

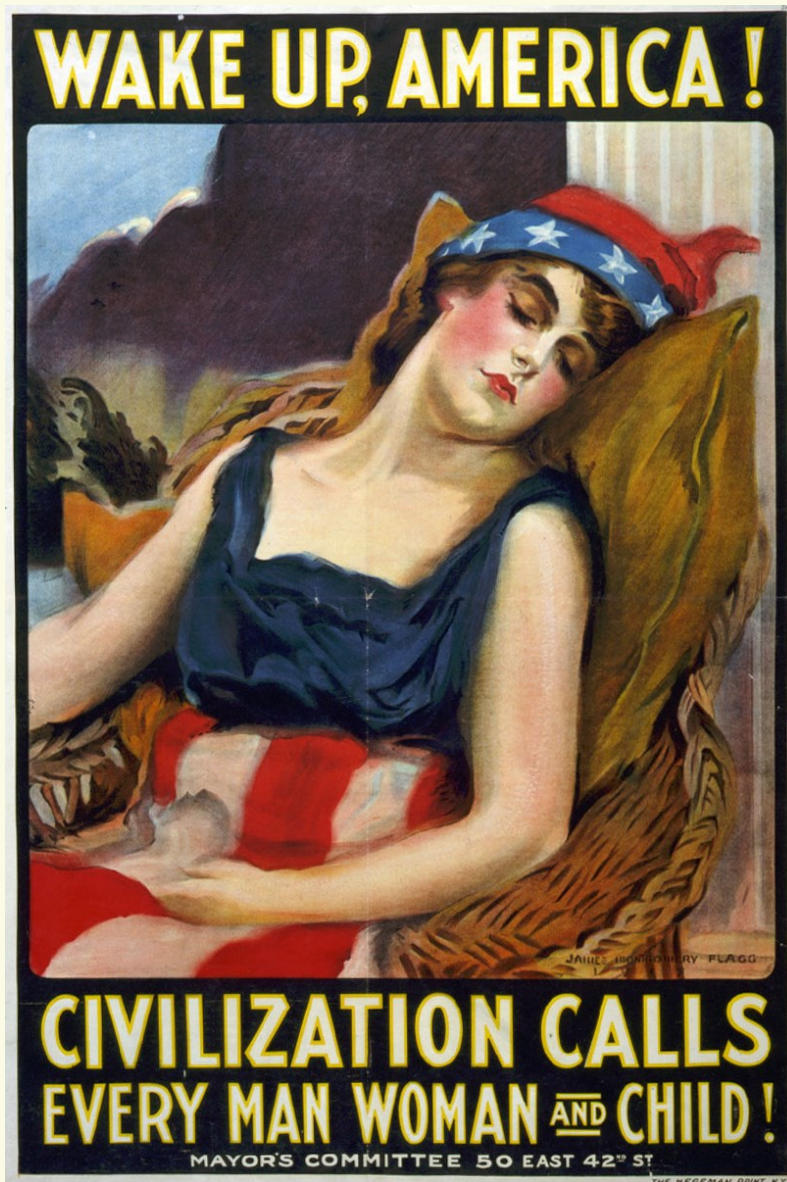


Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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**WWI, the “Great War”
in Covington and Vicinity**

WWI, the “Great War” In Covington and Vicinity

John Boh

The streets of Covington came alive with war business after the US declared war on Germany in April, 1917. Covington, in fact, had a number of unique manufacturing companies of national scope. *The Kentucky Post* reported on May 12, 1917 that a “commission of experts had arrived to consult with the Kelley-Koett X-ray Manufacturing Company on West 4th Street: Dr. Lewis Cole, President of the American Roentgen Ray Society; Dr. George C. Johnston, medical advisor for the army; and J.S. Shearer from the Department of Physics, Cornell University. The Army wanted X-ray equipment for ambulance service in France, and for base hospitals. A Kelley-Koett fluoroscopic table was found acceptable for scanning wounded soldiers, then quickly folding up for rescue efforts elsewhere.¹ The other equipment included a table, transformer, Coolidge compact, air-cooled tube, a portable generator and other common accessories. The Army manual included many Kelley-Koett designs.² Also, a company model may have been used to illustrate the “Standard” US Army X-ray table.³

Remembering World War I

Commemorated now are events of the “Great War”: endless artillery slaughter; prolonged, savage trench combat; gas warfare beginning in 1915; the introduction of air combat and bombing; the sinking of British and US ships carrying supplies and troops by the German U-boats (submarines); the medical and ambulance corps courageously retrieving the wounded and dying; and nurses and physicians treating endless casualties in field hospitals.

Germany had invaded France through Belgium in 1914. The British soon imposed a naval blockade. During its “neutrality,” the US did provide financial aid and war supplies making US shipping a target for German U-boats.

