

# BULLETIN

of the

## Kenton County Historical Society

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



**INSIDE SEE:**

**HISTORY OF COVINGTON**  
**BY O.J. WIGGINS**  
**(15th in a series)**

**March 1995**

**KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 641/ Covington, Ky 41012**

**The March program:** On Saturday, March 4th, at Northern Kentucky University, the Kenton County Historical Society will participate in "CELEBRATING NORTHERN KENTUCKY'S HERITAGE, 1995." Like other organizations KCHS members will have a display table and will also attend the workshops and speeches. This History Day will begin with registration (\$2.00 to preregister; \$3.00 at the door) from 9:00 to 9:45 AM and will last until 3:30-3:45 PM. The public is invited to attend. Many will remember a similar History Day last year (February 19) which and was a big success.

Check for details in the schedule for March 4th on the back cover of this bulletin.

**THE HISTORICAL CONFEDERATION OF KENTUCKY**

The Historical Confederation of Kentucky is an educational arm of the Kentucky Historical Society, with a membership of about 140 organizations. Last November the Confederation gave out awards to various organizations, and several from our Northern Kentucky region received recognition. These included the following: the city of Covington, the Behringer-Crawford Museum, and the Kenton County Public Library for the exhibit, "Bottles, Buttons, and Bones: An Archaeological Investigation of 19th Century Covington"; the Kentucky Covered Bridge Association for its quarterly newsletter; and the Grant County Historical Society for its History of Grant County.

**RE: TYPOS IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE**

Computer difficulties instigated errors including these: "Street car," "Street Cat." In the HISTORY OF COVINGTON, July 12, 1884, the following: "herby" for, hereby; superfluous commas and periods; "18466" for, 1846; "as a subsequent meeting" for, at a subsequent meeting; "at a meeting go" for, at a meeting of; and "As a salary of \$300 years for, at a salary of \$300 year (Wiggins' phrase).

## HISTORY OF COVINGTON

By O. J. Wiggins

Daily Commonwealth, July 26, 1884

(Fifteenth in a Series)

(continued)

At a meeting July 27, 1848, the question of the legality of the vestry was discussed, as the charter provides that the vestrymen or trustees shall, within sixty days, from their election, cause their names to be recorded in the office of the Circuit Court of the county, and it appearing that it was not complied with, caused demands as to whether they were a legal body or not. At this time the ladies of the parish offered, through Eliza S. Forrester, to raise \$400 within five years towards the church debt, if the gentlemen of the vestry would raise the balance. The offer was not accepted as the balance could not be raised in that time. January 18, 1849, Rev. Mr. Moore offered his resignation, to take effect on Easter of that year. It was accepted. Rev. Mr. Gallagher was called to the rectorship April 1, 1849. He accepted the call and took charge of the Parish May 13, 1849.

At a meeting September 12, 1850 Messrs. Sparrow and Gedge were appointed a committee to have the church lot surveyed, and to have the stone wall which now stands at the north side of the church built to protect the foundation against damages from the alley, which was being graded below the foundation by the City Council. September 30, 1850, Mr. Gallagher was authorized to have constructed a pulpit and reading desk. Mr. Bird gave the reading desk to match the pulpit which was purchased. In the early part of 1851 a fair and concert was given by the ladies which netted \$326. At this time all but \$288 36 had been paid. Mr. Sparrow tendered his resignation as vestryman, clerk and treasurer. He had been clerk and vestryman since the organization of the parish. Mr. Sparrow was reelected vestryman April 1st, 1851. Mr. Gallagher resigned as rector 15th of September 1851. Rev. Wm. Newton was called to the

rectorship October, 1851, and he accepted. Up to 1851 no night services had been held in the church, but at that time lamps were procured and regular Sunday evening services were held. At the time Mr. Newton was called he was not ordained. His ordination took place afterwards, and his commencement as rector of the church dated from Dec. 1, 1851 (1). At a meeting in the early part of 1852 the Secretary reported having had the vestry recorded according to law. At a meeting Oct. 5, 1852, the thanks of the vestry were extended to W. G. Ball for the gift of a marble fountain. Gas was placed in the church in the early part of 1854 (2). The parish was in a flourishing condition at the time and at a meeting of the vestry, July 16, 1854, it was decided that the church ought to be enlarged.

