

# Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

P.O. Box 641, Covington, Kentucky 41012-0641 [nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com](mailto:nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com) (859) 431-2666

*July/August*

2004

## PROGRAMS

### *Saturday July 17- 10:00 a.m.*

#### TOUR OF RUDDELL'S MILL, CYNTHIANA, POINTS SOUTH

- 10:00 a.m. - Leave from Trinity Episcopal "North" Parking Lot  
11:00 a.m. - Arrive at Cynthiana Museum (Harrison County)  
112 S. Walnut Street (one block east of US 27)  
Visit Civil War battle site – Courthouse  
12:00 Noon- Lunch at Biancke's Restaurant  
Main Street (US 27), Cynthiana  
1:00 p.m. - Visit Civil War Battle Site – Cynthiana  
Visit Ruddell's Mills Site  
& Ruddell's Station (Hinkston Station)  
Drive through Colville Covered Bridge  
Visit Martin's Station  
3:00 p.m. - Return to Covington  
4:00 p.m. - Approximate arrival in Covington

*Car pooling is encouraged. Please call the Society if you need transportation arranged.  
Only cost will be lunch at Biancke's Restaurant.*

### *No August Program*

*[NOTE: July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. Dedication of Civil War Veteran John Feldhaus monument at Mother of God Cemetery. Sheriff Korzenborn will play TAPS]*

### *The Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY

THE KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 641, COVINGTON, KENTUCKY 41012-0641  
e-mail: [nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com](mailto:nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com)

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Board.....Emily Bailey, George Gressle, Richard Johannemann, San Juan Romero,  
Robert Webster, Karl J. Lietzenmayer, [Bulletin Editor]

**Cincinnati Museum Center Heritage Programs  
presents its motorcoach tour,  
OFF THE BEATEN PATH IN BOONE COUNTY, KY.**

**Thursday, July 15; 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Follow the trails of mighty mastodons, ancient buffalo and early settlers to discover the history and beauty of Boone County. Tour the villages of Rabbit Hash, McVile, Bullittsburg, Taylorsport and Petersburg, which dot the beautiful rolling terrain. Enjoy lunch at Big Bone State Park. Visit the 1870 Dr. John Stevenson house and its attractive gardens, which were once part of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century mineral spring spa resort. Pick blackberries and sample wines made at the first farm winery in Kentucky .

Cost is \$60 members for Cincinnati Museum Members and \$65 for non-members.

Registration Deadline is Thursday, July 8.

Call 513-287-7031 to register. For more information, contact  
Matt Becher [mbecher@boonecountky.org](mailto:mbecher@boonecountky.org) (859) 334-2111

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**Central Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trail Event**

**Kate Hesseldenz, Kentucky Historical Society**

**July 19-24, 2004**

**Frankfort, Nicholasville, Richmond, London, Somerset, Perryville**

Six important Kentucky Civil War sites are cooperating to provide visitors with an extraordinary opportunity to tour the Bluegrass Region in unprecedented style. On successive days during the week of July 19-24, six Civil War sites are hosting heritage tourism events that will showcase the Commonwealth's Civil War history. Visitors will be greeted with the best these sites have to offer - expertly guided tours, hands-on activities, concerts, living history programs, hands-on archaeology, artillery demonstrations, a Civil War-era embalming presentation and more. Many of these experiences have not been available to visitors in the past.

This week-long event provides a wonderful opportunity to visit many of Kentucky's Civil War sites at one time. All of these sites will have creative, interactive events planned, and visitors can choose to attend just one event or visit all six sites. It has given these sites the opportunity to pool their resources and talents in order to show a national audience what transpired in Kentucky during the Civil War period. The event moves from site to site on successive days:

**Locations:**

July 19: Fort Hill, Frankfort, July 20: Camp Nelson, Nicholasville, July 21: Battle of Richmond,  
July 22: Camp Wildcat, London,

July 23: Mill Springs, Somerset, July 24: Perryville

For more information, see the event Web site at [www.kycivilwar.org](http://www.kycivilwar.org) or call 888-332-1862.

