



# Bulletin of the Kenton County Historical Society

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September / October

2008

## I Bet You Didn't Know

*Tidbits of Northern Kentucky History*

I bet you didn't know who came up with the idea for the Kentucky license plates with the new slogan, "Birthplace of Lincoln."

An Erlanger woman has been recognized for an idea she had over 40 years ago. As a child, little Kathy Hanas felt so strongly that Kentucky was not given proper due as Lincoln's home state that in 1961 she wrote a letter to U. S. Congressman, Brent Spence, asking that our license plates have that special wording. On July 14, 2008, Hanas was presented one of the plates – which are now available.

Hanas has lived in Erlanger for 35 years and is now retired from Erlanger-Elsmere School schools.

*Nky.com*

## Upcoming Programs

### Important Yearly Membership Meeting

The annual meeting of the Kenton County Historical Society membership will be Tuesday September 9th at 7:00PM. It will be held at the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Covington's Devou Park. The meeting will include a financial report and an update on future projects. Also, new officers will be elected to several open positions. A guided tour of the museum will begin promptly at 7:00 with the business meeting following. It is very important that all members of the society try to attend.

### September 14, 2008 and October 12, 2008

The Northern Kentucky History, Art, and Lecture Series continues with this season's "Living Together In The Tri-State" theme. The September installment will be presented by Dr. Prince Brown, Jr., and will cover African-American emigration and influence in the area. The program will begin at 2pm at the Baker Hunt Art and Culture Center, 640 Greenup Street, Covington. The October session will be held on the 12th, when Appalachian emigration will be discussed by Dr. Andrea Watkins. For additional information, contact Baker Hunt at (859) 431-0020.

The remaining schedule for the series is as follows:  
November 9th – Latino – Sr. Juana Meddez

### Behringer-Crawford Museum Programs

The Fire/EMS exhibit continues through October 26th – The heroism and selfless public service of firefighters and emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

November 15 through December 27 – The Smithsonian's "New Harmonies" traveling music exhibit.

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**The Kenton County Historical Society**  
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*ARTICLES FROM BACK ISSUES ARE INDEXED ON OUR WEBSITE!*

# St. Augustine Church

Robert D. Webster

By the late 1850s, the city limits of Covington, Kentucky extended from the Licking River on the east to just past Willow Creek (now I-71/75) on the west and from the Ohio River on the north to about Nineteenth Street to the south. Not yet annexed by the city was Wallace Woods and Buena Vista, (areas now comprised by East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Eastern Avenue, Madison Avenue, and 26<sup>th</sup> Street) and Central Covington, (area now comprised by Madison Avenue, 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Highland Avenue, and the Ft. Wright city limits to the west).<sup>1</sup>

At the time, Covington already had four German parishes serving its Catholic citizens - Mother of God, established in 1841, St. Joseph Church, established in 1853, St. John Church, established in 1854, and St. Aloysius Church, established in 1865.<sup>2</sup>

By the late 1860s, the need for a fifth church was seen for the predominantly German residents of Central Covington, also known as Peaselburg. The new church's boundaries would actually extend nearly six miles to the south.<sup>3</sup> St. Augustine Parish was established on June 20, 1870. Its name was chosen in honor of the patron saint of the new Bishop of Covington, Most Reverend Augustus Maria Toebbe, D.D. The cornerstone for the combination church and school was laid, and the building was dedicated on October 16, 1870. Father L. Neumeier was its first pastor.

There seems to be some discrepancy, however, as to the exact location of the first St. Augustine Church. Most written histories of the parish place the building on Augustine Street - which certainly makes sense - but is incorrect. The 1877 Atlas, an early photograph of the neighborhood taken from atop the nearby Monte Casino property, and all City Directories spanning thirty years clearly indicate this is not the case. The structure was actually located on Holman Street at its intersection with Howard Street.

