

# KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## KCHS MEETING

**DATE** Tuesday April 11  
**TIME** 7 PM- 9 PM  
**PLACE** Baker-Hunt Foundation  
620 Greenup Street  
Covington

Artist-in-residence, Kay Maydack, will give us a tour of the Baker-Hunt Foundation mansion. She will give us a history of the life and interesting families that lived there.

Refreshments will be generously provided by the Baker-Hunt Foundation. Parking is off Sanford Street.

## Bulletin

April 2000

*From the President . . . . .*

### KCHS Recipient of Prestigious HCK Awards

The Kenton Society was the recipient of the President's Award of Excellence at the State Awards Banquet, Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> at the History Center. This is given to only one organization annually and is based on the Awards Committee's examination of the over-all performance for the previous year.

This award belongs to all KCHS's hard working members: JoAnn Brown's *Bulletin* editorship has greatly improved our "house organ;" Nancy Grall's imaginative programs have brought new interest to these monthly gatherings; the board has been more attentive to managing the Society. The keyboard skills of our volunteers inputting manuscripts, marketing of publications through retail outlets, and appearances on Cable TV "Insight 6" program each month have all expanded public exposure to the Society.

The Society also received recognition for the book, "Newport Barracks - Kentucky's Forgotten Military Installation," published in cooperation with Campbell County Historical Society. Our neighbor to the east also won recognition for establishing and working on the regional History Day, just past. This is a unique event in the Commonwealth and attendance this year was over 240.

In addition to the above mentioned, the following is a list of some specific citations and their recipients:

- Certificate of Commendation: George Grider, Board of Directors, McDowell House
- Certificate of Commendation: James D. Veatch, Camp Breckenridge Museum.
- Certificate of Commendation: Living Arts & Science Center, Lexington, for the program, "Diggin' It: the Science of Archaeology"
- Certificate of Commendation: McDowell House & Apothecary Shop, Danville, for school their activity book.
- Award of Merit: Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate, Lexington, for the Christmas 1862 program
- Award of Merit: Saxton's Cornet Band, Frankfort.
- Certificate of Commendation: Georgetown-Scott County Museum for the "Mondays at the Museum Program."
- Award of Merit: Between the Rivers Preservation Organization for the "rescue Our Cemeteries" project.
- Award of Merit: Lyon County Historical Society, Eddyville, for their Bicentennial Celebration.
- Award of Merit: Mill Springs Battlefield Association, Somerset, for work of preserving the battlefield.
- Certificate of Commendation: Camp Wildcat Preservation Foundation for work of preservation.
- Award of Merit: Georgetown-Scott County Museum, for the exhibit "Eugene A. Bradley, Georgetown Photographer.
- Award of Merit: Oldham County Historical Society for the video, "The Dearest Place on Earth."
- Certificate of Commendation: Johnson County Extension Office, for the video, "Heritage Days"
- Award of Merit: Beargrass-St. Matthews Historical Society, Louisville, for the book "St. Matthews, Crossroads of Beargrass"
- Award of Merit: Perryville Battlefield Association fo the book, "Perryville: Community History of Northwest Boyle County"
- Award of Merit: Shaker Villages at South Union, for the exhibit catalog "Considerable Grace: Southern Roots of Kentucky Shaker Dining Room.
- Award of Merit: Hart County Historical Society for cookbook "A Ft Craig Reader - Cooking & History in Hart County"

WEB SITE <http://www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc/>

## Holian Hardware Closes

Karl J. Lietzenmayer

Edwin Hook, Jr. is the last link in a hardware legacy that extends back to 1914. At age 69, Ed is retiring, selling off the stock and closing the store he has owned for 34 years and worked in longer than that. There isn't much that Ed couldn't repair or at least patch-up.

Born November 8th, 1930 to Edwin John and Eva Jane Hook, his birth took place at home [314 East 41st Street, Latonia] by a midwife since old Doc Gibson couldn't get there with his horse and buggy fast enough. His father was a teller at Cincinnati's First National Bank.

By age 13, Ed was working in a grocery and at 16 began as a clerk in Thomas J. Holian's Hardware Store at 305 East 40th Street, Latonia suburb of Covington. His first job was to fill bins with nails from barrels almost too heavy for the young Hook to lift.

Thomas J. Holian came from a hardware family when he established his 40th Street store about 1940. His father, Thomas A. Holian was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Martin Hardware Company at the present Ritte's Corner location Ed has now closed.

