



# Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

Website: [www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histoc](http://www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histoc) Email: [nkyheritage.kchs@juno.com](mailto:nkyheritage.kchs@juno.com)  
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July / August

2007

## I Bet You Didn't Know

*Tidbits of Northern Kentucky History*

First we have to define what is called the "population center."

Lets say everyone in the country weighed the same, say 150 pounds. Next have everyone go home and sit down for just one second. Now peel up the country and put it on a needle. You'll have to move the needle around, but when you get to that spot where the country balances, that's the population center.

The government tracks this data and in 1880, the population center of the United States was right in our own backyard. An historical marker is there to proof it.

The marker is located at the "Airplane Viewing Area" along Donaldson Road near the Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati International Airport.

*Kentucky Place Names, Robert M. Rennick*

## Upcoming Programs

The Behringer-Crawford Museum is hosting their ninth annual Coffee Cup Concert Series. Below is a list of the remaining shows. All concerts are held on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Admission ranges from \$5 - \$15 per concert. For additional information, contact the Museum.

July 5 - Gallatin County Youth Bluegrass Band - *Amazing pickers & gridders!*

July 12 - Cheryl Renee Blues Band - *Goddess of Blues at last year's Blues Fest*

July 19 - Tropicoso - *Salsa lessons not included, but your feet will make you sway!*

July 26 - Juggernaut Jug Band - *Most requested returning favorite act by far!*

Behringer-Crawford Museum  
1600 Montague Road - Devou Park  
Covington, KY 41011  
<http://www.bcmuseum.org>  
(859) 491-4003

September 11, 2007

7:00 PM

The Kenton County Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting for election of officers by Society members. Nominations will be taken up to the time of election for a President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and two directors. Annually two of the six directors are elected to three year terms. Every other year a Treasurer is elected for a two year term.

Members are encouraged to attend and participate in nominations and the election. The public also is invited to the election and to the special program. John Boh, long time officer and charter member of the Society, will recall highlights of the 30 year history of this great organization.

Published bi-monthly by  
**The Kenton County Historical Society**

President.....Ronin Einhaus  
Vice-President.....Donald Fowler  
Treasurer.....W. Terry Averbeck  
Secretary.....John H. Boh

**Board Members:**

George Gressle, Richard Johannemann,  
Karl Lietzenmayer, Mary Elise Regan,  
Edward Whitehead and  
Robert Webster (Bulletin Editor)

*ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!*

# Haven Gillespie

## Covington's Famed Songwriter

James Lamont Haven Gillespie's life was a true American success story. Born on February 6, 1888, Haven was one of nine children of William and Anna Gillespie. The family was considered poor by any standard and lived in the basement of a house on Third Street between Madison Avenue and Russell Street.

Haven dropped out of school in the fourth grade and, not surprisingly, could not find a job. His older sister, Lillian, had married a man in the printing business named John Hewling and the couple moved to Chicago. Lillian had written Haven that there was a job waiting for him there and that he could live with them. In 1902, young Haven left his Covington home to join his sister and brother-in-law.

A few years later, Haven began corresponding to a childhood sweetheart back in Covington. In 1908, he proposed marriage to Corene Parker by way of a postcard and shortly received a positive reply. The couple married on March 9, 1909, in Corene's Covington home. She was 19 and Haven was 21. He had fifteen dollars in his pocket and she had just one dollar given to her by her mother.

Haven soon landed a job as a typesetter for the *Cincinnati Times-Star*, ultimately maintaining his membership in the International Typographic Union until his death. More importantly for Haven, he found work as a "plug" man, entertaining audiences at local vaudeville shows by playing and singing songs he had written.

His first break came in 1911 when he met Roy Steventon, performing with Mildred Lovejoy in a dancing act at the Keith Theater in Cincinnati. Haven and Steventon teamed up on three songs for the act, "You're Just The Girl I've Met In My Dreams", "When I Am Gone", and "Winter Time Is Coming Around Too Soon." Haven was paid one and a half



*James Lamont Haven Gillespie*  
Courtesy the Kenton County Public Library

cents for each piece of sheet music sold, total royalties which amounted to only a few dollars over the next several years.

