

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
(17th in a series)

May 1995

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 641

Covington, KY. 41012

May 1995

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/PROGRAM
ANNOUNCEMENT**

On Tuesday, May 2nd, at 7:00 p. m., the Kenton County Historical Society will meet at the Carnegie Arts Center, 1028 Scott Boulevard, Covington (free and open to the public).

By meeting at different locations such as the Carnegie, we hope to make friends and renew acquaintances. We will start with a business meeting to discuss future activities, which would include monthly programs, Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine (published for the Northern Kentucky region), genealogy, and other local/regional activities.

Last month at St. Stephen's church the consensus was to send out a questionnaire to see what new programs, projects, strategies and scheduling members might prefer. One suggestion was to sponsor a genealogy seminar on a Saturday afternoon, which we have done in past years, to help satisfy a strong interest in family history programs.

On May 2nd the Carnegie galleries will be ready for monthly turnover. The program, "art--a gift of the spirit," will be closing out. It featured a Cincinnati artist, and a Covington artist, and several youth programs. The May schedule is entitled "the way we were, a regional perspective." A large number of recognized artists from the region, who have developed careers, in association with Carnegie, will be brought back to display a wide range of work.

The Carnegie Arts Center, formerly the Carnegie public library, is still renovating the theater in the rear, an architectural delight to be seen.

Tuesday, May 2nd

7:00 p. m.

Carnegie Arts Center, 1028 Scott Boulevard,
Covington.

HISTORY OF COVINGTON

by O. J. Wiggins

Daily Commonwealth, August 16, 1884
(Seventeenth in a series)

The Licking Valley Register under date January 15, 1842 prints an account of a meeting of the City Council, held Jan. 6, 1842 at which a committee was appointed to investigate, in company with an experienced engineer, the Licking River improvements and the possibility of cutting a canal from the Licking to the Ohio river.

At a meeting on the --th of January the committee reported unanimously that in their opinion locks and dams Nos. 1 and 2 should be immediately abandoned, and a lock and dam erected at the mouth of the river, because notwithstanding the excavations at the mouth, the channel had filled up so with sand and mud at the point that during the previous summer teams and wagons had crossed there almost dry shod, and during the greater part of the year river craft sought to be benefited, would be unable to reach the first lock. On the other hand, if the dam was placed at the mouth it would insure a good harbor for good sized steamboats, besides making the other dams practicable. The Legislature had passed a resolution at the previous session, authorizing this change, provided it was done at individual expense, and not at that of the state, and the committee took occasion to score the Legislature and the powers in charge of the improvements for such glaring disregard of the wishes of the people most to be benefited. The committee reported survey by Thomas D. Kennedy, engineer, looking to a canal from the Licking into the Ohio via Willow Run. That is cutting through the southern part of the city to Willow Run. The committee took the ground in the report that with a lock and dam at the mouth of the Licking and a canal from the

Licking to Willow Run, fine water power and a pure water supply would be secured to Covington (1).

Council immediately passed a resolution to be sent to the Legislature, asking that locks Nos. 1 and 2 be abandoned and a lock be built at the mouth of the Licking. The Board of Trustees of the town of Newport held a called meeting the next day and passed a resolution concurring in the action of the Covington Council.

On the --- day of January a public meeting of citizens of Newport was held and resolutions passed protesting against the action of the trustees in recommending and against the Legislature considering the establishment of a lock and dam at the mouth of the Licking because of danger of inundation to the low lands of Newport.

January 1, 1842, the following members of Council were elected:

First Ward--James Adams (2), W. W. Southgate.

Second Ward--James Arnold, John S. Finley.

Third Ward--H. J. Groesbeck (3), Geo. M. Southgate.

Fourth Ward--John Mackoy, William Wasson. James G. Arnold was chosen President; A. H. Jameson, Clerk; Geo. B. Marshall, Treasurer; John W. Menzies (4), Attorney; and G. F. Laney, Marshal.

A curious advertisement occurs about this date, viz:

"Burial lots in the new cemetery laid out by the Western Baptist Theological Institute, Covington, will be disposed of at the very low price of \$10 per lot measuring 16 feet by 20, or \$5 for half lot measuring 10 by 16, if immediate application be made to John Mackoy & H. C. Watkins (5).

Single interments on the ground \$2 each."

January 13--Council met and among other business was a petition offered by Mr. Wasson to divide the city into districts for school purposes, which was referred to a select committee.

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION

Of Covington, January 1st, 1842, can be gleaned from the City Clerk's annual report for the preceding twelve months and an estimate prepared by the Ways and Means Committee of the Council about the same:

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1841.

