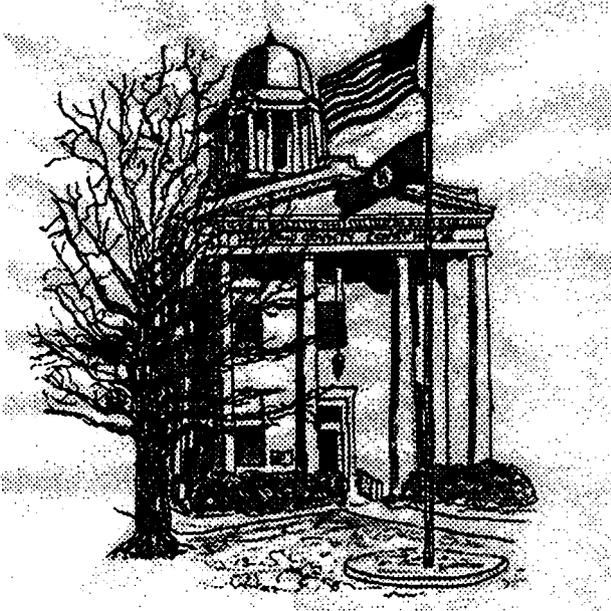


BULLETIN

of the

Kenton County Historical Society

organized in 1977; non-profit member,
Historical Confederation of Kentucky,
Publisher of the new regional magazine,
Northern Kentucky Heritage



INSIDE SEE:

HISTORY OF COVINGTON
BY O.J. WIGGINS

FEBRUARY 1994

Kenton County Historical Society
P.O. Box 641
Covington, KY 41012

February 1994

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

On Tuesday, February 8, at 7:00 PM, at the Kenton County Public Library (Erlanger Branch), James A. Haley will speak about:

STEAMBOATS ON THE OHIO RIVER

Mr. Haley, a resident of Lakeside Park, has retained an avid interest in steamboats all of his life. He has made steamboating an avocation. Mr. Haley will show SLIDES with his lecture.

The program will be sponsored by the Kenton County Historical Society. This educational program will be FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Tuesday Evening
February 8, 7:00 PM
Kenton County Public Library
Erlanger Branch
3158 Dixie Highway (next to Krogers)

Northern Kentucky Heritage

This new regional magazine covers (not exclusively) Boone, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Owen and Pendleton Counties. The first issue is out and the second issue is scheduled for this Spring. We ask for your support in this effort to promote and publish the history and genealogy of Northern Kentucky. We note that you might be able to buy a gift subscription for someone!

Subscription with membership in the Kenton County Historical Society - \$25.00

Senior citizen and student subscription with membership in KCSH - \$20.00

HISTORY OF COVINGTON

by O.J. Wiggins (1)

Daily Commonwealth, April 5, 1884

(first of a series herein transcribed)

In this work the writer contemplates bringing up each era in its fullest details, as far as they come to his attention, before proceeding with the next or later portion of the history.

Written as it is for a newspaper article, the "history" is bound to contain some mistakes and to miss many interesting if not important facts. Hence, these must be gathered from time to time through the kindness and good will of living authorities. No little encouragement is felt in the manifest interest that was taken in the first chapter, and the writer is indebted for much valuable information to persons who will be mentioned in the proper place.

Mr. Will Carlisle (2), who happens to be engaged at this time in examining titles to lots in the old Craig Street Burying-ground property, finds that the deed to Thomas Kennedy from James Welsh for the present site of Covington is dated December 9, 1801, and that Mr. Kennedy's deed to John S. Gano, Thomas D. Carneal, and Richard M. Gano is dated March 2, 1815, and calls for 200 acres more or less, except a strip conveyed to Joel Craig January 10, 1809 and reconveyed back to Mr. Kennedy under the same date. By subsequent deeds January 13, 1832, Bakewell, Page & Bakewell, glass manufacturers, of Pittsburgh, PA (3) got possession of all the interest in the property remaining to the heirs of the original purchasers, and afterwards in 1827, Benjamin Page acquired the interest of his partners, the Bakewells. Some curious instances have grown out of these transfers. It seems the city never had any legal right to the burying ground property, and when the graves were removed the heirs of John S. and Richard M. Gano brought suit for possession. The case went to Appellate Court, which decided that in the deed of Carneal to John S. Gano heirs and Bakewell, Page & Bakewell a proportionate part of the old burying ground site passed to the vendees, but in the conveyance of R. M. Gano's heirs to Bakewell, Page & Bakewell no interest passed. Hence, the Gano heirs won the suit. In this case the property in question was platted in lots and sold by the Master Commissioner (4). Thomas H. Kennedy, a descendent of the original owner, became one of the purchasers (5).