**Behringer-Crawford Museum**  
**2004 Coffee Cup Concert Series Schedule**

**July 1**      ***Christine Lavin***

Christine Lavin opens our 2004 season with her folk/pop tunes and comedy. A one-woman dynamo, Christine Lavin has been known to assemble a choir of back-up singers for her wonderful song, "Sensitive New Age Guys." You might be wondering if this is a concert or a comedy show? Just call it "Lavin Live" and leave it at that. According to the TUSCON CITIZEN, she's the 21st Century's Mark Twain. But, hey! Could Mark twirl a baton? Better than a trip to the shrink, two martinis, and a massage back-to-back! Don't miss this consummate performer. You will never be the same.

**July 8**      ***Paul Hawthorne/Don Steins and Company***

July 8 features a first time visit from Greater Cincinnati's own smooth jazz performers, Paul Hawthorne/Don Steins & Company. Oscar Treadwell praises their CD as "the way smooth jazz should sound."

**July 15**      ***The Troubadours of Divine Bliss***

The Troubadours of Divine Bliss add a touch of New Orleans and a little of Louisville to their eclectic original compositions and classic covers. Described as eclectic folk, this spicy duo of Renee Ananda and Aim Mc Smiley have sampled the life of true troubadours, traveling throughout America and Europe, and have seasoned their performance accordingly. Two sweet women+spicy accordion+sassy guitar=tasty!

**July 22**      ***The Juggernaut Jug Band***

Jazzy Jug Band Music played on washboards, washtubs, kazoos, jugs, and various other sundries. Actually, it isn't only jazz, but also blues, ragtime, swing, and original music combined in a strange concoction called jug band music. Jug bands flourished in towns along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in the 1920s and 30s. Much as New Orleans spawned Dixieland Jazz, Louisville, home of the Juggernaut Jug Band, was the birthplace of jug music. Each performance is a challenge to the audience to have as much fun as the band. Don't let their antics fool you though, their exuberant music is the result of skillfully conceived arrangements, unusual instrumentation, and unique vocal harmonies.

**July 29**      ***Cameron Martin Cochran/Bromwell/Diehl Band***

Villa Hills' own Cameron Martin Cochran performs his unique brand of song writing on the amphitheatre for a special song writer's night also spotlighting one of Cincinnati's favorite song-writing duos Elaine Diehl and Paul Bromwell with their Bromwell/Diehl Band.

**August 5**      ***Zoe Speaks***

The duo **Zoe Speaks** consists of Mitch Barrett and Carla Gover, who jump in and out of their east Kentucky vernacular to play everything from traditional ballads to guitar-thumping contemporary acoustic tunes. Their music is drenched in the sounds of the Appalachian music they were raised with, but they draw from other influences and do not try to hold the music static and unchanging. Whether they're playing as a duo or jamming with the band, vocal harmonies are a defining feature of their sound. Their relaxed performance style and accessible attitude allow audiences to feel as if they are getting to know Mitch and Carla. They accompany themselves on guitar, clawhammer banjo, and dulcimer. Sometimes Mitch throws in a story, or Carla some clogging. The two have won a variety of songwriting awards and tour full-time in a large van with their two daughters, Zoe and Maizie.

**August 12**      ***Ceol Cridhe***

Imagine yourself in a neighborhood pub in Ireland or Scotland. In a room full of friends and casual acquaintances, a local band is livening up the evening with a set of folk songs, reels, jigs and airs on fiddle, guitar, harp, piano, and voice. Including old favorites, the band is also interspersing modern songs that conform with the ancient traditions of the Celtic lands.

This describes the scene that Ceol Cridhe (pronounced Ke-ol Cree) a Frankfort, KY based trio, creates when they perform. Presenting a mélange of traditional music from the Celtic lands of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany, and more modern selections "in the folk tradition," Ceol Cridhe brings Celtic music into the twenty-first century.

**August 19**      ***"Homer Fest" Rabbit Hash String Band***

The twin fiddles of Tom Taylor and Warren Waldron drive the old-time sound of the Rabbit Hash String Band. Russ and Barb Childers add syncopation with the five-string and banjo-uke and Judy "Riley" Waldron lays down the bass line with her guitar. Tom Taylor began playing fiddle over 60 years ago in Adair County, Kentucky. He and the other members of the band have played for many a square dance over the years and still do hoedown square dances for both beginning and experienced dancers. Based in Rabbit Hash, Kentucky, this band features dance tunes and old songs, interspersed with a story or two. Inspired by fiddle bands from the early days of recording, such as the Skillet Lickers, the Rabbit Hash String Band has entertained audiences for over 10 years. They are sure to lift your spirits and set your toe a -tappin'!