While touring to promote his songwriting, Haven began drinking heavily and would struggle with alcohol addiction most of his life. At age 23 and after a long night of drinking, Haven met Joe Ford, a printer with the *Cincinnati Tribune*. Ford took Haven home to sober up and the two men eventually developed a lifelong friendship.

Haven's first major hit came in early 1925 with "Drifting and Dreaming." Many of Haven's songs were inspired by chance moments in his life.

In the winter of 1925, he witnessed a few hobos at an Ohio train station bound for Florida. He watched them for a few minutes, admiring their carefree lifestyle and soon had the words for one of his biggest hits, "Breezin' Along With The Breeze." "By The Sycamore Tree", followed in 1931, which he co-wrote with frequent collaborator Dick Whiting.

Haven's favorite tavern in Covington was Kern Aylward's, located at 6th and Main Streets (today the Cock and Bull). Whenever there, he would sit at the piano and sing his many songs for the crowd. One night in 1936, after entertaining the local patrons, Haven took a seat at the bar and wrote another one of his hits, "You Go To My Head." This one song alone would eventually be performed by such artists as Doris Day, Lena Horne, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Rosemary Clooney, Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Judy Garland, Billy Holliday, Linda Ronstadt, and Frank Sinatra.

In was two years earlier, however, in October of 1934, that Haven Gillespie realized the turning point in his career. Edgar Bittner, manager of Leo Feist, Inc., Haven's music publisher, asked that he write a children's song for the upcoming Christmas season. Haven, however, was still in shock over his younger brother Irwin's death just three days earlier and was also struggling with a little-known fear of failure.

"A songwriter is like a race horse," he was fond of saying, "If they bet on you once and you loose, they won't bet on you again." Haven told Bittner there simply was not enough time to compose such a song before the holiday. Bittner, however, did not take no for an answer, citing other children's songs Gillespie had written including, "Tin Pan Parade", "Sleepy Town Express", and "Sweetest Little Kid."

Accompanied by his friend and long-time music composer, J. Fred Coots, Haven left the Feist offices in New York City on that rainy day and the pair walked a few blocks to catch the subway at the Eighth Avenue station. Haven later remembered that the dampness seeped through the piece of paper he had stuffed into his shoe — as he had forgotten, or did not

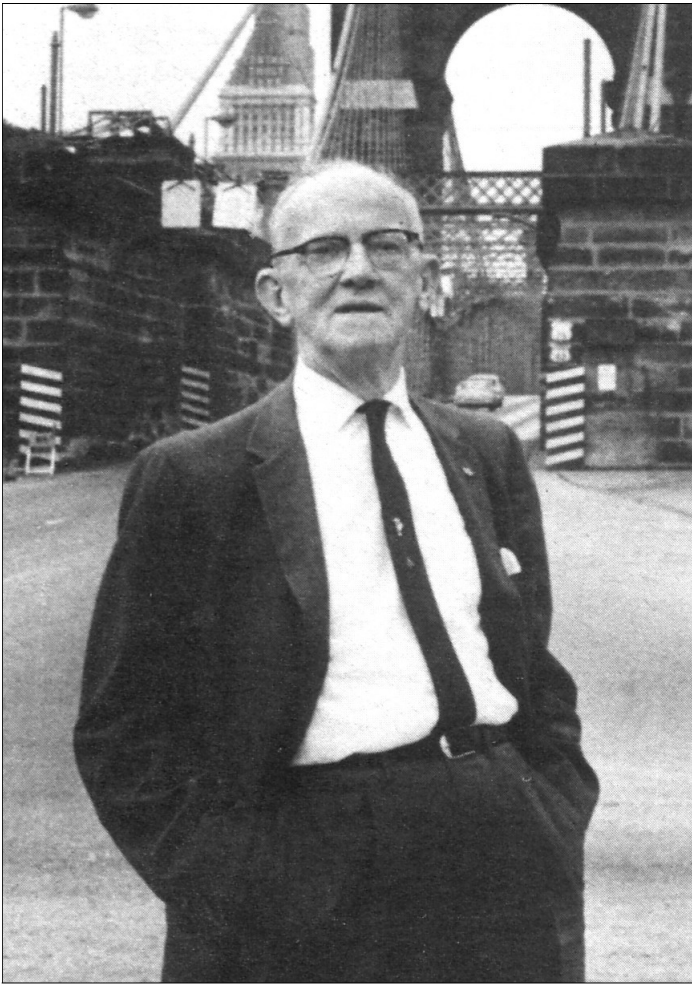
have enough money to have his shoes re-soled. He also remembered that he desperately wanted a drink that day, but for some reason chose to pass on the intoxicant.