REMINISCENCES

Prettyman Merry, who is named as the original holder of one of the land grants for part of the territory now occupied by Covington, was the grandfather of Nathaniel A. Merry, now a resident of the city. From Mr. Merry we learn that his grandfather entered 700(?) acres (6) lying immediately west of Willow Run and that he afterward divided this among his three sons, John, Samuel, and James Merry. John Merry, who was the father of Nathaniel, moved to Covington from Buckingham County Virginia probably in 1814 because he advertises 300 acres with a partly finished house for sale April 4, 1815; and he describes the land as adjoining 500 or 700 acres belonging to

Prettyman Merry lying at the mouth of Pleasant Run, in Kentucky about 3 1/2 miles below Cincinnati. On June 26th of the same year Prettyman Merry advertised for sale 575 acres in Campbell County, KY, adjoining the land of Alford Sanford and John Merry on Pleasant Run.

Mr. Nathaniel Merry says that his father's family was accompanied here by the families of Nathaniel Anderson, Benjamin Rawlins, and Levitt Lawrence, and that he lived here five years when having lost two crops of tobacco out of three in shooting the falls of Louisville, he was prevailed upon by Anderson, who had gone on to Christian County to follow them, with the view to avoid the falls by going down the Cumberland River. Benjamin Rawlins was lost at sea. Levitt Lawrence went to Memphis, Tenn., where he was the first merchant. He afterward became Quartermaster in the Mexican War.

Nathaniel Merry was born in Christian County, August 24, 1820, and after living in various places landed in Covington in 1860 in the employ of K.C.R.R., where he has been ever since. While working in the employ of Moore & Harkness in Cincinnati(7), he helped build the first engine used on the K.C.R.R.(8), and afterward the next two in the order named: the "Col. Morgan", the "Fayette", and the "Kenton". A newspaper called Liberty Hall was printed in Cincinnati in 1815: and under date of February 15, 1815 the following advertisement was printed:

COVINGTON -- A NEW TOWN

Is laid out at the mouth of the Licking River, on the farm owned lately by Thomas Kennedy. This commanding and beautiful situation is generally known throughout the western country. Situated at the confluence of the Ohio and Licking Rivers, in Campbell County, Kentucky, opposite the flourishing town of Cincinnati, this situation presents a prospect equal, if not superior to any on the Ohio River. The main roads from Lexington, KY to Cincinnati, OH, pass through the town. It is healthy and possesses many advantages superior to any situation in the western country; convenient to a good market, steam mill and a variety of factories. The facility with which all kinds of building materials can be procured, with many other concomitant advantages, must hold forth sufficient inducements for the enterprising merchant, mechanic, manufacturer and men of business of every description. The town is laid out upon the most advantageous principles for the occupants; every lot has the advantage of a street and alley, a center or public square, for places of worship, academies, etc., and a market space of 100 x 500, set long are reserved. A suitable number of out lots will be laid out, convenient to the town.

LOTS

Will be offered at public auction on the 20th day of March next at the place aforesaid, on the following terms: One-fourth in hand or a negotiable note with an approved endorser, at sixty days; one-fourth in six months, one-fourth in twelve months, and one-fourth in eighteen months; or, one-third in hand, one-third in twelve months, and one-third in twenty-four months, as may suit the purchaser, in bonds with approved security, the

bear interest from the date, if not punctually paid. A discount of eight per cent will be made for prompt payment of the whole sum at the time of sale.

