

# Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

P.O. Box 641, Covington, Kentucky 41012-0641 [nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com](mailto:nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com) (859) 431-2666

*November/December*

**2004**

## PROGRAMS

**November 9, 2004 7:00 pm**

A presentation on the life of Jesse Stuart, by David Dick.  
After working as a journalist for CBS, David became director of the University of Kentucky's School of Journalism. Upon retirement, he and his wife started Plum Lick Publishing. David has written many books, all rooted in his love for Kentucky and Kentuckians. The program will be held at Trinity Church, 4th and Madison, Covington.

**D e -**

The society will celebrate with its annual Christmas Party, this year held at the Behringer-Crawford Museum, located in Devou Park, Covington. The museum will have their "hands-on" electric train display running as well as other festive Christmas displays. Refreshments will be served.

### Important Reminders

The following programs have been announced:

- November 11, 2004  
Daniel Hurley, Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal  
**The Development of Social Work in Cincinnati:  
125 Years of Friendly Visiting and Case Management**
- December 9, 2004  
Carl Westmoreland, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center  
**Black Cincinnatians, an Unwanted Presence Since 1802:  
Their History and Impact on the Present**
- February 10, 2005  
Patrick Snadon, University of Cincinnati  
**Ludlow/Hygeia: A Regency Enclave and a  
Railway Town near Cincinnati**

#### **The Bulletin**

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#### **The Kenton County Historical Society**

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email: [nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com](mailto:nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com)

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# Art Student's Project Reminiscences

From Tim Fitzgerald, *The Messenger*



Photos by: Ronin Einhaus

Last May and June, selected Holy Cross High School art students created a memory project for the city of Latonia. Their “canvasses” were seven boarded-up windows on the side of Bernhard’s Bakery.

Fifteen students, aided by three alumni and some donations from the community, created seven brightly colored “murals” on plywood. The pieces were painted in their classroom and later attached to the long-standing bakery located at 3612 Decoursey Avenue.

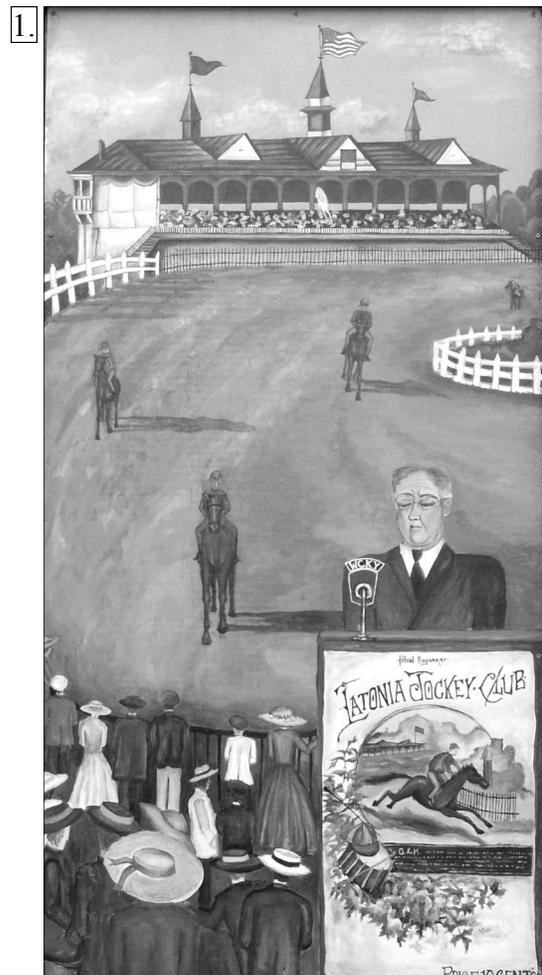
Inspired by their art teacher, Craig Lipscomb, the students spent two weeks researching in the Kenton County Library and talking with residents and Latonia businesses. They discovered photos of places no longer standing and learned what people fondly remembered about the neighborhood.

