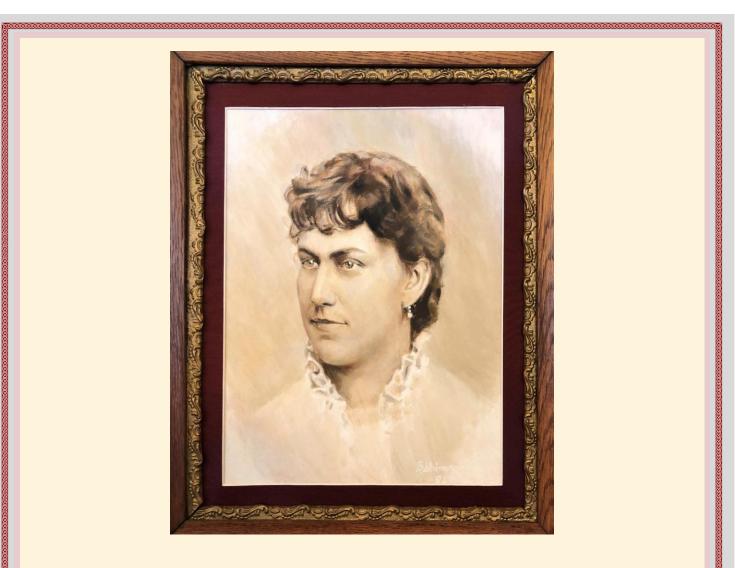


Bulletin ^{of the} Kenton County Historical Society

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July/August

2019



Ellen Battelle Dietrick and Her Legacy: The Covington Ladies Home

Daniel Drake, from Mayslick, Kentucky: Doctor, Scientist, Historian, and Civic Leader

Ellen Battelle Dietrick and Her Legacy: The Covington Ladies Home

From the Northern Kentucky Tribune — April 23, 2019 and Sarah A. Barlage's piece in the Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky

When the Ohio River reached then-record levels in 1884, the catastrophic flood displaced thousands of Covington residents. The plight of elderly women — including Civil War widows and so called "spinsters" — was particularly desperate, given the conventions of that era which severely limited their independence and financial wherewithal.

So, Ellen Battelle Dietrick took action.

Ellen Battelle Dietrick, the Virginian-born wife of a bookkeeper for Covington's Stewart Iron Works, resided on West Fifth Street and was acutely aware of the conditions of the poor in her neighborhood. In fact, her home often served as a haven for women who had no other place to stay.

She soon realized, however, that there were many more homeless women than she could personally accommodate so, with 11 other women, Dietrick formed an associated charity called the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, which sought to teach women marketable skills to foster their independence. This was a revolutionary concept for the 1880s. The organization provided an employment bureau and sewing school, and offered housekeeping classes to those in need.

While an impressive accomplishment, the Union failed to meet all the needs of the community. Dietrick contacted several prominent Covington businessmen requesting donations for the purchase of a building and was able to raise the necessary funds to acquire the Hays home at 10th and Russell streets for \$5,000. With a gracious outpouring of gifts and money, the home was soon furnished completely and the first residents moved in on January 8, 1887. Among those was a woman of only 40 years of age, who was suffering from tuberculosis and had no means of financial support. It was because of her case that the word *Indigent* was added to the home's name.

By 1889, the home's population had grown too large for its location at 10th and Russell. Additional funds were raised and a lot, owned by Amos Shinkle, was purchased and Cincinnati architect H.E. Seter was hired to design a new residence. The Home for Aged and Indigent Women at 10th and Russell streets became in 1894 the present-day Covington's Ladies Home at 7th and Garrard streets — a non-profit, personal care facility that even today provides a home for about two dozen elderly women.

The Covington facility is known for the compassionate and individualized attention it gives residents. It's a mission handed straight down from a founder who unfortunately has been all but forgotten outside its walls.

"We've literally been anchoring this block since 1894," says CEO Carrie VanDerzee. "We're her legacy, but yet no one seems to remember her. She simply does not get the recognition she deserves."

