



Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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May / June

2011



M. C. Motch, Jewelers
A Kentucky Centennial Company

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An Antarctic Peak Is Named For Him

What About Those Black Squirrels?

M. C. Motch, Jewelers

A Kentucky Centennial Company

A Search for the Company and Family Stories

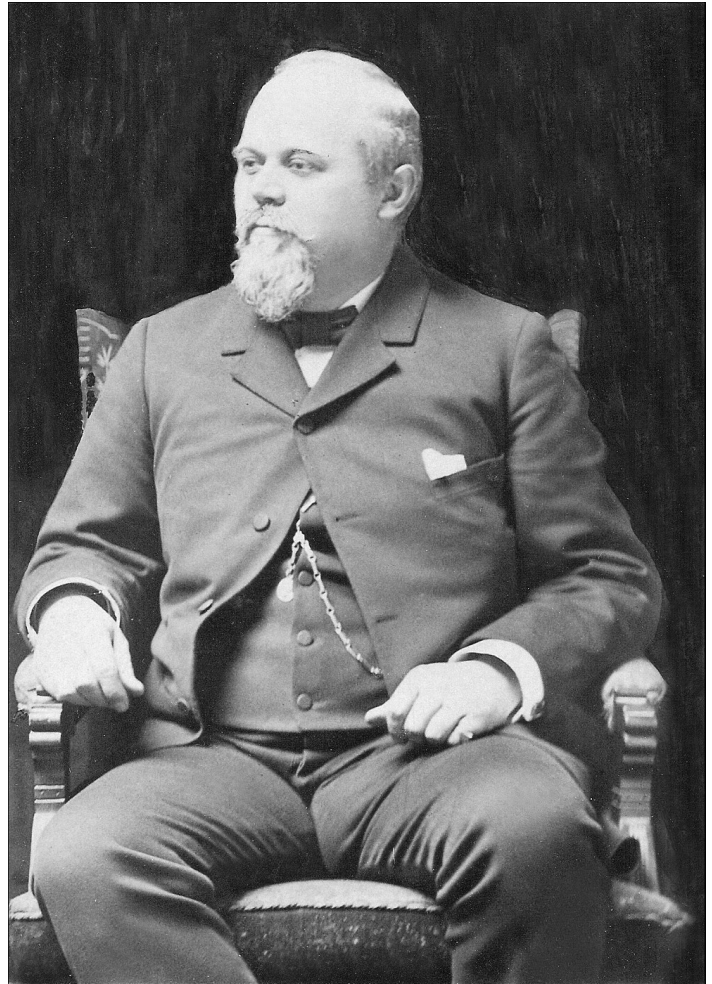
Karl Lietzenmayer

It is very rare that a family business lasts into the third generation – much less beyond that. This is the case for Covington's Motch Jewelers, in continuous operation on Madison Avenue since 1857.

Michael C. Motch's parents, Henry and Apollonia Motch [Mutsch], were Alsatian immigrants to Cincinnati and raised their family there. Tracing the family is complicated by the constant changing of the spelling of the family name, early on. In 1840, Henry and family are found in Hamilton County as Heinrich Mutsch.¹ By the next decade, he is listed as Henry Moch.² The family's efforts to morph their German-sounding name into something more acceptably "American" seems understandable. Heinrich and Apollonia were not only immigrants but Catholic as well!³ This turbulent pre-Civil War period was xenophobic and anti-Catholic. The readers are reminded that the Kentucky governor elected in 1855, Charles Morehead, was a member of the Know-Nothing Party as were the majority of members of the Covington city council elected that year.

The family moved to Covington in 1845, when Michael was 8 years old.⁴ Most of M. C.'s branch are buried in Spring Grove Cemetery. It isn't clear, at this writing, what Henry's profession was but it is a good bet it was the jewelry business. Three of Henry's children are listed as watchmakers/jewelers in the city directories: Michael, John and the youngest son, George.

