

BULLETIN

of the

Kenton County Historical Society

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



INSIDE SEE:

HISTORY OF COVINGTON
BY O.J. WIGGINS
(18th in a series)

June 1995

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 641 / Covington, KY. 41012
-June 1995-

On Tuesday, June 6, 1995, at 7:00 p. m. at the Baker-Hunt Foundation, 620 Greenup street (parking is nearby), Covington, Ms. Lois Dorman, Executive Director, will lead a tour of the Baker-Hunt mansion, classrooms, and other facilities. The Baker-Hunt property has a long history of community involvement.

Baker-Hunt offers students free classes in the visual arts. The Foundation's purpose has been stated to include the promotion of education, the arts and sciences, and religious activities. Recently work with the physically impaired has been emphasized. With the Cincinnati Association for the Blind, the Foundation has developed a sculpture program. And Baker-Hunt has art therapy for troubled children.

There also will be a short business meeting. Anyone working in local history or family history is welcome to report on the results of their research. The tour and the business meeting will be free and open to the public.

IN OUR RECENT MEETINGS members of the Kenton County Historical Society have addressed issues concerned with achieving the participation of more people. Often we have done a poor job of encouraging participation until the lack thereof becomes a pressing issue. In our recent outreach efforts we have held meetings at St. Stephen's church, Latonia, and at the Carnegie Arts Center. Attendance and business discussions have been fruitful, and the touring of these two historical sites has been enjoyable.

Presently the Kenton County Historical Society is looking for a Treasurer, and for a photo-archivist to work with the NORTHERN KENTUCKY HERITAGE magazine and with the Kenton County Public Library. Karl Lietzenmayer, Editor, has been spearheading our outreach efforts. To make the magazine a little more accessible the base subscription has been reduced from \$15.00 to \$12.00.

Karl has been receiving many written pieces for the magazine; however, given the rich heritage of our thirteen county Northern Kentucky region, there is, we note, still a shortage of material. Karl and his staff encourages submissions by authors of works on history and genealogy and welcomes offers of participation in this regional magazine. ,

HISTORY OF COVINGTON
by O. J. Wiggins
Daily Commonwealth, September 8, 1884
(Eighteenth in a series herein transcribed)

OFFICIAL RECORDS OF 1839 CONTINUED

[Wiggins' last article on "official records" was seen July 5th, 1884]

January 5, 1839--The following members of Council were elected, two from each of the four wards, in the order named, viz. Milton Lamb and Bushrod Foley; Harvey Lewis and Thomas A. Phillips; Wm. Hopkins and Alexander L. Greer; Frederick G. Gedge and Samuel Stewart. The new Council chose William Hopkins as President and Hamilton Martin to serve as City Clerk.

January 24--Council elected M. M. Benton City Attorney over John S. Finley. George B. Martin was re-elected City Treasurer without opposition. Samuel Burlew [Billew] was elected Keeper of the Poor house and Jail over Geo. Stephenson. Joseph Paxton was elected Street Commissioner over James Clark; John Colvin was elected City Assessor over Jonathan Hathaway; Samuel P. Shrope was elected City Marshal over several competitors, names not given, on the --ballot, and E. R. Bartleson was elected Public Printer over G. J. Trotter.

January 30--The election of Public Printer was re-considered and the clerk was instructed to advertise for sealed proposals for printing.

February 7--Joseph Paxton was appointed Market Master.

March 14--G. J. Trotter was elected City Printer over F. R. Bartleson, his bid being nine per cent cheaper (1).

April 25--Samuel Swope was elected City Collector over Jonathan Hathaway.

May 22--Milton Lamb resigned his seat in

Council. Joseph Paxton was removed and James Clark elected Street Commissioner.

June 3--John Mackoy was elected to fill the unexpired term of Milton Lamb in Council.

July 25--S. P. Shrope was elected Clerk of Markets.

August 1--Dr. T. N. Wise was elected Physician for the Poor-house for one year, to receive the sum of \$18 for his services.

1840

January 4--The following were elected members of Council, two from each ward in the order named: John Mackoy and Bushrod W. Foley; Calvin A. Littlefield and James G. Arnold; Hamilton Martin and Herman J. Groesbeck; Peleg Kidd and John Calvin.

January 7, 1840--Geo. B. Marshall was allowed \$75 for his services as City Treasurer during the year 1839 and Hamilton Martin \$50 for his services as City Clerk.