At this meeting the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we duly appreciate the labors of our rector, the Rev. Mr. Newton, and are devoutly thankful for the blessings which have attended his ministrations in his present field of labor; that to his zeal and untiring efforts out of the pulpit, coupled with the true exposition of God's word in it, we attribute under God's blessing the present prosperity of this parish.

The Rector's salary was increased to \$250.

Matters moved along smoothly until November 27, 1854, when Mr. Newton offered his resignation as rector, to take effect, December 17th. The resignation was accepted with much sorrow from the whole vestry.

The congregation upon hearing of the resignation objected strongly, as Mr. Newton was much beloved by them. He had accepted a call from Westchester, Pennsylvania.

The vestry of Trinity wrote to Westchester, asking the church there to release Mr. Newton, but they declined. Rev. Mr. Bryant was called, and accepted the rectorship at a salary of \$1000 per annum. He entered upon his duties May 1855, and served till June 12th, 1856 when he offered his resignation

which was accepted (3).

Rev. Mr. Hodges was called to the Church November 6, 1856 and accepted at a salary of \$1,200 per annum. He resigned March 1, 1858 to accept a better call. His resignation was accepted with regret by the vestry and by the entire congregation as he was much liked.

Rev. Dr. T. M. Ralston was next called to the rectorship. He accepted and entered upon his duties August 17, 1858.

In September and October 1858 the church was repaired and enlarged by setting the chancel in a recess, and a vestry room built. The cost was \$495. A festival was given by the ladies December 21, 1858 which netted \$189 95. The affairs went along smoothly till April, 1859 (sic), when the necessity of enlarging the church was discussed. In May, of the same year, the lot adjoining the church on the south, with a frontage of 40 feet was purchased for \$1,500, and the lot adjoining the church on the east, fronting thirty-three feet on the alley by eighty feet deep, was purchased for \$900. During the latter part of the year the church was enlarged. The east end was built back a considerable distance, and a transept about one-third the size of the present one built on the south side of the building. The total cost was \$3,843 42. D. R. Williams, Esq., had the contract for enlarging the building, and he did his work in such a satisfactory manner that the vestry gave him the use of pew No. 42 free for one year.

The church was consecrated by Bishop South March 1st, 1860.

Rev. Mr. Ralston resigned as rector June 1st, 1860.

The church was without a rector till Sept., 23 when Rev. C. G. Currie of Cincinnati, who had been called, took charge.

At a vestry meeting February 6, 1861, a resolution of thanks was tendered to Mr. Amos Shinkle for a liberal donation of \$25, Mr. Shinkle gave various sums to the church after this (4).

At a meeting of June 4, 1862, a committee

was appointed to ascertain the cost of building a Sunday school room. [Note: It is not built yet].

Rev. Mr. Tibbats, a deacon, was employed to assist the rector June 3, 1863 (5).

Rev. Mr. Currie resigned as rector April 5, 1868. The church was without a rector till October. Several rectors were called but declined.

Rev. D. H. Greer of Clarksburg, West Va. was called and accepted the rectorship and took charge October 18, 1868.

At this time the advisability of establishing a chapel at South Covington was discussed, and in November 1869, Mr. Geo. W. Jones gave the church a lot 100 x 200 feet for that purpose.

Mr. Jackson Sparrow resigned as treasurer May, 1879, after having faithfully performed the duties of that office for a great many years. Mr. J. E. Botsford was appointed in his place (6).

The Mission Chapel at South Covington was built the early part of 1870, and Rev. C. H. Kellogg put in charge. The chapel was consecrated October 16th, 1870, under the name of Trinity Chapel, by Bishop Smith (7).

