farmer could upset their plan by remaining independent and selling their crop. To combat this the Night Riders

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State University Press, 1987), 49.

would threaten force to try to get farmers to join, but when that did not work, they turned to violence. They regularly burned barns and tobacco warehouses, and sometimes, people died.

On January 3, 1908, the Night Riders came to Russellville. They came to break the trust ran by James B. Duke, by blowing up warehouses and thus raising the price on their crops. Duke controlled the American Tobacco Company and he only paid two cents per pound for tobacco. When the PPA demanded that he raised the price, Duke ignored them, which led to the Night Riders visit. Independent farmers faced attacks, and Duke's warehouses were set on fire to eliminate the tobacco he had already purchased. Numerous other raids took place in Hopkinsville and Princeton.<sup>68</sup>

While the Night Riders only visited Russellville once, the years between 1900 and WWI were very tumultuous for the people of Logan. The constant threat of the visit from the Night Riders kept people on edge, and they would guard their crops, whether in the field or in the barn. They were hanging on to their cash crop with no desire to move forward because tobacco was king, and it was all that mattered.

Between 1900-1930 there was also racial violence that Coffman and others documented. Rufus Browder, an African American, was employed on the farm of James Cunningham near Olmstead. The two men got into an argument that turned violent. At some point in the altercation, Browder shot and killed Cunningham. While in jail, a mob tried to come and get Browder to hang him, but the jailer's son helped him escape, and he hid in an old graveyard. He left for Bowling Green and later Louisville to ensure the mob did not try to kill him again. He was tried for murder in nearby Franklin and received a life sentence, where he died.

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<sup>67</sup> Coffman, 227-228.

<sup>68</sup> "The Night Riders," Logan County Public Library, Local History Files, Russellville, KY.

At about the same time as the Rufus Browder incident in the early summer of 1908, more racial unrest occurred in the Olmstead community. The people believed that the African Americans were attempting to organize and were creating a hit list of white folks in the area. Rumors were rampant, and many people were afraid for their lives according to reports (according to local historian Edward Coffman). The hysteria caused by this led to four African American men, believed to be the group's leaders being arrested on minor charges. John Bouyer, Joe Riley, and John and Virgil Jones were taken to jail in Russellville for trial. Sadly, they never were given a fair trial. A mob, racially motivated and perhaps supported by the KKK attacked the jail. The four men were taken in their night clothes to the same tree where the Procters were hanged in 1897. Their hands were tied behind their backs, and they were hanged on the night of July 23, 1908.

Threats of racial violence continued throughout 1908. White people across the county, but especially in the more agricultural southern region, kept guns close to their beds, and many did not go out in public unless they were armed. Even a rumor spread across Russellville that an armed group of African Americans was approaching Russellville. People across the town grabbed their weapons and looked for the never found mob.<sup>69</sup> These stories prove that the Civil War hangover existed into the 1900s. The sad reality of racism gripped many people in Logan County, and almost caused a race war. While many Logan countians today like to think that these events did not happen at home, they did. Racism was common, and African Americans did not receive much assistance from the law in these documented events. People lost their lives over trumped up charges. Even if they were guilty, there was always the threat of mob violence. A county cannot move forward when this type of backward thinking dominates the county. Many

people were not interested in any form of change, whether it was industry, race issue, or anything else. The desire for the pre-Civil War life still existed for many, and in Logan County as in Kentucky these people dominated politics. They carried influence over laws, policy, and agendas.

One might ask, why did the hangover from the Civil War last until WWII? Local historian Edward Coffman stated in his 1932, *History of Russellville*, that the period from 1900-1930 should be called "backward and forward." In his 1962 *Story of Logan County*, he titled the same period, "the troubled years." These titles prove that the county was still struggling to move forward and try to catch up to the rest of the industrial world. The Night Riders are one example of that mindset regarding the overdependence on tobacco with little to no industry in the county. The pro-Confederate ideals lived on as noted below. People struggled with change. They struggled to adapt to a world without legalized slavery. Plus, Logan County was the hotbed for the secessionist movement in Kentucky. As noted with the elected positions, this did not disappear when the Civil War ended. It continued for decades. For the people of Logan, the entire period from 1865-1941 could be labeled backward and forward, with the county taking multiple steps back with every step forward.

Perhaps the most important event of the 1900s that proves that Logan County was still hungover from the Civil War occurred in 1911. For years the Confederate veterans and their families wanted to erect a monument honoring fallen Confederate soldiers. In early October 1911, the monument was placed on the town square's north end (public park). The monument is almost twenty feet high, with a Confederate soldier standing in the middle. The monument stands to honor those that died in the Civil War and the dedication ceremony drew thousands. While

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<sup>69</sup> Coffman, 230. Additional information provided by the Browder Family file in the Logan County Public



estimates differ, the lowest number is 5,000 people and possibly as high as 10,000. While the monument is just a thing, the attendance and a speech delivered during the ceremony proves the greatest proof that the county had not moved on from the war. Sources state that this "memorable day, was a celebration of the Lost Cause and hope of the Confederacy." One of the speakers stated:

We have erected this monument to the Confederate soldier. There is not marble enough in the bosom of mother earth to build a monument grand enough to do justice to the heroic soldiers of the south. For in all the history of the world they have never been surpassed in courage, endurance, and patriotism, but we place this monument as a tribute of our love, as an expression of our admiration and undying loyalty to the memory of the Confederate soldier, and as an inspiration to posterity for all time to come.<sup>70</sup>

The above quote provides insight into the minds and attitudes of some of the people in Logan County in 1911. They still believed in the cause of the Confederacy. They resented the outcome of the Civil War. This event's attendance and the ceremony's content supported the statement. In 1921, a group of living Confederates posed with the Confederate monument on the square to "remember their war against northern aggression." Considering the timing of this event with all the other violence connected to the Civil War, including non-racial and racial violence, and the revival of the Klan in the 1920s, many people in Logan are still stuck in the mud. They were not interested in change or new opportunities. They longed for a time that ended roughly sixty years earlier. Ann Marshall discusses how these monuments used are to memorialize the lost cause of the Confederacy and thus proclaim righteousness and valor of the true heroes of American history, the Confederate soldier. Memorials were raised across Kentucky and the South to remember the truth about the war, and Southerners were right, and they were freedom

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Library, Russellville, KY.

<sup>70</sup> Confederate Monument, Logan County Public Library, Public Park Local History Files, Russellville, KY.

fighters. According to Marshall most of the work to raise these monuments was done by women by fundraising and organizing the memorials. She also states that women also helped to rehabilitate the political careers of southern men, intending to regain the power, wealth, and prominence they had before the war.<sup>71</sup> This viewpoint supports the claim of this chapter that across Kentucky and for the people of Logan, many of them were too busy looking backward instead of accepting the changes of industry.

During the period after the Civil War, confusion and anger towards the federal government dominated much of Kentucky, including Logan County. This bitterness can be observed at the state and local level throughout the actions discussed throughout this chapter. Since Russellville was the birthplace of the Confederate movement, the anti-change attitudes ran deep. The more the federal government acted with actions like the Freedmans' Bureau, the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Amendments, all strengthened the resolve for many to long for the days before the war. This political disaffection ran deep, and it started before the war ended, and many in Kentucky thought that if they supported actions like the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, they would be violating Lincoln's vow that the states not in rebellion would not be excluded from the elimination of slavery.<sup>72</sup> These actions set the stage for the entire period, as the people of Kentucky and Logan felt the government was interfering in their lives and thus they wanted to resist whenever possible. The actions discussed to this point and beyond support this claim.

The Great War erupted in Europe as the county still struggled with moving beyond the war. While the United States would not be involved in the conflict until 1917, it was a dominate force on the people of Logan. During WWI, 562 men from Logan County answered the call to war service in 1917-1918. Company M, a Third Kentucky national guard unit reorganized in

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<sup>71</sup> Marshall, 84-87.

1916. They went to Fort Thomas for training, and then to the Mexican border until March 1917, approximately thirty days later the unit was sent to Europe and became Company B of the 113th Engineers.<sup>73</sup> George Johnston of Russellville participated in two of the most important campaigns for the United States. He fought at both St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne, and survived without any wounds, or even a scratch. He lived through two gas attacks and stated that the fighting was extremely hard, and he thought his wife would become a widow a time or two. He said there was little danger if the gas masks were correctly worn. The main danger came from the heavy shelling that followed the gas attacks.<sup>74</sup>

One may ask, how does WWI fit into the narrative of violence and anti-change? Part of this movement was a desire to ignore directives from the federal government. A prime example is that Kentucky did not "officially vote" to accept the 13th Amendment until 1976. While it was the law of the land, this is an example of people not wanting to move forward. During WWI, many were against the drafting of soldiers. They believed this was illegal and that the government could not force men to fight in a foreign war. Robert Y. Thomas, Jr. was a Democratic congressman from Logan County during WWI. He was one of six congressmen who opposed the draft in WWI and supported a military built completely of volunteers.<sup>75</sup> There were multiple problems with the Logan County Draft Board. People reported that the board gave several deferments to wealthy men to keep them out of service. A federal investigation claimed some collusion between the boards in Russellville and Madisonville, in Hopkins County. Federal officials removed Logan County Sheriff James S. Taylor for violating section six of the Selective Service Act, aiding, and assisting others to evade military service. He also violated section three

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<sup>72</sup> Tapp and Klotter, 2-4.

<sup>73</sup> Coffman, 239-240.

<sup>74</sup> David J. Bettez, *Kentucky and the Great War: World War I on the Home Front*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1962), 276.

of the Espionage Act, which obstructs the enlistment and recruiting of the military. Taylor promised people if they voted for him, he would get them an exemption from military service.<sup>76</sup>

One of the Logan countians who died was Murray Pillow. He enlisted to help improve the world, but while in service, he caught pneumonia. The disease plagued his body for almost a month before finally killing him, just a few weeks after his twentieth birthday. According to the records, fourteen other men died from gas attacks, wounds, or were killed in action. Dozens of others were wounded and suffered long effects from the war. Many of the returning men continued to suffer from "Shell Shock" for the rest of their lives.<sup>77</sup> While some had physical scars, the emotional and psychological scars ran deep for many men who served in The Great War.

Another way the Great War impacted the people of Logan was through Bethel College in Russellville. The college was one of 700 colleges for army preparation training. The local Students' Army Training Camp was organized in 1918 and stayed open until the war's end in November. The college and city took on a military feel because of all the maneuvers and operations occurring less than a mile from downtown. The college created a unit of the Reserve Officers' Training in addition to the other organization. This program for officers continued until 1921 when it was closed.<sup>78</sup>

Sadly, WWI did not end racial issues plaguing the county. It also did not bring changes to the county related to industry and commerce because the United States was only involved in the war for roughly a year. The nation did not have to expand industrially and economically during

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<sup>75</sup> Bettez, 86.

<sup>76</sup> Bettez, 94, 97.

<sup>77</sup> WWI, Logan County Public Library, Russellville, Kentucky, Logan County WWI Files.

<sup>78</sup> Edward Coffman, *The History of Russellville*, (Russellville, KY: The News-Democrat, 1931), 55.

WWI, like during WWII. Between 1923-1925 the KKK completely re-organized and may have had more members than before. While this was also occurring nationally, the local Klans relied on their secrets, hidden faces, and fear to influence politics and cause problems for groups such as African Americans, immigrants, Catholics, and Jews. In June 1924, the local KKK marched in Russellville to exercise their power. After their parade they celebrated in the American Park, which was at the junction of Franklin and Bowling Green Roads. While there are no reports of confirmed violence during the period, the group's existence created fear and was another detriment to the county moving forward. Sixty years after the Civil War ended, the Klan continued to flex their muscle, even though it is believed that the Klan's power started to decrease after 1925.<sup>79</sup> In Logan County, like many other places, the memory of the Civil War and the hatred towards change and people who are different, was alive and well. The memory of the conflict and the war's hangover burned bright in the eyes of many in the county, and then things went from bad to worse with the onset of the Great Depression.

In 1926, historian E. Merton Coulter stated in his book that Kentucky waited until the Civil War was over to secede from the Union.<sup>80</sup> This point is important to make at this time, because this is a key dissertation argument. It is also important to discuss now, because when this book was written, WWI had concluded, but the Great Depression was yet to begin. Coulter claims that the people of Kentucky became very frustrated during the war, and the frustrations only grew with federal policy after the war ended. Recently, historian Anne E. Marshall has taken up this topic again. Marshall claims that Kentucky's road to true secession did not begin with the events in Logan County, but with the establishment of the Emancipation Proclamation

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<sup>79</sup> Coffman, 69.

<sup>80</sup> E. Merton Coulter, *The Civil War and Readjustment in Kentucky* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1926), 439.

to the era of the Great Depression, which again is very similar to this dissertation. In her work, she discusses the role of politics and memory and how the pro-confederates grew with each action viewed as government overreach by these people in Kentucky. They became increasingly angered, and, in the process, violence spilled out over the state. Citizens loyal during the war, switched sides, and many claimed to have always been rebels at heart. She also discusses the election of many former Confederates in the 1880s, including Simon Bolivar Buckner as governor in 1887, and these events according to Marshall clouded people's memories and judgements. She also discussed the violence during the period, including an event in Russellville. In 1868, five Union men were killed in a few months, including a U.S. marshal. This marshal served in the Union army during the Civil War.<sup>81</sup>

These works provide more evidence supporting an important aspect of this dissertation: that for much of Kentucky outside of the golden triangle and the more urban areas of the state, very little changed between 1865 and 1940. This is the hangover left by the Civil War, and the inability to move on from it. Many wanted to maintain their lives on farms, while racial violence and attitudes that opposed change dominated in Logan County and other rural areas. These ideas are supported by the works of Klotter, Tapp, and Marshall. Dr. Thomas Clark, the father of Kentucky history stated that for most Kentuckians life really did not change until after 1940. In large part this is because of the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the increased industrial needs of WWII.<sup>82</sup> While Coulter and Marshall's work emphasis the entire state, the same is true for Logan County, and as discussed in this chapter it is both different and

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<sup>81</sup> Anne E. Marshall, *Creating a Confederate Kentucky: The Lost Cause and Civil War Memory in Border State*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010).

<sup>82</sup> Thomas Clark, *A History of Kentucky*, (Ashland, KY: The Jesse Stuart Foundation, 1988), 454-455.

similar. Before looking at how WWII brought changes to Logan County, the era of the Depression needs to be discussed because it provides some foundation for the WWII years.

On the eve of WWII, Logan County, like other counties across the United States, still feels the effects of the Great Depression. The period from 1900-1940 was called the troubled years by county historian Edward Coffman. During this period, the county struggled to grow industrially, and most families relied on farming for survival. There were numerous businesses around the square in Russellville, but these banks, shops, and stores only employed a fraction of the people compared to the farms. Multiple hardware stores sold products for the home and machinery for farmers. There were also multiple drug stores, groceries, banks, and clothing stores as well. Most businesses ceased to operate by the 1960s as more businesses grew away from the downtown area.

During the first few years of the Depression, the people of Logan despised President Hoover. They believed that he was a do-nothing president that did not care about the plight of the people. This is stated throughout the editions of the local paper. A prime example occurred a few days before the election, when an article stated that another ex-president was greatly needed, speaking of Hoover. The democratic platform looked like a sure winner, and that under the leadership of Roosevelt, the nation would start to recover, and that help was on the way.<sup>83</sup> It must be mentioned that until about 2000, Logan County was run by democratic politicians. The party had a complete hold on the county at the national, state, and local levels. A prime example of this is the importance of Thomas Rhea and Emerson "Doc" Beauchamp.

During the Depression, the county found friends in high places. Thomas Rhea was the long-time political leader of the Democratic Party for all of Western Kentucky. Rhea was the

political rival of Happy Chandler, and friend of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Because of his friendship Logan County benefited from New Deal Programs. The Work Progress Administration (WPA) built The Thomas Rhea National Guard Armory and Rhea Stadium, the home of the Russellville Panthers. The WPA also operated a sewing factory during the depression years. Many believe that this is the reason why Logan Manufacturing (Red Kap) will open during the war years. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) also did a great amount of work clearing land and burning brush in multiple areas of the county.

The WPA also operated the local library in Russellville. The library was viewed as a recovery program of the New Deal. The library lived in the basement of the old Russellville High school near the Rhea Stadium. The organization paid salaries, but their main focus was on teaching skills. The main skill that was taught was the binding and rebinding of books. Repairing books was valuable to keep old sources available to the public.<sup>84</sup>

As previously stated, most people in Logan County were either farmers or worked on farms before WWII. There were very few industrial opportunities because the county struggled to move forward after the Civil War period. In 1930, Caldwell Lace Leather Company opened in Auburn near the railroad. In 1937 the Auburn Hosiery Mill opened in Auburn. Both industries are known as the earliest industries in Logan County outside of the farming and farming support industries.<sup>85</sup> Sadly, neither industry is currently open, and all records are lost.

W.N. Alexander's stated that the Depression impacted everyone's lives. While there was not a great amount of industry in Logan, people still struggled with unemployment, slashed wages, and other economic woes. He said that the price of hogs dropped to six cents per pound

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<sup>83</sup> *The News-Democrat*, October 27, 1932, 1.

<sup>84</sup> Evelyn Richardson, interviewed by author, May 10, 2022.



locally, bread was ten cents per loaf, and a good pair of shoes were six dollars. He stated that a circus came to town and that a friend got a job watering and feeding the animals for a few days to make a little money. Logan's cash crop of tobacco fell low prices that some farmers lost their farms because they could not pay debts. In many ways, the WPA was a life saver, Alexander said. People that had WPA jobs made more than the teachers in the county.<sup>86</sup>

The local records from the Depression era may not be plentiful, but some sources can provide insight into the period. There are stories of families eating potatoes or beans for weeks to be able to survive, and while the stories are likely, they cannot be confirmed. Some even stated that some banks asked farmers to continue to pay interest on loans and any principle that they could, but again, none of the banks in town have any records confirming this. In addition to the Depression, a horrible drought struck most of Kentucky, including Logan County in 1930. This only made farmers' lives worse. With the drought and the Depression, farm values dropped 30% and in 1938, 33% of farmers were defaulting on their loans, and another 25% were behind.<sup>87</sup> While these are state numbers, the numbers in Logan must have been comparable because of how dominant agriculture was and how many people used farms to make a living.

People and businesses struggled to survive as unemployment rose across Logan County and the entire United States. The only business operating before WWII and still operating in 2022 is the local newspaper, The News-Democrat. Many businesses have closed, and their records are lost. The paper was the source of information and advertising and offers a historical reflection. The war will hit and bring fear, more trials, and some opportunities while presenting new sets of challenges for the people of Logan County. Before WWII, the American Civil War

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<sup>85</sup> Coffman, 244.

<sup>86</sup> W.N. Alexander, interviewed by Don Neagle, Russellville, KY, December 1978.

was the singular effect that impacted the county the most. All this changed when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. WWII will impact more people than any war in history.

On the eve of WWII, the people of Logan were largely farmers or working in the agricultural field. In many ways the county has not changed much since the Civil War. The totality of WWII is what brings change to Logan County. Topics such as rationing, bond drives, news coverage, farming, and other aspects of the war showed the people that they were behind. It was not a single event of the war, but the war itself. The changes did not occur overnight. It took time, while some industry will come to the county during the war most will come over a decade after the war ended. WWII, much like the Civil War, are dividing periods for Logan County. Each war left its mark on the people which may be called the good, bad, and ugly. In the chapters that follow the WWII years will be discussed and analyzed, with some focus on the industry that came to Logan in the years after the war. The experiences during the war provided evidence to the people that the world had changed, and that Logan County had to catch up to much of the world in terms of industry and economics.

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<sup>87</sup> James C. Klotter and Crag Thompson Friend, *A New History of Kentucky*, vol. 2, (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 2018) 347.

### **Chapter Three: The Impact of the War on Farms and Labor, Local Businesses, and the Local Government**

Before 1941, the war that had the most significant impact on the people of Logan County was the American Civil War. As previously discussed, this conflict for the people of Logan did not end in 1865. Conflicts and issues related to the Civil War continued until WWII, as outlined in the previous chapter. This all changed with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Roughly 2,000 men from the county will serve, many dying. This chapter will discuss how the war impacted businesses, the local government, and farmers in some way. The thesis of this chapter is that the impact of WWII in three specific areas assisted in bringing change to these areas during and, more specifically, after WWII ended, which supports the overall thesis of this dissertation, focusing on the changes brought by the impact of WWII. Those areas include businesses, farms and labor, and the local government. The following sections discuss and analyze challenges brought by WWII to the county by topic. By focusing on each of these topics, it will be revealed how WWII impacted the county and thus laid the foundations for change in the years following the war. This chapter's sections include how the war affected local businesses, the local farmer and laborers, the local governments of the Logan County Fiscal Court, and the Russellville City Council. There will be some overlap from time to time, but the goal is to show the impact of the war as the war happened. This chapter ends with a section on changes brought to the county after the war concluded. These changes occurred because of the information presented about the war years and by the time WWII ended, the war years of WWII left more impact on the citizens of Logan County than any other event in the county's history. Farmers relied more on equipment than labor, and businesses started to become more corporation driven, as the small stores began to disappear.

As previously stated, the totality of the experiences of Logan countians during WWII brings change to the county after the war concludes, thus breaking the patterns from the prewar era. This chapter seeks to provide information on specific topics during the WWII years. The information presented provides insight into how the war broke with the past and allowed for change after the war ended. There is no specific "aha" moment where people see things differently. Changes came over time, and as the war concluded, people knew they wanted to change how they lived and worked. The driving question for this chapter surrounds the war years and people's experiences during this time. For example, how did agriculture look in Logan County during the war years? How did the war years lay the foundation for business changes and the need for industry? How did people rely on the local government but at the same time start to depend on the federal government more? These questions and the information provided in this chapter connect to chapter two, which will also connect to the changes brought about after the prove Coffman stated the WWII years are the years that brought industry to Logan County.

### **Farms, farmers, and labor**

As mentioned earlier, the people of Logan County have always thrived on agriculture. Outside of the "golden triangle" which includes Louisville, Lexington, and northern Kentucky, there was very little industry in Kentucky when the war began.<sup>1</sup> Logan, much like much of the state, was entrenched in agriculture. The information discussed in this section seeks to provide analytical and personal information on agriculture during the war years. This information pre-established the baseline for change for discussion. On the eve of WWII, there were 3,045 farms

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<sup>1</sup> James C. Klotter, *Kentucky: Portrait in Paradox, 1900-1950*, (Frankfort: The Kentucky Historical Society, 1996), 260-61.

in Logan County with a total acreage of 325,182, with the land value of \$31 per acre.<sup>2</sup> This information serves as a baseline for agricultural data in Logan County on the eve of the war. The discussion of war production and other statistics will be later as the content unfolds. One of the first ads discussing agriculture in the newspaper appeared in February 1942. Mason Hardware, a company selling hardware, tools, and even tractors, used its ad space to encourage farmers to buy them early. The ad states that there would be fewer civilian tractors because of the war effort and production. The company stated that plenty of tractors are currently available, so farmers need to go ahead and make the purchase, and not wait until the tractors are in short supply. This would aid in food production and assist in the war effort.<sup>3</sup> During the war less civilians' products like tractors were available for nonmilitary use. Factories across the United States went from producing trucks and cars to tanks and airplanes. The ad suggests people buy tractors while they are available before production decreases and fewer tractors are available.

W.E. Wilson Lumber Company's ad appeals to farmers and their need to produce more food for the war effort. The ad states that they know that farmers will do their part, but they now have added pressures because of the war. Because of this the company offered to do all repairs on the farm, including barns and silos. The ad states that everyone is committed to the victory drive, and they wanted to help Mr. and Mrs. Farmer.<sup>4</sup> The lumber company is attempting to increase revenue with this ad, while also appealing to farmers to not take the time to make unneeded repairs. The company can repair barns and other items on the farm, while the farmers are working the fields, which is where they are needed. This ad is a prime example of a company

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<sup>2</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, "Logan County Agricultural Statistics 1909-2017," Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

<sup>3</sup> Mason Hardware Company, "Weekly Sales ad," *The News-Democrat*, February 5, 1942, 11.

<sup>4</sup> W.E. Wilson Lumber Co., "Weekly Sales ad," *The News-Democrat*, February 12, 1942, 10.

attempting to use their platform to gain more business while also appealing to the needs of the war effort.

Farmers needed chemicals and fertilizers to ensure their crops grew rapidly to maximize profits. In 1939, farmers in Logan County purchased a total of \$133,573 in these items. The data for the WWII years is not available according to U.S. Agricultural statistics.<sup>5</sup> Perhaps the local paper provides a clue as to why the information was unavailable during the war years. The paper reported information that would impact farmers, especially in the southern portions of the county. The Soil Conservation Districts stated that for farmers to do their part for the war effort they needed to plant lespedeza on grain during March and April. Lespedeza is excellent for grazing for the livestock, and since dairy, beef, and other livestock products increased demand for the war effort, this would help farmers meet the needs in the food-for-freedom campaign. If planted during the correct time frame, lespedeza will be ready for grazing by July, which because of summer heat and lack of regular rain, grazing could be an issue for farmers. However, this product would aid them and their livestock.<sup>6</sup> The use of this product may have assisted in the decreased usage of the chemicals, while also allowing farmers to use manure more for fertilizer. While not confirmed, farmers, like other aspects of society, were asked to do more with less during the war years. It is also possible that some of the chemicals that are needed for fertilizers are also needed to make bombs, which is why farmers needed to look for other solutions.

In March 1942, 105 Logan County National Farm Loan Association members met to discuss various topics in Russellville. The most discussed topic was the need for all farmers to be united to ensure victory for the war effort. Farmers faced challenges in producing the most for

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<sup>5</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, "Logan County Statistics 1909-2017."

<sup>6</sup> "S. Logan County Soil Conservation District," *The News-Democrat*, March 5, 1942, 9.

the food-for-victory program and doing so with as little loss as possible.<sup>7</sup> Nearby Simpson County also reported on the challenges of producing more for the war effort, while perhaps having fewer resources. During their meeting in early 1943, it was stated that the farmer had the toughest of all jobs. They must produce record amount of food while working harder than ever, with less labor, and materials than before the war. The war would be won on the sweat of their brow.<sup>8</sup> These sources prove that farmers across all states were challenged to produce more for the war effort. Food and animal fodder are important in the home front and the war front. Farmers were asked to make sacrifices to ensure both areas had enough food, and the war would be won. The farmers of Logan County were ready to meet the challenge and did everything they could to fulfill it.

The subject of farming is very diverse. There are many different types of farms of different sizes. Some did a little bit of everything. Some would include the growers, which could include the food and non-food like tobacco. While others specialized in livestock, which could include a variety of animals. Each of these groups were important to the war effort because they all played an important role in the war effort. On June 26, 1942, farmers will receive 1750 northwestern ewes as ordered, with more sheep arriving in early July. The ewes will be for reproduction as well as their wool. In addition to these benefits, they will be used to clear land with other forms of livestock. The goal of the farmers is to make money off the ewes, but at the same time the wool produced can be used for the war effort, and so can the animal food. Farmers needed to get in on the deal, because it would be highly unlikely that any more sheep may arrive, and if they are available, they will not be nearly as cheap as presented in this deal.<sup>9</sup> The

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<sup>7</sup> "Speaker Calls for United Farm Effort," *The News-Democrat*, March 12, 1942, 1.

<sup>8</sup> James H. Snider, and Mrs. James Beach, *Franklin and Simpson County: A Picture of Progress 1819-1975*, (Tompkinsville, KY: Monroe County Press, 1976) 905.

<sup>9</sup> "First Shipment due this Month," *The News-Democrat*, June 11, 1942, 1.

introduction of these sheep is a prime example of the diversity of farms in Logan County during the war period. While no information is available regarding how many tons of wool came from these animals, one can conclude that it was a great amount. In addition, some of these animals became food for local people or possibly soldiers.

A report from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture published in the local paper presented the struggle of some farmers, especially cattle farmers. Many businessmen and farmers are struggling with the demands for increased production and having their profits limited with price ceilings. Cattle, primarily beef cattle, are a prime example of this, according to the report. According to the Kentucky College of Agriculture, the gap between wholesale and retail prices is narrow. While dollar amounts are missing, the report states that process normally increases from March until about September, but with the price controls that increase is not happening. In addition, farmers have to deal with higher prices and a limited number of resources because of the war. Some of the specific higher prices include feed and veterinary costs. These factors put the farmers in a pinch because they depend on increasing prices to help their bottom line.<sup>10</sup> This report cites the difficulties that are placed on farmers, using beef cattle as an example. Many farmers worked long hours for equal to the previous year, or decreased profits. With added expenses of the war including prices, taxes, rationing and other factors many farmers across Kentucky and the United States had a difficult time surviving and keeping up with the demand for more products.

In September 1942, Gaines Cooksey used part of his ad space to write about what he believes to be the plight of farmers and businessmen. Cooksey owned his own grocery store on the corner of Third and Main Streets in Russellville. He considered himself a true lifelong



democrat and he used part of his weekly advertisement to make comments about the issues of the day. He was known to be one of the loudest and most critical voices in Russellville, and this theme continued throughout WWII as he spoke for the plight of businessmen and others during the war (at least in his mind). While his claims at times may seem outlandish, he was a businessman from 1897 till his death shortly after WWII ended. Cooksey claims that the government is trying to destroy the local farmers by limiting profits, raising costs, and limiting access to machinery. He claims that placing a price ceiling on tobacco only hurts farmers, because they are limiting profit, while the government will add taxes to cigarettes and other tobacco products. These taxes do not help anyone other than the government. Farmers also have limited employees because of the labor shortage caused by the war and industrial production needs, this places a hardship on farmers to produce the most important war material: food.<sup>11</sup> This viewpoint is interesting because it is very similar to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture report a few months earlier on beef cattle. Conducting a farm or a business must have been difficult with all the regulations during the war years. People tried to be patriotic and do what was needed to win the war, but one must wonder how many shared viewpoints like Cooksey, but no one ever heard them complain?

As the calendar turned to 1943 the farmers of Logan survived the first year of the war and the wartime restrictions. Like most of Kentucky they grew tobacco, corn, beans, and grains. In 1942, Kentucky farmers grew 36,000 acres of hemp to create rope and other materials.<sup>12</sup> Farmers of Logan heard strawberries were a new crop they can grow for the war effort. A contract was signed for Logan farmers to grow the fruit, and that more acreage is needed because the county

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<sup>10</sup> "Report from the Kentucky College of Agriculture on Cattle Prices," published in *The News-Democrat*, July 16, 1942, 6.

<sup>11</sup> Gaines Cooksey, "Weekly Sales Ad," *The News-Democrat*, September 24, 1942, 7.

<sup>12</sup> Klotter, 262.

should be able to produce about 6,000 crates. Each crate can sell for \$3.00-\$3.20, making the crop extremely profitable for farmers.<sup>13</sup> In addition to pushing the growth of strawberries for the war effort, farmers are also told not to bury dead horses. Each dead horse can kill up to seventy-five Germans or Japanese because of the amount of fat in the animal. Once the fat from the dead horse is removed it is processed into enough glycerin for seventy-five anti-aircraft shells. A cow is worth eighty shells.<sup>14</sup> Simply stated farmers are told not to destroy dead livestock, but to turn them into bombs. There are no records concerning the number of local animals used. However, later in the war, an industry would come to Logan County that collected the animals and removed the material from dead animals (The Rendering Plant).

A common problem that farmers in Logan and across the state faced was labor shortages. These shortages caused by the number of men in military service and the men and women that left the farms looking for war work. In the late summer of 1943, farmers received unexpected news that German POWs from Camp Campbell are now available to farmers for labor. Any farm interested will need to submit a contract through the county agent. The agent will contact the camp and plan to secure the labor for the farmers. The contract price is \$2.50 per day, per laborer. Farmers will have to work the POWs in groups of ten. The farmers are responsible for transportation to and from the camp, and they are not allowed to arrive before 7:00 A.M. They must have the POWs back by 5:00 P.M. The camp will furnish guards and rations for the prisoners while working. The prisoners can work in many areas but not in any fashion in corn or hemp fields.<sup>15</sup> These German workers went from fighting the United States to working in fields for the United States war effort. These POWs fulfilled a great need in Logan

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<sup>13</sup> "Strawberry Contract Signed and more Acreage is Urged," *The News-Democrat*, April 22, 1943, 1.

<sup>14</sup> "Don't Bury Horse; He is worth 75 Dead Nazis or Japs," *The News-Democrat*, April 22, 1943, 1.

<sup>15</sup> "War Prisoners now Available to Logan County Farmers," *The News-Democrat*, August 26, 1943, 1.

and across the state. One historian stated that they contributed greatly to Kentucky's economics and even culture with their work. While some caused problems, most enjoyed working on the land thousands of miles from the front lines.<sup>16</sup>

A common theme in many of Gaines Cooksey's columns was his dislike of price controls and his belief that they hurt farmers. While these are his opinions and are very few sources direct from farmers, one must wonder how many farmers hated the price controls. One example is hog production. By the middle of 1943 Kentucky and the nation exceeded production for the entire year. To stop production and sale, the USDA limited the number of hogs sold and established the price ceilings.<sup>17</sup> These decisions are controversial because some like Cooksey believed these actions were too much government oversight and control in the economy. Others would argue that these actions were needed because they limited prices, ensured that no waste occurred, and that food was an important part of the war effort.

Sammie Akers and his mother wrote numerous letters back and forth to each other during his service. During November and December 1943, Sammie's mother writes him about the family farm and their troubles in buying animals like bulls, cows, and horses. She wished him a Merry Christmas before Christmas and prayed that he would be home soon. The family appears very religious, with regular mentions of church and prayer. She also reports who is sick and not doing well. While all this is going on, she tries to maintain an upbeat tone. She misses and worries about her son, but she does not want to worry him.<sup>18</sup> These issues on the farm are consistent with other problems reported. The family had issues with labor to work the farm and

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<sup>16</sup> Antonio S. Thompson, *German Jackboots on the Kentucky Bluegrass: Housing German Prisoners of War in Kentucky, 1942-46*, (Clarksville, TN: Diversion Press, Inc. 2008), 4.

<sup>17</sup> Richard Holl, *Committed to Victory: The Kentucky Home Front during WWII*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2015), 84.

buying new animals. While the family does say why buying animals was an issue it could be because of the price controls and fewer animals were being sold. In addition to letters from his mother Sammie received letters from Mae Barrow. In her letters from 1943, she writes that she must help out on the farm. She helped combine clover and barley. She said there is a push for everyone to do their part to help ensure soldiers have everything they need, especially food.<sup>19</sup> This is a prime example of how women, even young women had to step up and complete tasks normally reserved for men. They took on these tasks and served the nation through their hard work.

As another year closed, 1944 presented more challenges and opportunities for farmers. The county agent requested that the farmers grow alfalfa. The reason is alfalfa makes the best hay and is one of the most reliable livestock feed sources. Farmers had to mix the product with various grasses, including Kentucky Bluegrass to create the healthiest crop. Another positive of growing alfalfa is that livestock can graze until it is time to cut the hay and become nutrient-rich grass after the hay harvest. According to the county agent, the best results come from combining bluegrass, orchard grass, and alfalfa.<sup>20</sup> The hay growth is important for farmers because it does not require much labor until one harvest the product. They could use the hay to feed livestock or sell to other farmers for feed. This hay could decrease the amount of fodder farmers needed to purchase, which could help offset higher costs and item restrictions because of the war. Overall, farmers were at the forefront of the American War effort. Throughout the entire war, the Roosevelt Administration tried to bolster production, because not only did American soldiers need the food, but so did the British. It was the purpose of the War Food Supply Program to

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<sup>18</sup> Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Akers, Sammie D., 1918-2002 (MSS 229)" (2008). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 550.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> "County Agent Urges our Farmers to Sow Alfalfa," *The News-Democrat*, August 31, 1944, 1.

make this happen. They pushed farmers in Logan and throughout the nation to bolster production, while facing challenges of labor and materials.<sup>21</sup> Needless to say these farmers in Logan and across the nation overcame the challenges and produced food for the arsenal of democracy.

As discussed earlier, farmers in Logan used German POWs for labor to cover the labor shortages caused by the war. This news came about the harvest in 1943, so while some workers assisted, their greatest work will be in 1944 because they are available the entire growing season. Farmers must use at least ten POWs each day and work with other farmers because they will be in groups of forty. Each prisoner costs \$2.00 per day, with a charge of \$.015 per mile to and from the destination and back to Camp Campbell. Each worker will work an eight-hour shift on the days they are contracted to work. Farmers must provide the tools and equipment needed to complete the jobs. Farmers that want to use POWs must contact the county agent before 10:00 A. M., the day before the labor is needed. This labor should help farmers struggling because of labor shortages, and they can plant, cultivate, and harvest crops faster.<sup>22</sup> While there were challenges with the program, such as moving men and potential rebellions, German POWs were rather successful in Kentucky, according to Antonio Thompson. While Logan County is not discussed in his work, he outlines numerous examples of how the POWs performed value labor in a time of shortage that assisted the United States in producing more food, which was used to defeat the Axis Powers.<sup>23</sup> Even though He does not discuss Logan County, one can synthesize that the German POWs had the same impact on the Logan County agricultural economy during the war years as many farmers faced equipment and labor shortages.

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<sup>21</sup> Richard E. Holl, *Committed to Victory: The Kentucky Homefront During World War II*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2015), 80-81.

<sup>22</sup> "Prisoners of War now available to our Farmers," *The News-Democrat*, September 7, 1944, 1.

Sammie's mother Betty spends a great amount of time in the middle of 1944 assuring him that the family is okay. She reports on the crops, the family, and friends. She tries to ensure Sammie that people love and pray for him. No one has forgotten him. She tries to convince Sammie that everyone and everything is fine, especially concerning the farm work, even though life is hard during the war, and they are facing labor issues and equipment issues.<sup>24</sup>

President Roosevelt ordered more farm equipment for American farmers. With the destruction to much of Europe, the United States must produce more food. The way to do this is with more equipment, so more equipment must get to the needy farmers. This is very important to Logan County as it is one of the largest farming counties in Kentucky. In addition to more equipment coming down the road, farmers hear about using German POWs for labor. To date 1315-man days have been used by Logan farmers that have used the labor. Until more equipment is available the German labor can help with planting, cultivating, and harvesting. The county agent's office report that this labor has been a blessing to Logan's farmers and will continue until the war ends.<sup>25</sup> The availability of more equipment and the German workers helped to offset the labor shortage facing many farmers. It also allowed for a change in the dynamics of farms in the county which will be discussed shortly.

During the war local farmers grew numerous crops, including hemp and tobacco. Tobacco was the number one crop of farmers because it yielded the highest profits. The one sucker tobacco crop sells at a higher price than the previous year. This means farmers will make more money, which is important for the local economy, as they are expecting a 25% increase in

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<sup>23</sup> Antoni S. Thompson, *German Jackboots on Kentucky Bluegrass: Housing German Prisoners of War in Kentucky, 1942-1946*, (Clarksville, TN: Diversion Press Inc., 2008), 101-102.

<sup>24</sup> Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Akers, Sammie D., 1918-2002 (MSS 229)" (2008). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 550.

<sup>25</sup> Various Farm, *The News-Democrat*, October 19, 1944, 1.

the price. The increased desire for tobacco products because of the war is believed to drive this higher price.<sup>26</sup> During WWII a high percentage of Americans smoked, especially soldiers. Many believe that the stress of war contributed to the usage, along with the fact that people did not know the health issues related to tobacco usage.

Jim Lockhart's family owned a farm during the WWII years. Jim remembers that he had to complete various tasks on the farm. He had to milk cows, and his brother sold milk on his bicycle. Milk was \$.05 a quart, or \$.30 per week. His family did not go anywhere that was unnecessary because of rationing and no one was allowed to drive over 35 mph. Like Mary Lucy, Franklin Jim also remembers many soldiers traveling through the area, and most people traveled on buses if they needed to take longer trips. He also stated that a few German POWs in Logan County were working on farms, but he does not remember exactly who had them. Lockhart stated that the war greatly impacted his family. The rationing and price controls hurt the family farm in all areas, except for the hemp crop. His family grew about eighty acres of hemp during WWI. The main purpose of hemp was for seed and rope.<sup>27</sup>

As previously mentioned, farmers intended to buy many tractors and other farm equipment when the war was over. Farmers in the U.S. are expected to spend about a billion dollars on equipment in 1945 if the equipment is available. If not, the equipment will be bought as it becomes available or when the war ends. Various tractors of size and horsepower were needed on farms for many different purposes. Each new piece of equipment will help farmers produce more food and crops for the world when the war ends. In short, the department of agriculture believes that the farming industry will continue to boom even after the war ends. All

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<sup>26</sup> "One Sucker Average is Predicted Higher," *The News-Democrat*, February 1, 1945, 1.