The Martin Hardware Company first appears in the 1914 Covington Directory. It was a partnership of Albert G. Felton, President, Thomas J. Martin, Vice-president, and Thomas A. Holian, Secretary-Treasurer. This 3 man association remained until about 1930. Mr. Felton by then was no longer an associate and at mid-decade, Martin and Holian had serious disagreements and Martin left the firm.<sup>1</sup>

Thomas A. Holian retained the name "Martin Hardware" until about 1950 when it disappears from the records.<sup>2</sup> Meanwhile, T. J. Martin's son William M. purchased a little confectionery/notions store called "Miss Mary's Candy Store" in 1939.<sup>3</sup> By 1954, this humble store grew into Johnny's Toy Store (now with 4 locations in Greater Cincinnati).<sup>4</sup>

The younger Holian taught Ed Hook everything about the trade. Thomas J. Holian was one of the first area radio technicians. He taught the eager Hook the craft and when TV

arrived, they both took classes to learn repair. This became a large part of the business.<sup>5</sup> Father and son ran their own hardware businesses until the elder Holian (T.A.) died December 5th, 1951. T. J. Holian inherited his father's store near Ritte's Corner and until a fire destroyed the 40th Street store, he kept both stores in operation.



Ed Hook's *Holian Hardware*, near Ritte's Corner, Latonia on last week of operation.

The younger Holian put Ed Hook in charge of the 40th Street store and sometime in the mid-50s the store caught fire when a spark from the pump motor ignited the naptha cans Ed was filling from a barrel. Mr. Hook managed to get a woman customer and himself out of the building before being seriously burned.

With only the Ritte's Corner store, Tom Holian put an addition to the rear, which enlarged the structure by over 1/3. Ed worked with Holian until the latter died August 16, 1966 at age 56 after a brief illness.<sup>6</sup> Ed Hook then borrowed \$500 and purchased the business from his estate. He has continued the Holian business and out lasted several competitors.<sup>7</sup>

## Endnotes

1. City Directories. Personal interview, Edwin Hook, Jr. (March 2000).
2. City Directories.

**CINCINNATI'S  
14th ANNUAL**

**OLD TIME  
RADIO  
&  
NOSTALGIA  
CONVENTION**

**APRIL 28-29, 2000**

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

**HOURS: FRIDAY 9AM-9PM  
SATURDAY 9AM-4PM**

**BOB HASTINGS  
ARCHIE ANDREWS  
MICHAEL NAVE**

**ROSEMARY RICE  
ARCHIE ANDREWS  
I REMEMBER MAMA**

**TYLER McVEY  
FIBBER MCGEE & MOLLY  
BURNS & ALLEN**

**ESTHER GEDDES  
(Mrs. TYLER McVEY)  
GOLDEN DAYS OF RADIO  
THE MAGIC GARDEN**

**Admission: \$7/day. Convention held at the  
Marquis Room of The Radisson, 11320 Chester Road,  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246. For more information call  
(606) 282-0333 or write Radio Nostalgia Convention,  
10280 Gunpowder Road, Florence, KY 41042**

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## History Day 2000 Great Success!

Over 240 persons attended the conference this year. About 18 exhibitors attended display tables from as far away as Trimble and Hardin Counties!

All of the participants were encouraged to create story boards for their counties. Many submitted very professional displays. These boards will be combined as a traveling display and monitored by the Campbell County Society. When the display is properly prepared, it will be available for use by the region's heritage groups for display at civic meetings, etc.

Kenton's Society table was very successful. Five new members signed up; \$250 of Linden Grove Cemetery books were sold and; \$99 of NKH Subscribers were only some of the activity for the day.

Hardin County has re-printed several books unavailable for a number of years. They are R. Gerald McMurtry's [KCHS vice-president's Steve McMurtry's late father] series on Abraham Lincoln's Hardin County connections. For example, Ben Hardin Helm was Lincoln's brother-in-law.

Robert Gerald McMurtry was born in Elizabethtown, Kentucky and attended Centre College. He became director of the Department of Lincolniana at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee.

The titles are:

- Ben Hardin Helm
- The Kentucky Lincoln on Mill Creek
- The Lincoln Migration from Ky to Ind 1816.
- Monographs Concerning The Lincolns & Hardin County.
- Elizabethtown, The First Century (1779-1879)

For information about prices, availability, etc., contact the Kenton Society and the requests will be forwarded.

### Treasurer's Budget Projections River Ridge School Grant

There are presently 375 KCHS members (175 at senior rate) and 5 Life memberships [\$100 level].

Of the \$9290 annual budget, about \$6000 is budgeted for *Northern Kentucky Heritage* magazine. Fortunately, over the 7 years of publication, subscription income has supported this publication, generally.

A \$500 grant was given to NKH from the pupils of River Ridge School, Crescent Springs-Villa Hills.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear KCHS

I am so glad that I discovered your web site! Please accept my membership application and my order for the following publications . . .

My grandfather, Charles Vincent, was born in 1908 on 40<sup>th</sup> Street in Latonia [same year Latonia was incorporated into Covington - ed.]. He was the son of Charles Trimble Youmans and Lucy Mae Gardiner. His father was Edward B. Youmans who, according to the family, was a Civil War Veteran and established the Wesleyan Mission in Louisville. I am just beginning my explorations into the Youmans line, and I hope this connection to KCHS will give me a tangible connection to the past.