The town has been established by an act of the Legislature of Kentucky, and titles will be made by the trustees upon the purchase presenting a receipt for the purchase money, or the order of the proprietors. A plan of the town may be seen at John S. Gano's Cincinnati, R.M. Gano's Georgetown, KY at Captain Postlewait's , Lexington, and at Messrs. Bakewell, Page & Bakewell's , Pittsburgh

R.M Gano

T.D. Carneal- Proprietor

John S. Gano

February 15, 1815 (9)

On the 14th day of April, 1815, the proprietors mentioned above advertises "that having sold near 100 lots on the 21st and 22nd ult., as advertised, on several of which immediate improvements will be made, and considerable advances having been given on others they have concluded to offer for sale on May 10th on the ground 200 in-lots and between 30 and 40 out lots." The advertisement goes on to say a plan of the town may be seen at John S. Gano's, Cincinnati, R.M. Gano's, Georgetown, KY, and at Capt. Perry's, innkeeper, at Covington.

Under date September 18, 1816, John A. Gano, as surviving proprietor, calls upon all purchasers in arrears to step up and pay either to himself, his son, Daniel Gano or James W. Bryson, at the stone tavern in Covington. This stone tavern was the Kennedy homestead still standing on the east side of Garrard Street, below Second.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Orville James Wiggins died in 1896, age 42; survivors included his wife and two sisters including the wife of Judge McNeill of Cincinnati. The funeral was from First Presbyterian , Covington, burial in Highland Cemetery. Executor Harvey Meyers read his obituary before members of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce; he once was "quite active" in politics and a member of various societies including Masonic and Elk Brotherhoods (obituary, K.P., February 18th, 19th, 20th and 25th, 1896). Later in his career he established an insurance business including an office in Cincinnati (Cincinnati, the Queen City, 1884). Wiggins also was a newspaper reporter (D. C. , March 29, 1880). In 1884 this newspaper published Wiggins' series of historical articles.

2. Will Carlisle (of James G. Carlisle, William K. Goebel, William K. Carlisle, attorneys), 11 Boone Block, 402-422 Scott Street. John G. and Mary Jane Carlisle had two sons who became lawyers, Logan and William K. (W.H. Perrin, et al, Kentucky, A History of the State, vol. 7, 1887). William K. Goebel was, of course, Governor elect from Northern Kentucky who was assassinated.

3. Bakewell, Page and Bakewell was the firm of Benjamin Bakewell, Benjamin Page, and Thomas Bakewell. Thomas Bakewell was the son of Benjamin. Benjamin was the uncle of Thomas Woodhouse Bakewell of Cincinnati after whom Bakewell Street in Covington was named.

Benjamin Bakewell achieved the title "the Father" of flint glass making (1808). Bakewell, Page and Bakewell evolved eventually to become Pittsburgh's modern glass manufacturing corporation. Bakewell, Page and Bakewell's speculation in Covington was but one instance of direct, century-long business links between Pittsburgh and the Cincinnati area.

4. See Charles S. Adams, "Old Covington Cemeteries", Christopher Gist Papers.

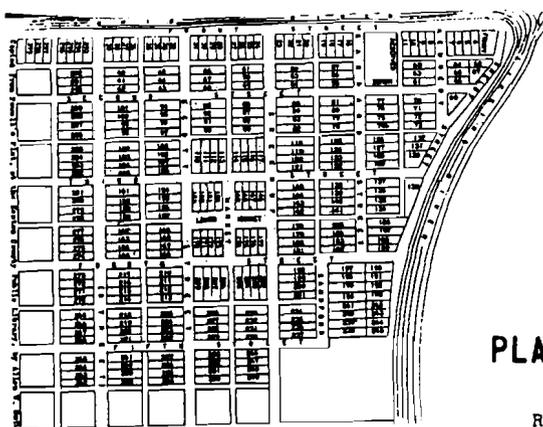
5. Thomas Howell Kennedy (born 1833), who served terms as city engineer until 1901 (and was also a real estate dealer), was the son of Thomas D. Kennedy (1795 - 1869) who served also as Covington's engineer until 1855. Thomas H. Kennedy's grandfather was Joseph Kennedy (1768 -

1825), and his great-grandfather was the Thomas Kennedy (1741 - 1821) who sold his farm to the Covington company which organized the original town. See E. Polk Johnson, A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians, vol. 2, 1912.