Haven went to one end of the subway car and Coots to the other. They both scanned people's faces and overhead advertisements, looking for an idea for a song. Coots also called out street names as they passed, all in a futile effort for inspiration. Suddenly, memories of his own childhood Christmases came flooding back and Haven remembered something his mother used to say when he was a little boy growing up in Covington. "You better wash behind your ears or Santa won't come to see you. You better be good!"

Haven pulled out an old envelope from his pocket and began scribbling. "You better watch out, you better not cry, better not pout, I'm telling you why..... Santa Claus is coming to town." By the end of the subway ride — only fifteen-minutes in length, Haven had completed his masterpiece. Later that day, Coots composed the tune to accompany what would become Gillespie's most treasured song lyrics. When the duo called the publisher and played the song over the telephone, he knew it would be a huge success.

"Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" was first introduced on Eddie Cantor's 1943 Thanksgiving Show and was an instant hit. Within weeks its sheet music was selling in excess of 25,000 copies a day. The song would later be recognized by the ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) as one of the most performed "standards" ever written. At last count, 112 different artists have "covered" the song. A few of the more famous include: the Andrews Sisters, Paul Anka, Gene Autry, the Beach Boys, Tony Bennett, the Carpenters, Perry Como, Harry Connick, Jr., Neil Diamond, Burl Ives, Brenda Lee, Barry Manilow, Johnny Mathis, Mitch Miller, Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, Frank Sinatra, and Cincinnati-born Andy Williams.

In August 1938, the wonderful amphitheater at Covington's Devou Park was the scene of one of Haven Gillespie's greatest triumphs. "Haven Gillespie Night" packed the outdoor arena with over



*Haven Gillespie at Covington's Suspension Bridge, circa 1959*  
 Courtesy: Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine

35,000 fans for an evening of his popular music featuring the incomparable Sophie Tucker, the "Last of the Red Hot Mamas."

Haven Gillespie continued in the songwriting business, but never again saw the success he experienced with "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town." In 1950 he and wife Corene moved to Hollywood where they remained for only three years. During his time in Hollywood he wrote the lyrics to 65 songs. Among the favorites were, "Kiss" (written for the Marilyn Monroe film "Niagara"), "Love Me Sweet", and "Jiminy Christmas."

In 1954 the couple moved to Las Vegas where his success continued to decline. Haven's addiction to alcohol grew, however, as did Corene's love of the slot machine. During 1956 and 1957, she reportedly lost \$70,000 to gambling – compared to Haven's songwriting income of only \$50,000.

In 1957, at age 69, Haven entered the Valley Rehabilitation Center near Ogden, Utah, for treatment of his alcoholism. Upon his release 30 days later, he was pronounced "cured" and never took another drink. The next spring, Corene suffered a fatal heart attack while visiting the couple's only son, Lamont, in Studio City, California. She died April 21, 1958 at age 67. Haven was heart-broken and never really recovered from her death.

Lonely and despondent, Haven returned to Covington in 1961 and met 48-year-old Josephine Krumpelman. The two were married in a private ceremony in Las Vegas but their love lasted only until 1968 when Josephine filed for divorce and returned to Covington.

In 1972, Haven Gillespie was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Many of his hundreds of songs have been featured in over thirty motion pictures. And, it is estimated that his "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" has been sung by more than 100 million people.

Haven Gillespie died on Friday, March 14, 1975 and was buried next to his wife in Bunker's Memory Gardens in Las Vegas. In 1982, Lamont Gillespie had his parents' remains transferred to Forest Lawn Cemetery, Hollywood Hills, California.