Receipts.

From the Collector of revenue tax for 1839.....	\$301 27	
From the Collector of revenue tax for 1840.....	350 00	
From City Treasurer for 1841.....	297 72	
From City Marshal for 1841.....	900 00	
From fines for 1839, 1840, and 1841.....	211 45	\$4,360 97
For sale of--public square....	27 00	
For wharfage.....	22 12	
For graveyard privilege.....	20 00	

Licenses

For coffee houses and taverns.....	\$60 00	
For wagons, cars and drays....	91 00	
For market house rents.....	19 75	
-----	20 00	
For shows and exhibitions....	20 00	\$1,043 75

Stocks

From dividends on bank stock..	1- 52	
From dividends in turnpike stock.....	100 00	231 00
Drafts in the hands of sundry individuals on treasury, January 1, 1841....	162 39	

Disbursements and

Appropriations, Streets, etc.

For cleaning and repairing streets and repairs to Market-house including Street Commissioner's salary.....	356 20	
--	--------	--

Printing

For printing city charter and ordinances on pamphlet form and ordinances. &c. in handbills.....	125 25	
Poor, Poor-house, City		

Jail and Graveyard.....-----		
For boarding paupers, digging graves, coffins, jail fees, and furnishing jail and poor-house physician, &c.....	132 43	
Interest Account		
Interest of city loan.....	1,500 00	
Exchange and discount on do.....	158 34	\$4,650 34
Public Wells and Pumps		
For digging well on Scott street.....	105 37	
For repairs, &c., to other wells and pumps.....	157 34	262 87
Officers' Salaries		
For City Assessor for 1841....	50 00	
For City Clerk for 1841.....	158 00	
For City Treasurer for 1841..	160 00	
For City Attorney for 1841....	50 00	
Legal fees		
Sheriff, Clerk, Attorney, Marshal's fees.....	78 21	
Stocks		
For installments of fifty shares in the Covington & Lexington Turnpike road....	1,000 00	\$4,000 00
Expenses of Council chambers for 1841.....	22 28	
Surveying.....	15 00	
Night Watch.....	9 00	
Taking census.....	20 00	
Postage.....	- 33	
Schools		
For the use of the common school of the city up to April 1, 1842.....	125 00	
Drafts in the hands of sundry individuals on the 1st of January, 1841 which have been paid this year.....	1,082 72	
Cash on hand January 1, 1842.....	240 00	\$5, 937 75
Due from the Collector of Revenue tax for 1836.....	56 25	
Due from the Collector of Revenue tax for 1837.....	521 05	

Due from the City Marshal on fines, &c, for 1838.....	37	74	
Due from the Collector of revenue tax for 1840.....	333	84	
Due from the Collector of revenue tax for 1841.....	853	48	
Due from the Sheriff of Campbell county.....	270	40	\$1,975 76
Sixteen shares of stock in Northern Bank of Kentucky.....			1,600 00
			\$3,575 75

The city has 100 shares of
stock in the Covington
and Lexington road at
850 per share.....\$5,000 00

A. H. Jameson, City Clerk

FINANCIAL REPORT

To the Honorable President and City Council:

The Committee on Ways and Means to whom
was referred the resolution of the Board of
Common Council of the city of Covington in-
structing them to report the probable finan-
cial condition of said city for the year 1842,
have according to order, had the same under
consideration and beg leave to submit the fol-
lowing report as the report of their delib-
erations:

ESTIMATE OF RECEIPTS

Revenue for the year 1841.....	\$4,000	00
Coffee house and tavern license.....	560	00
Wagons, carts and drays, do.....	90	00
Market-house rents.....	24	00
Auction license.....	10	00
Shows and exhibitions.....	20	00
Grave yard privileges.....	40	00
Dividends by N. B. of Ky. stock.....	136	00
Dividends on Turnpike stock.....	100	00
Due from former Collectors and and Marshals \$1,975 00 of which there will probably be collected.....	760	00
Total.....	\$5,650	00

DISBURSEMENTS

Orders on the Treasury unpaid from the appropriations of last year.....	162	39
Cleaning and repairing streets and Market-house.....	250	00
Printing.....	75	00

Paupers, jail, &c.....	100	00
Interest and exchange on city loan....	1,600	00
Public wells and pumps.....	200	00
Officers' salaries.....	550	00
Legal fees.....	50	00
Expenses on Council Chamber.....	25	60
Surveying.....	50	00
Common schools.....	500	00
Grading streets and paving intersections.....	750	00
Fire Department.....	---	00
Contingencies, say.....	387	00
Probable balance in Treasury at end of 1842.....	800	00
Total.....	\$5,650	00

