

# 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**  
**(10th in a series)**

**November 1994**

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

**November 1994**

On Tuesday, November 1, 1994, at 7:00 PM at the Kenton County Public Library (Erlanger Branch), Mr. Karl Lietzenmayer will lecture on THE ATTORNEY AND POLITICIAN, DUDLEY A. GLENN.

Dudley A. Glenn, prominent resident of Latonia (northeast corner of Southern Avenue and Glenn Street), was a Commonwealth Attorney, and a State Representative from Kenton County, who also ran for County Judge and was a delegate from Northern Kentucky in the 1890's to the Kentucky Constitutional Convention.

The son of Jeremiah Glenn, Dudley also married a member of the well-known Mason family of Northern Kentucky, and the family was quite active in St. Stephens's Episcopal Church in Latonia.

This historical program will be free and open to the public and will be sponsored by the Kenton County Historical Society.

**Tuesday**

**November 1, 7:00 PM**

**Kenton County Public Library (Erlanger Branch)**

**3130 Dixie Highway (next to Krogers)**

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**APOLOGY**

In our program announcement last month, we ignorantly gave Dan Miller as author of A Crack In the Sidewalk. Nevertheless, Professor Miller of NKU, gave an enjoyable and concise review of A Crack In the Sidewalk (1965), and its author, Ruth Woolf, who came from a very prominent Newport family.

Overall, he discussed the history of, and attitudes about, Appalachian migrants and their impact in urban areas. He was generally critical of negative stereo typing of Appalachians.

HISTORY OF COVINGTON  
BY O. J. Wiggins  
Daily Commonwealth, June 7, 1884  
(Tenth in a series herein transcribed)

OFFICIAL RECORDS CONTINUED--1835, THE SECOND YEAR AS A CITY.

January 6--An ordinance regulating burials at the graveyard was passed and "the office of Sexton" created.

Enos L. H. Pratt was appointed Sexton, for the year 1835. George W. Morrell was appointed Street Commissioner for the First Ward, vice W. W. Wade.

Joseph H. Marshall was appointed Deputy Marshal for the Second Ward.

January---A Poor Ordinance was passed. It provided for an overseer for each ward and required beneficiaries to enter the poor house before entitled to any ration from the city.

An ordinance providing for a City Surveyor was passed.

So much of the First Ward lying west of Greenup and north of Third Street was added to the Second Ward.

The resolution relieving the Methodist Church from paying tax was rescinded, to having been paid by private subscription.

At various previous meetings Hiram Martin received allowances for making coffins. He was allowed \$2 75 for making a coffin under this date, and G. B. Marshall \$1 27 1/2 for a shroud.

March 3rd the log and frame house on Greenup and Second street was rented for a poor house from Wm. Hopkins at \$18 per year.

Johnathan Johnson was elected Deputy Marshal for the Third Ward.

March 20th the City Clerk was allowed \$100 for his services for 1834.

March 26th Jesse Gray was appointed overseer of Work house and Poorhouse. Reese Todhunter was removed as Market Master. Thomas D. Kennedy was appointed City Surveyor for one year. W. W. Southgate was allowed \$25 for his services as City Attorney for the year 1834.

Andrew Ross was elected Market Master, defeating Martin Hardin on the second ballot.

April 4,--A committee was appointed to fence the public square and plant it in

locust trees.

April 9--The Mayor was allowed \$50 for his services for the year 1834 over and above his fees, which amounted to about \$200.

The committee appointed to settle with the City Collector for 1834 reported:

Revenue tax charged to Collector-----	\$1,266 26
'Street tax-----	\$1,816 22
Poll tax-----	234 00
Dog tax-----	<u>33 00</u>
Total-----	\$3,349 48
Receipts shown-----	2,444 14
Deficiency not collected-----	\$ 905 34

In those days the Collector made collections of all taxes, and not as in later years, only of delinquent taxes.

The committee to settle with the City Treasurer for the year 1934 reported:

Received from collector of Tax-----	\$2,468 56
Tavern, coffee house and ten pin license-----	515 00
Wagon, dray and cart licenses-----	69 19
Fines gathered before ---the Mayor-----	37 68
Show license-----	14 75
Note of Arthur for Auction license-----	10 00
Market marts-----	2 30
Loan from Edward G. Bladen-----	<u>100 00</u>
Total-----	\$3,217 48

#### PAID OUT AND VOUCHERS SUBMITTED

Fisher, paving and grading Garrard Street-----	\$1,789 35
Sundry orders from the Clerk, poor tax debts of the city, &c.-----	<u>\$2,350 97</u>
	\$3,140 32
Balance on hand-----	77 13
Claims due against the city-----	199 86
Which leaves the city in debt-----	122 73

There is a mistake of three cents in this report, but we give it just as the Clerk has it recorded.