Back in Covington, a bronze historical marker honoring the famous lyricist was erected in Goebel Park, not far from his favorite pub at Sixth and Main Streets. It reads:

#### HAVEN GILLESPIE 1888–1975

The composer of "Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town" was a native of Covington. He attended local school, became a printer, later employed by Cincinnati Times-Star and N.Y. Times. Gillespie's songs carried Americans through Great Depression and World War II: they include "Breezin' Along With The Breeze," "You Go To My Head," "Honey" and "That Lucky Old Son."

*Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine, Vol. V, No. 2.*  
*Drifting and Dreaming: The Story of Songwriter Haven Gillespie, William E. First and Pasco First*

# Thomas Kennedy, Pioneer

By: John Boh

Covington pioneer Thomas Kennedy (1741-1821), the son of a Scots-Irish Presbyterian from Northern Ireland, was born in Chester County Pennsylvania. In 1767 he married a widow from Philadelphia, Dinah Davis Piersel. In 1789, to confirm a business opportunity, Thomas Kennedy sent his oldest son Joseph to scout the area of "The Point" at the Licking and Ohio Rivers. In 1789 he acquired 150 acres there. Soon Thomas and Dinah arrived from Pennsylvania by flatboat with three children from her first marriage and younger son Samuel and daughter Hannah. They erected a log cabin and commenced farming.

In 1791 Thomas Kennedy began constructing a stone house on the site. Kennedy also started a ferry with Francis Kennedy on the north shore of the Ohio at the same time that Ft. Washington was established opposite the mouth of the Licking River.

In 1812 Thomas Kennedy publicly offered his farm for "sale or rent." In 1814 he sold his farm to investors in the "Covington Company" which in 1815 established the town of Covington. In 1816 Thomas, Dinah and family moved to their new home at the northwest corner of Sixth and Greenup streets. Considered by some the oldest house in Covington except for their stone house, Thomas and Dinah's last residence was razed in 1904. In 1796 Robert Kyle who married Sallie Piersel from Dinah's first marriage, purchased 100 acres adjoining the land of Thomas Kennedy and in 1806, 50 more acres adjoining Thomas Kennedy and others. Robert and Sallie Kyle's home once stood near the present corner of Pike and Madison streets. A country lane serving as the public road passed nearby connecting The Point with the Banklick Road to Lexington.

During the War of 1812 oldest son Joseph saw military duty and the Kennedy Ferry did a heavy business transporting soldiers from Ft. Washington.

Joseph's son Thomas D. Kennedy (1795-1869) was a Covington city engineer until 1855, as was his own son Thomas Howell Kennedy (1833-1914) who served terms until 1901. A Confederate sympathizer, Thomas Howell was greatly offended when "10,000 Federal troops were encamped" on the family farm at Ft. Mitchell in 1862.

Samuel Kennedy resided in the stone house for a number of years. He oversaw the property that the family had been retained in 1814 along the river-front including the ferry franchise. Nancy Kennedy (1811-1904), one of twelve children of Samuel and Jane Richardson Kennedy, grew up in the stone house. In 1848 she moved next door into a new brick house on Garrard Street, known as the Kennedy-Southgate House. When "Aunt Nancy" Kennedy, age 93, died in 1904, her obituary listed her survivors and many descendents of her grandparents Thomas and Dinah Kennedy. Not long before her demise Aunt Nancy had celebrated Thanksgiving at the home of her grandniece Dr. Louise Southgate, a pioneering female physician. Razed in 1909 the Kennedy stone house stood in the rear of what became George Rogers Clark Park. First interred in the city's pioneer "burying ground" beyond the original town limits at present-day Sixth and Craig streets, Thomas and Dinah Kennedy were later removed to Covington's Linden Grove Cemetery.

See: E. Polk Johnson, *A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians* (3 vols.), New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1912, vol. 2, pages 908-911, vol. 3, pages 1369-70; Allen Webb Smith, *Beginning at "the Point," a Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, the Town of Covington in Particular, 1751-1834*, Park Hills, Kentucky, 1977; O. J. Wiggins, "History of Covington," *The Daily Commonwealth* (series of 25 articles, 5 April to 20 December, 1884), April 15, 1884; "Aunt Nancy' Passes Away," *The Kentucky Post*, 13 December 1904, page 1; "Thomas Howell Kennedy-Kennedy Funeral Takes Place Tuesday," *The Kentucky Times Star*, 16 March 1914, page 12; Deed Book G, 28 May 1828, page 329; Deed Book H, 22 October 1830, page 245, Campbell County Courthouse, Alexandria.



