

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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KCHS MEETING

DATE June 8, 1999 7 PM

PROGRAM The Underground Railroad

FEATURING Ted Harris, member and former Board member.

PLACE Carneal House
405 East 2nd St.
Covington

Ted Harris will present slides to illustrate his talk on the Underground Railroad, the escape from slavery, including the tunnel from the Carneal House leading to the Licking River.

Refreshments will be served on the veranda of Carneal House in the soft light of a June evening.

Bulletin

June 1999

From the President.....

For our August program, the Society will join with other sponsors in a conference for R.E.S.P.E.C.T. (Reaching Every Student, Parent, & Educator Curriculum Training) at Holmes High School on Saturday, August 7. Mr. Bobby Delaughter, Mississippi prosecuting attorney will be keynote speaker. His subject will be racism in schools and community.

Mr. Delaughter successfully prosecuted the murderer of Medger Evers, and will discuss this famous case which inspired the movie "Ghosts of Mississippi."

This project has been initiated by Church Women United of Covington. They are soliciting contributions to help fund this important project. Please consider supporting this vital community program. Donations in any amount would be gratefully accepted. Send to:

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.
c/o Covington Community Center,
P. O. Box 1020
Covington, Kentucky 41012

For more information from the internet, visit: www.kenton.k12.ky.us/MULTIED/respect.htm.



Ted Harris



Carneal House

E-MAIL nkheritage.kchs@juno.com WEB SITE <http://www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoe/>

Rich Family Tree Denotes Rich Heritage in Kenton County Area

by John Boh

Thomas and Stephen Rich left their Quaker family in Pennsylvania, and traveled the rivers and creeks to settle in Boone County. [This story primarily traces the descendants of Stephen Rich who eventually settled in Kenton County. It reveals the rich heritage of the Rich family in Northern Kentucky.]

Thomas settled near Big Bone where some descendants have remained. Other descendants from the family of Thomas' grandson, Charles Coulson Rich (1809-1883), resettled in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa. Furthermore, this family converted to the Mormon religion and later promoted their religion in California, Utah, and in Idaho where Charles is buried.¹

Stephen Rich, born in 1757, had married Jane Blackburn in Cecil County, Maryland. Tax records show that they paid taxes in Campbell County on property located in present-day Kenton County. Later their estate of 450 acres was divided equally among nine children, five of them sons: Samuel, Alfred, Stephen, Jr., Joseph, and John.²

Only the youngest of their five boys, John, was born in Kentucky in 1797, when Stephen was 40 years of age. John married Susan Ross Rich and had eight children. They lived "approximately at the corner of Sleepy Hollow and Old State Road." John and Susan's oldest son, Samuel R. Rich (1818-1895), was a farmer located at present-day Ft. Mitchell. His oldest daughter, Sarah, married John Leathers, who was twice elected to two-year terms as Kenton County Sheriff.³

Stephen and Jane Blackburn Rich's second youngest son, Joseph (born 1789 or 1791 in Pennsylvania) married three times. His first wife, Sally Kyle, was, it was said, a sister of Jacob Kyle (Kyle's Lane). In the early Campbell County courthouse records, Joseph was named along with his brother, Allen, as well as Alfred Sanford, William Moore and Joseph Kennedy. They were ordered to mark a road "from said Carneal's Ferry to intersection of the Georgetown Road

by Joseph Kennedy's...."⁴

Joseph Rich had six children. For many years his youngest, Joseph Willis Rich (1841-1911) supplied stone and was a contractor located in present-day Park Hills on the Lexington Pike. Known as "Stonequarry Joe," he was credited by one source with building the "first mile" of the "old Lexington Turnpike," (now Dixie Highway) and other streets. According to the 1895 city directory, he also once was "Secretary" (owner?) of the Covington Sand and Stone Company, 1205 Madison. Joseph Willis married Virginia Arnold, daughter of Moses and Sarah Owens. They had twelve children, six of whom died in infancy. One daughter, Florence E. Rich, did not marry. She gathered data for the Rich family tree. One of Joseph Willis Rich's grandsons was Wallace Stewart Rich who was a Vice-President of the Stewart Iron Works, Covington.