In November of 2018, the Covington City Commission agreed to rename the tiny half-block (whose sole occupant is the Ladies Home) "Battelle Lane" after its founder and her accomplished family. On Friday, April 26, 2019, the long-awaited festivities took place. The event included proclamations from Covington Mayor Joe Meyer and Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin, an appearance by the ROTC Marine Color Guard from Holmes High School, and an array of out-of-town dignitaries.

The street renaming the entire family is well deserved. Why? Battelle Dietrick's brother, John Gordon Battelle, pioneered development of the steel industry in the South and Midwest and was a director of the company that later became AK Steel. And her nephew, Gordon Battelle, was the founder of the Battelle Memorial Institute, a non-profit that manages scientific research facilities and also manages a number of national laboratories for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Many Covington City officials, including City Manager David Johnston, attended the event, to show their appreciation for the Battelle family and its contributions to Covington.

"Ever since I started in Covington, I've been amazed at how the benevolence of citizens over 100 years ago helped shape the city into what it is today, and that's especially true with the Battelle family," Johnston said. "It shows that the spirit of Covington is not a shallow thing but has deep roots."

Ellen Battelle Dietrick left Covington when her husband was transferred but continued to fight for justice for women. As a writer and lecturer, she advocated for the suffrage movement and helped found what later became the league of Women Voters and "The Women's Bible" before her early death.

The renamed street and recognition for its founder are only pieces of a much larger transformation for the Covington Ladies Home. After two years of raising funds, ground was recently broken for a major expansion. The small added-on wing to the south will be demolished and replaced with a Ushaped addition that will expand the facility's capacity to serve 40 women. Befitting the regional focus and



Above: 2019 view of the Covington Ladies Home at 7th and Garrard streets On the cover: Portrait of Ellen Battelle Dietrick which hangs inside Both images courtesy NKYTribune

the stately architecture of the building, the facility will also get a new name: The Victorian at Riverside. While their mission has never changed, the new facility will take Ellen Battelle Dietrick's intent into the next 100 years.

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Daniel Drake, from Mayslick, Kentucky: Doctor, Scientist, Historian, and Civic Leader

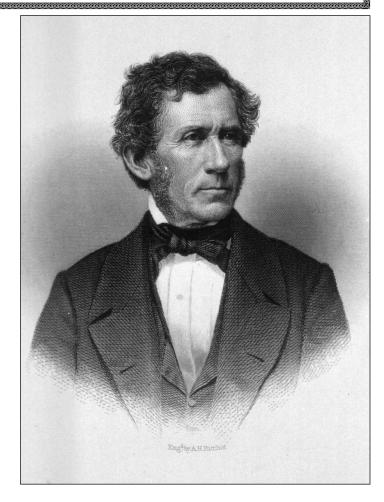
John Boh

Daniel Drake's *Railroad from the Banks of the Ohio River to the Tide Waters of the Carolinas and Georgia* (1835) strongly advocated building a railroad connecting Cincinnati with Charleston, South Carolina. The northern terminus of the railroad might have been Covington. His advocacy for a railroad for Cincinnati also envisioned economic and cultural bene*fits to the north and from Kentucky to the Atlantic* Ocean.

A native of Mays Lick (now Mayslick), Kentucky, Daniel Drake (1785-1852) was born in Plainfield, New Jersey, the son of Isaac Drake (1756– 1832), a Revolutionary War veteran, and Elizabeth Shotwell (1761-1821). Published after his death, his reminiscences, *Pioneer Life in Kentucky* (1870) recalled his childhood at Mays Lick and displayed his talent already for observation as an historian and scientist.

He moved to Cincinnati where he was a medical doctor, scientist and founder of institutions including what became the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and what became University Hospital. He held medical professorships at Transylvania College in Lexington; Jefferson Medical College in Pennsylvania; Cincinnati College; the Louisville Medical Institute (later the University of Louisville); and at the Medical College of Ohio, with intermittent appointments there between 1819 and 1852.