Each panel is a collage of items depicting a single topic. Subjects include the recent history of Holy Cross High School, images of the old Latonia Racetrack, the L&N Railroad and Johnny’s Toy Shop. Also featured are buildings at Ritte’s Corner and churches such as Holy Cross and Trinity Methodist.

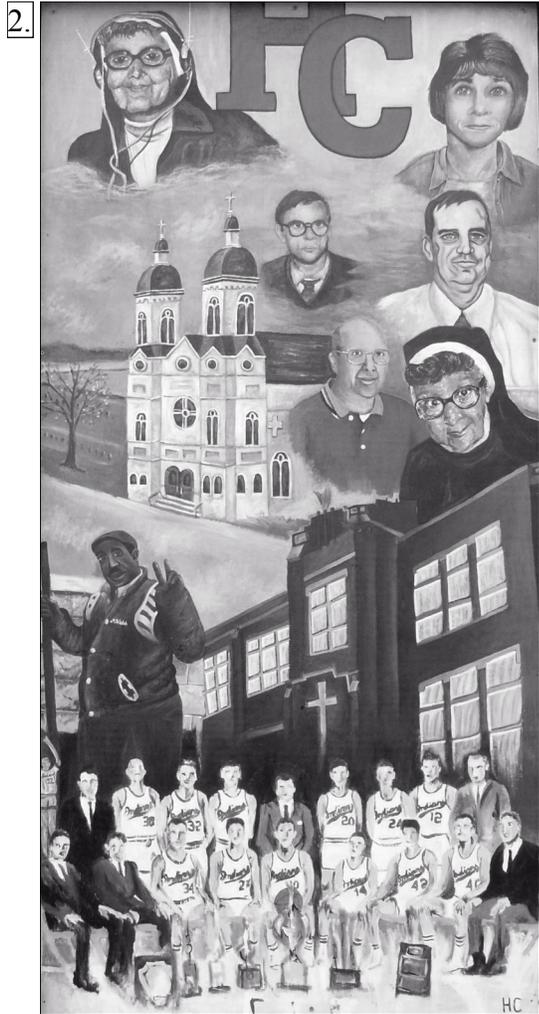
Mr. Lipscomb was looking for a project that would link the school and the community. He stops in the bakery most days (as do most of his students) and saw the seven empty boarded windows on the building’s north side. He had a “eureka” moment. “With all the people I interviewed about Latonia, the bakery was probably the thing that came up most often,” said Lipscomb. “The side door and getting donuts in the middle of the night was one remembrance most often related.” A bakery has operated at that Decoursey Avenue site since the 1930s.

“I hope this inspires people to want more art around the city and inspires more projects like this,” said Erica Brehm, one of the students.

## Individual Mural Descriptions (numbered 1 through 7 – Left to Right)



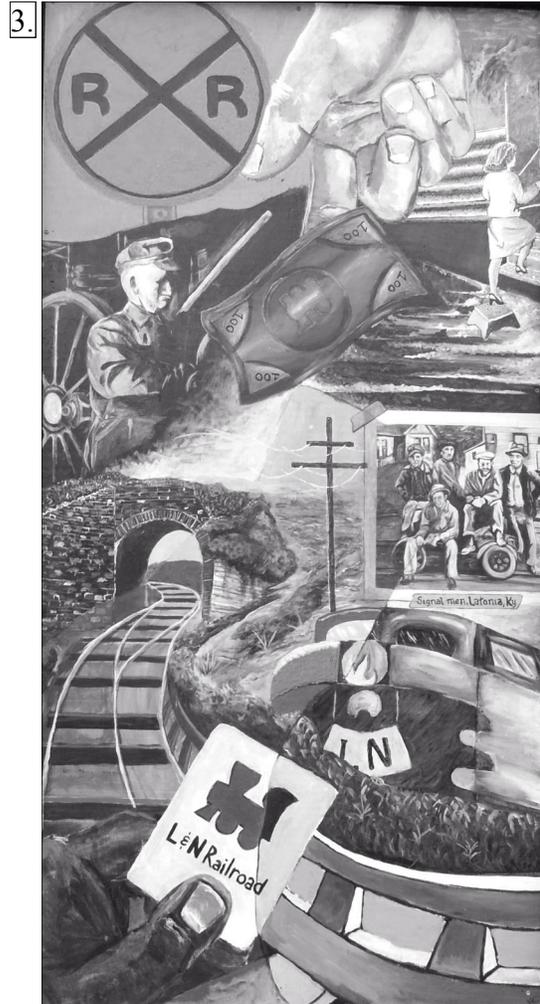
- 1) **Latonia Racetrack (1883-1939):** Grandstand, FDR visit campaigning for Senator Alben Barkley, 1938; souvenir program.