6. According to John Burns, "History of Covington to 1865," (unpublished) Prettyman Merry was granted 2000 acres over the signature of Patrick Henry, governor of Virginia.
7. See John H. White, Cincinnati Locomotive Builders, 1865 - 1868. In the 1866 Covington Street directory Nathaniel Merry is listed as blacksmith living on Lynn Street between Scott and Greenup.
8. The Kentucky Central Railroad, originally the Covington and Lexington Railroad, and by the turn of the century part of the L & N system.
9. General John Stites Gano (1766 - 1822) and Brigadier General Richard Montgomery Gano (1775 - 1815) were born in New York, the sons of John Gano, a Baptist minister. In 1788 the Ganos came to the Cincinnati area. John Gano's military career included service under General St. Clair in Indian battles, and also during the War of 1812; Richard Gano's service included the War of 1812.

Thomas Davis Carneal (1786 - 1860) was born in Alexandria, Virginia. In 1792, the Carneal family moved to Franklin County, Kentucky and in 1800 to Big Bone in Boone County. In 1806, while his father moved back to Franklin County, Thomas proceeded to establish a social and business standing in Cincinnati. In 1812, he worked with General James Taylor in military affairs. In 1815, he sold his interest in the Covington Company to the Ganos, (see above). In 1817, he sold some nine and one-half acres at the end of East Fourth Street, which he had recently acquired from the Ganos. About 1818, he acquired other lands, accumulating about 1210 acres which included present-day Ludlow, where in 1820 he completed construction of Elmwood Hall over-looking the Ohio River. Here he also owned many slaves. In 1828, he sold Elmwood Hall and surrounding property to William Bullock. He built a house on the south side on Second Street between Madison and Scott Streets, which in 1831 he sold to the proprietor of the new Covington Rolling Mill. Then he moved to another new house on Broadway Street in Cincinnati. In 1847, after the death of his wife, he moved to Frankfort, Kentucky, then also summer retreat for southern planters. In 1860, he became ill while visiting in Cincinnati, tried to convalesce in the residence of his brother-in-law, Nicholas Longworth (in today's Taft Museum), but soon passed away. In addition to his Covington and Cincinnati interests, Carneal also held some interests in Louisville development, with another brother-in-law, James Breckinridge. In recent years, a review of available deed records and old newspaper indicates that (contrary to earlier information) Covington's Carneal House was built about 1820 - 1822 when the property belonged to Daniel Gano. See Allen Webb Smith, Beginning at the "point", a Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, the Town of Covington in Particular, 1751 - 1834, printed locally, 1977. For Carneal's life see also, "Afar Back The First Days of Ludlow, When Indians Haunted the Dark Forests and the Wolves Howled About the Clearing," K.P., January 21, 1893.

(Transcription and footnotes by John Boh)



PLAT OF COVINGTON

DRAWN BY ONERIAS POWELL

RECORDED AUGUST 31, 1815

ANNOUNCEMENT:

CELEBRATING NORTHERN KENTUCKY'S HERITAGE

A REGIONAL GET-TOGETHER

ON THE CAMPUS of Northern Kentucky University

-----Saturday, February 19, 1994-----
8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND--

- to encourage and promote local history
- to provide educational opportunities for the general public

CO-SPONSORED by Northern Kentucky University and by historical societies from the Northern Kentucky region.

HOSTED by Campbell County which will be celebrating its 200th year.

WORKSHOPS on publishing local history, genealogy, family papers and community heritage, local archaeology, the National Register, and a tour of the NKU archives.

TWO SPEAKERS on these topics: "Steamboating in the Ohio Valley" and "The Civil War in Northern Kentucky".

DISPLAYS of publications and programs by historical organizations.

\$2.00 per person pre-registration.

Mail to Ms. Aileen Hurst, 5 East Ridge Place, Newport, KY 41071

* Checks payable to Campbell County Historical Society.

\$3.00 per person at the door (SIGNS WILL BE POSTED).

Kenton County Historical Society
P.O. Box 641
Covington, KY 41012

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