The third youngest son of Stephen and Jane Blackburn Rich, Stephen, Jr., born 1787 in Pennsylvania, married Nancy Drucker. They had eleven children. Their children included Jane who married Dr. Piner, Elizabeth who married Robert Mann, and Joseph ("Brickhouse Joe") who married Missouri Bell Elliot. Stephen Jr., was buried at Piner in southern Kenton County.⁵

Early Campbell County Courthouse records show that "Stephen Rich" (Senior or Junior?) was ordered to help lay out new road sections. These orders referred to one point where Grassy Creek intersected with a road, and another, the road to Falmouth, as "Stephen Rich's lane."⁶

The fourth youngest (and second oldest) son of Stephen and Jane Blackburn Rich, Alfred ("Allen") Rich (born 1787 in Pennsylvania), married Nancy Helm, and they had three children. Their oldest son, Allen, born 1825, married Louisa A. Hallem, and they had nine children. Their fifth child, George, born 1854, appears to have been located on Sleepy Hollow Road (near Ft. Rich) in the 1883 County Atlas. He once also had a grocery store at Banklick and Robbins

Streets in Covington. Allen's oldest of nine, Ira, had a son, Bert, who earned a reputation for his furniture and moving and storage business, and for effective placement of advertising slogans. Bert and his second wife, Ann Dressman, had three children, Vivian, Nona, and Bert, Jr. Allen also had, it appears, a twin brother, Joseph B. Rich (1825-1881), who was a farmer, and whose widow is listed as located on Old State Road in the 1883 County Atlas.

The oldest or first son of Stephen and Jane Rich was Samuel (born 1777 in Pennsylvania). Samuel located "on Grassy Creek," which flows more or less between Kenton and Pendleton Counties (Rich genealogy). Samuel married Sarah Rittenhouse, and they had eleven children.⁷

When Samuel passed away (possibly in 1843) his 1469 acres were divided among his wife and Alfred, Joseph, Stephen, Samuel, Jr., Blucher, Margaret, Caroline, Susan, Harriet, and Flora. (Another daughter, Jane, may have been deceased). Upon Sarah's death her property was divided among Harriet Williams and Thomas Williams (son and daughter both married spouses named Williams), and Blucher, who received the major portion of over 200 acres including the "homestead" house on "Falmouth Road."⁸

In an interview with Waurega McNay Rich, Ms. Rich believed that Rich Road was "built" in the 1860s by the sons of Samuel Rich, Jr. (1818-1892), grandsons to Samuel and Sarah Rittenhouse Rich. Rich Road lays on a ridge which divides Cruise's Creek from Little Cruise's Creek west of where they join to flow, like Grassy Creek to the south, into the Licking River. Rich Road also provides a more direct route between the city of Piner and the city of Morning View, and the road appears to bisect land all of which was once owned by a Rich.⁹

Most of the dentists, physicians, attorneys (and maybe politicians) from the Rich family were descended from Samuel Jr., nicknamed "Devil Sam," and from his

MAGISTERIAL DIST. No. 1
RUSH'S
KENTON CO.
Scale 9 Inches to the Mile.