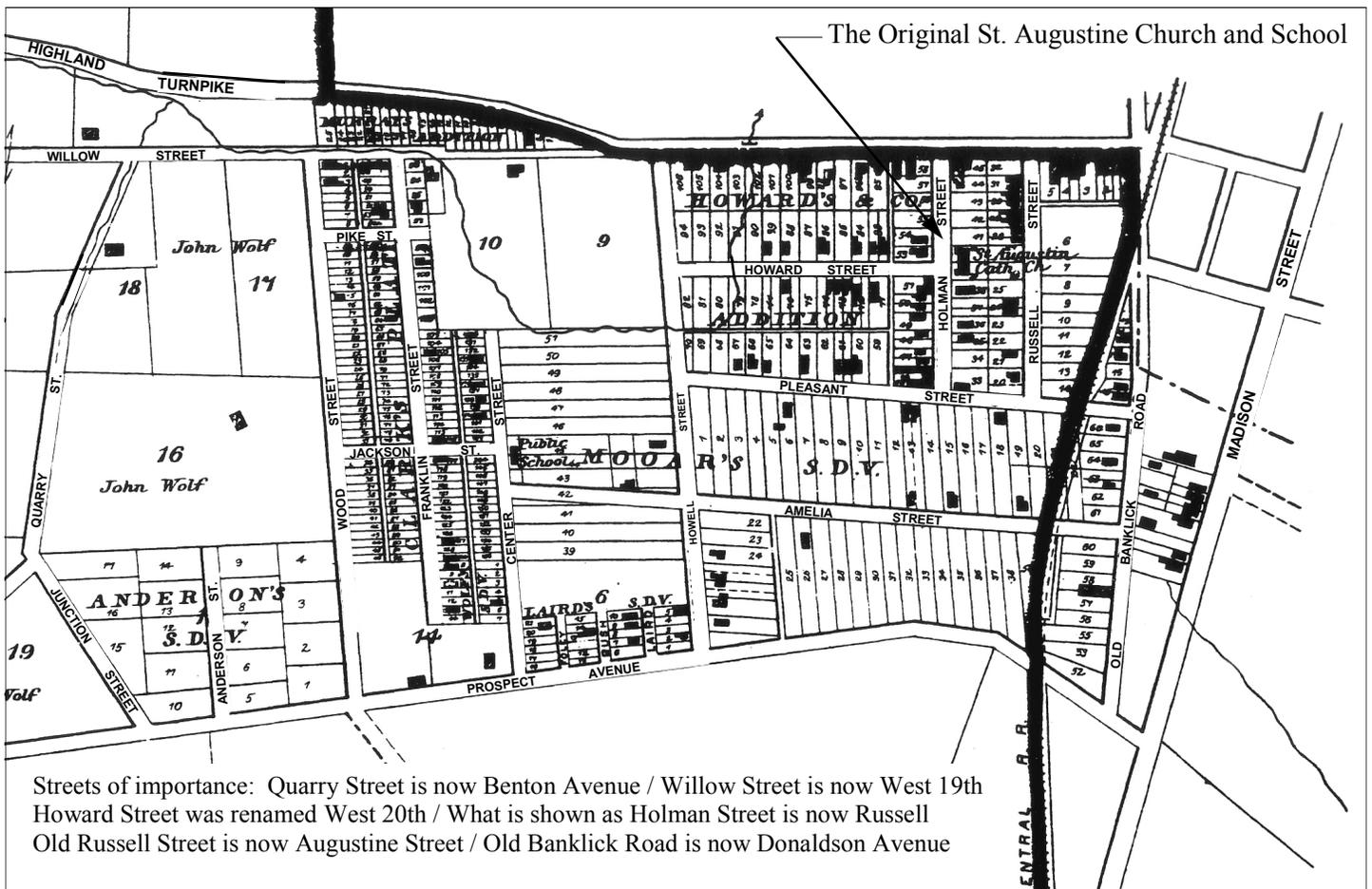


*Cover photo: sketch of the present church by Justin Kendig  
(courtesy KCPL Archives)*

*Above: Covington's St. Augustine Church today  
(courtesy Bob Webster)*

Between 1905 and 1910, several streets in the neighborhood were renamed. What was Holman became Russell, what was Howard became West 20<sup>th</sup> Street and what was Russell became Augustine Street. The naming of Augustine Street was certainly in honor of the church and school, but important to remember is that the church and school was never located on Augustine Street.

