



# Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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## Special Anniversary Issue



**The Kenton County Historical Society  
at 40 Years**

# The Kenton County Historical Society at 40 Years<sup>1</sup>

John Boh

The formation of the Kenton County Library District and the construction of a new library building in Covington indirectly brought the formation of the Kenton County Historical Society in 1977.

In 1967, Kenton County voters (over 16,000) signed a petition requesting funding for a new library system and the Fiscal Court soon ordered that a library tax be added to property tax collections. The Covington city commission authorized turning over the Carnegie Library to the new Kenton County Public Library District. A board of directors was then appointed and Mary Ann Mongan became the county's first librarian.

The board selected the southeast corner of Fifth Street and Scott Boulevard in Covington for its new main library building - five blocks north of the Carnegie Library. Costing \$1.4 million, it opened in 1974. A new Erlanger branch library, at 3130 Dixie Highway, opened in 1978.<sup>2</sup>

With the growing popularity of genealogy and family history, the Kentucky Department of Libraries provided materials to aid patrons with genealogy and cemetery research. The Covington library staff indexed and kept family research data in file cabinets. The Kentucky Historical Society promoted ever more popular oral history interviewing on tapes and Kenton County and other libraries acquired tape recorders and other aids for patrons to record and document oral history interviews for local use, and for the archives in Frankfort.

In 1977, a group of citizens met to discuss the possibility of organizing an historical society.<sup>3</sup> With 46 persons present on April 13, library director Mary Ann Mongan and Mike Averdick spoke of the library's general purpose, of the need for more archival and other resources, and how the new historical soci-

ety could help collect, preserve, display and publish local history and genealogy. Averdick read letters of support from the County Judge, the Covington Mayor, and others. A speaker from the Cincinnati Historical Society talked about the workings of societies and libraries. Historian John Burns moved and Allen Webb Smith seconded to establish the Kenton County Historical Society as of this date April 13, 1977. The motion passed unanimously.

The proposed articles of incorporation and bylaws were reviewed on May 4th and were approved at the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Consensus favored week-nights, generally Tuesday, for membership and program meetings. Mr. Earl Clark presented the KCHS' first history program on the discontinued Green Line streetcar system.

With 21 attending on July 13, attorneys Paul Vesper and Garry Edmondson presented the articles of incorporation which eight persons signed. John Boh discussed the new oral history committee and Pat Walcott the cemetery committee. Mike Averdick listed many recent acquisitions by the library. Some were examined.

## On the cover:

**Pictured (inside the Old State Capitol, L-R): Karl Lietzenmayer, writer; David Schroeder, writer/editor; John Boh, writer; Paul Tenkotte, writer/editor; Mike Hammons, KHS; John Schlipp, writer; Robert Webster, writer & KCHS President**

**On Nov. 6, 2015 at its Annual Meeting in the Old State Capitol building, the Kentucky Historical Society presented a "Publications" award for *Gateway City Covington, Kentucky 1815-2015*. Paul Tenkotte, writer/editor, is shaking hands and accepting the award, a pewter cup, in behalf of all contributors, from Mike Hammons, Northern Kentucky resident and current President of the Kentucky Historical Society.**

At the first “annual” election meeting on September 6, 1977, KCHS members elected Jim Fouche’ (NKU Education and History Assistant professor) the first President; John Boh, Vice president; Mike Hammons, Secretary; Virginia Reynolds, Treasurer (2 year term); directors Margaret Carl, Garry Edmondson, and Joyce Sanders.<sup>4</sup>

### **History Programs (1977-2017)**

Early on, the KCHS presented history programs around 10 times per year, including lectures, audiovisual presentations, and occasional field trips and tours. Many were presented at the Covington Library, the Erlanger Library, Trinity Church (after remodeling), and the Behringer Crawford Museum. Presentations included: the streetcar system; Northern Kentucky medicine; the Bates Civil War Battery in Devou Park (field trip); Northern Kentucky banking; the life of Simon Kenton; the International Order of Odd Fellows; Big Bone Lick (field trip); Northern Kentucky in the Mexican War; Appalachian migration; Latonia Springs; West Side Covington; Historic Preservation; Ohio River steamboats; Railroads, Simon Kenton’s grave in Urbana, Ohio (field trip); the history of the Covington Police Department; the Civil War in Northern Kentucky; Black Heritage and the former Lincoln Grant School; the Syndicate Era in Newport; Licking River settlements; German Cultural Heritage; and genealogy programs.<sup>5</sup>

In July of 2004, members and guests car-pooled for a tour of the Cynthiana-Harrison County Museum, enjoyed a pleasant lunch in a downtown restaurant, and visited nearby Civil War battle sites, as well as the Colville Covered Bridge. Before eliminating its monthly schedule, the KCHS presented some ten programs yearly for 30 years! Program directors included Elizabeth Chavez, Nancy Grall, Andrew Lutes, Joseph Gastright, Karl Lietzenmayer and now Arnold Taylor.