A list of publications, among other works by Drake, include: Notices Concerning Cincinnati (1810-1811); Natural and Statistical View, or Picture of Cincinnati and the Miami Country; A Practical Treatise on the History, Prevention, and Treatment of Epidemic Cholera, Designed for both the Profession and the People (1832); A Systematic Treatise, Historical, Etiological, and Practical, on the Principal Diseases of the Interior Valley of North America, as They Appear in the Caucasian, African, Indian, and Esquimaux Varieties of Its Population (v.1, 1850; v. 2, 1854); and Pioneer Life in Kentucky (1870). The



latter two were published after his death. He was editor of the Western Journal of Medicine and Physical Sciences (1828-1838) and of the Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery (1840-1849).¹

Autobiography: Life on the Frontier at Mays Lick²

In 1790, over 61,000 land-hungry whites, 12,000 slaves, and 114 freepersons were in Kentucky. The defeat of native Indians by American forces led by Gen. Anthony Wayne (1794) and the Treaty of Greenville (1795) removed from the Ohio Territory those tribes who had been trying to preserve their hunting grounds in Kentucky by raiding white settlers. By 1800, the population of Kentucky had jumped to 220,955 including 40,343 slaves.³ A portion of settlers by flatboat, if not by land, arrived from Pittsburgh downriver to Maysville, the first port of entry into Kentucky. They settled along the road from Maysville to Lexington. Fortynine percent of settlers came from Virginia, twentyfive percent from Pennsylvania, and twenty-five percent were of mixed origins. A colony from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, settled Millersburg. Pioneers from the parts of North Carolina inhabited Bryan's Station. Some pioneers from Georgia came to the site of Lexington. In 1788, five families from New Jersey purchased a tract at the site of Mays Lick.⁴

According to an internet source, May's Lick was founded in 1788 by five families from Scotch Plains, New Jersey, who purchased 1,400 acres from William May near the salt lick in southern Mason County. The five families apparently were all related by blood and marriage. Among the five were Daniel Drake's father, Isaac, and two uncles, Cornelius and Abraham. May's Lick became a small town to the south of Maysville and Washington, Kentucky, along the route to Lexington.⁵

Drake's reminiscences give especially interesting descriptions of frontier life in Kentucky and a picture of the young Drake's aptitude for his later exceptional achievements in medical, scientific and civic endeavors. When the danger of Indians still prevailed, Drake's family moved from New Jersey through Maysville to May's Lick.

For the early settlers, the lure of Kentucky's virgin lands was overwhelming and finally, Wayne's victory in 1794 at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in northern Ohio removed the constant danger of Indian raids into their former hunting grounds. Drake recalled that in 1788, "there were no inhabitants in that part of the country." Then, the arrival of settlers became constant "...and within the six years that elapsed...one could not march a mile in any direction without meeting with a clearing of two to ten acres, often enclosed with a brush fence.... a one-story unhued log cabin...the usual number of ragged children on the door or playing...in the shade of some shellbark hickory or venerable sugar tree."

Axes were the destroyer of forests, sharpened with a whetstone. The narrowed handle toward the

head of the ax gave elasticity for power and for mitigating the stinging of hands with the constant, violent chopping. The pumpkin was important in the diet of a milk cow. Planting muskmelons, watermelons, and turnips in the middle of a corn field provided some shielding from roaming herbivores. Melons substituted for peaches. Sweet and juicy turnips substituted for the pears and the apples of New Jersey. At Mays Lick, the family had walnuts, hickory nuts, and "winter grapes" as edibles.

Nothing was better than Indian corn for the settlers. In new fertile soil, moderate cultivation produced 60-80 bushels per acre. Drake said that buffalo herds constantly stomping paths over vegetation had allowed erosion in rocky topsoil on ridges then covered by evergreens. In Drake's opinion, Kentucky soil was not very suitable for wheat, but his parents yearned for wheat bread. The family (like Kentucky farmers in the future) sewed winter wheat where the corn had been harvested. When winter fodder ran out, Drake and his father had to drive the cattle to a meadow where tree branches were cut to make feed of leaves and bark.

The Methodist church preached temperance; people not keeping and drinking whisky were Methodists. Typical prices in the region were: whisky 18 pence to 25 cents a quart; yarn made of coarse India muslin – 1 and 6 pence to 2 shillings; a bushel of corn from 9 pence upward; pork \$1.50 to \$2.00; turnips 9 pence a basket. Drake and his father would take a wagon-load of turnips north on the Mayville Road to Washington, Kentucky and barter for supplies.