Peaselburg, at the time, was nothing more than a small village with scattered homes, but the influx of Catholics in the area was rapid during the next few years. In February 1871, Reverend Joseph

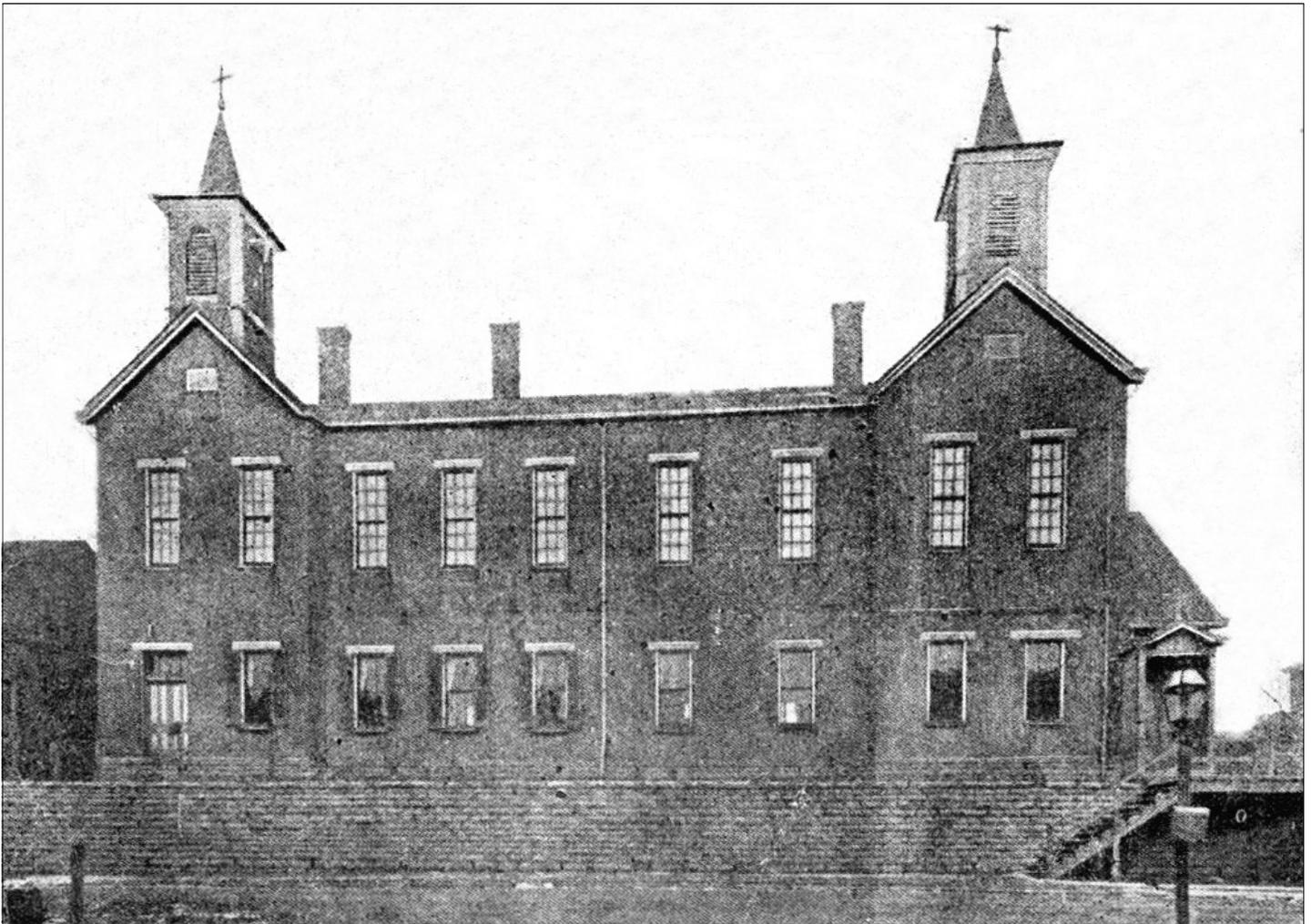


Goebbels succeeded Father Neumeier. Father Goebels undertook several projects to enhance the parish property and to increase church revenue. During a European trip in 1875, he purchased a wire nail manufacturing machine and brought it back to Peaselburg.<sup>4</sup> He and parishioner, Barney Melbers, started the American Wire and Screw Nail Company in December 1875, "...for the manufacture of all kinds of wire goods."<sup>5</sup> The machine was initially set up in the back room of Melbers' saloon, at the corner of Madison Avenue and Willow Street (now West 19<sup>th</sup>). Within two years, a total of ten machines were manufacturing goods that were being shipped as far away as San Francisco, California.<sup>6</sup> Profits from the company were intended to fund the construction of a new church and school, but almost immediately, due mostly to a strong downturn in the national economy, the company failed. The parish could no longer meet its obligations and its creditors eventually filed suit in 1881.<sup>7</sup> Company property and other church holdings were sold. Luckily, parishioners were able to pool personal funds and purchase the combination

church and school, as well as its furnishings.