American’s attitudes were affected by news: the bombardment of London from balloons, in May 1915 the sinking of the British passenger ship the *Lusitania*, steaming from New York to Liverpool with 1900 civilians, including over 100 Americans, along with some military supplies.

With the declaration of war the United States dispatched more and more supplies and military personnel. By June 1917, only 14,000 US soldiers had reached France; by May 1918, one million. Businesses, banks, churches, schools, medical services and all citizens on the home front were expected to be involved or risk official reprimand.

Kelley-Koett X-Ray Manufacturing Company in WWI

In 1915, J. Robert Kelly, a native of Virginia, a great promoter and booster,⁴ proclaimed that the largest manufacturer of X-Ray apparatus in the world would soon double its workforce of 50 in its new factory building on West 4th Street, where visitors soon could see X-ray products already “used exclusively” by the “great Mayo Clinic” and others.⁵ Kelley had established a partnership: Kelley-Koett would sell at cost to Mayo in return for using Mayo’s specifications in its products without paying royalties.⁶

The Kelley-Koett Company also donated equipment worth \$1000 to St. Elizabeth Hospital for its new building which opened in 1914, on East 21st Street. Dr. James A. Ryan, a Covington surgeon who had done X-ray work at St. Elizabeth Hospital, announced that the “Cincinnati based hospital” to which he was attached had also ordered \$7000 worth of equipment from Kelley-Koett for “complete outfitting,” and that his unit expected to be called shortly to active service.⁷

The U. S. Motor Truck Co. in WWI

Motor vehicles began supplementing horse and mule powered supplies lines. After Poncho Villa's attack into New Mexico in 1916, Gen. Pershing asked for five motorized supply trains of 27 vehicles each, and he got what he ordered.

After the Mexican expedition, the US Army inventory included 2400 trucks. In 1917, Gen. Pershing estimated that 50,000 would be needed. It was claimed that "294 manufacturers" were producing various styles of vehicles for military and domestic use,⁸ including the US Motor Truck Company of Covington.

Its origins dating back to Civil War years, the Stewart Iron Works Company of Covington in 1903 had organized three separate companies: the Iron Fence Company and the Jail Works Company, both operating in Covington, and the Structural Iron & Bridge Company in Cincinnati, employing altogether about 600 men. Soon the three companies were merged with "capitalization at one million dollars."⁹

As early as 1912, Stewart Iron Works started another division, the US Motor Truck Co. Incorporated on June 29, 1914, it was "to manufacture, assemble and repair motor trucks and automobiles, to manufacture all parts and accessories, to buy and sell trucks and automobiles."

R.C. Stewart, president of Stewart Iron Works, held most of the shares totaling \$300,000. Amendments to the truck corporation papers on August 14, 1916 allowed capitalization to \$1,000,000 and on October 1918, "allowable corporate indebtedness" of \$1,000,000. Around 100 trucks were sold to the military.¹⁰

Liberty Cherry & Fruit Co. in WWI.

In 1917, the Liberty Cherry & Fruit Co. was operating at its new location, the southeast corner of Second and Madison, Covington. President Morris Bettman made the plant available to the government for war emergency vegetable and fruit processing as the "largest cannery in Northern Kentucky."¹¹

The dealer who holds his own in these days of intense competition, is the man who is wise enough to recognize a good agency when he sees it and who is quick enough to profit by its advantages before others beat him to it. The Stewart agency in your section means three things: dignity in the business element of your community, satisfied customers and a record breaking balance of profit.

We have a truck that is mechanically perfect in design and construction. We are giving it wide spread and well chosen publicity and it remains for you to supply the demand which we are creating. Business relations between you and us will be mutually advantageous. Don't hesitate. Every day means a possible loss of sales. Do it now. Write for our agency proposition.

Model A
JOHN J. CRAIG CONTRACTOR
\$986

Model B
JACKSON HARDWARE CO.
\$1096

Model C
SUBURBAN EXPRESS CO.
\$1246

Model D
Patterson Bros. GROCERS
\$1296

Model E
Sterns
\$1296

All Prices include Sales Tax C & G. Exactly as shown.

Model A
Exactly as shown
\$1096

Model B
Exactly as shown
Extra fine body job
\$1246

Model C
Exactly as shown
An ultra aristocratic body job
\$1296

The conservative, successful business man will not invest in a motor truck until he has investigated the merits of the Stewart Iron delivery truck. If you are considering the purchase of a one-ton delivery truck to best serve your purpose, correspond with us and let us show you why it is not necessary for you to use one from \$100 to \$1000 more money for one ton truck that cannot under any circumstances, be more efficient or produce better results. Practical economy begins with the purchase of a one-ton Stewart delivery truck. Write for our proposition in detail. We show you clearly and honestly a money saving, service increasing plan which must convince you with its Logic because it is The Truth about The Subject.