<sup>27</sup> Jim Lockhart, interview by author, Russellville KY., March 25, 2022.

this is good news to the farmers of Logan County, and for their economic welfare.<sup>28</sup> The destruction of the war in Europe and Asia supports their rationale. Farm production will continue to be needed to feed the displaced and impacted by the war. This will allow for an economic boom for the farmers of Logan County.

Logan's farmers continue to reap the benefits from tobacco. As previously reported the crop is producing higher prices than before. The 1944 one-sucker and burley crops had the highest value over twenty years. The local paper reports that Logan's farmers made more money off tobacco than in two decades; for some, this is the most they have ever made. With the war continuing, and the increased demand for tobacco products, it is setting 1945 up to be a great year.<sup>29</sup> Farmer J.W. Murrey confirmed this information. In a 1978 interview, he reported that during the war years, the demand for tobacco jumped because the boys in service wanted tobacco products. Unlike many food products, this led to high prices and a crop that farmers could grow and make a considerable amount of money on. The demand for tobacco caused burley to start being grown in 1943. According to Murrey, this also allowed for more farmers to buy more equipment. Farmers went from largely working by hand to working by machine.<sup>30</sup> This is a massive change brought about by WWII. The increased profits from the war allowed farmers to transition to more equipment which allowed for more production changing the farms in Logan County and across the United States.

The overall demand for tobacco products including cigars, cigarettes, and others exploded during the war. Men and women at home and abroad used the products at higher rates

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<sup>28</sup> "Post-War Farm Machinery to save labor and Power, *The News-Democrat*, February 15, 1945, section 1, 1.

<sup>29</sup> "Tobacco Crops reaching High Levels for Farmers," *The News-Democrat*, March 8, 1945, sec. 2,1.

<sup>30</sup> J. W. Murrey, interview by Rena Milliken for the Kentucky Oral History Project, Allensville, KY, November 26, 1978.,



than before, which may be a way to cope with the stress of war. With the increased demand, more and more tobacco was produced in Logan county and nationwide.<sup>31</sup> The demand also assisted in the increased production of burley. For the farmers in Logan and across the nation, burley had long existed, but it was not planted as much because the darker tobacco rendered a higher price. The demand for cigarettes became so great that burley had to be grown too. During WWII, Russellville became a hub for the burley type 35 brand, thus changing the local market and markets across the tobacco growing regions.<sup>32</sup>

The last person in the collection that wrote letters about the home front to Sammie is his sister Nell Akers Branum. She wrote letters from 1943-1945. Commonly wrote about their parents and how they were doing. Much like his mother, she wrote about people, the family farm, and some of the farm's difficulties in terms of labor and equipment. She also writes about chickens dying for no reason. Sammie' mule was killed (no information as to how or why). She would share her letters from Sam with their parents to ensure everyone knew the same information. She did not write much about the hardships, outside the weather (trying to stay warm) or the family farm.<sup>33</sup>

As noted earlier with the thoughts of Gaines Cooksey and other farmers in Logan County had a labor shortage for much of the war. In the Beatty family files, there is a partial journal from 1944-1945. The handwritten journal is very difficult to read, in fact it is unknown who the author is other than it is a member of the Beatty family in south Logan County. In 1944, the author writes about the shortage of workers during this year of WWII. The author reports that neighbors

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<sup>31</sup> Jack Temple Kirby, *Rural Worlds Lost: The American South 1920-1960*, (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, 1987), 103-104.

<sup>32</sup> W.F. Axton, *Tobacco and Kentucky*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1975) Epilogue and figures 6 and 8.

and friends had to help each other to get in their crops so they would not rot. In one case, the Beatty family had the help of family and neighbors come and help with grain harvests. Even with the help, the family had to work from dawn to after dusk to get the crop in without rotting. There were even a few days that they worked after dark with lanterns to help save the crop.<sup>34</sup>

Pearlie Goley wrote to her son on September 6, 1945, to check his condition and whereabouts. She reported that a family (name is not clear) was living with them because their baby was just born and to have the added support of the Goley family. The family will help around the house and help Mr. William Goley with the farm work. While the mother reports that the family is doing well, she reports that the added labor will greatly help the family, because they cannot find anyone to work. She bluntly stated that no one wants to work, which put the family in a bind. At the end of the letter, she told her son to be good, and to try not to worry about them, that they would be all right, and everything would work out. This short letter again states the labor issue that farmers and even industry faced. It is also an example of the family trying to convince their son not to worry about them.<sup>35</sup>

These sources provide insight into the issues facing farmers during the WWII period. While it has been stated multiple times that Logan County was a rural and agricultural county, it is important to discuss some raw data that supports that claim. This section started with raw data regarding farms in 1939 in Logan County. The records available provide information as to agriculture in 1944 and 1949. In 1944, the number of farms decreased from 1939 to 2,899 with an acreage of 304,522. It is not known why the farms decreased but a logical thought is that they decreased because of the number of men drafted and people searching for war work. This can be

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<sup>33</sup> Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Akers, Sammie D., 1918-2002 (MSS 229)" (2008). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 550.

<sup>34</sup> Beatty Family Files, Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

supported because in 1949, the numbers were back to pre-WWII levels, with 3,052 farms for a total acreage of 323,526. This information seems to support that the number of farms decreased because of service in the war. While the number of farms may have decreased, all the other available numbers for Logan County skyrocketed. For example, feed purchased went from \$77,038 in 1939 to \$435,731 in 1944. This amount increased because farmers were trying to raise more livestock and those animals, needed food. The increased number can be attributed to inflation as well.

There are no records for the number of livestock or poultry purchased until after WWII ended, but perhaps the most telling number is how much money farmers paid to laborers. In 1939, the baseline number was \$125,365. In 1944, the number jumped to \$376,607 and will continue to rise to over \$500,000 after the war. This increase can be attributed to more laborers needed for the war effort on farms and inflation. Another contributing factor was the labor shortages. People received more money to overcome these issues and most likely worked more hours. Unfortunately, most agriculture numbers for the war years are either lost or unavailable. For example, the first year that livestock and poultry purchased was recorded is 1949.<sup>36</sup>

While data is unavailable for Logan County, there is information for nearby Muhlenberg County. Production of corn increased from 594,973 bushels in 1940 to 707,243 bushels in 1945. Tobacco (both burley and dark varieties) 1,650,825 pounds in 1940 to 2,287,438 in 1945. Considering Muhlenberg County has more hills and coal mines Logan County would have produced more crops with the rich soil in the southern part of the county. These numbers provide insight into how much farming increased because of the demands of the war effort, and the need

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<sup>35</sup> Miller Family Papers, Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

<sup>36</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, "Logan County Statistics 1909-2017."

to produce food for not just the United States, and the service men, but also many people around the globe.<sup>37</sup>

Because of the actions of farmers in Logan County and across the nation, people did not have to worry about food. The United States was the only nation in the world that could feed all the population and the military and still have leftovers for the allies. This is truly a great accomplishment. The thousands of farmers in Logan added to these numbers while producing other items needed and wanted for the war effort. These crops include hemp and tobacco, along with foodstuffs and livestock. This allowed for a period of growth during and after the war, and with the arrival of more machinery during the later stages, farmers produced more than ever after the war ended. Machinery was limited during the war, but after the war, while the need for crops continued, farmers purchased more equipment as outlined in chapter seven. The years of WWII changed farming in Logan County. Before the war, many farmers planted crops by hand or had small machinery. For farmers, the totality of World War II brought many issues including labor shortages as the sources discussed. The significance of this content is that with labor shortages, farmers turned to more equipment and larger equipment after the war forever ended. .

### **Logan County Businesses and the War**

The focus of this section will be on how the war impacted businesses. There are two issues facing this discussion. As noted outside the local paper, no businesses in Logan County operated during WWII. Therefore, there is a massive loss of records, and for that, the ads in the newspaper serve as information about businesses and their activities during the war. The business discussed the most is Gaines Cooksey's Grocery Store. This is because he used part of his ad space to write about his feelings and thoughts on various subjects. In many ways this was

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<sup>37</sup> Holl, 86.

his way to communicate with the entire county. To combat this issue, other sources outside the county will be used to either support or disagree with Cooksey's thoughts. In addition, information about the two businesses or industries that came to Russellville because of the war, are The Rendering Plant and Logan Manufacturing. Sadly, the Rendering Company has no records dating back to the 1950s because of changes in ownership and Logan Manufacturing closed in the 1990s.

Much like the section on farming, this information is important to provide evidence that Logan County lacked industry before WWII. During the war years, it becomes evident that Logan County lacks industry. People left the county to see war employment, building various things for the war effort. Again, it is the totality of the experience that brought change. These changes will be discussed later in this chapter as the people of Logan seek to bring industrial jobs to the county. In addition to the changes to industry, the war also brought changes to businesses as the world started to become more corporation driven after WWII. To understand how these changes occur, the information below places businesses and industry in the proper context during the WWII years.

Most of Cooksey's comments in early 1942 were political and his complaints against the war effort without any real information on how the war affected his business. The first business in 1942 that documented an impact from the war was Guion's Grocery Store. They used some of their ad space to state that defense starts at home with better planned meals. The ad goes on to state that planning and eating more nutritional meals, careful planning of meals would make sure that there was no waste, and there would be plenty of food for the military.<sup>38</sup> This statement tells people to conserve food, do not over buy, do not be wasteful. If one is wasteful or they overbuy

then someone may not have anything to eat as this ad infers, and that person could potentially be your family. Be patriotic and conserve food.

Another business affected by the conflict in the early days of the war was Brightday Laundry. In their ad they told people two very important things. First, to "Remember Pearl Harbor," and to keep the U.S. flags flying to show everyone's patriotism. The ad tells consumers that there is a war to win, and they want to do their part to protect rubber usage and other materials. Because of this, they would use their trucks until the tires wore out. When this happens, they will not use their trucks to come around to pick up and deliver laundry. To help make sure they can get the most out of their materials they asked customers to please have all their laundry together and bundled, so unnecessary trips would be avoided. Second, they also told people to recycle hangers. Hangers will be restricted because they can become weapons.<sup>39</sup> Brightday Laundry had to change their policies and operating procedures because of the war and the limits on chemicals and tires. This is a prime example of sacrifices people and businesses made to follow war related policies and government orders. While people do not think about this today because virtually everyone has washers and dryers in their homes, this was not the case in the 1940s. People had to rely on businesses like this to ensure clean clothes for their families.

Another business greatly impacted by policies of the war was Russellville Coca Cola Bottling Company also weighed in on the war for the first time. They reprinted a statement from WWI, on the restricted use of sugar, and how foods like sugar were at war too. They ran this reprinted information to state that sugar again has been mobilized. Still, they promised to keep the same quality and commitment to victory, even though their production volume would

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<sup>38</sup> "Guion's Grocery ad," *The News-Democrat*, February 5, 1942, 6.

<sup>39</sup> Brightday Laundry, "Weekly Sales ad," *The News-Democrat*, February 5, 1942, 11.

decrease because sugar enlisted for victory.<sup>40</sup> While other forms of sugar, including high fructose corn syrup used today to sweeten drinks like Coke, in the 1940s, they used sugar. With sugar rationing, they were afraid that the sugar decrease would affect every drink. While that did not happen because the corporation could create deals with the government to send the drink overseas, it was a major concern of a local company in early 1942.

In addition to companies and their products being directly affected by the war, companies sometimes use space for public service announcements or advertisements. One such ad discussed the use of electricity and lightbulbs. In their ad "War Time," Inman and Inman provided the cost of light bulbs. They recommended that people join the war effort by buying the lowest watt bulbs and to conserve their usage as much as possible, because "our electricity is fighting too."<sup>41</sup> As part of the war effort, city lights were regularly turned off, and people proved patriotic and decreased their wattage or usage. Electricity was new for many people in Russellville and the United States outside the main cities, allowing for a creative nightlife. The war effort limited this life. Those that did not follow the guidelines were viewed as unpatriotic or anti-American. The difference is if the event was for something supporting the war such as a dance for soldiers or a fundraiser. Those types of activities were okay to burn the midnight oil.

One large ad in the paper provides insight into the issues people and businesses faced during the early part of the war. A collection of businesses ran an ad titled, "That this is war!" Credit restrictions are essential to our total war effort for total victory. The ad says that while the regulations are from the federal government, they are not local. Twenty-one local businesses pledge to work with people to allow them to buy products on credit and even to provide cash loans. People must know that they must place a down payment of at least one third of the total

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<sup>40</sup> Russellville Coca-Cola Bottling Co., "Weekly Sales ad," *The New, s-Democrat*, February 12, 1942, 5.

cost. If people, follow the rules, then the companies will work with them, and people will have to make the payments and the terms of most loans have to be less than a year. The ad asks for the cooperation of the people and their understanding that the regulations are not theirs but are from the government and are to help win the war. The ad lists items that the new rules apply, including air conditioners, bicycles, jewelry, radios, and other items.<sup>42</sup> Buying things on credit became very popular in the 1920s but decreased during the Great Depression. The belief is that many businesses were feeling the crunch of war and facing decreased profits because citizens saved money, buying war bonds, the draft, and governmental policies. In this space they outlined to the public that easy credit was disappearing, and people must pay their obligations.

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits for local businesses during WWII was that people had to shop locally. An article in the local paper stated that Logan countians must shop locally. The reason for this is gas rationing will be starting soon. People cannot drive out of the county to get much needed supplies and merchandise when that occurs. This will impact motorists even more than the tire rationing and might force people to take rubber/tire rationing more seriously. This also benefited local farmers and the production of food that can be sold locally. It will also benefit farmers to sell products locally, so they do not have to transport them, plus buying local keeps local money in the county.<sup>43</sup> This impact of the war was a positive one. While the rationing of gasoline and other items hurt some businesses and the public, shopping local kept money in the local economy. This helped to improve the tax base while keeping businesses and stores open during a very difficult and trying time.

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<sup>41</sup> Inman and Inman, "War Time ad," *The News-Democrat*, February 19, 1942, 10.

<sup>42</sup> "This is War Ad," *The News-Democrat*, May 14, 1942, 10.

<sup>43</sup> "Now is Good Time to Seek and Hold Trade in Area," *The News-Democrat*, September 17, 1942, 1.



This impact of businesses is important to the thesis of this project because it outlines how businesses and others had to adapt to the changes and the demands of the global war. This impact and discussion of the war years lays the foundation for the changes that followed. The arrival of grocery stores like Kroger and others after the war is proof that the war assisted in bringing in a more corporate America. The demand for more products including food, goods, products, and a desire to live and enjoy life brought on these changes which will be discussed later in this chapter.

In early 1944, a local business used their ad space to suggest to the public that they must hurry and grab certain items while they are available. B.F. Parker Hardware and House Furnishings posted something different in their ad. They titled the advertisement "Digging for Victory." They stated that just like soldiers digging foxholes, civilians on the home front also need the right tools. They list various items in stock that are "hard to get" items. These include food choppers, electric switches, saws, axes, home wiring, C Clamps, and numerous other items. In many ways, the ad is saying to the public without specifically saying- If you need any of the materials, buy them now, while we have them.<sup>44</sup> Before and after the war, most of the items would have been common in most tool chests, but with manufacturing restricted they were hard to locate during the war. This list provides some insight into what items were hard to find because of the war effort that was needed/desired in homes during the period. Most items were needed on farms and typical houses during the 1940s.

Gaines Cooksey came to Russellville in 1897 and opened a grocery store on the corner of Third and Main Streets in Russellville. He used his ad space to promote his business and provide commentary on the day's issues. While he spoke a great deal on the war, the president, and

politics, the focus will be on his writings on his ideas related to his business. In his weekly ad, Gaines Cooksey was in his rare form. He stated that on March 7, 1942, sugar stamps will be issued, and the one way a person can buy sugar is with one of the stamps. He also stated that it is believed that stamps will be issued for six months for each family member, allowing twelve ounces of sugar per week, per person. He scolded those stocked up on sugar a few weeks earlier and said they should not buy any. He recommended that people buy enough sugar for a month's supply, which should give the system time to work out any kinks.<sup>45</sup> This statement by Cooksey provides some important concepts that many may not consider. Rationing is a new concept. It was something that the American public had to adjust to, both businesses and the public. For the first time, many people could no longer buy what they wanted, and businesses could no longer sell everything they wanted to sell. While not everything is documented, there must have been numerous kinks in the road that created issues for businesses and the public.

One month after his previous ad, Gaines Cooksey reports that his store has numerous seeds for people's gardens. He also is very skeptical about the rumored shortages. He states that there is no shortage in his store and that the reporting on the radio causes fear among the people and then they start to hoard products. He even referenced the so-called sugar shortage of WWI, which he stated was false to prove his point.<sup>46</sup> In his eyes, the shortages only caused fear within the public. He does not believe the news is true and compares it to a reported sugar shortage. In many ways, Cooksey is decrying the government of fake news and using the fear of food shortages to keep the public in line following the guidelines.

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<sup>44</sup> "B.F. Parker Hardware and House Furnishing Digging for Victory Ad," *The News-Democrat*, January 13, 1944, 5.

<sup>45</sup> Gaines Cooksey, "Weekly Sales ad," *The News-Democrat*, February 19, 1942, 7.

<sup>46</sup> Gaines Cooksey, "Weekly Sales Ad," *The News-Democrat*, March 19, 1942, 5.

Continuing with Cooksey's views on the impacts of the war on himself, his business, and the people, he told the people of Logan to save sugar and to come get Open Kettle New Orleans Molasses. He stated that this molasses is as sweet as any sugar and can be substituted for sugar to make pies and cakes. It should also be discussed that prices in his ads have not changed. For example, bacon and sausage up to this point in 1942 run somewhere between \$0.20-\$0.28 per pound. He also used part of his ad to express more anger towards Washington, strikes, and the handling of the war. He further stated that while the Japanese are defeating the United States at every turn, and Americans are dying that the politicians "fiddle while Rome burns."<sup>47</sup> These statements referring to Nero and the burning of Rome show just how deep Cooksey's frustrations are with the government. He firmly believes that the nation will lose the war, unless major changes occur. His frustrations are multifold. First, he is angry with the current state of the war. Second, he is very frustrated by what he believes to be government interference with his business. This can be seen in his previous discussions about the sugar shortage and his trying to promote a different product to the people of Logan County. Substitutes were a way of life for many products during the WWII years.

Like other businesses, Cooksey used part of his ad space to discuss limiting credit accounts while also discussing meat substitutions. Cooksey stated that while many meats and lard are in short supply, his store does have other meats and materials that can be used as substitutes. He states that they have fish, lamb, and other products that people can receive. He also spoke about the limiting of credit accounts. While not everyone likes limitations, he had to implement the best policies for him and his store. He also expressed anger at the president and

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<sup>47</sup> Gaines, Cooksey, "Weekly Sales Ad," *The News-Democrat*, May 7, 1942, 7.

his policies of limiting profits and price ceilings.<sup>48</sup> Much of Cooksey's anger in his columns is aimed at the Office of Price Administration or the OPA. In his mind they were restricting prices too much and making it hard for small businesses to maintain profits and keep their doors open. According to Allan Winkler, people and businesses across the United States commonly complained about the OPA, but most people and businesses followed their instructions. Winkler also states that in the middle of 1943, prices had only risen less than two percent. This allowed for items to be consistent and fair to businesses and the public. Winkler believes that while people like Cooksey may not have liked the policies, the policies worked.<sup>49</sup>

Cooksey often used his space to announce to the public he believed to be important. One example is from November 1942. His announcements discussed rationing caused by the war and the change to the delivery schedule. For example, he provides information on coffee rationing and informed his customers that if they are concerned about running out of the product, he can always sell them coffee cereal. With the new gasoline rationing, Cooksey's will be limiting delivery to three times a day. The delivery times will be 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., and 4:00 P.M. daily.<sup>50</sup> The deliveries were limited because of the war effort and tire and gasoline usage restrictions. This caused people to change their habits. People would regularly call into his store and request items, which would be delivered inside Russellville in minutes. The war changed this policy and how people shopped, and the way Cooksey operated his business.

Between March and June 1945, it was reported multiple times that Kentucky had a meat shortage. After a few months without any comment, Cooksey unloaded on the OPA and the government in general in June 1945. He claims that bad governmental policies have created a

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<sup>48</sup> Gaines Cooksey, "Weekly Sales Ad," *The News-Democrat*, October 8, 1942, 7.

<sup>49</sup> Allan Winkler, *Home Front USA: America during World War II*, (Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson Inc., 2012), 46.

blackmark and are destroying farmers and small businesses with all the rationing and meat shortage. He also states that large stores and corporations will push small businesses out after the war. He states that if farmers could truly make money, plenty of hogs, cattle, chicken, and other animals are slaughtered to feed the public. The regulations controlling how many can be used for consumption and the prices make it so that farmers are losing money to kill the animals. In addition to this, grocery stores like him are not allowed to increase prices, so they are making pennies or barely breaking even. Cooksey said that when extra taxes are added, many operate in red. He places the blame for all the issues squarely at the feet of the War Food Administration Board. Cooksey states they have created panic and frustration, leading to the black market and the so-called shortages.<sup>51</sup> This is one man's opinion, but it should at least be considered. In Logan County after WWII, most small grocery stores closed, including Cooksey's when he died. Larger corporations replaced them. For example, Kroger opened a store in Russellville less than one block from Cooksey's store. Perhaps he was right that small businesses were being forced out and the corporations were taking over small-town USA.

There was opposition to the Office of Price Administration (OPA) throughout Kentucky by a sizable majority of businesses and the public, according to Richard Holl. Complaints about wage limits and maximum prices on goods existed across Kentucky. He also stated that Kentuckians regularly violated price controls through the black market. He also cited that some, like a businessman in Harlan County, openly sold a truck openly for over the price ceiling. He paid the fine and continued with his business. This is just one example of many that rebelled against the price controls.<sup>52</sup> In Daviess County, many retailers reported some of the same issues

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<sup>50</sup> Gaines Cooksey, "Weekly Sales Ad," *The News-Democrat*, November 26, 1942, 5.

<sup>51</sup> Gaines Cooksey, "Weekly Sales Ad," *The News-Democrat*, July 5, 1945, 2.

<sup>52</sup> Richard Holl, *Committed to Victory: The Kentucky Home Front during World War II*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2015), 113, 116-117.

and complaints as Cooksey. They faced shortages, price controls and voiced frustration about those issues. In Owensboro, businesses handled the war in a way that Cooksey would have likely supported. In September 1941, three months before the war began the retailers united into what they called "Retailers for Defense." They continued this organization throughout the war with support for each other. They devised delivery strategies and showed their support for the war. Sadly, this one source is the only one found that mentions this organization. The important concept behind this organization is that everyone must stick together to ensure that victory occurred for the United States. They attempted to place the benefit of victory over the displeasures of the singular person during the war.

They struggled with some of the issues Cooksey mentioned including shortages and profit issues. The difference is that they had a plan, which Cooksey would have supported. All the retailers in Owensboro but two threw away all Japanese products after Pearl Harbor. This symbolized their patriotism and complete devotion to the United States and the war effort. They had already decided to empty their shelves of German and Italian products months before.<sup>53</sup> These stores in Owensboro took the issues brought by the war in stride. The retailers in Russellville, like Cooksey did the same thing. He just used his platform to "fuss" while others did not. What needs to be known is whether the retailers in Russellville/Logan County throw out Axis products, especially Japanese ones. While it is very likely that they did throw away these products there is no documentation to support it. While Owensboro is a larger community than Russellville, the businesses, specifically retailers, faced similar issues. They struggled to operate with the restrictions of war, while also trying to serve the public and show their loyalty to the cause of victory.

In Franklin (nearby Simpson County) some stores reported issues like some of the issues and thoughts that Cooksey expressed. For example, in January 1943, Temple Food Market reported that they would soon be reopening after being closed for multiple days. They ran entirely out of products and had to wait until they could refill their shelves before reopening. The store also reported that they are considering a cash only policy and doing away with credit.<sup>54</sup> This is similar to Cooksey discussing item shortages and running out of products because of the lack of supply and the increased demand. Perhaps Cooksey was not just a "crazy old man" as he sometimes referred to himself. Maybe small communities and towns did face more shortages than larger cities. This makes sense because items not grown or created locally go to the larger stores and cities before small towns. Doing away with credit is very similar to Cooksey and other businesses. These decisions were made because people needed to pay their bill or take less time to pay, and with the limited profits according to Cooksey, eliminating or restricting credit would be necessary.

In January 1944, Red Front Cash and Carry Store in Franklin reported issues like Cooksey and Temple Food Market. While they report they have plenty of some items they are facing shortages and ask for the public's patience. In addition, the store has also converted to a cash only store. Most items they promoted were local products that did not affect ration points according to their ad.<sup>55</sup> These two examples and Allan Winkler's works provide insight into whether things were as bad as Cooksey stated. While it is easy to judge either way, one must be honest and realize that they were not in his position during the war years in Russellville. It is

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<sup>53</sup> James D. Cockrum, "Owensboro Goes to War," *Daviess County Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 2, No. 1, January 1984, 7.

<sup>54</sup> "Temple Food Market Ad," *The Franklin Favorite*, January 7, 1943, 5.

<sup>55</sup> "Red Front Cash and Carry Store," *The Franklin Favorite*, January 13, 1944, 8.

very possible, as the other sources prove he could be both wrong and right depending on the moment and the "crisis" he was facing.

Two new businesses/industries came to Russellville during the war related to the war. The arrival of these new industries laid the foundation for post-war industry in Logan County. WWII introduced the people of Logan to a new world, an industrial one that presented new opportunities. The Rendering Plant will start construction immediately on Concord Road. The purpose of the factory is to extract fat from dead animals. Some of the fat will be used for the war effort to make explosives used in bombs. Other aspects of the fat will assist in the manufacturing of soap. The plant in Russellville is similar on a plant in Spencer County. Since Logan County is an agricultural county with a great number of livestock, the plant can greatly help in terms of the war effort and in the disposing of farm animals. The factory will open just as soon as construction concluded.<sup>56</sup>

Logan County Manufacturing Company is the second industry to locate Russellville to bring war work. The company, also known as Red Kap Industries, has a valid war contract until the war ends. While a permanent facility was under construction, the company will open with 300 sewing machines, until then the factory will be located in the Murray Warehouse near downtown Russellville. Workers will produce war bags, and shirts and pants for the army. When the war ends, they will manufacture work uniform clothing.<sup>57</sup> Logan Manufacturing was greatly influenced by the sewing factory that the WPA operated during the Great Depression. The work of the people in Logan County proved that they had the skill for sewing and manufacturing clothes, arriving Logan Manufacturing an easy transition.

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<sup>56</sup> "Rendering Plant Construction to Begin at Once," *The News-Democrat*, August 19, 1943, 1.

<sup>57</sup> "Logan Manufacturing Co. is Now at Home in Russellville," *The News-Democrat*, August 26, 1943, 1.



In July 1944, Logan Manufacturing was ready to open its doors. According to company representatives, the factory will make garments next week. They will start making uniforms for the war, and when it is over, they will sew pants together. The other news is the homemakers in the county are considering a scrap material drive for the war effort.<sup>58</sup> The local paper ran a special edition celebrating the opening of the Logan Manufacturing Company. The factory currently employs 100 people and cost about \$40,000 to open. In the edition, numerous companies ran ads welcoming the new company to Russellville. The paper's most important piece of news is the two full-page lists of soldiers from Logan County that are in the service. The Logan County Fiscal Court paid for this list, space, and the list of the Honor Roll names.<sup>59</sup>

A few months later there was another report about Logan Manufacturing. They received another war contract. This contract is with the chemical Warfare service. While some materials are already on site, more will follow in the coming weeks. The company expects that within 30 days, about 250 employees will be working on the contracted work.<sup>60</sup> These reports prove that the company's arrival was very important to the people of Russellville, while also performing important work for the war effort. These facts made the company a value asset and opportunity for real industrial work for the people in the county.

### **Local Government and the War**

Before WWII, the local governments were the most important government for the people of Logan. From 1860-1940, the people of Logan tended to be very anti-government concerning the federal government. People did not like being forced to accept changes like the Thirteenth Amendment and other changes during the period. WWII will change these attitudes for many,

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<sup>58</sup> "Factory to Open," *The News-Democrat*, July 13, 1944, 1.

<sup>59</sup> Special Edition of *The News-Democrat*, July 1944.

but since the local government was so important a discussion of their activities during the 1941-1945 period is needed. For this project the two sources for local government information. First, are the records of the Logan County Fiscal Court, which is the governing body for the entire county. Second, are the records for the Russellville City Council. Russellville is the largest city and serves as the county seat. While there are three other cities, Auburn, Adairville, and Lewisburg, none have any records that date back to WWII. This is because the records were either lost or destroyed. No one knows how the records were lost or destroyed outside the Adairville city hall fire. In many ways, the United States was prepared for the government actions of WWII because of the policies of the New Deal.<sup>61</sup> Logan County is a prime example because of the local projects of the WPA and the CCC. In fact, during the early years of WWII, these programs continued to operate in Logan County, as mentioned later. These programs set the stage for government interaction with the people and policies during the war. Thus, the information discussed is foundational to understanding the change of attitudes on the federal government. Simply stated, it is difficult to hate the government if you rely on the government for a job, which was the case for many during WWII as they sought war work.

The papers of Virginia Mae Lloyd provide some insight into the statement above. She was born in the late 1800s in Adairville and was a person that believed that the federal government was the enemy. She wrote about her family losing property (slaves); in her mind, many former slaves did not wish to be free. She wrote that the government in Washington could not be trusted because they did not care about the lives of the common people. She testified that the only government that could be trusted was the local governments because those people were her friends and understood the plight of the common person. Her attitudes change in her later

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<sup>60</sup> "Logan Manufacturing Co. Has new Contract with Army," *The News-Democrat*, October 12, 1944, 1.

writings, which coincide with the WWII Era. She spoke of a great love for FDR and that he was the first president in her life to truly care about people. His ability to communicate with the public in what she considered him to be open and honest made him different than all others. She spoke about how he helped families during the Great Depression and how he pulled the nation out of a “slump” while also “kicking the backsides of the Japs.”<sup>62</sup>

The comments of Ms. Lloyd prove that some people in Logan County still hated people during the pre-WWII Era. These attitudes changed with FDR, but the local governments were trusted more by the local people because they knew these people and viewed them as friends. The local government aspect and interactions with WWII are so important because in Kentucky, people have more interactions with local governments than the state or federal government. For the people of Kentucky, these governments are the most important because they impact their lives daily. The Logan County Fiscal Court (county government) said nothing about the war during the first few months of the conflict during the monthly meetings. In fact, there was only one mention of anything related to WWII in the course minutes. The official orders of the court did provide some information on the war starting with the March 3, 1942, meeting. Roy Shoemaker motioned that the county remove \$20,000 from the Sinking Road fund and the Bridge Bonds Bank Account to purchase U.S. Defense Bonds. When the bonds are purchased, they will be placed in a lock box in a bank in Logan County issued to the Logan County Fiscal Court. Al Coleman seconded this. During the same court meeting, they also recommended an agreement be worked out between the Logan County School Board and the Work Progress Administration (WPA) garden project in Logan County.<sup>63</sup> While there is no mention of the war,

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<sup>61</sup> Klotter, 356.

<sup>62</sup> The Personal Papers of Virginia Mae Lloyd, The Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

<sup>63</sup> Logan County Fiscal Court Orders March 3, 1942, Logan County Clerk's Office, Russellville, Kentucky.

this was when victory gardens were being promoted in the newspapers and all forms of Government propaganda. While not mentioned anywhere, it can be safely assumed that the purpose of this order was to use the garden as a victory garden.

A couple of months passed without any mention of the war or anything that could be related to the war or the home front. The minutes and orders show throughout the war that the county continued to operate normally. Then in May 1942, the court voted to purchase an American Flag from the American Legion for \$5.00 and that the flag is to be raised daily in a conspicuous place at the courthouse.<sup>64</sup> While not stated this was a patriotic action intended to provide symbolic support for the nation at war. This small action was prevalent around the United States during the period as people sought ways to show their patriotism and support for soldiers at war. Another example of simple patriotism happened a couple of months later when the county paid \$150.00 to the Boy Scouts of America. While this is not directly related to the war effort, the scouts were heavily involved in promoting patriotism and were also involved in multiple drives in Logan County.<sup>65</sup>

The last action of 1942 related to the war effort occurred on October 6, 1942. According to the orders, Al Coleman motioned that \$300.00 should be paid to Captain E. J. Felts of the Kentucky Active Militia. This amount is to be refunded when the organization collects enough funds.<sup>66</sup> After reviewing the court's actions during the first year of the war, there is a shock that Judge Executive Homer Dorris and the court did not issue any days of prayer, nor did the minutes or orders mention tire rationing, the draft, or any other actions related to the war.

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<sup>64</sup> Logan County Fiscal Court Orders May 12, 1942, Logan County Clerk's Office, Russellville, Kentucky.

<sup>65</sup> Logan County Fiscal Court Orders July 7, 1942, Logan County Clerk's Office, Russellville, Kentucky.

<sup>66</sup> Logan County Fiscal Court Orders October 6, 1942, Logan County Clerk's Office, Russellville, Kentucky.

Without these few orders, it was business as usual, and one would not know that a war was occurring without a detailed review of these documents.

As previously mentioned, there was only one reference in the Logan County Court Minutes about the war. On January 5, 1943, the court minutes referred to a Victory Tax.<sup>67</sup> The minutes said nothing else other than this new tax would be implemented. In the court orders, a motion made by Paul Young that the County Clerk take 5% tax from each salaried employee of Logan County. This action would place the county in compliance with the Victory Tax Law (5% for victory). The clerk will report it to the treasurer each quarter, who will then send it to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).<sup>68</sup> This tax increase would help to fund the war effort and was referred to as the Victory Tax, because it was needed to ensure victory for the United States and the allies. It was reported on April 6, 1943, that \$71.60 was collected for the Victory Tax and was paid to the proper government office. During the same court meeting Al Coleman made the motion that Southern Deposit Bank of Russellville be granted permission to take down certain bonds deposited in the American National Bank of Nashville under escrow agreement with Logan County and substitute therefore a like amount of \$20,000.00 in US Treasury Bonds 2.5% of 1967-1972. Then B.H. James motioned that the county removes \$10,000 from the Sinking Road fund and the Bridge Bonds Bank Account to purchase U.S. Defense Bonds. When the bonds are purchased, they will be placed in a lock box in a bank in Logan County and issued to the Logan County Fiscal Court. T. B. Wilson seconded this.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Logan County Fiscal Court Minutes January 5, 1943, Logan County Clerk's Office, Russellville, Kentucky.

<sup>68</sup> Logan County Fiscal Court Orders January 5, 1943, Logan County Clerk's Office, Russellville, Kentucky.

<sup>69</sup> Logan County Fiscal Court Orders April 6, 1943, Logan County Clerk's Office, Russellville, Kentucky.

The last war order for 1943 occurred on May 4. During this Logan County Fiscal Court meeting, Roy Shoemaker motioned to erect a "Logan County Honor Roll" on the courthouse lawn to bear the names of all Logan Countians in the armed services. This monument or marker would be built, painted, and maintained throughout the war.<sup>70</sup> For the rest of 1943, nothing was mentioned about the war in the records of the county government. The court passed a budget, paid debts, and discussed school and other regular county business issues. The war would not be mentioned until ten months later.

During March 7, 1944, the county passed a resolution requesting that a veteran's hospital be built in one of the following counties: Allen, Barren, Cumberland, Metcalf, Monroe, Simpson, Warren, Butler, Todd, Muhlenberg, or Logan County. This is because after WWI, veterans in the area did not get the care they needed and deserved. The nearest Veterans Hospital is in Memphis, Tennessee. Since this area would be home to roughly 75,000 veterans of WWII, they needed to make sure these soldiers were adequately cared for, and again, Memphis is too far away for these men to receive the proper care they needed. The resolution noted problems WWI soldiers had after the conflict and how difficult it was for them to receive medical care.<sup>71</sup> This plea from the county government was a proactive one. It also provides insight into the minds of the justices in the county, and how they feared for the health, welfare, and care of veterans returning from WWII.

The last order of 1944 occurred on August 1, when Paul Young motioned that \$50.00 be paid to Judge Executive Homer Dorris and the justices/magistrates attending the State County Officials meeting in Lexington help with their travel expenses. This meeting would take place from August 16-18. The conference or meeting was the regularly scheduled meeting of State

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<sup>70</sup> Logan County Fiscal Court Orders May 4, 1943, Logan County Clerk's Office, Russellville, Kentucky.

County Officials. However, this year they placed special emphasis and were to receive information on how the post-war period would affect county governments. The county paid \$200.00 to the Boy Scouts of America. As mentioned earlier, while this is not directly related to the war effort, the scouts were heavily involved in promoting patriotism. They were also involved in multiple drives in Logan County.<sup>72</sup>

The first and only mention of anything related to WWII in 1945, occurred on May 1. During this court meeting, Al Coleman proposed that the county remove \$10,000 from the Sinking Road fund and the Bridge Bonds Bank Account to purchase U.S. Defense Bonds. When the bonds are purchased, they will be placed in a lock box in a bank in Logan County issued to the Logan County Fiscal Court. This action was consistent with previous actions of the court.<sup>73</sup> Court records do not mention the end of the war in Europe during the June 1945 meeting, nor was anything mentioned at the September 1945 meeting, which was the first meeting after the Surrender of Japan. Throughout the entire war years of 1941-1945, it can be said for the Logan County Fiscal Court that it was business as usual. The government records end 1941 and start 1942 discussing the fire at Chandlers School. Throughout the war years, the court paid bills, passed budgets, collected taxes, and completed a great amount of road work. Road work in the county was the number one discussed topic in the minutes and the orders of the Logan County Fiscal Court in the years 1941-1945.

For the first few months of 1942, the Russellville City Council completed all the ordinary tasks. They paid bills, passed resolutions, and did the normal tasks of the council. At their April 14, 1942, meeting, something different happened. While this event was not directly related to the

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<sup>71</sup> Logan County Fiscal Court Orders March 7, 1944, Logan County Clerk's Office, Russellville, Kentucky.

<sup>72</sup> Logan County Fiscal Court Orders August 1, 1944, Logan County Clerk's Office, Russellville, Kentucky.

war, it is believed the war helped to speed up the process. The council passed the ordinance to create an Electric service for the city that will come to be known as the Electric Plant Board. The purpose of this board and utility provider is to save the residents of Russellville money on power. The city has long wanted to create this establishment, but the time was never right. With the United States being brought into WWII, now is the time for the city and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to act.<sup>74</sup>

The first direct mention of WWII, and action by the city council occurred at the August 4, 1942, meeting. The council passed an ordinance that gave the city power to enforce blackouts, use of lights at night, and the operation of public and private places within the city in the case of recommendations or orders for the Army or Navy. This allows for the city to be shutdown or possibly evacuated if there is the threat of an attack by the Axis powers. The city can also close streets, sidewalks, or make other orders if needed. The ordinance also gives the city the authority to appoint special police and re-enforces the city's authority to protect the citizens of Russellville. Any person who violates the ordinance in the case of emergency will be found guilty of a misdemeanor and can be fined \$200.00 and face a prison sentence or both.<sup>75</sup>

On April 6, 1943, the Russellville City Council authorized the American Legion to contract a carnival during the spring of this year. The city will not charge the standard license fee. The event will be free to the city, as the legion will take on all financial costs. The profits from the carnival will be divided between the American Legion and the local USO. The legion will receive 2/3 and the USO will receive 1/3 of the monies. The carnival will be conducted legally and will raise money for veterans through the legion and the current war effort through

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<sup>73</sup> Logan County Fiscal Court Orders May 1, 1945, Logan County Clerk's Office, Russellville, Kentucky.

<sup>74</sup> Russellville City Council Minutes, April 14, 1942, Russellville City Hall, Russellville KY.