Father Goebbels left the parish and was replaced by Father William Robbers in 1877. Four years later, Father Robbers and the Board of Trustees organized a corporation known as the Roman Catholic German Church of Central Covington, Kentucky.<sup>8</sup> During Father Robbers' years, a request was made and granted for a new parish, to be located in the vicinity of Decoursey, which became St. Anthony Church.<sup>9</sup>

In 1879, Father Clement Jesse became the third pastor of St. Augustine Church. His ill health, however, prevented much parish activities. He died in June of 1883 and Father Paul Abeln became the church's fourth pastor. Father Abeln brought order out of chaos, resurrecting the parish from what had been a victim of mismanagement and the subject of much embarrassment. His immediate success brought the parish out of debt, and he was able to raise more than \$34,000 toward the dream of a new



*Photograph of the original St. Augustine Church and School, circa 1890. The structure was located at what is today the eastern side of Russell Street, opposite West 20th Street. Photo courtesy KCPL Archives.*

and bigger church for the congregation. Also during Father Abeln's years, other divisions were required for the growing number of German Catholics in Covington and surrounding areas. In 1885, St. Benedict Church was erected on East 16<sup>th</sup> Street and in 1890, the town of Milldale [now Latonia] became home to Holy Cross Church.<sup>10</sup>

Father Abeln's dream of seeing a new St. Augustine Church was never realized, however, as he died on April 10, 1911.<sup>11</sup> On May 11, 1911, Reverend William F. Kathman became the church's fifth pastor. Father Kathman continued to lead the parish with plans to build a new Church. On May 7, 1912, the parish purchased land on the north side of West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, between Euclid and Jefferson Avenues.<sup>12</sup>

Work on the new Church was begun May 8, 1913, and the cornerstone was laid on Sunday, Sep-

tember 21, 1913. The new Italian Renaissance Style church was designed by Newport architect David Davis and was constructed of chocolate color rough brick.<sup>13</sup> A large brick residence on the corner of 19<sup>th</sup> and Euclid was moved to the northeast edge of the property to become the Sisters' residence. The parcel included another home, located on the northwest corner of the property, which became the pastor's residence.

Bishop Maes dedicated the new St. Augustine Church on December 20, 1914. Much of the interior was decorated by the private donations of parishioners. These gifts included: High Alter by Mrs. Louis Trenkamp, Communion Rail by Frank Broering, and the Stations of the Cross by Mrs. C. Pohlman. The entire cost of the new church was \$106,074.53.<sup>14</sup> The original Church was auctioned to a single bidder.

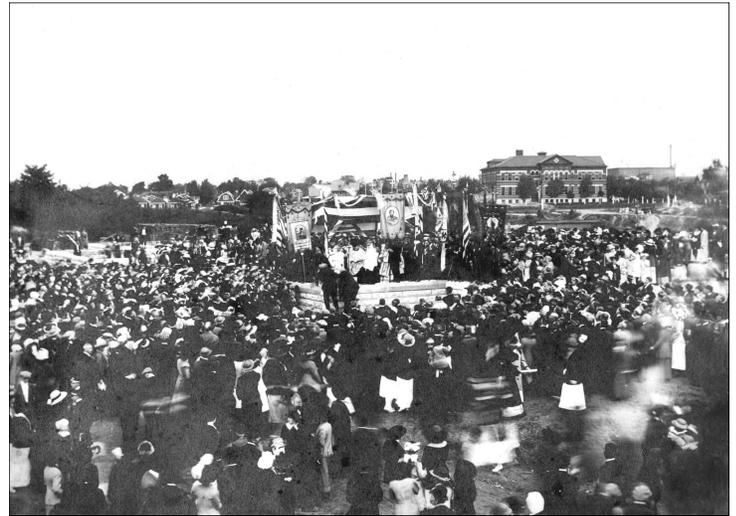
Several men of the parish pledged to save the church bell, and they were successful. Church membership at this time was 210 families.<sup>15</sup>

After completion of the new church, Father Kathman turned his attention to the construction of the much-needed new school. Work began in the fall of 1915 and by January 1916, the cornerstone had been laid. The school was dedicated on September 10, 1916 and cost \$39,498.30 to build. By 1920, enrollment stood at 300.<sup>16</sup>

St. Augustine Parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee on June 20, 1920, and the small congregation of 1870 had grown to 325 families, one of the best-organized congregations in the city of Covington, under the guidance of Father Kathman.<sup>17</sup> By the mid 1920s, new subdivisions were being built in the area, bringing even more families to the church.