The Treasurer, George B. Marshall, was allowed \$30 for his year's services.

The Council adjourned sine die, and evidently immediately reconvened, for a meeting is recorded under the same date with the following entry:

"The votes from the different wards having been returned by the clerk as the law

directs, and votes being cast up in the presence of the Board, there appeared to be for M.M. Benton 76, and for James Adams 20: majority, Benton 56"

The Marshall was ordered to "make proclamation of M.M. Benton's election."

At the same election the following Councilmen were elected, two from each was in the order named, to serve for one year: W.W. Southgate, Wm. Eliot, John T. Levis, Jonas Harlow, Wm. Hopkin, John B. Casey, Johnathan Johnson and Lewis Roach.

The officers of election appointed by Council and the voting places were:

First Ward--Carey Clemons, E. R. Bartleson and Martin Lamb; voting place, W. W. Southgate's office.

Second Ward--John Bryce, Joseph Pew, James Harlow. Voting place--Engine House.

Third Ward--William Musselman, Hamilton Martin, Andrew Ross. Voting place--The house of Jonathan Johnson.

Fourth Ward--John M. Bowen, F. G. Gedge, Hiram Martin. Voting place--The house of Isaac Martin.

The Council elect was sworn in under this date (April 9) and Hamilton Martin was chosen clerk for 1835.

Jonas Harlow resigned, and an election was ordered in the Second Ward for the 18th inst. to fill the vacancy thus caused.

George B. Marshall was elected City Treasurer for 1835, and his bond fixed at ten thousand dollars.

April 20--Calvin A. Littlefield having been elected Councilman from the Second Ward was sworn in.

April 23.--The following Street Commissioners were appointed for 1835: Cary Clemons, James Adams, Alexander L. Greer, and Frederick F. Gedge. One from each ward, beginning with the first.

Martin Hardin was elected City Marshall over Milton Lamb by a vote of five to three.

The Committee on Internal Improvements was instructed to find the exact boundaries of the graveyard (1).

June 2,--Daniel Dale was granted the contract for paving and grading the market space. June 3--B. W. Foley was appointed Deputy Marshall.

June 16,--An ordinance was passed empowering the city to issue bonds bearing six per cent. interest and payable in twenty years at the office of the Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company, in Cincinnati, to secure a loan of \$25,000.

A special committee reported that 200 copies of the charter and ordinances could be printed for \$23 and 100 would cost \$20. They reported also that ordinances could be inserted in the newspaper at 25 cents per square.

The Committee was instructed to have 200 copies of the charter and rules printed.

The Mayor was instructed to subscribe for 50 shares of stock in the Covington and Lexington Turnpike Company in behalf of the city.

July 8,--The rate of taxation for 1835 was fixed at 40 cents on the \$100, and 50 cents on each male over twenty-one years of age.

Martin Hardin was appointed City Collector for 1835.

Carey Clemons and Alexander L. Greer were accepted as bondsman for the City Marshall.

September 1,--The ordinance appointing Martin Hardin City Collector was rescinded, and Milton Lamb was appointed.

An ordinance was passed making the interest of the city bonds payable annually in advance, instead of at the end of the year.

John A. Goodson was allowed \$190 34 for making a fence around the public square.

September 2,--An ordinance was passed repealing all other ordinances providing for a loan for the city, and the proposition of one Marcus Smith was accepted, to loan the city \$25,000 for 30 years at 6 percent. interest, payable annually in advance, at the office of the Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company, in Cincinnati. Certificates were ordered issued in proper form of the loan.

The ordinance appointing Milton Lamb City Collector was rescinded, and John Arnold was appointed.

September 6,--J. G. Arnold and G. W. Merrill were accepted as the Collector's sureties.

A resolution was passed declaring it "expedient to invest the surplus funds of the city in the stock of the Northern Bank of Kentucky."

Platt Kennedy, James G. Arnold, R. E. Culbreath, George M. Southgate and Geo. B. Marshall were appointed School Trustees for the year 1835.

The City Treasurer's bond was raised to twenty thousand dollars.