When Michael was 20, he established the jewelry business we know as M. C. Motch and it seems the business was begun as a partnership with his younger brother John. John was just 19. The directories are sparse around the years of the founding of the company (1857) and the first directory available with a



Above: M.C Motch, circa 1850
Courtesy Motch Jewelers

On the cover: Early postcard showing Motch Jewelers
circa 1900, sporting the city's first neon sign
Courtesy the Kenton County Public Library

Motch listing is 1860. There the record shows the brothers Motch began as watchmakers with a location shown as "east side of Madison Avenue between 5th and 6th."⁵ Motch records show this as the building on Madison Avenue now housing a Korean restaurant. In 1861, M. C. was boarding at the Magnolia House [east side of Madison between Lexington Pike and 7th Street] and by 1866 had moved to the Elliston House

[Russell near Pike]. By 1866, J. D. Motch had established a separate location than M. C. Motch.⁶

By 1868, J. D.'s store was located at 538 Madison while M.C. was doing business close by at 512 Madison – in the same block; on the same side of the street. One wonders if there was a falling out between the brothers, since the family knows little or nothing concerning the story of John, even though he outlived Michael by several decades.⁷

Nonetheless, John's business was last listed in the 1874 directory and by that time, Michael had erected his much-heralded new store at 613 Madison. For reasons unknown, John moved to Nelson County, Kentucky by 1880 with his wife Mary Margaret.⁸ John's family is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery, Nelson County.

M. C. Motch's New Store

Michael was an ambitious entrepreneur. Only some of M. C. Motch's endeavors are known. Michael took every opportunity to purchase real estate and ended up owning considerable properties – mostly in the downtown area. A complete accounting of his purchases would entail quite a bit of digging but it was significant. The family has since sold most of these holdings, but still owns a number of properties.⁹

After being in business for only 14 years, in 1871 Motch was successful enough to hire the most prominent architect in Cincinnati, James W. McLaughlin, to design a new building at 613 Madison Avenue – where the business still stands today. Situated at the northwest corner of the intersection of Pike Street, this area was experiencing several building upgrades and new construction in the 1870s.¹⁰ Michael had gained such a reputation by that time, he was training apprentices in the watch making and jewelers profession. The 1870 census shows Michael and Mary with two of their children (Cora, age five and Arthur, three) and a 16-year-old apprentice, Frank Decker, residing in the Motch home. Mr. Decker's training was apparently a success, since he is listed as a jeweler in succeeding censuses and after a time spent in Indiana, returned to Covington by 1900 and opened his own store while living on Main Street.



Above: Mary Goetz Motch

Courtesy the Kenton County Public Library

Michael's new store was divided in the middle by the second floor stairs and half the retail space was rented to another business.¹¹ He equipped his new store with the finest jewelry cases, a 10-foot tall George Jones store clock, and a Boston E. Howard & Company street clock that has been a Covington landmark to this day. The street clock still runs with its original mechanism and has not been electrified. These items still serve the store well and attract collectors and tourists.¹² To accommodate business growth, Arthur Motch enlarged the store space in 1926 to encompass the entire first floor, moving the stairway to the side.

By the 1870s, Michael was elected to the board of directors of several banks and Savings and Loans. Michael's name appears on the boards of the German National Bank, Farmers & Traders National Bank and the Permanent Building & Loan.¹³ Later, his son Arthur repeated this family practice, as he too, joined boards of banks.



Left to right: Bernard Henke, Joseph Lonnemann, Sr., August Meier, Joseph Dilger. Circa 1919. Joseph Lonnemann joined the company in 1913 as the watchmaker and Edgar Cleves who joined in 1916 was the company clock repairman. Lonnemann and Cleves became fast friends. Joseph Dilger became store manager after Arthur Sr.'s retirement.

Photo courtesy Motch Jewelers

Besides acquiring downtown properties, Motch began building homes near 15th and Madison.¹⁴ In 1886, the Motch family purchased a fine home at 1538 Madison Avenue – an upscale neighborhood. Motch's neighbors were some of the most prominent business families of Covington – Shaunessy the distiller; Stewart the iron fence maker, to name a few.¹⁵ Four handsome brick homes were constructed by Michael in that area, selling for \$20,000 each. A wire nail factory was razed to clear land for this venture.¹⁶ It is unclear how Motch acquired this property near his Madison address, where he and Mary lived out the rest of their lives. The home went out of the family after Mary's death in 1916. After Michael's death, it seems Mary handled

much of the business decisions of the Motch real estate holdings.¹⁷

Motch established another enterprise when he teamed up with the Coppin family to develop Lake View Park – the name of the 50-plus acres comprising the Coppin estate in what is today West Latonia. In 1893, Motch formed what became known as the Kenton Water Company and communicated to Mr. Coppin and Mr. Gauspohl (Coppin's development partner) proposing to lay water lines throughout the plat for 40 cents a lineal foot.¹⁸ Lake View Park included the area bordered approximately by Beech Street, West Southern Avenue, Ashland Avenue and all the way to Madison Pike.