- 2) **Holy Cross Parish & School:** Beginning at top (Left to Right): Sr. Carmella, OSB; Sue Schlarman; Pat English; former principal Bill Goller; Coach John Wysong; Sr. Samuel, OSB; Kenny Webb (retired maintenance man); (bottom) 1965 basketball team state champs.

Sr. Carmella and Samuel have both given 50 years of service to Holy Cross and are actual biological sisters. Patrick English taught history and business for six years before his death in September 2000. Mr. Goller has been a teacher at Holy Cross since 1968 (principal 1986-2001). Coach Wysong taught math and also coached football for many years. He died of a heart attack at the school in May 2004.

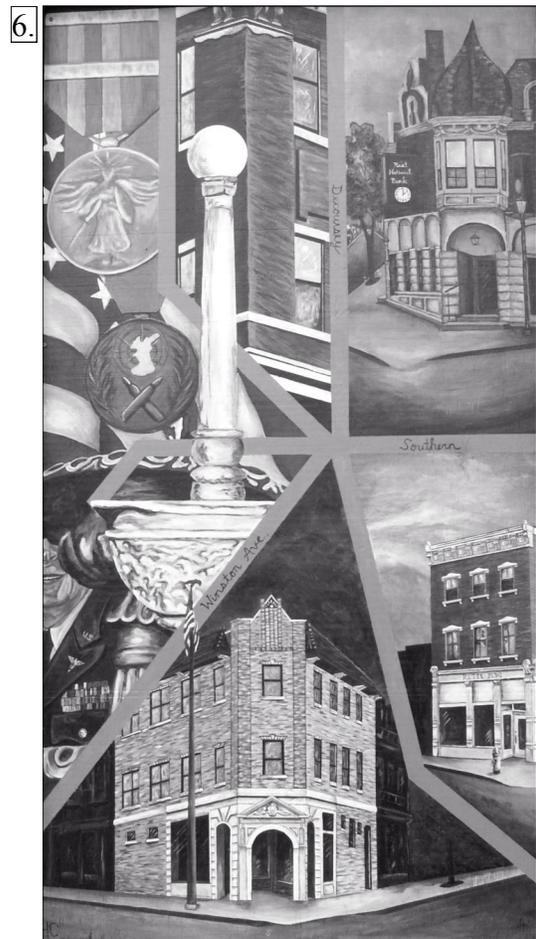
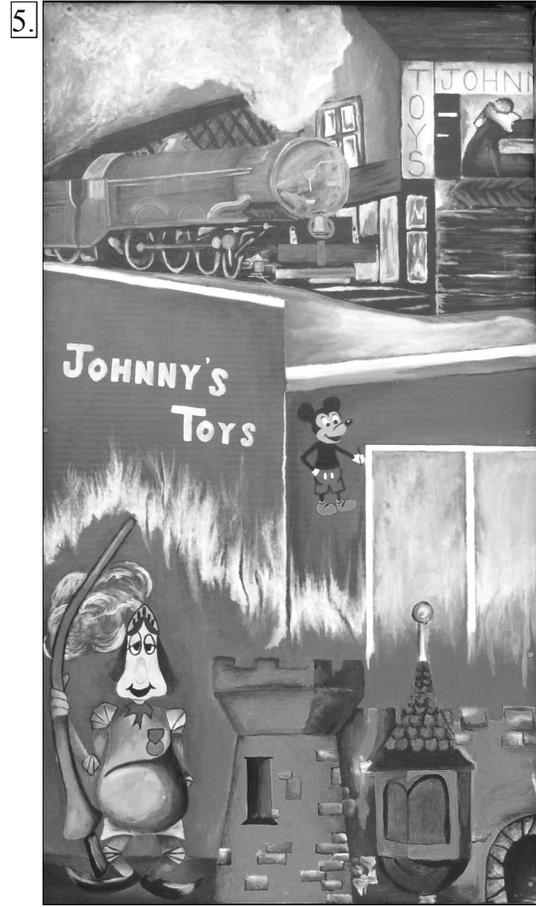
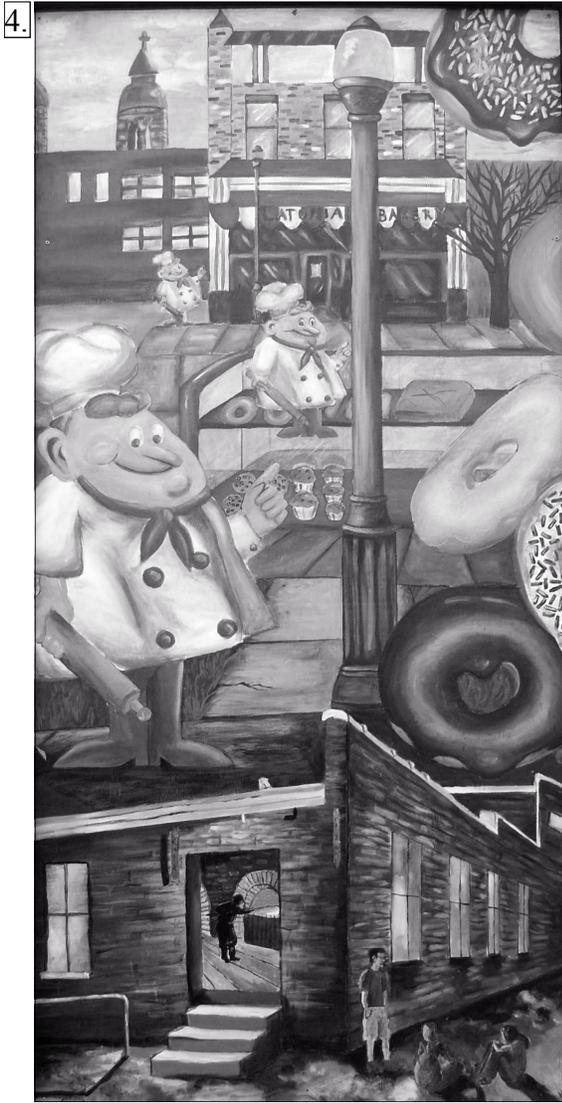
- 3) **Railroads Form Latonia:** The rail yard near the Decoursey station was the northern point of the L&N Railroad from shortly after the Civil War until the late 1930s. A major terminus of coal and freight, today there is only one main line north to south and one east to west through Latonia. The Railroad Exhibition Museum on the Decoursey Yard is open for tours in the summers. (photo shown at the top of the next column)



- 4) **Latonia Bakery:** Today's Bernhard's Bakery is more popularly known as the "Latonia Bakery." Although baking is no longer done on site, for many years, after hours customers would purchase freshly baked goods at the side door near the rear of the building. It is still a "must" stop before school for Holy Cross students each morning.