PERMANENT RESOURCES

Public Square, 190 feet square.....	\$6,000	00
Poor-house and jail, two lots.....	2,200	00
Twenty thousand feet of commons on the Ohio river.....	20,000	00
Sixteen shares of Northern Bank of Kentucky stock.....	1,600	00
One hundred shares Covington and Lexington Turnpike stock, for which has been paid.....	5,000	00
Fire engine, hose and hose---	1,200	00
	\$36,000	00

Funds available from debts due the city by certain property holders for paving in front of their property on Scott and Madison streets.....908 13

CITY DEBT

Script has been issued redeemable in September 18--, for the sum of...\$25,000 00

Respectfully submitted
GEO. M. SOUTHGATE
JOHN MACKOY
LEWIS ROACH

Committee on Ways and Means

January 20, 1842

The first murder in Covington is related under date April 30, 1842. It was that of Dick, a negro preacher, belonging to Major Carneal, who was killed on the night of April 20 by three white ruffians who broke into his little shanty, robbed him of one dollar and

beat him so terribly that he died a few days later. The city offered \$200 reward and Maj. Carneal offered \$200 for the apprehension of the murders (6).

Under the date of June 25, the following is printed:

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

A joint meeting of the several committees appointed by the Covington Temperance Society & Workingman's and Tobacconist Societies and Covington Fire Company No. 1 to make arrangements for the ensuing fourth of July, was held on Monday evening, June 20, 1832 (sic).

James H. Preston was called to the chair and A. H. Jameson appointed Secretary. The following arrangements were unanimously agreed upon: Procession to form under the direction of A. H. Jameson, Grand Marshal, and John Mackoy, Assistant Grand Marshal, on Madison street, opposite the Presbyterian church, at 9 o'clock a. m. the right resting on Sixth street in the following order:

1. Orator of the day, reader of the Declaration of Independence and Chaplain.
2. Clergy.
3. Mayor of the city and President and members of the Common Council.
4. Fire Guards.
5. Hose and Fire companies.
6. Tobacconist Society.

[sic]

9. Temperance Society.
10. Sabbath schools.
11. Citizens generally.

The line of march as follows: Down Madison street to Fourth; up Fourth to Second; up Second to Greenup; down Greenup to Front; up Front to Garrard; up Garrard to Third; down Third to Greenup; up Greenup to Fourth; down Fourth to Scott; up Scott to Fifth; down Fifth to Madison; thence to Kyle's orchard near Mr. Levi Ashbrook's, where an oration will be pronounced by Hon. W. W. Southgate, preceded by prayer by J. L. Kemp, and the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Wm. Ernst, Esq.

After the exercises are concluded the procession will form again, march to market

space and then be dismissed.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1. That the citizens be respectfully requested to suspend business from 8 1/2 o'clock a. m. until the close of the ceremonies of the day.

2. That the citizens be invited to unite with us in celebration.

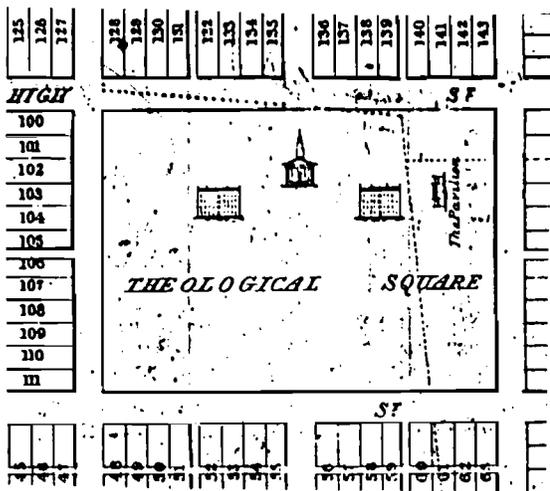
3. That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the chairman and secretary and be published in the Licking Valley Register.

JAS. M. PRESTON, Ch'm.

A. H. Jameson, Sec'y (7)

Patriotism takes----nowadays.

At the May term of the Kenton County Court, John Calvin was appointed Justice of the Peace for Covington, James G. Arnold, as the oldest Justice of the Peace being called to the position of Sheriff.