**By: Robert D. Webster**

Though the city of Covington, Kentucky was not founded until 1815, many early settlers called the area home by the late 1700s. In mid 1791, Thomas Kennedy had acquired much of what comprises present-day downtown Covington and had established a prosperous farm, ferryboat service and tavern. Following tradition, it is most likely that he and other pioneer families buried their dead right on the family homestead, under a nice shady tree or on a small hill overlooking the river basin below. As Covington began to grow in size, however, the need for a public graveyard was soon realized.

It is hard to determine the exact year of its formation, but the earliest public cemetery in Covington was the Craig Street Burial Ground, also known as the Covington Burial Ground. This early graveyard was situated at what would now be an area bordered by Craig, Johnson, West Sixth and Pershing Streets. Some reports show the old cemetery in existence as early as 1815 while others use the year 1823 as its founding. In any case, newspaper reports indicate that the burial ground was filled to capacity by the mid 1830s and that a larger facility was badly needed. An 1851 city atlas shows the burying ground measuring approximately 180' x 289', calculating to about 52,000 square feet in area. If a 4' x 7' area per burial is used, 1857 bodies may have been interred there. In 1872, newspaper accounts state that 1700 bodies were moved from the site.

In 1831, a newspaper account mentions, “the old Covington Burial Ground on Craig Street has been badly neglected and is in need of much repair.” The report also mentions that no burials had taken place in the old cemetery... “for many years.” Various articles in the 1840s also define the historic graveyard as full, deteriorated and neglected.

In 1835, the Western Baptist Theological Institute purchased approximately 150-acres south of



*Craig Street Burial Ground shown on 1851 map of Covington*

the Covington city limits for the construction of a theological seminary. A college building and several homes were constructed on the property. The Institute also laid out a small cemetery on a portion of their extensive grounds. The cemetery was originally called the Cincinnati and Covington Cemetery. Word reached them in the mid 1840s that the Craig Street Cemetery was reaching capacity and trustees of the Theological Institute saw the expansion of their cemetery as a means to increase income for their school. Plans were developed to expand and improve the original cemetery and Ephraim Robbins was given the commission of its design.

Following the construction of roads, a three-acre pond, and the planting of many trees and shrubs, Linden Grove Cemetery (the new name for the endeavor) was officially opened on September 18, 1843. A large crowd was in attendance during the festive celebration that included music and guest speakers from various Presbyterian, Episcopal and



*Covington's Historic Linden Grove Cemetery*



*As early as the late 1850s, random acts of vandalism took their toll on the historic cemetery.*

Methodist churches in Covington. According to newspaper accounts, the new cemetery was, “60 acres of high table land, overlooking the city of Cincinnati and situated in the midst of the most quiet and romantic scenery.” Another reporter stated, “A place like this, in the vicinity of Cincinnati, would be thronged with the admirers of nature and art thus happily combined.”

By 1851, however, the Covington Journal newspaper was cautioning lot owners to get more involved in the operation of the cemetery and warned that indifference was sure to lead to problems of neglect. In 1858, the cemetery was sold to Samuel Walker, who continued to improve the facilities. By May of that year, more than 2,000 burials had taken place in the new cemetery. Especially hard years were 1850 and 1851, due to a major cholera outbreak in the city. Nearly double the yearly burials had taken place in those two years. In the late 1850s and early 1860s, several reports of vandalism were reported. Dozens of the large stones had been broken and/or toppled over.

A December 1868 Covington Journal article states the need of a new cemetery, “Though only open a few years, Linden Grove Cemetery has nearly reached its capacity.”

June of 1869 saw the dedication of Highland Cemetery in Fort Mitchell. Many of the remaining bodies at the Craig Street Cemetery were transferred to that facility. The construction of Highland Cemetery decreased the number of burials at Linden

Grove, however, with families choosing plots far away from the noise and pollution of the inner-city cemetery. In 1872, 317 bodies were removed from the Craig Street Burial Ground and had been transferred to Fort Mitchell’s Highland Cemetery. It appears these were the last of the remains and that the old cemetery was officially closed at this time.