<sup>75</sup> Russellville City Council Minutes, August 4, 1942, Russellville City Hall, Russellville, KY.



the USO. During the same meeting, the council authorized a payment of \$50.00 to the Boy Scouts of America. At this point, the boy scouts are heavily involved in war drives.<sup>76</sup>

The city passed an ordinance prohibiting the shooting or firing of any air rifles, BB guns, blow rifles, pump guns, or slingshots within the city limits of Russellville. No explanation is provided for why the city enacted this ordinance, which appears to be aimed at minors because no regular firearms are listed. The ordinance states that any adult violating the ordinance or in the control of a minor violating the ordinance will face punishment by law with a fine of no less than \$5.00 and not greater than \$50.00. The ordinance states that the weapons mentioned cannot be used in the streets, private residents, or property.<sup>77</sup>

In the May 25, 1944, edition of the local paper, a resolution is printed Mayor George L. Biggs. It states that whenever the D-Day invasion of Europe begins, whether day or night, the city's fire alarm will ring for 30 minutes. At the end of that period and the alarm stops, all people are requested to go to various churches for an hour of prayer and thanksgiving for the invasion and the end of the war with Germany. All businesses and companies close for the hour, and all visitors in Russellville are invited to participate in the proceedings.<sup>78</sup>

On June 6, 1944, the Russellville City Council bought war bonds. The council authorized \$7,400 from the Water Works Sinking Fund to buy war bonds. They also invested another \$2,600, from an unnamed account to buy war bonds. The two total to be \$10,000 total in war bonds. The motion passed without objection.<sup>79</sup> This was the first record of the purchase of war bonds by the city. Most of the information about bonds in 1942 and 1943 deals with creating the

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<sup>76</sup> Russellville City Council Minutes, April 6, 1943, Russellville City Hall, Russellville, KY.

<sup>77</sup> Russellville City Council Minutes, April 4, 1944, Russellville City Hall, Russellville, KY.

<sup>78</sup> "D-Day Proclamation," *The News-Democrat*, May 25, 1944, 1.

<sup>79</sup> Russellville City Council Minutes, June 6, 1944, Russellville City Hall, Russellville, KY.

Electric Plant Board and the Fifth Street Renovation project. There are dozens and dozens of pages about those two, but this moment is the first thing I have about war bonds. The city records could be in better order. Pages appear to be missing and pages need to be in order, which makes reading materials rather difficult.

While the news of the D-Day invasion reached the citizens of Logan, people were urged to buy war bonds. People are urged to buy more bonds faster than before, since the soldiers are fighting harder than ever before. Mayor George L. Briggs of Russellville issued another proclamation dated June 7, 1944, stating that Monday June 12, 1944, from 2:30 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. be set aside for buying War bonds. Briggs stated that in this moment the people of Russellville need to answer their call, just as the American military has. All other operations are supposed to stop during that time so everyone can buy bonds and show their support for the war effort.<sup>80</sup>

A resolution passed by the city states that whenever the victory over Germany is announced, whether day or night, the city's fire alarm will ring for 30 minutes. At the end of that period and the alarm stops, all people are requested to go to various churches for an hour of prayer and thanksgiving for an early end to the war with Japan. All businesses and companies close for the hour, and all visitors in Russellville are invited to participate in the proceedings. In addition, the resolution actions will be added to any planned and unplanned celebrations that will take place. The resolution is signed by Mayor George L. Briggs and passed without objection. This resolution is virtually the same as previously discussed for the D-Day invasion.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> George L. Briggs, "Proclamation," *The News-Democrat*, June 11, 1944, 1.

<sup>81</sup> Russellville City Council Minutes, September 5, 1944, Russellville City Hall, Russellville, KY.

Reading through the city of Russellville's records it makes it hard to know that the largest war in history was occurring. They met when they were scheduled. They paid monthly bills and debts like clockwork. They passed budgets and operated like nothing was going on for the most part. The records are full of ordinary actions such as establishing employee pay, paying expenses, approving minutes. Apart from the few events and ordinances noted, the council did not mention the war. Even with the resolution to celebrate thanksgiving after the defeat of Germany, nothing was said or noted during their May 1945 meetings.

From an analysis or just a reading on the local government activities and involvement with WWII, one can see that very little changed. Bills were paid, the people were governed, and life continued normally. Outside the first few months of the war, there was no real fear in the county, or the state being attacked. Life did not change that much for the people of Logan County or Kentucky. Things were business as usual.<sup>82</sup> The actions can see this of the local governments. They barely discussed the war on the record. In private discussion, it was more, but none of that discussion was documented.

### **Changes brought by WWII**

No single event alone during the war created change, but the entirety of the war experiences. Subjects such as rationing and bond drives during WWII expanded the influence and importance of the federal government. The people of Logan County have been fighting this influence since the Civil War as outlined in chapter two. The expansion of the federal government kicked off during the Great Depression, and programs such as the WPA and the CCC allowed for the people to encounter the government. This relationship expanded during the war, and when WWII ended, the federal government dominated not just national affairs, but also

state and local affairs. The long discussion about states' rights ended during WWII as related to the Civil War era.

The papers of Virginia Mae Lloyd confirmed many of these same thoughts as did Richard Holl. Holl stated that it was only the massive unemployment of the Great Depression and the government expansion of the New Deal, which expanded even more during WWII that brought about changes in how many people felt about the federal government. Roosevelt was able to consolidate the New Deal into the war effort and the expanded military section influenced lives because either directly or indirectly people were working for the government (indirectly through war contracts). This expansion of economic influence of WWII was much larger than the New Deal, and Holl stated that people did not miss the New Deal as it evaporated because of the war effort. For many, the concept of free market was a folly, and they needed to rely on the government and specifically FDR for their needs.<sup>83</sup>

Another change in Logan County was the decrease in small businesses and the rise of larger corporations after the war. For example, Cooksey's store closed when he passed away. Across the nation, small businesses started to close because they could not fulfill the demand that larger stores could. These changes occurred as roads were paved and more people bought cars so they could travel. They were no longer dependent on their local grocery store, drug store, and hardware store, among others. As Kirby discussed, these changes are regarded as the rise of the modern era. In addition, children did not stay on the family farms; they moved to cities for more opportunities.<sup>84</sup> WWII greatly assisted in these changes because people wanted more in life.

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<sup>82</sup> Klotter, 357.

<sup>83</sup> Holl, 108-109.

<sup>84</sup> Kirby, 121-123.

They wanted opportunities and to experience the world, and convenience became a priority in the years after the war.

This change can also be seen with the death of FDR in 1945. Everyone interviewed, including Evelyn Richardson and Mary Lucy Franklin, stated that when FDR's death was announced grown men wept. They felt like their closest ally was gone, and they were concerned for the future, not just of the war, but of the nation. As with the papers of Ms. Lloyd, it would be hard to consider the people mourning any other president before in the same way. If nothing else, FDR himself bridged the gap between the American people and the federal government more in his time in office than any other in their lives. He used his ability to communicate and his fireside chats to become a member of the family, not a politician in Washington.

Some of the existing industries before WWII experienced expansion shortly after the war. Edward Coffman stated that this occurred because the people of Logan proved to be hard workers eager for industrial opportunity. Caldwell Leather in Auburn expanded its operations and started to produce laces for baseball gloves, shoes, boots, and various other leather products. The Auburn Hosiery Mill also expanded. In 1946 a second plant was built in Adairville, in the southern part of the county. In the early 1960s, each factory employed about one hundred and fifty people. In 1952, Auburn Electric Motor Repair opened in Auburn and employed a few dozen people. In addition to motor repair, they also sold electric motors to the public. Logan Manufacturing in Russellville opened because of WWII. The company continued to expand during and after the war. The plant ran two shifts and employed about five hundred people in 1946.<sup>85</sup> Unfortunately, each of the factories discussed are no longer in operation, and their records are unavailable or lost, especially records dating back to the post-WWII period. Once

people in Logan County could work industrial jobs, they proved there was a demand for them. Life changed during and after the war.

Other businesses and industrial forms also opened in the county during the post-war period. The Russellville Dental Lab opened in 1956. They specialized in the construction of false teeth while also repairing existing dentures. Smith and Douglas Fertilizer opened in Russellville in 1949, followed by Southern States in 1959. Each company expanded on the need for fertilizer for Logan County farmers. Adairville in the southern part of the county also experienced growth with the opening of a second Auburn Hosiery Mill there in 1946 and also Odom Sausage Company in 1964. In the northern portion of the county, Lewisburg also experienced growth with the Lewisburg Roller mills Company providing feed for farm animals in 1944, while Red Cap opened a second factory there in 1972, along with a community grocery and drug store.<sup>86</sup>

The arrival of new industry took time and effort. The latter part of the 1950s is when most of the industry arrived. There are two reasons for this. First is road construction and improvement. Federal roads, including US 68, 79, and 431, were improved during this time. This improved traffic to Bowling Green, Hopkinsville, Clarksville, and Nashville. Infrastructure is always a source of economic development. Secondly was the impact of WWII. The war caused society to be more and more mechanical, which meant more and more factories were needed to produce cars, trucks, tractors, appliances, and numerous other items. Those factories took a few years to come to more rural places like Logan County.<sup>87</sup> Following WWII, three main factories opened between 1945-1961. Numerous others followed. The arrival of industry was like dominos once one arrived and proved to be successful more followed.

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<sup>85</sup>Edward Coffman, *The Story of Logan County*, (Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1962), 258

<sup>86</sup> Logan County Industry Files. The Logan County Public Library, Russellville, KY.

<sup>87</sup> Evelyn Richardson, interviewed by author, Russellville, KY. May 16, 2022.

In the years after the war, many people in Logan were looking to bolster the economy and to provide more opportunities for people. They pointed back to people's work ethic during the war, and that the war brought industry to the county for support. In addition, they pointed to people who left for war work and returned after the war. This is supported by the creation of the Industrial Development Committee right after WWII concluded. This office was connected to the Chamber of Commerce and was tasked with the authority to recruit industry and new businesses to Logan County. The Chamber realized that WWII brought some industry to the community, and if the community was to continue to grow more opportunities were needed.<sup>88</sup> This is a prime example of how WWII affected industry and brought change to the people of Logan.

One of the first new industries in Logan County would be Rockwell Manufacturing Company. They opened their doors in 1956, employing more than 250 people. The factory conducted aluminum diecasting work and is regarded as Russellville's first major industrial operation. In early 1963 the company expanded again and invested more money into the economy, just a few years after opening. This action is attributed to the dedicated workers in Logan County, and their desire for success. The company expanded again in 1971. The corporation was also very involved in the community, helping to build a theater and various other civic projects in the city.<sup>89</sup> The factory was built on Hopkinsville Road, which echoed the importance of road construction.

The second factory that opened was Bilt Rite Products. Bilt Rite opened in 1957, one year after Rockwell. The arrival of Bilt Rite is attributed to the success of Bob Guion's Venetian

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<sup>88</sup> "Industrial Comm. Meeting of KY C of C," *The News-Democrat*, August 12, 1948, 1.

<sup>89</sup> Edward Coffman Jr., *Through My Father's Eyes: The Story of Logan County*, (Russellville, KY: Published by Author, 2004), 295.315.

Blind Company, which opened in 1947. The new company Bilt Rite specializes in wire. Most of the wire manufactured there was for farm usage. Wire usage includes pens for animals, including chickens, goats, and larger animal holdings. The factory employed over one hundred workers in the first year of operation. The factory was constructed on Clarksville Road, which allowed it to be in prime location for transporting materials in and out of the facility.<sup>90</sup>

The third factory that arrived in Russellville was Emerson Electric Manufacturing Company, which opened in 1961. Within two years of being open, it became the largest employer in the county at that time. The factory was built down from Rockwell on Hopkinsville Road, a short distance from Bilt Rite. The factory produced electric motors for compressors for refrigeration and air conditioning units. With numerous expansions, the company expanded to about 1100 employees in 1970. Like Rockwell, the company was very involved in local activities, supporting the business community and the public. Each of the three companies helped to fund academics, sports, the arts, and the Chamber of Commerce.<sup>91</sup>

In many ways, the companies discussed provided economic opportunities for the public while also assisting the community in various ways, while also providing evidence that industry truly came to Logan County in the years after WWII. These companies were also models for other industries that came to the county in the 1970s and 1980s. As mentioned earlier, the arrival of the companies occurred because of the economic demands and changes brought to the county by WWII. Changes did not occur overnight and were greatly assisted with road construction and repair, but everything goes back to WWII. Before the war there were only a handful of industries. After the war things changed. The demand for jobs existed, and the people of Logan proved to be valuable employees.

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<sup>90</sup> Coffman, 258.



In addition to new industries, new stores and businesses also opened during this period. New grocery stores like Kroger opened as did the first Houchens Grocery store in 1946. Chains like Houchens provided more goods and services than stores like those owned by Gaines Cooksey. In 1942, Kuhn's Variety Store opened in downtown Russellville. As the name suggests the store offered a wide variety of materials, including clothes, toys, and household items. In 1951, Wright Department Store opened on Main Street. The store was billed as an economy store, which allowed customers the best bargains for their money. These stores assisted in the change from family-owned stores to the arrival of larger corporations. Many of the stores in and around Russellville would leave either because of disasters like Fire (The Henry B. Department Store) or because they could not keep up with the variety stores. These stores operated during a key period in Russellville's history. They assisted in the end of family-owned stores and the rise of corporations. In 1977 Big K opened in Russellville and would later be bought out by Walmart.<sup>92</sup>

In these post-war years, stores that offered more items and variety became the norm in Russellville, both food-related stores and department stores. For the community of Russellville, WWII was the event that brought on this change. As people moved to subdivisions, stores started to slowly move away from downtown, which changed the town and the economic influencers in the community. While the arrival of the new businesses was important to the community and they helped change the community, the new factories and industry changed the county more than anything.

In March 1966, the economic impact of industry was revealed. It was reported that 435 new factory jobs were created in 1965 in Logan County. These jobs were created because of

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, <sup>91</sup> Coffman Jr., 297-298.

expansions and new opportunities for industry. The county's total number of industry jobs jumped to an all-time high of 2600. The economic growth of industry assisted in local deposits increasing \$3 million in 1965. By the end of 1965, local bank deposits reached \$23 million total, with assets over \$26 million. According to the local banks much of this money can be attributed to the increase in manufacturing jobs across the county. These jobs have added a great amount of wealth to the county, and the money is being used to buy and build homes, appliances, cars, and various other goods and services, which boasted the county's economic health.<sup>93</sup>

The arrival of the industries discussed laid the foundation for many others. ITW and Carpenter's Company were the next to follow, and then in the early 1980s, Logan Aluminum became the largest employer in the county. WWII created the atmosphere for this change. The county transitioned from being fully dependent on agriculture to becoming much more economically dependent on industry, even though agriculture is still important. More proof to support this claim can be found in 1966. In this year, discussions began because of the need to create a county vocational or trade school. The school opened as the Russellville Trade and Vocational School in 1967. The purpose of the school was to help train students for industrial jobs in the county, while also providing training opportunities for the local factories.<sup>94</sup> The creation of this school is evidence that the county transitioned to reliance on industry and a commitment to industry. WWII brought these changes to Logan County, thus changing life for the people of Logan.

While industry came to Logan County because of WWII, there were also changes to the business and operations of farms. Before the war, many crops were planted by hand, animals

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<sup>92</sup> Business and Industry History Files, Logan County Public Library, Russellville, KY.

<sup>93</sup> Industry History Files, Logan County Public Library, Russellville, KY.

<sup>94</sup> Coffman Jr., 429-30.

pulled machines, and the amount of machinery like tractors was not common because of the cost. Many farms used a combination of machines, animals, and labor to work the fields. Another common fact that helped to increase machinery in farming is the destruction of great amounts of land, especially in Europe because of the war. World War II left millions displaced by the war, and hungry. Farms across the United States needed to increase their production over the war years to ensure enough food for the nation and millions of people outside the United States. Programs such as the Marshal Plan and others sent food, supplies, and various other products to the war-torn areas of Europe and Asia.

The changes to farming are documented by USDA data supporting the preceding statements. While the number of farmers in Logan County increased from 2,899 in 1944 to 3,052 in 1949. This increase was only temporary and can be attributed to soldiers returning from the war. Many soldiers returned to what they knew. They knew how to work on farms and to plant crops, but this increase was only temporary. The real evidence is that the number of farmers in Logan County dropped to 2,524 in 1954 and 2,308 in 1959. This data shows that people were leaving the farms after the war to enter the industrial jobs, as mentioned earlier. The average size of farms states about the same from 1939 through 1959. In addition to this, as pointed out by Axton, farmers changed some of the crops they were growing. Farmers decreased dark tobacco production and grew burley because of the cigarette demand.<sup>95</sup> Burley because the cash crop for Logan County and much of Kentucky in the years after the war.

In addition to the number of farmers decreasing, the machinery increased. Many before WWII planted tobacco using pegs and human labor. Very few people owned mechanical “sitters.” During and after the war, the demand for products increased, as did the demand for

tractors, combines, planters, and other heavy farm machinery. While data is sketchy on how many people purchased these items, one form of evidence from the USDA is the amount of petroleum products purchased annually. These products include oil, diesel, gasoline, and other lubricates. All of these are needed to operate heavy machinery for production. In 1939 \$47,887 was spent on these products. No data exists in 1944, because of the war and the rationing, but in 1949 the number jumped to \$452,499. In 1954 It increased to \$472,005, and in 1959 the purchases of petroleum products by farmers increased to \$586,200. These numbers represent a major increase in the use of machinery in farming during the 1939-1959 period.<sup>96</sup> Trucks, tractors, combines, planters, and numerous other equipment demanded increased petroleum. More equipment meant more could be planted and then harvested. All these changes are related to the impact of WWII on agriculture.

While industry changed the county after WWII, tobacco still dominated the county in terms of agriculture. The Tobacco Festival, which was canceled by WWII in 1943, started again in 1957. The event restarted because in 1956 the tobacco industry in Logan County was a \$5 billion industry. The event was moved from mid-November to October. The festival's purpose was to celebrate Logan's great cash crop, but by the end of the 1950s the festival was being used to showcase Logan County as a whole. Politicians used the event as a way to communicate with the voters, and celebrities like Miss Kentucky became common as did "Little Johnny" Phillip Morris. The increase of tobacco sales were assisted by the need for burley for cigarettes during WWII and the years that followed. Businesses and companies used the event to celebrate the

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<sup>95</sup> Axton, Epilogue.

<sup>96</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, "Logan County Agricultural Statistics 1909-2017," Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

community while the event also became a major economic event with thousands of people flocking to Russellville including many outside the county.<sup>97</sup>

These changes in terms of industry and business were not just Logan County events. Taylor Jaworski writes that after the creation of the arsenal of democracy for WWII, the United States turned much of the South into industrial centers for the first time. During the war the South accounted for 32.6% of the total investment from the federal government for economic growth for military needs. This growth provided the foundation for the post-war industrial economic boom, and the South was a beneficiary of military investment during and after the war. Jaworski also points out that before WWII the South lagged behind the rest of the nation in terms of economic and industrial might, but WWII changed this for many areas in the South including Logan County, and the investments of capital were beneficial to the growth in the post WWII Era.<sup>98</sup>

As highlighted in this chapter, the people of Logan County still lived lives very similar to those from the mid-1800s. The anger towards the federal government still existed, but it was through the government actions of the New Deal and WWII that those attitudes changed. The president went from being a potential threat to the people, to FDR becoming part of people's families through his fireside chats. The anti-federal government attitudes changed, and the WWII years are the chief catalyst for this change. Farmers sought labor of POWs to account for the shortage of equipment. They used more animals and grew different crops including burley tobacco to meet demands, while also increasing food production. After the war, more farmers bought equipment like tractors, and some left their farms for opportunities in education or

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<sup>97</sup> The Tobacco Festival History Files, Logan County Public Library, Russellville, KY.

<sup>98</sup> Taylor Jaworski, "World War II and the Industrialization of the American South," *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 77, No. 4, December 2017.

business. During the war smalltown businesses dominated the downtown area, after the war corporations such as grocery stores started to remove these small establishments from existence. Before the war people had little opportunities for industry, but through the needs of the war, more factories and industries came to the county and established a new working class in the years that followed WWII.

In conclusion, farmers, businesses, and governments all faced issues related to WWII. Some of the issues such as the ones that Gaines Cooksey experienced were based more on perception than reality. The war touched every aspect of society. People tried to cope and continue life as normally as possible as outlined in the actions of the local governments. People did their best to live life, support the war, provide for their families, and to find happiness during this dark time across the United States including Logan County. They sought to follow the rules and guidelines to show their patriotism. Once the fear of attack left people, many acted as if the war was just an event on the other side of the globe. In this way the people of Logan and the United States experienced the war very differently than those in Europe, north Africa, and much of the Pacific. It was also through these experiences that changes came to the county. Industry arrived. People changed their viewpoints on the federal government as programs grew during the New Deal and WWII. The four years of WWII created more change in these areas than the previous seventy-five years.

## **Chapter Four: The Impact of the War: Civilians, Patriotism, War Drives, and War Work**

As mentioned in the previous chapter, the war that had the greatest impact on the people of Logan County was the American Civil War, but this changed when the Japanese attacked the United States, thus bringing the nation and the people of Logan into the war. This chapter continues the discussion related to the impact of the war on the home front, laying the foundation for change after the war in Logan County. While the previous chapter focused on farming, businesses, and local government, this chapter aims to discuss and analyze how the war impacted civilians more broadly. This chapter focuses on rationing and events related to the war, including bond drives, scrap drives, acts of patriotism, and civilians' opportunities for war work. The thesis of this chapter is that through the impact of WWII in these areas, changes occurred in the county, including a more favorable opinion of the federal government, and general life changes such as the availability of electricity to the entire county and medical improvements. This chapter's key focus is how the war impacted civilians across the board? How did civilians find ways to show their patriotism? How supportive were the people in supporting the war-related drives? These topics and questions provide context and demonstrate issues from the war and how those issues became the instrument for change in the years after the war. The local newspaper *The News-Democrat*, letters, church records, and other sources are used to answer those questions and more. The last section of this chapter focuses on changes brought by the war's conclusion, thus confirming the importance of the content presented.

The key to this chapter, like chapter three, is the totality of the WWII experience which brings change after the war ended to the county. Many people left the county for war work because of the lack of industry in the county. It became difficult to be against the federal government during the war because there was a great amount of peer pressure to show ones

patriotism. Once flags were posted in a neighbor's yard they spread quickly up and down the street, a people wanted to show their support for the war and "the boys fighting overseas." This statement will be documented later in the chapter. Again, the information provided is supportive information on how WWII impacted people's lives, and it was the impact that brought change. It was neighborly to wave the flag. It was patriotic to find war work and support the war through various drives, whether scrap drives or bond drives. These actions of the people of Logan County, brought on by WWII helped to change the war and are the driving factor behind the content of this chapter.

The people of Logan County depended on agriculture before WWII. This carried over the anti-industry and anti-change movements after the American Civil War. The Great Depression offered opportunities for the people of Logan through some New Deal programs, namely the CCC and the WPA. When the war hit people went looking for opportunities. One such opportunity was the planned base outside of Clarksville is being rushed. The hope is that the camp will be open and operational by the middle of August 1942. Six hundred men from Russellville have signed on to work on the new military base. In addition to these workers, Russellville has listed one hundred homes for rent.<sup>1</sup> The work on Camp Campbell is only one example of people from Logan leaving the county for war work. While some may have been able to sleep in their beds because of the camp's proximity, other people followed war work. As previously discussed, before the WWII era, people in Logan were not fans of the federal government. They believed the government was overbearing, but this started to change with the Great Depression, which laid the foundation for WWII. It is difficult to be angry with the

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<sup>1</sup> "Work on nearby Camp is Rushed," *The News Democrat*, January 15, 1942, 1.



government if the government is funding your salary. Programs like the WPA, CCC, and other government-contracted work assisted to renew national patriotism.

Many companies and industries used editions of the paper to advertise war work. Some examples were posted in February 1942. One advertisement stated that the War Industries for Kentucky needs skilled machine and machine operators, with machine shop experience. The jobs are in Bowling Green, and there is not much information other than no age or physical barriers.<sup>2</sup> The other ad stated that there were seven aircraft workers for defense jobs. All men aged 18-45 that would travel and work in an intense factory setting are encouraged to apply. Applicants are informed to send their information to a P.O. Box in Bowling Green to be considered for the job.<sup>3</sup> No other information was provided, including the actual job's location. These opportunities intrigued many people from Logan. A. B. Wilhite reported that his father moved multiple times to find war work. He would move to a city and work until the job was completed and then move again to another location. Wilhite stated that his father was outside Logan County during most of the war.<sup>4</sup>

While there are no numbers to support that many people left the county for the war effort, it is known that people across the United States temporarily relocated for war work. Knox County Kentucky's population decreased by 30% between 1930-1950. Most of this decrease is credited to looking for work during the Depression and WWII.<sup>5</sup> Many men and women, especially young women looked for opportunities presented by the war. While some counties suffered significant population changes Logan County did not. This fact supports the idea that

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<sup>2</sup> "War Industries for Kentucky ad," *The News-Democrat*, February 19, 1942, 3.

<sup>3</sup> "7 Aircraft Workers for Defense Jobs," *The News-Democrat*, February 19, 1942, 5.

<sup>4</sup> A. B. Wilhite, interview conducted by author, March 25, 2022, Russellville, Kentucky.

<sup>5</sup> James C. Klotter and Craig Thompson Friend, *A New History of Kentucky* vol. 2, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2018), 357.

people only left for work and then returned. Some may have stayed away in new cities like Clarksville because of new opportunities and the idea of a better life. Others may have returned to be close to home and loved ones. Some of them may have brought ideas back to Logan based on their experiences and their desire for their home community to grow and change.

One massive hole in information for Logan County is the lack of information related to African Americans and WWII. The local paper rarely printed segregated news. Virtually all local sources ignored this group of people. Even the local library and archives with a great amount of information related to the war did not have any information about African Americans and how the war impacted them. The small blurbs in the paper that did mention African Americans (normally with a “Colored” headline) did not provide much information or detail. This is a massive hole in research that has not yet been filled.

Many women were also targeted for war work and traveled to do their part in supporting the nation. Many of the articles or advertisements state that because of the lack of manpower women needed to find work. An early example of new opportunities for women took place at Clarksville High School. Clarksville is about thirty miles from Russellville, so some women could work and travel back home every night or potentially every weekend. The school offered an aircraft course open to women aged 18-35.<sup>6</sup> Mary Elizabeth Vick was born in Logan County on February 11, 1920. Once WWII broke out, she decided to help serve in the war effort. Like others, she left Logan County to go to Bowling Green where she enrolled in a training course. The course was designed to help young people learn war production work. She was the only female in the entire class. In November 1942, Mary’s records show that she moved to Vandalia, Ohio to be a machinist for war work. One month later she moved to Dayton to continue the

work. She remained there for a few months before returning to Russellville, KY. After a couple of weeks in Russellville, she moved to Mobile, AL. to work in the shipyards on Mobile Bay. One of the jobs she did while there was as a welder.

While in Mobile her husband was transferred to the area. He was in the Navy, and they found an older couple that let them stay in their home for two months while he was in the Foley area. They paid \$5.00 per week along with half the grocery bill. They moved to Trenton, NJ. where her husband Edward Duff was transferred. While there she continued to find war work and wrote numerous letters to her mother. In one letter she spoke about her job and said she was finally becoming a good cook. Mary and her mother also wrote about rationing and the pains that it caused, even though they wanted to do their part to support the war effort. After the war, the family moved back to Logan County.<sup>7</sup> Many women did not want to return to domestic life when the war ended. They wanted to continue their careers. They wanted to get a college education. The women's experiences during the war drove those decisions, and thus are the foundation for societal changes.

Women across the nation were key to the success of the war. As noted, women from Logan and elsewhere traveled for war work to do their part. A good exam is Jeanette Rochon in Two Rivers, Wisconsin. She, along with other women worked long hours to produce aircraft shells made from aluminum. This is one of the thousands of examples of women that found war and produced an item much needed for the war effort.<sup>8</sup> American soldiers needed ammo, guns, and equipment to fight the war. The service of millions of women gave them these items. The service of women in factories, and offices, through the Red Cross, Military service, and others

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<sup>6</sup> "Various Page 1 Announcements," *The News-Democrat*, March 12, 1942, 1.

<sup>7</sup> The Papers of Mary Elizabeth Vick (Duff), possessed by Mary Duff-Lancaster, Russellville, KY.

assisted greatly in the United States becoming the arsenal for democracy and in the goal of winning the war.

Perhaps the groups impacted by the war the most were women and children. Children's lives changed because they were expected to do anything they could such as gathering scrap for the war effort. In certain areas, activities were limited or changed because of the war. Many of their mothers were forced to go to work, thus leaving them with babysitters or alone with their siblings. For numerous children, this turned their lives upside down.<sup>9</sup> The stories from children in Logan County are limited but it is reasonable to state that children everywhere were affected by the war. Another way the war affected children is through fear. Jim Lockhart's first memory of WWII was Pearl Harbor. He reported listening to the radio with his parents when the announcement came across the airwaves. His father told him to run and tell the neighbors that the United States has been attacked. He also stated that there was great fear in the area after Pearl Harbor. He can remember adults talking and worrying about what is next. Are we safe here? How long will the war last? What will Germany do? In the days and months to come, he stated that there was much speculation, worry, and fear. While Jim recalled a memory from long ago, it should not be discounted. The emotion of fear is extraordinarily strong, and hearing that the United States was attacked brought fear to him and thousands of other children. In addition, the reports on the war that they heard nightly could also bring fear, especially during 1942-1943 when the war was not going very well for the United States. While adults may have realized that an attack on Logan County was extremely unlikely, a child's mind could believe that anything was possible, including an attack.

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<sup>8</sup> Robert C. Daniels, *World War II in Mid-America: Experiences from Rural mid-America during the Second World War*, (Bloomington, IN: AurthorHouse, 2012), 53-54.

<sup>9</sup> Michella M. Marino, "Children, Conflict, and Community: Madison, Indiana, and Louisville, Kentucky, during World War II." *Ohio Valley History* 12, no. 1 (2012): 20-21.

Children have unique and powerful memories and understanding. Mary Lucy Franklin was a young child when WWII broke out. While she admits that her memories are sketchy, she states that one of her earliest memories is standing on the curb waving and cheering soldiers as they came by. She said it seems like soldiers were coming through Russellville every day, many on their way to Camp Campbell, or to cities like Clarksville to be transported to their next destination. She stated that her father helped build facilities in Clarksville, Dickson, and others. He worked at Red Kap here in Russellville, where they made clothing for the war effort, but they mostly produced industrial laundry uniform pants. She stated that she did not understand everything because she was a child. She just remembers not being able to go anywhere with the restrictions on travel due to the gasoline and tire rationing. But when they did go somewhere, her family almost always picked up hitchhikers, mostly soldiers. She said that while she was a child, it seemed like soldiers were everywhere in the area.<sup>10</sup>

Children's experiences are an important part of the discussion of the impact of the war as outlined by Michella M. Marino. Children encountered war propaganda which influenced their thinking and their fears. Many children were left alone in the care of older siblings because both mom and dad had to work for the war effort. This left them alone to defend themselves and their own needs. Everywhere they turned, they encountered the war, whether in comics or on the radio. Billboards, and a host of other ways. Each of these was designed to make them feel more patriotic while also pointing out the evils of the Axis Powers. This created hostile feelings towards these people, even if they were living in the same neighborhood. They encountered stress, abandonment, assisting with war efforts, and created a legacy of devotion to the United

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<sup>10</sup> Mary Lucy Franklin, interviewed by author, Russellville KY., March 28, 2022.

States.<sup>11</sup> For these reasons, the stories of children are important and must be discussed in terms of the impact of the war. Like adults, they felt and saw the war everywhere, even if they did not understand as much as the adults did.

Mary Lucy's story about soldiers coming through the town is supported by an article in the January 29, 1942, paper, it was reported that numerous trucks carrying troops passed through Russellville via Ninth Street and the train station. Hundreds of young men per day were coming through the small community, on their way to unknown destinations. According to the unknown author, the traffic of soldiers has impacted the people of Russellville and Logan County, in many ways by bringing the war close to home. People were encouraged to continue supporting the Red Cross and buying war bonds and stamps to support the war effort. In addition, many (no number provide) Logan County sons joined the armed forces daily.<sup>12</sup> The article was very short but powerful with a somber tone, and a sense of the gravity of the war situation.

One known incident occurred in Logan County concerning a soldier and a civilian. A soldier allegedly attacked a citizen of Russellville recently. Mrs. Charles Keith was on the route back to Russellville from Texas where she said goodbye to her husband in the service. The cab she was in picked up a soldier who said he was going toward Keith. They exited the cab because the road was too muddy on the road that led to her parents' home. The soldier offered to carry Keith's bags because of the muddy conditions of the road. After the two traveled about a mile of the two-mile road, the soldier suddenly assaulted Mrs. Keith. He blacked both her eyes, knocked out three teeth, and inflicted numerous cuts on her head. She struggled to get to her parents' house, where upon arrival her father immediately took her to a doctor for medical attention. She

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<sup>11</sup> Michella M. Marino, "Children, Conflict, and Community: Madison, Indiana, and Louisville, Kentucky, during World War II," *Ohio Valley History Quarterly*, Spring 2012.

<sup>12</sup> "Soldiers enroute," *The News-Democrat*. January 29, 1942, 12.

then swore out a warrant against the soldier, Alfred Sturup. Sturup was arrested at the home of Urey Carlisle, a resident of the same road as Mrs. Keith's parents. Sturup was at home calling on Carlisle's daughter. Sturup is from New York and is stationed at Camp Campbell, where he was on a three-day leave when the attack occurred. There is such anger in the county against the soldier, and there was fear that the crowd would become disorderly, but that did not happen.<sup>13</sup> There was never a follow-up to this story, and the criminal records from the period are incomplete and do not provide any information.

Neal Taylor lived in the Sycamore community in northern Logan County during WWII. He stated that the family had a car but could not use it most of the time because of the rationing of gasoline and rubber (tires). When they needed to go to Russellville for necessities, he would walk roughly a mile to Highway 105 (now Kentucky 79) to catch a bus. One of his lasting memories was of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Station in Russellville where many soldiers were coming and going. The family did not have electricity because they lived roughly ten miles out of town. The family had a radio, but could not afford batteries most of the time, so they could not listen to the news very often.<sup>14</sup>

The histories of the two churches confirm Taylor's information about the northern part of the county being without electricity. Oak Grove Baptist Church and Chandlers Methodist Church are roughly four miles apart in the northern part of the county in the unincorporated Chandlers Chapel community. Both churches note that electricity was delayed coming to this county area because of WWII. While subscriptions had been taken for the area in 1940, the war stopped the project because of the restriction on wiring. In 1949, Oak Grove Baptist Church was finally

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<sup>13</sup> "Soldier Placed in Jail for Attacking County Woman," *The News-Democrat*, March 16, 1944, 1.

<sup>14</sup> Neal Taylor, Logan County resident, interviewed by author, Russellville, KY. October 20, 2021.

electrified, and the church bought a modern butane system to heat the church.<sup>15</sup> Chandler's Methodist reports the same thing. The church received electricity in 1949 and changed from wood heat to kerosene to gas.<sup>16</sup> There is not another mention of WWII in either church's records.

In the case of electricity, the war stopped some of the progress, but at the same time, it showed the need for better resources, including utilities. During the war, many people were in the dark outside the county newspaper regarding information. People wanted to know how the war was unfolding. This drove the massive expansion of power to rural areas after the war and laid the foundations and demand for more information, which will be discussed in chapter five.

Soldier Sammie Akers' mother wrote numerous letters to her son during the war. The two wrote to each other an average of two times per week, with sometimes more. On January 7, 1943, Sammie's mother Betty wrote a letter stating that everyone is praying that the war would end soon. She is praying that prayer, so her little boy can come home. She starts letters with "My Dear Boy" and writes that while it may snow, the family has plenty of gas, but they are trying to save everything they can. She would later tell him to "let us know you are all right as you can." She again gave an update about the weather and the selling of hogs and cattle. She also reported that his aunt Edna died and was buried.

Communication continues for the next few months along the same lines. He tried to convince her that he was well, and she gave him updates from home, without providing many details or anything that might discuss hardship. On April 1<sup>st</sup> Betty wrote and told him that an Elkton boy W. H. Bell was killed when his plane crashed in Hopkinsville. She stated that hearing about Bell's death was surely sad news. The pattern of two-three letters per week back and forth

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<sup>15</sup> Mike Roberts, *A History of Oak Grove Baptist Church, 1876-1976*.

<sup>16</sup> *Chandler's Chapel United Methodist Church*, September 26, 2010.



continues through October 1943. The mother mostly discusses church, the family, and the farm. She makes numerous references to her having colds, but she always starts every letter stating that she and the family are doing fine and that she is so glad to hear from Sam. Sam does the same thing regarding starting his letters.

A letter from Betty dated March 21, 1945, is a splendid example of the information and encouragement she sent her son regularly. She told him she cannot wait until the entire family returns. She cannot wait until they can gather around the table for a meal, and she longs for the day they can worship together. She said the family recently enjoyed an ice cream dinner and wished he were with them. She wrote about the start of the planting season on the farm and the challenging work that is just beginning. She reports on the health and well-being of family and friends while telling him that everything is going well and that she will pray until he comes home. She ended her letter by stating “May God bless and take care of my boy and all in service.”

It should be noted that it is unknown if every letter is in the collection. It is possible some letters were destroyed or lost that might provide more information or context on the war and life during it. The collection contains letters to and from other friends and family. One of those is Mae Barrow. She only wrote letters throughout 1943. She must have been a former classmate of Sammie. Her first letter spoke about midterms and how the tests were. She wrote about the weather, such as snow in Logan County. She asked questions about guard duty, and other information about what it’s like to be a soldier. She writes community gossip and discusses others that they both know. She confirmed in May 1943, that she would be a senior in the

upcoming school year. She writes about young people being stood up for dates and that information.<sup>17</sup>

A common issue mentioned throughout the newspaper was issues with the post office and the delays in mail delivery. Between February and May 1945, numerous letters were written from Mrs. Fowler in Detroit asking for information on Logan County, specifically Benjamin Logan. The letters were written to Mrs. Rice in Russellville. The letters speak of delays in the mail because of the war. One of the letters states that information was mailed on April 7<sup>th</sup>, but still had not arrived in Michigan by May 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a prime example of the delays in postage because of the war effort. This information can be seen in the letters written between Sammie Akers and his mother.<sup>18</sup>

### **Rationing**

Rationing affected every aspect of life in the United States. People were forced to ration rubber, gas, coffee, sugar, meat, and various other food and nonfood items. The people of Logan County were impacted by rationing virtually every day of the war. Many people found ways to cope, while others complained and attempted to break the rules. The concept of not being able to buy what someone wanted must have been a massive culture shock. Because of rationing people were forced to make less, or to find alternative ways to make do. Rationing was a way for people to prove that they supported the war and were making sacrifices on the home front. It was their patriotic duty to ration and buy bonds to ensure the Axis did not win the war. These actions supported by government propaganda are key to softening the previous views of the federal government. The government was not overbearing but did everything possible to win the war to

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<sup>17</sup> Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Akers, Sammie D., 1918-2002 (MSS 229)" (2008). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 550.

keep people safe. This is one example of how WWII changed the county during and after the conflict.

Rationing boards across the United States were tasked with implementing the government's policies while ensuring everyone had the resources they needed to live and work. The local board outlined numerous guidelines to help the public understand how the rationing would affect them. Travel would be limited, and public transportation would be highly recommended, as would travel that did not require rubber, such as walking and traveling on the train. Anything used for war production, whether it dealt with roads, the production itself (industrial or agricultural), or the movement of troops and workers was not as controlled as the use of the public. The Tire Board appointed Mr. Cecil Thompson, of Thompson's Garage on South Breathitt Street in Russellville as Tire Inspector for Logan County. Each person that wants to buy a new tire or tube, must go to his business, and present their current tire or tube for inspection. All inspections will cost fifty cents, and the inspector's decision is final. After the inspection, Mr. Thompson will determine whether to issue a new tire or tube, the retreading of a tire, recap, or repair.<sup>19</sup>

The weekly newspaper regularly printed information about rationing. Most of the information was very brief, such as which coupon to use for items and printing the names of people awarded tires. They would also later print the names of people who violated the terms of rationing or tried to cheat the system. Overall, the weekly articles or statements on rationing do not provide much information. Numerous families still have rationing books left over from the war including Evelyn Richardson, who will be discussed later.

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<sup>18</sup> Logan Family Files, Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

<sup>19</sup> "County to begin Tire Rationing," *The News-Democrat*, January 15, 1942, 1-2.

The biggest issue discussed was the implementation of tire rationing. Many people have stated their frustration with the tire limits and the monthly quotas. People were told they would have to alter their habits and lifestyles. People will not be able to travel to nearby cities for shopping or leisure; they will have to rely on the local community and local stores for goods and services.<sup>20</sup> The limitation of tires and later gasoline limited people's movements which they found very frustrating. The automobile allowed people to travel in ways they never thought possible, and now WWII limits that travel. Americans do not like to be told no, or have limits placed on them; it creates a rebellious response which will be discussed later with rationing.