Father Kathman died on March 14, 1926 and was succeeded by Reverend Charles A. Woeste. Father Woeste enjoys the distinction of being pastor of St. Augustine for 31 years. An able administrator, he renovated the entire interior of the Church, remedying the acoustical difficulties, redecorated the walls and renewed the Stations of the Cross. By the late 1940s, the school was filled to capacity. An expansion, housing two classrooms, a gymnasium, locker rooms and additional restrooms was completed in 1953. By the late 1950s, church membership included over 500 families, with more than 2,000 total members.<sup>18</sup> Monsignor Woeste died on December 10, 1957, after nearly 32 years of loyal, attentive, and devoted service to St. Augustine Parish. Reverend Joseph A. Lubrecht became his successor and remained at St. Augustine until 1977.

In the early 1960s, Vatican II Council called forth a renewal in the Church. St. Augustine Parish embraced that call and renovated the Church and prepared the parishioners for the changes in the Mass and in parish life. This was accomplished under the direction of Monsignor Lubrecht. The pastorate exercised by Father Lubrecht reflected the work of Father Abeln, Father Kathman, and Father Woeste. His loyalty and acceptance of authentic



*Groundbreaking ceremonies for St. Augustine Church  
(note the fairly-new Fifth District School in the background)*

teaching of the Church gave him an equally honored niche in the great tradition of his predecessors.<sup>19</sup>

On June 7, 1970, St. Augustine Parish celebrated 100 years as a parish. Most Reverend Richard H. Ackerman, D.D. concelebrated a Pontifical Mass followed by a Centennial Banquet. The "fresh air" of Vatican II continued to blow through the leaderships of Father Joseph Broering, pastor from 1977 to 1987, and Father Donald Hellman, pastor from 1987 to 1992.<sup>20</sup> In 1991, Father Hellman and the parish established the St. Augustine Center at Ida Spence Homes (now City Heights). The center was initially staffed by parish volunteer Bernie Ashworth. The center provided food and clothing assistance, as well as tutoring and religious education to the residents.<sup>21</sup>

Father Leo Schmidt became pastor of St. Augustine in 1992 and remains there today. Due to urban flight, with many families moving to the suburbs and abandoning the inner city, enrollment at both St. Augustine Church and the School has been on a steady decline for the more than twenty years. In 1995, the Church celebrated its sesquicentennial with appropriate ceremonies. Today, a highly dedicated faculty, many of whom have been in the urban classroom throughout their careers, teach over 120 students at the school. Today, church membership includes more than 300 families and under the leadership of Father Schmidt, the Parish continues to respond to the needs of the people of the area.

*Endnotes to this article can be found on page 10*

# “Reach For The Stars”

## Seven Coaches/Administrators

John Boh

*This article attempts to give a brief overview of certain coaches/administrators in Northern Kentucky sports history.*

In 2004, the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame and the Behringer Crawford Museum hosted “Batters Up!” In 2006 they presented the “Coach’s Corner” honoring high school coaches from 1950 to the present. Ken Shields, a coach for forty years, mentored some thirteen current coaches. The exhibit noted pioneers who had helped open the profession to women, including Donna Wolfe and Joan Mitchell (Holmes), Margie McKenna (Campbell County), and Naomi Delaney Melia (Dayton).<sup>1</sup>

In 2008 the Hall of Fame and Museum presented “Reach for the Stars,” honoring ninety-one athletes. Seven of them—Donna Wolfe, Stan Steidel, Mel Webster, Bill Schwarberg, Homer Rice, Janie Scheper Meier and Roger Klein, exemplify those who followed up with successful careers in coaching and administration.<sup>2</sup>

### Donna Wolfe

A graduate from Holmes High School in 1965, Donna Wolfe played high school basketball, volleyball and softball. A great slow pitch amateur softball player for twenty years, her team appeared in thirteen national championship tournaments, winning six titles. Wolfe graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a B.A. in 1969 and an M.A. in 1970, and received an award as outstanding woman athlete. A softball coach for twenty years and a volleyball and basketball coach for twelve, she took Holmes to Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference titles in three sports. She is a member of the Greater Cincinnati Softball All-Century Team. In 1979 she was inducted into the Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame and in 2007 into the Dawahares Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