THE STEWART IRON WORKS CO.
CINCINNATI, OHIO

Above: Truck advertisement brochure
Courtesy www.nkyviews.com

On the cover: "Fighting for Civilization" propaganda poster
Courtesy www.WWIpropaganda.com

Progressivism and WWI

"Progressivism" depicts a period of American history from 1870 to 1920. Selfish "individualism" was seen most glaringly in the immensely excessive frivolities and moral corruption of the very rich.¹² With evangelistic-like persuasion and coercive legislation, Progressivism's reforms aimed to achieve an ideal American middle class - team-like, socially responsible, disciplined and physically healthy and permeated with stable families. It would eliminate youthful alienation, poverty, slums, urban corruption, alcoholism and irresponsible capitalism.

Economic reforms before WWI included anti-trust legislation passed in 1890 and 1914, and the 16th Amendment ratified in 1913 authorizing the Federal income tax. Progressives worried that moral reforms already achieved could be lost in a war, but

their opponents predicted correctly that the Wilson administration would impose more controls and discipline.

In 1917, the US had “the 17th largest” army in the world, “old weapons and a mere day-and-a-half of ammunition.” The declaration of war meant a mammoth buildup: enlisting, rapidly training, arming, motorizing and transporting thousands and thousands of troops along with supplies and civilian support across the Atlantic to “fight seasoned German troops.”

Agricultural and industrial output would need to supply the military and “the war-ravaged economies of the Allies.” New government bureaucracies had to be coordinated: to negotiate procurements with businessmen; to set prices for procurements by allies; to oversee shipping schedules; to handle the construction of ships in adequate numbers; and to run the nationalized railroads.

“Voluntary” Selective Service conscription enlisted millions of men. Campaigns in all corners of America sold Liberty Bonds to fund the War. The Revenue Act of 1917 imposed a higher tax rate on wealthy individuals and excess profits tax on corporations.

“Prohibition” became a practical option as the many German brewers and others, and distillers, were consuming “precious grains.” Congress imposed a temporary ban on brewing in the summer of 1917. After ratified by the states, the 18th Amendment prohibiting the outright sale of alcoholic beverages in the US would take effect in January 1920.

During the war, the Wilson administration did protect women in the workplace and, after a court decision nullified a statute restricting it, did impose a special tax on factories using child labor.¹³

Liberty Bonds

After Congressional authorization, the Wilson administration’s Committee on Public Information coordinated a militant campaign aimed at getting every citizen to publicly support and “invest



“Beat back the HUN” poster pushing the sale of Liberty Bonds

Courtesy www.WWIpropaganda.com

in,” Liberty Bonds. A meeting of the Congressional District Committee on National Defense was held in June 1917 at the Industrial Club in Covington. Participants passed a resolution, unanimously adopted, urging the churches of all denominations in the Sixth District to hold patriotic services “this Sunday.” It was also resolved that all the banks in the Sixth District “be requested to purchase the Liberty Bonds allotted to their respective counties.”

The Andrews Steel Co. and the Newport Rolling Mill Co. subscribed for \$50,000 worth of Liberty Bonds which would be “sold to employees on the installment plan.” At the Covington Elks lodge meeting, \$20,000 was raised, \$5000 over its original pledge “with \$5000 more anticipated.”¹⁴



At Entrance of Y. M. C. A. Building, Ft. Thomas, Ky.

Soldiers awaiting orders outside the YMCA in Ft. Thomas, 1917

Courtesy www.nkyviews.com

The government was just as interested in small purchases by many individuals, as such acts would also confirm their patriotism and support for the War. Covington and Kenton County, Newport and Campbell County soon “exceeded quotas rolling up huge subscription lists.”

Because banks in eastern Kentucky were still behind in their quotas, the deadline was extended. “All late subscriptions could be forwarded to the Federal Reserve Bank in Cleveland, Ohio.” The Kenton County quota of \$700,000 had been exceeded by \$150,000 and were still “piling up with wonderful rapidity.” Boy Scouts helped greatly in the drive.¹⁵

Military Inductions

Mayor John J. Craig “received 5000 additional cards” from the War Department with which to finish the registration in Covington under the army con-

scription law. Of 5,458 men registered in Covington, “2785 white men claimed exemption from the draft and 258 negroes.”¹⁶

On the home front, local rallies in 1917 supported inductions of soldiers at Ft. Thomas. The Second and Third Regiments of the Kentucky National Guard, with a 28- piece band and “a machine gun company of seven men” were to campaign in Covington and Newport for a week, helping to “enlist 1100 men.” The Second Kentucky Infantry Band was to play in Covington “at an informal dance” in the Odd Fellows Hall. The recruiting band “which has been playing throughout Kentucky” would head up two parades each day.¹⁷