Board of directors or business meetings occurred often, even monthly. Topics included a program of presenting certificates to owners of historic structures; an early proposed “Covington Book”; printing a KCHS brochure; and a new county history for the Kenton County sesquicentennial.

### **“Rivers Roads & Rails” Regional Event (1985)**

Inspired by the Historical Confederation of Kentucky (an association of local historical societies), a regional “Rivers, Roads and Rails” conference on Saturday, October 5, 1985 at the Carnegie Arts Center enjoyed a large attendance, including a contingent from the Bluegrass Region. The day-long program included Chair Joseph Gastright’s presentation on the Kentucky Central Railroad; Paul Tenkotte’s on the Cincinnati Southern Railroad; Frank Prudent and Don Sanders on river trade and river ports; Rus Stevens and Margaret Hartman on county roads; and John Beatty and Carl Bogardus on steamboats. Lunch followed at the Mike Fink restaurant, then a schedule of local tours.

### **Church Tours 1986 & 1987**

The Kentucky Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities provided partial funding for, and the KCHS and Behringer Crawford Museum sponsored publication of, *A Heritage of Art & Faith: Downtown Covington Churches* by Paul Tenkotte, assisted by architectural historian Walter Langsam. A church tour also took place, with architects Walter Langsam and George Roth as guides. The soft covered book of 113 pages was footnoted and indexed with many photos and illustrations. It details the historical highlights of five congregations: Mother of God, First United Methodist, Trinity Episcopal, First Christian and First Baptist. It also reflects on the destruction by fire of St. Aloysius Church on May 16, 1985.

### **End of a “Monthly” Schedule of Programs**

With attendance dwindling, the KCHS, during the presidency of Ron Einhaus, surveyed the membership. The results seemed to favor producing more KCHS publications with less enthusiasm for attending constant evening history programs. Yet the board of directors met almost monthly to handle endless business matters: publishing *Northern Kentucky Heritage* magazine twice a year, the *Bulletin* six times a year, maintaining the membership and subscription data base, and printing and pricing publications written or edited by members. Then there were maps,

programs, events, upcoming elections, ever-important publicity and more.

### **Baker Hunt Lecture Series With KCHS (2007-09)**

The KCHS helped present a very successful Sunday afternoon lecture series held at Baker Hunt Art & Cultural Center in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Ron Einhaus took admissions fees and occasionally introduced the speaker. Mike Holiday sponsored some presentations in the name of his business.

### **RoebingFest, KC Fair, Battery Hooper**

For many years, the KCHS has set up a booth at RoebingFest, the Kenton County Fair and at Battery Hooper Days (James A. Ramage Museum).

### **Northern Ky. Regional History Days (1994-2017)**

Along with Campbell, Boone, Bracken and others, the KCHS has helped organize and present Northern Kentucky Regional History Days. The first History Day happened on February 19, 1994 at NKU, as did succeeding ones until 2017 when held for the first time elsewhere at the Boone County Public Library. History Day has become a successful and much appreciated event. Members John Boh, Karl Lietzenmayer, Elaine Kuhn, Don Fowler, the late Ron Einhaus and the late Joe Gastright have all attended planning meetings and in recent years, KCHS treasurer Terry Averbeck has done the History Day financial recordkeeping.

### **Floodwall Murals 2002-2008**

In September 10, 2002, Karl Lietzenmayer reported that artists were looking for pictures of native flora and historical images to be painted onto the Covington floodwall in a series of historical murals. Finished around 2008, the series of 18 murals now depict historical scenes in Covington from 800 BC to the present day. Painted by Robert Dafford of Lafayette, Louisiana and his team, they are visible from the river bank and from the Roebing Suspension Bridge. Project historians given credit include Karl Lietzenmayer, Joseph Gastright, Paul Tenkotte and James Claypool. At Roebingfest in June, and on oth-

er occasions, Karl Lietzenmayer leads tours along the base of the murals providing commentary.