When an effort to get women’s high school volleyball and softball sanctioned was denied in 1979, Donna Wolfe and others looked to Federal Title IX legislation and filed suit. Four athletes including Wolfe pushed to get the Kentucky High School Sports Association to establish the Northern Kentucky Conference for girls. Her leadership also is documented in a photograph of her and other advocates watching Governor Martha Layne Collins officially sign legislation promoting equal funding for female sports in Kentucky. She was a member of the Citizens Sports Equity Executive Board for fifteen years.<sup>3</sup>

### Stan Steidel

A graduate of Dayton High School in 1959, Stan Steidel played collegiate basketball. Starting in 1966 and for over 30 years he coached sports including baseball, football and basketball at Dayton High School and was the last to handle both football and basketball at the same time in Northern Kentucky. He won the Greater Cincinnati Basketball High School Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award. For high school administration, athletic director Steidel was honored in 1991 with the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association’s Award of Merit, the only person ever from Northern Kentucky. He led in the establishment of the “All-A Classic” for boys and girls basketball players, a statewide tournament for smaller schools. Steidel is a member of the Dawahares Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Recently an overseer of Title I for the Covington School system, he was also Executive Director of the Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference.

### Mel Webster

A graduate of Holmes High School in 1971, Mel Webster was editor-in-chief of the *Northern Kentucky Sports* magazine from 1976 to 1992. At Bishop

Brossart, Webster has coached eighteen softball championship teams and also has been Athletic Director. Typically, in 1993 his softball team won 35 and lost 6.<sup>4</sup> Webster in 1990 won the Kentucky Girls Sports Association Citizens Award. In 1996 Webster was honored with the Kentucky Citizens for Sports Equity Award. Webster in 2000 was inducted into the Northern Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Hall of Fame. A high school umpire for twenty-two years, Webster has worked over 3,000 games, including twenty for regional championship, and seven KHSAA State Tournaments. A high school public address announcer for over thirty years, Webster has covered over 3,600 games and Girls Ninth Region championships twenty-five years in a row.<sup>5</sup>

### **Bill Schwarberg**

Bill Schwarberg enjoyed a very unique and fulfilling career in athletics. He played on the undefeated Holmes High School football team of 1931. He earned a B.A. at the University of Cincinnati while playing quarterback in football and shortstop in baseball. After a season at quarterback for an earlier Cincinnati Bengals franchise, he became the first football coach at Dixie Heights High School. In 1940 he coached an undefeated John G. Carlisle basketball team. Having earned a Masters Degree, in 1942 he became athletic director and football, basketball and assistant physical education coach at Holmes High School. He coached the Holmes football team to an undefeated season including the championship in the state tournament.

In 1944 his Holmes basketball team played in the state tournament. In 1946, after being discharged from the US Navy, Schwarberg became a university coach, then a university administrator. He was an assistant football coach at UC during a decade of winning seasons including four conference titles and three bowl game appearances. He also coached UC golf from 1954 to 1982 and helped out as a baseball coach. Studying during summer months, Schwarberg earned a PhD from Columbia University. In 1963 he became assistant athletic director at UC and in 1976 served as interim AD. Schwarberg once stated that “a good teacher” is “someone who would do for nothing what he is being paid to do.”<sup>6</sup>

### **Homer Rice**

A graduate of Highlands in 1945, Homer Rice was a high school star as a football quarterback and also in basketball and track. He later played three years of professional baseball in the Brooklyn Dodgers organization. An innovative football coach, Rice’s Highlands team won fifty games in a row and won two AA state championships. He embedded a winning tradition at Ft. Thomas Highlands with a record of 102 victories, nine losses and seven ties. Later, he was head coach at the University of Cincinnati as well as the Cincinnati Bengals.

When director of athletics at the University of North Carolina, he saw published, *Homer Rice on Triple Option Football* (1973). He also wrote *Lessons for Leaders, Building a Winning Team from the Ground Up* (2000) and *Leadership Fitness, Developing and Reinforcing Successful, Positive Leaders* (2004). As an athletic director at the Georgia Institute of Technology he was recognized for outstanding achievement with an award from the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

### **Jane Scheper Meier**

A graduate of Villa Madonna Academy in 1969, and Mt. St. Joseph College in 1973, Jane Scheper Meier played high school and college basketball and volleyball. She was recognized as outstanding athlete at both levels. After college she coached at Notre Dame Academy in Park Hills. According to the student year book, “this year the varsity volleyball team surpassed all of its goals...with the great coaching of Jane Scheper, they accomplished a 26 and 2 won-lost record...first place for the season” and in the league tournament. Likewise “NDA’s basketball team had a much improved season with 10 wins and 5 losses” compared to 4 wins and 5 losses the previous year.<sup>7</sup>