When the latest item was rationed, the newspaper informed people beforehand. One item that hurt people was sugar. People were told that Sugar rationing would start, and people would be limited to twelve ounces of sugar per week, down from the roughly twenty-eight ounces they consumed before the war began. People were told that war was occurring and that they had to sacrifice. In addition, it was also reported that new car rationing just began and that Logan County was limited to eleven cars for March, April, and May 1942.<sup>21</sup> These reports are a prime example of the sacrifices people were forced to endure for the sake of the war effort. As the war continued people were expected to give more and more by limiting their usage.

Logan countians were told on March 19, 1942, that sugar rationing books would soon be delivered. Each person would receive one book with twenty-eight individual coupons for the purchase of sugar. The County Clerk's office oversees providing these books to the people of Logan County. Each person was allowed roughly eight to twelve ounces of sugar per week, and when they purchase sugar, they will have to declare how much sugar they have on hand.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> "Tire Crisis to Effect Changes," *The News-Democrat*, January 15, 1942, 1.

<sup>21</sup> Rationing articles, *The News-Democrat*, March 12, 1942, 2.

<sup>22</sup> "24,000 Sugar Rationing Books are Received," *The News-Democrat*. March 19, 1942, 1.

According to government officials, this way of rationing would keep from shortages and massive price increases, and there would be enough for the military at war. The local ration board provided their weekly update, which stated who was awarded tires and new guidelines passed down from the federal government.

People that have hoarded excess amounts of sugar were not given ration books for the desired item. People must use all the sugar they have before books were given and if someone reports excessive amounts the books can be taken away for the two-month cycle. The article also states that people must be willing to use less sugar and follow the guidelines prescribed by the rationing board.<sup>23</sup> This article hints at a problem caused by rationing. Some people tried to find ways to hoard resources or use illegal ways to obtain them, such as the black market. Rationing implies that everyone is honest and follows the rules. Human behavior provides evidence that this is not true. While many people did follow all the rules and guidelines, others sought to cheat the system or bend the rules in their minds.

The first known illegal activity took place in the middle of June 1942. After people were warned repeatedly about not hoarding items like sugar, a raid was conducted on a Russellville home. The local police and the sheriff's office raided the home occupied by Lovie Roberts. Roberts an African American woman, living in Russellville had a large amount of sugar on hand that had not been reported to the rationing board. In addition to the hoard of sugar, the police seized illegal whiskey and beer. She was fined \$100 and thirty days in jail for the liquor charges. She is further investigated by federal authorities for not reporting the sugar to the rationing board.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> "Sugar Rationing," *The News-Democrat*, June 4, 1942, 1,7.

<sup>24</sup> "Hoarding Sugar Charge," *The News-Democrat*, June 18, 1942, 1.

Another example of people not following rationing guidelines occurred in August 1942. Five men were arrested for stealing tires in Russellville. The local police department received Elmer Shelton's report that two tires had been stolen from him. In addition, two wheels and tubes were stolen from R.F. Pace and Glenn Summers. After an investigation that lasted less than eight hours, the officers arrested R. T. Johnson, Earl Bell, Mike Offutt, and Daniel Halcomb for the theft. The officers previously arrested James Young a short time before for the tires being in his possession. All tires and wheels were returned to the owners. All the individuals entered guilty pleas and were held for the grand jury.<sup>25</sup> This is the first known instance of stolen materials, such as tires, since the rationing began. It will be interesting to see if more thefts continue as more and more products are rationed.

Because of demand, sometimes there were pauses on certain products. For example, access canning sugar until after July 4. According to the War Price and Rationing Board, there have been too many applications to process, and the organization needs more time to complete the process. The board will reopen on July 6 for applications. This announcement does not apply to industrial or institutional organizations but is limited to individuals. In another short blurb industrial and institutional organizations are requested to go ahead and register for sugar with the board by July 5 for July and August. It is reported that these organizations with their applications complete will receive preference over canning sugar requests.<sup>26</sup>

The rationing concept did change people's diets throughout the United States. People were forced to substitute items or to do without. According to one researcher, rationing actually aided people at home to stay healthier because they were forced to change some of their eating habits. In the case of meat, which was a desire of millions, people were encouraged to eat organ-

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<sup>25</sup> "Prompt Arrest in Recent Tire Thefts," *The News-Democrat*, August 20, 1942, 1.

based meat such as liver. These meats typically were healthier than most other meats and the government regularly reinforced the concept that people were helping to win the war by changing their meat-eating habits. Rationing also assisted because other meats were either not available or strictly limited so people faced the choice of organ meat or no meat for most of their meals.<sup>27</sup>

For most of the war, many people complained about the rationing process. Many believed that it limited them from doing their jobs, or they did not like the inconvenience of the rules and limited products. The local tire rationing board reports receiving numerous complaints about rationing and the entire process. The board states that they know that everyone is patriotic, and they understand frustrations, but they must follow guidelines from the federal government. The board does not purposely make things difficult for anyone, but people must remember that a war is ongoing. They must understand that there is a rubber shortage and sacrifices must be made. They apologize for the hardships placed on individuals, but they can do nothing about it. From the article, people are complaining about why one person received a permit and did not. The board wants to remind everyone that there are classifications and procedures they must follow.<sup>28</sup> This is interesting to read about these complaints because people are angry because they did not get the tires they wanted/needed. This is a prime example of how people are willing to talk about making sacrifices but are unwilling to make them.

While most people followed rationing guidelines, people across the nation were stressed by the lack of products they were accustomed to. As noted, sugar, rubber, and various other items were rationed, and people did their best to find substitutes or they did without. One item

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<sup>26</sup> Various Sugar, *The News-Democrat*, June 25, 1942, 1.

<sup>27</sup> Brian Wansink, "Changing Eating Habits on the Home Front: Lost Lessons from World War II Research." *Journal of public Policy & Marketing* 21, no. 1 (2002): 90–99.

discussed by DiAnna Reif was nylon stockings. Women wanted silk for comfort, but the war did not allow this. So, women took other measures including repairing holed stockings and even drawing fake hemlines on their legs to make it appear that they were wearing stockings. These are examples of people coping and trying their best to make do with what they had. The family discussed and fussed about the availability of items and how on some occasions neighbors would have items. While frustration set in, it was patriotic to do without items so the war could be won.<sup>29</sup>

Even with rationing, shortages or the threats of shortages still occurred. According to reports, the threat of a meat shortage seems to be becoming more of a reality. Experts say this is the worst product shortage since the war began. For example, the amount of meat processed in Chicago, of the nation's main meat markets, is 100,000 pounds less than last week, and about 33% less than one year ago. The report continues that as one product, such as fish became scarce, the demand for other products, such as poultry, increased. It may take months or even a year for the market to be corrected, so people are warned that some beef, poultry, and pork products may not be available anytime soon.<sup>30</sup>

Evelyn Richardson is the best local historian in Logan County. When WWII broke out she was in sixth grade. She states that she always has an interest in history and WWII, and her father's interest in the war greatly aided her interest. She kept a family scrapbook with numerous forms of memorabilia from the period including rationing books, newspaper articles, and documentation of events during the war. She kept a detailed account of the war between her writing about information on the radio and the documentation of articles. Granted she was a child

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<sup>28</sup> "Complaints Received by Rationing Board," *The News-Democrat*, August 20, 1942, 2.

<sup>29</sup> Daniels, 72-73.

<sup>30</sup> "Meat Shortage is Worst Since beginning of the War," *The News-Democrat*, March 15, 1945, sec. 2, 1.



at the time. Still, the level of documentation makes her account unique, as she states that her parents, especially her father assisted her in logging information about the war. Her resources on the war are the by far the most complete of anyone in the county that has been reviewed.

Evelyn said they did not hear about Pearl Harbor on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The first she heard was on Monday at Olmstead school. She reports that Francis Mason Rice and a group of other teachers were huddled in the hall crying. A few minutes later it was explained what happened and why she and many others were afraid. Miss. Rice had a brother stationed at Pearl Harbor. Her scrapbook starts the same day in December 1941. She noted great fear after Pearl Harbor that the Japanese would attack California or even Kentucky. No one knew for sure what would happen, but people were either scared or very angry. She noted on December 31<sup>st</sup> that no such attack had occurred, but the Japanese continued attacking different Pacific Islands.

As the calendar turned to 1942, she continued her documentation. On January 2, 1942 she wrote that the radio reports that Japan has taken Manila in the Philippines. She also documented that the host stated that twenty-five nations are aligned on the side of the United States. She states that her dad listened to all news reports, and no one was allowed to speak or move during the news programs. She stated that most of the time she sat in the floor and wrote as much as she could of what she heard. On January 6<sup>th</sup> FDR gave an uplifting speech to the nation. In this speech, he stated that the Axis started the war, but the Allies will finish it. At the end of the month on January 31<sup>st</sup>, she wrote that Japan is a few miles from Singapore and McArthur was still holding on to Bataan.

For the rest of 1942, there are numerous dates listed with information by Evelyn started to transition to clipping articles from the newspaper instead of writing everything down. On February 14<sup>th</sup> she documented that Singapore fell to the Japanese. McArthur is still holding on

now, but no one knows for how long. On the 24<sup>th</sup> she wrote that Japanese sub fired on California numerous times according to FDR's speech. This brought more fear and anger to people. It made the war seem close and people wondered again if they are safe in Kentucky. On March 17 it was reported on the radio that McArthur left Bataan for Australia. She also wrote that this was a sad day, and people wondered if the Japanese would be stopped.

A few weeks later she documented on April 9, 1942, that Bataan fell to Japan. Numerous Logan countians were there and no one knows whether they are alive. On April 18 the radio reports that the United States bombed Tokyo. This is the first good news since the war started. On June 5<sup>th</sup> the Japanese attacked islands off the coast of Alaska. This news again brought more fear and anxiety to the American public.

Most of the newspaper clippings came from *The Tennessean*. The largest state paper in Tennessee. Some of the topics included in the articles she kept were major battles, such as Stalingrad, Italy, The Solomon Islands, D-Day, and numerous others. She also included news stories, such as speeches from FDR, Churchill, and others. While very little information is local news, she reports that most people in southern Logan County received *The Tennessean* because the Nashville area news impacted the people more than the Louisville-based *Courier Journal*. Other popular topics she kept included war bonds ads, news on generals such as Eisenhower and McArthur, and European and Pacific Theaters maps. She claimed that of all the generals MacArthur was the most popular, including her father. She included numerous articles and pictures about him.

She can also remember hearing the news of the minister in Chicago that prayed for Hitler's soul, which shocked and angered many people in the community then. Her future husband's brother Bob Richardson served with Patton, and his vehicle was shot up. She used

maps to try to find the places when they were mentioned on the news, and she reported that she was excited when she could locate places in the Pacific and Europe. She also remembers all the Service Flags in Logan County. The flags hung in the window if the family member was in service. If they had five flags, there would be five family members in service.

In addition to the articles and maps she kept, she also kept some of the family's ration books. Each member of the family had their ration book. Teachers often gave school children theirs if the family was poor. She said the family always tried to purchase items but did not always use everything. On Christmas 1943 she was given a war bond, which reports were her favorite gift. She told everyone about it and states that she is extremely proud of that gift then and now.

She has some Japanese money in her collections, but she does not remember where it came from. She said the school was always handing out pro-American, anti-Axis materials. One of the documents she remembers is "I am an American," which discusses how the American people can help with the war effort and show their patriotism. She kept every edition of the *Current Events* from 1943. These periodicals provided information on the war as well as other current events. She also remembers planes flying over going to and from Camp Campbell just over the treetops. When the war started, she and other people feared it was the Axis. This was frequent and one could even see pilots when they flew over. The Schley community where she grew up raised hemp to make rope for the war effort.

She received a light blue sweater for one Christmas and stated that it kept stretching, but it would not draw up after being washed. She had to continue wearing it because getting clothes and materials was very hard. Many of these materials were rationed or still suffering from shortages from the Great Depression. A good example of how the family cooped during the war

is that they used syrup to replace sugar. They would also use saccharin drops to sweeten tea instead of using sugar. She also remembers participating in multiple scrap drives. One drive she was looking for aluminum to turn in for scrap metal. While they collected other stuff this aluminum was greatly wanted because it was used to make planes. She said that people had to make do with what they had and use it up, wear it out, and make it do.

Evelyn stated that “red, white, and blue” was everywhere during the war. The American Flag was on everything from jewelry to fertilizer sacks. Patriotism was everywhere people’s yards, store windows, products, and many others. One way to prove you were patriotic was to plant a victory garden. Living in the country, Evelyn reports that the family always grew a garden, but during the war years the garden was much larger, and she remembers spending a great amount of time working there. The family grew potatoes, tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, cabbage, squash, and numerous other items. This way the family always had something to eat, even with war rationing. One of the lasting impressions of Ms. Richardson’s documents and interview is that on December 31, 1941, she wrote, “Dear future, let’s hope the spark of patriotism never has a reason to disappear.”<sup>31</sup>

According to Barbara Checket-Hanks, rationing left the biggest impact on the American people from the WWII era. People faced food shortages and materials like metals, paper, rubber, and others that began etched in their memories after the war ended. This along with the Great Depression caused many of that generation to become hoarders on some level. They did not want to throw away items because they thought there might be a use for them one day. They sought to be prepared. For many this era was the first time they encountered recycling, and while it was

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<sup>31</sup> The personal papers of Evelyn Richardson, property of Evelyn Richardson, Russellville, KY. In addition to viewing the documents and resources, an interview was conducted with Ms. Richardson by author on May 16, 2022, in Russellville, KY.

necessary for the war, they were forced to partake. Checket-Hanks goes on to state that it was the war that caused (General Electric) GE to rebuild refrigeration units and thus improve food storage during and after the war with a variety of home appliances. For these Americans the concept of not wasting anything, especially food stayed with them their entire lives.<sup>32</sup>

The creation of national patriotism led to changes in the years after WWII. Before the war, many people in Logan County were still hung up on the Civil War, as discussed in chapter two. These people opposed the federal government, but during WWII, one would be viewed as an enemy if they did that. The creation of national patriotism and dependence on the federal government made it difficult for people to continue their old ways. This led to more of a national identity. It should be noted that this national patriotism did not last after WWII. As Allan Winkler points out, many of the national differences returned after the war. The period after the war boasted the Southern coalition for the people of the South.<sup>33</sup> After the war, the South believed it was in their best interest to unite to protect their economy and way of life. While the sectional differences returned after the war, WWII united the people long enough because they wanted victory. This can be seen through the previous discussions of war work, rationing, and the variety of war drives in the last topic of this chapter. While Winkler may be correct in his overall assessment of the United States, things changed for the people of Logan County. Did they change 360 degrees? No. some people still held on to their racist nature. Some people still did not like the federal government. Some people were happy on their farms, but for others, the arrival of industry and other opportunities were exciting, and they desired to look forward, not backward.

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<sup>32</sup> Barbara A. Checket-Hanks, "On shortages, rationing, and such." *Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration News*, April 11, 2011, 58. *Gale OneFile: Vocations and Careers*.

<sup>33</sup> Winkler, 113-114.

An example of the legacy of rationing and the other drives can be documented with the Christmas of 1945. Many of the downtown businesses in Russellville were out of business because of the strains of war and changes previously discussed. Many of the local businesses that were still open ran ads that included some here-to-buy items ration free such as tires, tools, and shoes. For some young children this was the first time they could remember not having to sacrifice for the war effort in terms of their Christmas lists. In Russellville a doll cost \$2.29 and a stuffed bear was \$1.98. baseball mitts were \$3.95, and one could buy a sofa for \$69.95. Businesses and customers had one of the best Christmas holidays in years. Some of which could be contributed to the ending of the war and some of the economic prosperity that came from the war. Needless to say people were glad the war was over and they proved that with extra spending in stores like Klein's Kuhn's and Kroger.<sup>34</sup>

### **Drives, Bonds, and Other War Related Events**

In the December 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the paper, a headline above the title read, "We did it in '17 and '18 and we can do it again! Should be the rallying cry of one hundred and thirty million Americans." This headline was aimed at the local public and an attempt to unite people together for the cause of winning the war. Inside the same edition of the paper was a list of Logan Countians appointed for Civil Defense work in Logan County. E.J. Felts was appointed chairman of the Logan County Defense Council. Many other appointees to positions were local politicians, including the mayor of Russellville and the Logan County Sheriff.<sup>35</sup>

The war impacted the county in many ways. Some events such as rationing, bond drives and others are easy to trace and see. One event that hurt the county was the closing of the

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<sup>34</sup> "Christmas 1945," Holiday History File, Logan County Public Library, Russellville, KY.

<sup>35</sup> "Appointments for Civil Defense Work in County," *The News-Democrat*, December 11, 1941, 4.

hospital. The Russellville city hospital opened in 1934 and is now a fifteen-bed facility. The surgeon opened the hospital Dr. John Pepper Glenn. Since its opening Dr. Glenn has performed 4,600 operations of various scope and size and served 7,000 patients. After all these procedures and patrons served, Dr. Glenn announced to the newspaper that the hospital will close. The closure is because Dr. Glenn is joining the Navy and will have the rank of Lieut. Senior. With Glenn leaving the hospital will not have a surgeon, so it must close its doors. Glenn told the paper that he plans to return to Russellville and reopen the hospital after the war concludes.<sup>36</sup>

The paper's November 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> editions are full of information on the second annual Tobacco Festival. This event is regarded as the kickoff of the Christmas shopping season and occurs as farmers start selling tobacco to companies. Tobacco, namely one sucker is a million-dollar crop for Logan County's farmers. The county is one of the largest producers of cash crops in the United States. The paper is full of Christmas sales and promoting joy in the county, but as people feel festive and prepare for all the events on November 13 and 14, they are reminded that war is still occurring. The War Production Board requested to the city, county leaders, and businessmen that the normal lighting of outdoor Christmas lights should be discouraged. People can still decorate and have lighting indoors, but they should avoid wasting electricity.<sup>37</sup>

Logan countians turned out in the thousands for the 1942 Tobacco Festival. During the festival, dozens of events were held, and it is reported that over \$1,000.00 was awarded to winners in the form of war bonds and stamps. According to all accounts, the festival was a success and helped kick off the Christmas shopping season. The people were also told to shop early and to mail packages early. With the stresses of the war and the increased number of letters going to and from soldiers, people should expect delays in the postal service. The only way to

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<sup>36</sup> "City Hospital to Close Doors," *The News-Democrat*, August 27, 1942, 1.

combat those delays is to shop and mail packages early. In addition to these articles there are numerous ads and reminders throughout the paper reminding people to buy war bonds. Some even state that war bonds are the perfect Christmas gift, and they help strike a blow in the enemy. In addition to those ads, people were reminded about rationing and to make sure they signed up for ration books for various products, including gasoline. While there has not been much information about war work and Logan County in the paper, it is reported that the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce is looking for 2,000 women for war work.<sup>38</sup>

The Tobacco Festival is an important event in the county. Still, it would become a casualty of WWII, as 1942 is the only year the festival occurred until a few years after the war ended. The 1943 Tobacco Festival was canceled due to the war. The festival is a celebration of the conclusion of the tobacco season. Since Logan County is one of the largest producers in tobacco in the United States, many farmers would pay all debts, buy Christmas gifts, and a variety of other things most years when the season is over. The previous few years the county celebrated with a festival that kicked off the holiday season and Christmas shopping. The limits on many products, including tires and gasoline, did not allow for a 1943 festival. The week after the festival would have taken place many ads were in the newspaper about Christmas, being thankful, and buying war bonds.<sup>39</sup> The festival's cancellation is a prime example of how the war impacted people and changed their lives. It changed shopping habits, social habits, and even people's thoughts concerning the war and their resources.

Another way the war impacted the people of Logan was with new taxes to pay for the war. The people of Logan County and the rest of the nation learned that the federal government

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<sup>37</sup> "Holiday Lighting Held Undesirable," *The News-Democrat*, November 5, 1942, 1.

<sup>38</sup> Various, *The News-Democrat*, November 19, 1942, 1,5.

<sup>39</sup> Various, *The News-Democrat*, November 18, 1943.



would give them a Christmas present starting in 1943. This present is the new victory tax, which is a new income tax of five percent. This tax aims to help pay for the extremely expensive war. The tax applies to earning above \$12 per week and \$624 annually. This means if a person makes \$12 a week, they will not pay the victory tax. If they earn \$15 per week, the tax will only apply to over \$12. The same is true for the yearly amount.<sup>40</sup>

The first mention of any kind of metal drive occurred in the middle of January 1942. The scrap metal drive, which was ongoing around the county. The week of January 12<sup>th</sup> was declared Logan County Scrap Metal Week, by the mayors of Russellville, Auburn, Adairville, and Lewisburg, in conjunction with the U.S. Agricultural Defense Board. Citizens of the county were called to do their patriotic duty and to surrender all unneeded metal and iron. In addition to the metals, there was a call to gather and collect all unneeded paper products. These metals and resources were needed for victory. Participation in these drives is a prime example of Logan County's role in the war effort, ensuring that victory would be obtained. Community scrap piles were established in all the county's cities and people could sell or donate their items while surrendering them for the war effort. Citizens were called to contact their neighbors and actively work to turn over the materials for the nation's safety and sanctity.<sup>41</sup> In the same edition of the paper, the Auto Bone Yard used its advertisement space to promote the upcoming scrap metal drive. Woodrow Hughes, the Assistant County Agent, also used his short column to promote patriotism by participating in the drive.

People were persuaded to collect different items for the war effort throughout the war. Sometimes these drives were aimed at scram materials around the house, potentially being a

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<sup>40</sup> "Victory Tax is Waiting for Us," *The News-Democrat*, December 24, 1942, 1.

<sup>41</sup> "Week set aside for Collection: Scarp Metal Week is Sponsored by County Committee, as Aid in War Defense," *The News-Democrat*, January 8, 1942, 1.

hazard. The Mayor of Russellville used the first page of the paper to issue a proclamation designed to protect the citizens of Russellville. According to the mayor, the proclamation falls in line with others in the United States and aims to keep Americans home safe. The goal is to have everyone clean out and declutter their attics, this action is to take place on March 17-18, 1942. If people clean out their attics, their homes are less likely to have massive fires if the enemy drops incendiaries bombs on the town. Paper, inflammable [sic] waste materials, and all furniture will be removed from the attics on the cleanup days.<sup>42</sup>

The Russellville Fire Chief also reported on the importance of cleaning one's home, especially the attic. He stated that experts believed the two-pound magnesium firebomb would most likely be used in aerial attacks. It is important that the people of Logan County are aware of what to do, and what not to do to keep the loss of life at a minimum. The people were instructed to wait about a minute to ensure the bomb had completely lit and there would be no more explosions. Then people should use sand or water spray to fight the bombs. Everyone was encouraged to buy a water-based fire extinguisher, because in the event of an air raid water may not be available from the home. He also restated the importance of cleaning out the attic, and the film *Fighting the Firebomb*, which is currently being shown in defense groups in the committees. He encouraged everyone to see the film and to again to clean their attics, and to buy the needed fire extinguishers.<sup>43</sup>

Logan countians were regularly reminded the importance of gathering scrap metal. It is reported that a .30 caliber machine gun can be created from a pair of roller skates, two door hinges, one door lock, one old spade, one trash burner, and one trash basket. One set of bedsprings can make two four-inch shells, a kitchen stove contains enough iron to create a 500-

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<sup>42</sup> George L. Briggs, "Proclamation" *The News-Democrat*, March 5, 1942, 1.

pound aerial bomb. The rubber in four men's shoes can make a single pair of army galoshes. While other descriptions are provided, the article's point is to advise the people to waste nothing. If an item is worn out donate it, if one is no longer using it donate it. Virtually every household item can be used for the war effort, and it takes every item to ensure that the nation is victorious.<sup>44</sup> Simply stated, these articles and ads aimed to show people that while they may only have a little scrap, it adds up. Then it can be collected to create bombs and other weapons to defeat the enemy.

Another common item collected for the war was rubber. The citizens of Logan County gathered all scrap rubber for two weeks in June 1942. This rubber drive will recycle old rubber materials so they can be reused at home and for the war effort. Like many other items including scrap metal people are being told to throw nothing away and to recycle and reuse while stretching out resources. Some items that people can collect include raincoats, rainboots, tires, rubber tubes, rubber gloves, rubber heels, tennis shoes, and anything else with rubber. When the rubber is collected and sold, people should use the money to buy war bonds and stamps, and not waste it. People are directed to separate the rubber from nonrubber materials and donate as much as possible to help with the war effort.<sup>45</sup>

According to a short article on January 29, 1942, paper the cost of WWII will be \$56 Billion for the first fiscal year. When that number is broken down, it comes to \$427.48 per citizen in the United States, including Logan County. The number was broken down to clarify to the local communities why buying bonds and supporting the war effort is important. The article states that defeating the aggressors in Europe, Asia, and Africa is extremely expensive. The

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<sup>43</sup> "Fighting the Fire Bomb," *The News-Democrat* March 5, 1942, 2.

<sup>44</sup> "Scrap in terms of War," *The News-Democrat*, April 26, 1942, 3.

<sup>45</sup> "Heads Campaign in Rubber Drive," *The News-Democrat*, June 18, 1942, 1.

article's last sentence aimed pacificists and isolationists by stating that the bill runs high for those with those viewpoints.<sup>46</sup>

In the same edition of the paper, numerous ads were promoting wartime behaviors. Many ads pushed people to buy Defense War bonds, suggesting that everyone spend every penny they can to help fight the war and ensure that soldiers have the equipment they need. Other ads promoted farmers to hatch more chickens, so there could be more food for the war effort. Some local car dealerships promoted the careful use and caretaking of tires to make rubber go further. A dry cleaner recommended that people recycle hangers because every box of metal hangers they purchased took ammunition out of soldiers' guns. In his weekly ad, Gaines Cooksey again had something to say about the war, such as donations to the Red Cross. He stated that it is sorrowful that some men that earned between \$100 and \$350 monthly only gave very little to the drive. He stated that some only gave less than a dollar, with some men giving a dime, a quarter, or half dollar. The worst gave nothing, and according to Cooksey, they could only hope for better actions during the next drive.<sup>47</sup> It must be noted that everyone that gave had their name and gift published in the newspaper.

While the people gathered metal and rubber up to August 1942, the American Industries Salvage Committee members report that the salvage efforts are expanding in August. In addition to rubber, they will collect numerous other scrap items including rags, rope, fats, and paper. They hope to increase the number of scrap metals as well. Anything made of iron, brass, copper, zinc, tin, and lead are all metal products that will be collected. These items can be melted and used for the war effort by making ammunition or equipment. The county-wide campaign begins on August 3, and the committee hopes to gather materials from every home in the county. This

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<sup>46</sup> "The Bill runs High," *The News-Democrat*, January 29, 1945, 2.

event is so important that there is a quarter page advertisement on page 3. It states that the people of Logan County can “Bomb ’em with junk.” The advertisement shows a Japanese soldier taking cover while being hit with irons, stoves, and various other items. The people are provided with a list of how those items can be used to build tanks, create bombs, and various other items for the war effort.<sup>48</sup>

Victory gardens were a common subject throughout the entire war. The victory gardens ensured the United States would not be short on food. It is remarkable that with the regular food production and all the victory gardens the United States could feed their citizens and people around the world. Victory gardens played a key role in this process.<sup>49</sup> The main reason is that the end of March, or early April is the beginning of the early planting season for crops, including gardens in southern Kentucky. People were told that this was their civic duty, and that with victory gardens everyone would have enough food, and that rationing would not be so difficult. A prime example of this can be found in a sales ad by Logan County Furniture. In their ad they asked, “Will you do a Victory Garden?” The ad also states that with Daylight Savings Time everyone, including businessmen will have time to work in their garden daily. In addition to this, people could consult the local agricultural agents for suggestions and information on how to grow their gardens and they could get tools and other equipment at the store. People were encouraged to buy products and everything they needed today, and not to delay because there could be shortages.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> Gaines Cooksey, “Weekly Sales ad,” *The News-Democrat*, January 29, 1942, 7.

<sup>48</sup> “Scrap Harvest to Begin Here,” *The News-Democrat*, July 30, 1942, 1, 3.

<sup>49</sup> Richard Holl, *Committed to Victory: The Kentucky Home Front During WWII*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2015), 94-95.

<sup>50</sup> Logan County Furniture Company sales ad, *The News-Democrat*, March 12, 1942, 4.

Victory gardens were strongly encouraged in the March 5, 1942, newspaper. The people of Logan County were told that these gardens are their patriotic duty, and all Americans must plant them so they have enough to eat, while food production is also at war. Food is needed for the American soldiers and people in Russia and Britain, so to ensure that people at home have enough food, gardens are necessary. People were told to remember their colors in planting. They are to plant yellows, including squash, yellow turnips, corn, and sweet potatoes. They are to plant reds, including tomatoes, strawberries, beets, radishes, rhubarb, watermelons, and raspberries. They are to plant pinks, including pink salmon. They are to plant blues, including grapes, plums, huckleberry, and blueberries. They are to plant purples, including egg plants, plums, and grapes. They are to plant browns, including peanuts, molasses, brown bread, and dark chicken meat. They are to plant greens, including kale, rape spinach, celery, leaf lettuce, green snap beans, green cabbage, collards, cucumbers, green peas, okra, spinach, and turnip greens. Lastly, they are to plant oranges, including oranges, carrots, pumpkins, cantaloupes, and musk-melons [sic]. The unknown author stated that these foods would go a long way to promote and aid in victory, and if Americans planted Victory Gardens, then the Axis would be in a pickle.<sup>51</sup>

Evelyn Richardson stated that there were so many victory gardens in and around Russellville that it was almost hard to find grass to cut.<sup>52</sup> This eyewitness testimony shows how important people in the county viewed victory gardens. It was easy for many to support the war and ensure that rationing did not sting too much. As the war continued, there were more and more efforts to get younger people involved, especially school age children. On the front page of the April 2, 1942, newspaper Logan County youths were notified that they are being mobilized for the war effort. According to the article boys and girls can produce their victory gardens and

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<sup>51</sup> "F.S.A. Notes" *The News-Democrat*, March 5, 1942, 3.

find time to help support the war through farm work scrap drives, and other avenues. One of the best ways for this is for more young people to join the 4-H programs. Current members of the organization are to start recruiting other youths this week. If they mobilize, then millions of bushes of crops can be produced for the war effort and for those who still had homes.<sup>53</sup>

The youth were again challenged in 1944. The local 4-H organization had many plans with the local Home Economics Club. They launched a “Food Fights for Freedom” campaign aimed at getting all people to grow and conserve food. They used posters and displays to communicate their message. In addition, to get more people to grow food, they tried to get people to buy less food, so more food is available for soldiers. The 4-H had planning classes and training for boys and girls in addition to the program mentioned. Girls were taught to sew, keep clothes in good shape, and canning. Boys were taught more agriculture-related programs such as gardening, farm labor, and numerous animal-driven program.<sup>54</sup>

By far the biggest event of the war that impacted the people of Logan outside of rationing was the bond drives, and other fundraising efforts during the war. In many ways it seems that people were constantly hit up for money. If it was not a bond drive, it was the red cross. If it was not those it was the crippled children’s drives, or the American Legion. It seems that during WWII, plenty of hands asked for money. This must have been difficult for people struggling to make ends meet, but also wanted to be patriotic. If they did not buy or donate, it was inferred that they wanted the Axis to win the war.

The first attempt at fundraising for the war occurred right before Christmas in 1941. The center front page story for December 18, 1941, paper calls on all Logan Countians to get

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<sup>52</sup> Evelyn Richardson, interviewed by author May 16, 2022, Russellville, KY.

<sup>53</sup> “4-H Challenges Youth,” *The News-Democrat*, April 2, 1942. 1.

involved in the war effort. The plea came after FDR challenged the nation to donate \$50 million before Christmas. Logan County's portion of that total was \$2,000. People were called to protect Christianity, freedom, and civilization by donating. According to the article, 300 Logan County men were already serving in WWII, and it is the responsibility of all citizens to support those soldiers and defend freedom with contributions. The unknown author of the article stated that they had no doubt that Logan County would surpass the county goal and be model patriots.<sup>55</sup> The goal of \$2,000 was finally achieved in early January as reported by the newspaper. Each donor and their gift were listed in the article for the Special War Fund Campaign.<sup>56</sup>

The Boy Scouts were heavily promoted in early February 1942. Boy Scouts Week (February 6-12) was widely promoted through numerous ads. Their local motto was "Strong For America: Be Prepared." In many of these ads, there were pleas for the public to buy war bonds and stamps to support the war effort. These ads and the event article promoted patriotism and loyalty to God and the county. The article stated that thirty-two years prior, the boy scouts were founded and tens of millions of boys were involved in the program. Boy scouts have assisted in some war activities such as collecting scrap paper and metals.<sup>57</sup> This is a prime example of how children were used to help the war effort. Young men would go around and try to collect donations for war bonds or collect scrap materials. In many ways using the energy of children and their willingness to be active contributed to the war activities. It possibly made it more difficult for people to tell children no, when they may have done so to adults.

The Defense Savings Committee met Murray Hill from Bowling Green. He spoke to the committee and guests about the importance of buying war bonds and stamps. He discussed how

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<sup>54</sup> "4-H and Food Fights for Freedom," *The News-Democrat*, January 13, 1944, 1.

<sup>55</sup> "A Plea to Red Blooded Americans!" *The News-Democrat*, December 18, 1941, 1.

<sup>56</sup> "Red Cross Roll Call Passes Goal," *The News-Democrat*, January 22, 1942, 2.



the process of loaning the government worked and the importance of patriots doing their part. There were no bonds or stamps at the meeting, which seems to have been an excellent time to sell some. At the end of the meeting chairman, Jesse Riley stated that he has ordered 2500 stamp books for distribution to the children in the county schools.<sup>58</sup> In addition to this article, the paper had numerous ads that requested that people buy war bonds and stamps. Each cartoon and ad pleaded to the patriotism of Logan Countians to do their part and to ensure that the military has everything they need to win the war.

As previously noted, children were often used to collect items for the war or to sell bonds and stamps. Proof of this can be found in the usage of the county schools in the sale of defense stamps. At the time of reporting Lewisburg students in two days sold \$117.45, Auburn sold in two days \$75.30, Olmstead sold in one day \$95.15, and Chandlers in one day sold \$10.00 At this point Adairville has not started to sell defense stamps because of lack of books. The article states that while the total amounts sold to the schools will not be disclosed, schools that sell 100% of their stamps will be recognized.<sup>59</sup> While it is important to sell the bonds and stamps one might question the use of using children as fundraisers for the federal government. What is apparent from the numbers released sales in the larger communities have gone well while the smaller unincorporated area did not. No information was provided for the city schools of Russellville.

The second war bond drive began on April 12. The committee thanked the people of Logan for going over and beyond in 1942, but more work needs to be done to fight the war and the ensure victory. According to the committee, each bond sold is ammunition against the enemy. Page eight has a half page ad about the bond drive, while page nine has an entire page

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<sup>57</sup> "Scout Anniversary," *The News-Democrat*, February 5, 1942, 12.

<sup>58</sup> "Defense Funds Theme of Talk," *The News-Democrat*, February 26, 1942, 1.

<sup>59</sup> "Defense Stamp Sale in County Schools," *The News-Democrat*, March 19, 1942, 4.

dedicated to sending bombs to Hitler from the people of Logan in the form of war bonds. The fourth event reported was a victory musical. Last Monday the local negro Red Cross held a victory musical and, in the process, raised \$63.00 for the war fund.<sup>60</sup> This short blurb about African Americans is a prime example of the lack of detailed reporting and information and their support for the war effort.

The people of Logan barely met the goal of the second bond drive, when it was announced that a third one would be starting. The third bond drive or war loan campaign kicked off on September 9, 1943. The county did not reach its goal for the second bond drive, which occurred earlier in the year, but the local committee is hopeful that the people will achieve the goal for this drive. To kick off this campaign, a county-wide rally was held on Saturday, September 11, 1943. A variety of speakers and music will be a part of the ceremony. The goal is to boost interest and morale, increasing the amount given. While there have been successes on the battlefield people must not lose their resolve until the enemy is completely defeated. According to the committee, now is the time to step up and make sacrifices by buying war bonds.<sup>61</sup> In the current edition of the paper there is an increase in ads related to buying bonds and mentioning the bond drive, on every page.

As the calendar turned to the end of September 1943, numerous war-related activities were starting or winding down in the land of Logan. One event winding down is the collection of nylon and silk hose. While the collection has been good, the committee wants to make one final push to collect as much material as possible. The people have until September 30, to turn items into the collection agency.<sup>62</sup> Secondly, people are informed that on Monday, September 27, at

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<sup>60</sup> Various, *The News-Democrat*, April 8, 1943, 1.

<sup>61</sup> "Noted Speakers will be heard at Bond Rally," *The News-Democrat*, September 9, 1943, 1.

<sup>62</sup> "Final Call Made for Silk and Nylon Hose," *The News-Democrat*, September 23, 1943, 1.

1:00 PM, a parade will aid in the current bond drive. The 20<sup>th</sup> Armored Division from Campbell will be present with a 90-piece band and will bring about 100 pieces of fighting equipment to Russellville. The goal is to help people see what their money pays for when they buy bonds. It should also be a patriotic event that will tug at the hearts of the people and hopefully will boost bond sales.<sup>63</sup> The people are also informed that another scrap metal drive will begin on October first.

Less than one week after the parade and show of equipment it is reported that the Logan County bond drive has passed \$300,000 and the goal will be passed by Saturday. The committees involved in raising the money have used a variety of techniques to raise the money, including grassroots block campaigns. These activities, member recruitments, and the two rallies have been key to the people standing up and buying bonds. It is also reported that the local 4-H has arranged a special livestock sale scheduled for October 7. During this auction people will not receive cash for their animals, but they will receive war bonds. The goal is to help farmers sell livestock and increase the number of bonds purchased to aid in the war effort.<sup>64</sup>

The fourth bond drive kicked off in Logan County in early 1944. The County Judge Executive Homer Dorris stated that the quota for Logan County is \$320,000. He reported that the local banks have more money in savings accounts than ever before and that the people need to buy war bonds to help win the war. The goal for the county is to pass the goal before February 15, 1941. This provides less than forty days for the people to buy bonds and surpass the goal. Citizens are recommended to buy their bonds at local banks for simplicity.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> "Armored Unit to Join Bond Drive here on Monday," *The News-Democrat*, September 23, 1943, 1.

<sup>64</sup> Various Bonds, *The News-Democrat*, September 30, 1943, 1.

<sup>65</sup> "County's Quota in Fourth War Loan set at \$320,000," *The News-Democrat*, January 20, 1944, 1.

Less than one week after the fourth bond drive began, the city of Auburn has already surpassed its quota of \$52,000. While no numbers are given for Auburn or the entire county, Homer Dorris reports that the county has almost reached the goal of \$320,000. Everyone hoped that within the next week or so, the county would surpass the goal and help win the war financially. While the drive is going extremely well, people are reminded to clean out old papers and anything that can be used in the wastepaper drive. Paper can be used to create weapons and deliver supplies to soldiers. The waste collection should be kept drive, and the plan is to use local children to collect and sell to junk collectors so it can be processed for the war effort. <sup>66</sup>

As one fundraising event ends another begin. The fourth bond drive/war loan raised \$323,988.23. This amount surpassed the goal. The drive got off to a very fast start but waned in the remaining days. As the people of Logan read this report, they also read that the Red Cross is getting ready to raise funds again. The goal of the county is \$10,700 for the 1944 War Fund. This goal is almost double the 1943 goal. The article reports that the Red Cross assisted over 3.8 million men or their families in 1943. More men going to war, and the increased number of Americans that are POWs are the reasons why the goal is so much higher for 1944. The drive will begin March 1<sup>st</sup>. <sup>67</sup>

It was reported that the current Red Cross drive is lagging in Logan County. While no dollar amounts are given, the committee reports that if the county is going to reach its goal, giving must pick up. With limits on gasoline, the committee cannot do much canvassing of homes throughout the county, which the committee believes is hurting giving. <sup>68</sup> It should be noted that this fundraising drive started right after the fourth bond drive ended. The county is

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<sup>66</sup> "Bond and Paper Drive," *The News-Democrat*, January 27, 1944, 1.

<sup>67</sup> "Bond Drive and Red Cross Drive," *The News-Democrat*, February 24, 1944, 1.

also starting an “Old Clothes” Drive. This drive aims to help clothe the millions of civilians that have lost everything due to the war. It is estimated that 38,000,000 Russians alone have been relocated without homes and supplies. People are encouraged to donate old or new clothes, rugs, pillows, blankets, soap, and sheets are the products needed the most. They ask that people not give frills, purses, straw hats, old raincoats, evening dresses, suspenders, girdles, unmatched gloves or shoes, or belts and garters. <sup>69</sup>

The paper reported that the county finally, almost a month later, reached the Red Cross, War Fund goal. As people read this information, they also see that the fifth bond drive/war loan will kick off on June 12 and end on July 8. The overall goal for the nation is \$16,000,000,000. The goal for Logan County is \$368,000. The committee will make plans for events and a strategy for reaching the goal as soon as possible. <sup>70</sup> As noted before, the people in Logan County constantly raised money during the war. If a month passed when no money was raised, then some form of a drive, such as paper or metal, was occurring. It must have been difficult for people to constantly reach down and make sacrifices.