### **Selling Maps**

After Karl Lietzenmayer arranged for the copying and selling of two Covington maps (1842 and 1851), a new board member, the late Mike Holiday, had one of them repaired and reprinted and later got a black and white 1914 Kenton County map copied. Soon, Holiday proposed copying a 1920s-30s highway map centered on the Dixie Highway corridor. Later Robert Webster found the Filson Map of sufficient resolution for copying. And, he found the 1914 map in color with better resolution.



**Mike Holiday**

### **Newsletters, Bulletins 1978-2017**

KCHS membership newsletters between 1978 and 1986-87 reported meeting and event announcements, library acquisitions, publications for sale, genealogy notes, and other items. Each issue also featured a history topic: the Fourth Street Bridge; Covington's First City Hall; Governor John W. Stevenson; John G. Carlisle; Independence (county seat); Main Street (Mainstrasse); Latonia Springs; and more.

During a four year lull in printing newsletters (with historical articles), contact with the membership came largely through meeting notices. In 1990, the KCHS renewed membership newsletters with history articles. The first issue in March 1990 included a copy of the *Western Globe* newspaper report on public support for creating Kenton County out of Campbell in 1840. John Burns submitted eight of the first ten articles in the new "Review" from his large arsenal.

In February 1994, the "Review" was retitled "Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society." From February 1994 to October 1995, the Bulletin carried a series of 25 articles from *The Daily Commonwealth* newspaper dated April 5, 1884 to December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1884. The series was titled the "History of Cov-

ington” by O. J. Wiggins. Kept on microfilm, John Boh transcribed most but not all of them.

In the late 1990s, Joann Brown was Bulletin editor. In 2003, the Bulletin was enlarged and re-scheduled to be issued only in alternate months. Karl Lietzenmayer became Bulletin editor, soon to be replaced by Robert Webster in 2004.

### Booklets

The new KCHS got a very early boost in 1977 from Allen Webb Smith’s reprint of early local public documents, newspaper clipping and annotations arranged year by year in *Beginning at ‘the Point,’ A Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, the Town of Covington in Particular, 1751-1834*. By 1980, the scholarly Joseph F. Gastright had written and seen printed his thoroughly researched and densely written history of a unique Covington neighborhood called: *From Gentlemen Farmers to City Folks, A Study of Wallace Woods, Covington, Kentucky* (1980).

Likewise published was a more quickly compiled “Westside Covington” with walking tour and commentary about the Mainstrasse district by John Boh and Howard W. Boehmker (1980). This and Gastright’s work were contributions to a regional “Neighborhood Studies Project of the Cincinnati Historical Society.”

Chaired by Pat Walcott the cemetery committee compiled “Kenton County Small and Private Cemeteries” printed by the KCHS in 1981 and used for reference ever since.

### Dorothy Wieck’s Kenton Co. Census Indices

Genealogist Dorothy Wieck committed herself to recording from original handwritten census records found on the library’s microfilm rolls what was available from varied census formats to create profiles: the heads of households, age, place of birth, family members and slaves. Printed in



**Dorothy Wieck**

booklets through the library and KCHS were: 1810, 20 and 30 Federal Census indices (Campbell County); and 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 (two volumes).

### Kenton County Sesquicentennial 1990

For the Kenton County sesquicentennial, discussion ensued about a new history of the county. Many ideas were entertained. Historian Dan Hurley was to have taken charge of authorship or editorship. Commissioner Bernie Moorman led a Steering Committee to get the planning started and Kenton County provided office space in the county building. The book failed to materialize, however.

### Kenton County Exhibit, State Capitol (1990)

The Kenton County Historical Society did contribute to the sesquicentennial celebration in 1990 by delivering and arranging a substantial display of Kenton County-related maps, books, photos, illustrations, images and artifacts. They were seen from October to December 1990 in a large niche cabinet for such purposes in the state capitol building.

### State Bicentennial (1992)

On September 12, 1989, Editor John Kleber spoke to members on plans for the *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*. Several members submitted entries including John Burns on the History of Covington.