By the early 1900s, continued growth of the city of Covington had surrounded Linden Grove Cemetery. Once on the very outskirts of town, the picturesque graveyard was suddenly surrounded by residential neighborhoods. The cemetery is bordered by Holman Avenue, West 13th Street, Linden Avenue and Kavanaugh Avenue, with the entrance just to the north of Southside Baptist Church at West 15th and Holman.

By the 1920s, the once picturesque cemetery was in a dilapidated condition. Beginning in 1926, efforts were made to improve and better care for the cemetery. In that year, Garfield Post of the Grand Army of the Republic acquired a cannon for the cemetery. In 1928, Richard C. Stewart, owner of the Stewart Iron Works Company, donated \$580 for improvements. He also directed four of his employees to spend five weeks cleaning and repairing the property. The year 1928 also saw the establishment of the Linden Grove Memorial Association. The group was founded to provide funds for the general upkeep of the property. By this time, there were few burials taking place at Linden Grove. In 1948, the cemetery was placed in receivership, with the city of Covington and Kenton County charged with overseeing it.

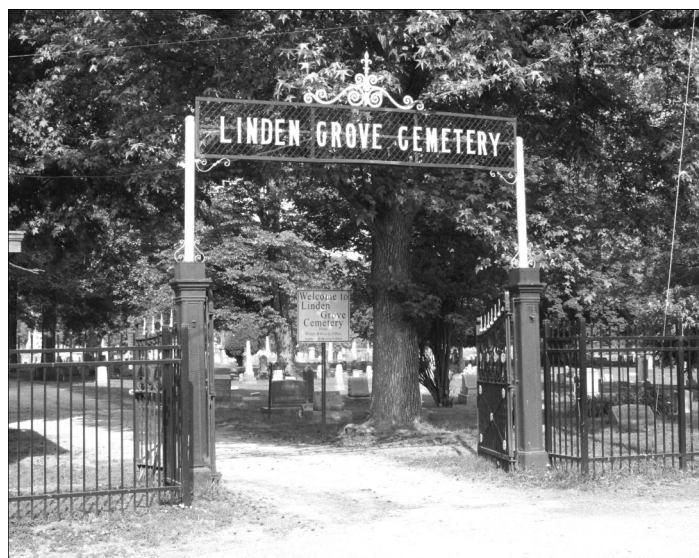
*Continued on the next page*

By the 1960s, the cemetery was once again overgrown with weeds and vandalism had taken its toll. Vaults had been broken into, headstones overturned and the grounds littered with trash. Only the work of Cemetery Superintendent Edward Overbay kept the property from being completely abandoned. Overbay was appointed to this position in the early 1960s. When Overbay died in 1996, his son, Jonathon Overbay took over the duties as superintendent.

In 1974, the cemetery received a generous gift from the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Under the leadership of Governor Wendell Ford, the state allocated \$25,000 for general maintenance and restoration. At about that same time, the City of Covington and the Kenton County Fiscal Court came to an agreement to provide funds for the upkeep of the cemetery. Despite these additional sources of revenue, the budget barely covered general maintenance. In order to cut costs, the three-acre pond on the property was drained in 1981. In the spring of 1998, an independent Linden Grove Cemetery Board was established. Membership on the board included two individuals chosen by the fiscal court, two by the City of Covington and one member at large.

Today, the historic Linden Grove Cemetery is in remarkably good condition. All of the grass is nicely mowed and each of the stones have been freshly trimmed around. It is a wonderful place for local residents to visit and gather information from the past.