Hamilton Martin resigned as Clerk and A. H. Jameson was chosen clerk pro tem.

January 9--James T. [sic] Arnold was elected President of the Council. A. H. Jameson was elected City Clerk, defeating David Conabon. Geo. B. Marshall was re-elected City Treasurer without opposition. Samuel Burlew [Billew] was re-elected Keeper of Jail and Poor-house without opposition. James Clark was elected Street Commissioner, defeating John S. Tohman. M. M. Benton was re-elected City Attorney, defeating John S. Finley.

January 16--Jonathan Hathaway was elected City Marshal, defeating Reese Todhunter, Wm. Turner and Hiram B. Clemmons. James Smith Market Master, defeating Mr. Fellowes, F. G. Gedge and James Paxton.

The first step towards Public Water Works was taken in a resolution offered in Council by Mr. Littlefield as follows: Resolved. That a select committee be appointed to ascertain as near as possible under present circumstances the expedience of supplying the City of Covington with water by Water Works and report thereon to the Board as soon as practicable, which being red was referred to a Com-

mittee consisting of Messrs. Littlefield, Martin, Colvin and Mackoy.

January 23--A resolution was passed by Council asking Representatives in the Legislature to get an amendment to the city charter empowering Council to pledge the city property and revenue as security for final payment of all municipal debts.

The Committee on Ways and Means reported as the probable resources and expeditors of the city for the year 1840, viz.:

EXPENDITURES

For turnpike stock.....	\$1,200
Interest and exchange.....	1,600
Officers' fees.....	400
Cleaning streets.....	300
Wells, Cisterns.....	300
Grading streets.....	300
Paupers.....	300
Fire Department.....	100
Surveying.....	100
Council house expenses.....	50
Printing.....	75
Contingencies.....	275
	\$5,000

RESOURCES

Revenue about.....	2,500
Coffee houses and taverns.....	500
Dividends on Bank stock.....	100
Wagons carts and drays.....	100
	\$3,200

Amount notes, &c., on ex-Marshals, Collectors, etc., the most of which are due in April next payment about.....\$1,050
\$4,350

signed John Mackoy

H. Martin

Com. on Ways and Means

Daniel Savill, Samuel Pierce, William Hopkins and Isaac Martin were elected Fire Wardens for the year 1840.

January 25--The tax levy was fixed at 40 cents on each \$100 valuation of the real estate, of slaves, dry goods, groceries, drugs, and medicines, besides one dollar each on white male over 21 years of age.

March 5--Jonathan Hathaway was elected

City Collector and his bond fixed at \$5,000.

THE BEGINNING OF FREE SCHOOLS

March 26--Mr. Martin offered the following resolution, and Messrs Martin, Colvin, Littlefield, and Mackoy were appointed a committee to carry into effect:

Resolved, That a select committee be, and are hereby appointed, with instructions to inquire into and report to the Board the propriety and utility of establishing in the city of Covington, a free school by setting apart for that purpose so much revenue received from the coffee house licenses as may be necessary to pay the expenses of a teacher, etc.

RESOLVED, further, that said Committee, if by them sought expedient, report at the same time a plan for conducting said school, in order that same may be laid before the qualified voters at such time as the Council may direct.

April 23--The River spring was ordered repaired.

June 18-- James Clark was elected Wharf-master, defeating James Harlow.

July 16--An election was ordered for the 18th inst. to determine the sense of the qualified voters in regard to appropriating \$3,000 to build a Court-house and public edifices in the event the County be established at Covington.

July 23--The proposition having carries by a vote of 96 to 6, the Council passed a resolution appropriating the \$3,000 with the proviso that the County seat be established here.

July 30--James Clark resigned as Wharf-master and Jonas Harlow was [sic].

September 17--Arthur Connelly was elected member of Council to succeed B. W. Foley, who resigned Sept 7.

December 10--The Committee on Law was instructed to prepare an amendment to the City Charter extending the city limits down the Ohio river to the West side of Main street, as laid down on the map; thence South to Eleventh or High street; thence east to the Licking river which is the Eastern boundary of the

city. Stephen P. Toluran was elected Wharf Master, defeating Jacob Harding.

December 15.--A resolution was passed fixing the Southern corporate line at Twelfth street instead of Eleventh.

December 20--G. B. Marshall, City Treasurer, was allowed \$75 for his services for the year 1840, and M. M. Benton, City Attorney, \$50 for his services.

