

Sandra & Emily

Math 115

September 4, 2015

In 1795, a man named James Taylor came into acquisition of 150 acres of land in Northern Kentucky. Out of these 150 acres, he divided it into 10+ subplots. Taylor named the land Newport, in honor of Admiral Christopher Newport, who was one of the founding settlers of Jamestown Virginia, of which Taylor was a native. It is also believed that around this time, Taylor laid the foundations of a road from Newport to Lexington, which would become US 27, but this matter is still debated.

In 1803, Newport received further development when a military outpost was built. The military purchased 5 acres of land near the Licking River for \$1 from James Taylor. During the civil war, both the Union and Confederate armies would recruit at the Newport Barracks, and it is even rumored, though not documented, that Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant served tours of duty there.

By the 1860s, Newport had several churches, and a couple of factories that manufactured rope and woolen products. Around 1848, a system of mule-driven street carts was implemented through the streets of Newport to help citizens with their commute to the factories. The factories would continue to grow with the implementation of electricity in Newport at the turn of the century, leading to Newport becoming a major industrial hub.

A flood in 1937 would come to be known as Newport's worst natural disaster, and in 1948, the floodwall still present in today's landscape was erected to prevent future floods. The flood would also mark the beginning of the decline of industry in Newport, and would mark a

rise in leisure spots such as Casinos and Night clubs, where the unemployed ex-industrial workers would flock to find work of entertainment.

Along with the new nightlife, Newport would also experience an increase in “gangsters” for which it would gain a reputation. These night spots would become especially lucrative for Newport during the prohibition where the casino and club owners would often bootleg for profit.

Eventually, after much public outcry from concerned citizens, Newport would begin to institute a number of reforms and regulations in order to rid Newport of the reputation brought by the casinos, brothels, and speak-easies. These reforms would also have unseen consequences on Newport’s economy, as Newport was no longer an industrial town, many of the people that sought income at the businesses of ill-repute, which were now also being shut down.

With Newport no longer either an industrial hub or a tourist destination, the city would experience a lull in activity during the 1990’s, where it was decided that Newport should once again become a tourist destination. Since then, rapid expansion in the East side of Newport has led to a boom in commercial business that draws people in from the surrounding areas. The West side of Newport, however, is still mainly a residential area where those who were left destitute after the 80s reforms still remain. Today with project Hope, we are seeing the West side of Newport experience a bit of revival, with businesses from Monmouth leaching over and providing employment and positive cultural influence.