Many prominent Northern Kentuckians are laid to rest at Linden Grove Cemetery. Among the most notable is United States Congressman and former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury John G. Carlisle. Other congressmen interred in the cemetery include William Wright Southgate and William Evans Arthur. Other notables who have resting places in Linden Grove include: Thomas Kennedy, one of the founders of Covington; B.F. Howard, the founder of the African American Elks; Alexander Greer, an early entrepreneur in Covington; Asa Drury, first Superintendent of Covington Schools; Dr. Adam Kelly, an early African American physician; Ephraim Robbins, an early Trustee of the Western Baptist Theological Institute and namesake for nearby Robbins Street;



*Entrance to Linden Grove Cemetery as it appears today*

Reverend William Orr, an early Baptist preacher in the community; Dr. Louise Southgate, a pioneer female physician and women's rights advocate, and Isaac Martin, believed to be the first white male born in Kenton County (1798-1883). The cemetery also serves as the final resting place for veterans of the American Revolution, War of 1812, Indian Campaigns, Civil War (both Union and Confederate soldiers), Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War. Some of the oldest markers in the cemetery are of those whose remains were transferred from the old Craig Street Burial Ground, including: Mahia L. Clark (1807), Mary Howell (1811), and Amy Kennedy (1817). There are at least 34 tombstones in Linden Grove which date prior to 1835.

The original records of the cemetery are on file at the Kenton County Public Library in Covington. Also, a two-volume publication on the cemetery's interments is available for purchase by contacting the Kenton County Historical Society.

#### References:

*Linden Grove Cemetery, Kenton County Public Library Website—Places. Linden Grove Cemetery*, George C. Dreyer. *Cincinnati Post*, June 25, 1981, p. 1B; *Kentucky Post*, August 1, 1974, October 14, 1996, p. 12A, November 5, 1997, p. 2K, December 5, 1997, p. 1K, April 10, 1998, p. 2K, May 31, 1999, p. 4K and August 16, 2001, p. 4K; *Kentucky Enquirer*, October 3, 1968. *Linden Grove Cemetery, Wikipedia Online Encyclopedia*.



# Molly Pitcher

Taken in part from an article by John Boh

Known as a heroine in the American Revolution, Molly Pitcher's legend grew after an historic day of bravery at the battle on Monmouth, June 28, 1778. An inspiration to all, especially females, Molly's story suggests that women played a much greater role than earlier realized in the American Revolution and in America's early development in general.

According to the most popular legend, the woman was Molly Hayes, wife of artilleryman William Hayes. Molly earned the nickname "Molly Pitcher" by bringing pitcher after pitcher of cool spring water to the exhausted and thirsty men on the battlefield. She also tended to the wounded and reportedly once carried a crippled Continental soldier out of harms way on her young back. On one trip with water, Molly found her husband fatally wounded alongside his cannon. Without hesitation, Molly stepped forward and took the rammer staff from her fallen husband's hands and continued manning the barrel of the heavy weapon until the enemy retreated shortly before day-break. For her heroic role on the battlefield, General Washington himself issued her a warrant as a non-commissioned officer. Thereafter, she was widely hailed as "Sergeant Molly."

But historians are hard pressed to verify the accuracy of these tales. Most believe she was born "Mary Ludwig" in 1754, the daughter of a German father and Dutch mother and grew up on a dairy farm at Trenton, New Jersey, not far from Monmouth. The story that her husband John Hays was killed on the battlefield may be true, but it is also possible he may have suffered from heat exhaustion on a very hot day, to die sometime after the battle.

Many historians believe that Molly later married a George McCauley and resided in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. She died there in 1832. A flagstaff and cannon stand at her gravesite and a sculpture on the battle monument commemorates her courageous deed.



*Early drawing of Molly Pitcher titled, "At the gun"*

But Collins' History of Kentucky recorded early a local tale that has been recycled in various publications. Many of Northern Kentucky's early settlers came by flatboat from Pennsylvania. According to Collins, the famous Molly Pitcher's second husband was Patrick Leonard, a man who had deserted the British army to join the colonial side. The couple traveled the Ohio and settled just west of Willow Run Creek at what is now Covington. The couple had two sons, Simeon who worked in a local rolling mill, and William, who was a river trader. Interstate 71/75 was later constructed in the dried up creek bed. Leonard Street, named for the family, still exists just northwest of the interstate near the Pike Street interchange.