- 1. Geo. Rich
- 2. Jos. W.
- 3. Mrs. J. B.
- 4. Jos. W.
- 5. S. B. Rich



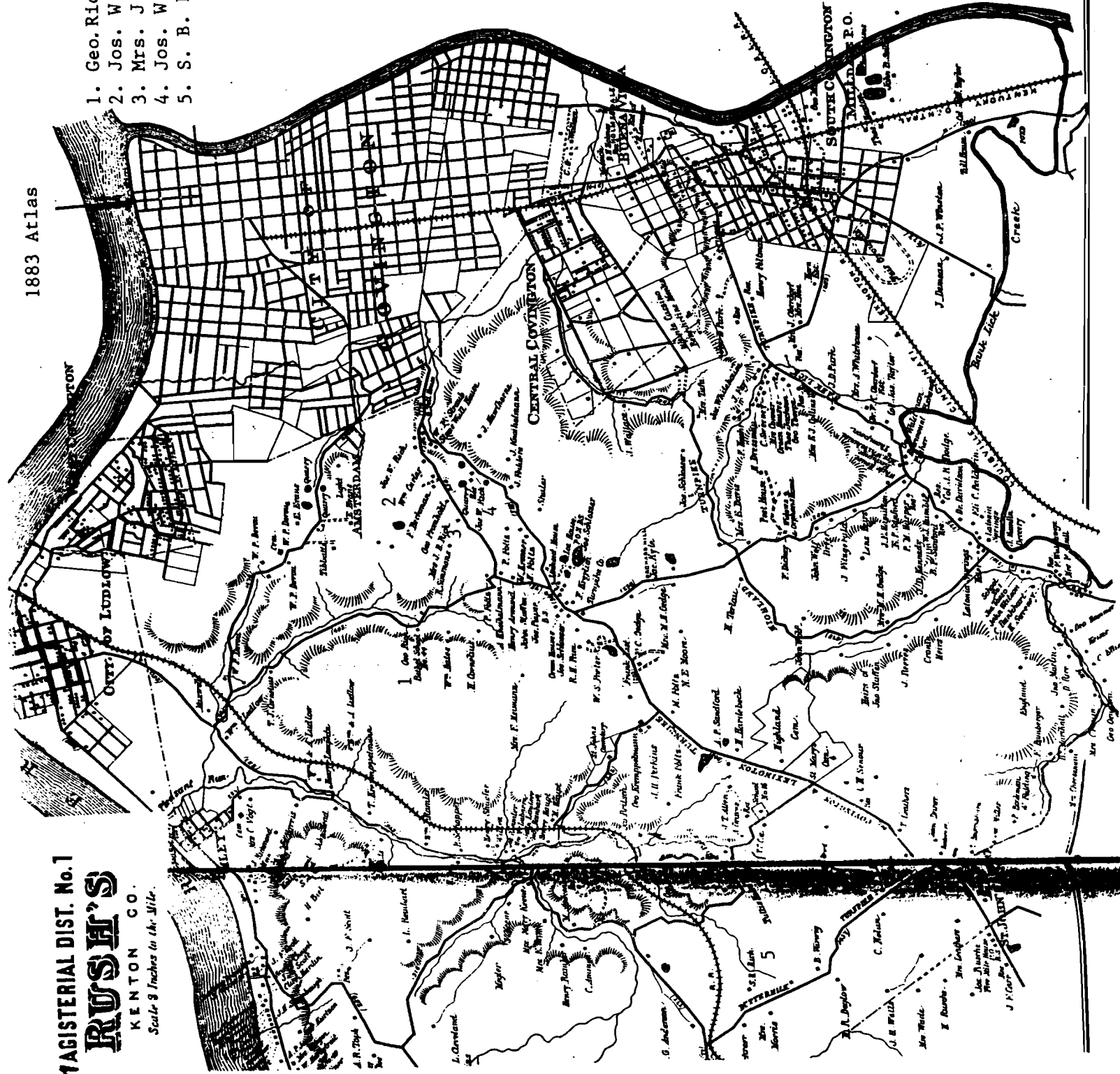
Marjorie Rich



Dr. Murray Rich



RALPH RICH
City Manager



wife, Mary Stowers, a descendent of a "sister of Daniel Boone."¹⁰

One of Devil Sam's sons, John Stephen Rich (1857-1939), had eight children. Two of them were dentists: Dr. Albert Rich, from Piner practiced in Covington in the Coppin Building, Erlanger, and other locations, but who settled in Williamstown,¹¹ and Dr. Stephen Rich, practiced in an office at 1037 Madison Street, Covington.

Another of John Stephen's sons, Blucher, married Susan Elliot. They had seven children, two of whom were also dentists: Dr. Charles A. Rich (office at Pike and Madison), and Alfred, an oral surgeon, located in the Doctor's Building on East Seventh Street, Covington. Alfred's son, Dr. James R. Rich (born 1927) physician, who was recently practicing in the Taylor Mill area.¹²

Devil Sam and Mary Stowers' son Joseph Rich (1847-1926), married Helen Lambert, daughter of John Lambert. (He was born in 1812 in Ireland and was a "charter member" of First Baptist in Covington. He then moved out to the country and helped "organize" Oak Island Baptist Church now relocated to Moffett Road.) However, Joseph Rich moved to Covington, became a policeman, and became superintendent of the Ludlow Lagoon Amusement Park.

One of Joseph's and Helen's sons was Dr. Samuel P. Rich. A daughter, Flora, became a schoolteacher, and married The Reverend John L. Maddox. Another son, Robert L. Rich, became a fireman for Cincinnati, New Orleans, and Pacific Railroad (also known as the Cincinnati Southern), and also a railroad engineer's union official.

Joseph and Helen's oldest child, John Lambert Rich (died 1930), became a prosperous attorney and was a Master Commissioner for six years.¹³ He did commercial work in various locations, including Cincinnati for the prominent corporate law office of Maurice Galvin which did much work on both sides of the river.¹⁴ Joseph Lambert married Bertha "Aitchenson." Their three children, Marjorie, Murray, and Ralph, grew up at 412 Garrard Street, Covington, the rear

property line of which is on the west bank of the Licking River. The house is still there.

Marjorie Rich became a teacher and once served as Dean of Girls at Holmes High School. Dr. Murray L. Rich saw service in World War II, and became a Covington physician for some 30 years in the Doctors building, 33 East Seventh Streets.¹⁵

Ralph, the youngest child, born in 1938-39, was a partner in the law firm McGarry, Rich, and Goodenough. In 1954 his firm was McGarry, Rich and Bryson. He served for years also in the Covington City Solicitor's Office. He was also appointed City Manager in 1958 (interim), 1960-62 and 1964-66.¹⁶ Between his two full terms as City Manager, he was retained because of his legal experience to "prepare plans for acquiring land" for the new Internal Revenue Service Center. This was arranged through congressman Brent Spence's office. It opened in the early 1960's.¹⁷