The new lists of men registered in Covington were compiled for the exemption boards. The lists were rushed to Frankfort and then on to Washington so that drafting of the men would not be delayed.¹⁸

Washington officials announced that the Kentucky National Guard was mobilized for the US Expeditionary Army, as the Kentucky Brigade stationed at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, along with units from Indiana. Some Northern Kentucky men enlisted into the regular army or Reserves in Cincinnati.¹⁹

Fuel

In 1914, the British had 827 motor cars and 15 motorcycles; by 1918, 56,000 trucks, 23,000 motorcars and 34,000 motorcycles and motor bicycles. The US delivered another 50,000 vehicles. Oil, of course, also fueled relatively new tank and airplane warfare.²⁰ The chains of command from the Wilson administration reached officials at state capitals who oversaw their counties.²¹ Coal and other fuel needed to be conserved and apportioned. Started in August 1917, the Fuel Administration would keep up the supply of “coal and other fuels.” Charles C. Chase, son-in-law of the late wealthy banker Jonathan Hearne, resided in the historic “Hearne house” at 500 Garrard Street. President of the Eagle Cordage Co., he was appointed the Kenton County Fuel Administrator.²²

Messages are stunted but telegrams were exchanged between Wiley B. Bryan, Federal Fuel Administration, Louisville, and Charles C. Chase: January 18, 1918, from Bryan to C. Chase: “Laundries may operate all weekdays except on Mondays.” From Bryan to Chase: “On order of the Food Administration, you are authorized to permit Liberty Cherry & Fruit Co. to resume operation of their unfilled orders in work [sic] for carloads of apple butter for Expeditionary Depot Quartermaster.” January 23, 1918, from Bryan to Chase (at Ingalls Building, Cincinnati): “Your wire regarding Visalia, from whom do the dealers in Visalia ordinarily purchase coal, this information received will be glad to handle further.” And January 25, 1918, Chase to Bryan: “Received previous message. Thirteen cars consigned to Hatfield Coal Company were confiscated by Cincinnati Authorities. Authorize me to take like amount from the L&N yards here.”²³

A coal shortage shut down the Newport waterworks plant so that Covington was supplying water to Newport from its own reservoir. Mayor Craig met

with J.T. Hatfield resulting in Hatfield ordering that a barge of coal be unloaded at the Covington pumping station right away. After July 1, Covington’s cost would be increased from \$1.89 to \$5 a ton.²⁴

In late January 1918, Chase asked Wiley B. Bryan to accept his resignation, claiming that he was too busy as president of the Eagle Cordage Mills (northwest corner 16th and Russell streets) and that it was a waste of his time not being able to solve the coal shortage.²⁵ The same issue of *The Kentucky Post* reported that a soldier in South Carolina telegraphed the Mayor of Newport that his mother, age 85, had no coal. The Mayor visited the woman confirming that her house was cold, blaming the coal shortage. A barber in Boone County was arrested for “a violation of the National Fuel Administrators order for fuel-less Mondays.” The barbershop “was heated Monday, Jan. 21.” Bond was set at under \$1000 as he was bound over to the federal grand jury. Government agents were looking for violations elsewhere.²⁶