Drake helped with and described the tedious and delicate manufacture of charcoal. He chopped wood four to five-foot-long for the fireplace. The family drew syrup from Maple trees and collected it into troughs hewed from the soft wood of Buckeye trees. As the oldest of six children, Drake and his oldest sister (two years younger) was first in line to help both mother and father with cabin and field chores. Drake's father vehemently opposed slavery but once in a while hired a slave from a neighboring master.

Drake drove the family cows into the corner of a fence row and stood watch with a stick while his

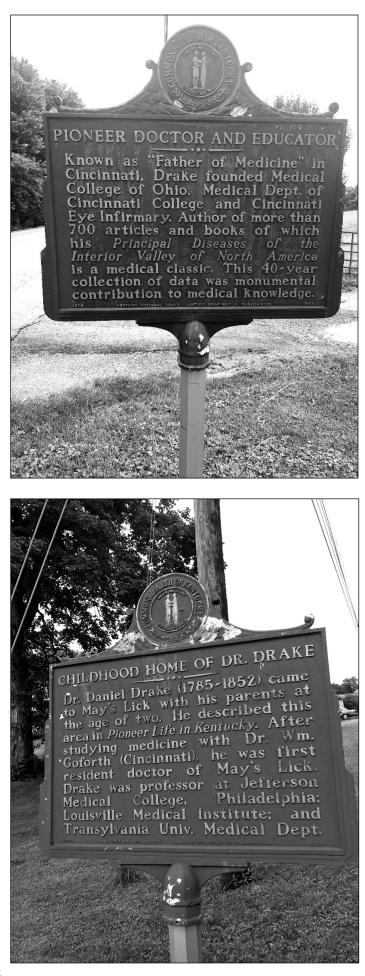
mother milked them. Milking was considered a job for mothers and daughters, just as Indians would carry their rifles but leave the carrying or household goods to squaws, in public at least: They might be seen helping females with their loads when out of sight.

Drake made scrub brushes out of saplings with his Barlow knife. Drake and his mother's most important joint activity was making soap. He also assisted his parents in making cheese. He described hog slaughtering. The recipe for mince meat pie was amended because apples were scarce. Flour, milk and sugar were formed into a dough and boiled in fresh lard to cook delicious doughnuts and other delicacies.

Sheep were still likely to be killed by wolves, but Drake's family raised them, spun wool and made dye for coloring. The family grew flax, but it was harder to work with. Shirts, nevertheless, were made from flax linen. Cotton was not then used. The log cabin was sixteen by twenty feet with no partition. Drake's family and neighbors spoke an old English dialect ("them people").

By the time that Drake was old enough to hunt, deer and turkeys had become scarce. The pesky squirrel was also hunted for pleasure. Having to help with farm work restricted children generally from attending school except in the winter. The poor, illiterate settlers were not indifferent to education. They used the Bible to learn reading. Bibles and books for reading always came from Philadelphia, the only eastern seaboard city to maintain regular intercourse with the area.

Local Baptist preachers were illiterate, but otherwise above average in skill. They included brothers named Craig from Virginia, whose descendant's spread throughout Kentucky. Election, reprobation, and predestination were the dominant ideas; preaching was doctrinal and metaphysical. According to Drake, a constant Methodist refrain was "...not falling from grace." Presbyterians occasionally preached. Drake never saw a single Episcopalian from the Church of England. which was considered an arm of the English Crown, and therefore one of oppression. In 1800, the teenaged Drake had begun studying medicine in Cincinnati.



William Goforth and Daniel Drake

From 1800 to 1805, Drake was a student under Dr. William Goforth (1766-1817) who, like Drake's family, arrived at the port of Mayville in 1788. He was the son of William Goforth (1731– 1807), like Drake's father, a Revolutionary War veteran. One of the earliest settlers to the Cincinnati area, the senior Goforth helped Ohio achieve statehood. The younger William Goforth first practiced medicine for over a decade in Washington, Kentucky, which was founded in 1786. Also moving to Ohio, the younger Goforth settled in Cincinnati in 1800.