***Homer Ledford and the Cabin Creek Band***

Homer Ledford and the Cabin Creek Band is a five-piece traditional bluegrass and old-time music band. All of the members grew up surrounded by the style of music that they now play and perform many old traditional songs as well as their own original compositions. The band's five members perform on the autoharp, musical saw, dulcimer, "fiddlefone," two fiddles (twin fiddles), banjo, guitar, bass, and mandolin. With all of these instruments, they are well equipped to bring new life to the old time bluegrass music that they perform. By playing well and having fun with their music, the band has had wonderful success with their audiences. Together for 18 years, the band has performed across Kentucky, the United States, and internationally in Ireland and Japan. The multi-instrumentalist, Ledford, is also widely known for his solo performances.

**For more information, click on to this web site:**

<http://homepage.mac.com/robertaschultz/CoffeeCup/Personal8.html>

## Koors Family of Covington

Mary Ann Baucom & Karl Lietzenmayer

The patriarch of this family story, Johann (John) Herman Koors, was born in 1817 in the former Duchy of Oldenburg. It is highly likely, the growing unrest in the countryside leading to the failed revolution of 1848 prompted Johann to immigrate to America sometime before 1847.

That year he married Mary Anna Gertrude Revermann, also an émigré from Oldenburg, at Old St. Mary's Church which still stands in Over-the-Rhine Cincinnati. Johann Herman's family does not appear in the 1850 census and exactly where the family was living is unknown. What is certain is that he crossed the Ohio River with his family to Covington sometime between mid-1850 and 1851.

They settled in a home on the north side of Lewis Street between Russell and Craig Streets.<sup>1</sup> The family's second child John Frederick (Fritz) was born there sometime in October 1851 and baptized at Mother of God Church [Mutter Gottes Kirche].<sup>2</sup>

On November 13, 1869, Mary Anna, Johann's wife of twenty-two years died, leaving him five sons to raise.<sup>3</sup> She was forty-eight. An additional search of the city directories, shows Johann Herman still residing at his home – 26 Lewis Street but living with him is a Margaret Koors and her children Annie and John Henry. It appears Margaret was the widow of John Dietrick Koors, possibly Johann's brother. What is most coincidental is Margaret's maiden name of Revermann. She must have been a close relative to Johann's wife – possibly a sister.

### A Murderer in the Family?

Slightly more than a year after his Mary Anna's death, her eldest son Frederick (Fritz) was the cause of additional grief for the family. On Friday evening January 20, 1871, twenty-year-old Fritz Koors was on his way to visit his girl friend, Philomena Wellinghoff. She and her family lived close by on the corner of Eighth and Philadelphia – a short walk from Fritz' Lewis Street home. He was in the habit of courting her on Thursdays and Sundays, so she was not expecting him.

Fritz was in the habit of carrying a pistol, even when visiting his eighteen-year-old "Meenie." Several months previous, Fritz had had a jealous quarrel with a rival suitor – a young man named Niemier – and cut him. Mrs. Wellinghoff had told Fritz not to bring his pistol to the house any more. That night he decided to carry it anyway. It was a decision that would change his life forever.



The Koors House today. Athey Avenue view (Ron Einhaus photo)

What thoughts were running through Fritz' head? He had told her some "Cincinnati fellow" was trying to cut in on him. She had laughed and said she wanted no other than him. Mrs. Wellinghoff, a widow, always thought Fritz was a gentleman and permitted Fritz to continue seeing Meenie even after her husband's death.

When Fritz arrived, Meenie's mother, two brothers – Frank and Ben – and a friend Josephine Ross were sitting in their kitchen. Her eight-year-old sister was playing in another room. The following was pieced together from those present that night:

"Where's Meenie?" Fritz asked.

"Meenie has gone to the grocery for coal-oil and will be back directly," Mrs. Wellinghoff replied. Fred was invited to sit down – which he did. Meenie arrived about fifteen minutes later. Upon seeing Fritz, she said, "Hello Fred. What did you come tonight for?" Fred (Fritz) said not a word while Meenie took his overcoat and hat.