The bid of Simon Robinson to furnish the material and to do the carpenter work on the new jail for \$450.00 was accepted, as was also the bid of Joseph Paxton to furnish material and do the brick work and stone work for \$350.00. The jail was to consist of "two rooms built of solid timber one story, enclosed by a brick building of two stories, the upper story for a poor house."

September 29th, Wm. Elliot resigned his seat in Council and an election was ordered for October 10th to fill the vacancy.

\$550 was allowed James G. Arnold of inlots Nos. 346 and 347 which had been selected as a site for the new jail.

October 2d, M.M. Benton offered his resignation as Mayor, which was accepted by Council and John T. Levis was chosen Chairman temporarily, and W.W. Southgate was elected Mayor pro tem.

October 3d,--The Mayor pro tem took the oath of office before James G. Arnold, J. P. K. C. (sic).

An election for Mayor was ordered for October 17th with voting places and inspectors as follows:

First Ward--At the office of Wm. W. Southgate; R. E. Culbreath, Milton Lamb, and John Harding.

Second Ward--At the Engine House; John B. McNickel, Joshua Bull, and Samuel Pearce.

Third Ward--At the house of Jonathan Johnson; A. L. Greer, HamiltonMartin, and Andrew Ross.

Fourth Ward--At the house of Isaac Martin; John A. Goodson, G. B. Marshall, and James C. Gedge.

Council confirms the appointment of the following Deputy Marshals, one for the First, Third and Fourth Wards in the order named ArthurConnelly, William Musselman and Isaac Martin.

October 12,--Wm. Elliot took the oath of office as Councilman elect from the First Ward.

Thomas D. Kennedy, City Surveyor, was allowed \$30 for "making a map of the city and establishing corners,"

The sum of \$120 was appropriated and Messrs. Levis, Casey, and Elliot were appointed a committee to survey the city.

John B. Casey resigned from the Council because of his removal from the ward he represented.

It was ordered that the vacancy be filed at the election on the 17th.

October 20,--M. M. Benton was reported as Councilman elect from the Third Ward, and he qualified as such.

The vote for Mayor was reported as follows:

W. W. Southgate.....	116
John Bryer.....	9
George Buckner.....	4

And Mr. Southgate was declared elected Mayor for the unexpired term of Mr. Benton.

A committee appointed to secure the co operation of Cincinnati in operating a ferry across the Ohio in the interests of both cities reported, and a resolution was passed protesting against the Cincinnati Council giving Messrs. Wiggins and Garnip exclusive control of the Cincinnati landing from Broadway to Walnut Street.

November 3,--Mr. Southgate resigned as councilman from the First Ward and qualified as Mayor by taking the oath.

The Committee, to whom was referred J. G. Arnold's petition to relieve the Christian Church from taxation reported adversely.

An election was ordered for the 14th to fill vacancy in the First Ward.

The committee appointed to settle with the City Collector for 1834 reported:

Total amount of revenue and poll tax charged.....	\$1,522 12
Total amount of street tax for Garrard street.....	1,8-5 56

Total.....\$3,337 38

Total amount paid Treasurer.....2,832 70

Yet due from Collector.....\$504 95

The Collector was instructed to finish his collection at once.

December 1,--Milton Lamb qualifies as Councilman elect from the First Ward.

December 8--The new jail and poor house was reported done and ready for occupancy.

William Mason was chosen "Keeper of the Poor and Work house," defeating Younglove Abbott by a vote of 5 to 2.



William Peck was elected Sexton of the graveyard over Elijah Owen, Richard Hughes, and Jesse Oliver.

December 15 --Council representing the city as stockholder in the Covington and Lexington Turnpike Road Company, consented to change the location of the road at Dry Creek so that it might pass by the post office at Dry Creek.

The Committee on Law was instructed to inquire into the expediency of extending the limits of the city.

G. Nichols was granted permission to run his skiff to the city landing at the mouth of Greenup Street while the river was obstructed with ice.

The fees of the Keeper of the Poor house and Work house were fixed as follow:

For putting each person in the Work house.....	25 c
For releasing each person from the Work house.....	25 c
For boarding each person per day.....	33 c
For boarding each person in the Poor house in health.....	25 c
For attending and nursing each person when required.....	30 c

The nomination of Thomas Abbott as Deputy Marshal in the Fourth Ward was confirmed.

December 22 Dr. John C. Hunt was allowed \$12.00 for attending three cases of small pox. M. M. Benton was allowed \$30 for his services for six months as Mayor.