### Historical Highway Markers

The KCHS was involved in historical highway markers like that of Margaret Garner at Sixth and Main streets, where historian Ted Harris made brief remarks at the unveiling. In 1989, the Kenton County Historical Society helped organize the dedication on February 8<sup>th</sup> 1990 of a Highway Marker in remembrance of the Latonia Race Track (1883-1939), which had been closed for 50 years. It is located in front of the American Legion Post #203 on Winston Avenue. People brought memorabilia, a birthday cake was cut, and retired *Cincinnati Post* sports editor Pat Harmon gave a delightful talk on the race track and the industry.

St. Elizabeth Hospitals' sesquicentennial celebration in 2011 resulted in an exhibit at the Behringer Crawford Museum; a history book, *For the Centuries, St Elizabeth Healthcare and Northern Kentucky 1861-2011* by Brian L. Hackett and colleagues Rebecca Bailey and Paul Tenkotte; and an historical highway marker: "Northern Kentucky's 1<sup>st</sup> Hospital" sponsored by Spectrum Computer Produces, Inc. owned by Mike and Peggy Holiday. Paul Tenkotte spoke at the unveiling.<sup>6</sup>

### Books, Booklets 1990 to the Present

The late John E. Burns compiled three loose leaf bound volumes of *Collected Papers* (around 1990); George Dreyer compiled *Linden Grove Cemetery, Vol. 1 Interments & Vol. 2 "Other Data"* (spiral bound, 1998); Karl Lietzenmayer edited *Newport Barracks, Kentucky's Forgotten Military Installation* (1999), written years earlier by Joseph L. Donnelly; Jeffrey Hampton wrote a freshly researched *Leaving Children Behind - Black Education in Covington, Kentucky*; and Karl Lietzenmayer re-typed, edited and indexed *The History of Covington to 1865*, written by John E. Burns from meticulous research (spiral bound, 2013).

Robert Webster has written three books seen on the KCHS publications list: *Northern Kentucky Fires: A Summary of the Most Memorable Fires in the Region* (2006); *The Balcony is Closed: A History of Northern Kentucky's Long Forgotten Neighborhood Movie Theaters*; and his seminal *The Beverly Hills Supper Club: The Untold Story Behind Kentucky's Worst Tragedy* (2012).

Several members wrote articles for *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky* (2009), edited by Paul A. Tenkotte and James C. Claypool; and over a dozen KCHS members contributed to "*Gateway City Covington, Kentucky 1815-2015*, edited by Tenkotte, Claypool and David Schroeder.

### Important Contributors

Associate director Michael Averdick represented the library by chairing the meetings that organized the KCHS while continuing to oversee the development of the library's Kentucky and Local History section into one of the best in the state. He also

served on the KCHS board of directors and contributed to the early newsletters. The late Allen Webb Smith was a founding member of the KCHS who also compiled *Beginning at the 'Point' A Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, the Town of Covington in Particular, 1751-1834* (printed locally, 1977).

John Burns wrote the *History of Covington to 1865*, which managed to get published (spiral bound) through the extraordinary efforts of Karl Lietzenmayer. Karl edited and retyped it without deleting Burns' innumerable endnotes and he also indexed it. John E. Burns was an original member and organizer of the KCHS, a meticulous researcher and authority on local history.



The late Joseph F. Gastright was, like John Burns, already an expert on local history when the KCHS was started. His in-depth *From Gentlemen Farmers to City Folks* was part of the "Neighborhood Histories Project of the Cincinnati Historical Society" and a seminal work on the Wallace Woods neighborhood and on early details of the development of Covington. He wrote articles on the Kentucky Central Railroad and made an opening presentation at a Northern Kentucky Regional History Day meeting on the "1895 reconstruction of the Roebling Suspension Bridge." An original member of the KCHS, Joe wrote many other articles and made many presentations on assorted topics.



John Boh wrote one article and two book reviews for *Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine* and many, many articles for the membership newsletters and *Bulletin*. He is the only original member continuously



active in the Society, most always in the role of an officer. John is currently the Society's secretary and has always kept all KCHS records, except financial.

Paul A. Tenkotte wrote a paper on the building of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad. His breakthrough PH.D. thesis *Rival Cities to Suburbs; Covington and Newport, Kentucky, 1790-1890* (1989) traced the comparative developments of Newport and Covington, along with Cincinnati. Once professor at TMC, now at NKU, Tenkotte is a constant public history speaker and writer. He was one of the editors of, and main contributors to the *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky* (2009), and to *Gateway City, Covington, Kentucky 1815-2015*. In the 1980s, he was twice elected KCHS Vice-president and once to a three year term as Director.