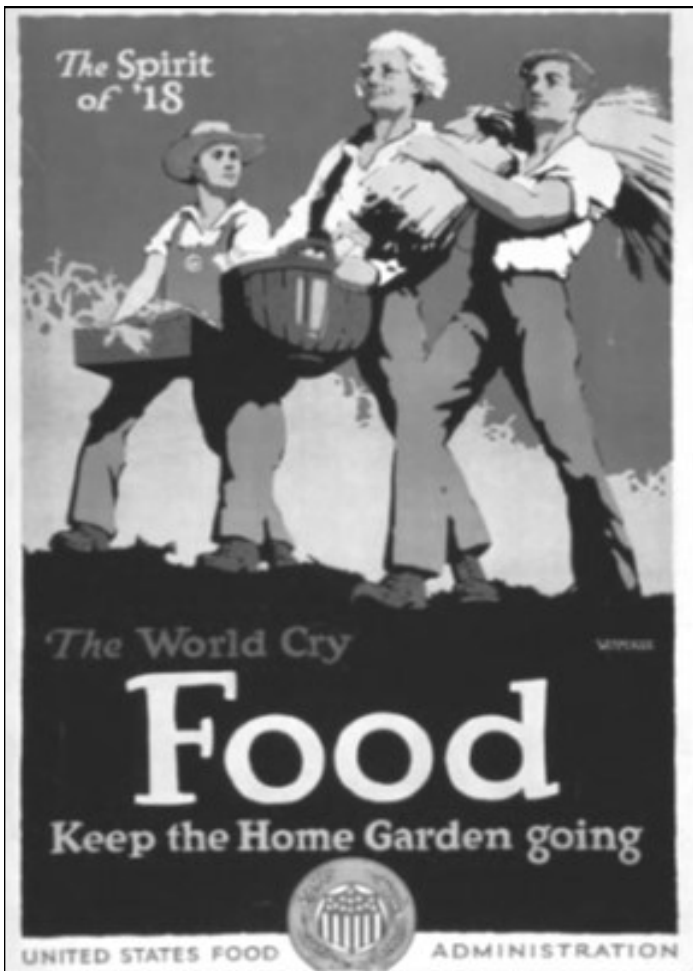
Food Saving

With feeding the Expeditionary Force overseas a priority, and with concerns about food shortages at home, the Industrial Club of Covington had by July 1917, “more than 30 acres of vacant lots plowed and planted and marked off for the people in the neighborhoods to take care of for their own benefit.”²⁷ State administrator Fred M. Sackett in January 1918 made Frank Gofton Kenton County food administrator.²⁸

With the reports of Spanish Influenza in Kenton County at a peak in October 1918, Gofton warned grocers and bakers not to let bakery goods out in the open uncovered. He had heard that customers were allowed to handle bakery goods before purchase.²⁹ After the Armistice, Herbert Hoover of the National Food Administration sent appreciative letters of commendation to Frank Gofton and to his peers in other counties and states for their work.³⁰

A Food Administration Report for 1918

After the Armistice, while closing the offices of the Kenton County Food Administration in City Hall, Frank Gofton in January 1919 recalled the



Two posters by the US Food Administration. On the left: for home garden food; Right: promoting the use of corn over wheat.

Courtesy www.WWIpropaganda.com

“results of food administration effort” for the year 1918 and thanked his six member advisory board.

On February 18, 1918 Homer J. Northcutt was made chairman “of the war gardens,” aided by a five member committee. Workers laid out, plowed and planted “714” war gardens on vacant lots producing an estimated value of \$52, 871.70 in produce. The county organization helped coordinate pork-less, meatless and wheat-less days, and produce more fresh eggs as a substitute for meats. The food administration helped save tons of sugar and bushels of wheat “to help the boys win the war.” They coordinated grain thrashing to make it more efficient and gave bakers and women much information on how to use substitutes.

In March, Mrs. John C. Hermann was appointed chairman of the women’s food organization.

When sugar became scarce and available only in small quantities, persons at Latonia, Erlanger, Ludlow, Walton, Morning View, Demossville, and West Covington were appointed as “special sugar distribution deputies.” To overcome the inadequate sugar supply during the canning season, Charles S. Furber organized the Home Canning Demonstration Corps of nine females “who day after day for three months put on demonstrations on how to can fruit with less sugar than usual or no sugar at all, or how to make it possible to sweeten it later.” Newspapers were crucial in spreading the message spurring the “patriotic cooperation of the grocers, bakers, public eating places and the household consumer.”

During 1918, the administration reviewed 300 complaints of misconduct generally seen as misinformation or lack thereof. But 49 were tried before the food board, with five reprimands, seven required

to return goods, six whose places of business were closed or licenses suspended for three days to two months, and 19 cases “which resulted in donations to war activities of \$2192.62.”³¹

Red Cross

Red Cross fundraising campaigns through churches, schools, business and civic associations supported the medical services along the “western front.” In June 1917, thousands of letters were mailed out by the campaign committee of the Kenton County Red Cross Society chaired by Polk Laffoon. The county would proudly show itself not to be a place of “slackers.” The US President had asked for “one hundred million dollars” across the country to provide medical and surgical supplies. In Ludlow, an entertainment and garden party was to be given for the benefit of the Red Cross Society.³²

Liquor

Latonia saloon proprietor Bill Cheeseman was brought before US Commissioner Bell for selling liquor “to soldiers in uniform.” He was held “for preliminary trial.” In answer to a question from US Marshal Robert C. Ford of Covington, the Attorney General in Washington stated that “it is as great a crime under some conditions for a person to secure and give liquor to a soldier as it is for saloon keepers to sell it to a soldier.”³³

Y.M.C.A

The Y.M.C.A. sent 13,000 workers to France, over 12,000 newly recruited, for the spiritual and “welfare” needs of the soldiers in the American Expeditionary Forces. The American Red Cross was the primary “relief” agency but the Y.M.C.A. provided a wide range of services, temporal and spiritual, both at domestic induction centers and in France near the battle lines. A campaign in Newport and Covington aimed to raise a part of the “\$3 million to build Y.M.C.A. ‘huts’ for every brigade in the US Army, in connection with the Y.M.C.A. war work fund.” Kentucky’s quota was \$75,000 of the \$3 million and one of the huts would be built in Ft. Thomas. Covington’s share was \$10,000. Endorsed by

military leaders, the camps would “shield soldiers from immorality, gambling, ravages of drink and provide recreation and other activities as a cure for homesickness, loneliness and uncongenial surroundings.”³⁴