After time in graduate school, she coached the volleyball team at Northern Michigan University in 1977. Then she coached volleyball and softball at Northern Kentucky University from 1978 to 1988, taking both to post season tournaments and achieving national rankings. Her volleyball teams won 119, lost 55, and in 1985 won the Great Lakes Valley Con-

ference Championship, earning Meier Coach of the Year honors. Her softball teams won 99 and lost 59 games. Like Schwarberg and Rice, Meier made her mark in university administration. The year before her graduation from Mt. St. Joseph College, Congress had approved Title IX, requiring equal opportunity in sports at institutions supported with federal funding. During her administration Janie Meier has overseen the growth of NKU athletics. In 1996 and 1997 the NKU men's basketball team was runner-up in the NCAA Division II tournament. In 1998 the women's volleyball team won the Division II Elite Eight and in 1999 made the Division II Final Four. By 2000, Meier had served twelve years as Athletic Director at Northern Kentucky University.

In 2000 NKU achieved its very first national championship in athletics under women's basketball coach Nancy Winstel, who was honored as the National Division II Coach of the Year. The NKU women's soccer, volleyball and tennis teams were having winning seasons. In 2000 NKU sponsored seven women's teams and six for men. For 2003-04 the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics named Meier Athletic Director of the Year. In 2008 the NKU women's basketball team won another national championship.<sup>8</sup>

### **Roger Klein**

Coaches and administrators helped establish other sports at the secondary and collegiate levels. Just when professional tennis was being introduced, Roger Klein excelled on Bellevue High School's first tennis team. After graduating in 1929, Klein played tennis at the University of Kentucky. In 1943 Klein returned to Bellevue commencing 32 years of coaching at his alma mater. In 1944 Klein helped to organize the Kentucky High School Tennis Tournament. His teams won 419 times and lost 98. In 1974 Klein retired from high school coaching at Bellevue. Then called to help develop the tennis program at Northern Kentucky University, his men's team won two National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District titles and in 1986 the Great Lakes Valley Conference Championship, the first title in that conference for any NKU men's team. The women's tennis teams won 72 and lost 63 under Klein. In 2001 he was inducted into the NKU Athletic Hall of Fame, and the

Bellevue High School tennis facility is named to honor Klein.<sup>9</sup>

### **Notes on Kentucky collegiate conferences**

In the early 1990s, Kentucky colleges and universities were sponsoring competition in four "major" conferences (Southeastern, Metro, Sunbelt and Ohio Valley) and three "minor" ones (Great Lakes Valley, College Athletic and Kentucky Intercollegiate). With headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama, the Southeastern Conference included University of Kentucky teams. The conference operated men's and women's basketball, cross-country, indoor/outdoor track, golf, swimming and tennis; men's baseball and football; and women's gymnastics and volleyball. Formed in 1975, the Metro Conference included the University of Louisville. It oversaw men's and women's basketball, cross country, golf, swimming and diving, track and field and tennis; men's baseball; and women's volleyball.

Formed in 1978, the Division II Great Lakes Conference started as a basketball league with charter members Bellarmine, and Kentucky Wesleyan. Northern Kentucky University joined in 1985, as did Kentucky State University in 1989. In 1983 it added Women's basketball, softball, tennis, volleyball and cross-country and men's completion would include basketball, tennis, golf, soccer and cross-country.<sup>10</sup> In 2008, as a member of another-the NCAA Division III Presidents' Athletic Conference-Thomas More College sponsors baseball and football for men; softball and volleyball for women; and golf, soccer and tennis for both.<sup>11</sup>

### **Notes on some US sports**

In 1873 a British army officer introduced his invention of tennis at a garden club event, and in 1874 tennis was played in America. Beginning in 1877 amateur and club tournament play centered at Wimbledon. In 1881 the first American singles tournament was established and later moved to Forest Hills, NY. In 1900 organizers established international tournament competition, the Davis Cup, played first in Boston, providing men and women singles and a doubles contest. A promoter introduced American "professional" tennis in 1926.<sup>12</sup>

As an article in the Kentucky Encyclopedia recalls, baseball was played even before the Civil War. By the late 1860s newspaper articles followed the early professional rivalry between Louisville and Cincinnati and by the 1870s and 1880s reported on baseball games in Northern Kentucky.<sup>13</sup> In the following century, besides high school, college and semi-pro, at least thirty-one Kentucky cities had professional, mostly Class D, minor league teams. Of the over 200 major league players from Kentucky, Jim Bunning has joined three others in the Baseball Hall of Fame—and two from Covington, Howie Camnitz and Bill Sweeney, once were candidates.