I am especially interested in the History of Trinity [Methodist?] Church, because Lucy seems to be partly responsible for splitting the church. Here is a passage from my grandfather:

*My mother had recently attended a revival meeting in Wilmore, Kentucky where she claimed "sanctification." She had friends in the church who felt and believed as she did. Eventually this caused a split in the congregation. A small group pulled away and established a new church-as a division of the Pilgrim Holiness Church. A new building was erected on decoursey Avenue between 44<sup>th</sup> & 45<sup>th</sup> Streets. My mother took the family to this church and my father did nothing to counteract the move, which had a profound influence on the Youmans family. It reduced the level of our social life and relationships in the Covington and Latonia communities.*

Sincerely, R. Scott Youmans

### ***Don't Forget The Licking River Cruise Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> 2000***

***Boards 1:30 pm from Queen City River  
boats Harbor, Dodd Drive, Dayton, Ky.***

***\$10/person***

***Send reservation:***

***Campbell County Historical Society  
19 East Main Street  
Alexandria, Ky 41001***

### ***Historic Photos Sought***

*The Bank of Kentucky, now headquartered in the restored "Mosler Building" 3<sup>rd</sup> & Scott Streets is searching for any and all historic photos of this structure.*

Contact the Society with any pictures or postcards of which you may have knowledge.

3. "Miss Mary's Confectionery" was owned by Mary Ploeger. Miss Ploeger resided in Latonia at least before 1898 and her first occupation was as a seamstress. In 1902, she began a small confectionery/school supplies store at Ritte's Corner. By 1904 she operated at 3719 DeCoursey - the eventual address of the first Johnny's Toy Store. In 1939, William Martin purchased her store and she no longer appears in the Directories. Lisa Gillham, long-time Latonia resident [ & Society member ], stated that Miss Ploeger continued her little store for a short time at a new location near the Latonia school on 38th Street.
4. William Martin is listed as proprietor of a variety store until the 1954 Directory when the name "Johnny's Toy Store" first appears. William M. Martin died at age 79 of a heart attack May 21, 1999. Johnny was William's brother.
5. Tom J. Holian was born with his heart on the right side of his chest and was a rather short man as an adult. He was quite a good baseball shortstop (no pun intended with his height!) and played semi-pro ball according to Ed Hook.
6. Obituary KP 8-17-1966: Thomas J Holian, 56, 9 Arcadia, Lakeside Park, KY. Wife Patricia, 2 sons James P. and Thomas E. Conmley Brothers in charge of arrangements.
7. Flake's Hardware is now Lucille's Club and Landwehr's had a hardware store next to the former Kentucky Theatre



Edwin Hook, Jr. in his establishment on last day of operation. (Staff photos)

### Erlanger Hardware Closes

After more than a century of operation, Erlanger Hardware closed its doors forever in 2000. Bernie Small, who has owned the business since October 1995, said he was unable to relocate due to the high cost of real estate in Erlanger. He did not want to continue to lease the present building.

The business began in a building at the corner of Erlanger Road and Dixie Highway (US 25/42), that later became Scheben Hardware.

The Schebens have been in Erlanger since the 1890s. Andy Scheben, Sr. helped establish his 3 sons in different businesses: Fritz operated the hardware store, Bill managed a bank down the street and Andy, Jr. supervised the feed store across the highway.

The store has been in its present location since 1925, being built by Erlanger resident Bob Rice. In 1947, Scheben sold the business to Ed Woods and Margaret Reichle.

In turn, Woods sold the business to Howard Dunbar Dickie in 1972, who connected an adjoining gas station, giving it an "L" shape. Howard still owns the building.

### Bibliography

Wayne, Onkst, editor, "From Buffalo Trails to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, A Centennial History of Erlanger, Kentucky" (1996).  
*Dixie News*, 2 Dec. 1999.

Just in at BlueGrass Publications:  
[www.bluegrasspub.com](http://www.bluegrasspub.com)

*Home Sweet Kentucky*  
 by David & Lalie Dick

This wonderful publication takes you on a journey with the authors through the backroads of our Commonwealth.

*Home Sweet Kentucky*... a book to slow you down, warm your heart, and lift you up. It'll take you to many forgotten places, introduce you to people who generally don't make headlines, and give you a taste of the essence of Kentuckians - the good people who make the Commonwealth unique.

David Dick, former CBS news correspondent and his wife Lalie have traveled all across Kentucky. Dinsmore Homestead (Boone County) has a featured chapter.

David & Lalie will be at Dinsmore's annual gala April 28<sup>th</sup> for a book signing.

\$18.95 + 1.14 Ky tax

Free shipping. Plum Lick Publishing, Inc 1999, 244 pages.

Dedicated to preserving our heritage as the "Gateway to the South"



Kenton County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 641  
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