According to a website, Goforth is credited with administering the first smallpox vaccine in the frontier west in 1801. As Surgeon-General of the First Division of the Ohio Militia, he granted to Drake the first medical diploma west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Like Drake, Goforth was prominent in other endeavors including politics. He had scientific interests. He sponsored an excavation to collect fossil bones from the Big Bone Lick.⁶

After studying as an apprentice under Goforth, Drake attended the University of Pennsylvania medical school (1805-1806) but did receive his medical degree there until 1815-1816. He practiced in Mays Lick, then moved to Cincinnati where he assumed the practice of Dr. Goforth in 1807. He founded the Medical College of Ohio (1819-1820), a forerunner of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine; the Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum in Ohio, now University Hospital; and the Western Medical and Physical Journal (1827). He was editor of the Western Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences from 1828 to 1838 and of the Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery from 1840 to 1849. In 1852, he had rejoined the faculty at the Medical College of Ohio shortly before his death.⁷

Opposite page

Kentucky historical highway marker celebrating the life of Daniel Drake, located along Main Street (Old U.S. 68, in Mayslick, Kentucky

courtesy the author

The Failed Y-Shaped Bridge Across the Ohio River

The earliest-known proposal seen for building a bridge across the Ohio River between Cincinnati to Kentucky was Daniel Drake's Natural and Statistical View, or Picture of Cincinnati and the Ohio County (1815), but Drake thought the possibility of construction at the time "remote." Then, Drake's younger brother, Benjamin ,and E. D. Mansfield, in their statistical Cincinnati in 1826, were also early proponents of a Y-shaped bridge connecting Cincinnati, Covington and Newport. It could make Cincinnati a commercial and manufacturing center incorporating the fertile alluvial plain between the Little and Great Miami Rivers and fed by the produce and resources of the watersheds of the Licking and Sandy Rivers in Kentucky, and of the White River and Whitewater Canal in Indiana. Northern Kentuckians soon lobbied for a bridge before in the Kentucky General Assembly, which seemed to like this bridge which was never to be.⁸

The Failed Charleston to Cincinnati Railroad

Daniel Drake became one of the main backers of the failed Cincinnati to Charleston Railroad proposal. It became a serious issue about 1830. Its northern terminus might have been Covington. Historian Dr. Paul Tenkotte has written about it more than once. Five years earlier, the Stockton and Darlington line in England had become the world's first successful steam railroad. There followed in 1829 the introduction of the first practical steam locomotive in England.

In some eastern American cities, railroad infrastructure connections were by then becoming commercial prizes. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was started in 1828, but after trial runs with other power sources, did not successfully use steam locomotion until 1831. Like Baltimore, Charleston, South Carolina, had been losing business to other networks of trade. Like Baltimore, it built a railroad west; it was a 136-mile line from Charleston to Hamburg, South Carolina, on the Savannah River, across from Augusta, Georgia. On Christmas Day 1830, it was the first steam engine railroad to run in the U. S.⁹

Land-locked Lexington, Kentucky interests decided that they should connect the Bluegrass north

by railroad. The Lexington to Ohio Railroad was chartered in 1830. Later, Louisville was chosen over Cincinnati. The route was to veer westward within a mile of Frankfort. Paris, Kentucky, to the northeast was left out but would play a role in the politics of the failed Cincinnati to Charleston Railroad.

In 1830, former Charleston resident E. S. Thomas had given the Cincinnati to Charleston railroad proposal momentum at a meeting in Cincinnati. Later, there were meetings, newspaper editorials and political maneuvering by leaders and legislators from the states that the line might pass through. Representatives from Covington and Northern Kentucky played their part. A railroad "to Cincinnati" more often implied a terminus in Covington.