END NOTES

1. Thomas D. Kennedy (1795-1869) was the son of Joseph (1768-1825) and Nancy Cummins Kennedy and a grandson of the Thomas Kennedy (1741-1821) who had sold most of his farm where was laid out the original town of Covington. Thomas D. became an engineer and surveyor who planned several subdivisions outside the original town which eventually became part of Covington. Thomas D. Kennedy's son, Thomas H., also was a city engineer from 1855 to 1901 (E. Polk Johnson, A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians, vol. 2, 1912).

2. James Adams, grocer on Greenup between Second and Third streets, born in New Hampshire (1839-40 directory). James Adams, school teacher, age 70, born in New Hampshire (1850 census). O. J. Wiggins' "maternal ancestor, James Adams, was one of the pioneers of Covington, a land surveyor and teacher noted for his immense strength. He taught school in a log schoolhouse, on the spot where the courthouse now stands, and many anecdotes are told of his eccentricities" (W. H. Perrin, et al., Kentucky, A History of the State, vol. 7, 1887).

3. H. J. Groesbeck, lawyer, born in Ohio, office on Market Space, residence east end of Fourth street (1839-40 directory). H. J. Groesbeck owned nine and one-half acres between present-day Fourth and Sixth and Sanford streets and the Licking river, which were developed after the Civil War by Amos Shinkle, Jonathan Hearne and other partners (C. D. E. 6-20-66). Herman J. Groesbeck, member of the Kentucky House of Representative from Kenton county, 1843, 1844 (Lewis Collins, History of Kentucky, revised by Richard Collins, 1874, vol. 2). In 1849, due to illness, Groesbeck resigned from the legislature, after which a special election was called (C. J. 1-12-49). Jonathan Hathaway, a Democrat, ran against John Menzies, a Whig (C. J. 1-19-49). H. J. Groesbeck died and "left a wife and three small children" (C. J. 5-25-49). Rosina Groesbeck oversaw his estate settlement (C. J. 7-20-49). Rosina Groesbeck, 33, born Louisiana (1850 census).

4. John W. Menzies, lawyer, 32, born in Kentucky (1850 census). John W. Menzies represented Kenton county in the Kentucky House of Representatives, 1855-57; Menzies served in Congress 1861-65; Judge Menzies in 1870 decided for the defendants in legal action of the old stockholders of the Covington and Lexington railroad against the heirs of R. B. Bowler (Collins, vols. 1 and 2).

5. Humphrey C. Watkins, agent for the new cemetery, was a "brick maker" who served on the building committee for the city's first permanent city hall, which had its cornerstone laying on the same day as

Trinity Episcopal church in a "double ceremony" on June 24, 1843 (L. V. R. 7-1 43, cited by John Burns, "History of Covington to 1865," unpublished). Linden Grove property once extended from present-day Holman street to Willow Run creek, but the city later purchased the west end for street development (Burns). Located on land owned by the Western Baptist Theological Institute, the cemetery was "laid out" by Ephraim Robbins (Robbins), was opened in 1842, and was dedicated September 18, 1843 (Covington Historic Preservation Office, survey).

Humphrey C. Watkins (1797-1849) was a native of King and Queen county Virginia where he pursued agriculture and other enterprises and held "various offices, civil and military." In 1831 he moved to Cincinnati. With persuasion by some Covington leaders, in 1839 he moved to Covington where he also continued involvement with the development of the Western Baptist Theological Institute. He was stricken with "paralysis" while attending Sunday morning services at the Baptist church on Fourth street in Covington where he was a member. He died the same day at his home "adjacent to this city" (C. J. 4 27 and 5-11, 1849).

The Baptists met in Cincinnati in November 1833, and considered the establishment of a theological school west of the Allegheny mountains. Later the Western Baptist Educational Society chose a site "immediately back of the city of Covington." In 1835 the Society purchased real estate including the following farms: over twenty-eight acres from Alfred Sandford; 193 acres, "known as" the Fowler farm, which adjoined the Sandford and Riddle farms to the north and the Richard Southgate lands to the south; and 120 acres, the Kyle farm, adjacent to the other acquisitions.

The institute was incorporated "by special act" of the Kentucky General Assembly "exactly one week" after it created the county of Kenton out of Campbell on the western side of the Licking river. Although the school finally went into operation in 1845 after organizational amendments, prolonged fund raising efforts, and construction, various controversies centering on slavery issue disrupted and divided the governing forces, and led to the termination of the school's existence, and final liquidation in the 1850s. In 1835 the city limits extended south to "about where Eighth street is now located." But the development immediately south of the Institute's excess property, and of its campus, anticipated a large expansion of the city (Orie S. Ware, *The Western Baptist Theological Institute*, Christopher Gist Papers, 1949).