Motch residence at 1538 Madison Avenue

Courtesy Motch Jewelers

The business continued to be successful as the staff expanded. Joseph Lonnemann, Sr. joined the company in 1913 and became the chief watch repairman. Shortly afterward, in 1916, Edgar Cleves was hired and became the chief clock repairman. Both men usually worked out of sight in the rear workroom and became best of friends. When hard times came in the Depression, Cleves was laid off in 1932 and Lonnemann's hours were cut back. Both men soon decided to strike out on their own and opened a jewelry/watchmaker store in the Campbell County town of Bellevue. That business – Cleves and Lonnemann – still survives with third generation family members.¹⁹

Michael's son Arthur joined the firm about the age of 20 as a clerk and quickly learned the trade. Arthur E. Motch gradually took over the management of the company after his father died in 1900. At age 63, Arthur wanted to retire and around 1930, J. G. Dilger, who had worked there many years, took over as manager. Michael's grandson, Arthur E. Jr. was educated at Summit Country Day and then at Dartmouth. After finishing college, he met and married Margaret Lester Jones, Ruel A. Jones' daughter, in one of society's grandest events of the 1940 season.²⁰ Two of the area's most prominent families united. Margaret was her father's only daughter. Newspaper accounts describe the bride as a striking brunette. Two of Arthur's uncles, Edward and Stanley Motch, arrived from Cleveland where they

had relocated some years before where they had been engaged in manufacturing. Those family members' descendants still reside in the Cleveland area. Ruel was the founder of the R. A. Jones Manufacturing Company and soon Arthur, Jr. took a position as vice-president of his father-in-law's company and moved to his aunt's property in New Richmond, Ohio.²¹

When electricity was introduced in the city, Motch's sported Covington's first neon sign and the building was remodeled to encompass the entire first floor of the building. As mentioned above, the stairway was relocated to the south side of the building to open the space for the enlargement of the store. During much of this time, the company included an optical department headed for many years by Dr. N. F. Penn, optician, and in the late 1920s by Joseph B. Schnippering.

The present watchmaker at Motch, Tim Dwight, came into the business through marriage to Arthur, Jr.'s daughter, Diana. Tim was a student at the Cincinnati Art Academy and graduated in 1973 as a print major. He returned briefly as a student teacher. Mr. Dwight also harbored an interest in pottery and established his own production pottery studio for four years which included teaching students. It was in this endeavor he met and married Diana Motch, another potter, in 1976.

In 1979, Tim was invited to join the firm of Motch Jewelers by his father-in-law, Arthur, Jr., where he apprenticed under August Meier, the manager and watchmaker for 47 years. After a year's training, he was put in charge at Motch. Tim and Diana have two children, Jonathan and Christopher, both having been part of the staff of the store. Jonathan is more involved with the business and is still part of the operations. Besides his watch making ability, Mr. Dwight is trained as a gemologist and appraiser of antique jewelry and watches – one of only sixty-five such persons in the country. A fifth-generation Motch, Michael is now on the board of Motch Jewelers, namesake of the founder.²²

Statistics of new businesses show that over 50% fail after only five years of operation. Covington has been blessed with this historic jewelry and watch mak-

ing business in ongoing healthy condition in the downtown area for 154 years. Even many enterprises that do survive, seldom remain under the same family ownership.

Endnotes

1. U.S. Census (1840) shows the family in the 5th Ward of Hamilton Co., Ohio.
2. U.S. Census (1850) shows the family in the 10th Ward.
3. The *Volksfreund* reported Heinrich's death as 23 Jan 1873 at age 62. Heinrich's burial record resides at St. Francis Seraph Roman Catholic Church, Cincinnati. See also *Hamilton County, Ohio, Church Burial Records, 1870-1879*, page 338.
4. Many of Michael Charles Motch's family are buried at Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati.
5. Covington City Directory 1860.