See Collins vol. II, page 424; Orville J. Wiggins, "History of Covington," *The Dailey Commonwealth*, April 15, 1884, April 19, 1884; Jim Reis, "Pioneers Opened Kentucky," *Pieces of the Past, The Kentucky Post*, 28 April 1986, page 4K; "Pioneer Women of Covington," *The Kentucky Post*, 21 September 1914, pages 1, 4; children's books-*They Called Her Molly Pitcher*, Ann Rockwell, New Your: Alfred Knopf, 2002; *Molly Pitcher*, Frances E. Ruffin, New York: Power Kids Press, 2002; *Those Remarkable Women of the American Revolution*, Karen Zeinert, Brookfield, Connecticut: Millbrook Press, 1996

<http://sill-www.army.mil/pao/pamolly.htm>

## A Look Back at The Headlines

*An on-going feature reliving local headlines  
from the Kentucky Post.*

*This issue features: Friday January 10, 1930.*

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### New Gymnasium Floor

The new gym at the Covington YMCA will have one of the finest floors in the state. It is scheduled to be completed next month. According to the talented construction crew, it will be the only floor of its kind this side of Chicago. The floor will be comprised of boards 4" wide with the wood set end-to-end. Nearly 150,000 blocks 2" thick will be needed. The blocks are not nailed to the floor, but are joined with a spine or key and then nailed to each other. The gym will be on the third floor of the new "Y" building at Pike and Madison.

### Advertisements

Vacuum Cleaners are offered at only \$34.95 this week at Montgomery Ward and Company, 8th and Madison, Covington. Stuart Evans Motor Company is offering a 1929 Chevrolet, less than a year old and barely driven, for \$475.

## Coming Soon and We Need Your Help!

After the success of our recent, *Northern Kentucky Fires – A Summary of the Most Memorable Fires of the Region*, the Kenton County Historical Society is working on another book, soon to be completed!

Robert Webster, same author as the Fire Book, is in the finishing stages of *The Balcony Is Closed*, a brief history of the hundreds of neighborhood movie theaters once scattered across the Northern Kentucky area. The Hipp, Madison, Liberty, Dixie Gardens, Family, Strand, and Kentucky are just a handful of the nearly one hundred cinemas to be outlined in the book.

While many great photos have been located for some of the theaters, Robert is desperately seeking more images to include. If you have any good quality photographs of any theater – or if you are aware of a little-known establishment he may have overlooked – please contact him as soon as possible! You may call the Society at (859) 431-2666, email him directly at [covingtonhistorybook@fuse.net](mailto:covingtonhistorybook@fuse.net), or phone him at his business, (859) 356-5088. Feel free to leave a message at either number.

## Would You Like To Be Published In The KCHS Bulletin!

The Kenton County Historical Society is always looking for new stories for its Bulletin. In recent issues, several articles of local interest – written by readers – have been featured.

For those of you who may feel you are not the best writer, be assured that our staff will edit your story and make it ready for publication. If you don't want to write at all, you may still want to contact us with story ideas you have. Many of the articles we have featured lately have come from ideas submitted by our subscribers!

For story ideas, contact us by phone, mail or email at the addresses below. To submit an article, either send a paper copy by mail or email it as a Word document attachment. Articles should have at least two references.

[nkyheritage.kchs@juno.com](mailto:nkyheritage.kchs@juno.com).

P.O. Box 641, Covington, KY 41012

(859) 431-2666

## Then and Now



Covington's Fire Company Number 5, located on the eastern side of Holman Avenue, three doors south of West 15th Street — circa 1940.  
The station house has since been replaced by a newer facility occupying the same corner.

## Mystery Photo

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



This is an enlargement of the original photograph taken in Linden Grove Cemetery, Covington, Ky., at Christmas time, 1914 by Wm. C. Weidling, an amateur, photographer. He saw only an attractive snow scene, but the camera caught what the eye did not see — a picture which is universally pronounced to be a likeness of Christ.

Notice the perfection of every detail of the form, the halo, the crown of thorns and the sad expression of the upturned face.

This picture is reproduced just as it came from the camera without retouching or by use of any artificial means to obtain this remarkable result.

Copyright 1915, by W. C. Weidling, 1336 Holman Ave.  
Covington, Ky.

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### ANSWER:

This is the front and back of a popular postcard circulated from 1915 to the 1930s.

The photographer believed he captured a remarkable likeness of Christ with his camera (see top left corner of the photograph).

The Kenton County Historical Society thanks Nina Wood of Chicago (formerly of Covington) for the donation of her family's scrapbook on the 1937 flood.

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