The new \$8000 Army Y.M.C.A. building at Ft. Thomas was the first built for “war work.”³⁵



Red Cross Serves Humanity poster

Courtesy www.WWIpropaganda.com

“Americanism”

The Wilson administration’s Committee on Public Information was appointed to enforce loyalty among all citizens. Congress passed the Alien Enemies Act, the Espionage Act, the Sedition Act and Selective Service Act. The Wilson administration “encouraged local officials and private citizens to join in purging disloyalty.” Of a quarter of a million members of the American Protective League around the country, some opened mail and bugged telephones of suspects and reported the results to Washington. A German-American named Robert Prager was lynched by a mob near St. Louis.³⁶ A notorious case in Kenton County involved the use of a hidden listening device, superficial testimony, shoddy legal process and trial judge decisions, the support of newspapers and public opinion, which lead to the conviction by jury and the imprisonment of three rather prominent businessmen and civic leaders: Charles Schoborg, Henry Feltman and J. H. Kruse (later commuted by President Harding).³⁷

Soldiers’ Letters

One of historian Jim Reis’ columns contained gleanings of almost two dozen letters from the war front. These are samples:

Writing his uncle, H. Knollman of Southern and Carolina Avenues in Covington, George G. Bergmann wrote that “U-boats weren’t the only danger.” Run-

ning “...at night without lights for fear of a U-boat, our ship collided with an English transport but 3,500 men on board arrived safe.”

Albert Johnson from Stewart Street, Covington, age 22, had Thanksgiving Day dinner “...sitting on the side of a road in pouring rain.” His dinner included “bully beef and hardtack.” Christmas was a little better, “the day was spent sharing a Christmas tree with orphans in a small French village.”

Assigned to the ambulance corps, Sgt. Edward J. Moore of Scott Street, Covington wrote of seeing American Ambulances “driving a gauntlet of German artillery fire. Once six ambulance drivers died and two ambulance vehicles were destroyed. They would work “four days without rest.” Pvt. Haggan saw young German soldiers “chained to their machine gun so that they would not abandon their post. The young soldiers were both dead.”

Germany was defeated. After the Armistice, US and allies sent support troops to fight the Bolsheviks in the ongoing Russian Civil War. Clifford Rouse of Boone County wrote that a good square meal was on his mind. He might also get stuck in Russia by winter weather where it was already cold in July.³⁸

Civic Pride in Victory

Word of Germany’s unconditional surrender reached Covington about 3:00 AM on November 11, 1917. The Covington Mayor declared November 12th a holiday with tentative plans for a “victory rally,” businesses closing and 200 cars parading. Speakers said that war bonds were still needed to finish up projects.³⁹

A bronze plaque inside the Latonia Post No. 203 of the American Legion at 38th and Winston Avenue south of Ritte’s Corner lists those from Kenton County who lost their lives in WWI.⁴⁰

Endnotes

1. *The Kentucky Post* [KP] May 12, 1917; *Radiology in World War II*, 1966 Department of the Army (information about WWI)
2. Dr. William David Coolidge from General Electric, developer of the Coolidge Tube, patented in 1916; website source; “Developments of the X-ray,” Kelley-Koett Co. brochure, 1924; E. R. N. Grigg, M. D., *The Trail of the Invisible Light: From X-Strahlen to Radio(bio)*