Meenie went into the parlor to get a lamp. She returned with it filled with oil and the couple talked a while. She left the lamp and lit a candle. Fritz then followed her into the parlor. Philomena loved Fritz and anticipated a spring marriage. Meenie had the parlor door key and the family in the kitchen heard her lock the door behind them. About fifteen or twenty minutes later, a pistol shot rang out.

What took place during that time is pure speculation. Fritz supposedly asked Meenie to do some little thing and she playfully refused. Fritz then pulled out his pistol pretending to shoot her if she didn't comply. The couple was most likely standing face-to-face. Meenie grabbed the pistol and tried to take it from him. The pistol, load with power and ball, accidentally discharged. Meenie screamed.

The family upon hearing the shot, rushed to the parlor door. "Open the door!" cried Mrs. Wellinghoff to her son. "It's locked," he replied. Directly, Meenie herself unlocked the door and came out crying. "Oh, mother, I'm shot! Fred shot me! Oh mother, must I die?"

Fritz followed her out of the parlor and told her, "Be still, you aren't hurt!" Oh yes I am shot. I feel it, Fred. What did you shoot me for?" the wounded girl asked. Meenie fell into the arms of Josephine Ross and died a few minutes later. Fritz left the house.

About a quarter to nine o'clock, Fritz rushed to Mother of God Church rectory to see Father Froelich. He was very excited and could hardly speak. Throwing his arms around the priest, Fritz finally spoke, "O Father, I have killed my girl, come with me quick!" Father Froelich questioned Fritz as to what had happened. In answer to the priest's question, Fritz stated, "I shot her through the heart, but I didn't intend to do it; I didn't know the pistol was loaded!" Fritz went on to tell the priest that he loved Meenie Wellinghoff and intended to marry her. Father Froelich immediately proceeded to the Wellinghoff residence and Fritz ran to get his father.

Mrs. Wellinghoff had run to get the doctor. When she returned with Doctor Blair, Father Froelich was administering the Last Rites. Philomina Wellinghoff was dead. Fritz arrived with his father, begging the Wellinghoff family's forgiveness. All present suggested Fritz leave and the distraught young man kissed Meenie on the lips and left.

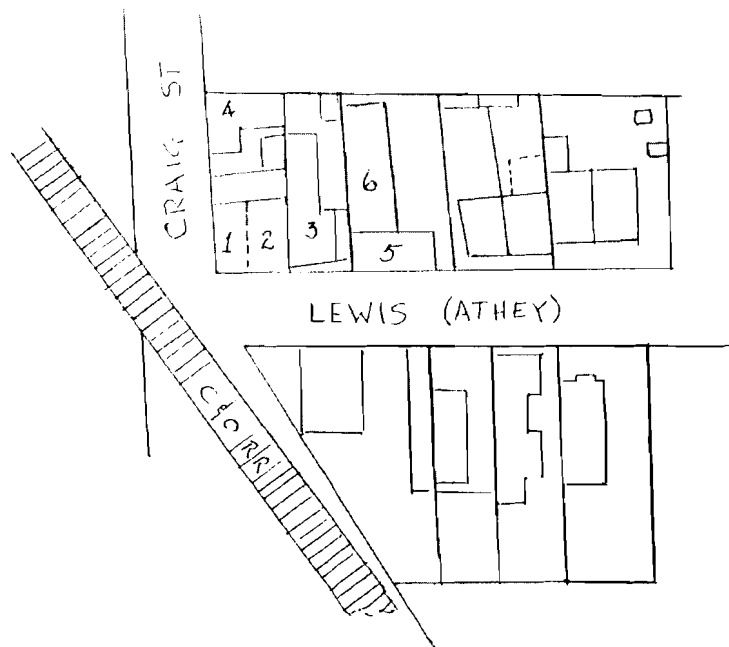
Fritz's father and Father Froelich convinced him to turn himself over to the police. And Fritz was arrested at the Marshall's office that night. John Herman Koors posted \$5,000 bail for his son.

