

quier County, Va. March 20, 1780. He moved with his parents to Fayette County, Ky., and learned the mason's trade. He served as a captain in the War of 1812, and was a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives from 1812-1816. He was elected to the 16th and four succeeding Congresses and served from March 4, 1819, until his resignation June 1, 1828. He also served as chairman on the Committee on Indian Affairs (17th Congress), and the Committee on Militia (Twentieth Congress). Thomas Metcalfe was the tenth Governor of Kentucky from 1828-1832. He was a member of the Kentucky Senate from 1834-1838. He also served as the president of the board of internal improvements in 1840, and was appointed and subsequently elected as a Whig to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of John J. Crittenden and served from June 23, 1848, to March 3, 1849.

Governor Metcalfe engaged in many agricultural pursuits before dying near Carlisle, on August 18, 1855. He is buried in the family burial ground at 'Forest Retreat,' in Nicholas County, KY., the distinguished home he built in 1814, which still stands today just off of US 68. Metcalfe's best friend Henry Clay named the Metcalfe home Forest Retreat.

Dr. Estlie Asbury of Cincinnati bought Forest Retreat in 1933 when the house and grounds had fallen into disrepair. He carefully restored the property, and he and later his son, Dr. Taylor Asbury, used it as a working farm. One of their horses, Determine, won the Kentucky Derby in 1954.

In 2001 the current owners, Dr. and Mrs. Philip Tibbs of Lexington, bought the property and further restored it.

In 1816, shortly after Forest Retreat was built, Carlisle was founded. The occurrence took place when John Kincart separated 50 acres of his peach orchard into 139 lots and laid out roads. The town was probably named for Carlisle, Pennsylvania, hometown of Kincart's father.


Charles W. Munger was Carlisle's first mayor.

Carlisle purchased its first pumper fire engine in 1830 for \$800 after two terrible fires consumed nearly two-dozen buildings and much personal property.

Nicholas County had 385 men serve in the Union Army during the American Civil War.

The 7th Kentucky Cavalry (Union) was largely formed with Nicholas County men. They fought along the home front at Cynthiana and Richmond and later marched as part of Gen-

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eral Sherman's Georgia Campaign.

Colonel Leonidas Metcalfe, son of Governor Metcalfe, and the first commander of the 7th Kentucky Cavalry, killed former Maysville Mayor William T. Casto in 1852. Casto had insisted that the two duel one another because of personal conflict brought about by the political and social turmoil that ripped through northeastern Kentucky during the American Civil War. The duel took place along the Ohio River within two miles of Dover, in northeastern Bracken County.

Hundreds of Nicholas Countians joined the Confederacy during the war. One Nicholas Countian to serve the stars and bars was Lt. Lot Dudley Young, who served with the First Kentucky Infantry Brigade (Confederate). The unit was engaged in several prominent campaigns and major battles including Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Murfreesboro, Dalton and the Georgia Campaign.

The Kentucky First Infantry Brigade became known as The Orphan Brigade.

Young survived the war, returned to Nicholas County and later wrote a book entitled *Reminiscences of a soldier of the Orphan Brigade*, published in Paris, Ky.

The Carlisle Mercury newspaper published its first edition in 1867.

In 1887 W.B. Ratliff and four other men formed The Carlisle Telephone Company with an authorized stock of \$5,000. The company soon had 193 customers within Carlisle's city limits.

Nicholas County native, Dr. Charles Mathers served as County Judge, State Representative, and State Senator from 1888-1908. He was also a medical doctor, extensive landowner, President of the Exchange Bank of Millersburg.

Mathers was a great benefactor who anonymously paid tuition of orphan girls at Midway and sent food and fuel to poor widows at Christmas. His foresight included establishing trust funds, which continue to pay for the educational needs of children, a Nicholas County Hospital fund and funds to help young students in other counties.

In Feb. 1892, Carlisle's first electricity was produced at the Carlisle Electricity Plant.

Joe Clay, the first Carlisle Water Works Superintendent, began his duties on June 1, 1914, at a salary of \$40 a month.

The patriotism of Nicholas Countians has always been strong.

During World War I, a total of 372 Nicholas County men served in the military.

During World War II, a total of 837 Nicholas Countians served in the military. The Nicholas County chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is named after Private First Class Lloyd J. George, the first Nicholas Countian to die in combat during WW II. George and 33 other Nicholas County natives would perish before the war ended.

Construction of the city's gas line began in 1951 and was completed the next year.

The Nicholas County Health Department was established in 1931 and was located on the second floor of the First National Bank Building at the corner of Main and Locust Streets in Carlisle.

The Nicholas County Memorial Library was opened on Sept. 20, 1947 and located in the second floor of the Nicholas County Courthouse.

The Nicholas County Hospital was completed in 1949.

The Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home was opened on Feb. 28, 1965.

In 1965, Nicholas County citizens Charles Watkins, Dorsey Watkins and Russell Selvaage, formed what eventually became the Nicholas County Water District.

In 1999 Nicholas County native Barbara Kingsolver wrote her award-winning novel *The Poisonwood Bible*. Since the publishing of this history book, she has won many more awards.