The fifth bond Drive continued until July 8, but Logan County has already surpassed the goal of \$368,000 in ten days. The city of Auburn met its goal in the first day of the drive which started on June 12. According to the committee, the giving by the people provides evidence of just how much they want the war to end and for soldiers to come home. Logan has a 100% record of meeting the goal in each of the five drives. <sup>71</sup> While this goal is met, the people of Logan need to meet another need, according to the Red Cross, blood. In conjunction with the

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<sup>68</sup> “Red Cross Drive Lagging; Contributions Must Come Faster if Goal is Reached, *The News-Democrat*, March 23, 1944, 1.

<sup>69</sup> “Drive for Old Clothes soon to start in County,” *The News-Democrat*, March 26, 1944, 1.

<sup>70</sup> “County’s Quota \$368,000 in Fifth Loan Drive,” *The News-Democrat*, May 25, 1944, 1.

<sup>71</sup> “County over Top in Fifth Loan Drive,” *The News-Democrat*, June 22, 1944, 1.

Warren County Chapter, there will be a blood drive on July 5, 1944. Soldiers at war, being wounded need blood for survival. The local committee writes that now is the time for the people of Logan to give blood so the boys of Logan can be saved if wounded. People are told that just a pint of their blood may be the difference between life and death.<sup>72</sup> As stated earlier, this is a prime example of how people were constantly asked for money while making sacrifices during the war. This may be why the Red Cross fundraising was lacking. People could have become annoyed or frustrated with all the demands and requests related to the war.

It was reported that the people of Logan have raised \$6,000 for the War Fund sponsored by the Red Cross and the USO. This amount is \$2,000 less than the quota for the county. Over the next few weeks every effort will be made to try to raise the full amount. People are reminded that the money goes to help soldiers, as well as to take care of children that are homeless because of the war. It is also announced that the Sixth Bond Drive will begin in early November. The goal for Logan County is to buy \$355,000 in war bonds. The committee hopes most of the goal will be met by November 15<sup>th</sup>. They are hopeful because numerous large bonds have already been accounted for.<sup>73</sup>

As the people of Logan celebrate Thanksgiving, it is reported that the quota set by the Red Cross for the war fund has finally been reached. The goal of \$8,000.00 was surpassed just a few days ago according to records from the committee. As noted before the fund helps provides soldiers with items as well as helping children who are now homeless because of the war. While this fundraiser has ended, it is printed in the paper that the Red Cross is asking for Christmas gifts for ill servicemen. Gifts must be received by November 26<sup>th</sup> to be delivered to soldiers in hospitals before Christmas. This is another example, along with the constant bond drive of

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<sup>72</sup> "Red Cross Announces Local Blood Donation," *The News-Democrat*, June 22, 1944, 1.

people being asked for money. While they will receive a return on their investment for the war bonds, it must have been frustrating to be asked for money every time people turned around.<sup>74</sup>

While the people of Logan are preparing for Christmas of 1944, there are numerous Christmas wishes, and best wishes for soldiers in action. There is an abundance of events and announcements of church services and holiday events are discussed in the newspaper. Interestingly, a small blurb states that while some people and businesses decorate, most lights are prohibited. If any extra wiring is needed for the decorations, then they are not allowed, this includes lights around the Russellville city square. The other small blurb discusses the end of the Sixth War Bond Drive/Loan. The people of Logan smashed the goal of \$355,000. A total of \$574,000 was purchased. The county has exceeded the goal in every bond drive.<sup>75</sup>

Each edition of the 1945 newspaper has numerous ads for war bonds. Many of these use wounded veterans to tug on the readers' heartstrings. In addition to the bonds, the Red Cross is pushing for people to contribute to the War Fund. The people of Logan are also reminded that now is the time to plant victory gardens. Victory gardens have been a common theme every spring of the war. With rumors of meat shortages and possible other shortages, people are told that one way to have plenty of food is to grow a victory garden. These gardens will make sure that people have plenty of fruits and vegetables. Studies have shown that without the gardens people would not have proper nutrition. It is also stated that the gardens and work in them provide peace of mind for those who grow them. People are reminded that it is not just patriotic to grow a victory garden, but it is a war necessity.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> Various War Fund and War Loan, *The News-Democrat*, November 2, 1944, 5.

<sup>74</sup> "War Fund and Red Cross," *The News-Democrat*, November 23, 1944, 5.

<sup>75</sup> Various, *The News-Democrat*, December 21, 1944, 7.

<sup>76</sup> "Time to Start Victory Gardens," *The News-Democrat*, March 1, 1945, sec. 2, 5.

As of March 2, 1945, the Red Cross started another fundraising event for the War Fund Drive. The goal is currently \$12,000. Logan countians needed over a month to reach the goal during the last drive. The local board reminds people that while the war is going well in Europe, the war has not ended, therefore people need to give to this fund which provides resources to soldiers, especially those currently POWs in Germany and Japan. In addition to helping soldiers, the money is used for displaced or homeless children because of the war. There are reportedly millions of children who need resources, and they will die without funds from the Red Cross.<sup>77</sup>

Logan County again surpassed the fundraising goal. The local Red Cross set the quota at \$12,000 for the people of Logan to meet. As of yesterday, the current funds raised are over \$13,600. This money will go to provide resources for soldiers and help homeless children because of the war. Speaking of the homeless, the old clothing drive will be collected on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The goal is for people to collect old clothing that is in good usable condition including pants, shoes, shirts, socks, and others so they can be sent to homeless people in Europe. While no certain amount is listed as a goal, people are encouraged to donate anything to help with the humanitarian crisis.<sup>78</sup>

The Seventh War Bond Drive or Loan Drive is scheduled for Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. This drive will last three months instead of the shorter drives in previous years. The reason is to try to raise a great amount of money at one time instead of multiple times a year. The goal for Logan County is \$365,000 which is the highest yet. People are encouraged to buy bonds early and often to make sure the county reaches this goal. To date, the people of Logan have risen and met every bond drive goal.<sup>79</sup> Evelyn Richard and Mary Lucy Franklin both spoke of how they could

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<sup>77</sup> "Drive for Red Cross Funds on in County," *The News-Democrat*, March 8, 1945, sec. 2, 1.

<sup>78</sup> "Red Cross and Old Clothing," *The News-Democrat*, April 19, 1945, sec. 1, 1.

<sup>79</sup> "7<sup>th</sup> War Loan Drive Opens Monday, May 14," *The News-Democrat*, April 26, 1945, sec. 1, 1.



remember saving pennies to purchase stamps for the bond drives. Evelyn still has some of her stamps in her scrapbook. They both mentioned that children were encouraged to buy the stamps with their allowances and to do their part to ensure victory.<sup>80</sup>

With the war in Europe over the local bond board published a letter to the citizens of Logan County. The letter states that while Germany has surrendered, the Japanese have not. Everyone must continue buying war bonds to ensure those soldiers have everything they need to fight them. The people were again reminded of the goal and that \$270,000.00 of that goal is to come from citizens. The chairman stated that now is the time to buy bonds. Buy bonds and help end this war faster and save lives.<sup>81</sup>

There were not many reports of parades or celebrations in the county regarding patriotic events. While some events occurred, the county did not have or there is no documentation of many items. One of the few documented events was Army Day, celebrated on April 6, 1942, in Russellville. This event will be one of a patriotic nature, promoting service in the army as well as a celebration of the history of the military organization. A parade is scheduled for 3:00 PM, starting at Russellville High School and ending in the downtown area. Along with the parade, there will be presentations by different individuals, clubs, and organizations in the county. Schoolchildren will be given a half-day holiday from school to be present and participate in the activities. The article states more information will be posted in the upcoming paper.<sup>82</sup>

As previously stated, Army Day was a day to celebrate and show support for the armed services as directed by President Roosevelt and Governor Keen Johnson. Bands from the school are invited to participate in the parade and all members of the active Kentucky Militia. Numerous

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<sup>80</sup> Interviews with Elyn Richardson and Mary Luch Franklin.

<sup>81</sup> "A Letter on War Bonds," *The News-Democrat*, May 17, 1945, 1.

organizations in the county, including the American Legion and the Rotary Club, are encouraged to join. Since school children are getting a half-day holiday it is recommended that businesses should also close for the event. This will show support for the military and allow more people to participate in the activities. The article states that the evening should have great excitement and enthusiasm.<sup>83</sup>

A prime example of not having as many patriotic events in Logan County as in other places is the “I am an American” celebration was planned for May 17<sup>th</sup>. The county did not schedule any local events. People were encouraged to visit Franklin or Bowling Green for scheduled events. Instead, the county decided to participate in the Soldiers War Fund drive. The plan was for the county to raise as much money as possible so that soldiers can receive some suitable gifts when they leave for combat. The USO greatly influences this organization, and an upcoming auction will be used to raise money, but citizens are directed to give money or items whenever possible.<sup>84</sup>

The first large-scale war event in Logan County was the auction on May 30. In the May 28, 1942, edition of the paper, people were reminded of the upcoming auction in giant red bold letters above the paper’s title. In addition to the auction, there will be music and a dance scheduled starting at 8:00 P.M. The event’s goal is to raise at least \$2,000 for the soldiers’ war fund. It was announced that a small amount will help the Chinese people, who have been victims of Japanese aggression, but at least 70% will support the soldiers. The USO and other organizations are heading up the event, and the organizations are expecting people from all over Logan County to attend and be involved in the sale and dance. It was also reported that June 14,

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<sup>82</sup> “To Celebrate Army Day,” *The News-Democrat*, March 26, 1942, 11.

<sup>83</sup> “To Celebrate Army Day Monday April 6,” *The News-Democrat*, April 2, 1942, 1.

<sup>84</sup> Various, *The News-Democrat*, May 14, 1942, 1.

1942, would be designated “Fly the Flag Day”. According to FDR, this flag day is to honor mothers and their valiant sons in service.<sup>85</sup>

The auction on May 30<sup>th</sup> fell short of the goal of raising \$2,000 for soldiers’ benefit. According to one of the organizers the auction and dance raised \$925.00. This amount is less than half the goal and while there is some disappointment there is hope that another event will add more money and the goal will be met. On June 6, a Lamb and livestock auction is scheduled. Some of the money from this auction will be donated to the war fund, and people can still contribute. There is a discussion of another auction. Many of the profits of events upcoming are going to be added to the existing amount.<sup>86</sup>

After failing to reach the \$2,000 goal for the Soldiers War Fund on May 30, Logan countians were expected to hit the mark with contributions and a lamb auction in early June. The auction left the county approximately \$750.00 short of reaching the goal. It is now reported that all organizations in Logan County have begun their campaigns to raise funds for this fund. While no details are provided, nor are any suggestions offered on how to raise the money.<sup>87</sup> While the article does not say so, it must have been a demoralizing feeling from the organizers that the county still has not met the goal after multiple events, especially when they thought the one event would be successful. One must wonder if this is still a carryover from the Great Depression, and people are hesitant to spend much money. Could it be people trying to save money because of the rationing, increased taxes, and the emphasis on buying war bonds? While no answer is known, it had to be deflating for the organizers that they now have to call on all organizations in the county to raise the rest of the money.

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<sup>85</sup> “Auction and Dance will Raise \$2,000,” *The News-Democrat*, May 28, 1942, 1.

<sup>86</sup> “Sale Continues in War Benefit,” *The News-Democrat*, June 4, 1942, 1.

<sup>87</sup> “War Fund Grows as Campaign on,” *The News-Democrat*, June 11, 1942, 1.

Since the county still has not met the war funds quota, it has been announced that various activities are occurring in the next week or so to raise the money. For example, the Girls Cotillion Club is hosting a Bridge Benefit to try to raise money. Other organizations have bingo tournaments, ice cream suppers, and other events. Most of these events are organized by civic organizations and Sacred Heart Catholic Church.<sup>88</sup> At that time it was evident that while the funds have not yet been raised, many people in the county are convicted to do whatever they can to raise the funds for the soldiers and the Chinese people.

The county finally achieved the war fund goal in August. This goal was set back in May, and they hoped to meet it with the county-wide auction on May 30. With numerous extra events and a couple of months, the county passed the \$2,000.00 goal, totaling \$2029.07. All parts of the county, minus the Keysburg committee, assisted in the drive and in the dozens of events that raised money for the war fund. Most of the money will be used to help soldiers, while a small amount will help the Chinese people, namely Chinese children.<sup>89</sup>

The mayor of Russellville, George Briggs published a proclamation in the paper that declared June 8-14, as Flag Week in Russellville. The document states that the United States is in a moral war with the enemies of democracy. These people are murderers who seek to annihilate freedom and everything that the United States stands for. He further stated that the flag of the United States is a unifying symbol that represses peace, freedom, and civic faith, and a symbol of liberty to the entire world. He urges every city and county citizen to fly the stars and stripes

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<sup>88</sup> Various, *The News-Democrat*, June 18, 1942, 1.

<sup>89</sup> "Soldiers' War Fun Drive Goes over top," *The News-Democrat*, August 13, 1942, 1.

during the week to remember why the nation is fighting and to unify as Americans under the cause of peace and victory.<sup>90</sup>

A very interesting event occurred on Wednesday, May 12, hosted by the Farm Bureau. For months there has been a massive push for farmers to join the organization, but the May meeting may provide reasons for more. The guest speaker will be WWI hero, Sergeant Alvin York. York will speak to the group at the Russellville Country Club and will focus his presentation on the importance of farmers and production to the war effort. Farmer membership in the county has reached an all-time high with roughly 300 members. At the time of the meeting, it is estimated that as many as 100 more joined.<sup>91</sup>

While bond rallies and other events were discussed. The Russellville Rotary Club met to rally support, using a local soldier, Robert Pearson. Pearson is currently on furlough from the war. He was present at Pearl Harbor when Japan attacked, and he fought in numerous battles including Midway, and other locations in the South Pacific. He is scheduled to discuss the war in the Pacific and speak about being on a ship that accompanied Doolittle and his men in their raid of Japan.<sup>92</sup> The meeting was well attended, and the stories of Pearson reportedly sparked more engagement in buying bonds. The stories of a local boy, home from war were engaging to people. They were not reading the paper or listening to the radio. They were hearing one of their own, telling his story, in his words which is always the most powerful way a story can be told.

In the May 25, 1944, edition of the local paper, a resolution is printed by Mayor George L. Biggs. It stated that whenever the D-Day invasion of Europe begins, whether day or night, the city's fire alarm will ring for 30 minutes. At the end of that period and the alarm stops, all people

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<sup>90</sup> George Briggs, "Proclamation," *The News-Democrat*, June 4, 1942, 3.

<sup>91</sup> "Sgt. Alvin York to speak at Farm Bureau Banquet," *The News-Democrat*, May 6, 1943, 1.

are requested to go to various churches for an hour of prayer and thanksgiving for the invasion and the end of the war with Germany.<sup>93</sup> As people read the proclamation the local Rotary Club urged that all businesses follow the mayor's orders and close for at least one hour so people can attend the services.<sup>94</sup> While this proclamation was published it is unknown if the event ever occurred. No reports were in the paper after the D-Day invasion on whether the people attended the event. While it is reasonable to assume that people did, no event documentation exists.

When the war in Europe ended, there was no documentation of a parade or a grand event of church bells ringing, like they did in some cities. Is it possible this happened? Sure. It is very possible that this occurred, but no one documented it. No new documented events took place in the last few months of the war against Japan. It is known that the war drive continued, and Logan County surpassed the goal again, which the county did for every bond drive. The paper in many ways did not report much information related to the war and started to print articles more related to what would happen after the war ended. It seems that in Logan County, once Germany was defeated, it was viewed as only a matter before Japan would be defeated. Is this because there was greater respect for the German war machine, and the German people? Honestly, that is almost impossible to answer with the sources available. When the war ended with Japan, Russellville had no documented parades or great celebrations. Numerous individuals stated that the church bells rang in Russellville, and people hugged and greeted each other with excitement and tears. Sadly, none of this information is documented, it is based on memories alone. For all the bang that was WWII, in Logan County, it seems that it ended with a whimper.

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<sup>92</sup> "War Hero at Rotary Club," *The News-Democrat*, September 16, 1943, 1.

<sup>93</sup> "D-Day Proclamation," *The News-Democrat*, May 25, 1944, 1.

<sup>94</sup> "D-Day Observance Urged by Rotary Club," *The News-Democrat*, May 25, 1944, 1.

While up to this point, the emphasis has been on Logan County, other places across the United States struggled with topics of rationing and all the demands of the different drives. In nearby Simpson County, the success of the drives was driven by organizations much like in Logan. They helped to distribute books and magazines to soldiers in the service. They struggled with rationing and gathering materials like scrap metals and grease. According to the sources, victory gardens were in the yards of practically every home. According to the author, people were willing to deal with less to endure victory, even if it pained them because every family knew a young man serving overseas.<sup>95</sup>

In Daviess County, people responded positively by rationing initially, but as time went on, more and more people struggled, enabling the creation of the black market for materials. In Owensboro, this market was assisted by the Ohio River and river travel. Things became so bad that the Coast Guard was sent to Owensboro to stop the illegal traffic.<sup>96</sup> Richard Holl reports that rationing was a no-brainer, and even with price controls prices on many items (sugar, meat, etc.) skyrocketed across Kentucky. The price increases and the limited availability of items only fed the black market. While most people were willing to sacrifice for the greater good of the war, some struggled and cut corners like the lady in Russellville that hoarded sugar.<sup>97</sup>

Holl also reports that the results of the scrap drives across Kentucky were massive amounts of raw materials that were used for the war effort. Kentuckians generally participated in these drives, collecting piles of metals, rubber, paper, and other items. The people of Kentucky and the people of Logan wanted to ensure that bullets were made to defeat the “Japs and Germans.” While collecting these materials they paid higher taxes and bonds war bonds and

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<sup>95</sup> James H. Snider, 904-906.

<sup>96</sup> James D. Cockrum, 7-8.

stamps at high rates. Comics, posters. And numerous forms of propaganda assisted in the seven drives. Holl states that they even marketed to children with figures like Superman and Batman to win the war by raising funds. Kentuckians including those from Logan County bought \$687 million in bonds, ranking twenty-eighth out of forty-eight states in giving money to the war effort.<sup>98</sup>

### **Changes for Civilians after WWII**

As previously discussed, the local hospital was a casualty of WWII. In 1951, Logan County built the first hospital since WWII. The facility contained fifty-two beds and was regarded as the most modern and advanced hospital of its time. While the city and county thought it would care for the county's needs for decades, the hospital was overcrowded and desperately needed to be expanded within ten years. So, in 1961 the hospital was expanded to one hundred beds.<sup>99</sup> No other additions were made until the hospital was determined to be outdated and a new one was built. Adding a permanent hospital allowed for better medical care for the people of Logan. In many ways, some people may not realize the need for modern medical care until the previous hospital closed because the doctor was drafted into the war. With a medical staff that included multiple doctors, nurses, and a variety of other hospital staff the people of Logan could receive complete medical care for the first time inside the county, instead of trying to go to Bowling Green, Springfield, or Hopkinsville.

As discussed in a previous chapter, not everyone in the county had electricity before WWII. Neal Taylor lived in the Sycamore community in northern Logan County during WWII.

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<sup>97</sup> Richard Holl, *Committed to Victory: The Kentucky Home Front during World War II*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2015), 114-116.

<sup>98</sup> Holl, 30, 122-124.

<sup>99</sup> Edward Coffman, 256.



The family did not have electricity because they lived roughly ten miles out of town. The family had a radio, but could not afford batteries most of the time, so they could not listen to the news very often.<sup>100</sup> This was common in the northern portions of the county. These regions were much hillier, and the ground was full of rocks which slowed down some of the progress of the expansion of power. The histories of the two churches confirm Taylor's information about the northern part of the county being without electricity. Oak Grove Baptist Church and Chandler's Methodist Church are roughly four miles apart in the northern part of the county in the unincorporated Chandler's Chapel community. Both churches note that WWII delayed electricity coming to this county area. While subscriptions had been taken for the area in 1940, the war stopped the project because of the restriction on wiring. In 1949, Oak Grove was finally electrified, and the church bought a modern butane system to heat the church.<sup>101</sup> Chandler's Methodist reports the same thing. The church received electricity in 1949 and changed from wood heat to kerosene to gas.<sup>102</sup> There is not another mention of WWII in either church's records.

Other changes are more difficult to document. In many ways, African Americans' service during WWII contributed to the beginning of the Civil Rights movement. In 1948, Harry Truman desegregated the military, paving the way for American society's desegregation. (Truman supported Civil Rights and believed that racism and segregation should end before he was president).<sup>103</sup> Sadly, there are few sources or mentions of African Americans and their service or impact in Logan County. As previously noted, this is a massive hole in this project. While more sources may exist, they have not yet been discovered. For the people of Logan, the process of

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<sup>100</sup> Neal Taylor, Logan County resident, interviewed by author, Russellville, KY. October 20, 2021.

<sup>101</sup> Mike Roberts, *A History of Oak Grove Baptist Church, 1876-1976*.

<sup>102</sup> *Chandler's Chapel United Methodist Church*, September 26, 2010.

desegregation is one that many fought against in the pre-WWII period. This is supported by the racial violence of the early 1900s, the erecting of the Confederate Monument, the rhetoric spoken at the event, and the thousands that attended. Another source of proof was the increased membership of the KKK during the 1920s. Each of these actions were thoroughly discussed in chapter two. Regardless, WWII allowed for the Civil rights movement to begin and for the first real change in the life of African Americans since they were freed after the Civil War with the Thirteenth Amendment.

Richard Holl pointed out that in Kentucky racial discord did increase after 1945, but a large number for African Americans did not want to give up their jobs they started during the war. They wanted to continue to make money and to improve the lives of their family. This allowed them to continue to fight the old Jim Crow laws and to try to destroy segregation. The United States had just fought to free people around the world from the hands of repression, and the African Americans believed that it was long past time to end similar repression in the United States. They fought and died for the freedom of others. They deserved the same freedom. It was time for this racial hardship which dated back to the Civil War era to end, and WWII helped end segregation and some of the hardships. For the African Americans of Kentucky (and across the United States), WWII allowed them to rebound against repression, rise up, and be fully free. They were needed during WWII for military service and service at home in factories, farms, and various other fronts.<sup>104</sup> The Civil Rights Era had begun.

The biggest documented event in Logan County concerning Civil Rights was the integration of the Russellville City and Logan County Schools. Both school systems started the

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<sup>103</sup> Harry S. Truman, *Memoirs by Harry S. Truman: Years of Trial and Hope, 1946-1952*, (Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company Inc., 1956), 182-183.

<sup>104</sup> Holl, 207-209.

process of integrating in the spring of 1956. The first meetings took place in February of that year and continued through April. Both school systems opened the 1956-1957 in August, with races going to the same schools. This is the first time in Logan County that this had occurred. Over the months of meetings, the Russellville School System plainly told everyone that they would not be able to make everyone happy, but it was their goal to integrate and start new.<sup>105</sup> The integration of schools happened because of the service of African Americans during WWII, and then President Truman starting the process of desegregation in the late 1940s, which led to the famed Brown Supreme Court Case in 1954. Unlike many other counties in Kentucky that did not integrate until after, there were no real documented issues during the first school year for both districts.

The subject of integration was a complex one for many people. While no one could deny that racism still existed when the schools desegregated, the schools became the model for the rest of the city and county. Sadly, even when society started to become one, instead of two there still is not much information concerning African Americans and their treatment during this period. There was one great change from the integration of the schools, and that was the rise of new opportunities for African Americans and according to some it revolutionized the high school sports world. The period was one of the major adjustments for both races. While no large issues were documented during the first school year of integration, this change brought many people closer together because they were no longer separated by race. For the people of Logan, this is truly the beginning of one people (nation), under God.

During this period, there were numerous “firsts” for African Americans. Perhaps the two most important were Harvey Smith and Dr. Raytha L. Yokley. Smith became the first African

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<sup>105</sup> Coffman Jr., 550. *The News-Democrat* also contained numerous articles on the subject from February

American man appointed to the Russellville City Council in late 1964 or early 1965. This was the first time that the governing body represented the minority. Yokley was a sociologist at Western Kentucky University and was one of the first African Americans to become a professor at the institution. He wrote about black churches and spent his life fighting for civil rights and equal opportunities for African Americans. In 1968 he became the first African American to be appointed to the Russellville City School Board. He would serve in this position until 1982.<sup>106</sup> Both of these men fought for improved quality of life for African Americans in their roles. They fought to improve neighborhoods, and the quality of education. Their importance in the history of Russellville in the post WWII period was only possible with the changes begun shortly after the war that ushered in the Civil Rights movement.

The people of Logan County were reminded of the war daily. They were asked to collect items such as scrap paper or medals. They were asked to buy bonds, give blood, donate to the Red Cross, and make sacrifices daily. They were forced to ration food, tires, and gasoline for the war effort, all while they were expected to be patriotic and enthusiastic. If they were not, it was inferred that they were not loyal, or that they wanted the Axis to win. While most people did their best with victory gardens and searching for war work, the stress of the war impacted men, women, and children. Everyone was expected to do their part every day, without exception. People were not to get tired, take breaks, or do anything of nature because soldiers were fighting in unknown faraway places. This stress, this tension, makes WWII the most impactful war and event in Logan County's history, even though no battle occurred there.

Virtually every textbook that covers United States history in the 1950s has a section titled the move to the suburbs. For Russellville in Logan County, the town was not large enough for

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through April 1956.

suburbs but something similar started to develop after WWII. People no longer wanted to live right next to downtown. With the arrival of electricity to the county and all the new industrial jobs created during this period, people wanted a taste of city life mixed with country living. They wanted yards to tend to. They wanted some space between them and their neighbors. In Russellville, this is the rise of the subdivisions. The three oldest subdivisions were all created in the 1950-1961 period. The first was Brookhaven in 1955. Brookhaven was built around Post Oak Baptist Church, approximately three miles from downtown Russellville to the southwest. The section was Cloverland, more commonly known as Daleview in 1957. This subdivision is approximately two miles from downtown to the south. In 1961 Meadowbrook began, about 4 miles to the north of downtown. Meadowbrook is more commonly known as Chapman Subdivision. These are the first subdivisions that created separation from the main part of Russellville.<sup>107</sup> They laid the foundation for future subdivisions years later, even further from downtown including Longview, Woodhurst, and even Westdale. Another change that came to the county after WWII was expanded outdoor recreation, which occurred because of the creation of the soil conservation districts. One of these projects, including the damming of two small rivers to create Lake Malone. The lake opened in 1961, and one year later it began part of the Kentucky State Parks. Another smaller lake was created during this period, called Spa Lake. The lake had numerous starts and stops, but it was opened in early 1976.<sup>108</sup> The changes brought by WWII allowed for people to move further away from the main area of the city, thus laying the foundations for the current city of Russellville. Again, while these are not suburbs, these subdivisions were created with the same principles and attitudes. They were created by people that wanted the luxuries of city life, with some peace of the countryside.

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<sup>106</sup> African American History file, Logan County Public Library, Russellville, KY.

One last change brought about by WWII was road construction. During the 1950s, under Eisenhower's Interstate Highway Act, Logan County had an ally in the state government. Emerson "Doc" Beauchamp. Doc was a farmer in southern Logan County, and he became the democratic political boss in the 1930s when fellow Logan Countian Tom Rhea retired. He served in a variety of political positions including Rural Highway Commissioner from 1947-1950 and then became Lieutenant Governor from 1951-1955. During his time in these positions he assisted the western part of the state namely Logan County with the building and paving of roads. Some roads he assisted with in Logan County include state highway 100, which is also known as the Tom Rhea Highway during his time in power. In addition to roads, he helped with the assistance of building bridges and helped to establish important routes through Logan County including U.S. Highways, 68, 79, and 431.<sup>109</sup> These roads brought more commerce and industry to Logan County. For products to travel the infrastructure must be there. Beauchamp and others made sure that vital routes going both north and south as well as east and west through Logan County. These routes connected Logan County with Bowling Green, Hopkinsville, Clarksville, and Nashville, Tennessee.

In the years that followed the war people's lives changed. The electrification of the community along with new opportunities for civilians with new stores and businesses that were highlighted in chapter three, allowed for the changes. WWII brought the county forward. African Americans' lives changed, and the county and nation took steps towards equality. The addition of roads and subdivisions allowed people to live differently and enjoy a life close to the city, but not too close to downtown. All these changes were made possible by the impact of WWII.

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<sup>107</sup> Property Records, Logan County Court Clerk's Office, Russellville, KY.

<sup>108</sup> Recreation Files Logan County. Logan County Public Library, Russellville, KY.

<sup>109</sup> Emerson "Doc" Beauchamp Local History Files, Logan County Public Library, Russellville, KY.

The next chapter will focus on how the war was reported to the people of Logan County. This weekly reporting and daily radio updates kept the war fresh in the minds of everyone. These actions and the totality of WWII supported by government propaganda changed the county. Attitudes were changed. While people may have been frustrated with rationing and bond drives, they continued to support those actions because it was the right thing to do. The impacts of WWII changed the people of Logan to rely on and trust the federal government instead of opposing it. It is virtually impossible to point to one event to prove change, but the totality of the war, brought changes to the community. In the years that followed the people continued to experience changes, with the arrival of a permanent hospital, the expansion of electricity to the rest of the county, and WWII was the catalyst for this change.

## Chapter 5: Local Reporting on WWII in Logan County

While many people in the United States had the radio, some places in the United States did not have access to electricity. The local newspapers, especially in small communities, were the main source of everything. Local papers were filled with an emphasis on local. In *The News-Democrat*, one could say that the news is divided into county and Russellville city news and then numerous local reports from the local communities in the county. For the people of Logan County, this paper was the source of virtually all information. While the people in Russellville and a few other parts of the county had electricity, much of the northern part of the county did not. Even for those who could listen to the radio, the station was out of Louisville or Nashville. Because of this, people received national and state news, not local news. Within this chapter, the local paper outlines the coverage of the war and what the masses could read. Some of the information is national or state-driven, but the one thing the paper has is the local touch—information on local boys in service. The stations in Louisville or Nashville did not report this information. How did the local paper cover the war? Was the emphasis on local soldiers? During the war, people had to wait seven days to obtain new information. This became unacceptable after the war and laid the foundation for creating a radio station and another county newspaper.

This chapter is important because, before the mid-1950s, a single company dominated news coverage in Logan County. While this company had different names, no one could challenge the power of the local paper. The demand for news coverage during WWII changed years after the war. People wanted more local news coverage and refused to wait a week for information. WWII brought this change to Logan County. The driving question behind this chapter is how the war was covered. Did the paper place more emphasis on the national war news, or on local topics? The information in this chapter provides a chronological discussion of



the coverage of the war. This chapter aims to discuss the coverage of the war locally in the county. During the war, the people of Logan demanded information, especially about local soldiers in the war. They had to wait a week to be able to read information, and this became unacceptable. They craved information. This is important because the paper was published weekly, leaving massive gaps in coverage. The thesis for this chapter is that the desire for more local information related to the county, state, and region, brought change to the county after the war ended with the arrival of a second county paper and a radio station. WWII and the desire for news pushed these developments in the 1950s and early 1960s.

For comparison, newspapers from nearby counties were also reviewed on war coverage, even though they were not always cited. The reason for this is to see how local papers covered the news of the war for the public to read. While not every edition of the papers is viewed, each was analyzed around the dates of certain events, including Pearl Harbor, D-Day, the war's end, etc. In Butler County, the weekly newspaper was *The Butler County Banner-Republican* during WWII. In Todd County, the weekly paper was *The Todd County Standard*, and in Simpson County, the paper was *The Franklin Favorite*. All these papers have one thing in common. While they discuss war events, there is much more of a local focus. They spend little space on battles, meetings, or other content typically covered in history books. They focused on the things that directly affected the people at home, including where their boys were and how they were fairing in the conflict. Or

### **General Reporting on the War and Related Topics**

Before the war began, the local paper followed a regular format in terms of reporting news. The major headlines of local interest were on the first page, with the remaining pages

containing information from the smaller communities in the county and some state and national headlines that were picked up from locations such as *The Associated Press* or *The Courier-Journal*. The paper would regularly report on sports stories and other items of location interest throughout the appropriate season. The paper also had another common trend other than regular local advertisements; the paper almost never mentions the name of the author of the article. This is true for both local stories and reports from the larger papers, which sometimes make it difficult to know exactly who is speaking and from what authority they have. A prime example of this can be seen from the December 4, 1941, edition of *the News-Democrat*. This is the last edition before the United States entered WWII. There is very little reporting about WWII. In most of the ads, businesses were promoting Christmas shopping, and as far as they knew, the peace would continue in the United States. Little did they know that was about to change. On page two, there were a few short blurbs about the war, one was an interview with Alvin York, and another spoke of the need for supplies to be shipped to Russia. The most interesting article claimed that the Japanese sought a bargain to continue peace with the United States.<sup>1</sup> Hugo Sims offered a slightly different perspective in his article on page six. He stated that if the Japanese did attack, the strategy of the United States must be to hold on to the Philippines at all costs. He also claimed that the Japanese actions in the Far East could not continue to be tolerated, but if war did come, it would be because of the aggressive actions of Japan.<sup>2</sup> Little did they know that the attack on Pearl Harbor would bring the war to the United States three days later. It is also important to note that in this same edition of the paper, they requested renewals for 1942, and a small blurb stated that there were 10,000 subscribers to the paper. Considering the population of

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<sup>1</sup> "Japan Seeks a Bargain," *The News-Democrat*, December 4, 1941, 2.

<sup>2</sup> Hugo Sims, "Looking at Washington," *The News-Democrat*, December 4, 1941, 6.

Logan County was roughly 20,000 people at the time, that means that virtually every home in the county received and read the paper each week. This was their source for local news.

In the December 11 edition of the paper, there was a headline above the title of the paper that read, “We in ‘17 and ‘18, and we can do it again! Should be the rallying cry of one hundred and thirty million Americans.” This headline was aided by the local public and an attempt to unite people together for the cause of winning the war. Also on the front page was a substantial article with a copy of FDR’s picture, briefly discussing the attack on Pearl Harbor and FDR asking for a war declaration from Congress and then the other Axis Powers declaring war on the United States. The article was very sober because the war fears were once again thrust upon the community and the nation. Perhaps the most moving line of the article was FDR’s discussion of how this was the greatest challenge to life, liberty, and civilization in all human history.<sup>3</sup>

In the following edition of the paper, there were numerous short articles on page two about the war. Some topics included the importance of buying war bonds to help pay for the war and being committed to victory in what is believed to be a long war. Perhaps the most telling article was the one focused on Japan. The unknown author discussed that the sun will always set, and they used this as an analogy for the war with Japan. The Japanese have been a buzzsaw in the Pacific, overrunning the Chinese and numerous other nations. While Americans desired peace, the Japanese brought war to the nation. For the sun to set on the Japanese, the people of the United States must respond by mobilizing and taking the war to them so that one-day peace would again be won.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> “Japan, Italy, and Germany Declare War on America, *The News-Democrat*, December 11, 1941, 1.

<sup>4</sup> “The Rising Sun Must Always Set,” *The News-Democrat*, December 18, 1941, 2.

As the calendar turned to 1942, the citizens of Logan County were reminded that the United States was attacked and brought into a war, which the citizens did not want. Still, the people must now answer the call to service and sacrifice to ensure victory against the totalitarians.<sup>5</sup> This short article does not provide any real details from the war front. The goal was to unite and organize the populace into serving in the military and on the home front, making sacrifices to win the war. The front page contained an outline of President Roosevelt's most recent speech. The article highlighted some of FDR's key points on the role of industry, civilians, labor, and soldiers, among others, would play in the war effort. This speech called for total war at home and on the battlefield in many ways. For the soldiers to be successful, total mobilization must occur at home, and labor must be prepared to work long hours while also sacrificing materials for the need of the war effort through rationing. FDR outlined that in 1942, over 80,000 planes, 45,000 tanks, and 20,000 anti-aircraft guns, among other items, would be produced by American labor for war, and even more would be produced in 1943 to ensure complete victory.<sup>6</sup>

Perhaps the most moving article about the war, published on January 8, 1942, outlines the concerns and problems children in England faced during the war. They have gas masks at their sides as they go to school daily. Many children in France were forced to learn at home because the war continued around them. Children regularly sleep at their desks at night because they have nowhere else to go as hundreds of buildings have been destroyed in London. Many children have been displaced because of the war and have moved to the countryside north of London. The

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<sup>5</sup> "News of the War," *The News-Democrat*, January 1, 1942, 2.

<sup>6</sup> "Millions Hear Mighty Speech: President Roosevelt Pledges War to Victory Against all Foes, in Call to Battle," *The News-Democrat*, January 8, 1942, 1.

article even mentions that Jewish children have been barred from schools in Switzerland because while the nation is neutral, it has been overrun by the Nazis.<sup>7</sup>

One million tons of food reached Great Britain according to January 15, 1942, paper. According to the author, this is part of the Lend-Lease Agreement that was established in 1941. Numerous products were sent, included dry milk, evaporated milk, eggs, and cheese.<sup>8</sup> The plan is for more food to be sent in 1942, as the United States would become the breadbasket and arsenal of the world. It is important to note that most of this food was gathered to send before the United States was ever in the war. The paper also reported on the dire situation for food in Vichy France. Because of the lack of items, the Vichy government has tried to find alternative solutions to solve the issues of food items such as sugars and oils. Rationing and laws on certain items have greatly limited the flexibility of innovation and thus are creating food shortages and other inconveniences.<sup>9</sup> Richard Holl confirms this information in terms of food production. He cited Logan's neighbor in northwest Muhlenberg County. He cites that the production of corn increased from 594,973 bushels in 1940 to 707,243 bushels in 1945. He further states that more food was produced for soldiers and citizens during the war period than ever before in the nation's history.<sup>10</sup>

During the first few months of the war, the paper's reporting or layout really did not change much from the pre-war period. This was probably because people were still confused, and the war had not really hit home yet. While some soldiers were starting to be drafted and others enlisting, they were still in basic training or boot camp, preparing for war and not yet

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<sup>7</sup> "School goes on as Bombs Drop: Many Children Barefoot, Underfed, but Readin' Writin' Continue," *The News-Democrat*, January 8, 1942, 13.

<sup>8</sup> "One Million Tons of Food reaches Britain," *The News-Democrat*, January 15, 1942, 1.

<sup>9</sup> "Food Dearth in France Serious," *The News-Democrat*, January 15, 1942, 3.

<sup>10</sup> Holl, 82, 85.

fighting. But an interesting idea was discussed in the February 12, 1942, paper. An article stated that the United States and its Allies were united for the war effort and that the war would test the bounds of that resolve. According to the article, Japan and Germany are still winning the war and have no desire for peace or compromise. Rumors of people inside Germany that wanted to seek peace have been greatly overestimated. Because of this, the Allies must be prepared to win the war by a force of arms, soundly defeating them. Germany and Japan are confident that they can continue to do damage and eliminate any possibility that the Allies can recover and defeat them. Their objectives were to continue to be as destructive as possible and to push the British and United States into surrender. Both nations have asserted their superiority over other people and will accept nothing less than victory. Both nations ignore morality and push the limits of civilization. The only way to victory is utter destruction and annihilate of the enemy, thus establishing control through military, economic, political, and social order.<sup>11</sup> This last line is interesting because this is the thesis of a book on WWII written by Thomas Zeiler, titled *Annihilation: A Global History of WWII*. In this book, Zeiler stated that during the war, the Allies and the Axis came to a point where they decided that the one way to win was to annihilate the enemy.<sup>12</sup> The fact that this concept was mentioned this early during the war means that some people were already thinking of this strategy.

The next few months of reporting continued to focus on the theme of the German and Japanese advances and that the United States should be ready for a long war. With each edition, more and more content was being devoted to the war effort, but the paper's layout really had not gone under many changes other than some of the more local articles being smaller. The people of Logan even heard about how brutal the Japanese could be in war. According to British sources,

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<sup>11</sup> "No Compromise Peace Possible," *The News-Democrat*, February 12, 1942, 2.

the Japanese have committed inhumane acts in Hong Kong. The article reminded people about the evil behavior of looting, raping, and killing women in Nanking and stated that the offenses spread everywhere the Japanese attacked. The unknown author even warned the American people, specifically women, that the same behavior would occur in the United States if Japan invaded. The best hope for success to ensure this does not happen is prolonged American production that can be used in a long-term offensive to defeat the Japanese and the Germans.<sup>13</sup> This article is rather important. This is the first time since the war began for the United States that semi-current events have been discussed. Normally the articles discuss production and the need for the American public to sacrifice. For many people, this may have been the first time they ever encountered stories like this, and this would have shaped their feelings and opinions of the Japanese people.