6. Both Motch Jeweler locations were within a block of each other and the 1866 city directory shows their entries in bold.
7. Michael. C. died in Dec. 1899; John D. died in 1928.
8. U.S. Census (1880).
9. As late as 1988, the Motch Investment Corporation is listed as owning 13-15 West 6th, 607 Madison; 613 -15 Madison in downtown Covington plus other properties unknown in this project. See *Cincinnati Business Courier*, 20 Jun 1988, page 12-13.
10. Even though many pre-Civil War structures still stand nearby, the buildings on Madison near Pike are virtually all post Civil War creations.
11. Michael was then residing at 422 Russell. This structure has been razed and has become part of a strip mall.
12. See Motch web site: www.motchjewelers.com/motchjewelershistory.htm
13. *Covington Journal*, 10 Jan 1874, page 3; *Daily Commonwealth*, 7 May 1883, page 3. German National became Liberty Bank (now US Bank); Farmers & Traders became Covington First National.
14. *Daily Commonwealth*, 14 Jul 1883, page 4 & 9 Nov 1883, page 4. See also 10 Nov 1883, page 3 & 27 Jan 1883, page 2

Continued on page 10

Appendix

A Brief Motch Genealogy

[Names in bold directly associated with Motch Jewelers]

Heinrich Mutsch [Henry Motch] (1811-1873) m. Apollonia (1811-1886)

Children:

1. **Michael Charles** (1837-1899) m. Mary Goetz (1842-1916)

Children:

- 1) Cora (1865-)
- 2) **Arthur E. (1867-1935)**
- 3) Lulu (1871-)
- 4) Edwin (1875-)
- 5) Stanley (1877-)

Arthur E. (1867-1935) m. Grace Temple

Children:

- 1) Allen Temple (d. 1913 - infant)
- 2) **Arthur E. Jr. (1915-2005)**
- 3) Cora Motch Thomas
- 4) Louise Motch Ewan

Arthur E., Jr. (1915-2005) m. Margaret Lester Jones (1916-2001)

Children:

- 1) **David**

Children: Lidney
Michael
- 2) Diana Motch Dwight
Married **Tim Dwight**

Children: Jonathan
Christopher
- 3) Olivia Motch
- 4) Alan W.
- 5) Arthur E. III

2. Henry, Jr.

3. John D. (1838-1928) m. Mary Margaret (d.1918)

Children: John D. Jr.

4. Magdalena m. (1868) Joseph Good

Children: Henry (b.1874)
Apolonia

5. George Edmund (1850-1931) m. Matilda "Mattie"

An Antarctic Peak is Named For Him

Carol A. Hudson

Two annuals from Holmes High School recently appeared on an online auction. Two days later a 1951 Holmes High School class ring was added to the posting. Engraved initials inside the ring were DMB. It isn't that unusual to see an annual up for auction, but seeing a class ring is, and it quickly stirred up uneasy feelings. The location of the seller was Denver, Colorado. On February 27th a third 1951 Holmes annual was added for auction and this too had belonged to the same individual. Location of this seller was Aurora, Colorado, eight miles from Denver and 26 miles from Golden, Colorado.

Identifying the person who had earned the ring only took a few minutes. A copy of the 1951 Holmes annual is easily accessible, and after consulting one other source for confirmation, the previous owner was determined to be DeeWitt Monroe Baulch, who had passed away on September 7, 2010. His last known address was in Golden, Colorado.¹

Baulch is a familiar name to anyone who had attended Holmes High School. Doc Baulch had a teaching career there lasting more than 30 years. He not only taught physics but also coached the golf team. Throughout his tenure he was highly regarded by faculty and students. More importantly for this article, Doc was the father of DeeWitt.