- 5) **Johnny's Toys:** Along with the bakery, the Martin family's *Johnny's Toys* is Latonia's most famous store – now with several Greater Cincinnati locations. Bill Martin left a hardware business partnership with Thomas Holian to work at "Miss Mary's Candies" [see KCHS Bulletin – "Holian Hdwr"]. Mr. Martin purchased the confectionery in 1939. Although candy, books and school supplies were the main business, toys began to be added. At a time when toys were sold primarily at Christmas time in dime stores, hardware and department stores, it was a novel concept to see them displayed year round.

The business threatened to end with the coming of World War II. Bill entered the Army Air Corp and served in the South Pacific. While away, Bill's father and sister kept the store. During this time

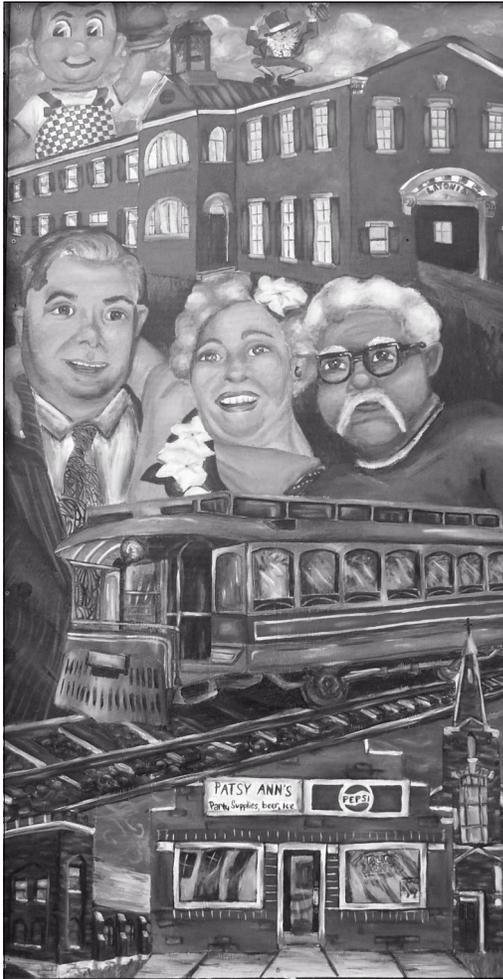


Johnny's got its name. Bill's older brother, John Martin was a well known Latonia personality. Everyone assumed if the Martins had a business, it should belong to John. The name stuck.

The Birthday Castle, a hobby specialty department, a year-round layaway program and wide selections were all ideas begun by Johnny's long before the national chain stores.

- 6) **Ritte's Corner:** This historical district contains 38 properties as the historic commercial center of the community at Southern, Decoursey and Winston Avenues. Buildings date from 1880 through 1935. The corner is named for Walter H. Ritte, who owned the Ritte Building located at 3634 Decoursey. He was the last city clerk under Mayor James Earle of Latonia before the town was annexed to Covington in 1909. Henry Ritte, a relative, owned a saloon at that location. Pictured with the 5 buildings is the original fountain, erected by Dr. Robert E. Carlton, honoring Latonia's World War I vets. It was destroyed by the popular, but far from sober, Dr. Fen-

7.

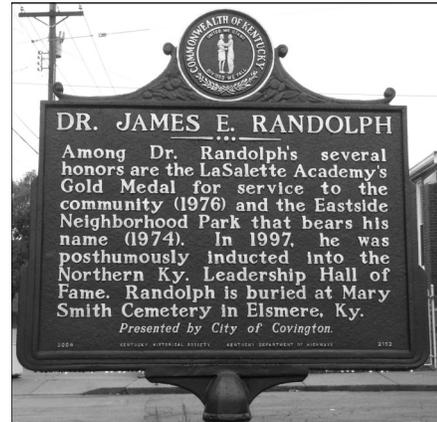


ton Adams, who had not made the transition from horse carriage to his Reo automobile.