Earl W. Clark Jr. gave many presentations on the history of streetcars. He also co-authored with Terry W. Lehmann a very detailed and profoundly illustrated history: *The Green Line, The Cincinnati, Newport and Covington Railway* (2000).

A genealogist and longtime resident, the late Dorothy Wieck knew much about Covington's early social life. She compiled the series of census indices laboring long hours almost daily, and was a KCHS treasurer and director.

Ralph L. Murray, resident of the Latonia area, horseracing fan extraordinaire, wrote "Gowell Symbol of Second Effort" for the KCHS (1980) and "The Queen, Racing - Career of the Winner of the Last Latonia Oaks" (1989), both short but detailed. He also brought railroad artifacts for display to the "Rivers, Rails and Roads" conference in 1985.

Librarian Charles King, after being employed for some years continued as a volunteer providing leadership, and overseeing practical contributions like the indexing of local history materials, answering queries, and being a constant source of information and advice. Charles once served on the KCHS board of directors.

From the variously disorganized old records, data, and maps that he could somehow locate,

George C. Dreyer compiled *Linden Grove Cemetery* Vol. 1 "Interments" & Vol 2 "Other Data" (spiral bound, 1998). He generously signed over proceeds from the local sales of his work to the KCHS.

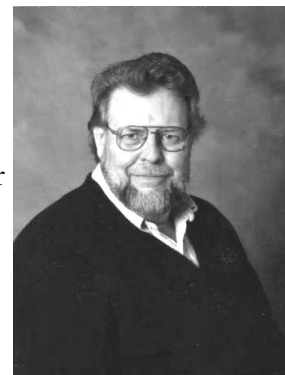
Theodore Harris wrote articles for the membership Bulletin and NKH magazine, numerous articles for the *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky* and Chapter 5 in *Gateway City, Covington, Kentucky 1815-2015* entitled "From Fettered to Freedom, African Americans in Covington." He was an early member and once Vice-president of the KCHS.

Lisa Gilham did the layout for early NKH issues and she wrote (assisted by Bethany Richter Pollitt) in NKH magazine (Vol XV, No. 1) one of the longest and most impactful articles "J.H. Kruse, War & The Terrible Threateners, Anti German Hysteria in World War I Covington." She served on the KCHS board of directors.

Active from around 1982 to 1992 Elizabeth Chavez served with great dedication as Secretary, Treasurer and briefly as programs director. Her husband George once served on the board of directors.

The late Sheri Myers, from the NKU Library, volunteered to scan and index KCHS membership newsletters and Bulletins from the beginning, and apparently continued to do so until her untimely illness and death. Her work contributed greatly to the current KCHS website. President Webster continues her work of keeping membership Bulletins scanned and placed on the website. Sheri Myers also scanned four early issues of NKH now available only on CDs.

The late Ron Einhaus, was a talented amateur photographer who provided photos for the membership *Bulletin*. After invitations to the public, he personally operated the scanner, making copies of historical and family photos for the library archives. He became Vice-president then President of the KCHS. Ron arranged to appear before Covington City Commission to alert them about the



possibilities to be derived from the upcoming Covington bicentennial in 2015. At meetings he discussed details about creating and marketing memorabilia celebrating the city. A history of the 200-year-old city was accomplished. And one page in the Acknowledgments section features a photo of Ron spying an object through a camera lens with an inscription: "In Memory of Ron Einhaus."

The late Michael Holiday, enthusiastically collected, had copied, and prepared for sale historic maps. Using his business connections, Mike also arranged for the printing of spiral bound volumes, and helped to arrange for the first KCHS website. He enthusiastically helped with KCHS display booths at RoebingFest, the Kenton County Fair, Battery Hooper Days and elsewhere. He served on KCHS board of directors.

Karl Lietzenmayer has been a non-stop writer, speaker, photographer, collector of documents and photos for library archives - and an editor. With very good volunteer help but no commercial ads, his work as editor, author of many pieces, and chief promoter has for almost 25 years produced an award winning magazine on regional history - *Northern Kentucky Heritage*. Always seeking stories from anywhere in the region, including students on college campuses, Karl and his collaborators have achieved a unique success in local history. Karl was a historical consultant for the Covington floodwall murals project and regularly gives tours. Karl and wife Peggy do musical programs on Stephen Foster with singing and historical commentary. Karl has constantly been a KCHS officer or a director.