December 29th it was decided to send two delegates to Frankfort to use their influence with the Legislature to secure the passage of a charter for the Covington and Paris railroad, another privilege extending it through the State so as to intersect the projected railroad from South Carolina to Cincinnati. W. W. Southgate and James G. Arnold were appointed that committee, and \$159 was appropriated to pay their expenses.

Resolutions were passed requesting the Representatives in the Legislature to secure amendments to the city charter.

Separating the Mayor and the Council, extending the boundaries of the city as far west as Philadelphia street and as far south as Riddle street, empowering the Council to borrow \$7,500 upon consent of a majority of the qualified voters.

January 26, 1863 (sic) the Committee on Law instructed to rent the ferry to Pliny Bliss.

The office of Street Commissioner was created.

The Covington Hose Company No. 1 was established with members as follows:

John T. Levis, Jesse Gray, D. W. McDonald, Wm. Stewart, Bennett McDonald, Asa Dowdy, Jonas Harlow, -----, G. B. Connelley, John Mackoy, E. Dozier, Peleg Kidd, Wm. Musselman and their associates.

Martin Hardin resigned as City Marshal and Jesse Gray as elected to fill the vacancy, the vote standing: Mr. Gray 5, Thomas Abbott 3, C. W. Anderson none.

February 16, 1836 Thomas Abbot was elected Street Commissioner for the whole city, the vote standing: Thomas Abbott 5, Wm. Mason 2, and W. W. Wade 1. The extra duty of keeping the public wells in repair was also imposed on the Street Commissioner. Heretofore their care had been let out to various parties from year to year.

March 1, 1836--The office of Wood Measurer was created and the fees fixed at not to exceed six cents per cord.

Thomas Abbott, J. G. Arnold and Jno. Gray were put in nomination, and John Gray elected, the vote standing: Mr. Gray, 6; Mr. Abbott, 1; Mr. Arnold, 1.

James Kelley was allowed "\$14 for powder furnished to celebrate the passage of the Railroad bill."

March 8.--The Committee appointed to consider the request of Pliny Bliss to borrow money from the city to build a ferry boat reported it to be, in their judgment, inexpedient.

The Committee on Propositions and Grievances reported recommending allowances to Gedge & Bro. (2) for candles 88.80 lbs. at 10 c, \$8 88; Jameson & Underwood for flannel and wrapping paper \$7 37.

These were articles used in illuminating the city on the night of February 25 in honor of passage of the Cincinnati and Charleston Railroad bill. The allowances were made (3).

The office of the City Attorney was created by an ordinance introduced by Mr. Benton, which made that office elected by and subject to removal by the Council and made it his duty to represent the city in the Mayor's Court in all except felony cases.

Richards & Co. were allowed the last balance due for building the jail.

M. M. Benton, R. E. Culbreath and F. C. Triplett were nominated for City Attorney. The first ballot stood: Mr. Benton, 3, Mr. Culbreath, 4, and Mr. Triplett 1.

The second ballot resulted Mr. Benton 3, Mr. Culbreath 4, and Mr. Triplett 1. Mr. Benton then withdrew

and Mr. Culbreath was elected the vote standing 6 for him against t 2 for Mr. Triplett.

The following voting places and officers were chosen for the annual election to take place April 2:

First Ward--Mayor's office. Pliny Bliss, Geo. Buckner and Moses V. Grant inspectors.

Second Ward--Engine house. Johathan Bull, J.K. McNickle and Samuel Pearce inspectors.

Third Ward--House of J. Johnson, Wm. Musselman, J. Johnson, and R.E. Culbreath inspectors.

Fourth Ward--William Wason's house. David Evans, Simeon Robinson, and F. Hollister inspectors.

The polls were to be opened at 10 a. m. and closed at 4 p. m.

Deputy City Marshals were confirmed as follows: John Hardin, First Ward; Wm. Scholes, Second Ward, and Wm. Wason in the Fourth Ward. The Marshal evidently lived in the Third Ward himself.