1841

The following members of the City council were chosen at the election January 2, two from each ward in the order given: John M. Jones and John Mackoy; J. G. Arnold and Calvin Littlefield; John T. Levis and Charles A. Withers; Frederick Gedge and Peter Kidd; and Harrison J. Poor and William Wasson. The last two represent the Fifth Ward, its first appearance on the municipal checker-board.

Mr. Arnold was elected President of the Board, defeating Mr. Levis. Mr. Jameson was re-elected City Clerk and G. B. Marshall City Treasurer, without opposition. A. H. Jameson was elected City Assessor, defeating E. C. Beard and Isaac Cooper. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Beard were elected Assistant Assessors, the first without opposition; but Mr. Beard was opposed by A. L. Greer and William Wandell.

James Clark was elected Street Commissioner without opposition, and Samuel Boileau [Billew] keeper of the jail poor-house, defeating Mr. Davidson. Mr. Boileau, who had been sexton of the graveyard for several years, was also re-elected to that office. Joseph Clark was elected Market-Master, defeating John Cherry. Simeon Perry was elected wood-measurer, defeating Alexander Hughes. John Kirkley was elected wharf-master, defeating Alexander Hughes and Thomas Abbott. H. J. Groesbeck was elected City Attorney, defeating M. M. Benton, Jefferson Phelps and John S. Finley.

January 21--H. G. Frye was elected City Marshal, defeating William Maxwell, James Tilman and John Calvin. Jonathan Hathaway declined to run.

Joseph Clark, refusing to qualify as Mar-

ket Master, Simon [Simeon] Perry was elected defeating - W. Leathers. Simon Perry was also elected Wharf Master, Mr. Kirkley refusing to serve

Daniel Savill, Moses Woodyard, Jackson Sparrow, Isaac Martin and William Wandell were elected Fire Wardens, one from each ward in the order names.

February 4.--The tax levy was fixed at the same rate as for 1840, viz 40 cents with the tithe tax and a tax of one dollar for a dog, and five dollars for a bitch was added.

March 4--An ordinance appointing a Board of School Visitors and defining their duties was passed. The Board was to consist of five citizens to be appointed in the month of March in each year. The City Clerk is made Clerk for their Board and the City Treasurer authorized to pay warrants drawn by them. They are given full control of the Common schools, but required to make a detailed statement semi-annually to the City Council. For the year 1841 the Visitors were licensed to open one school and their expenditures fixed as not to exceed four hundred dollars (2).

March 18--The Street Commissioner's salary was fixed at \$150 per annum.

School visitors were elected one from each Ward as follows, Henry M. Buckner, Philip S. Bush, M. M. Benton, Geo. B. Marshall and E. C. Beard.

May 6--H. G. Frye, City Marshal, resigning, Jonathan Hathaway was elected to succeed him.

May 27--John Mackoy resigned as member of Council from the First Ward.

June 29--James Adams, elected to succeed John Mackoy as member of Council June 23d, qualified and took his seat.

July 8--the City Clerk, appointed to take the census reported population of the city of Covington on the first day of July, 1841:

RECAPITULATION

[NOTE: THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS ARE UNRELIABLE BECAUSE THEY ARE ONLY SEMI-LEGIBLE IN THE

ORIGINAL AND NOT TRANSCRIBED WITHOUT ERRORS]

1st ward	2nd ward	3rd ward	4th ward	5th ward	total	total
M - F	M - F	M - F	M - F	M - F	M - F	M - F
ages						
Under 7						
81	48	46	50	51	69	49
45	50	51	286-291	577		
Between 7 & 17						
57	61	58	57	76	70	51
60	53	69	298-311	608		
Between 17 & 30						
91	79	76	57	82	81	81
71	84	60	414-348	762		
Between 30 & 50						
73	59	48	37	52	50	49
38	50	34	280-232	502		
Over 50						
12	18	12	9	14	17	12
19	7	5	57-65	122		
Free colored						
3	3	-	-	1	2	-
-	-	-	4-5	9		
Slaves						
3	17	7	12	4	11	22
16	1	10	41-65	207		

Total sexes						
Males						
325	247	280	267	266	1,380	2,688
Females						
303	222	380	249	232	1,308	
total each ward						
625	409	580	516	498	2,688	
Total males 1,380 Total females 1,380						
Total population 2,688 (3)						

END NOTES

1. George J. Trotter was also a local newspaper publisher. The Western Globe, was published each Saturday by George J. Trotter, "three doors below Greenup street, Market Space, Covington, Kentucky" (W. G. 10-11-39). Yankee Doodle was published every Wednesday evening by George J. Trotter, same location (Y. D. 7-29-40).