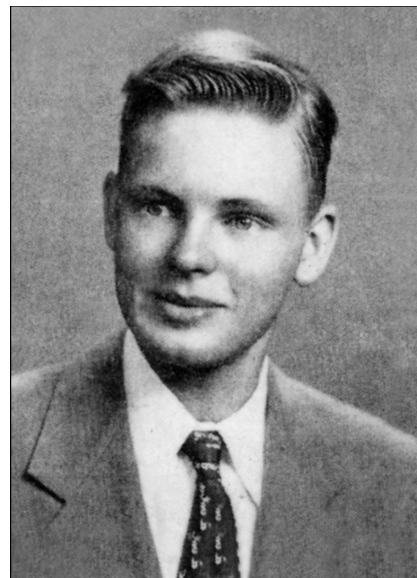
Graduation from Holmes High School in 1951 was just the first of many achievements for this future scientist. On May 28, 1956, DeeWitt graduated from the University of Kentucky, College of Arts and Sciences. He was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Education.² Another big event lay just around the corner.

Arthur E. Jorgensen, fellow Antarctic meteorology researcher and friend of DeeWitt, wrote a memoir about his time with the International Geophysical Year Research Program 1957-58, Antarctica. He re-

lates how memos had been distributed to universities across the country seeking volunteers for the program. Apparently young Baulch had volunteered and was selected to serve as a meteorologist at the Amundsen-Scott IGY South Pole Station as a member of the same program.

Perhaps it was there he was given the odd nickname of

"Muckluck." DeeWitt arrived by plane at the South Pole on Wednesday, November 20, 1957.³



DeeWitt Baulch,
Holmes graduation photo

The International Geophysical Year project lasted from July 1, 1957 to December 31, 1958, and was made up of 67 nations whose scientists had joined together to gather new data on eleven earth sciences.⁴ Siple wrote "10,000 scientists would man 2,000 scientific stations around the globe."⁵ South Pole Station was chosen to be one of the research sites.

Space exploration was also included for research. Some might recall, this was the time of artificial satellites Sputnik I and Explorer I. The entire IGY project was considered an immense success. This was not an insignificant event. It is generally accepted that the cooperation among so many countries during this time had a direct effect on the signing of the Antarctic Treaty on December 1, 1961.⁶

The IGY Program lasted eighteen months and when it ended, DeeWitt started on his long journey back home to Kentucky.⁷ After returning to civilian

life he was employed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). His field of expertise was air pollution. By this time, DeeWitt was both researcher and author. He and R. A. McCormick co-authored professional papers about their research. An important fact about science, “results must be reproducible.” A source of pride is that results of their research have been used and/or referenced by other experts in that field.⁸

BAULCH PEAK: ANTARCTICA

Official description: *A peak 8 miles NE of Clayton Peak, marking the extremity of a spur descending N from Prince Andrew Plateau, Queen Elizabeth Range. Named by Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (US-ACAN) for DEEWITT M. BAULCH,*

U. S. Antarctic Research Program (USARP) meteorologist at South Pole Station, 1958.

Antarctica ID: 1085

Decision year: *January 1, 1966*

Position: *Lat. 83 21 00S and Long. 163 05 00E.*

Measurements are in degrees, minutes, and seconds.⁹

The Baulch family had settled in the general area of Denver, Colorado and there DeeWitt “Muckluck” Baulch passed away on September 7, 2010.¹⁰ What became of the three Holmes High annuals and 1951 class ring? Thanks to a most generous Holmes High School alumni who made it possible to purchase all the items. They are now safe and back in Kentucky.

Endnotes

1. Social Security Death Index
2. *Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky*, May 28, 1956.
3. Jorgensen, Arthur E., *Antarctic Recollection*, page 11, online @ www.antarctican.org/.../pack...Antarctic_Recollection_art_Jorgensen.Pdf
4. Earth Sciences consists of: aurora and air glow, cosmic rays, geomagnetism, gravity, ionosphere physics, longitude and latitude (precision mapping), meteorology, oceanography, seismology and solar activity. source: Siple, Paul, *90 Degrees South*
5. Siple, Paul, *90 Degrees South, The Story of the American South Pole Conquest*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, (New York) 1959. page 16
6. *Ibid.* Jorgensen. page 2
7. *Ibid.* Jorgensen. pages 24 and 25
8. Garstang, Roy H. Garstang, *Light Pollution At Mount Wilson: The Effects of Population Growth and Air Pollution*, JILA (a joint institute of the University of Colorado and the National Institute of Standards & Technology), pages 7, 8.
9. Geographical Names, maps online @ http://www.geographic.org/geographic_names/antname.php?uni=108
10. Obituary for DeeWitt “Muckluck” Baulch, *Denver Post*, Sept. 11, 2010.