**Karl & Peggy Lietzenmayer as Stephen & Jennie Foster**

Robert Webster is author of three books on the KCHS list, and has written numerous articles for the *Bulletin* and *Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine*. He is a very productive writer, a retired professional photographer, entertaining speaker, and developer of

the KCHS website. He edits and lays out each issue of the *Bulletin* and lays out NKH magazine. Currently KCHS president, he has previously served as Vice-president and director.

### Awards and Public Interviews

Editor Karl Lietzenmayer and *Northern Kentucky Heritage* magazine won a national award from the AAS&LH and has several from the Kentucky Historical Society. John Boh received a "2013 History Award" from the Behringer Crawford Museum at its Two Headed Calf Award Banquet. From the Kentucky Historical Society, Bob Webster, has earned several awards, including one for the design of the current KCHS website and for his *The Beverly Hills Supper Club, The Untold Story Behind Kentucky's Worst Tragedy* (2012).

Several members have been honored to be interviewed for a number of documentaries acquired on CDs and seen on cable TV, including the recent "Covington at 200: Points of View." Robert Webster has been interviewed several times in public media regarding the Beverly Hills Super Club fire and was recently featured on the same topic on the KET program "Kentucky Life."

### Updating the KCHS (2007-2017)

The Behringer Crawford Museum dedicated its newly expanded building in 2007, including a new "research" library. The KCHS accepted an invitation to establish its office there and for BCM's front desk to provide phone answering service. Later, BCM staff member Jeannie Lange agreed to maintain the KCHS' database. KCHS bylaws that dated back to 1977 were so inflexible, requiring amendments for minor details. A board of directors committee therefore re-wrote the bylaws. The board announced the proposed changes to be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting October 1, 2016. The motion passed unanimously. Changes in membership fees and in membership categories now can be made by vote of the board of directors without amendments.

The KCHS has been providing new publications and maps and issuing a membership Bulletins with fresh history articles without interruption. NKH



magazine has only improved over the years. Attendance and participation, memberships and subscriptions, nevertheless, have become somewhat stagnant. The results of a questionnaire sent to membership some years ago had indicated a preference for publications over attending monthly evening programs. But then a few years later, it was determined that the KCHS needed to offer more variety in membership, subscription, and benefit options and to renew regular, but not monthly, history presentations for the membership and the public. President Webster proposed new categories of membership including “email,” at \$10 to get the Bulletin six times yearly by email; “basic” at \$20 for the Bulletin, invitations to all events and voting rights; and “enhanced” at \$50 for all the basic benefits plus subscription to *Northern Kentucky Heritage* magazine, free admission to Northern Kentucky Regional History Day and purchase discounts. Bob developed a brochure with the changes approved and now official.

### A New Program Schedule

In 2015, the KCHS and the Kenton County Library agreed to present programs regularly, but not “monthly.” Elaine Kuhn (Kenton County Local History and Genealogy Services Coordinator) has been on the board of directors, and the KCHS has a new events coordinator, Arnold Taylor. One of the library branches would be a convenient location. Publicity would go through KCHS and library channels. January 16, 2016 was the first presentation and since then, over a half dozen public programs have been presented or put on the schedule.

### A Handy KCHS Website<sup>7</sup>

In 2014, as authorized by the board, President Robert Webster set up and designed the KCHS’s own website, with scanned membership newsletters and Bulletins from 1977 to the present available for reading or downloading, and with an NKH index. Available through PayPal have been publications, maps, NKH subscriptions and KCHS memberships. The website has included event lists, news, available speakers and KCHS details. In early 2017, Webster revised the indexing and shopping links for all items on sale, including publications and now KCHS mugs. He added a website “Shopping Cart” credit card payment

program allowing discount purchases and payment options from all major credit card companies:  
[www.kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

### Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine

The first issue of *Northern Kentucky Heritage* magazine was mailed late in 1993. It was the first of 48 issues up to June 2017.

Karl Lietzenmayer hoped that interesting and true stories told orally would be written down. He had been a subscriber to the defunct *Queen City Heritage* and before that to the *Bulletin of the Cincinnati Historical Society*. Northern Kentucky could publish a similar journal, if regional counties would ban together. Retired newspaperman Richard Gibeau also advised: whatever is published “it has to be interesting!”