- logy, Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas, 1965 [974 pages including index]
3. Army Manual, “Field unit”; the X-Ray table (Fig. 74)
4. J. Robert Kelley’s loyalty included membership in the Citizens Patriotic League. In 1925 he became first president of the Covington Rotary. He traveled constantly for Rotary causes also Kentucky tourism and economic development. He piloted his own plane; Jim Reis, “Celebrating Milestones, Rotary Clubs Mark 75 Years of Active Service,” KP, Oct. 9, 1995
5. KP, Jan. 4, 1915
6. Walter Haupt interview by John Boh, 1989
7. *K P*, June 2, 1917; Alvin Poweleit, M. D., *Bicentennial of Physicians*, 1977
8. World War I: American Expeditionary Forces Get Motorized Transportation; website information, dated June 12, 2006
9. In 1911 Richard Coleman Stewart (1857-1937) was elected the first president of the Covington Industrial Club. He had joined his family’s Stewart Iron Works Co. back in the 1880s at age 15 and would serve as president for almost fifty years from 1888 to 1936; K. Lietzenmayer, “Stewart Iron Works, A KY Centenary Company, *Northern Kentucky Heritage*, Vol. V, No. 1, Autumn/Winter 1997-8
10. Articles of Incorporation, Book 7, pp. 123-124, 130, 337, 423, 520
11. John Boh, “Aunt Nellie’s Farm Kitchens” *Kenton County Historical Society Bulletin*, August/Sept. 2001; Covington street directories
12. Michael McGerr, *A Fierce Discontent, the Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in American, 1870-1920*, New York: Oxford Press, 2005
13. McGerr
14. “Defense Board Asks Patriotic Church Plans,” KP, June 1, 1917, p. 1; “Liberty Bonds Subscribed for by Shop,” KP, June 9, 1917, p. 1
15. “Liberty Bonds Cause Rush at in Bargain Sale,” KP, June 13, 1917, p. 1; “Banks Kept on the Hop Taking Subscriptions on Final Day in Drive For War Fund – Time Up Friday, 10 A. M.,” KP, June 14, 1917, p. 1
16. “5000 in New Stock for US Draft List,” KP, June 7, 1917, p. 1
17. “[Industrial] Club Helps in Recruiting of Two Regiments,” KP, July 7, 1917, p.1
18. “New Lists of Men in Draft are Made UP,” KP, July 9, 1917, p. 1
19. “Kentucky Camp to Be in Mississippi,” KP, July 14, 1917, p. 1
20. David J. Bettez, *Kentucky and the Great War, World War I on the Home Front*, Lexington, KY: Univ. Press of Kentucky, 1916, p. 214
21. For Kentucky and its counties see David J. Bettez
22. Covington city directories
23. Copies of from the collection of Henry W. Jenisch, the Covington Industrial Club
24. “Coal Shortage Hits Supply of Water,” KP, June 9, 1917, p. 1
25. Chase Quits As Fuel Director Declaring His Hands are Tied; Coal Situation Is Still Serious”; KP, Jan. 29, 1918, p. 1
26. “Mayor Finds Aged Woman Without Coal”; “U. S. Jury Is Given Heatless Monday Case”; KP, Jan. 29, 1918, p. 1
27. “Club Fund and Workers Boost War Gardening,” KP, July 6, 1917, p. 1
28. “He’s [Frank Goften] Food-Saving Boss in Kenton-co,” KP, Jan. 28, 1918, p. 1
29. “Warning by Food Administrator,” KTS, Oct. 16, 1918, p. 2
30. “Hoover Praises Goften’s Work,” KTS, Dec. 2, 1918, p. 2
31. “Reviews Work of Board,” KP, Jan. 21, 1919, p. 1. “Letters out in Pleas for Red Cross,” KP, June 13, 1917, p. 1;
32. “Ludlow,” K P, July 9, 1917, p. 4
33. “Charge Sale of Liquor to US Soldiers,” KP, June 13, 1917, p. 1; “Crime to Give Soldier Liquor,” KP, July 14, 1917, p. 1
34. “Ft Thomas to Have Y. M. C. A. War Building,” KP, June 1, 1917, p. 1 “Funds Sought for Financing W. M. C. A. Camps,” KP June 9, 1917, p. 1
35. “Fund for War Camp, \$6042,” KP June 13, 1917, p. 1; “Y. M. C. A. Army Camp rushed,” KP, July 9, 1917, p. 4; “Will Dedicate Army Y. M. C. A.,” KP, July 14, 1917. p. 1

A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines.

This issue features:

The Daily Ticket – August 15, 1877

Blue Lick Springs, Aug. 14, 1877

To the Editor of The Ticket

Nature has intended that the Blue Licks should become a resort of those seeking pleasure and health. No water is superior in medicinal qualities. Every drug store in the country has it upon draught, but the water is not comparable to that drank fresh from the Springs full of its natural gasses. My opinion is that if physic were “thrown to the dogs” and the proper regime of diet systematically followed, the drinking and bathing in the water would cure many of the diseases which afflict suffering humanity. The surrounding, everlasting hills, crowded with aged and picturesque cedars, the winding in and out of the limpid Licking River, the historical battlefield of Blue Licks, fought on the 19th of August, 1782, in which the American troops were overpowered and mercilessly slaughtered by a superior force of Indians; and the wavering fields of corn all form a scene that appeals to the sense of beauty and relieves the eyes wearied by the dry and dusty glare of the town.

Every summer, and intelligent, cultured and social class of people meet here for health and recreation. Before the war, it was one of the most popular and best patronized watering places in the South. But some years ago, the large hotel was burned. The people here do not indulge in fashionable dissipation, but croquet, billiards, ten-pins and quiet flirtation on the part of the young folks are the amusements, while the sportsman finds good hunting and fishing near at hand.

I understand that Capt. Dan Turney, of the Bourbon House, Paris, is making plans to take charge of the new hotel now being completed. I am glad of this, and so are many others who are attached to this place.