Other Reference Materials

Siple, Paul, 90 Degrees South, The Story of the American South Pole Conquest, 1959

Mastro, Jim, *Antarctica, A Year at the Bottom of the World*, 2002

U.S. Antarctic Beachhead, *Life Magazine*, April 2, 1956, pages 38-47 (photographs)

Sullivan, Walter, *Assault on the Unknown, The International Geophysical Year*, 1961

Deep Freeze, The United States, the International Geophysical Year, and the Origins of Antarctica's Age of Science by Dian Olson Belanger, 2006

ANTARCTICA, a map by the National Geographic Magazine, 1957

GENEAOLOGY ASSISTANCE

One of our members, Talia McOwen is currently researching the following surnames and would appreciate any assistance from readers who may have information.

Snow, Records, Crisler, and Dobbins

She may be reached at: talia197@hotmail.com
or at 109 Old Stepstone Road
California, KY

Behringer-Crawford Museum

Experience *Play Ball! Knothole Baseball in Northern Kentucky*, running until June 5, 2011. Explore the important history and impact knothole baseball has had on the residents of Northern Kentucky for the past 75 years and in particular, its legacy in shaping our area's youth into leaders.

The history of the four districts in Northern Kentucky, interviews with former and current players and pictorial displays of former knothole parks will engage you. Community events such as reunion days and special luncheons and presentations will excite you. Sponsored in part by Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame, the Powell Crosley Kid Glove Foundation and the Cincinnati Reds, the exhibit will certainly entice you, perhaps even to Play Ball! For more information, please visit: www.bcmuseum.org.

What About Those Black Squirrels?

Gayle Pille

Don Hellmann of Leathers Road in Ft. Mitchell loves to feed the squirrels. “I feed the squirrels every day and there are always one or two black squirrels around,” said Don. While Don enjoys watching “his” squirrels, he’s also preserving his father’s memory.

Don’s father, Norbert Hellmann, also enjoyed the squirrels at his home on Princeton Avenue in Ft. Mitchell’s Sunnymede subdivision. Norbert would frequently visit relatives in the Detroit, Michigan area where he noticed an abundance of black squirrels. He trapped two black squirrels from Detroit and released them at his Ft. Mitchell residence. His black squirrels thrived and bred with resident gray squirrels and produced more squirrels, gray and black. Now more than 30 years later, the black squirrels we see in Ft. Mitchell, Lakeside Park, Edgewood, Crestview Hills, and beyond, can be traced to the two black squirrels Norbert released. Norbert passed away in 1977 and fittingly, a lone black squirrel visited his yard on the day of his funeral. His legacy continues to live on with our many resident black squirrels.

The black squirrels seen around town are really Eastern Gray Squirrels, *Sciurus carolinensis*, with a genetic mutation that causes excessive pigmentation or “melanism.” Biologists estimate that nationwide about one of every 10,000 gray squirrels is the black mutant. Black-phase gray squirrels are by no means a genetic mistake. Gray squirrels in New England, Pennsylvania, Michigan and other northern states were almost all black before the days of early European settlers. The black fur more readily absorbs heat from the sun’s rays providing warmth during cold northern winters; equally important, the black coloration is a defense mechanism.

“Early northern forests were very primeval. They were very shaded, very dense and dark,” said Dr. Bill Hamilton, a biologist with Penn State New Kensington. “It’s said that they were so dense that a

squirrel could go from one end of the state to the other without ever touching the ground. The undisturbed North American population of gray squirrels was, according to historical records from the 1600s and early 1700s, predominately made up of black-phase gray squirrels due to the effectiveness of the black coloration as an aid in hiding from avian predators such as hawks or owls.”

As Europeans settled the New World, forests were cleared for farmland and squirrels were commonly hunted. “As the continuous forests of Pennsylvania and westward were broken up and the human hunting and bounty pressures on squirrels were increased, the black form of the gray squirrel, even though it is the genetically dominant variant, became less and less abundant,” said Dr. Hamilton. “The black squirrel was very clearly outlined against the light colored sky when humans hunted squirrels from the forest floor. This human hunting pressure apparently favored the mixed, gray coloration that even today predominates in most North American populations.”