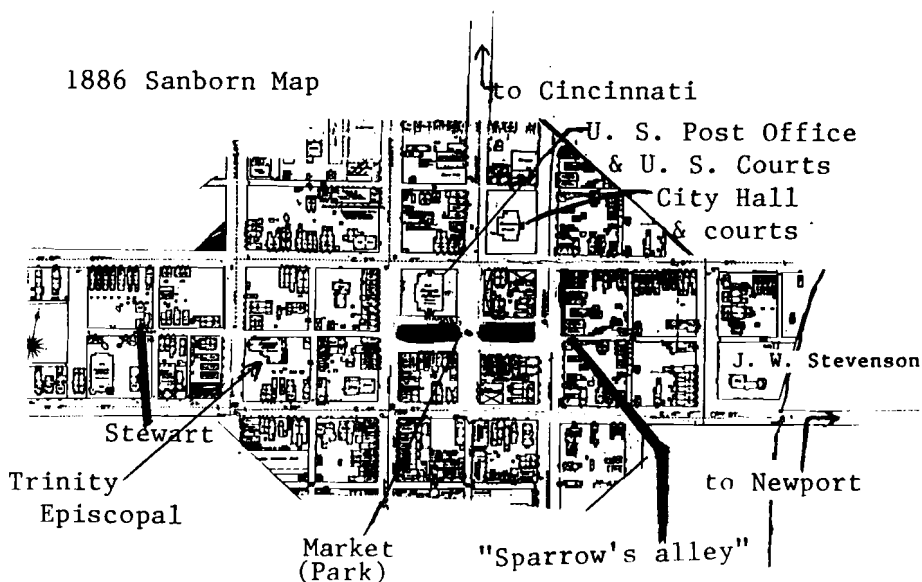
In 1871, bondstock the extent of \$1,300 were sold to provide for the extension of the seating capacity of Trinity church. Mr. Greer resigned as rector June 3rd, 1871. Rev. Isaac Gibson, of Louisville, was next called to the rectorship, and he entered upon his duties June 11th 1871. At a meeting July 14th, 1871, it was ordered that the church be enlarged by building a room at the southwest corner of the angle for the organ and to extend the transept out to the south line of the lot; the estimated cost of which was \$4,000. The work was begun at once, and finished by Christmas of that year. The church was damaged by fire January 30th, 1872. The loss was \$1,529 on building and furniture, and \$75 of the organ, which was fully covered in the Kenton Insurance company. While the church was being repaired Odd Fellows Hall was used by the congregation. The total cost of the enlargement

and improvements of the church including new furnaces, slate roof, carpets, etc. was \$12,069 92. The Rev. G. F. Bugbee of Philadelphia was next called, He accepted and entered upon his duties Ash Wednesday, 1873. He served till October, 1879 when he resigned and went back to Philadelphia. He served Trinity Church as Rector six years seven months and four days. The church was without a rector fourteen months and Bishop Dudley had charge of the parish part of that time. Rev. S. W. Young, of Louisville, was next called. He accepted and entered his duties November 1, 1880. He is still the rector, and is much liked by the congregation. The chancel and railing were remodeled and improved July 1881. The beautiful corona light in the church above the altar was the gift of Mr. J. W. Baker (8).

The lot on the south side of the church which now forms a part of the yard was a gift to the church of the Hon. M. M. Benton (9).

Gov. J. W. Stevenson, who was a member of the first vestry in 1842, is now Senior Warden of the present vestry.

Trinity Parish is now one of the most flourishing in the city.



## ENDNOTES

1. Reverend William Newton: Lay Reader, September to December 1, 1851; Minister-in-Charge, December 1, 1851 to November 29, 1852; Rector, November 14, 1852 to December 17, 1854 (The Story of Trinity Episcopal Church in Covington, compiled and researched by George F. Roth, Jr., published by Trinity Episcopal church, revised edition, 1991).

2. December 28, 1853, Covington was "lighted with gas" (Lewis Collins, History of Kentucky, revised by Richard Collins, 1874 volume 1).

3. The term of Trinity's sixth Rector, the Reverend Wm. F. Bryant, is listed as ending August 1, 1856. Then, too, it is recorded that Rev. Bryant died of a heart attack, the very same month (The Story of Trinity...).

4. Up to the time of the Civil War Amos Shinkle's church affiliation was apparently of dubious nature. But eventually he was influenced by friends (probably including Ulysses S. Grant and his parents) to join the Methodist church. Soul searching during the Civil War was said to have lead him to finally join the Methodist Church after which he became the dominating presence, its wealthiest member, and its most valuable financial source, including for the construction of the new Union Methodist Church at the southwest corner of Fifth and Greenup, which was dedicated in July 1867. Shinkle became Superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School. Beginning in 1867 Shinkle also led in establishing first a chapel. Then later he purchased the site and provided financial assistance for construction of Shinkle M. E. Church located on East Fifteenth street until recent years. ("One Hundred and Sixty Years, 1805-1965, The History of First United Methodist Church"; Myron A. Bailey, "Early Churches of Kenton County," unpublished).