On October, 1992 the publications committee with chair Karl Lietzenmayer, Shawn Ryan and Mike Flannery led the discussion about the details. One of the KCHS members, Sharon Kelly, thought her father could assist. Jim Kelly was a retired printer for the GE Jet Engine Plant. The committee decided it could do only two issues yearly. Special donations would help; the Northern Kentucky Heritage League would at times grant money. A colored cover in 1996 added \$700 to the printing cost, but technology now makes the extra cost of color almost negligible.

During the first two years, Jim Kelly and Karl Lietzenmayer visited nearly every county historical society and small museum in 14 counties, promoting the idea of a regional history magazine. Despite enthusiastic responses, support from the other organizations has always fallen short. Challenges include finding enough creditable writers to submit articles and enough subscriptions to cover the costs of layout, printing and mailing. Articles needed to be well written, backed by photos and documentation. It would be a “regional magazine of history and genealogy.”

Details became clearer: *Northern Kentucky Heritage*; only spring-summer and fall-winter issues; three to five articles, a genealogy section; \$15.00 per year to start, \$10 per back issue; the listing of an editorial board and of affiliated organizations. Needed was a circulation manager and subscription and publicity

strategies. Librarian Charles King would look for names of libraries, schools, universities who might subscribe. NKH might be sold at the Visitors Center, the Behringer Crawford Museum and similar locations. On November 2, 1993, a total of 74 subscriptions had been sold. Peggy Lietzenmayer spent a Saturday helping with finishing touches for the first issue subtitled "Autumn/Winter 1993." From the beginning, very much effort went into finding photos to accompany articles. By December 1994, subscriptions totaled 300 with a goal of 400. There were many printings and distributions of flyers. For a while, Barnes & Noble sold NKH. Later it was Borders Book Store and now Joseph-Beth in Crestview Hills.

In 1995 (after 2 years of publication), NKH received a national award for excellence from the American Association for State and Local History. The Kentucky Historical Society has recognized NKH with "publication" awards. They greatly added to the magazine's prestige, but not greatly to subscribership, despite many publicity efforts.

KCHS membership and NKH subscriptions record keeping have, since 1993, been the burden of KCHS treasurers/circulation managers. John Dietz, the late Ruth Eubanks, the late Elizabeth Chavez, the late Dorothy Colwell, and Dan Carter have served in those roles and now, Terry Averbeck. Carol Wenger and the late George Gressle worked on establishing the original membership and subscription database and both served on the board of directors.

Subscriptions reached a peak of around 400 yet, NKH has been a tremendous success; a magazine about local history, with no commercial sponsorship, and only volunteer contributors, being published 24 straight years and still going! Congratulations to Karl Lietzenmayer and others for 24 years of very hard working success.

One of NKH's greatest achievements was providing opportunity for students in the history and public history departments at TMC and NKU to experience getting articles published in a magazine mailed in bulk and seen of public library

shelves. Submissions by students through their faculty advisors also became invaluable to the magazine's survival.

Upon entering the magazine's 25th year. Senior Editor Karl Lietzenmayer is 80 years of age. After months of discussion, Kenton County Library Director Drave Schroeder, at a KCHS board meeting on April 16, 2016, announced that the library foundation had agreed to become the fiscal agent for publishing NKH magazine. Therefore, Elaine Kuhn and the library staff will soon assume the publication duties.

A warm "Thank You" is offered by the entire board of the KCHS, for the continued support of our members.