## ENDNOTES

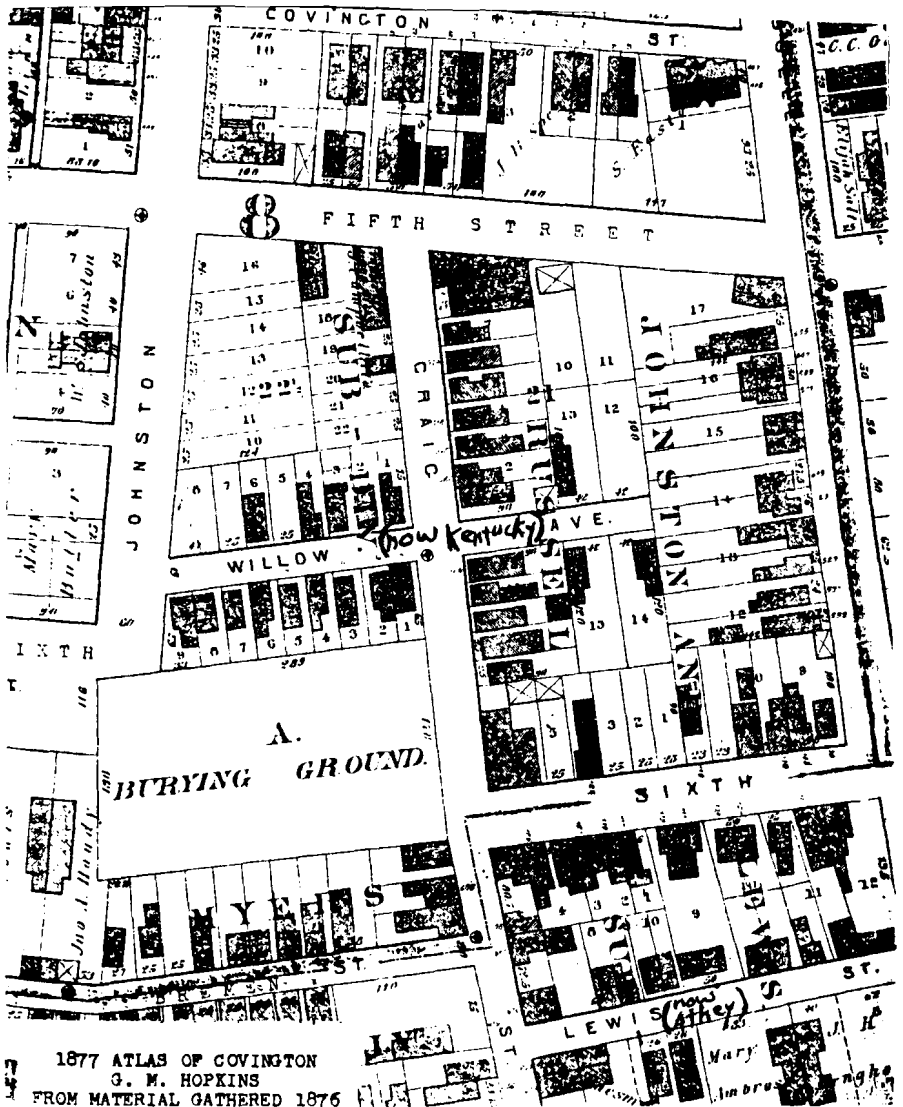
1. The earliest legally recorded reference to the burying ground, which fronted on the west line of Craig street in Covington, is found in deedbook F, page 378, January 11, 1823, a deed involving the heirs and representatives of the Gano families. It indicated that graves already existed on ground purchased "of Thomas Kennedy." Originally it was located west of the town, but subsequently the town expanded westward and grew around it. Its boundaries were re-examined as late as 1876 with survey by Ellis and Yates, Civil engineers (Allen Webb Smith, Beginning at "the Point," a Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, the Town of Covington in Particular--r, 1751-1834, printed locally, 1977). But by then Covington's pioneer cemetery was obsolete. In 1872 city officials decided to remove bodies to the new Highland Cemetery and elsewhere. In 1879 an appeals court confirmed the city's right to do this. Soon West Sixth street was connected through there. In 1883 the C & O Railroad right of way was dedicated through this area which allowed the extension of the railroad right-of-way from the old Pike Street business district terminus in Covington across the river to Cincinnati. (Charles S. Adams, "Old Covington Cemeteries," Christopher Gist Papers). The first Sexton, Enos Pratt, had been a "stone mason, head of Greenup" street (1834 city directory).

