



**THE KENTON COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR  
1990**



11-90

**Kenton County Historical Society**

P O Box 641  
Covington, Kentucky 41012

R E V I E W

November 1990

A CHRISTMAS DINNER

On Tuesday evening, December 4, the Kenton County Historical Society will host its annual Christmas celebration with a dinner at the Coach and Four restaurant, Covington. We invite members and friends to make reservations (deadline, November 30). Please include a choice of one of the menu items: Marinated Pork Chops (\$10.95); Pecan Chicken (\$12.95); or Pasta Special (?). Mail reservations to Treasurer, P. O. Box 641 Covington, Ky 41012.

In addition to conversation about the past year and the future, some Christmas music is planned.

Tuesday evening, December 4

Cocktails, 6:30-7:15

Coach and Four/214 Scott /Covington

REVIEW OF 1990

In February 1990 the Kenton County Historical Society published its monthly bulletin in a new format for the first time. This first R E V I E W carried an Irish theme entitled, "Happy St Paddy's Day" by John Burns, as well as a report that some 70 people had attended a very special event on February 8th--a birthday party (with cake) celebrating Covington's 175th along with the unveiling of an historic highway marker at 38th and Winston for Covington's long remebered Latonia thoroughbred race track. The combined event featured comments by city and county officials, a talk on the history of the track by Mr. Pat Harmon, retired Sports Editor, a large display of track memorabilia, and attendance by fans and members from the racing industry.

Subsequent issues contained these condensed pieces by Mr. Burns: April--"Bromley's 100th Anniversary as a Corporate Entity"; May--"Margaret Garner, Murderess or Heroine?"; June--Somerset Hall, A Clandestine Underground Station"; July--"The Last Streetcar"; August--"Early Ludlow Schools" and "A Near Disaster"; September--"A Kentucky Inventor"; and October--"The Federal League at Covington." In the March issue was printed verbatim legislation and news reports having to do with the official establishment of Kenton County. And at one point County Judge-Executive thanked us informally for providing such first-hand history, including the county's birthday date of April 30, 1840.

The R E V I E W also announced meeting programs arranged by Elizabeth Chavez, Programs Chairperson: March--Rudig and Arnold on How to Form a Pioneer Society; April--Chuck Eilerman on the year's county birthday party festivities; May--Terry Mulse on the Covington office of the FBI; June--Jane White on her great-aunt's Civil War memorabilia and on her ancestor Leonard Stephens the first Sheriff of Kenton County; July--Librarian Charles King's genealogical resources seminar; August--Earl Clark's audio-visual review of Northern Kentucky streetcar history; September--Fr. Anthony Deye on the history of St Henry's church, Elsemere, in the year of its 100th anniversary; October--Pat Harmon on the history of the Latonia Race track; and November--Dr. Alvin Poweleit on the history of medicine in Northern Kentucky. Mrs. Chavez also arranged the January 1990 program given by Daisey Shearer on the contributions of various nationalities to our culture. There was no regular evening program in February in lieu of the afternoon ceremony in Latonia. And Mr. George Trenn gave a nice talk on the history of Cincinnati breweries as a substitute for Mr. Harmon who had to cancel in October due to illness.

The R E V I E W was sent monthly to 616 Main, the Kenton County 150th birthday office, and the society was invited to birthday events. John Boh, Dorothy Wieck, and June Hazlett attended one of the last, the ceremonial burial of a time capsule in the front lawn of the courthouse in Independence. We were invited with other organizations, and we did, submit a letter stating our purpose and providing other highlights of the Kenton County Historical Society. The letters and other mementoes and artifacts were buried in the wind down of yearlong county birthday activities.

In memory of our county history the Publications Committee spirited by John Burns managed to arrange and bind (looseleaf) three volumes (all indexed) of collected papers--most but not all written by members and friends over the thirteen years of our existence:

Volume I--"Bridge Fell 70 Feet into the Licking River" (Barlow); "John W. Stevenson" (Barlow); "John G. Carlisle" (Boh); "Latonia Springs" (Gastright); "Churches of the United Church of Christ, Kenton County, (Kiger); The Making of the Kentucky Central" (Gastright); "Trouble in Latonia" (Hils); "Mayor Rhinock" (Wieck); "Mortimer Murray Benton" (Wieck); "The Amos Shinkle Estate" (Boh); "Madison Avenue Christian Church" (Boh); "Ninth Street United Methodist Church" (Boh); "Shinkle United Methodist Church" (Boh); "St Benedict Parish" (Gastright).  
Volume II--"Gowell--Symbol of Second Effort" (Murray); "The Baker-Hunt Foundation of Covington, Kentucky" (Roth); "The History of Covington Schools" (Shearer); "John Robert Kelley--X-Ray Genius" (Boh); "Tough Times for Early Kenton County Libraries" (Averdick); "The Philosophy Behind Baker-Hunt" (Chavez); "Dan Beard--Modern Frontiersman" (Howe); "The Queen" (Murray); "The 'Chronic Want' of Cincinnati: A Southern Railroad" (Tenkotte); "Louisville and Cincinnati River Packet Trade: Heart of a Region" (Prudent); "History of the Catholic

Church in Ludlow, Kentucky: The Developmental Years 1870-1935" (Schroeder); "The Covington Elks" (Chavez); "History of Covington" (Blakely); "History of Covington, Kentucky" (Harrison). Volume III--"Frontier Adventures"; "The Point and the War of 1812"; "The Underground Railroad and the Men Who Made it Obsolete"; "Governor Neutrality Proclamation, a Failed Political Ploy"; "Local Troups on the Battle Fronts" (all by Burns). This three volume set was nominated for a publications award from the Historical Confederation of Kentucky. At the same time many local history enthusiasts have been waiting patiently for the Kentucky Historical Society to publish finally, from the expert pen of Mr. Burns, his history of Covington.