Ephraim Robbins, an Ohio insurance agent and a native of Suffield, Connecticut, was the financial leader and planner who saw to the laying out and selling of excess property to raise money for development of the twelve acre campus between Robbins, Russell, East Eleventh and Madison streets. He also saw to the construction and the beautiful landscaping around the Sandford house, the new main

campus building on East Eleventh (High) street, and the other buildings. The Western Baptist Theological Institute subdivisions extend from present-day city blocks on Ninth to Fifteenth, and from Greenup to Banklick streets, more or less. Some streets names, or discontinued names, can also be identified with a few of the "first" trustees of the school, who were Cave Johnson, Henry Wingate, J. L. Holman, S. W. Lynd, John Stephens, Thatcher Lewis, and Robbins (Burns).

6. Maj. Thomas Davis Carneal (1786-1860) was a developer in the Ohio valley who in 1820, for instance, owned land in Boone, Kenton, Gallatin, Henry, Davies, Pulaski, Hardin, Henderson and other counties (Kenton County tax records, 1820). In 1820 Carneal completed Elmwood hall on his property in present-day Ludlow. After selling his later residence on Second street in Covington in 1831, he moved into a new house on Broadway street in Cincinnati where he lived for over a decade and a half. Carneal was also a developer in Louisville with his brother-in-law, James Breckinridge. He was then living in Frankfort but was visiting Cincinnati when he became ill, and died having received care at the residence of another brother-in-law, Nicholas Longworth (Allen Webb Smith, Beginning at the 'Point,' a Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, the Town of Covington in Particular, 1751-1834, printed locally, 1977).

7. _____Preston, school teacher, boards Covington hotel (1834 directory). James M. Preston, 58, lawyer, born Virginia (1850 census). James Preston, 68, bank president, born Virginia (1860 census). James Preston, President Northern Bank, Third and Scott, boards J. B. Lendrum. James Preston, attorney, boards east side Garrard between Third and Fourth. Cyrus A. Preston, attorney, Third and Scott, boards J. B. Lendrum. Northern Bank of Kentucky, Covington branch, northwest corner Third and Scott (1861 directory).

Alex. H. Jameson, born Virginia, clerk at insurance office, residence Third between Garrard and Greenup (1839-40 directory). A. H. Jameson, clerk, south side of Fourth between Russell and Madison (1860 directory). A. H. Jameson, Master Commissioner, 43, born in Virginia (1850 census). Alex. Jameson, Insurance Agent, 52, born in Virginia (1860 census).

(Transcription and end notes by John Boh)

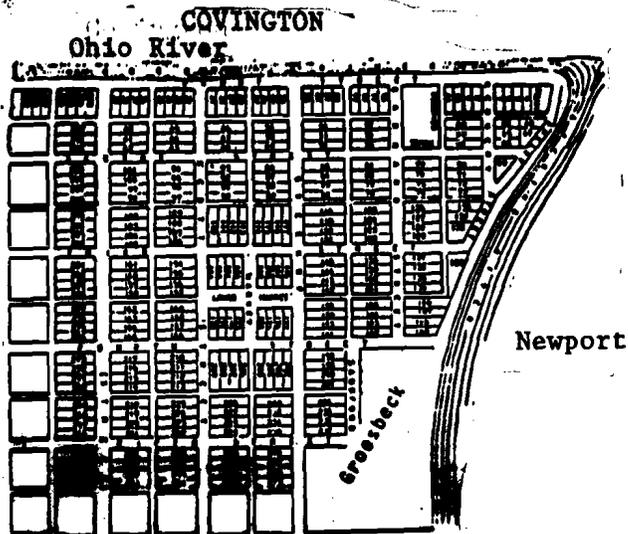
Note: last issue, Sixteenth in series, note #3, prospectus.

NOTE: The Western Baptist Theological Institute "square" so named on the 1840s map was rectangular. In the 1850s the Covington and Lexington railroad tracks were constructed over Washington street parallel between Russell and Madison streets to split the campus rectangle.

SUBDIVISIONS SHOWN ON THE SANBORN MAP (1886)



↑
RR Tracks



BEHRINGER-CRAWFORD MUSEUM

May 21-June 4: Waste Wizard, a hands-on educational program about the environment and recycling. Open to the public; admission fee; free to members. Northern Kentucky's regional cultural and natural history museum, Devou Park.

TREASURER

The Kenton County Historical Society is looking for someone to act as treasurer, one who would oversee the checking account and attend occasional meetings in the evening. Send name, address and telephone number to KCHS.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY HERITAGE MAGAZINE

Subscription is \$15.00 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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