In the weekly reporting on the war, the people of Logan County read comments from the Japanese that stated that the United States Navy would not be able to stand up to their navy within ten years. Another article reported that the United States recently bombed Tokyo. According to the author, this action provides hope that the tide of the war is changing and that the Japanese people are getting a taste of what they deserve for attacking Pearl Harbor. Many other articles discuss the importance of farmers and industry, and it was reported that the American Aviation Company is making record profits while producing planes for the war. The criticisms of Britain took the week off, as there is an article extremely critical of Vichy France, the leadership of Pierre Laval, and others. They are accused of following the orders of the Nazis and conducting their will at every turn. The unknown author accused Vichy of being a puppet

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<sup>12</sup> Thomas Zeiler, *Annihilation: A Global History of WWII*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011).

<sup>13</sup> "Anywhere that it is Assailed," *The News-Democrat*, April 2, 1942, 2.

government collaborating with Hitler at every turn. They need to wake up and remember that a day of atonement is coming, and the actions of supporting the Nazis will not be forgotten.<sup>14</sup>

Negative reporting about Japanese behavior was common in all the newspapers. Was this a scare tactic to keep people motivated for war? Possibly. But headline reports like "The Japanese are ruthless people in battle who do not understand Christian behavior in war." According to the report, General Hideki Tojo recently told the Japanese people that they were committed to destroying the United States and Great Britain. The Japanese want to plunder the world and take over the resources of the globe and the property of other nations. They have no morality as pointed out by the war in China. They fight without mercy, and civilians are not safe from their forces. According to the unknown author, the American public must be highly alert. They need to be fully committed to victory because the only way the Japanese will surrender is to be defeated and destroyed by a stronger military power. A traditional peace is not possible, only destruction.<sup>15</sup> Scare tactic or truth, these headlines got the American public's attention and were turned into various forms of propaganda for the war.

The first good news of WWII was reported to the people of Logan County in early 1943. By this time, the format and processes of the paper had changed, but that will be discussed later in the more local-focused section. It was reported that Tripoli has fallen to the Allies. The local paper contained a special article about this and reminded everyone that this was the second time men from Logan County were involved in the "whipping" of Tripoli. This article does not contain much information about the recent WWII battle, as it does serve as a reminder of the accomplishments of Russellvillian Pressley O'Bannon. O'Bannon was discussed in chapter two,

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<sup>14</sup> Various, *The News-Democrat*, April 26, 1942, 2.

<sup>15</sup> "What Japan is Fighting For," *The News-Democrat*, August 13, 1942, 2.



and his importance to the United States Marine Corps.<sup>16</sup> While it contains facts, this article is really a source of propaganda for the people of Russellville and Logan County. One might argue that this article motivates people to serve, sacrifice, and dedicate themselves fully to the war effort.

While most articles on the war are very general or repetitive with the same information, one article in the last edition of April 1943 is different. According to the War Information Department, the United States has suffered 78,235 casualties since the war started on April 24. The combined military forces have suffered the most, with 12,123 dead, 15,049 wounded, 40,435 missing, and 10,628 prisoners of war. The army has been hit the hardest, with a total of 53,309 casualties. The Navy has suffered 24,926 casualties. The Marines have lost 1,553 dead, 2,443 wounded, and 2,038 missing. The coast guard has suffered the least damage, with 75 dead, 20 wounded, and 158 missing.<sup>17</sup>

From this point on, many of the articles related to the war started to become more specific in terms of the content covered. While they may not always have provided much information compared to larger papers, the editors picked up articles to help citizens better understand the war and the path to victory. The most specific war-related article to date can be found on the front page of the May 13, 1943, newspaper. It is reported that all Axis resistance in North Africa has ended. Approximately 150,000 soldiers were captured in the Germans' and Italians' first major defeat in WWII. Many of the prisoners will be brought to the United States and spend time in prisons and other places established by the federal government. The plan is to use many of them for forced labor, primarily on farms, to help in areas with worker shortages. In

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<sup>16</sup> "Tripoli again Whipped After 137 Years," *The News-Democrat*, February 4, 1943, 1, 5.

<sup>17</sup> The Office of War Information, *Casualties of War*, April 24, 1943, printed in the *News-Democrat* April 29, 1943, 7.

the entire campaign, the Allies took about 400,000 POWs. They also took many war-related materials, including guns, aircraft, and ammunition still in serviceable condition. The articles state that this is a massive victory for the Allies. The Germans and Italians are now on the defensive, with the United States and the British pushing them out of Tunisia closer to Europe.<sup>18</sup>

The first major article on WWII since the Axis surrendered North Africa reports that the next thirteen weeks will be critical to the war's outcome. The article cites the military successes of the United States and the British in the spring and says that if the Allies continue the massive counterattacks, more damage will be inflicted on the Japanese and Germans. It also seems to be good news that Hitler has changed his strategy and will not try to destroy the Soviet Union for a third time. This may signal that his forces are weakening, and with the assistance of the Americans and British, the Soviets may be ready to try to push the Germans out of the U.S.S.R. In addition to the naval successes against the Germans in the Atlantic and the Japanese in the Pacific, the signs offer hope to the Allies. This hope did not exist months earlier, so the article warns readers not to become overconfident. Now is the time to continue, ramp up production, and finish the Axis once and for all.<sup>19</sup>

For the second straight week, a war article with specific information is in the local paper. It is reported that U.S. jungle fighters are within six miles of the Japanese airbase of Munda on New Georgia Island in the Solomons. The article reports that a naval defeat weakened the Japanese in the last few days. Since July 5, 1943, at least nine Japanese cruisers and destroyers have been destroyed around Kula Gulf. The only known U.S. loss is the cruiser *U.S.S. Helena*, but most of the 800 men aboard have been saved. The article goes on to state that the weight of the U.S. forces in the Pacific is starting to take its toll on the Japanese navy, which is also

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<sup>18</sup> "Gen. Von Arnim Captured; Axis Resistance in Tunis Ends," *The News-Democrat*, May 13, 1943, 1.

impacting their land holdings. General Douglas MacArthur also reports that the Australian forces have captured Observation Hill near the Japanese base of Salamaua in New Guinea.<sup>20</sup>

The newspaper states that the “Japs” are finished on Munda. As of August 5, the U.S. jungle troops have squashed the Japanese positions, taking the airfield. It is also reported that the Allies have made more gains over the Germans. The British captured Catania and made attacks on the east coast of Sicily. The Germans escaped down a narrow road after the British attacked Paterno. The road is believed to be open to attack the Germans in Messina, but only time will tell. Many hoped that Italy might be on the verge of surrender, leaving the Germans to fight the war. According to reports out of Italy, this is not the case, and the Italian government has every plan of fighting to protect Sicily and Italy from allied invasion. It is also reported that the German POWs held nearby Camp Campbell will soon be available for farm work.<sup>21</sup>

Heavy losses in terms of materials and manpower are reported on the island of Sicily. The report is that American troops barely hold on to a small area of Sicily near Naples. The Germans have answered the invasions by the British and the Americans, and heavy fighting is taking place between the sides. Americans are warned to stop being overconfident and foolish. According to the report, the war is a long way from being over. Some government members even speculate that some Americans have eased in their war commitments because of stories of American and British victories. One such official stated that foolish overconfidence is signing the death warrants of American soldiers. The sides are evenly matched, and neither the Germans

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<sup>19</sup> “Next 13 Weeks Seen Fixing Probable Length of War,” *The News-Democrat*, July 1, 1943, 8.

<sup>20</sup> “War News,” *The News-Democrat*, July 8, 1943, 1.

<sup>21</sup> “The War,” *The News-Democrat*, August 5, 1943, 1.

nor the Japanese show any signs of weakening or a desire to stop fighting. Americans must be on guard and remain 100% committed to victory. <sup>22</sup>

As 1943 ended, the people of Logan County read some hopeful news in the local paper. According to the article, General Dwight Eisenhower stated that WWII would be won in 1944. He announced at a farewell press conference before leaving to go to Britain to oversee allied invasions of Europe. He warned that for the war to end, everyone from soldiers in combat to farmers to war industrial workers must continue to do their jobs. People need to continue to buy bonds. They must continue to sacrifice so soldiers have what they need. The fastest way for the war to end is for everyone to keep on track, give more, and do more than in 1943. The Allies in the European Theater of War are in a much better position as 1944 starts than in 1943. When 1943 began the Germans were still in Africa, but attacks on Sicily and Italy drove Axis forces further inward. Eisenhower warns people not to get overconfident and that the war still has many hard days ahead, but the tide has changed in the Allies' favor. <sup>23</sup>

As the war continued, the information on the larger aspects of the war started to decrease, and more emphasis was placed on local topics. The local paper, the Red Cross, is prepared for an American invasion of Europe. According to reports, the organization started plans for an invasion to be prepared when it occurs. While no one knows where the attack sight will be, General Eisenhower promises that an attack will occur this year, and the Red Cross has labeled the area zone five. It is believed that the army will lead the invasion, and the Red Cross will come in behind the soldiers with various supplies and materials needed to support the soldiers in combat. It is believed that the process for this invasion with Red Cross support will be based on

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<sup>22</sup> "Sec. Morgenthau Reveals Heavy Loss of Materials in the Battle of Sicily," *The News-Democrat*, September 16, 1943, 1.

<sup>23</sup> "Eisenhower says War will be Won in 1944," *The News-Democrat*, December 30, 1943, 1.

the model of the Sicily invasion. The girls of the red cross will follow in the rear when possible.<sup>24</sup>

There were four articles about the war on the front page of the current edition of the paper. The first discusses allied bombers flying from Italy to attack a railway center in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Roughly 6,000 planes dropped about 9,000 tons of explosives on the site and other locations in Hitler's Europe within a thirty-six-hour timeframe.<sup>25</sup> It is also reported that the Soviet Red Army has launched massive attacks against German forces in Poland. Most of the fighting occurred in the southeastern portion of Poland, and the Russians claimed to have shot down thirteen German aircraft. The Soviets have also launched massive bombing campaigns in Sevastopol and other locations along the eastern line. One described the battles as a combination of sieges and slow-moving offensives.<sup>26</sup>

The other two articles discuss the war against the Japanese in the Pacific. First, the Allies attacked the Japanese Dutch East Indies. Many bombers and ships attacked the area around Sabang, and in the process, twenty-two Japanese planes were destroyed, including six large transports. One of the Allied Bombers dropped a 1,000-ton bomb on an oil tank, which greatly hurt the Japanese resources in the area.<sup>27</sup> The last article covers the conflict in the Caroline Islands. These islands are regarded as the last step to the Philippines. The allies hit Woleai. More bombers attacked airfields and other positions from the Solomon Islands in the north. For the most part, these aircraft faced no resistance from the Japanese. This allowed for the Allied forces

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<sup>24</sup> "Red Cross Prepares for Invasion," *The News-Democrat*, March 16, 1944, 1.

<sup>25</sup> "Italy Based Bombers Raid Bulgarian City," *The News-Democrat*, April 20, 1944, 1.

<sup>26</sup> "Russians Beat back Heavy Nazi Attacks in Poland," *The News-Democrat*, April 20, 1944, 1.

<sup>27</sup> "Allies Strike Heavy Blow at Jap-Held Dutch Islands," *The News-Democrat*, April 20, 1944, 1.

to hit from the north and the south, which did a great amount of damage to Japanese forces and positions.<sup>28</sup>

The local paper provided a map of Europe for readers to see. The map captioned that six possible invasion routes could lead to Germany from France. Route one would be another amphibious invasion leaving Scotland and invading Germany proper through Norway and Denmark. Route two would launch from Britain into eastern France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The third and fourth would continue the D-Day invasion into central France and then go east. The Fifth would be to invade France from the south, originating in Algeria. The last possible route would be from Italy into Germany, primarily using air forces to attack and land troops. The caption says another option is possible: combining the six routes or plans.<sup>29</sup>

According to the paper, Americans battled France and captured a train station at La Haye-du-Puits. The British and Canadians battled the Germans in other areas of France. The Russians continue to push the Germans back further in Poland, and it appears Hitler is using as many of his reserves as possible. The war in the air favored the Allies as they were bombing parts of France and Germany almost daily. In the Pacific, Japan has lost twenty-six more submarines, and the Japanese are preparing to acknowledge the loss of Saipan in the Marianas.<sup>30</sup>

President Roosevelt stated that the United States would not just defeat Germany and Japan, but they will invade and subdue them. Both nations will surrender unconditionally and not rise again to violate the world's peace. In the process, the U.S. troops advanced on the Loire River and took the city of Orleans, striking a blow both north and south of Paris. While citizens read this information, they also read that two Logan boys are dead and two are missing. E.E.

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<sup>28</sup> "Caroline Islands Hit at both Ends," *The News-Democrat*, April 20, 1944, 1.

<sup>29</sup> "Invasion Points Map," *The News-Democrat*, June 22, 1944, 9.

Coleman was serving in France when he went missing on June 25. While John M. Givens serving in Italy, went missing on July 26. Emma Ray said her son Robert L. Ray was killed in battle on July 18 in France. The family will receive more information in the future. The family of Paul Terry was killed in France on July 5. He was serving with the 330<sup>th</sup> Infantry and had three years of service.<sup>31</sup>

The paper's last edition in October 1944 reports that as of last week, General MacArthur kept his promise and has returned to the Philippines to avenge the loss at Bataan. There is also discussion as to who is to blame for WWII. Many state that the blame should be placed on Hitler and his government for acting aggressively, thus starting the war. Others, including reports from the Soviet Union, state that the blame must go further than Hitler. Some Soviet officials claim that the German people themselves deserve blame for the war. In their opinion, they did nothing to stop Hitler, and they followed him blindly into battle to create his new master race. Because of this, the Soviets wanted reparations from all of Germany and wanted the nation punished, not just Hitler.<sup>32</sup>

The paper's front page maps the potential battle plans to end the war in the Pacific. The caption reads that with the success in retaking the Philippines, especially Manila Bay, and the early successes at Iwo Jima, the United States has two paths to victory. The first is to use the Philippines as a springboard into China and Formosa and then to mainland Japan. The second strategy is to continue the path from Iwo Jima over numerous other islands and launch a strike

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<sup>30</sup> "War at a Glance," *The News-Democrat*, July 6, 1944, 1.

<sup>31</sup> "War News, One Killed, Two Missing," *The News-Democrat*, August 17, 1944, 1, 9.

<sup>32</sup> "News About the War," *The News-Democrat*, October 26, 1944, 1.

directly at Tokyo. The caption says that invading China would be the more difficult of the two paths, but no one knows now which path to victory will be taken.<sup>33</sup>

According to records, President Roosevelt was laid to rest in his favorite place, Hyde Park. The service includes notable politicians, foreign dignitaries, and various other people. While the nation still mourns the loss of its great leader, the war continues, and many things are unknown about the new President, Harry Truman. According to the article, while this was on the minds of everyone, Roosevelt was the focus as the nation mourned the loss of their hero.<sup>34</sup> Other local newspapers from Franklin, Morgantown, and Elkton posted short tributes to the deceased president. While there was a tone of sadness in each, each paper focused more on local coverage of the war, which was the norm. As noted earlier in a previous chapter, many Logan counties also mourned the loss of FDR. Each of the individuals interviewed, including Evelyn Richardson, spoke about grown men crying and worrying about the state of the nation and the war.

As the calendar turns to May 1945, it is reported that Benito Mussolini, his mistress, and sixteen other fascists were killed. According to reports from Italy, their bodies are hanging in Milan like an exhibit.<sup>35</sup> The paper reports that the unconditional surrender of the German forces in Holland, Denmark, Norway, Italy, and Czechoslovakia is being negotiated as the paper is being printed. There is great hope in the United States and throughout Europe that the nightmare of Hitler is almost over. It is reported that some high-ranking government officials expect to hear of a complete surrender from Hitler any day.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> "Map of the Pacific War," *The News-Democrat*, March 22, 1945, sec. 2, 1.

<sup>34</sup> "Late President Laid to Rest at Hyde Park," *The News-Democrat*, April 19, 1945, sec. 1, 1.

<sup>35</sup> "Benito Mussolini Meets Gangsters Death in Italy," *The News-Democrat*, May 3, 1945, sec. 2, 1.

<sup>36</sup> "Moves for full Surrender of Nazi Pockets Reported," *The News-Democrat*, May 3, 1945, sec. 2, 1.



May 10, 1945, the paper is dedicated to all the servicemen and women who helped the United States defeat the Germans. Numerous articles cover the war's end, with most being very celebratory. For example, the bold headline read, "Six-Year Struggle Ends in Europe." The paper provides a chronology of the war to date, stating that the "Yanks" are now moving to the Pacific to crush the "Japs." It is also reported that Stalin would not destroy or dismember Germany, but only time will tell what will unfold. While there was great excitement about the war's end, Russellville had no celebration. This is because of President Truman's statement that the entire war is not yet over. When Japan is defeated, then everyone can celebrate. Numerous ads included praise for the war's end in Europe and thanks for those who have bravely served the nation. The paper was full of praise and some caution with Japan still fighting.<sup>37</sup>

For the remainder of the war there, the amount of reporting decreased. In August 1945, it was reported that Japan surrendered, but that is all. While there was content about the general nature of the war, the overall coverage decreased as the war continued. The reason for this is the demand for more local reporting on events such as bond drives, scrap drives, and, most importantly, how are the local boys doing while gone at war. Again, this pattern stayed true for other local papers in Franklin, Elkton, and Morgantown.

As outlined, the local paper really did not cover the war itself in detail with specific facts on battles and other major national and internal themes. Most of the information was rather general. After reviewing clippings from *The Tennessean* in Evelyn Richardson's collection and articles in *The Courier Journal*, the largest papers in Tennessee and Kentucky, one can see a stark contrast in reporting. There is much less of a focus on local topics such as local people in war. The topics that many of these papers focused on were much larger, such as major battles, in

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<sup>37</sup> *The News-Democrat*, May 10, 1945.

Stalingrad, Italy, The Solomon Islands, D-Day, and numerous others. They focused more on state news and state production. These state papers did not have the same local flavor as *The News-Democrat*. In some respects, they covered the same war but from two completely different perspectives. The larger papers focused on more national topics, which the local papers focused on local topics and people were driven to know about their boys in the service.

### **Local Coverage of the War**

The first local coverage of the war occurred in 1942, *The News-Democrat* published information about local Logan countians in the war. The article included quick blurbs about Jack Russell of Fort Knox visiting family in Russellville. Jimmy Billings of the Marines visited his sister in Lewisburg. Charles Henry of Illinois visited his parents in Auburn. In addition to soldiers visiting family in the county, it was reported that Gordon Evans was commissioned to be captain and will be assigned to service overseas soon. Granville Clark was assigned to Fort Knox to complete officer training to be close to his family. Shelby Simpson completed his tests for the parachute corps and will be reporting to duty soon. Jess Lee Hall and Rufus Harper of Auburn recently passed their examinations and will report to the army soon. Lastly, Perry Arnold is currently serving as a guard at one of the Jap (sic) Concentration Camps in California. The short article provided a phone number for people to call to provide updates about servicemen connected to Logan County.<sup>38</sup> This reporting pattern on soldiers will continue for the rest of the war. From this point on, the only information included in this chapter will be information about men in combat, focusing on where they were fighting and their experiences. These types of articles become weekly occurrences. Not everyone is reported because it would be entirely too redundant.

Starting in April 1942, a series of updates started on local men in the service. This term would continue and greatly expand throughout the war. Some of the early reports were very basic. They tended to report where someone was stationed and if there were any tidbits of information that the person wanted to tell the community. In the first report, Logan County has soldiers from Pearl Harbor to Dutch Harbor, from Iceland to Ireland, and all points in between. The point is that Logan's boys are around the globe. Some reports include soldiers visiting family, but other reports are more interesting. For example, Perry Arnold has been stationed in the Los Angeles area and reported that he is currently assisting in evacuating Japanese from the area to camps. George Yost enlisted in the navy, while Chas P Mansfield will enter officers' school next week. Warren Dockins' family received a letter last week that he is still stationed at Bataan, which fell to the Japanese recently. Professor John A. Travis, director of music for the Logan County schools, is getting ready to have a physical so he can enlist in the Naval Academy of Music. Lastly, Mrs. Paul Browning, formerly a Lieutenant in the Army Nurses Corp, and her brother Norman Bibb visited their parents in the Oakville community.<sup>39</sup>

On May 8 and 9, a group of soldiers left Logan County for service. Among this list is a list of African American (Colored) troops is among them. They are George Christopher Hart, George Edward Hardin, James Hummer William, and James T. Coleman. The other reporting on the war in this edition of the paper is rather bland. People were again reminded to make sacrifices and that there was plenty of food in the United States. It is rumored that an enemy camp may be built around Todd and Logan County, but no official word has been stated. The reporting on soldiers in service is very short, and no real information can be obtained.<sup>40</sup> The

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<sup>38</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, February 26, 1942, 5.

<sup>39</sup> "News about Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, April 16, 1942, 6.

<sup>40</sup> *The News-Democrat*, May 14, 1942.

paper's reporting on African Americans in the war is very weak. Sometimes there is a section on "colored troops" or groups, but the report is extremely weak and virtually nonexistent. While African Americans were fighting for their country, and their families were supporting the war at home they were treated so poorly that the paper did not regularly have news related to them. Sadly, this was a sign of the times and the racial issues before the Civil Rights movement.

In weekly local servicemen news, staff sergeant John N. Tinsley Jr. reported to his family that he is getting ready to sail to an unknown location. Warren Tinsley, a veteran of Pearl Harbor, wrote to his family that he is well, but he could not disclose where he was stationed. The War Department reported that Warren Dockins has been missing in action since the fall of Bataan. The family was told it may be many months before any accurate report can be made. Alvin "Peanuts" Shifflett reports from Paris Island that he recently won a marksmanship award. He will leave this location soon but has no idea where he will be stationed. Others report having visits or letters, but nothing to note.<sup>41</sup>

Interestingly, men report to their families weekly that they enjoy military life. One must wonder if this is true or if they did not want their family, especially their mothers, to worry about them. It is a known fact that families worry, especially mothers, but the words of cheer had to bring some relief for them to read words that are not full of doom. It is reported that Roy B. Herndon has arrived safely overseas, as has George McCormick. No specific location is published for either man. On the other hand, Buford Dew has returned to Panama, and Paul W. Travis has arrived in Great Britain. It is also reported that Franklin Clarke has been disqualified from active flying because of his color blindness.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> "News about Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, May 28, 1942, 7.

<sup>42</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, July 16, 1942, 7.

Propaganda appeared regularly in the paper. Every edition starting in 1942 has political cartoons and various other stories and pictures to tug on the hearts of local citizens. Based on a 1942 Advertising Research Foundation report found that 83% of US adults read at least one comic strip daily. So, the government sought to capitalize on this by using Batman and Superman to sell bonds and engage local people in the war.<sup>43</sup> There are also articles like the one in the local paper that sought to anger adults at the enemy. The Japanese are ruthless people in battle who do not understand Christian behavior in war. According to the report, General Hideki Tojo recently told the Japanese people that they were committed to destroying the United States and Great Britain. The Japanese want to plunder the world and take over the world's resources and other nations' property. They have no morality as pointed out by the war in China. They fight without mercy, and civilians are not safe from their forces. According to the unknown author, the American public must be highly alert. They need to be fully committed to victory because the only way the Japanese will surrender is to be defeated and destroyed by a stronger military power. A traditional peace is not possible, only destruction.<sup>44</sup>

It was during the summer of 1942 that the local paper's reporting and layout really started to change. The public demanded to know where their boys were. They wanted to know if they were in combat. Safe, or injured. Jim Turner reports that the war coverage was so demanding that the editor committed in 1942 to stop covering sports because people were only interested in the safety and well-being of local boys while also trying to provide some insight into the general war itself. While many sports continued, the public was no longer worried about the scores of the local football game, but they were more interested in the welfare of their boys. Jim and Elyn

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<sup>43</sup> Steve M Barkin, "Fighting the Cartoon War Information Strategies in World War II.," *Journal of American Culture* 7, no. 1-2 (1984): 113–117.

<sup>44</sup> "What Japan is Fighting For," *The News-Democrat*, August 13, 1942, 2.

Richardson both report that the subject of the boys in service was the main topic wherever people gathered, whether at church, the drug store, or on the street. People wanted this information and demanded that the local paper give it to them because it was their only source for local news.<sup>45</sup> Each person interviewed spoke of how many people were waiting on their porches for the paper to be delivered so they could read about the whereabouts of Logan's boys. This lays the foundation for the change after the war when people no longer wanted to wait a week for local news.

The following reports are just some examples of the information the paper printed, and it should be noted that this is a very brief edition, and the focus is mainly on men in combat zones. Numerous Logan countians were involved in service around the globe. John N. Tinsley told his family he was in Ireland and keeping busy. Warren Landrum Tinsley is stationed somewhere in the Pacific, but his family does not know where. They report that he is doing well, even though he has not been home in over two years. Chaplain Paul W. Travis has been promoted to the rank of captain and he is stationed in Ireland. Alvin "Peanuts" Shifflet reported to his mother that he is somewhere overseas, with no location designated. Burr Shifflet is stationed in Guatemala in Central America. His family just learned that he had been hospitalized for several weeks. In addition to these soldiers abroad, multiple other men from the county are stationed in the Great Lakes, Washington D.C., and various other locations.<sup>46</sup>

George F. Lowery, a soldier from Bucksville, was killed when he was hit by a car near Dailey, West Virginia, on U.S. Route 119. He was the twenty-one-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. George Lowery. Stanley Bosworth, the prosecuting attorney of Randolph County, told the family that Floyd Jennings White of Morgantown is being held in jail on an open charge while the

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<sup>45</sup> Jim Turner, interviewed by author, Russellville, KY. September 21, 2022.

investigation is being completed. Lowery took a girl home from a dance when the two were hit. The girl, Hazel Hinzman, survived the accident. Lowery was a member of the permanent detachment of the 5<sup>th</sup> Service Command's motor mechanic school in Dailey.<sup>47</sup>

Claud W. Dillahy reported to his family that he is no longer stationed in Australia, as he has been transported to New Guinea. Norman Neely wrote a letter to his sisters informing them that he is stationed in England. He reported that there are a total of five men from Logan County in the area. Alva Perkins reports that he is stationed somewhere in the Hawaiian Islands. He wanted to tell everyone hello back at home and to tell them that if the enemy attacked again, he would be ready to "slap the Japs." Numerous small blurbs about the service men thank people for sending letters, and they express gratitude for being sent the local paper.<sup>48</sup> While no one said it, the remainder of the home had to comfort the soldiers, many of them in places they could not identify on a map if required. These letters and the paper allowed them a form of normalcy and assisted them in dealing with being homesick.

As the calendar turned to December 1942, more and more men from Logan County were called up for military service. As the war nears the end of the first year for the United States, men from Logan are around the globe, some in undisclosed locations. Bill Graham reported to his father that he is doing well and is stationed in Hawaii. O. H. Snider reported to his family that his unit is leaving San Antonio for an undisclosed location. Herman Taylor wrote to his family and told them he could not come home for Christmas as he would still be in Hawaii. He told them not to worry because they would have the "Japs exterminated" by next Christmas. Numerous other men are reported to have spent time with family. Still, a common theme in this

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<sup>46</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, September 24, 1942, 6.

<sup>47</sup> "County Soldier Killed on Highway by Car," *The News-Democrat*, October 22, 1942, 2.

<sup>48</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, October 22, 1942, 7.

article about servicemen is a focus on remembering Pearl Harbor and the hope that the war would end before Christmas of 1943.<sup>49</sup>

Many men stationed throughout the globe report that receiving the newspaper makes them feel at home, if only for a few moments. Cecil Cornelius enjoyed reading the newspaper while being stationed in a war zone. Dr. O. B. Snider received orders to be stationed abroad and recently reported to his wife that he was safe in England. Hogan Hines has been in the hospital, but he reports to his family that even though he was overseas, he has been able to enjoy playing baseball. Warren Dockins' whereabouts were still unknown. He went missing on December 8, 1941, during the attack on Bataan. The government has not determined if he was captured or killed in action. Willie B. Edwards reported to his family that he is currently stationed in a foreign nation and is doing fine. Multiple men are currently stationed in Africa. The known list includes Roy Burchett, Walter Gibson, and Carson Cassidy. He requests that his friends write him as they can. Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Williams reports having five sons in military service. One of their sons Jesse Jewell Williams recently had an interaction with FDR, and when the president found out that Williams was from Russellville, he told him that he knew the town well and had very good friends living there.<sup>50</sup>

While it is reported that Logan County surpassed every war goal for 1942 and more men are reporting to service, the county's citizens read that one of their young men is lost in action. Parnell Rayburn, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Rayburn of Russellville, was on the ship the *U.S.S. Scott* when it was torpedoed right before Christmas. His missing was reported and confirmed by a friend that survived the wreckage. The friend wrote a letter to Parnell's widow, currently residing in New York, and told her that Logan County should be proud of how Rayburn served

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<sup>49</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, December 3, 1942, 5.



his country. He reported that Rayburn died doing his job and was scheduled for advancement, and he is a hero. Rayburn joined the Navy in November 1942 and took a short engineering course before being commissioned to the *Scott*. He died when one of the engines torpedoed when the ship sank.<sup>51</sup>

Chaplain Paul W. Davis reported to his family that he was transferred to England after six months in Ireland. Henry Wallace Murphy reported to his parents that he was currently overseas in an unknown location and that the Navy was doing well. Jewell D. Lyon reports that he is somewhere in England and enjoys army life just fine. Thomas A. Coles notified his family that while he was still in Florida, his unit would go overseas very soon. Jason G. Felts reported to his brother that he had been in Africa for five months in the combat zone, but he was fine. Also in Africa is Boone Hutchings. According to his mother, he suffered a back injury and is in a hospital in North Africa.<sup>52</sup>

As the people of Logan read about the new Red Cross goals and drives for tin cans, two articles on the front page must have been the focus of attention, as the stories represent the highs and lows of war. According to Teresa C. Sharkey, no organization did more for the war effort than the Red Cross. The organizations' commitment to life and health led to millions of bandages and other medical materials for the wounded, saving thousands of lives.<sup>53</sup> First, it is reported that one of Logan's men, Barker Stamps was part of a crew that sank a U-Boat during a recent battle in the South Atlantic. Stamps was recorded to say that they saw the submarine and were expecting it to attack, but the U.S. Navy attacked and sank it before it could. Stamps stated that

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<sup>50</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, January 14, 1943, 5.

<sup>51</sup> "Parnell Rayburn of U.S. Navy Lost in Action," *The News-Democrat*, February 11, 1943, 1.

<sup>52</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, February 11, 1943, 5.

<sup>53</sup> Teresa C. Sharkey, "The Home Front: The Women of Lexington Kentucky During World War II," *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, Vol. 68, No. 4, October 1994, 470.

they waited to ensure the submarine sank to the bottom of the Atlantic by circling the attached site multiple times before moving on.<sup>54</sup>

The second article stated that Williard Perry of Russellville died in the line of duty, becoming the first man from Russellville to die. His family was notified via telegram that Perry had died of his injuries just a few days earlier. He was aboard a mine sweeper near Coos Bay when the ship capsized because of the high seas. In the event, a total of five men are confirmed dead. The family received a second telegram stating that Perry's body had been recovered and would be buried in Tacoma, Washington.<sup>55</sup> These two articles are examples of families' highs and lows during the war. It was great to hear that one's son served nobly in battle and survived to tell the tale. At the same time, the family must have been utterly devastated to learn of their loved one losing their life while so young.

The family of Roy B. Herndon received a telegram from the War Department last Friday that he has been missing in action since February 15. When he went missing, he served in the signal corps in an armored division. Herndon is 23 years old and has been in the service for about eighteen months. When he entered service, he went to Fort Knox and then from Ireland to England before being sent to Africa. There is hope that he was one of a group of soldiers captured in central Tunisia during the February 14-16 battle, but his safety and whereabouts are unknown now.<sup>56</sup>

James H. Province, a merchant marine, was reported missing. It is believed that his ship was torpedoed, and the family fears that Province has died, but according to the Navy, he is still

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<sup>54</sup> "Barker Stamps one of Crew Sinking U-Boat," *The News-Democrat*, February 25, 1943, 1.

<sup>55</sup> "Russellville Navy Man Lost in Capsizing of Mine Sweeper," *The News-Democrat*, February 25, 1943, 1.

<sup>56</sup> "Roy B. Herndon Missing in Action Since February 15," *The News-Democrat*, March 18, 1943, 1.

listed as missing in action. The last his family heard from him was in Nova Scotia, but that was in January.<sup>57</sup> Vernon Hardin reported to this family that he had been in Africa since Christmas Day, 1942. Staff Sergeant Bill Ramsey had been in Africa since early May. He served as a paratrooper. Dorris T. Rogers told his parents that he was still safe overseas. He and other Marines have made another safe landing, but they have no idea where he is. He did say he likes the new location much better than the South Pacific. Lastly, Warren R. Dockings was reported missing over a year when his family received confirmation that the Japanese took him as a prisoner at the Battle of Bataan, which is why no one had heard from him. The Red Cross reported the news to his family.<sup>58</sup>

Roy B. Herndon, who had been missing, was a prisoner of war of the Germans, his family learned. While the family feared that he was dead, a telegram from the Red Cross informed the family that he was alive and under the control of the Germans.<sup>59</sup> According to his parents, according to the telegram they received, Joe Clary was killed somewhere in the Pacific War area on June 27. While many details are still unknown, Clary was a tail gunner on a bomber, and it is believed that he died in combat, but that is not known for sure now. Clary volunteered for service in early June 1942 and joined the Air Service. He was killed three days before his one-year anniversary in the armed forces.<sup>60</sup>

As President Roosevelt warned the American public that defeating the Germans and Japanese would be difficult, numerous Logan countians reported interesting details to their families. Cecil Whitney has returned to the United States after spending fourteen months overseas. Mrs. Eula Wells, the mother of deceased soldier James Billings, received his Purple

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<sup>57</sup> "James H. Province, Missing in Action," *The News-Democrat*, March 25, 1943, 1.

<sup>58</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, June 24, 1943, 5.

<sup>59</sup> "Prisoner of War," *The News-Democrat*, July 8, 1943, 1.

Heart Medal for military merit. She was notified that she would receive his Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal soon. Jimmy Lee Jackson wrote his family from India and told them that he was well and expecting to come home soon. He has been overseas for over a year; this is the first time he has communicated with the family since early November 1942. Pershing Sales of Russellville had been in the Navy for three years. He told his family he had seen some serious fighting, as he has been in the Asian/Pacific and Atlantic theaters of war. He saw a great amount of combat duty in the South Pacific. One of the ships he served on sank, but his family reported that he did not want to talk much, like many others. Lastly, Charles Lowery is serving in the famed 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, which saw service in the invasion of Africa. The worst moment he has experienced so far is when he and others were forced to retreat 60 miles. But the American troops could turn the tide against the Germans once they got the “feel” of fighting. He was very complimentary of the Red Cross and reported that it is easier to get cigarettes than food or mail.<sup>61</sup>

Every week the local papers report information on soldiers. Most of the information is very general, such as someone who was on furlough and saw their parents or very general information, which is why there are sometimes gaps in the discussion about Logan countians at war. This week five reports are of importance. First, Henry Wallace Murphy made four crossings under fire from the enemy. During one of the crossings, he was commended for bravery under fire. Secondly, according to his parents, Jewell R. Coles, a seaman, first class in the Navy, is now on duty somewhere overseas, but they have no idea where. Third, Lt. Ella Jean Blakey of the Army Nursing Corps is a student at the El Paso Flying School in Texas. She reports to her parents that she just completed her first solo flight Monday after only taking eight hours. Generally, students must have ten hours before they can fly solo. She said her first flight went

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<sup>60</sup> “Joe Clary Killed Somewhere in Pacific War Area,” *The News-Democrat*, July 8, 1943, 1.

well. Fourth, Corporal Leroy Burchett reports to his family that he is now stationed in Sicily after eight months in North Africa. Lastly, Jimmy Campbell reported to his wife that he was now in Sicily after being stationed in England for numerous months. He reports that he was fine and doing well.<sup>62</sup>

Herbert Franklin Gaines is home on furlough, according to his parents. He is a first-class gunner's mate and has seen much combat in the South Pacific. He is a survivor of the *U.S.S. Lexington* and was assigned to a submarine chaser in January of this year. He saw action in the Caribbean against German U-boats. Gaines states that he only followed in his ancestors' footsteps in his service. His great-great-great grandfather served with George Washington during the American Revolution. Gaines has won numerous accommodations for acts of bravery and service. It is also announced that Bill Porter Ramsey has been awarded the Purple Heart for his wounds in battle.<sup>63</sup>

While people read that U.S. casualties in WWII have suppressed 100,000, there is a report about an African American man with five sons in the military. John McNeal, a farmhand employed by Thomas Baird, has five sons from Logan County that are serving their country. The first son is Audrey McNeal. He is serving in the Signal Corps, stationed in New York. His second son is Sergeant Rosson McNeal. He is stationed with an Engineer Battalion somewhere in the South Pacific. His third son is Sergeant Virgil McNeal. He is a member of an airbase and is stationed at Paine Field in Washington. His fourth son Floyd McNeal is serving with either a Signal Corps or Engineering Battalion. His last son is Dewey McNeal. He is serving in a Signal

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<sup>61</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, July 29, 1943, 5.

<sup>62</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, August 26, 1943, 5, 7.

<sup>63</sup> "South Pacific Veteran is Home on Furlough," *The News-Democrat*, September 9, 1943, 1.

Corps at Camp Cumberland in Virginia.<sup>64</sup> As noted earlier, little information is directly related to African Americans. This short article is a prime example of their service and the sacrifice of one family for the war effort. Sadly, very little information is reported on the service of African Americans. The lack of information and sources was a sign of the times, and sadly, it underscores their importance in the war effort.

As the war continued, more and more of Logan's sons were either wounded or killed. Private Samuel P. Yates died in combat on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Africa. No details were provided to the family other than their son was a hero. Yates was from the Schochoh community and worked on the family farm. At the age of twenty, he was inducted into active service. After completing his basic training and some advanced training, he arrived in North Africa on April 30, 1943.<sup>65</sup> The War Department has notified the family of Roy B. Herndon that he has been transferred again as a POW. The Germans moved him from Italy to Camp Stalag 3B in Germany. Herndon has been in the army for about two years. He was originally sent to Ireland and then to England. He saw his first combat in North Africa. It was during that campaign that he was taken captive by the Germans. No other information is known at this point, but it is believed that Herndon is well in the camp.<sup>66</sup>

Two more Logan countians were reported missing in the newest edition of the local paper. First, twenty-year-old Warren Morgan had been missing since November 9, 1943, according to a notice from the government. No other information was provided to the family regarding location, situation, etc. The same family reports that their other son William Morgan went missing on the same day in Italy. No other information is provided. In other soldier-related

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<sup>64</sup> "County Negro has Five Sons in the Service," *The News-Democrat*, September 9, 1943, 8.

<sup>65</sup> "Logan County Boy Killed in Action," *The News-Democrat*, October 28, 1943, 1.

<sup>66</sup> "Roy B. Herndon," *The News-Democrat*, November 11, 1943, 7.

news, word has been received that Jack L. Clary arrived safely in Italy after spending more than a year in Africa. Stanford Lowe told his mother that he had arrived safely overseas but could not tell her where. <sup>67</sup>

Another one of Logan's sons is missing and believed to be dead. Ernst Harreld Pate. Pate was aboard the *U.S.S. Liscome Bay*, which exploded in the Gilbert Islands. According to another ship nearby, the aircraft carrier exploded at dawn on November 24 while preparing to launch aircraft. It is believed that the ship was hit by a torpedo from an unseen submarine, which caused various explosions and quickly sank. While a destroyer picked up some survivors, Pate was not among them, and the official government communication is that he is missing in the line of duty. Pate joined the Navy on his birthday in 1936 before the war began. His last trip home came after he re-enlisted in October 1941. <sup>68</sup>

For the third straight week, the people of Logan opened their local paper to read another one that their boys were missing in action. Pilot Walter Chyle Jr. went missing during an air raid over Germany on November 29. According to his parents, Chyle is a bomber pilot who is believed to have been involved in multiple raids over Germany. This belief is because roughly one week before he went missing, he sent his family a letter stating that he would send them papers that he wanted them to keep. The papers had important news and information about him. His family and friends hope he is still alive and is a prisoner of war, but no one knows. <sup>69</sup>

Raymond A. Graham sent a letter to his parents stating that after months of silence and suspense, he could tell them that he fought with the 27<sup>th</sup> Division of New York in the Battle of Makin Island, in the Gilbert Islands. He came through the battle without a scratch. He hopes for a

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<sup>67</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, December 2, 1943, 1,7.