A fairly impressive defense team was hired. William E. Arthur and Honorable Jonathan F. Fisk were engaged as defense attorneys.<sup>4</sup> The murder trial began on Tuesday, June 13, 1871. Judge J. S. Boyde presiding. Frederick Koors was indicted for the murder of Philomina Wellinghoff. It took a day to select a jury of twelve men and Frederick (Fritz) Koors pleaded not guilty. Testimony lasted two days and the case went to the jury by Friday, June 17. That same day the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

One can only imagine what sort of strain John Herman Koors was under as he watched his eldest son stand trial for murder. In 1886, probably sensing the end of his life, John Koors dictated, in German, his last will and testament. He left all his possessions to his five sons but to Frederick (Fritz) he left only five dollars. This suggests that John was still upset with his eldest or perhaps felt he had already received his inheritance in the form of his defense for murder. Johann (John) Herman Koors died September 17, 1886, two days before his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.<sup>5</sup>

#### Cottage Industry

According to the 1880 census, John Herman Koors worked as a lumber broker and at some point seems to have owned a lumber yard, believed to be located in Cincinnati. The lumber business could have been one of several of John's endeavors.



#### Plat from the 1894 Sandborn Map

Dwellings # 1, 2, 3, and 4 have been razed.

Structure #1 is indicated as a store.

The railroad had not been elevated.

The Koors dwelling is #5 & 6. It is believed that #5 (facing Athey Avenue) is the original structure and the portion facing Craig Street was added sometime either before or immediately after the Koors family purchased the property.

The #6 structure held the cigar manufacturing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

**JOHN H. KOORS,**

**Covington, Kentucky.**

**FACTORY NO. 292, SIXTH DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY.**

"The manufacturer of the Cigars contained herein, has complied with all the requirements of the law. Every person is cautioned, under the penalties of the law, not to use this box for Cigars again."

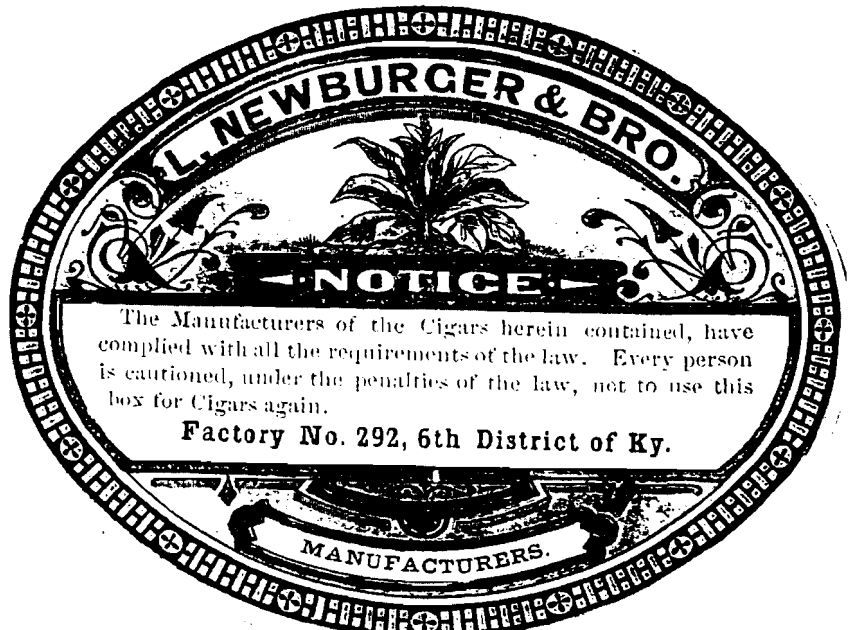
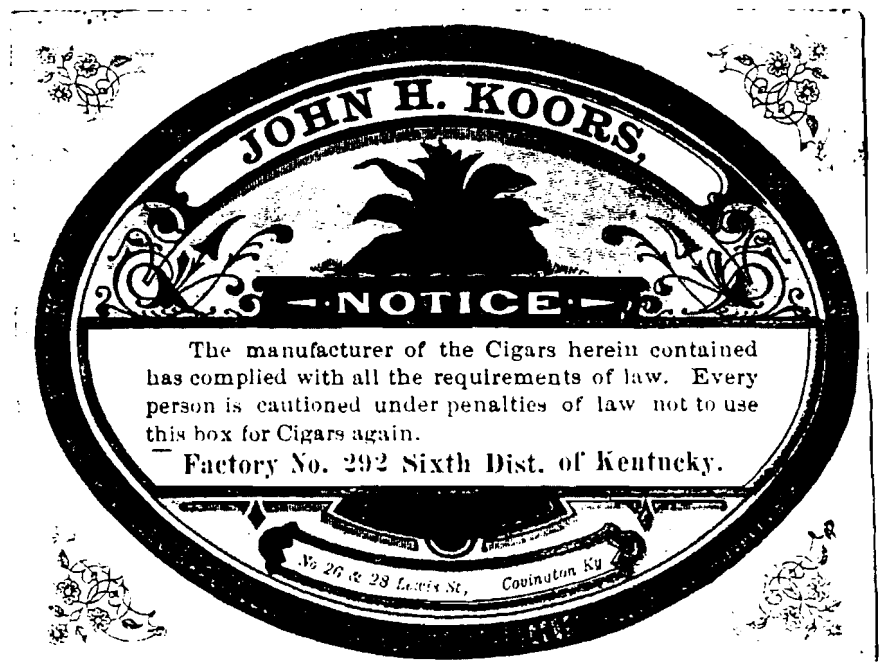
Lewis Street has changed to Athey Avenue. By the 1890s, the coming of the C&O Railroad line had changed the area further.<sup>6</sup> Graves from the 6th Street "Burial Ground" were removed. Fast forwarding toward the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, the home had endured hard times – being abandoned by the 1970s and suffering a severe fire. Two young men decided to risk rescuing the home and today Terry Lanham and Ken Koeppel reside in a beautifully restored home at what is now 226 Athey Avenue.