2. Having stated that "the early newspapers and City Council records are the only sources" about Covington's early schools, Howard H. Mills, Principal of Holmes High School, in 1940 wrote the following under the subtitle "Rise of Common Schools 1841-1851": "The private schools and seminaries continued in unrivaled glory and no definite provision was made by the City Council for free education prior to 1841. The first ordinance in regard to public education was passed in 1841. But Mills also refers under the subtitle "First Free Schools" to "a subscription school" in 1825 for

which money was raised to "instruct children in the essentials of education." And in 1830 City Council appropriated \$100 "to be used for a free school." And in 1836 "a one-room log cabin was purchased by the city for the sum of \$150" and was "located on the bank of the Ohio River at the foot of Garrard street." But after 1830 "seven private schools sprang up within the next nine years" (Howard H. Mills, "Rise of Covington's System of Schools is Narrated by Principal," 100th Anniversary Issue, Cincinnati Times Star, 1840-1940, April 25, 1940). In 1798 the Newport Academy was created by the state legislature and it received financial aid in the form of a land grant. In 1819 the city of Covington placed the little log school house on the public square where James G. Arnold and others taught school, and in 1830 a "new public school" was built, etc. (John Burns, "History of Covington to 1865," unpublished). In the earlier years the city usually provided a "free" school building, but did not then provide the systematic access, financing, and educational requirements seen later.

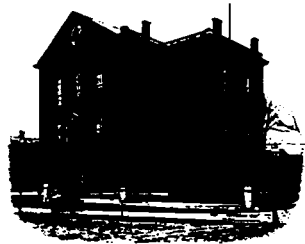
3. The population of Covington: in 1830--743; in 1840--2,026; in 1850--9,408 (City of Covington departmental records) The population of Kenton County: in 1840--7,816; in 1850--17,038 (C. J. 2-17-72)

(Transcription and end notes by John Boh)

CORRECTION: HISTORY OF COVINGTON, By O. J. Wiggins, August, 16, 1884, 17th in the series: "The city has 100 shares of stock in the Covington and Lexington Turnpike Road at \$50 per share....\$5,000."



CITY HALL AND COURT HOUSE, COVINGTON, KY.



COVINGTON'S FIRST PERMANENT CITY HALL AND COURTHOUSE (1843-1899). THE PICTURE ON THE RIGHT SHOWS IT AFTER IT HAD BEEN REMODELED EXTENSIVELY IN THE EARLY 1870S.

APRIL MEETING AT CARNEGIE CENTER

ADDRESS SOCIETY PERFORMANCE & NEEDS

After a fascinating discussion about the Carnegie Arts Center and its origins by director Arleen Gibeau, the business meeting dealt with examining a draft of a proposed questionnaire for the general membership and announcement of NKH Magazine subscription rate reduction. Since many "needs" of the Society were mentioned, some of the members present suggested that those needs be specifically listed and member volunteers be solicited through the Bulletin. Some of those needs are:

1. A member or members to collect and store old area photos and possibly work with the Kenton County Library photo collection. The job would entail advertising this need to the public and assist in cataloging.
2. Partly due to the impending NKH subscription rate reduction, an urgent need for grant money will be needed. A member willing to research the grant sources by surveying the grant agencies and identifying appropriate grants so that applications can be written.
3. The Society needs a treasurer. Keeping the accounts and writing a few checks to pay bills.
4. Occasional help is needed for mass mailings. Member volunteers would be on call when this assistance is needed.
5. A committee to identify neglected area historical subjects and publicize them through the Bulletin to encourage writers to come forward.
6. Committee to create a mechanism to allow easier access to nominating process in Society officer elections.

Drop a note to the Society to indicate your interest in any of the above (or your personal project) or call the Society secretary Karl Lietzenmayer (606)261-2807.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY HERITAGE MAGAZINE

Subscription will be \$12.00 per year to those persons already belonging to participating organizations in the Northern Kentucky region; membership/subscription in the Kenton County Historical Society is \$25.00, \$20.00 for Senior Citizens and Students. The lead story in the last (Fall/Winter 1994-1995) issue was, "Northern Kentucky Had Covered Bridges, too." Back issues are available.

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

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