Intense hunting pressures in northern states caused the black-phase squirrel to mutate to the now common gray color in a relatively short period of time. “The impact on gray squirrels was a classic example of natural selection that can take place over a period of only decades,” said Dr. Hamilton.

Squirrels were not only a food source for early settlers; they were perceived as a serious threat to crops. Nearly all states in the northeast had bounties on squirrels.¹ Dr. Hamilton explained, “In 1749, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania put a 3-cent per skin bounty on gray squirrels to try to reduce the population. Over 640,000 pelts were turned in.² In 1749 dollars, the outlay by Pennsylvania was huge, nearly bankrupting the state. In 1807, Ohio tried to reduce their squirrel population but also keep their state budget intact by requiring each taxpayer to turn in

A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines

This issue features:

The Kentucky Post – May 19, 1927.

Circus in Town

More than 200 kiddies will see the Kishmee Grotto Circus this weekend, as a result of them winning tickets by solving the elephant puzzle in Tuesday's edition of the Kentucky Post. The circus, featuring the Bob Morton Show, is currently running two shows, at 7:30 and 9:30, under the big top at the foot of Madison Avenue.

There are many attractions for local residents this weekend. Several fine moving pictures are showing at all Covington theaters: the DiMilo, Grand, Strand, Lyric, and Liberty. Also, Coney Island park opens this weekend with many wonderful surprises and new devices, such as the spooky Bluebeard's Palace. Round trip boat fare is only 35 cents this year.

Shoppers be alerted to the fine Anniversary Sale at Cincinnati's Mabley and Carew. Girls spring dresses only \$1.00 and women's pajamas now \$1.95.

National News

Many are grieving in the small village of Bath Township, Michigan. Andrew Kehoe, local school board member, irritated over an increase in his property taxes, pre-planned a series of explosions which took place yesterday morning on his farm and in the local school. The blasts killed 45 and injured 58, most of whom were young children in the middle of their studies. Kehoe then killed himself. *The Bath School Disaster became the worst case mass murder in the nation and would remain as such more than 50 years.*

Match — Continued

15. Most of these homes are gone and a Masonic Hall and Kroger store occupy this area.
16. *Daily Commonwealth*, 14 Jul 1883, page 4; 10 Nov 1883, page 4; 27 Jan 1883, page 2.
17. *Kentucky Enquirer*, "Wants to Sell Property," 11 Aug 1901, page 15.
18. *Northern Kentucky Heritage*, Volume V, Number 2, "John Roberts Coppin, The Family and the Company," page 1.
19. Interview with Charles Cleves, grandson of Edgar & Vincent Lonnemann, son of Joseph, 7 February 2011.
20. *Kentucky Post*, 25 Nov 1940. This lavish ceremony took place at the First Presbyterian Church (formerly) 4th Street, Covington. The wedding included 5 brides-maids & groomsmen besides maid of honor & best man.
21. See *Northern Kentucky Heritage*, Volume XIII, Number 2 for the story of The R. A. Jones Mfg. Company.
22. David Match e-mail, 2 Feb 1911.

Squirrels — Continued

squirrel pelts with their taxes in proportion to their tax bill. Each taxpayer had to turn in between 10 and 100 squirrel skins."

Times have changed and black squirrels are now revered with larger populations in Princeton, New Jersey; Galesburg, Illinois; New Hartford, Connecticut; Detroit and Lansing, Michigan. In Marysville, Kansas, officials passed legislation protecting the black squirrel and making it the official town mascot. A city ordinance states, "It has the freedom to trespass on all city property, immunity from traffic regulations and the first pick of all black walnuts growing within the city." Beware when driving through "Black Squirrel City" as the revered little nut-cruncher has the right-of-way on all streets, alleys and railroad crossings. Harm one and you'll be assessed a \$25.00 fine!

1. Note the thousands of "Squirrel Hunters" who were commandeered to assist in the defense of Cincinnati in 1862.
2. Natural feline predators such as bobcats, etc. were early on eliminated with white settlement.