Paris interests proposed a Paris to Covington line, which led in 1835 to another important railroad meeting in Cincinnati. Daniel Drake, at this time, suggested connecting Paris, Kentucky, with Charleston, South Carolina, similar to the proposal by E. S. Thomas in 1830. It would be a mammoth, 700-mile project. Drake argued for it in his, *Railroad from the Banks of the Ohio River to the Tide Waters of the Carolina and Georgia* (1835). The connection with the Charleston to Hamburg line would be 700 miles when the railroad mileage in the United State still totaled only 1098 miles.¹⁰

Charleston could become a more dominant port for domestic and overseas trade. From connections to the South and branch lines along the way, Cincinnati could become a more prosperous trading center on the Ohio River. The new trade network would deliver commodities from the northern grain states and bring to the Midwest consumer items: Spices, sugar, oranges, lemons and figs from Cuba and East Florida and indigo, rice and cotton from the South Carolina region. The railroad would stimulate economic development along the route. And, Drake suggested, it could breakdown political, social and economic barriers that divided North and South.¹¹

The Ohio-Mississippi River terminal at New Orleans had taken the lead as the major southern oceanic port. The Cincinnati to Charleston Railroad would pass through Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Carolinas. It would provide a network between the corn states from Kentucky to Michigan and the citrus region of east Florida and Cuba, and the rice, indigo and cotton states of Georgia and the Carolinas.¹²

The proposal did not then seem ever to include the first railroad bridge to Cincinnati, which made Covington the probable northern terminus across from Cincinnati. Passengers and freight would be ferried back and forth between Covington and Cincinnati and connected with Ohio River traffic.

Daniel Drake proposed branch lines in Kentucky along the route. It might go through Lexington to Cincinnati, but also to Louisville and to Maysville through Paris. Regardless, cutting through the Appalachian Mountains would also make the project very costly.¹³

Legislatures in South and North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky had to approve the route of the railroad in respective states. In February 1836, the Kentucky Legislature was the last state to approve the right-of-way. After making concessions to the Louisville lobby, it became the Louisville, Cincinnati, and Charleston Railroad. Covingtonians ...on the night of February 25th, celebrated along gaily decorated streets that were illuminated by special candles and torches wrapped in flannel and paper. Bells were rung, bonfires blazed, and cannon boomed.¹⁴

But, the Kentucky legislature added to what were already almost crippling costs. Besides Louisville, another branch would be built to Maysville simultaneously. The Cincinnati and Charleston railroad project failed, due in large measure to opposition and a later concession to the politically dominant Louisville interests.¹⁵ Another source notes Cincinnati's fear of unforeseen advantages going to Newport and Covington relative to the Queen City. Then, there was the financial Panic of 1837.¹⁶

After the Charleston & Cincinnati Failure

In 1847, the Kentucky legislature chartered the Lexington & Licking Railroad, and in 1849, rechartered it as the Lexington & Covington. Construction started in 1852 and the line opened for freight and passengers in 1854. Freight and travelers could be transferred to steamboats. Freight and passengers were ferried between Covington and Cincinnati until the opening of the Roebling Suspension Bridge to pedestrians in 1866 and to vehicular traffic in 1867 provided an alternative.¹⁷

Newport won the right to the first railroad bridge to Cincinnati. It was erected for the Louisville & Cincinnati Railroad and completed in 1872. The Cincinnati Southern Railroad built the second railroad bridge across the Ohio River, from Cincinnati to Ludlow, completed in 1877. The Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad soon extended the original Covington & Lexington (Kentucky Central) tracks from Pike Street over to Main Street and to the third local railroad bridge built over the Ohio River at Cincinnati in 1888.

Notes on Agricultural and Mineral Products

From the beginning, Kentucky farmers shipped all kinds of products to southern states and most importantly overseas. According to Kentucky historian Dr. Thomas Clark, before western cattle ranching, Kentucky drovers herded hogs and cattle east from central Kentucky through the Cumberland Gap to Charleston, Richmond, Baltimore and Philadelphia aided by private grain way stations. With a scarcity of salt, farmers and traders sold un-butchered hogs.