At the time of his death in 1977, only Ralph's wife, Nancy Drucker Rich, and brother, Dr. Murray Rich, were listed as survivors. His wife died in 1979. According to a cousin, Ralph occasionally visited his relatives on Rich Road.¹⁸

So it can be noted that Marjorie, Murray, and Ralph were not descended from John, the youngest son of Stephen and Jane Blackburn Rich who had in the old days located in the immediate vicinity of Covington, present-day Sleepy Hollow Road. Instead, Marjorie, Murray and Ralph were descended from Samuel Rich, the first son of Stephen and Jane Blackburn Rich, who had settled at the southern end of the county north of Grassy Creek. Nevertheless, in the migration of great-grandson, Joseph Rich, (1847-1926) to the city of Covington, success was found by many of the Rich children, as well as those in the southern part of Kenton County.

It should be noted that several persons named Rich also lived in Cincinnati before the Civil War. Then in 1873 Thomas B. Rich, a conductor for the Pacific Coast and St. Louis Railroad, lived in the Queen City. In the late 1880s,

Thomas B. was still there, and David W. Rich had begun a long career as a Post Office employee. Years later in 1918, Carl W. Rich was listed as a depot passenger agent for the Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland Railroad. But Carl W. Rich eventually became an attorney, politician and public official (such as city solicitor, Judge, Congressman) and in between served as Mayor of Cincinnati for "three non-successive terms" in the late 1940s and early 1950s. However, local records do not indicate that the Carl Rich family was related to the prominent Rich families of Kenton County Kentucky.¹⁹

This is a slightly revised version of an article which appeared in the KCHS Bulletin in October 1993.

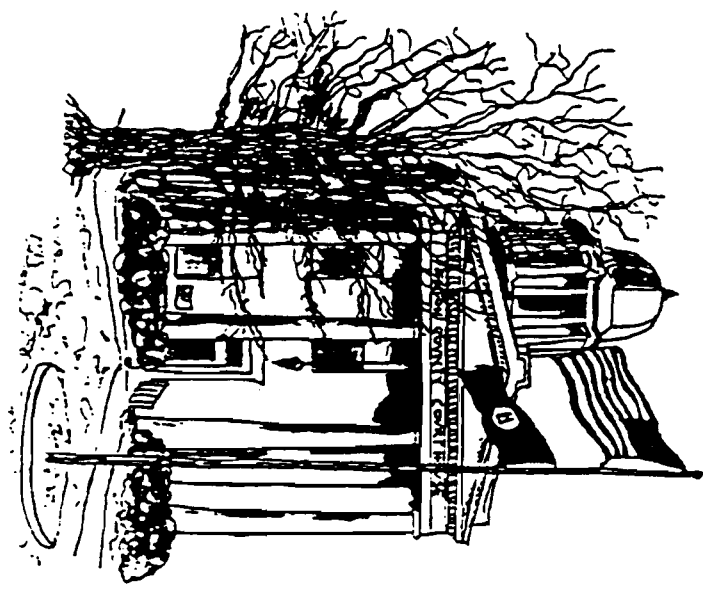
End Notes

1. The Kentucky Post, 9-24-1991.
2. Flora Rich Maddox and Florence E. Rich. "Pioneer Families of Kentucky." Christopher Gist Papers, volume 6, March 22, 1955.
3. Maddox and Rich: 1883 county atlas; obituary, The Kentucky Post, 3-17-1910; The Daily Commonwealth, 8-2-1880 and 8-12-1882.
4. Campbell County Order book, November 28, 1820.
5. Rich genealogy.
6. Campbell County Order Books, August 27, 1821; May 26, 1828.
7. Street directory; Maddox and Rich: Rich genealogy.
8. Campbell County Inventories, Book 1, November 29, 1843; Book 4, December 3, 1960.
9. Interview, Waurega McNay Rich by John Boh.
10. Maddox and Rich.
11. Obituary, The Kentucky Post, 11-23-84.
12. Street directory.
13. Covington street directory; Ludlow directory, 1902-03; Maddox and Rich.
14. Interview with Mr. Lewis Levy (Geoghegan, Levy & Daly, 105 East Fourth Street) by John Boh, July 2, 1992.
15. Maddox and Rich: obituary, The Kentucky Post, 9-14-84.
16. City directories.
17. The Kentucky Post and Times-Star front page story, 1-24-62.
18. Obituary, The Kentucky Post, 3-22-77; obituary, The Kentucky Post, 10-23-79; interview, Alberta Lockhart by John Boh, July 15, 1993.
19. Street directories; local newspaper index.

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bulletin

June 1999



INSIDE:

Long Rich History in Kenton County

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

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Permit #297

The Erlanger Historical Society needs a person to serve as host/hostess at the Depot Museum each Saturday from May through September noon to 4 pm. Compensation \$35/day. Call Mary McClure at 727-8730.

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