

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bulletin

MAY 1996



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**Baker-Hunt House: Center for Cultural Life
Today As In Times Past**

NOTICES

KENTON COUNTY OFFICERS FROM 1776 TO 1888

In 1884, in the Daily Commonwealth newspaper, O. J. Wiggins listed over 100 names of court officers and legislators primarily from Kenton County but also Campbell County before 1840 when the region was one county. Recently John Boh compiled brief, biographical "abstracts" of each and arranged them alphabetically. It could be a wonderful help for your research. Cost: \$2.00, including mailing.

Needed: Computer Skills and Time

KCHS has numerous handwritten research projects which we would like to publish. We need someone who can enter this data onto computer disk so that we can transfer them to publishing form. If you have the time and no computer, the Society's computer is available. Please call Karl Lietzenmayer, 261-2807 or John Boh, 491-0490 (H), or 292-2188.

FOR SALE

- ✓Kenton County 1860 Index — Reduced from \$15 to \$10
- ✓George Roth History of Trinity Church, Covington- hardbound, 300 pages, indexed, 20 pages of black and white and color pictures and illustrations. Cost \$10 plus \$2 postage.
- ✓7 x 7 Color 1947 Photo of the Kentucky Parlor Streetcar. \$2.00

Kenton County Historical Society membership dues are \$10 per year; \$5 for students and Senior Citizens.

Subscriptions to Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine, a semi-annual magazine of regional history covering ten counties, are \$12 a year for members; \$15 a year for non-members.

To subscribe to the magazine or become a member of KCHS, please mail check to KCHS, P. O. Box 641, Covington, KY 41012

Editor of KCHS Bulletin: Jo Ann Brown

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Publisher of award-winning
Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine

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K.C.H.S. MEETING NOTICE

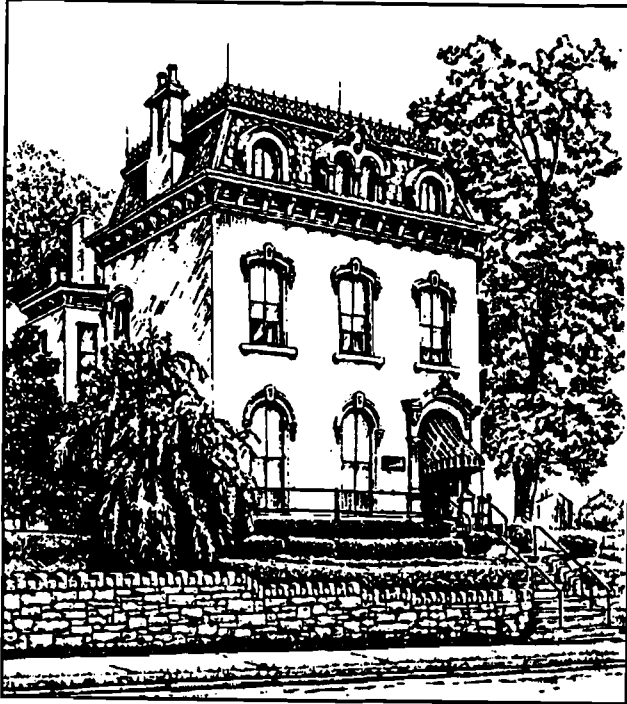
DATE Saturday, May 18, 10:30 AM
PLACE West walk of the Suspension Bridge
PROGRAM: Tour of the Suspension Bridge with
Mr. Ralph Wolfe, Engineer with the
Kentucky Department of Engineers

Following the program you are invited to lunch at Mike Fink Restaurant. Lunch will be about \$6.95. Please mail your lunch reservation to the KCHS office or telephone Karl Lietzenmayer, 261-2807, or John Boh, 491-0490, home, or 292-2188 office. Rain date is June 1.

Name _____

Number in party _____ Phone _____

**The Baker-Hunt House:
Center for Culture and Education Today As In Times Past**



On June 29, 1854 John W. Baker, a merchant of Cincinnati, and his family established their home in this fine house, which is now 620 Greenup Street of Covington. He purchased the property from a John C. Bayless. The house had been built on a parcel of land held by Robert Kyle.