American settlers began producing corn, which grows in a variety of climates and soils in different areas. Lewis and Clark scientifically established that soil was suitable in the midwestern United States, which soon became a corn belt. Wheat planting and harvesting was once very labor intensive. In 1830, it took four people and two oxen, working 10 hours a day, to produce 200 bushels. Nevertheless, wheat-growing areas were seen to the north and west of Washington, D. C., then spreading to the western plains.¹⁸

After the Haitian Slave Revolt and establishment of the independent state of Haiti in 1804, Cuba replaced Saint-Domingue as the world's largest sugar producer. Cuba became the richest land in the Caribbean. Its rolling planes and lack of mountainous terrain were ideal for growing cops with sugar becoming dominant. Cuban production methods were more efficient than elsewhere. It used water, mills, steam engines and equipment peculiar to the crop. But slavery was abolished there only in 1886.¹⁹

Arab traders are thought to have brought citrus fruits to the Mediterranean region, including lemons, pomelos, and sour oranges, about the 10th century. Traders from Genoa and Portugal brought sweet oranges from Asia after 1400. Mandarins came in the 19th century. Spanish conquistadores introduced Florida's "native" oranges.²⁰

Produced in Cuba and East Florida, the fig is an edible fruit grown in warm climates around the world. The warmer climates of Asia, Africa, and America all grow Indigofera (indigo), a flowering plant in the pea family.²¹

South Carolina and Georgia planters became wealthy growing rice and using the slave labor obtained from the Senegambia area of West Africa and from coastal Sierra Leone. Slaves with prior knowledge of rice culture were the highest priced at the port of Charleston, the port where forty percent of American Slaves were brought in. Rice growers relied on their slaves' knowledge of rice culture, as well as their labor, on rice plantations around Georgetown, Charleston, and Savannah. Enslaved Africans, taught plantation owners how to dyke the marshes and periodically flood the fields and other important practices. Slaves milled rice by intensive mortars and pestle hand labor, before the invention of the rice mill, and the use of waterpower, made planation owners even more wealthy. The history of rice growing is an important segment in the history of slavery.²² Cotton of course is central to the history of America and American slavery.

Salt is extracted from marches or it is mined in many places. Salt for meatpacking in the Cincinnati area came from what is now West Virginia on the Kanawha River. The Kanawha Salt Co. was organized in November 10, 1817. The company mined salt and was a preeminent salt producer in the Ohio Valley until the early 1850s.²³

Endnotes

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Kentucky Trivia

A new, ongoing feature from Michael Crisp's "The Best Kentucky Trivia Book Ever," available at bookstores or at michaelcrisponline.com

This issue features

Songs About Kentucky

Ouestions

- 1. What Neil Diamond song features the lyrics "If she get to know you, she goin' to own you?"
- 2. What classic song was written and recorded by Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys?
- 3. What John Prine song is about a western KY mining town that no longer exists?
- 4. What 1987 Dwight Yoakam song is about the challenges of growing up in eastern Kentucky?
- 5. What song did Dan Fogelberg write and record for the 1980 Kentucky Derby?
- 6. What Elvis Presley song begins with the lyrics "Seven lonely days and a dozen towns ago?"
- 7. What 1971 song by the Rolling Stones mentions the Kentucky Derby in its lyrics?
- 8. What autobiographical Loretta Lynn anthem is about growing up in the small eastern Kentucky town of Van Lear?
- 9. What Everly Brothers song says that "a man in Kentucky sure is lucky" to live in this town?"
- 10. What item of clothing is the Kentucky girl wearing in the 1999 Red Hot Chili Peppers Song titled "Scar Tissue?"

Answers

- 1. Kentucky Woman
- 2. Blue Moon of Kentucky
- 3. Paradise
- 4. Readin', Rightin', Rt. 23
- 5. Run for the Roses
- 6. Kentucky Rain
- 7. Dead Flowers
- 8. Coal Miner's Daughter
- 9. Bowling Green
- 10. a push-up bra