In the process of restoration, numerous artifacts from the Koors days of one hundred years before surfaced from the walls of the home.<sup>7</sup> Discovered within the walls, were the makings of a cottage industry of cigar manufacturing. Leaves of tobacco, several jars of tobacco flavors, bills of lading, and numerous cigar brand labels were found. Shown here are samples of the brands of cigars apparently rolled and packed by Koors' small company. John H. Koors hired several employees who sat in the upstairs addition to the home, rolling and packing cigars for several firms, including brands under his own name.<sup>8</sup>

The present owners have reconstructed the probable scenario of their home. The original home was probably a farm house when Covington extended only to 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Madison Avenue from the Licking River. They have a strong suspicion that farm animals were kept in the basement because of the type of iron bars affixed to the basement windows, allowing air to flow. As Covington developed, the farm house became part of the subdivision erected in the area and additions added to the structure as needed through the years. More details of the story need to be fleshed out to complete this picture of a small portion of 19<sup>th</sup> century Covington.

#### About the Author

Mary Ann Baucom is a direct descendant of John Herman Koors, living in Bloomingdale, Illinois. She has visited Covington in her family search and learned much from the present owners of her ancestral home. All artifacts shown were supplied by Terry Lanham, to whom the Society is grateful.



<sup>1</sup> Johann (John) Herman Koors (1817-1886) married Mary Anna Revermann (1821-1869). Covington Street Directory, 1860. This issue incorrectly lists him as John "Korst" - a laborer. The 1876 Directory lists the family's address as 26 Lewis Street.

<sup>2</sup> The Koors first-born did not survive infancy. Mother of God Church Baptismal Records.

<sup>3</sup> The names of the Koors children: Annie M. [died at 3 ½], John Frederick [1851], John Herman [1854], John Henry [1857], August W. [1863], Frank [1868]

<sup>4</sup> Covington Journal, 28 Jan 1871, page 3.