Want to be Published?

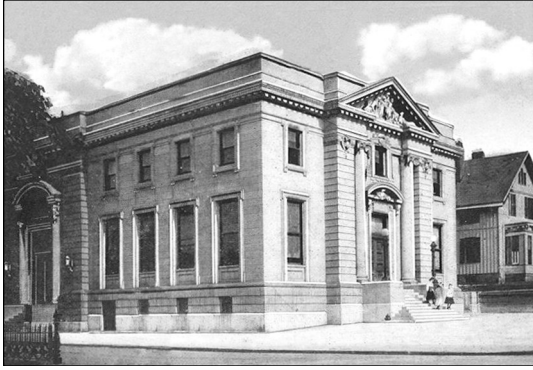
We are always looking for new pieces for our award-winning bi-monthly Bulletin.

To submit an article, send a paper copy by mail, or email it as a Word document attachment. Articles for the *Bulletin* should be no longer than 500 words and should have at least two references.

nkyhist@zoomtown.com.

P.O. Box 641, Covington, KY 41012

Then and Now



Left: The Covington Public Library (circa 1940), located on the southeast corner of Robbins & Scott in Covington.
Right: Same structure today, utilized as the Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Left photo courtesy the Kenton County Public Library. Right photo courtesy Bob Webster.

Mystery Photo

Can you identify the mystery photo below? The answer can be found at the bottom of the page.



ANSWER:

Portion of the Chapel of Dreams, located within the Garden of Hope, Covington.

Photo courtesy Bob Webster

Kenton County Historical Society

May/June - 2011

ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!

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I Bet You Didn't Know

*Tidbits from Kentucky's heritage
for every day of the calendar year*

May 3, 1986: Karen Easterday, music education major at the University of Louisville, became the first female to ever sound the bugle to start the *Kentucky Derby*. In the race, Bill Shoemaker, on Ferdinand, became the oldest jockey to win. It was his fourth *Kentucky Derby* victory.

May 17, 1982: Jennie Walker, the first woman elected sheriff in the entire nation, died at age 93 in Barbourville.

June 7, 1769: Daniel Boone first witnessed the beautiful Bluegrass area of Kentucky from Pilot Knob. He stayed in the area until 1771.

June 11, 1864: Half the town of Cynthiana was destroyed in the second Civil War battle to be fought there.

"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

2011 History, Art & Culture Lecture Series Announced

Covington's Baker Hunt Foundation is once again offering their popular lecture series! Held at the Baker Hunt Art and Culture Center, 620 Greenup Street, each program begins at 2:00 p.m. with refreshments served. Cost is only \$7.00 per lecture. Contact the center at (859) 431-0020 for further information. This year's schedule is as follows:

Sunday May 15th:

"Amos Shinkle — Covington Philanthropist and Financier — Rags to Riches"

Presented by: Dave Schroeder, Executive Director of the Kenton County Public Library and well-known local historian.

Sunday June 12th:

"Cincinnati's Incomplete Subway: The Complete History"

Presented by: Jacob Mecklenborg — Local transit enthusiast and author

Sunday July 10th:

"The Ghosts of Baker Hunt"

Presented by: Victor Paruta — Baker Hunt Faculty and Psychic researcher

Sunday August 14th:

"Rose, a Woman of Colour: A Slave's Struggle for Freedom in the Courts of Kentucky" and "Suing For Freedom in Kentucky"

Presented by: Arnold Taylor, JD, Author

Sunday September 18th:

"Crosley — Two Brothers & a Business Empire that Transformed the Nation"

Presented by: Rusty McClure — Author of the *NY Times*/*Wall Street Journal* Bestseller

Heritage Village Museum Civil War Weekend May 21st and 22nd

Located inside the beautiful Sharon Woods Park in Cincinnati, this Civil War Weekend features various encampments, reenactments, sutlers, and even daily appearances by "Abraham Lincoln." Marking the 150th anniversary of the war, the program runs from 10 to 5 on Saturday and from 10 to 3 on Sunday. Battles both days at 2pm. Admission is \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 4-11 (under 4 free). There is also a Hamilton County Park pass fee (per car) of \$3.00. Contact the museum for further information or directions: www.heritagevillagecincinnati.org