5. Reverend William Tibbats may (or may not) have been related to John W. Tibbats who in the 1840s practiced law with Charles J. Helm from offices on Market Place in Covington and on York Street in Newport. He served in the state legislature and two terms as a Congressman, and also was a Colonel in the Mexian War. He died at age 51 in Newport (obituary C. J., 7-10-52).

6. Jackson Sparrow, born in England, baker, Greenup, opposite Market place (1839-40 Directory). In 1884 Jackson Sparrow died at his residence in the 300 block of Garrard at the age of 86. Born near London, England, Sparrow had been a resident of Covington for fifty-one years and "for more than half a century a devoted member of the Protestant Episcopal church". The "bride of his youth" had died in 1882. His funeral was held on April 23rd, 1884 from Trinity church (obituary, D. C., 4-22-84).

7. In 1863 Trinity established its first mission on the north-east corner of Longworth (now Church) and Southern avenue. During 1867-69 Trinity also organized a "mission or school" in Ludlow, Ken-



tucky. But in 1890 a committee was ordered to sell the mission church in Milldale (now Latonia) and to purchase a lot at the northeast corner of Eighteenth and Scott streets, it was said, for the convenience of Episcopal citizens so involved as the city was expanding southward. In 1894 the mission became a separate congregation. Then in the years after World War I it was decided to consolidate St. John's congregation with that of Trinity. In 1929 St. John's church building was sold to the Salvation Army (The Story of Trinity...). But then in the aftermath of reorganization and other maneuvers of the Methodist congregations in Covington, by November 1930 the purchase of St. John's by St. Luke's Methodist South was completed ("The History of First Methodist Church").

The Trinity church history also notes that the Bishop of the diocese later organized a mission church and built St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Latonia in 1910 (The Story of Trinity...).

8. The decade 1880-1890 saw the donation of wood carvings by women of Trinity. In 1882 Mrs. Mary Ashbrook donated "the set of alms basins and receiving basin" which were carved by Mrs. E. F. Abbott and Mrs. F. P. Wolcott. Other carvings later included "clergy stalls and desks, choir stalls, screens surrounding the chancel, the three panels in the communion table and the large panels either side of the sanctuary window. All...done by the women of Trinity." A teacher at the McMicken School of Design in Cincinnati, Mr. Benn Pitman, influenced the style, and women in Cincinnati led by Mrs. Pittman, maiden name Nourse, from Covington, probably gave some "original impetus." Mrs. Kate E. Perry Mosher, a student of Pittman, a charter member of the Covington Art Club, supervised the "Trinity work" and "did much of the work herself" (see "Women of Trinity," and a sketch of Mrs. Mosher, and pictures of wood carvings opposite page 186, in The Story of Trinity...).

9. Mortimer M. Benton (1807-1885) was born in Benton, Ontario County, New York. He studied law in Cincinnati, and in 1828 moved to Covington where he began to practice law with Jefferson Phelps, one of the city's foremost attorneys. In 1834 Benton was elected first Mayor of Covington. In 1859 he joined Trinity church. Furthermore, Mortimer and Angeline Benton's oldest of their three sons became an Episcopal minister (sketch in The Story of Trinity...).

In 1844 the Scott Street Methodist Episcopal church congregation on the issue of slavery voted in favor of the South; dissenters such as M. M. Benton left and founded another congregation which eventually became the Union Methodist church at Fifth and Greenup and is today the United Methodist church. However, M. M. Benton, the City's first Mayor, later joined Trinity Episcopal church (Bailey). Despite this routine outline of Benton's church affiliation, Trinity of course did not lack Southern sympathizers.

## THE KENTUCKY HISTORY CENTER

Congratulations to the Kentucky Historical Society, and to its members, friends, political supporters, including the various legislators and Governor Jones, regarding approval of appropriations for the new Kentucky History Center building to be located near the Lieutenant Governor's Mansion in Frankfort. And congratulations also to those who backed the new Northern Kentucky Convention Center, which was part of the same appropriations package.