2. Frederick Gedge, tobacconist, Scott b. Fourth and Fifth; J. C. Gedge, clerk, John Casey (1834 directory). Elisha Gedge, Campbell Co. (1830 Census). Elisha, F. G., J. C., and Wm. Gedge (1840 Census). C. H. Gedge, 36, merchant, born in England; Frederick Gedge, 45, merchant, born in England; W. H. Gedge, 34, merchant, born in England (1850 Census). Elisha Gedge (1779-1849); Jane Gedge (1785-1865); Charlotte Kennedy (1818-1851), wife of Wm. H. Gedge; Mary H. Kennedy (1822-1900), daughter of T. D. Kennedy, wife of Wm. H. Gedge (1816-1865); many from the Gedge family are buried in Linden Grove Cemetery (Allen J. Sexton, Shelby L. Meyer, jr. Linden Grove Cemetery, compiled 1965-1966). Wm. H. Gedge was married twice, to Charlotte Kennedy, then to Mary Hannah Kennedy (Gedge Family papers, cited by Donald B. Roberts). October 3, 1859--due to a judgement by the Fayette Circuit Court, the Covington and Lexington railroad was sold in Lexington for \$2,125,000 "to Wm. H. Gedge of Covington" representing the interests of R. B. Bowler of Cincinnati (Lewis Collins, History of Kentucky,

revised by Richard Collins, 1874, vol. I). Wm. H. Gedge, age 50, "prominent citizen," General Superintendent of the Kentucky Central railroad, died at his residence in Covington (C. D. E., 11-28-65).

3. After Lexington interests decided that they should connect the Bluegrass to the Ohio river by railroad, but through Louisville, Covington's next hope for a railroad connection came about when the Cincinnati-Charleston line was proposed. In February 1836 the Kentucky Legislature approved the right-of-way after making concessions to the Louisville lobby. So, "Covingtonians ... on the night of February 25th celebrated along gaily decorated streets that were illuminated by special candles and torches wrapped in flannel and paper. Bells were rung, bonfires blazed, and cannon boomed." Despite continued hopes, and preparations, and even construction of a short section in South Carolina, the Cincinnati-Charleston railroad was never built, due "in large measure" to opposition from the politically dominant Louisville interests. Then years later in the 1850s a railroad connection was completed from Covington to Lexington which eventually became the Kentucky Central Railroad (John Burns, "History of Covington to 1865." unpublished).

(Transcriptions and endnotes by John Boh)



## **Friends of *Kentucky Ancestors*,**

Friends of *Kentucky Ancestors*, we encourage you to consider what you may have to share with fellow researchers! We are interested in collecting, for possible presentation to our nationwide audience, previously unpublished records or record compilations of Kentucky family history. Are you the keeper of the family's treasured Bible volume or other written keepsake? Have you copied an "endangered" family or church cemetery? Have your church's early membership rolls been transcribed? Have you found, in your research, records which might not be accessible to your fellow seekers of Kentucky ancestors?

Please help us to provide these valuable sources for our thousands of current and future readers—to preserve through publication the heritage of our Kentucky ancestor families. You may contact: *Kentucky Ancestors*, Kentucky Historical Society, P. O. Box H, Frankfort, KY 40602-2108.



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**THE FRONTIER THESIS AND KENTUCKY CULTURE**

**WHAT IS THE KENTUCKY MIND?**

**BY**

**MICHAEL FLANNERY**

**DIRECTOR OF THE LLOYD LIBRARY AND MUSEUM  
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY**

Date: Tuesday, November 1, 1994

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Place: Landrum Academic Building 417

Refreshments will be served following the presentation

For further information call: (606) 572-5461

## Northern Kentucky Heritage

Our new regional magazine is now one year old. The next issue starts the second year. Now is the time to renew your subscription to receive the next issue due out this fall. Subscribe now so that no issue will be missed. Some featured articles include: "Covered Bridges of N. Kentucky", "KKK Murder in Owen County", "The Last Mayor of Latonia, KY", three "Sam Hill Stories" and more.

Subscription with membership in the Kenton County Historical Society - \$25.00

Senior citizen and student subscription with membership in KCSH - \$20.00

Subscription without membership - \$20.00

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

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### NOTICE: CIRCULATION MANAGER NEEDED

The staff of Northern Kentucky Heritage magazine is looking for a conscientious person to volunteer small amounts of time as needed.

All subscription data is already recorded in the Editor's computer, but computer experience would not necessarily be a requirement. Details of course can be worked out with obvious consideration given to the volunteer's own background and inclinations.

Subscriptions to the magazine come from the Northern Kentucky region, as well as from some state-wide and out-of-state locations.

The work should be a rewarding experience. Someone interested in advancing local and family history and willing to aid in the circulation of this new regional magazine might want to accept this position of Circulation Manager.

If interested contact by phone or drop a note to: Karl Lietzenmayer, Senior Editor, Northern Kentucky Heritage magazine, P.O. Box 641, Covington, Kentucky 41042.

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

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