<sup>68</sup> "Ernst Harreld Pate is Missing in Action," *The News-Democrat*, December 9, 1943, 1.

furlough since he has not had one in almost two years. Johnie Witman wrote a letter to the local paper thanking them for sending him the latest edition. He has been sent to a hospital in Panama. Before his hospitalization, he spent nine months and ten days in the “Galapagoo Gland” [sic] in the South Pacific. He reports that his nerves went bad, and he spent 22 days in the hospital there and had been in the hospital in Panama for ten days. He concluded his letter by stating that he would love to walk down the streets of Russellville after being in foreign nations for fifteen months.<sup>70</sup>

The first edition of the local paper reports that Company M is scheduled to be sent overseas. Company M is the local national guard unit, part of the 159<sup>th</sup> Infantry stationed in Russellville. Up till this moment, they have been completing a variety of jobs in Kentucky and other states. The company has a long history of combat involvement, as previous incarnations have fought in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and WWI. It is unknown when the troops will be sent and if they will see combat.<sup>71</sup>

John W. Elamon wrote to his family to tell them he was doing well. He is currently stationed in Great Britain, which he says is a very nice country. Marine George Duncan Gibbs reported to his family that he was stationed in Tarawa and was happy he helped take the island from the Japs. He said the fighting was tough, but he escaped combat on the island without a scratch. Johnny McEndree telephoned his family to tell them he was preparing to leave California for overseas. He did not say where he was going but wanted his family to thank

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<sup>69</sup> “Missing Pilot,” *The News-Democrat*, December 16, 1943, 1.

<sup>70</sup> “News About Service Men,” *The News-Democrat*, December 16, 1943, 7.

<sup>71</sup> “Company M is on its way to Foreign Service,” *The News-Democrat*, January 6, 1944, 1.



everyone for their cards, letters, and gifts. He is especially grateful for the monthly gifts from the Christian Church in Russellville.<sup>72</sup>

Another of Logan's sons has been taken as a prisoner of war. Lt. Walter Chyle's family received cards from soldiers that served with their son, stating that Chyle's plane was shot down over Axis territory. It was reported on Berlin radio on January 18, 1944, at 9:44 A.M. that Chyle was taken as POW. The reports state that Chyle is in Germany and doing well. The family has still not received any official word from the military but is comforted to hear that their son is alive.<sup>73</sup>

The family of Hugh Earl Harper received word that he drowned in Hull, England during a blackout on January 13. The Harper family of Auburn had three sons in service. Earl joined the merchant marine in November 1942. He was assigned to the *U.S.S. Berkeley*, one of the fastest ships in the fleet. It is believed that he was preparing for another crossing of the Atlantic when he died. The family had not heard from Earl since early January. He is the first resident of Auburn to die in WWII.<sup>74</sup>

Private First-Class Delmer Deckard of Auburn was killed on February 18, 1944, somewhere in the South Pacific. Deckard was in the service for nineteen months before making the supreme sacrifice, just a few weeks before his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The International Red Cross reports that Private William W. Morgan has been taken as a POW. Morgan was previously listed as missing, but he is now a prisoner of Germany. No other information was known.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, January 6, 1944, 5.

<sup>73</sup> "Lt. Walter Chyle Reported Safe but in German Prison," *The News-Democrat*, January 23, 1944, 1.

<sup>74</sup> "Auburn Loses First Son in Present War," *The News-Democrat*, March 2, 1944, 1.

<sup>75</sup> "News on County Boys," *The News-Democrat*, March 30, 1944, 1, 2.

Regarding local boys in the service, Clyde F. Page cabled his parents that he is in Italy. He is doing well, and he is attached to a chemical battalion. M. M. Summerville is stationed in Brazil. He is thankful for getting the local paper and reports that many of his comrades enjoy Cooksey's weekly column. George C. Russell Jr. told his family that he was stationed in Italy and has seen much fighting there. Finally, William W. Morgan is a prisoner of war. He has written his mother numerous times, and he states that he is being treated well and receives a package from the Red Cross weekly.<sup>76</sup>

While the news of the D-Day invasion reached the citizens of Logan, people were urged to buy war bonds. The article states that according to the news from the front lines, the only thing that could stop the invasion was news from home that Americans were not buying war bonds. Therefore, people are urged to buy more bonds faster than before since the soldiers are fighting harder than ever before. Mayor George L. Briggs of Russellville issued another proclamation stating that Monday, June 12, 1944, from 2:30 P.M. until 4:00 P.M., be set aside to buy War bonds. Briggs stated that at that moment, the people of Russellville needed to answer their call, just as the American military has. All other operations are supposed to stop during that time so everyone can buy bonds and show their support for the war effort. The only direct information on the invasion is a map of the planned invasions in France was printed on the first page.<sup>77</sup>

Another one of Logan's boys had been wounded in battle. Herman Taylor recently wrote a letter to his parents stating that he was wounded by a Jap hand grenade. It is believed the event happened in Dutch New Guinea, but that is not confirmed. He reports that he is well as the wound was not that bad, but he was awarded the Purple Heart, which he is sending home by a

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<sup>76</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, April 20, 1944, 7.

<sup>77</sup> Various Invasion, Bond, and Proclamation, *The News-Democrat*, June 11, 1944, 1.

comrade.<sup>78</sup> The paper also provides an update on the D-Day invasion, including one of the most famous photos of the beach landing at Omaha Beach. Another photo is of American troops in England preparing to load ships and transport vessels to start the D-Day invasion. The other information is a map of Europe which outlines Hitler's defensive positions in northern France and western Europe.<sup>79</sup>

Shirley Pillow has arrived safely in New Guinea, according to his family. Herman Taylor's family should be receiving his Purple Heart shortly, which he earned in Dutch New Guinea, for wounds received in action. Perry W. Arnold said that he is somewhere in England. He enjoys the service and the country, but he is rather homesick. He missed his people in Russellville. Walter Chyle is reported to be a prisoner in Germany. The paper includes his address and information on how to send him a letter or well wishes. He said that time passes fairly well because the Red Cross has provided the soldiers with a library. He and another teacher are using the time to teach law classes.<sup>80</sup>

Roland Clark Beasley reported to his family that he is in an undisclosed location but is safe. J. D. Beckham is now in Italy. He is anxious to begin his missions and help win the war. Pat Ryan will be leaving for an undisclosed location this week. William F. Westray states that he is somewhere in England. He likes it there, but it does not compare to Logan County. Douglas Beauchamp landed safely on D-Day, according to his family. He served with the Second Division and hoped the war will end soon. John W. Steiner and his brother James wrote their mother, stating that they were well. Another son Woodrow is stationed somewhere in the Pacific, on or near New Guinea. He states that he has seen the best part of the Jap's Navy beached,

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<sup>78</sup> "Wounded in Action," *The News-Democrat*, June 15, 1944, 1.

<sup>79</sup> "Invasion of Europe," *The News-Democrat*, June 15, 1944, 2, 9.

<sup>80</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, June 29, 1944, 7.

burned, or destroyed. According to his wife, Chaplain Paul Travis has landed safely somewhere in France. He encountered fire from the Germans for five days but had no scratch.<sup>81</sup>

As the people of Logan read that the Nazis are pushed out of Paris after a four-day bombardment, they also read an update on many of their boys in service. George Douglas Reeves has arrived safely overseas, according to his parents. His exact location is unknown. Elizabeth Hardy just finished serving two and a half years in the South Pacific, where she was awarded the President Unit Citation for Distinguished Service in Battle while in New Guinea. Phil McCormick reports that he is doing well somewhere in England. Warren Dockins writes from his POW camp that he is okay and would love to have letters from his friends and family. George Duncan Bibbs sent his family a Japanese flag that he captured while in Saipan the family reports that the flag was wrapped in a *News-Democrat* dated May 15.<sup>82</sup>

News on local boys in war report that a former Russellville teacher Ernest J. Jones was killed in battle. No other information was reported. Bryon Carter reported that he has left England and is now in France. Ralph Gillock's mother stated that he is now stationed somewhere in England. Buddy Kirkpatrick's father, Tom, told the paper that he was serving in the Pacific in an unknown location. John L. Linton had arrived in England. He hopes to hear from family and friends to pass the time. He also said that he looked forward to receiving the local paper to stay updated on the news at home. Richard E. Neier was wounded in battle in France. He has earned the Purple Heart. According to his wife, he had also been credited with killing fifty Germans. Brents Thurmond had been wounded, and his arm is in a cast. He was in the Solomon Islands and recovering well since receiving his wounds at Saipan. Finally, Charles E. Spencer wrote

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<sup>81</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, July 6, 1944, 5.

<sup>82</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, August 24, 1944, 1.

from Saipan that he fought the “crazy Japs” for over two weeks. He said he witnessed hundreds of Japanese being mowed down, which was glorious.<sup>83</sup>

The family of Alva R. Thomas reported that they received word that he was wounded on September 17, 1944. No other information was provided other than Thomas serving in the Marines. Elmer Bracken was killed in action in France on August 29<sup>th</sup>. He was wounded in June and was awarded the Purple Heart. Bracken leaves behind a wife, two children, and his foster parents. It is also reported that some local soldiers were on a ship grounded in Volcano Gale. The ship was driven into a coastal reef in the South Pacific. Luckily no one was killed or wounded. All men aboard were evacuated on Liberty ships LCIs. After two days, the ships could remove the grounded ship with only minor damage. Buster Gossett wrote his parents and stated that the “Japs” would be whipped soon because things were going well in the Pacific.<sup>84</sup>

Ford E. Cowherd’s family reports receiving word that he was wounded in Germany on September 15. No other information is known currently. Another one of Logan’s boys received a promotion for his service. Herman J. Taylor saved his commanding officer’s life by going back and getting him and taking him to safety. The officer was wounded and lying in front of an occupied enemy dugout. During the event, Taylor was wounded by a grenade and was awarded the Purple Heart. Taylor has been promoted twice and now has the rank of staff sergeant. He has been in the South Pacific region for almost three years. He had been in Hawaii, Australia, and Dutch New Guinea, with MacArthur’s troops heading toward the Philippines. Rollie Willis Allen is currently in the South Pacific. He said he was all right and would love to hear from friends and family. William T. Markham was in France after spending time in England. Clyde Rogers is in France, but his family does not know where. He reports that he is well and sends his love to the

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<sup>83</sup> “News About Service Men,” *The News-Democrat*, September 15, 1944, 1.

people back home. Finally, “Red” Motsinger writes from France that he took part in the invasion in France and has a European ribbon with a battle star.<sup>85</sup>

As the people read a small blurb about the Allies bombing Germany, they also read about some of their boys missing, wounded, and killed in action. Adrian B. Hoskins had been missing since September 30<sup>th</sup> in Holland. He has been in the service for about ten months. The last letter received by his family dated September 21<sup>st</sup>, and at that time, he was in England. Leonard Glenn has been seriously wounded in France on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is the third time that Glenn has been wounded during the war. The first at Cherbourg, for which he received the Purple Heart. Harold Turner’s parents report that the war department notified them that he was killed in action on August 15. He was serving in France at the time of his death. Previously Turner was reported missing. Denton Wilson was killed in France on September 26<sup>th</sup>. He had only been in the active war service for four weeks.<sup>86</sup>

Roy D. Browning was killed in France on November 1<sup>st</sup> when his airplane crashed. No other information was provided as to the circumstances of the crash. Green Brice Rush died in France on November 4<sup>th</sup>. He had been overseas for over a year. Rush’s cause of death was coronary thrombosis. Douglas Rogers’ family told the newspaper that he arrived safely in France. Edward Herndon is now in a hospital in California after becoming very ill. No other information is known currently. Albert Litchford was wounded in Holland on October 28<sup>th</sup>. According to reports, he was recovering in a French hospital.<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> “News About Service Men,” *The News-Democrat*, October 12, 1944, 5, 7.

<sup>85</sup> “News About Service Men,” *The News-Democrat*, October 19, 1944, 3, 7.

<sup>86</sup> Various Soldiers, *The News-Democrat*, October 26, 1944, 7.

<sup>87</sup> “News About Service Men,” *The News-Democrat*, November 23, 1944, 5.

One family in north Logan had six sons in military service. According to their mother, George Blanchard, Alfred L. Blanchard, Charles S. Blanchard, James C. Blanchard, and Kenneth A. Blanchard are all involved in the war effort in different areas of the world. Floyd D. Costello was wounded in The Netherlands and was shipped back to a U.S. hospital. John Whitson wrote from the Philippines. He enclosed two pieces of “Jap” invasion money which could be viewed at the newspaper office (but the current whereabouts are unknown). Whitson was part of the invasion group to take back the Philippines. Alphis P. Belcher landed in England. He reported that he is doing well but cannot find enough cigarettes.<sup>88</sup>

As the calendar turned to 1945, Logan lost more soldiers. James Henry Ferguson was killed in action in Germany on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Jason Franklin Robertson of Company M was killed during the landing on Leyte in the Philippines. It was believed that he was only wounded by bombing, but he died of the wounds he suffered on December 5<sup>th</sup>. No other details were reported. The family of Ernest H. Pate received a letter from the Navy Department stating that he was killed in battle. He was aboard the *U.S.S. Liscome Bay* [sic] when torpedoed near the Gilbert Islands on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Fay Cavanah is a registered nurse that recently landed in France. Warren Smotherman’s family reported that he is somewhere in Germany. Russell Goddard was with the First Army driving through France, Belgium, and Germany. He wrote to his family to tell them he was in a hospital in England. He was not wounded in battle; no other details were provided.<sup>89</sup>

Carl (Ike) Harris was confirmed dead according to a telegram sent to his parents. He was originally reported missing in France, but the War Department states he was killed in combat. Warren Kisselbaugh reports from England that he is fine, but the English girls do not look like

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<sup>88</sup> “News About Service Men,” *The News-Democrat*, December 28, 1944, 1.

Yankee girls. Leo White sent his parents a letter telling them he was fine somewhere in France. Byron Carter wrote his family from France and said he had a good Christmas, considering he was away from home. His brother Anthony is believed to be in Belgium, but no one has heard since December 16<sup>th</sup>. Victor Whitaker is with the 12<sup>th</sup> Army in France. He said he is well-housed, but his bed could have been used in a torture chamber.<sup>90</sup>

Company M landed on Luzon's west coast with the 38<sup>th</sup> Division. According to reports, they and other forces captured territory with little to no bloodshed in the initial attack. They are hopeful of retaking Bataan Island soon.<sup>91</sup> The other report is that there are roughly 18,000 men AWOL in Europe. Currently, commanders are not worried that many men are trying to desert the war. He stated they know some have left, but most soldiers overstay their leaves or have transportation issues returning to their units. Most of them are back within a week of their return date.<sup>92</sup>

Because of Allied advances against Germany and Japan, POWs were being moved. The Japanese moved POWs to mainland Japan from the Philippines. On the other hand, Germany has moved camps to Geneva and other unknown locations. The Red Cross reports that the camps were moved quickly, making it difficult to know where POWs were. At this point, Germany is trying to keep POWs out of the hands of either the Red or American and British Armies. They realize that if the camps are overrun, the number of troops fighting against them will increase.<sup>93</sup>

The current edition of the paper has pictures of military leaders; there is a large amount of information on local soldiers at war. Roy B. Herndon, a prisoner in Germany, wrote that the Red

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<sup>89</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, January 4, 1945, 1, 7.

<sup>90</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, January 18, 1945, 1.

<sup>91</sup> Co. M with 38<sup>th</sup> Division Landing on Bataan Island," *The News-Democrat*, February 1, 1945, 1.

<sup>92</sup> "Lear not Worried by 18,000 AWOL's," *The News-Democrat*, February 1, 1945, 1.



Cross provides boxes every week. Inside these boxes included food, cigarettes, and other supplies. They lift the spirits when they arrive, Herndon said. Major Kenneth Green was officially listed as killed in action as of December 17<sup>th</sup>. William Chapman's family reported that he arrived safely in France. Raymond Brady telegraphed his parents that he was wounded in Germany. He reports that a letter will follow giving full details. Arnold Perry recently sent some war souvenirs back to his family. He sent a German helmet, belt, and bayonet. Perry is recovering in a rest hospital in England from an illness from exposure during his combat in France. After being wounded in Belgium, Clifford Johnson is in a hospital in France. He told his family that he could not wait for the next six Saturdays to pass. They are hopeful that this means he will be home soon. Marvin Chapman told his family that he is safe in France and doing well.<sup>94</sup>

A captured German general reported that the war would end soon in Europe. Reading this short headline must have brought great excitement to the people of Logan. Meanwhile, numerous Logan countians are making their mark on the war. Billy Porter Ramsey was involved in five invasions during WWII. The areas include Sicily, Salerno, Normandy, Holland, and now Belgium. He is currently serving in Germany. Lilburn Harris Clark was reported missing in action in France since December. Clark had only been in France about two weeks before he was reported missing. Melvin Nash wrote the paper that he has been to five different countries. They include Scotland, England, France, Belgium, and now Germany. Orville Litchford is currently in Germany and is doing fine. He is thankful for the local paper. Fred Bradshaw Jr. is currently a prisoner of war of the German government. Bradshaw had been reporting missing since

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<sup>93</sup> "Prisoners of War in Germany moved from the Fighting Front," *The News-Democrat*, February 8, 1945, section 2, 1.

<sup>94</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, March 1, 1945, sec. 1, 1.

December 17<sup>th</sup>. William S. Carnall was currently serving with Patton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army in Germany. He wrote that he had experienced numerous battles. His brother Eugene is somewhere in France.<sup>95</sup>

Private Johnny G. Berry's family reports that he was wounded in France. James E. White has been stationed in the Philippines for over twenty months. He says he has been able to "get several Japs." Raymond Howard Kirkpatrick was reported missing, but his family says he has been found alive, but the information has not been confirmed yet. John T. Adams was wounded for a second time in Germany on February 11<sup>th</sup>. He has been awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He is currently in the hospital in England recovering. George C. Hargett was missing in action in Italy since February 20<sup>th</sup> according to a telegram received by his parents.<sup>96</sup>

As the citizens of Logan read about another bond drive, there are reports from many men in the field. Elwood Pogue has been wounded in action, according to his parents. Earl Baugh was also wounded and has now returned to the United States. Two of Logan's boys were awarded the Bronze Cross. Earl Davis earned his for courage and bravery during the retaking of Bataan, while John L. Linton earned his while serving with Patton's Third Army in Europe. The mother of Oscar Rogers reported that she heard from her son, who is fighting in Germany. He also saw action in England, France, and Belgium.<sup>97</sup>

Nine more of Logan's sons reported for service, it was announced that James H. McPherson had died in the service. He contracted jungle fever on December 26<sup>th</sup> and died on March 26<sup>th</sup> on Luzon Island. Bryon Carter has been transferred from France to Germany. J. T. Sacra had landed safely in the Philippines. William Kemp reported finishing a twenty-day campaign in the mountains in the Philippines. He said that soldiers must pack everything on their

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<sup>95</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, March 8, 1945, sec. 2, 1.

<sup>96</sup> "News About Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, March 15, 1945, sec. 1, 1.

backs, which is extremely difficult. He also said they walked over dead Japs along the way. He said that in his group, he has killed more Japs than anyone. Multiple other boys received promotions or awards.<sup>98</sup>

It is also reported that many American POWs in Germany have been liberated. As they are being liberated, they are receiving “release kits” from the Red Cross. The boxes include socks, toiletries, stationery, candy, gum, cards, books, and cigarettes. Each kit includes a card that states, “On behalf of the people of the United States, the American Red Cross extends warm greets to American POWs. In the name of your loved ones at home. we salute you for your sacrifice, for them, and your country.”<sup>99</sup>

John Simpson of Auburn was killed in action on April 9, 1945, in Germany, according to the family. Bryan Carter wrote his family that he was no longer in France but had moved to Germany. He also reported that his brother is in Germany too. Roland S. Rhea completed thirty-five missions over Germany and was back home in Russellville. He wears the Air Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Cluster and the Presidential Group Citation. Billy Chaney’s family announces his freedom from his POW camp. This was the first word the family received since January 1944, when he was declared missing in action.<sup>100</sup>

Francis Holman wrote that he is out of the hospital in France. He had been there since March when he was wounded. William A. Simmons was wounded in Okinawa Island, which is about 335 miles from Tokyo. Simmons was in the Navy and was in a Marcus Island hospital. Byrne A. Evans wrote from the north of Italy that he had been in combat on the 30th of April. He

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<sup>97</sup> “News About Service Men,” *The News-Democrat*, April 5, 1945, sec. 2, 1.

<sup>98</sup> “News About Service Men,” *The News-Democrat*, April 26, 1945, sec. 1, 1.

<sup>99</sup> “Prisoners of War Given Liberation Kits,” *The News-Democrat*, May 3, 1945, sec. 2, 1.

<sup>100</sup> “News About Service Men,” *The News-Democrat*, May 3, 1945, sec. 2, 1.

was the liberator of one town where he took 430 prisoners. He also helped take German officers' quarters with all life's luxuries, including wine, brandy, and cigars. He also stated that the snow-covered Alps across the blue lakes is something to see. Jake Brady writes from somewhere at sea that he expects to make liberty in Tokyo soon.<sup>101</sup>

As of May 24, 1945, 48 men from Logan County were killed in combat. The local paper published the names and referred to them as Logan County's Gold Star Service Men. Each man that died in the war will be listed in chapter six with any known information about them and their deaths during the war.<sup>102</sup> Joe L. Smotherman was a POW in France for eight months before he was liberated on April 29. Dryden Neill was released from a POW camp on April 27<sup>th</sup>. He is currently in a hospital in England. He was shot down over Yugoslavia on July 2<sup>nd</sup> after a bombing mission. The family had not heard from him since October 1944. William E. Soyars was wounded in the right arm and leg while serving in Germany. He is also in a hospital in England. Willie D. Gilliam is a gunner in a machine gun squad in Luzon. His unit has killed at least 100 Japs. He states that the Japs are tough.<sup>103</sup>

The parents of Harold D. Martin received a telegram on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, that he had died of wounds received in action for his country. He was a fireman on a battleship in the Pacific. He spent fourteen months on the same ship in Europe before going to the Pacific. He held two battle stars for action in France. He was two months shy of being 19 years old. James Ferguson was killed in action the day after he joined his company. The letter providing the information came from the commander James Younger, who was also wounded. Ferguson was reported to be very able and courageous. The family did not provide any other details. Fred

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<sup>101</sup> "Our Service Men and Women," *The News-Democrat*, May 17, 1945, 1.

<sup>102</sup> "Logan County Gold Star Service Men," *The News Democrat*, May 24, 1945, 1.

<sup>103</sup> "Our Service Men," *The News-Democrat*, May 24, 1945, 1.

Bradshaw Jr. was killed on April 14, 1945. He was a POW in Germany since January 1945. He held numerous medals, and no other details are currently available.

William J. Kemp reported to his mother that he was recovering from Jungle Fever in the hospital. He reports that his nurse is very good-looking, and he has enough points to come home on. Arthur Kemp, who assisted in invading Germany, served in Austria as an MP. M. M. Summerville, an air instrument specialist on B-29 Bombers, is in Hawaii. According to his family, George Hargett Bruce was released from a German prison. David Scott Marshall is currently serving in Okinawa. Marshall wrote that the food is fine, and he is getting plenty of rest, but he desires letters from home. Jesse T. Reynolds states that he is also in Okinawa and is not in as much danger as a few weeks ago. Walter B. McRae wrote to his family that he, too, was in Okinawa. He said the suicide planes being used by the Japs are very spectacular as well as “wee bit dangers.”<sup>104</sup>

It was reported that by the end of the year, twelve divisions will be on their way home from Europe. In addition to this, many of Logan’s sons have been affected by the war. Raymond Howard Kirkpatrick was killed in action in Belgium on January 11, 1945. His family received notification on July 6<sup>th</sup>. No other information was known about the death of Kirkpatrick. Gilbert D. Clark was wounded on June 5<sup>th</sup> in Mandanao [sic]. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his efforts. His wounds were not believed to be life-threatening. Lilburn Clark has been discharged from the war in the Pacific. He reports that during his time in the war, he saw plenty of action and killed many Japs. Reid Dodson sent his family a large Nazi Flag. Dodson served in England, France, Belgium, and Germany and was in Czechoslovakia.<sup>105</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> “Our Service Men,” *The News-Democrat*, June 7, 1945, 1.

<sup>105</sup> “Our Service Men,” *The News-Democrat*, July 12, 1945, 1.

Throughout July, there was less information on the war for the first time in many months. The general information lists where some Logan countians are, but very little information related to war experiences or details. The trend of very little information on the war continued until the third paper in August. In that paper, it was reported in giant bold letters that “JAPAN SURRENDERS,” with the subtitle “Peace on Earth.” No other information about the war is mentioned. There is no mention of the atomic bombs, where they were dropped, or anything else. Most information about the boys in service is about furloughs and repeated information from previous issues. Very few businesses used space to print about the war, but war bond ads remain throughout the paper.<sup>106</sup> In Franklin, the local paper reported a parade and great celebration.

Larger papers covered the war in more detail, possibly more accurately, as pointed out by James D. Cockrum. He stated that the *Owensboro Message* did the best job possible to alert people about the war while keeping a local focus. The paper did include special editions, such as the one after Pearl Harbor. Both the *News-Democrat* and the paper in Owensboro relied heavily on letters from soldiers for information. In March 1942, the Owensboro paper published a map of the Pacific, so people could color islands and nations where the U.S. earned victories. It was an interesting way to keep the “war score.”<sup>107</sup>

Overall, the local paper followed local boys in the service well. The emphasis in this chapter relates to local men and being involved in the service, not as much of who was on furlough or general information. Beyond this, the local paper sometimes struggled to tell the story of the war. Providing maps allowed people to know where battles were taking place in a time without the Internet or Google Maps. These pictures and maps connected the local people

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<sup>106</sup> “*The News-Democrat*, August 16, 1945.

<sup>107</sup> James D. Cockrum, “Owensboro Goes to War,” *The Daviess County historical Quarterly*, Vol. II, No. 1m January 1984.

with the war effort. While the previous statement is true, it must also be acknowledged that, at times, the paper did a poor job covering the war. No better example is the last entry before this conclusion. There was no mention of the atomic bombs, only a sudden headline that the Japanese surrendered. While people could get some of the information on the radio, the local paper failed to provide those that did not have that benefit with proper coverage or at least an overview of battles and events overseas.

The people of Logan County demanded to know how their boys were doing in service. The previous content provides evidence, many examples of how much the local paper is dedicated to the war effort and specific information about Logan's boys. They quit publishing information on local high school sports for most of the war. Jim Turner stated that the local people demanded that the editor and staff publish war information that was important to them. The demand was so great that starting with the 1942 football season, the local paper published little to no information on the sport. The same treatment was given to basketball and others. The only thing that mattered to the people of Logan was that they were winning the war. And are our boys safe?<sup>108</sup> Other interviews, like Mary Lucy Franklin and Evelyn Richardson, stated the same thing. People wanted to know about the war. Nothing else really mattered. They yearned for local information that could not be obtained anywhere but through the local paper, which is why a discussion of the paper is so important. The paper and its coverage of the war just made the people of Logan want more information, and they did not want to wait for that content. The demand for local information cuts down on sports coverage and information from the local communities. People were willing (or perhaps forced) to give up virtually everything for the sake of the war. Many of the community sections provided announcements such as when the

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<sup>108</sup> Jim Turner interview.

homemakers club would meet and what type of war service project they would work on during the meeting. For many of the people in Logan, nothing else was important except the war, until the war ended.

### **Changes In News Coverage After WWII**

As shown in this chapter, people demanded local news and sought information about the war, especially from a local perspective. During the war years people grew tired of waiting seven days for content. This demand for news and information changed Logan County after WWII because the demand increased for more news and information. People no longer wanted to wait a week for information. They demanded it more frequently, and they also wanted more diverse coverage. The days of the single paper, controlling all the news, passed shortly after the war ended. In 1953, the radio station WRUS opened for business. The South Kentucky Broadcasting Company originally owned the station. Eventually, Russellville operated other broadcasting signals, providing the public with more immediate information than the local paper. The daily broadcasts contained hourly national and international news updates, focusing on state, regional, and local stories. This station, which is still in operation, provided the people of Logan with daily news and closed the gaps between local and national news and the gap that existed from the occurrence of events to their reporting. In many ways, WRUS 610 AM is a local icon. Long-time morning host Don Neagle has won numerous awards and landed him in the Kentucky Broadcasters Hall of Fame. His morning show, Feedback, provides various topics and guests for local people to listen to.<sup>109</sup> People now could get information daily, which is what they demanded. The newspapers were still good for some content, but the radio station fulfilled a desire that began during WWII.



Besides the arrival of the radio station, there was another change in the local media. While *The News-Democrat*, was the weekly paper printed once a week for decades, another paper opened in 1968. *The Logan Leader* issued newspapers once a week from 1968-1992, when the two papers merged. The addition of the new paper was an attempt to broaden the coverage of the news and to provide the people of Logan with more frequent news coverage. Instead of waiting an entire week, they would receive information every Tuesday and Thursday. The new paper started because Al Smith tried to buy *The News-Democrat*. When Mrs. B.A. Evans wouldn't sell the paper to him; he, along with Virginia Page, Bill Fuqua, Bob Kikrpatrick, Tookey Kemp, Lil Noe, and Boz Greer, started *The Logan Leader*. Mrs. Evans agreed to sell to him a month later, and he and Virginia kept both names. The main reason why Al Smith and his group wanted to buy the paper and then create their own was that they felt the paper had gotten stale and needed revitalization. Smith wanted much more than just a report on meeting details. He wanted to discuss the why's and the implications of moves or inactions by elected officials. Smith certainly was not above taking a stand and sticking with it, even though it wasn't necessarily popular.<sup>110</sup> This attitude led to a change in the reporting of news in the county, and as mentioned, as a month of success Mrs. Evans agreed to sell *The News-Democrat* to Smith's group. With the two weekly papers and the daily news of WRUS, the people of Logan received more local news than ever before.

Perhaps the greatest contribution of the local paper was the coverage of local families and soldiers in service, but the paper was only once a week. During the war, people craved information. They looked to the paper as the only way to know about local events. The information presented supports this claim. Simply put, the local paper focuses on local stories

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<sup>109</sup> Chris McGinnis, interviewed by author, Russellville, KY March 11, 2022.

related to the war because that is what the readers want. This desire for more information and faster information led to creating a secondary county paper after the war. In addition to another paper, a radio station opened in 1953, covering local news daily. The need for this new news originated because of the desire for local information during WWII and the establishment of the Cold War. The people of Logan wanted to be in the know. They desired information, especially local information, because the world changed during WWII, and the county had to play catchup. People no longer wanted to wait a full week to get local news. These were changes brought about by WWII. People yearned for a variety of news coverage. They wanted to know about their boys at war. They wanted to know about events, crimes, and general information related to Logan County. Therefore, the content presented is important to understand the changes brought about after the war because it changed how local topics were covered, the frequency, and the delivery of the content.

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<sup>110</sup> Jim Turner, interviewed by author, Russellville, KY. September 21, 2022.

## Chapter Six: Logan Countians Serving in WWII

The war greatly impacted the men and women that served during WWII. Many were young farm boys who had never traveled outside their home county. Many of them were simple and worked hard doing what the family had done for generations: work on the family farm. This chapter answers how did the impact of WWII change the men and women that served in the war? To answer this question, their experiences are highlighted, and this information is used as documentation. The thesis of this chapter is that the lives of soldiers and female volunteers were changed through war experience and the impact of the war. Each person's experience in WWII was different, and the impact of the war changed them. They met people from across the United States, risked their lives for freedom, and returned differently. When they returned the impact of the war influenced the changes that occurred in Logan County in the years that followed the war. Many wanted more from life than the family farm. Many women did not want to return to just the home life of being a mother and raising children. Those that survived assisted in creating an economic boom in the 1950s and they wanted to experience life to the fullest.

This chapter discusses the war experiences and impact of the war for a variety of men and women in Logan countians in WWII. While not all experiences can be told, each of the men and women below were changed by the war and their experiences, and thus they helped to create change in the county after the war concluded. The thesis of this chapter is that for these people, the experiences and impact of the war brought change to their lives. They were introduced to a different world that was different from Logan County in many cases. Many were homesick during their terms of duty, but when they returned, they were not the same. They faced challenges during the war and when they returned home, they wanted new challenges, and these challenges based on their experiences during the war, helped to change the county. Many served

in places that they never knew existed before the war. When they returned, some of these men and women wanted more than just the family farm. They wanted Logan County to catch up to the world. While these people wanted to change others found comfort on the family farm, and in the safety of home. These are some of their stories focusing on their war experiences and how they assisted in bringing change to the county after the war.

It should be noted that while the United States joined the war effort, not everyone was in favor of intervention. A prime example was Charles Linbergh. Linbergh was a known pacifist that toured Germany in 1936, and he spoke out against the U.S. joining the war and then after the war began he was opposed to the violence of the war. As Wayne Cole outlines, Linbergh believed it was his patriotic duty to stand against intervention and the death of thousands of Americans.<sup>1</sup> Cole dedicated much of his research on the WWII years on the topic of American isolation and intervention in the war, as did conservative author Justus Doenecke. He also has written many books on the subject, including his work in 2000, *Storm on the Horizon: The Challenge to American Intervention, 1939-1941*. In this work and others, he focuses on the concept of America first and how the United States should not be tangled in the webs of other nations. Simply stated, the United States would worry about our issues at home and not be involved in the ones elsewhere.<sup>2</sup> Authors like these not only favored isolation and non-intervention, but they also favored a nation with more of a localist type of system. The rise of nationalism took away from a more state and localized nation, as they stretched back to the thoughts of George Washington and his warning about foreign entanglements.

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<sup>1</sup> Wayne S. Cole, *Charles A. Lindbergh and the Battle Against American Intervention in World War II*, (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1974).

<sup>2</sup> Justus Doenecke, *Storm on the Horizon: The Challenge to American Intervention, 1939-1941*, (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2000).

There were about 2,000 men who served in WWII from Logan County, but none of the sources agree on an exact number. This chapter aims to provide information on as many men and women that served in the war as possible. Sadly, not everyone was willing to share records, so this chapter is not as complete as desired. This chapter is a collection of personal memoirs, interviews, diaries, and family papers on the men that helped win the war. In addition to discussing the men and women from Logan County, this chapter also includes information on Company M, the local guard unit stationed in Russellville. Unlike other chapters, there is no order outside the headings of men, Company M, and women. The stories are included as they were discovered.

### **Logan Men at War and After the War Concluded**

Sadly, the change for some is that their loved ones never returned from the conflict. For these families their lives were never the same. While these people found ways to cope, their lives were never the same. Sixty-three men died from Logan County for the cause of freedom, and the liberation of people worldwide from the Axis. The stories of the men and the women included in this chapter serve as reminders of their war experiences and that real people from small towns sacrificed their time, efforts, energies, and some gave their lives during WWII. This is the first change since WWII. Families prayed for their loved ones to return safely. They all had plans, hopes, and dreams, none of which were fulfilled. This change can be referred to as the enemy chair. The chairs that these sixty-three men would never sit in when their families gathered after the war. Below are the stories of some of the men that gave their life during WWII, thus ending their opportunity to bring changes after the war and the losses forever changed their families.

Chaplain Thomas M. Vick Jr. composed a letter to the mother Denton C. Wilson. In this letter, he gave her the dreadful news that her son had been killed in combat. He was near

Carentan, France, when he was wounded and perished. An enemy pillbox exploded, which injured him in battle. He was then carried from the battlefield via ambulance to the hospital, where doctors and medical staff treated him. Chaplain Vick visited Wilson while in the hospital, but he died the night after because his wounds were so severe. The doctors did their best with medicine to treat his injuries and comfort him in his last hours. He was buried in a complete military manner, wrapped in blankets. His grave has been carefully landscaped, and a large white cross marks his grave, according to Vick, who witnessed the ceremony.<sup>3</sup>

According to a funeral book in the family records, Denton C. Wilson was killed in France on September 26, 1944. His family had his body shipped back to Logan County on August 12, 1948. According to the record, Wilson was 22 years, nine months, and 21 days old when he was killed in battle. The funeral occurred on August 15, 1948, and he is buried at the Dripping Springs Baptist Church cemetery in southern Logan County. Over 100 people attended the service and signed the record book, with dozens of people giving flowers. Six people donated their automobiles for the family to transport to and from the services.<sup>4</sup>

B. B. Barton (Joe) was listed missing on April 3, 1944. His commanding officer Campbell P. M. Wilson wrote his family and stated that Barton was no longer missing and was killed in combat near New Guinea. According to Wilson, the battle in which Barton was lost was a significant victory against the Japanese. In the battle, the Air Force did massive damage to the Japanese forces, allowing the U.S. to gain control of the area with ground forces. He said the special news reports in the days leading to April 3<sup>rd</sup> cover the battle and the success that Barton assisted in before his untimely death. Wilson further stated that Barton was a good man and a

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<sup>3</sup> Thomas M. Vick Jr. "Letter to Mrs. Wilson," Wilson Family Files, Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

good soldier. His actions and service should make his family proud because he always acted with intelligence, courage, and integrity. He fought to the end and went out guns blazing to defeat the Japanese and create a peaceful world.<sup>5</sup>

Fred Bradshaw Jr. was also a soldier from Russellville. Most of his letters were written in 1943. In January 1943 he was stationed at Camp Van Dorn in Mississippi. He wrote about drills, training, and other military tasks. He and Sammie Akers compared early military experiences including commanding officers. Both preferred commanders that were godly over those that cursed all the time. He spoke about not having blankets and having to conduct special training exercises without providing any real details. On June 14, 1943, he wrote from Santa Ana Army Air Base, near the Desert command post where Akers is stationed. He stated that since he and Sam are so close in distance, they should try to see each other. Less than a week later Bradshaw reported that he had been moved to Baton Rouge, LA. He stated that he had a great time and has dated a pretty girl for a change. Fred speaks about girls and his letters are rather jovial to Sammie. None of the letters does Bradshaw offer any information about combat or combat experiences. His letters drop off without explanation; it is unknown if other letters are not in the collection.<sup>6</sup> In May 1945 it was reported that Fred Bradshaw Jr. was killed April 14, 1945. He was a POW in Germany since January 1945. He held numerous medals, and no other details are currently available.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Denton C. White, "Funeral Book Records August 15, 1948," Wilson Family Files, Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

<sup>5</sup> Campbell P. M. Wilson, "Letter to the Family of B. B. Barton," *The News-Democrat*, September 7, 1944, 2.

<sup>6</sup> Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Akers, Sammie D., 1918-2002 (MSS 229)" (2008). *MSS Finding Aids*. Paper 550.

<sup>7</sup> "Killed in Action," *The News-Democrat*, June 7, 1945, 1.

Lester W. Insko worked on the family farm until he was old enough to join the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and was drafted into the army about one year later. He wrote numerous letters longing for home according to the family papers, but none could be found. According to the Western Union telegram, he was reported missing by the army on December 20, 1944, in Germany. The family was notified of this on January 7, 1945, sadly, Insko was not missing. He had been killed in France on the date he was reported missing. He earned two Purple Hearts for his service along with other accolades. On April 26, 1946, his family received a letter from the War Department along with an expression of condolences from General Marshall. The letter told the family that Insko is buried in the Luxembourg U.S. Military Cemetery in Hamm. According to documents the family had his body removed and brought to the United States on August 13, 1948. He was buried in the Arnold Cemetery near New Hope Church in the Insko community.<sup>8</sup>

Harry Porter was stationed at Manila in the Philippines when the Japanese attacked the Islands. He was a member of the 808<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company there. The family records are sketchy, but what is known is that he contacted the family a few days before the attack and told them that he was well. This is the last time that the family ever heard from him. He like many others would be reported missing at the hands of the Japanese in July 1942. The family had to wait years to obtain answers as to Porter's well-being. When his grandmother's obituary was printed in the local paper on March 1, 1945, he was still missing. The obituary states that Harry Porter was stationed in Manila and the last the family heard from him was before the fall of Corregidor and Bataan. The family stayed in limbo until they received a letter from the War Department on October 4, 1946. In the letter they were told that Porter died on July 27, 1942.

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<sup>8</sup> Insko Family Files, Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.