- 7) **Latonia Personalities & Landmarks:** (top to bottom) Frisch's Big Boy – now Ashley's Restaurant; a Leprechaun representing "Good Timers" pub; the original fire house; Nick and Margie Casullo, owners of "Nick's Place", a popular bar and restaurant. It was located on the site where the Huntington Bank now stands. Nick purchased the business from Slade Carr who ran an equally popular establishment in a previous generation. Next to them is Ed Hook, Jr., retired long time hardware merchant. He was in partnership with Tom Holian (former Martin partner) and purchased the business after Holian's death. Below is a painting of the *Kentucky* parlor car. Below that is "Patsy Ann's" delicatessen. Finally, two Latonia churches are represented: St. Stephen Episcopal and Trinity Methodist.

## Three New Historical Markers in Covington

### Pioneering Covington Physician Recognized Historic Highway Marker Sponsored by City of Covington



For 59 years, Dr. James Randolph practiced medicine from his Greenup Street office in Covington's Eastside neighborhood. The African-American doctor made house calls for \$9. Office visits were \$7. The grandson of a slave, he worked his way through medical school as a Pullman porter. "In those days, colored doctors couldn't get internships," he said in a 1979 interview, "We had to go right into practice."

"If he would have collected all the money owed him, he would have been a millionaire," said Mary Northington of the NKYAAHTF. The historic marker honoring Dr. Randolph is on the grounds of St. James AME Church, Greenup Street, where he was a longtime member.

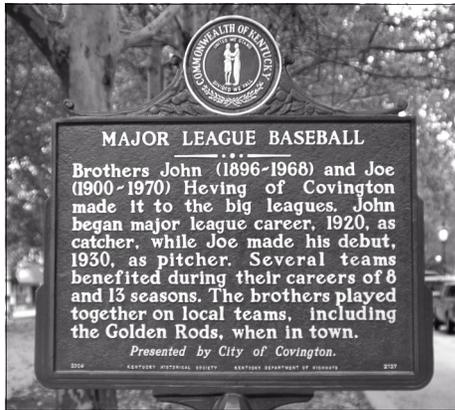
Born in Missouri, Randolph earned a medical degree in 1917. Five years later he opened his Greenup Street office. From there he cared for thousands of patients on both sides of the Ohio River and delivered countless babies.

In 1971, he was the first African-American physician to join St. Elizabeth's staff and admitted to the Campbell-Kenton Medical Society. During his lifetime, Randolph saw a neighborhood park named for him and received the LaSalette Academy's Gold Medal for service to the community in 1976. In 1997, he was posthumously inducted into the Northern Kentucky Leadership Hall of Fame.

He met his first wife, Sarah, in Shelbyville, Tennessee. She died in 1959 after 40 years of marriage. He

later married Loretta Spencer of Frankfort, who died in 1975. Dr. James Elmore Randolph died in 1981 at the age of 93 and is buried at the Mary Smith Cemetery, Elsmere, Kentucky.

**Covington Heving Brothers Played in Big Leagues  
City Sponsors Highway Marker**



John Heving (1896-1968) and his brother Joseph Heving (1900-1970) both from Covington, spent several years each playing major league baseball in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were honored with a highway marker placed at 6<sup>th</sup> and Philadelphia Streets. No Heving relative was found prior to the dedication but through the public announcements, over 20 of the brothers’ relatives attended the event.

As a pitcher for the New York Giants, Joe Heving beat the Cincinnati Reds May 3, 1930. “He was 29 years old then, and went 7 – 5 for the Giants that season,” said Mayor Callery. That was among the career highlights for Heving, a lanky, 6’ 1” relief pitcher who was a grandfather when he was still playing in 1945. With the Cleveland Indians, Joe Heving posted 73 straight scoreless innings during his first two months in one season.