36. McGerr

37. Lisa Gillham (with Bethany Richter Pollitt), “J. H. Kruse, War & the Terrible Threateners, Anti German Hysteria in World War I Covington,” *Northern Kentucky Heritage*, Vol. XV, No. 1, Fall-Winter 2007; see Jim Reis, “Americanism” Triumphed in Espionage Trails in 1918,” KP, March 31, 1997

38. Jim Reis, “Young Soldiers Excited, Terrified and Confused,” KP, May 2, 1994

39. Jim Reis, “War’s End Brought Joy in 1918, KP, Nov. 1, 2004

40. Jim Reis, “Latonia Post Celebrates 50th Year,” KP, May 30, 1988

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

A most fascinating article by Arnold Taylor on the truly forgotten “Sunnyside” of George Phillips! As a Levassor Place resident, I’m sure no one in this neighborhood had any idea this impressive house once stood on or near 26th Street!

The plat map showing the exact location of the Phillips home stated that it was “near the toll gate of Banklick Pike.” That structure still exists as Dixie TV. Thank you very much for giving us this picture of how things were when Madison Avenue was a dirt toll road.

Karl Lietzenmayer
Levassor Place
Covington, KY

Dear Editor,

I am writing to thank you for the September/October *Bulletin*. In particular, I enjoyed the article about the gas explosion at Simon Kenton High School back in 1980. I had forgotten all about that explosion. Nevertheless, the article left me hanging a bit, despite the fact I was cold sober when I finished reading it. I would like to know if CG&E got penalized in any way for what you hint as CG&E’s negligence. Did parents of the killed or injured sue the utility? Did the school district sue for damages? Did heads at CG&E roll after this disaster?

Jim Horner
Crestview Hills, KY

Mr. Horner,

Thank you for your interest. Unfortunately, I have little to offer regarding your excellent questions. The article was included as brief summary of the incident (on the 27th anniversary of the tragedy) and space was not available to dig deep into the event and its aftermath. I might suggest “Pioneer Spirit: One School’s Rise from Tragedy to Glory” by Eric Deters for further reading.

Bob Webster

Then and Now



Left: Old Bavarian Brewery building at 12th Street near I-75. Right: Artist rendering of the new Kenton County Courthouse; groundbreaking took place this month.

Left photo courtesy Kenton County Public Library, right courtesy the county website

Mystery Photo

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



ANSWER:

Mary Frances Penick (1931-2004), better known as “Skeeter” Davis. Born near Glencoe, Kentucky, she attended Dixie Heights High School as a teen and went on to become one of country music’s all-time favorite female artists. Her biggest hit was “End of the World,” released in 1962.

Kenton County Historical Society

November/December 2017

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I Bet You Didn't Know

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

November 1, 1947: *Man O' War*, the most famous race horse of all time, died of a heart attack on Faraway Farm near Lexington. He was born in Kentucky and died in Kentucky, but he never raced in Kentucky.

November 2, 1734: Daniel Boone was born in Pennsylvania.

November 14, 1780: The jog in the state line for Kentucky and Tennessee was created when a survey party wandered off course on the banks of Drakes Creek. They reset their compass rather than backtracking to correct the mistake.

November 23, 1966: An 11 station statewide educational television network for Kentucky was authorized by the FCC. By 1990, the KET operated 15 television transmitters.

"On This Day In Kentucky" — Robert Powell

Programs and Notices

Kenton County Historical Society

Streetcars: Jan. 13, 2018 (Saturday), Erlanger library - a program on streetcars by Earl Clark, the co-author with Terry Lehmann of *The Green Line, The Cincinnati, Newport & Covington Railway, An Illustrated History of Public Transit in Northern Kentucky*.

Ludlow Lagoon Amusement Park (Still to be scheduled): a program on the Ludlow Lagoon by Andy Corn, Ludlow Historical Society

Northern Kentucky Regional History Day: Saturday, March 3, 2018 Boone County main library, Burlington Pike; eleven or more speakers/programs; improved shuttle amenities for Senior Citizens. Additional information on scheduled speakers to follow, but **SAVE THE DATE!**

History of Public Water Supply in Covington: May 12, 2018 (Saturday) – Arnold Taylor on the history of public water supply in Covington.

Behringer Crawford Museum

November 11th (Saturday) – a big attraction for kids and adults - when Holiday Toy Trains start running on 250 feet of track with interactive buttons for children.

A special exhibit will be "Wahoos Whimsical Wonderland" based off the book titled *The Holiday Adventures of Wiley Wahoo and Me*, a holiday book locally written and illustrated by Diana Grady. The book chronicles two dogs' adventures visiting Greater Cincinnati landmarks as they partake in holiday traditions. This season, the book comes to LIFE in Wahoo's Winter Wonderland! It's a whimsical, animated holiday attraction featuring a candy cane forest, animated ice skating dogs and more! Plan for other special holiday exhibits.

The Behringer Crawford Museum will also have "Polar Express" readings, Santa visits, and more, scheduled during the holidays. And, visit the annual holiday Dickens Village exhibit. These exhibits will end on January 14.