The original building had already been enlarged before Mr. Bayless sold it to John Baker. A large new parlor was added to the west front of the house relegating the old parlor to a secondary position. On the south side an entry hallway and stairs had been built and the structure thus made wider. The main entrance to the home was through this hall. In October 1860 an additional strip of

land was acquired, enlarging the lot on which the house stood.

Shortly after the end of the Civil War, Mr. Baker altered the size and shape of the home. A wide hall door and elaborate vestibule were built to replace the plain door and entrance of earlier days. The straight stairway was removed from the hall, and in its place a lovely circular stair was built in the well at the farther end. The small staired glass windows in the stairwell were added at this time. The long French windows were cut in the front wall to admit more light to the parlor. Finally a great deal of additional space was made available by the redesign of the roof to include a slated mansard, decorative dormers, and chimney pieces. It allowed conversion of the small attic space into full sized rooms as they are today.

The entry to the coach house at the rear street retained the entire area about the house. The beautifully planted property complemented the adjacent properties creating a stately environment in this area of the city. Rare botanical specimens were to be found in the gardens.

Mr. Baker established himself as a merchant dealing in candles, lamps and chandeliers after moving to Cincinnati from Philadelphia in 1838. A year later he married Henrietta Adams Potter of New England background and distinguished family relation. After dwelling for a few years in a select residential area of early Cincinnati, Mr. Baker sought a more spacious and peaceful abode for his family, which included nine-year old daughter, Margaretta, and moved them into this house in Covington. It soon became a center of social and cultural life of the young community.

In 1872 Margaretta Baker was married to young Dr. William H. Hunt in Trinity Episcopal Church of Covington where the family found much pleasure and devotional activity. Miss Kate Scudder, Mrs. Hunt's young niece and close companion, visited often at the household. The two women, particularly Miss Scudder, became community leaders, planning cultural and educational events in the enlarged home.

As family members passed away, Mrs. Hunt was almost always building or planning some addition to the structure. Once it

was a roomy conservatory on the south side. At another time, a long porch was enclosed with glass. A little bay was added to the north side of the building. A sun room was built over the second floor roof toward the rear of the house, and minor changes were made to accept new mechanical modernities as they became desirable.

Mrs. Margaretta Baker-Hunt and Miss Kate Scudder established the Baker-Hunt Foundation in 1922. The entire estate of the Hunt family is held in perpetual trust to support it. Star Bank of Cincinnati designed the legal structure. The recorded purpose of the Foundation is the promotion of education, the arts and sciences, and the encouragement of religious activities.

In 1927, a building designed to house a natural history museum and a small auditorium was erected. An art teaching studio was added in 1967, and an adjacent parking area was added in 1970. In these buildings and in some areas of the old house, classes in the arts and allied subjects are taught. The program includes instructions for both children and adults. No tuition is charged. The faculty and the materials for teaching of children are provided by the foundation.

The Foundation operates through a Board of Directors and an Executive Director, Mrs. Lois Meadows Dorman. The programs and activities of the Foundation continue throughout the year.

Thus, this fine Victorian property remains a lively area, and is maintained as an architectural and botanical setting for the advancement of the cultural activities of Northern Kentucky.

IT'S A HARD HAT PARTY

Please join your friends from the Historic Northern Kentucky Foundation and The Party Source for a special reception at the site of the former...

BAVARIAN BREWERY, c. 1896.

The event will highlight the renovation of a century-old landmark, while honoring the newly established Historic Northern Kentucky Foundation.

**Friday, May 10, 1996
12th Street, Covington**

(Casual dress)

**6:00 Hand-Crafted Brews, Wine, Cheese
6:30 Remarks
7:00 Guided Tours**

R. S. V. P. 341-9312

Tickets \$10.00

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

**Non-Profit
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Permit #297**

**Publisher of the regional magazine, Northern Kentucky Heritage
Dedicated to preserving our heritage as the "Gateway to the South"**