Joe played for the Giants (1930-31); Chicago White Sox (1933-34); Indians (1937-38, 1941-44); Red Sox (1938-40); and Boston Braves (1945), Over his career, he won 76 games and lost 48, for a 0.613 winning percentage.

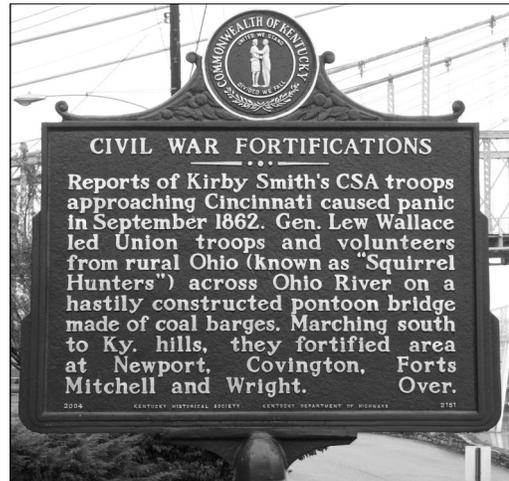
Johnnie, his older brother, was catcher for the St. Louis Browns in 1920, the Boston Red Sox between 1924 and 1930, and finished his career with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1932. The six-foot right-hander had a .265 career batting average and one home run in eight major league seasons.

**City and Riverside Neighborhood  
Sponsors Civil War Marker**

An historic marker was placed at the site where the make-shift pontoon bridge across the Ohio touched in Covington in 1863. In response to a threat from Morgan’s

Raiders, the system of hill fortifications around Northern Kentucky was erected under General Lew Wallace. Thousands of local troops and “Squirrel Hunters” were brought across the river on this bridge to man these defenses.

Construction on Roebling’s Suspension Bridge had been halted due to the war but Morgan’s threat on Cincinnati made the authorities realize completion of the bridge made sense and work resumed soon after the crisis passed. Although not finished before the war’s end, the bridge was opened sooner than if Morgan had not threatened the area (1867).



*Photos by: Ronin Einhaus*

A special thanks to Melissa English and the Urban Appalachian Council for the wonderful program presented at the society’s October meeting.

Melissa discussed many values, attitudes and stereotypes of Appalachian heritage, as well as the purposes of the Urban Appalachian Council.

Donations to their fine cause can be sent to:

Urban Appalachian Council  
2115 West 8th Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45204  
(513) 251-0202

## Then and Now



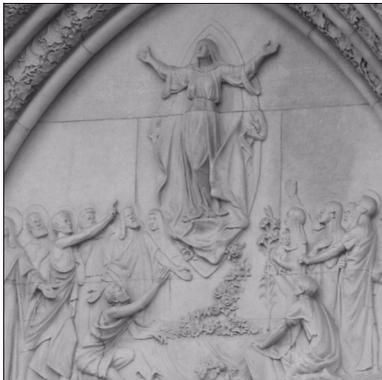
Left: one of the earliest photos of the Baker-Hunt house, located at 620 Greenup Street, Covington. The Baker-Hunt Foundation was established in 1922 by Margaretta Baker-Hunt as a gift to the community.

Right: Today, the building and grounds have gone through several changes, but the foundation continues to offer a variety of art and cultural classes for children and adults.

For the entire Baker-Hunt story, please see the next issue of **Northern Kentucky Heritage** magazine, due to subscribers and select retail outlets in mid-November. To subscribe to the magazine, contact them at: (859) 431-2666 or at: [nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com](mailto:nkyheritage.kchs@Juno.com)

## Monthly Mystery Photo

*November*



*December*



To find out where they are, go to:

[www.roneinhaus.com/KCHSmysteryphoto.html](http://www.roneinhaus.com/KCHSmysteryphoto.html)

September– Bethlehem Baptist Temple in Ludlow

October– "Old" St. Cecilia Church in Independence