The family was told after four long years that Harry Porter is buried in the U.S. Armed Forces Cemetery in Manila. While nothing in the family records states the agony that the family suffered, one can draw the conclusion that for months and years, they hoped and prayed that Porter was alive, only to find out he was killed long before they ever knew about it.<sup>9</sup>

Rollie Carnall was killed in the Southwest Pacific on March 30, 1945. Carnall was from Lewisburg in northern Logan County. His family received Purple Heart for military merit and wounds received in action resulting in his death. Numerous other original documents and military memorabilia are included. The story was told that they could not deal with the loss of their son. The box with all original documents was brought to the Logan County Archives, where they created a memorial to Carnall. In a glass display box, one can see pictures of Carnall, his Purple Heart, and all his accommodations during his service. He received the rank of private first class before his death. The artifacts sent to his family enclosed the flag that covered his casket. There is also a letter from President Roosevelt in grateful memory of Carnall. The document stated, "He stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live, grow, and increase its blessings."<sup>10</sup>

On May 10, 1945, the local paper had more information on Carnall. He entered service in September 1943 and served in the infantry. After spending time in Texas and California, went was sent overseas in April 1944. His first stop was New Guinea, where he would spend six months. His unit was then transferred to Luzon in the Philippines. His death occurred on March 30, 1945, at Marikina, Rizal, Luzon, in the Philippines Islands. He was struck by enemy artillery fire, which caused his death. The family was told that the end was instantaneous, and Carnall felt nothing. He was known as a fearless soldier by those he served with. Rollie was well respected

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<sup>9</sup> Whitescarver Family Files, Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

by all his comrades and the people who knew him back in Logan County. According to commanding officers, he killed numerous Japanese soldiers and executed his orders to the best of his ability. He is buried in the U.S. Armed Services Cemetery No. 1 at Manila, Luzon, Philippines, according to his commanding officer Sam L. A. Bowlin.<sup>11</sup>

The loss of these men forever changed their families. It is in this way that the stories of these men fit within this project. The war changed or, in this case, eliminated their ability to live after the war ended. Families were never the same. Mothers, fathers, and other family members mourned them until they passed. A really good example of the depth of the pain caused by war losses is that of Rollie Carnall. As mentioned, his family could not bear to open their son's war medals and personal belongings. They left the box completely closed until it was donated to the local archives. It was only there that the store of Carnall would be celebrated and displayed for the public to see. Loss impacted and forever changed the families of WWII veterans, thus influencing the period of change after the war.

The second group of soldiers that changed change were the ones wounded in action. For the state of Kentucky, approximately 6,800 men were casualties in the war. The number from Logan County is estimated to be around 125. One reason why this number is not confirmed is that men may have listed multiple counties in their registrations or may were drafted while working in another county. For these men they had to adjust to their injury, and others had to adjust to the horrible memories. One gentleman asked not to be cited because he was not proud of what he had to do to survive the war in the Pacific. He stated that over sixty year after his service concluded he still has nightmares from the war. Many of the veterans were not keen

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<sup>10</sup> "Rollie Carnall Memorial," Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

<sup>11</sup> "PFC. Rollie J. Carnall," *The News-Democrat*, May 10, 1945, 7.

about discussing these topics and said they found ways to cope and were just thankful to be home and alive. Each one experienced their own form of Hell.

In terms of those that survived the war, one man from Logan County to be featured is Warren R. Dockins. Warren was born in northern Logan County in 1921. He enlisted in the United States Army in Fort Knox in 1941. He fought in the initial defense of the Philippines against the Japanese. He was captured when the defense of the Bataan on April 9, 1942. He had to endure the infamous Bataan Death March and was thrown into a POW camp in the Philippines until August 1944, when the Japanese moved him and other prisoners to work in the coal mines near Nagasaki. He spent three and a half years under the control of the Japanese, surviving horrid conditions and treatments.<sup>12</sup>

In addition to the information provided by Coffman, Dockins kept a journal of his time in the war. His journal was not one he wrote daily, as he sometimes made weekly entries providing content on his week or day in the service. He started with his entry into basic training and lasted through the war. One of Dockins' first entries into his service states that he arrived in Honolulu on September 13, 1941. He was taken captive on April 9, 1942. He would be encamped in the camps, including an unfinished Filipino training base. He stated that the Japanese regularly searched the prisoners for anything they might use as a weapon. He also reports that POWs were not allowed to bathe and had to carry water three miles to cook their meals. He said that meals were very small, consisting of half a cup of rice and half a cup of sweet potato soup. The food was awful, and the camp hospital had no water, soap, or disinfectant.

At different times, the camp commander told the soldiers that he wanted the American POWs to die of disease. Americans encountered torture and hard labor. According to Dockins,

they had to clear fields and grow crops that the Japanese took. They also had to cut and maintain the grass, level ground, and other maintenance work near Japanese-built facilities. He wrote that on November 21, 1942, an American POW was shot and beheaded. The longer the POWs were in camp, the less food they received, and the more difficult the treatment and torture were. He stated that he was never so happy when the camp was liberated in September 1945.<sup>13</sup>

The Dockins family kept three letters concerning the war. The first reported that Warren R. Dockins as missing in action as of May 7, 1942, in the Philippines. The letter states that Dockins may be a casualty or a prisoner of war, but more information would come in. The second letter from June 1942 states that Dockins has been confirmed as a prisoner of war. The government is waiting for the Japanese to allow the International Red Cross into the camp, and the family will be updated later. The last letter is from June 1943. This letter from the International Red Cross again confirms that Dockins is a prisoner of war in the Philippine Islands. The family was given the address to write Sergeant Dockins but was told that packages cannot be sent now.<sup>14</sup>

Dockins was not the only Kentuckian that encountered difficulty at Bataan. There were also sixty-six young men from Harrodsburg as well. The surviving men confirm that they all went through Hell at the hands of the Japanese. They reported that supplies were shared and that the men relied on each other for survival in the horrid conditions. Even with these acts of selflessness, not all lives were saved, and thousands died. Some even refused to try to escape when the opportunity presented itself because of their devotion to each other.<sup>15</sup> Circumstances

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<sup>12</sup> Edward Coffman, *The Story of Logan County*, (Nashville: Parthenon Press, 1962), 255.

<sup>13</sup> Warren R. Dockins, "Journal of Warren R. Dockins, Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

<sup>14</sup> Family papers of Warren R. Dockins, in the possession of Debra Rock, Russellville, KY.

<sup>15</sup> James Russell Harris, "The Harrodsburg Tankers: Bataan, Prison, and the Bonds of Community," *The Register of Kentucky Historical Society*, Vol. 86 No. 3 Summer 1988, 230, 252, 259.

like this show the bonds between soldiers and how the war pulled people together from different parts of the nation. These experiences changed people; many of them felt more loyalty to each other and pride in the nation and the efforts against evil. When these men came home, they were different, changed, and many wanted more in life; some went to college, and others left the family farm for more professional jobs. Warren Dockins survived the Bataan Death March and left the family farm to try his hand as a police officer. After a few years, he left the police force and became an editor and announcer for the new radio station, WRUS.<sup>16</sup> For Dockins, the new radio station offered new challenges and an opportunity to give back to the local community. This activity also helped to serve the community and to bring changes related to local news coverage and the ability for people to stay aware of local content every day.

Janice “Jingle” Bell volunteered for the army in October 1939, as the army came through Russellville recruiting soldiers. He stated that he joined the army for two reasons: one, the soldier that came to Logan County was big and scary, and two, they promised him a monthly income, which he had never had before.<sup>17</sup> Mr. Bell was born in northern Logan County in 1921, and he never saw a doctor until he received his physical at Fort Knox. The body physical was a strange and shocking experience according to Mr. Bell. While at Fort Knox there were no camp posts or stations. He and the other men there had to live in tents. He first slept indoors in the service at Fort McClellan, Alabama. He stated that his pay was \$21 per month along with three “hots and a cot.” He spent most of WWII in the United States and one of his most lasting memories was at Fort Custer near Battle Creek Michigan. He stated that it was extremely cold, and he thought he would freeze to death. Mr. Bell said he drove a car for the first time during his

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<sup>16</sup> Coffman, 255.

<sup>17</sup> Chris Cooper, “After 70 Years, Sgt. Janice “Jingle” Bell Remembers Clearly,” *News-Democrat and Leader*, May 8, 2015, 15.

service in WWII. He was stationed in Texas, and had no idea how to drive, but he did so anyway. On his first day driving he drove the car into a chicken house, obliterating the structure. Mr. Bell spent time in an airborne school becoming a paratrooper and became part of the 13<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division sent to Europe after the Battle of the Bulge. He arrived in Europe in January 1945 and was stationed there until August 1945. He stated that he and his men were prepared on one occasion to drop in and help Patton's men in battle, but the soldiers were let down, because "that damn Patton came in and overran it" (their drop area).<sup>18</sup> In August 1945, he was moved to Morioka Japan until 1949.

In the years after WWII, Mr. Bell continued the stay in the Army. He stayed until 1959 when he retired from service. Between 1946-1959 he spent multiple years in both Japan and Germany. He said that he always thought it was odd that he ever fought in either theater of war, but that he served in both countries following WWII. He thought it was best to return home to be with his father, and he decided that he wanted to be in business for himself, and was self employed doing a variety of jobs in Logan County until he retired. He spent a great amount of time being involved in the local American Legion, where he was a member for over fifty years. While he saw limited fighting the war greatly impacted Mr. Bell. He stated that there were some things that he could never share and that while he is proud of his service, some things just should not be discussed.<sup>19</sup>

Eugene Carnall stated that December 7, 1941, was a beautiful sunny day in Logan County. He was only 16 at the time of the attack and began helping with the war effort. He collected scrap iron and aluminum to help with the war effort and manufacturing. He spoke of

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<sup>18</sup> Chris Cooper, 15.

<sup>19</sup> Janice "Jingle" Bell, WWII veteran. Interviewed by Don Neagle on WRUS 610 AM Feedback, September 29, 2021.

foods being rationed and how it placed hardships on the people of Logan County. Products such as gasoline, sugar, tea, and others were all rationed to ensure the nation had enough for the war effort. He stated that while some suffered, many did not because they were used to living on the bare necessities. One of his classmates, only 16 at the time, persuaded his parents to consent, and he joined the military shortly after the war began. Eugene graduated high school May 12, 1943, and turned 18 two days later and as required he registered for the draft. He was called to report for duty on June 1, 1943, but he received a deferment until fall, because his family needed him to work on the family farm. Eugene completed basic training one year after high school in May 1944 and was sent to communication school to learn military code and communication. His unit of the 635 Artillery Battalion was shipped from Fort Hood Texas to England in November 1944. He was sent to Belgium just in time to participate in the Battle of the Bulge. Eugene stated that it was extremely cold and snowy, which made the conditions difficult. On top of that he was very scared at the time, because of the ferociousness of the battle. During the battle he served as radio operator to the commander, finding the enemy and reporting on their location. Like many others Eugene saw the horrors of Nazi Germany when he visited Dachau Concentration Camp. He even picked up a name tag from one of the crematory ovens and kept it. He stated that while the visions and memories of the camp stayed with him, they became more real after he watched the movie *Schindler's List*. His service ended on May 23, 1946, when he was discharged. For years he was haunted by the war, his experiences in combat, and the things he witnessed. He stated that many of his nights were full of bad dreams and nightmares, and holding a cup of coffee took two hands.<sup>20</sup> The legacy of war and the difficulties were common among many that served.

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<sup>20</sup> Eugene Carnall, "My recollection and service in World War II," Logan County Kentucky Public Library County Files: WWII.

Soldiers did whatever they could to cope with the war. Frank Mathias wrote about the use of music, local papers, and other ways soldiers tried to cope with the war and the threat of death, which could come at any battle. Many soldiers relied on things that reminded them of home, such as pictures and letters. Others found different ways to cope with nightmares and the threat of death with alcohol and drugs. For some, it was brothels. Brothels seemed to be everywhere the soldiers were. This included near military bases or camps in the United States and foreign nations. They were in the backs of clubs in the nearest towns. Many used these brothels to cope with the war and find a form of normalcy.<sup>21</sup>

After the war ended Carnall returned to his home county. In 1951, he began working for *The News-Democrat*. He held numerous responsibilities including composition, press operator, and even press foreman. When the new newspaper *The Logan Leader* opened, he joined the staff there and worked doing many of the same jobs until 1990. It is in this way that Mr. Carnall helped bring changes to Logan County. The creation of the second county paper meant that people could get printed information twice a week, instead of having to wait seven full days. As previously discussed, the arrival of a second paper shows how much the people demanded more local information in the years after WWII, which began during the war. Many Logan Countians were able to work for the two newspapers providing more local stories and local information to a public that demanded content.<sup>22</sup>

Warren Tinsley was on a destroyer in the northwestern sector of Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked on December 7, 1941. He stated that Sunday mornings on ships were rather lax in discipline. Many sailors suffered from the “hangover period,” while others just relaxed

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<sup>21</sup> Frank F. Mathias, *GI Jive: An Army Bandsman in World War II*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1982), 62, 151-152.

<sup>22</sup> Coffman Jr., 321, 324.



while the covering drunks slept it off. He stated that nothing happened when the general alarm buzzer sounded because it was commonly used for drills, and no one thought that an attack was seconds away from occurring. It sounded a second time and some sailors started to stir and get dressed. They believed a fire may have broken out, but there was not much excitement. Tinsley stated that suddenly a sailor yelled, "the Japs are attacking!" This statement changed everything as men jumped out of their bunks and ran while putting on their clothes. As he reached the deck, he could see the attack and the main damage was roughly one thousand yards away. The *Utah* was tipping over and sinking. He stated that it was mass hysteria. Men were running around, some were screaming, and others were terrified in their boots. Many soldiers were still on the main island and had not yet returned, but the scene was chaotic. They attempted to use flag signals from ship to ship for communication, but their ammunition was locked and had to be broken into. One soldier ran up and down the deck firing his gun at the Japanese bombers. Tinsley said there were so many Japanese planes in the sky that it reminded him of a flock of hawks attacking a chicken farm back in Kentucky. Destroyers in the drydocks were helpless, communication was knocked out. He reported that word was running around that a Japanese submarine was in the harbor, which brought even more fear as the men saw the damage and the hundreds of men that were dead or dying because of the attack and ships sinking. It turned out to be a midget submarine that was soon recovered by the naval forces. Tinsley stated that he witnessed the brunt of the attack, the ships burning and sinking, planes, on fire, and the total chaos the Japanese war machine brought. His destroyer left the harbor, but returned on the night of December 8, 1941, to refuel. The bases were still aflame. Tinsley believed that his destroyer was never hit because it was small. He believed that the battleships were hit because they were

the ones that could do the most damage to the Japanese and thus, they felt most of the attack, as the Japanese wanted to destroy as much of the major fleet as possible.<sup>23</sup>

In addition to his memories, Warren Tinsley kept a personal journal during his time in the war from January 1941-November 12, 1942. The journal has short daily entries, normally two or three sentences confirming his memories during the war, plus other information. On January 10, 1941, he stated that his ship arrived at Pearl Harbor and supported the crews working there. He writes of watching movies, being on patrol, and the daily grind of being a soldier. He speaks of being tired, missing family, rough seas, and being homesick and seasick. His journal provides evidence of the daily routine of being in the Navy. His journal does not provide information on the attack on Pearl Harbor, but he accounts for the numerous times he did return. He also provided information on supporting carriers such as the *U.S.S. Yorktown*. It is unknown why he stopped his journal when he did.<sup>24</sup>

The time in the war was extremely stressful for soldiers. The threat of death and sometimes the fighting against superior numbers increased this stress, as did becoming a prisoner of war. Soldiers suffered psychological fatigue and breakdowns. The use of torture and violence in questioning of these soldiers as well as being humiliated were difficult for American soldiers. While some men survived, other cracked under the stress and the pressure. They encountered loneliness, sleep deprivation, and other horrid conditions in the name of victory.<sup>25</sup> Men across the nation and Logan County endured and sacrificed their mental health for the war effort. In the

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<sup>23</sup> Warren Tinsley, "As I Remember Pearl Harbor: December 7, 1941," Logan County Public Library, Logan County WWII Files.

<sup>24</sup> Warren Tinsley, "The Journal of Warren Tinsley," Logan County Archives, Russellville, KY.

<sup>25</sup> Arthur L. Kelley, *BattleFire! Combat Stopries from World War II*, (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1997), 98, 135, 168.

process, many men never recovered from the war's stress and had to overcome nightmares and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for years after the war concluded.

Tinsley had an excellent career after the war ended. He worked in banking most of his life, including serving as President of Auburn Banking Company. He held different positions with the company and helped with the construction of the building in Auburn in the late 1960s. He also served as mayor of Auburn for one term as well. Tinsley, is another example of a men that turned to the professional or business circuit after WWII ended. He used these positions to help advance his family and also the community of Auburn with the new bank. This is another prime example of how many men wanted lives that were not agriculturally based.

Auburn native Grover Corum was on a train from Louisville to St. Louis on June 6, 1944. He had volunteered for the U.S. Naval Aviation V-12 Program, and he had to complete a physical that was given in St. Louis. He stated that he was somewhere in southern Illinois, when the train stopped at a small town, when he heard the great excitement about a great “push” in the war. As the train stopped at other small towns people raced to gather information, not knowing if it was new or old information, but everyone was intrigued by this event, and excitement was building. While he and others experienced great joy, there was also some fear because they realized this was a battle, and with every battle comes the loss of life, which would be no exception.

Corum did not know but he and his unit would become active just a few days later on June 21, 1944, as they started training. Because of the high losses, they were to replace squadrons in the Pacific. In January 1945, he was transferred to a plane rescue squadron, but the never saw combat because the war abruptly ended in August 1945 after the dropping of the

atomic bombs on Japan. His unit needed two more training flights before active-duty service, and he would return home in October 1945.<sup>26</sup>

After the war Corum assisted in more positive changes for Logan County. While he was originally an agricultural agent, he would assist in the creation of multiple new services for the people of Logan County, especially in the Auburn area in the years after WWII. Many residents in the rural areas around Auburn complained about bad telephone service, so Corum helped create Logan Telephone Cooperative (Originally Logan County Rural Telephone Cooperative) in 1954. Corum assisted in the creation of the organization and became manager in 1957. Under his leadership the organization made rapid improvements in their service of their customers. He would hold numerous other positions in the county throughout the rest of his life. He and his wife helped to create and open the nursing home in Auburn, and he served on the Board of Directors for the Auburn Nursing Home for decades.<sup>27</sup>

Everyone that has been discussed in this section left their mark on Logan County in the years after WWII. They all served in the war and when they returned, they wanted more for themselves and for the county. They wanted to assist in the creation of new opportunities and improvements for the lives of the people in the county. The impact of the war, led to the impact and the changes in the county in the post war years.

### **Company M**

Company M was organized in April 1902 and demobilized in 1905. With WWII raging in Europe, it was revived in May 1916. This unit would complete some guard detail at Camp Own Bierney, and numerous other points along with the Mexican border until February 1917 when it

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<sup>26</sup> Grover A. Corum, "Where was I on June 6, 1944?" Logan County Public Library, Logan County WWII

was ordered back to Russellville. In WWI the unit was designated as Company B 113<sup>th</sup> Engineers. Following the conclusion of the war the unit was again demobilized on June 26, 1919.

On June 14, 1922, Company M the 149<sup>th</sup> Infantry was recognized in Russellville and all the officers were former WWI veterans. The unit was moved to the Thomas Rhea National Guard Armory Building in 1934 after the WPA New Deal Project was completed. Roughly eleven months before Pearl Harbor, On January 17, 1941, seventy-six young men and eight officers of Company M (149<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division) left Russellville at 2 AM in route to Camp Shelby in Mississippi for training. The unit would see combat in numerous battles in the Pacific over the next roughly five years. They fought in New Guinea, and then numerous locations in the Philippines including Leyte, Bataan, Luzon, and Manila. Hundreds of men drafted during the war years would be designated to Company M. The most popular commander was Sergeant Robert L. "Red" Smith. Smith was called the red fox of the company and was older than most of the soldiers in the unit. He was viewed as a father figure, and numerous men looked to him for advice and guidance throughout their service together. He was known as a true servant and a man that would help anyone. Of the original seventy-six men, roughly twenty were discharged together, while others transferred units or were killed in action.<sup>28</sup>

On October 9, 1996 "Red" Smith gave a presentation to the local Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) about his WWII experiences. Red spent twelve years in Company M, five of which were in WWII. He stated that his first service was in 1937 when he was called to work with levees in Hickman, which is in western Kentucky, for about three weeks to try to keep the Mississippi River from flooding during the famed Flood of 1937. He mentioned other

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Files.

<sup>27</sup> Coffman Jr., 361, 400.

services outside the war between 1937 and 1941, including watching strikers at a coal mine in Harlan, which is in eastern Kentucky.

He said that in January 1941, when the unit was called into action, he was gone for nearly five years. His first job after Pearl Harbor was to guard oil wells in Texas City, Texas which is where he was stationed until March 1942, when he and others were sent back to Camp Shelby. He stated that in August 1941, three months of “big” maneuvers on the border of Louisiana and Texas began. His fondest memory is the fact that numerous of the “big boys” were there including General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Smith reported that the unit’s history could have been very different, but they did not pass the test, and therefore they were not sent to North Africa as part of the beginnings of Operation Torch.

In January 1944, the unit was shipped from New Orleans to Hawaii via Panama. They were at sea for twenty-six days because they were without escorts, and they were trying to avoid submarines. He stated that everyone got seasick and that the ship was very crowded, but when the unit arrived in Hawaii, they immediately began jungle training. From Hawaii the unit was sent to New Guinea, where a volcano erupted and the ash made everything so dark that the ship got stuck in the coral reef, so the men had to use planks to reach the island. Smith and Company M would be at New Guinea from June until November 1944. On November 15, 1944, he left for the Philippines, and they would arrive in Leyte Gulf on December 16, 1944. As they entered, they were attacked by the Japanese and even some kamikazes attacked and roughly 150 men were killed including John Sircy of Adairville. They landed on the island of Leyte shortly before Christmas 1944, and they camped in the woods.

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<sup>28</sup> George T. Shifflett “Memories of Company M,” Logan County Public Library, Logan County Company M Files.

In early 1945, Company M was one of the chief machine gun units that helped to retake Bataan they were sent to Luzon, and to Bataan to help retake the peninsula, and they were part of the famed “Avengers of Bataan” soldiers. Over the remaining months of the war, they saw action, but there were very few casualties suffered by Company M. When the war ended the men were discharged with \$300 and sent to San Diego and then to Camp Atterbry, Indiana before arriving home. Smith stated that his times with Company M were filled with joy and sorrow, as the experience of war was one of good and bad. He stated that he believed that most men felt that way and that most of the men in Company M joined to avoid the draft. The unit had at least one-two men from every state, and that during the five years of WWII there was only one deserter.<sup>29</sup>

John Sircy was born in Adairville joined Company M, which was headquartered in Russellville in December 1940. He served with the 149<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. He was among the U.S. servicemen that landed on the east coast beaches of Leyte Gulf on October 20, 1944. On December 5, 1944, northeast of Mindanao he was on the *SS Marcus Daly*, which was a former Liberty ship that was converted into a troop transporting vessel. The ship suffered an attack from a Japanese kamikaze plane. The hole in the ship was large enough for a train to go through. Roughly 200 of the men aboard the ship was declared dead or missing, including John Sircy. Sircy was awarded a purple heart and has a memory stone located in the Greenwood Cemetery in Adairville. John also had a brother that served in Europe fighting against Germany. On December 27, 1944, he died of wounds in Germany. The two brothers died in war roughly three weeks apart.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Robert L. “Red” Smith, “Memories of Company M,” presented to the Logan County DAR, October 9, 1996, Logan County Public Library, Logan County Company M Files.

<sup>30</sup> John Sircy, The Kentucky National Guard Memorial, Honoring their Sacrifice, accessed October 22, 2021, [https://www.guardmemorial.com/html/sircy\\_john.html](https://www.guardmemorial.com/html/sircy_john.html).

Another Logan Countian was on the *SS Marcus Daly*. Private First-Class James F. Robertson of Russellville joined Company M, which was headquartered in Russellville on December 29, 1940. He served with the 149<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment along with John Sircy. He survived numerous attacks by the Japanese on the way from New Guinea to Leyte Gulf. On December 5, 1944, the Japanese kamikaze plane hit the ship with a 500 pound that exploded on impact. It is believed that Robertson was one of the first to die, as he succumbed injuries, probably burns. He is buried at Maple Grove Cemetery in Russellville.<sup>31</sup>

### **Logan County Women in Service**

Elizabeth Traughber Homan was born in February 1918. On October 5, 1942, against her father's wishes she volunteered to serve as an army nurse in WWII. She was assigned to the First Army fifth Evacuation Hospital Unit. She began her training at Camp Rucker Alabama. She was sent to England before the Normandy Invasion in June 1944. She would serve in northern France, just south of Normandy, for the next ten months. She would serve in Belgium and in March 1945, she crossed over the Rhine River. Lieutenant Traughber was one of fifteen nurses that treated 25,544 soldiers and performed over 8900 operations, many of which took place very near to the front line of combat. She was awarded the American Theater Ribbon and the Meritorious Unit Citation. She often spoke of hearing bombs exploding around her. She experienced the Battle of the Bulge and was a direct eyewitness to the aftermath of the atrocities committed by the Nazis at Buchenwald.<sup>32</sup> Traughber stated that the sight of the camp was

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<sup>31</sup> James F. Robertson, The Kentucky National Guard Memorial, Honoring their Sacrifice, accessed October 22, 2021, [https://www.guardmemorial.com/html/robertson\\_james\\_f.html](https://www.guardmemorial.com/html/robertson_james_f.html).

<sup>32</sup> Elizabeth Traughber Holman, obituary, *News-Democrat and Leader*, December 18, 2015, 2.



horrible and unlike anything she had ever seen before. Bodies were piled everywhere, in the gas chambers and the fields. "It's a memory that I wish I could erase," stated Traugher.<sup>33</sup>

Florence Knight Glenn enlisted in the Navy at the age of twenty-one. Her first stop was at Hunter College in New York, which served as a boot camp. At the time of the physical, she stated that she received many shots, and had cavities filled in her teeth. Days began at 5:00 AM, with thirty minutes to dress, make their beds, and be ready for the day. They had to learn all the ships of the Navy and were instructed to salute superiors. In fact, they were taught when in doubt, salute. Florence requested the Hospital Corps because she had read the story of Florence Nightingale, and this greatly impacted her thoughts on service and where she wanted to serve. She became an apprentice at Bethesda Naval Hospital outside of Washington D.C. There she learned how to complete many procedures including bandages and others. At the end of her training she was transferred to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Pensacola Florida. She stated that the work was very hard but rewarding. The job was never easy, and in addition to their regular shifts, they had to take turns to stand watch (Port and Starboard Watch). Many of the soldiers under her care were wounded in the Pacific as well as in Europe, and they were still in need of treatment before they could be released. She stated that the hospital was four stories and an imposing building. According to Florence, the hospital was an excellent place for war-weary Navy and Marine soldiers to recover and rest. She saw Sally Rand do her famous fan dance, and when Sally stepped behind the screen and threw out her "undies" the soldiers went crazy, and it almost brought down the house. On March 16, 1946, she was honorably discharged after two years of service.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Chris Cooper, "Farewell to An American Hero," *News-Democrat and Leader*, December 18, 2015, 3.

<sup>34</sup> Florence Knight Glenn, "World War II memoirs of a Navy Hospital Corpsman," in the Logan County Kentucky Public Library, Local history files: WWII.

Emma Coffman volunteered for service in the Red Cross in Logan County in early 1942. She helped organize the organization and became Executive Director of LC. In the beginning, she served out of compassion and did not receive any form of pay, but with more success and more duties she earned a small salary. She attended training in Alexandria, Virginia. As well as being the contact person for the men in service and their families. She helped raise the budget from \$13,000 to \$15,000 before she left the organization in 1951.<sup>35</sup>

Ottie Pearson, the daughter of famed Logan County businessman Gaines Cooksey passed her examinations into the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in late 1942. She took the exam in Cincinnati Ohio. Since August 1942 about 1,500 exams have been given, but Ms. Pearson tops every one of those exams by a minimum of fifteen intelligence points. She was recommended for officer training in Daytona Beach because of her high scores and recommendations from her officers.<sup>36</sup>

Classie May Tulley, an African American graduate from the segregated Knob City High School recently passed the exams to become a member of the WAAC. At this point, no other information is known.<sup>37</sup> Leola Bagby of Olmstead graduated from the twenty-fifth office class of the WAAC in Des Moines, Iowa. She completed her basic training in Daytona Beach, Florida with high marks. Bagby is stationed at the Medical Detachment station Hospital at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.<sup>38</sup>

Myrtle M. Morgan was promoted to Third Officer (Second Lieutenant) in the WAAC after completing training in Des Moines, Iowa. She graduated from Russellville High School and

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<sup>35</sup> Edward Coffman, *Happy Years: An Autobiography*, the Parthenon Press, Nashville, 1964, 121.

<sup>36</sup> "Local Girl Leads in WAAC Examinations," *The News-Democrat*, December 31, 1942, 1.

<sup>37</sup> "First Colored WAAC," *The News-Democrat*, January 14, 1943, 3.

<sup>38</sup> "Lt. Bagby Graduates," *The News-Democrat*, May 27, 1943, 5.

was involved in a variety of organizations and clubs. She is a member of the Cotillon Club of Russellville, and a former bookkeeper at Guion's Grocery Store. On March 11, she started basic training at the Third WAAC Training at Fort Oglethorpe in Georgia. After she completed her basic training, she was notified that she would be moved from the Auxiliary ranks and would be sent to officer training school. She completed this training in Des Moines on June 18, 1943.<sup>39</sup>

Elizabeth Brice wrote most of her letters to Sammie Akers in 1943. It is unknown if there are other letters that are not in the collection. She is serving as an X-ray technician at the Army Hospital at Camp Campbell, which is very close to Logan County. Her first letter she tells Sam that she is sorry that he is in the infantry, because she knows he does not want to be in the infantry. She writes about Fred and how he and Sammie wanted to be in the same unit together, and she is sad that they are separated from each other. She writes about the service of the Red Cross, and army life very similar to Fred Bradshaw Jr. She offers a different prospective, but she writes about what she saw, what she heard, and experienced while at Camp Campbell without providing many specific details. Brice's letters are very jovial in the communication and her writing attempts to lift the spirits of Akers. She expresses hope in every letter that the war will be over soon, and they can all celebrate together. Some letters she writes to both, and she provides information on people they know, such as Tom Rhea Jr. who has been promoted to a corporal. She writes that there is not much new in Russellville when she visits. On June 8, 1943, she wrote Sammie about the death of Milton Davis, but does not provide any information other than it is terrible news. She reports that people in Russellville were in an uproar, but everything is so busy

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<sup>39</sup> "Myrtle M. Morgan," *The News-Democrat*, July 1, 1943, 8.

at Camp Campbell that accidents are happening constantly. While she does not expand on the accidents, numerous accidents at Campbell injured and killed some soldiers.<sup>40</sup>

### **Closing Remarks about Changes and Military Service**

This chapter has outlined how some specific Logan countians and their families were impacted by WWII through their service. The ones that lost their lives gave the ultimate sacrifice, and their families never really recovered from those losses as outlined by the family of Rollie Carnall. Others survived and then left their mark on Logan County by the way they lived. Many of them took new careers and opportunities instead of going back to the family farm, others left the county to experience the “big city.” Regardless, the war changed them, and it changed their families by extension.

One way that changes occurred in the post-war years is the number of men that left the family farm. For many of the 2,000 that served, they knew nothing but the family farm before the war. When the war ended, they wanted something different. They wanted to try their hand in business. The arrival of new industries like Emerson and Bilt Rite gave them an opportunity. Many moved from the countryside to town to be closer to their jobs, and the creation was subdivisions. When some left the farm, they left the county. W.L. Coleman was an example of people that desired to explore opportunities outside the county in the post-war years. Coleman served as a Navy pilot in WWII, and when the war ended, he moved to Eufala, Alabama, and became a vice president of the American Builders.

Other men found multiple careers and opportunities to showcase skills following WWII. George Wheeler served in the Navy, but when he returned to Logan County, he became the

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<sup>40</sup> Folklife Archives, Manuscripts &, "Akers, Sammie D., 1918-2002 (MSS 229)" (2008). *MSS Finding*

manager of the new Electric Plant Board (EPB) the Plant Board was opened during WWII to try to help with the power needs for the city of Russellville. He would also find multiple other ways to serve the community in the years after the war, including service in the Rotary Club. After 1950 the local Rotary Club started to grow at rates greater much greater than ever before.<sup>41</sup>

Lewis “Shine” Richardson was one of the most beloved WWII veterans. He served in the Army while also playing baseball. He attempted to become professional as a catcher but gave up on his dream in 1953. In that year he opened his own business as a painter. He painted houses, along with signs and a variety of other things.<sup>42</sup> He took advantage of the county's new economic, business, and industrial changes. He spent his entire life as a painter, becoming one of the most respectable men in the community. He spent his life giving back to young people in the community by donating money and resources to the local schools to assist with their baseball programs.

The last WWII veteran discussed is Jack Stengell. Like others mentioned and many others not discussed, he used the years after the war to take advantage of new opportunities. He worked for the post office until he retired. After being retired for a short time, he decided to re-enter the labor force as a real estate agent. The building of the new subdivisions and new houses across the county helped to encourage this decision.<sup>43</sup> Each of these men had ties to the agricultural community before WWII, but in the years after they wanted something different. They wanted new opportunities.

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*Aids*. Paper 550.

<sup>41</sup> Coffman Jr., 461.

<sup>42</sup> Coffman, 337.

<sup>43</sup> Coffman Jr., 465

Each of the men discussed are examples of how many people wanted different lives after WWII. They wanted to take on the business world. With the arrival of new industries, new stores, and businesses, many people believed that the new era brought changes and brought wealth. These men were brave to take chances and to leave what they had known before to be bold and to be different. These men represent the changes brought to Logan County after WWII. They encountered a new world, and they were ready to meet that world head on. For those that did return to the family farms, the arrival of newer equipment changed their lives as well. With larger tractors and combines, they could plant more than ever before. In many ways the machinery started to replace workers both out of convenience and because of men leaving the fields to take other opportunities.

In many ways the previous chapters discuss in more detail about changes these men faced after the war. The arrival of new industries, changes to society including the Civil Rights movement, and improved lifestyles with electricity and a new medical hospital. These are all changes brought by WWII. Before WWII, most businesses were classified as mom and pop or family owned. There was not a great opportunity or need for men to leave the farm or to get an education, but in the years that followed WWII education was needed. The opportunities were there and many men, including those discussed as examples took those opportunities and they changed the county, while also changes their lives.

These stories were unknown until now, and while many historians focus on national figures, the war was won on the backs of common ordinary people. This chapter honors all the men and women who served in any compacity, and to bring more attention to the unknown soldier in the trenches, the cockpit, or the ship. This chapter provides foundational information about the experiences in war. These experiences changed these men. How? Well, that is the

difficult question: many of these men did not want to discuss emotions or their darkest experiences. Common sense proves they were changed, not the same men they were before the war. This internal change equaled change on the home front. The GI Bill's creation allowed men to attend school, further professionalizing the nation. As discussed in a previous chapter, many farmers come back to farm, but only for a short while. They wanted something else in life, which assists the rise of industry in Logan County among other changes.

## **Chapter 7: Conclusion: Change has come to Logan County**

The events of WWII greatly impacted the people of Logan County and thus influenced a time of change that did not exist after the Civil War. As the previous chapters have outlined the people were impacted by rationing, bond drives, and changes to their lifestyles and habits, and some experienced the terrible toll of war that changed them forever. It was not one event or aspect of the war that brought change, inside it was the totality of the war. Before the war, most people lived in agriculture, while others worked in small businesses, like grocery or hardware stores. Before the war, very few people worked in industry, but this will begin to change after the war. More and more industries will come to Logan County and open the once-closed door. WWII ended the stagnation left over from the Civil War. The people of Logan County were forced with the knowledge that the federal government was in control, and that change was needed. This change took many forms and opened the door for industrial growth and opportunity, forever changing the county.

World War II brought greater changes to Logan County than any other event in the county's history. For approximately seventy-five years the county was stuck longing for the past. The hangover of the American Civil War ran deep. Logan County was considered the "hotbed of secession" in Kentucky. In the county seat of Russellville, dozens of meetings and then a Confederate Convention took place. While other rural southern communities may have only held on to this anger and frustration over the outcome of the Civil War for a few decades, the anger ran deep in Logan. Many people did not want to move on. The actions of the federal government angered them. Jim Crowe and other backward laws and traditions were common well into the Twentieth Century, with the raising of the Confederate Monument in the city park.



These assertions are supported by a quote from 1926. In that year historian E. Merton Coulter stated in his book that Kentucky waited until the Civil War was over to secede from the Union.<sup>1</sup> For the people of Logan County, the people that were involved in the heart of the Pro-Confederate movement during the war, this quote supported how they lived in the years after. They were devoted to the lost cause of the Confederacy. They did everything they could for Kentucky to join the Confederacy in 1861, and the mission continued, and they passed that love of the Confederacy to their children. They did not want change, they wanted something that no longer existed. They wanted to either go back to the pre-war period or to go back to 1861 and fully join the Confederacy. This is the hangover of the American Civil War as outlined in chapter two. This also laid the foundation for all the changes to be made by the impact of WWII.

These angry people did not want industry. They did not want change. They longed for the past. Racial violence erupted and a sense of lawlessness throughout the county. While some southerners yelled that cotton was king, they could have yelled that tobacco was king in Logan County. All that mattered for these people was the continuation of the tobacco crops, using the poor (including African Americans) as sharecroppers and the cheapest labor. Between the Civil War and WWII life changed very little. It was the complexities of WWII that impacted people and brought change. It was WWII that brought industry. It was WWII that ushered in the Civil Rights movement. It was WWII that brought in a permanent hospital, a radio station, and a variety of other changes discussed in this dissertation.

WWII provided evidence that the county needed industry. The county needs progress in medical care, infrastructure, mechanical equipment for farms, and changes to society. WWII, and the dependence on the government for jobs, information, and patriotism softened the hardened

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<sup>1</sup> E. Merton Coulter, *The Civil War and Readjustment in Kentucky* (Chapel Hill: University of North

hearts against the federal government. President Roosevelt became like a beloved family member with his fireside chats for many people across the United States. It's hard to hate something when the leader (in this case president) is beloved. WWII allowed social reconstruction to take place on a level that was impossible after the Civil War. This can be seen with the arrival of the Civil Rights movement shortly after the war concluded.

As previously mentioned one of the shortcomings of this project is the lack of information on African Americans in Logan County. Very little information was found while researching. The local paper occasionally had sections for "colored persons." This fact only emphasizes the need for social change in Logan County. It is also evidence that the county had racist issues before, and during the war, as these people's service was not documented or viewed as important by the paper's publishers and other local sources. While racism continued after the war, segregation and other aspects of Jim Crow were dying. African Americans' military service and patriotism to a nation that was not very loyal to them helped spark the Civil Rights movement.

These two issues present future possible areas for more research. It is feared that while records and artifacts used to exist, they were probably thrown in a dumpster when the owner passed, because no one knew what they had. The hope is that some information still exists, so research can be improved to continue looking at how the war affected individuals. As one person stated in the collection of materials, there are probably countless artifacts of proof in a few peoples' basements or attics, but sadly they have no idea what they have. Hopefully, these artifacts and memories will be preserved assuming they exist but are hidden.

Another disappointment for this project is the lack of information on how women service during the war period. While some information exists such as women's involvement in the Red

Cross, and the role of homemaker groups making materials was printed in the local paper, little factual evidence exists. Some people told stories of their mothers sewing and collecting scrap items, very little concrete information exists to support these claims. It is well known that women worked in factories, on farms, and assisted the war effort in various ways, but in Logan County no one viewed that service as important enough to document it.

Before the Civil War, Logan County was a dominant force in Kentucky politics, and numerous people with ties to Logan were involved in activities that influenced state and national politics. In 1861, the Civil War broke out. The war brought strife, anger, resentment, and hatred. The county shut off from industry progress and longed for a day that no longer existed. The anti-federal government attitude continued until the WWII period. Violence, racism, and stubbornness dominated the period from 1865-1940. In the same way that the Civil War stopped the path of Logan County, the outbreak of WWII caused changes to come to the county. These changes include the arrival of industry, changes in media coverage, the arrival of permanent medical facilities, and a change of attitude towards the federal government that started during the Depression. World War II opened doors to the people of Logan that were previously closed. The arrival of more electricity to the entire county allowed for many of the changes to occur. There is not a single aspect of WWII that caused the changes. It was the totality of the war. Every aspect that impacted the people brought change to the county, and the war became a defining point in Logan County history.

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