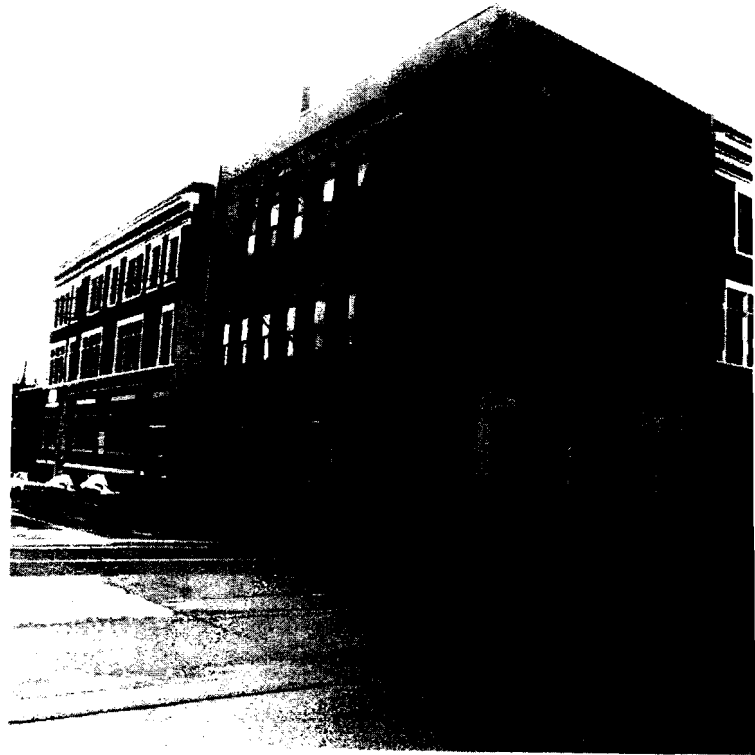
<sup>5</sup> Mother of God Church records. Buried at Mother of God Cemetery, Latonia.

<sup>6</sup> The present CSX Rail line, originally laid at street level, now runs on an elevated bridge support across the Ohio River.

<sup>7</sup> The home was featured on the cable show "If These Walls Could Talk."

<sup>8</sup> Several time cards dated 1879 & 1880 were discovered in the walls. Employees names: Wm. J. Blount, J. Schearfer (?), Floren Fischer, Fred E. Koors appear on the cards.

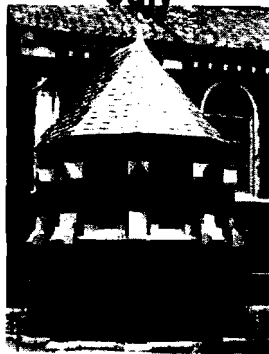
## *Then and Now*



The Citizens National Bank as it was before being "modernized" in the 1960s. As hard as it is to believe now, the bank received an award for their efforts in basically destroying the façade integrity of the building. The present owner, Northern Kentucky Community Action Coalition, is struggling to make the façade of the building presentable. It is beyond resources to restore the building to its original state but its strategic location in Covington's downtown center demands that the exterior be put in order. Federal and State funds to the tune of approximately \$40,000 total have been funneled through the City of Covington to replace the windows and clean and paint the exterior. According to our information, only another \$20,000 would be needed to finish this preliminary remodeling. The City of Covington has yet to anti up any significant funds of its own.

### *Monthly Mystery Photo*

July



August



To find out where it is, go to:

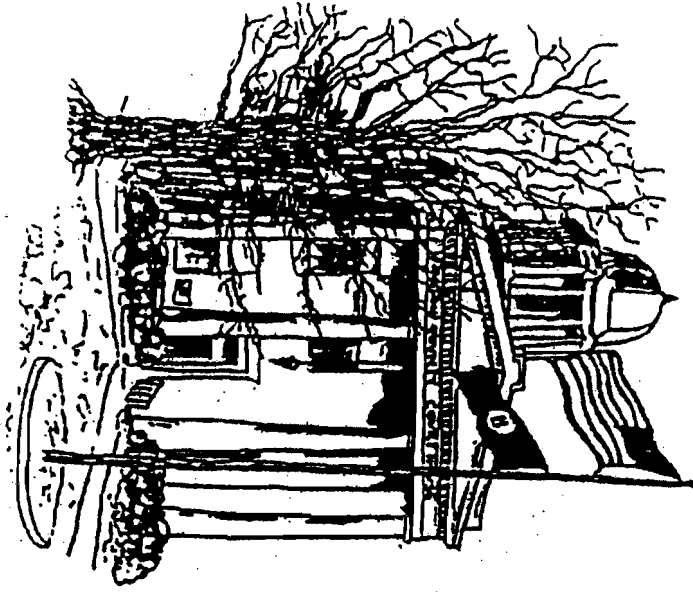
[www.roneinhaus.com/KCHSmysteryphoto.html](http://www.roneinhaus.com/KCHSmysteryphoto.html)

May - Stone Chapel - Thomas More College

June - Madison Ave. Christian Church

# KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July/August 2004



**INSIDE:**

**John H. Koors Family**

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

Kenton County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 641  
Covington, Kentucky 41012-0641

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