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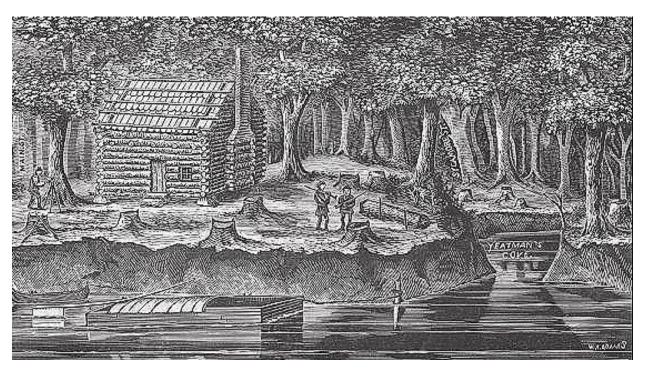
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Two views of the railroad deport at Erlanger, Kentucky. Left: Heritage day 1907. Right, present day. Left image courtesy Kenton County Public Library / right image courtesy Robert Webster

Mystery Photo

Can you identify the Mystery Photo?



Answer:

Engraving by W.H. Adams titled "First Ferry at Losantiville" (now Cincinnati). The image depicts the successful ferry operation by brothers Francis and Thomas Kennedy, from a spot just west of Yeatman's Cove to present-day Covington, Kentucky.

Kenton County Historical Society

May/June 2019

ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!

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I Bet You Didn't Know

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

July 1, 1948: The Kentucky State Police was established to replace the Kentucky Highway Patrol, organized in 1936.

July 4, 1794: Independence Day was celebrated for the first time in Kentucky at the plantation of Col. William Pope, in Jessamine County.

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

July 18, 1826: Isaac Shelby (twice governor of Kentucky) died at the age of 76, and buried in the family plot at Traveller's Rest.

July 23, 1966: Cumberland National Forest was renamed in honor of the famous trailblazer, Daniel Boone.

From: On This Day In Kentucky, by Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

Kenton County Historical Society

July 15-20: Kenton County Fair. For years now, in the evening hours starting around 4:00 p.m., the Kenton County Historical Society has hosted one of the many booths that line the fairgrounds in Independence. Come out and visit the exciting fair and stop by our display.

July 20th: Annual Membership Picnic. Memorial Park in Independence (adjacent to the fire house on Old KY 17) will be the location for the Society's third Annual Picnic, with invitation to all members, friends, and the general public. Besides historic displays and discussions, free picnic food and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. **SEE FLYER INSERT**

September 7th: Kentucky Farm Bureau's 100th Anniversary. The Society is honored to have been invited to host a booth at a private-affair for members of this vital organization benefiting the county's farmers.

September 21st: Lafayette program. Karl Lietzenmayer will discuss Lafayette's legendary trip through Kentucky and Cincinnati, disproving some "urban myths" – Erlanger branch of the public library.

October 12th, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mother of God Cemetery Tour. Library staff will discuss a select number of the interesting people interred there. Annual Meeting/Election of Officers (immediately following the above cemetery tour). The terms of the following will end: President Robert Webster; Vice-president Karl Lietzenmayer; Secretary John Boh; Treasurer Terry Averbeck; and directors Iris Spoor; and Robert Rich. The Society will be looking for "new blood" to compete for votes in this annual election.

October 26th: Antiques Fair-Covington Branch of the public library,10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Attendance has been good at previous fairs by people seeking to have their antiques appraised.

November 16th: "Northern Kentucky Unearthed." Travis Brown and team will present a lecture on the archaeological discoveries of metal detector hobbyists in Northern Kentucky. There will be many artifacts displayed which include Civil War, transportation, and other items of interest.

Behringer Crawford Museum

Annual Summer Concert Series: Weekly, Thursday evenings, doors open at 6:00 p.m., concerts start at 7:00. Food from Colonial Cottage is sold partly to benefit youth and community organizations. Also sold are adult beverages, soft drinks, and bottled water. Admittance: \$5.00 for adults, children under 12 free.

July 11 - Jake Speed and the Freddies (old and new for kids and adults)

July 18 - Ben Levin and the Heaters (blues)

- July 25 The Troublemakers (Classic Ohio Valley rock)
- August 1 Marcos Sastre and the Bluebirds (blues)
- August 8 Robin Lacy and DeZydeco (the Bayou's best)

August 15 - Ramona Blaine and the Company (old school, decades of music)