## THE NORTHERN REGION OF KENTUCKY

For certain activities including some preservation and heritage programs, several counties have been added to the original eight so that all the following counties are now included in the region of "Northern Kentucky": Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Fleming, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Lewis, Mason, Owen, Pendleton, and Robertson counties.

## NORTHERN KENTUCKY HERITAGE MAGAZINE

Subscription is \$15.00 per year to those persons who belong to a participating organizations in the Northern Kentucky region; membership/subscription in the Kenton County Historical Society in \$25.00, but only \$20.00 for Senior Citizens and Students. The lead story in the last (Fall/Winter 1994) issue was "Northern Kentucky had Covered Bridges, Too." Back issues are available.

## PERSONAL NOTE: FIFTY YEARS OF FLUORIDATION

Karl Lietzenmayer, editor of Northern Kentucky Heritage magazine, recalls that in 1957 he participated in a chemistry project at old Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More College) under Sister Mary Julitta Bomkamp, SND, meant to demonstrate to citizens in Northern Kentucky the possible advantages of fluoridation (the addition of controlled amounts of fluoride, usually sodium fluoride) for suppressing tooth decay. Looking back he now recalls that indeed it appears to have been a useful effort, and a contribution to public health research, since statistics nationwide indicate that fluoridation has helped lower tooth decay (55%).

# CELEBRATING NORTHERN KENTUCKY'S HERITAGE

A History Day at NKY--March 4, 1995

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 4, 1995

Table and Display Setup ..... 8:00 - 9:00

Registration ..... 9:00 - 9:45

Opening Speaker ..... 10:00 - 10:45  
*"The 1937 Flood,"* by Daniel Hurley, TV commentator and local historian

Morning Workshops ..... 11:00 - 12:00

**Workshop A:** "Local Native American Archaeology" (Moderators - Jeannie Kreibrink, Don Miller and Robert Genheimer)

**Workshop B:** "Identification/Preservation of Rural Cemeteries" (Moderators: Ken Reis, Campbell county; Susan Cabot, Boone county; and John Lemasing, Jr., Grant county).

**Workshop C:** "Newport's Bicentennial in Pictures and Memorabilia - a Show and Tell (Hosted by Newport Bicentennial Committee)

Lunch (tours & exhibits) ..... 12:00 - 1:30

Afternoon Workshops ..... 1:45 - 2:30

**Workshop D:** "Northern Kentucky's Gambling Era" (Moderators: Chris Selfried and Leroy Hoffman)

**Workshop E:** "Architectural Preservation: (Moderators: Margo Warminski and Tom Wisethorn)

**Workshop F:** To be announced

Afternoon Speaker ..... 2:45 - 3:30  
*"The Military Forts of Northern Kentucky"* by Dr. Louis Thomas, Professor Emeritus, Northern Kentucky University

Closing Remarks ..... 3:30 - 3:45  
*A brief review of the Bicentennial celebration and a preview of coming events commemorating Newport's 200 years.*

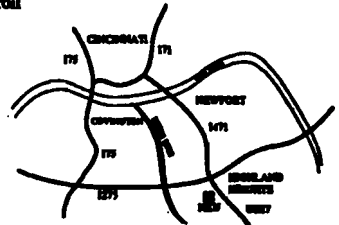
This celebration of Northern Kentucky's heritage is co-sponsored by Northern Kentucky University, the historical societies of the counties, and by the Newport Bicentennial celebration.

The purpose of this day long get-together is to promote and encourage local history; to provide educational opportunities to the general public; to give regional organizations an opportunity to share their resources, books, artifacts and projects; and to recall the past through eye witness recollection and the display of memorabilia.

Lunch will be available on campus for participants. Room locations for the day's activities will be available at the registration desk in the University Center lobby.

The "Northern" region now includes especially the following counties:

Boone	Fleming	Kenton	Owen
Bracken	Gallatin	Lewis	Pendleton
Campbell	Grant	Mason	Robertson
Carroll			



Advance Registration	\$2.00
At the Door	\$3.00

Send to: History Day  
 c/o Campbell County Historical Society  
 19 E. Main Street  
 Alexandria, KY 41001

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Campbell County Historical Society.

Welcome!

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