### Endnotes

1. Taken from memory, from minutes, and records; with space and memory lacking not all persons and events are included.
2. Wayne Onkst, "Kenton Co. Public Library," *Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, edited by Paul A. Tenkotte and James C. Claypool., the University Press of Kentucky, 2009 pp 508,509; Wayne Onkst compiled and edited *From Buffalo Trails to the Twenty-First Century: A Centennials History of Erlanger, Kentucky*, Erlanger Historical Society 1996; in 1999 he became executive director of the Kenton County Library; in 2006 he was appointed State Librarian and Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) and served for nine years; David Schroeder, librarian and historian succeeded Onkst as executive director of the Kenton County Public Library; he wrote *Life Along the Ohio: A Sesquicentennial History of Ludlow, Kentucky*, 2015
3. Starting in 1949, the Christopher Gist Historical Society had enthusiastic members write very many history papers that were first read before the membership, then archived. Students, historians, and researchers have used them beneficially ever since. Unlike with the Christopher Gist Historical Society KCHS speakers did not turn "papers read" over to the archives but the research might appear later in society publications.
4. KCHS Presidents: James Fouche; John Boh; Joseph Gastright, Donald Barlow, Susan Enzweiler, Karl Lietzenmayer, James Kiger, Ronnin Einhaus, Donald Fowler, Robert Webster; Vice-presidents: Paul Hartmann, Cynthia Yelton, Paul Tenkotte, Damien Hils, Susan Enzweiler, Joseph Gastright, James Kiger, Theodore Harris, Michael Flannery, Lisa Gilham, Stephen McMurtry, Ronnin Einhaus, Donald Fowler, Robert Webster, Karl Lietzenmayer; Secretaries: Michael Hammons, Sheryl Kues, John Boh, Susan Enzweiler, Dorothy Spence; Reiner Goldring, Viola Heath, Carol Whitehead, June Hazlett, Andrew Lutes, Elizabeth Chavez, Karl Lietzenmayer; Treasurers: Virginia Reynolds, Judith Fornash, Andrew Herold, Elizabeth Chavez, Dorothy Wieck, John Dietz, Ruth Eubanks, Dorothy Colwell, Daniel Carter, Terry Averbeck
5. The Campbell Co. Historical & Genealogical Society organized a well-attended, enjoyable boat tour up the Licking River on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2000 with commentary on its history and geology by the late Joe Gastright. It was an event that many would like to see repeated.
6. The historic highway marker is seen in front of the Covington Public Schools administration building on east Seventh Street.
7. [www.kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.kentoncountyhistoricalsociety.org)

## Then and Now



Though not Kenton County, these images are extremely important to the region.  
Left: Boone County's Rabbit Hash General Store burning to the ground on February 13, 2016.  
Right: Grand opening of the completely rebuilt store on April 1, 2017.

## Mystery Photo

Can you identify the mystery photo below? The answer can be found at the bottom of the page.



**ANSWER:**

The abandoned Bavarian Brewery along 12th Street in Covington. The building was recently purchased by the Kenton County Fiscal Court with plans to move some of their offices to the historic site.

July-August 2017

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## I Bet You Didn't Know

*Tidbits from Kentucky's heritage  
for every day of the calendar year*

July 14, 1776: Jemimah Boone, Elizabeth and Frances Calloway, were kidnapped by Indians outside Boonesborough.

July 20, 1863: John Hunt Morgan was captured and sent to prison in Ohio. He later escaped.

August 7, 1776: Squire Boone, Daniel's brother and a Baptist minister, performed the first wedding in Kentucky: Elizabeth Calloway and Samuel Henderson.

August 14, 1923: The first 4-year college in Northern Kentucky was established at Villa Madonna College. It became associated with a non-accredited college known as St. Thomas Moore Project in 1934, and the name was later changed to Thomas More College in 1968.

*"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell*

## Programs and Notices

### Kenton County Historical Society

The KCHS will have its own booth at the Kenton County Fair, 4:30 to 9:30, Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Members and friends please stop by. The hope also is to secure new memberships and subscriptions, sell publications and maps, answer questions about local history, and expose the public to the KCHS' activities.

The KCHS will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a picnic. It will be at the southernmost shelter in Kenton County's Pioneer Park, Saturday, July 15, 2017, noon to 4:00 PM. The Park is located at 3951 Madison Pike, Highway 17, along Banklick Creek. Members, friends and also the public is invited.

The KCHS will set up its own booth at the "Unlock the Block" music festival Saturday, July 22, 4:00 to 10:00 PM, Latonia, Ritte's corner. It will be a pop music festival with other activities to promote the community's vibrancy and potential.

### Behringer Crawford Museum

"Culture Bites: Northern Kentucky's Food Traditions," will run through August 31st. Students from NKU's Public History department built the exhibit. It features innumerable artifacts, many borrowed and many taken from the museum's collections.

"Korea the Forgotten War" is being set up now and will open soon.

The Behringer Crawford Museum is again presenting its annual music concert series - a variety of ensembles - brass band, Blues, Jazz, Bluegrass, Celtic and other folk flavors. The weekly schedule runs through August 10 on Thursday evenings. The doors open at 6:00. The performers begin at 7:00. Food from the Colonial Cottage restaurant can be purchased throughout the evening, drinks from the cash bar and also soft drinks and bottled water. The Reality Tuesday Café in Park Hills is donating unsweetened ice tea, available without charge. Adults \$5.00, children (3-12 years) \$3.00. Check the museum web site and social media.