Upon request from the city of Covington, the historical society proposed a list of potential historic highway markers. While the most recent markers were funded by the City, Mr. Burns under direction from the Kentucky Historical Society prepared and documented the texts. City Commissioner Callery, the Mayor's office and others, directed the ceremonies. On February 8th in Latonia many special arrangements were made including running a tape recording of FDR's address in 1938 at the race track. On August 23rd at Sixth and Main a marker was unveiled commemorating an escape of slaves across the Ohio river from the foot of Main street in January 1856. And weeks before the New Year, 1990 a marker recognizing artist Frank Duveneck was erected on Garrard Street at George Rogers Clark park.

A new Campbell County Historical and Geological Society was organized in 1990. When the Bromley-Ludlow Historical Society was organized, this same year, John Burns was able to provide documentation which led to the celebration of Bromley's 100th anniversary. Bromley even received recognition from County-Judge Middleton and from the Governor.

~~Leading back~~ John Boh, President, did much organization and clerical work in addition to follow-up on his unpublished history of the Kelley-Koett X-ray Manufacturing company. Jim Kiger, Vice president, chaired the Publications committee and did much in arranging for typing, printing, indexing and purchasing. Dorothy Wieck, Treasurer, also worked regularly at the Kenton County Library providing genealogical assistance, answering queries, adapting marriage, birth, death records, and adding to her series of census indices. June Hazlett, Secretary, chaired the Membership committee and was a regular at our meetings. Carol Whitehead, Director, made the special arrangements for Covington's 175th birthday cake. It must also be noted that a loyal member and Latonia native, Ralph Murray, was greatly responsible for bringing back many of the racing old-timers and for the large turnout on February 8th. George Chavez, Director, provided input and helped Elizabeth Chavez, Programs chairperson who also aided with the treasury books and with the Publications committee. Charles King, State and Local History librarian, has been very supportive. He gave a genealogical seminar in July in addition to his daily library assistance; and he helped arrange the indexing of the three volume set of Collected Papers. And the Society appreciates the supports of its members and friends including of course those who have time to attend our monthly programs.

On October 1st in Frankfort Joe and Carolyn Gastright and John Boh set up in a display case in the State Capitol building a collection of pictures (from the Kenton County Library Collection) and artifacts (loaned by the Gastrights and by the Behringer-Crawford Museum) all of which portrays events, sites, and outstanding people in the history of the county. This is one of a series

of County Heritage displays. Kenton County's is scheduled to be over as of December 6th.

Throughout 1990 the balances in both the General and the Publications accounts have ranged from over \$1000 to \$1500. Recently the latter account was hit with a bill of over \$230.00 for the costs of indexing the three volumes of Collected Papers, and for alphabetizing and typing the master for the 1880 Census Index. This account is replenished through sales of our publications. The General account is maintained primarily through membership dues and occasionally through sales of some of our earlier publications.

Lifetime memberships presently number eleven parties including two couples and one organization. General membership as of November 15 was at approximately forty with about twenty having lapsed in the last few months.

For 1991 we propose these general goals:

1. To sponsor monthly programs. However, we will try to hold meetings also on days other than the first Tuesday; and we will try to locate some programs outside of Covington.
2. To Send out monthly bulletins with announcements, news, and short historical articles. This is so that we can stay in touch with members, friends and the public and encourage them to participate in local history affairs.
3. We will ask that members and friends write and send us historical papers for publication in our bulletin and/or in a fourth volume of Collected Papers. Historical research and display is a prime function of any historical society.
4. To Continue participation in the historic highway marker program because it is another very beneficial form of historical display.
5. To continue support of genealogy especially through cooperation with library staff and volunteers.

6. To participate in 1991 organized activities leading up to the Kentucky Bicentennial such as the Kentucky Veterans Oral History project.

7. To increase our number of paid memberships because paid memberships show support and help finance our activities.

8. To get more participation by constantly encouraging cooperation, and involvement.

The Kenton County Historical Society was originally sponsored over twelve years ago by the Kenton County Public Library and other civic minded parties. Membership shows support. Citizens have the right to participate. Historical display improves the culture and quality of life. It gives the locale its own distinct identity and uniqueness which can make inhabitants both informed and proud, and give visitors reason to return for both business and pleasure.

The Collected Papers of the Kenton County Historical Society. All three volumes are indexed and looseleaf bound. They total over 500 pages. \$30.00 per set. \$2.00 additional for mailing.

Membership in the Kenton County Historical Society is \$5.00 per person per year. Mail to Treasurer. P. O. Box 641. Covington, Ky 41012.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests in history: \_\_\_\_\_



THE KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 641. Covington, Ky 41012.

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Kenton County Birthday, April 30, 1990 (150th)  
Covington Birthday, February 8, 1990 (175th)  
Bromley Birthday, May 23, 1990 (100th)

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