The museum exhibit showed a number of others from Northern Kentucky who played minor league and some who played on the Major League level—recently Scott Wiggins, a 1994 graduate of Newport Central Catholic High School, with the Toronto Blue Jays in 2002.<sup>14</sup>

In addition to current Walton resident Patricia Scott’s stint in women’s professional hardball (“A League of Their Own”), women’s softball in recent years has earned a lot of publicity at the high school and college levels. Nevertheless, Holmes graduate Donna Wolfe exemplified achievement in women’s softball even before Title IX.

At the very beginning of “American football” Kentucky University played Centre College in 1880. In 1893 two Louisville high schools started a long-term rivalry. By 1914 larger high schools more often were playing football. Formed in 1916 the Central Kentucky High School Association became part of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association. In 1992 over 200 Kentucky high schools had football teams and Northern Kentucky rivalries have long exemplified those statewide.<sup>15</sup>

James A. Naismith had invented basketball at a Massachusetts YMCA, and very soon a game was hosted in a Louisville YMCA. In 1903 a Kentucky University team played a college game against the Lexington YMCA, as did two women’s teams from Kentucky University and Hamilton College the following year. The people of rural Kentucky soon took to supporting their local high school teams. In 1916 the

first high school tournament was played and by 1918 the Kentucky High School Athletic Association had been formed. Women’s high school and college basketball, however, was terminated in the early 1930s. In 1974 the Kentucky legislature reestablished it. Men’s basketball has seen national championships from Kentucky, as has women’s Division II basketball at Northern Kentucky University in 2000 and 2008 under coach Nancy Winstel.<sup>16</sup>

Like basketball, volleyball originated at a YMCA in Massachusetts. Its director has been recognized as the inventor in 1895. American players “demonstrated” volleyball at the Summer Olympics in Paris in 1924. The Olympic games included volleyball in 1964 and the Summer Olympics added beach volleyball in 1996. While success at funding professional competition with TV coverage has been very limited, volleyball has gained widespread popularity and most high schools and colleges sponsor it for females.<sup>17</sup>

1. Shannon Russell, “Exhibit to Honor Local high school Coaches,” *Kentucky Enquirer*, February 6, 2006
2. “Reach for the Stars, Highlighting the Accomplishments of Northern Kentucky Athletes,” Behringer Crawford Museum, booklet, April 4, 2008, exhibit, April-June 2008
3. “Reach for the Stars”; listed under Donna Wolfe Cox in, *Holmes High School Alumni Directory*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, White Plains, N. Y.: Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, 1993
4. “Step in Time 1993,” Bishop Brossart High School yearbook.
5. “Reach for the Stars”
6. “Reach for the Stars”; “Kentucky Deaths,” *Kentucky Post*, 14 September 2001, page 17A; Rebecca Billman, “Bill Schwarberg Coached UC Football, Baseball, Golf,” *Cincinnati Enquirer*, 15 September 2001, page B 10
7. *ND 1975 Tapestry*, Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills, KY
8. “Reach for the Stars”; Judi Ketteler, “NKU Walks Among the Elite. Title IX Compliance Pays Big Dividends,” *Kentucky Post*, 6 June 2000, page 8K
9. “Reach for the Stars”
10. “Athletic Conferences,” *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, pages 38, 39
11. Thomas More College and PAC websites
12. *Encyclopedia Americana*, Volume 26, pages 496, 497
13. Bill Schneider, “Northern Kentucky Base Ball: the Early Years, *Northern Kentucky Heritage*, Vol. III, No. 2, Spring/Summer 1996, pages 22-25
14. William C. Garriot, Jr. “Baseball, Professional,” *Kentucky Encyclopedia*, page 57
15. “Football,” *Kentucky Encyclopedia*, pages 339, 340, 341

The Kenton County Historical Society is always looking for stories for its award-winning Bulletin, as well as Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine. Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about submitting an article.

P.O. Box 641, Covington, KY 41012  
(859) 431-2666

## A Look Back at The Headlines

An on-going feature reliving local headlines

This issue features:

*The Kentucky Post* – August 10, 1949.

## West Covington Schoolhouse Cornerstone

Ron Einhaus, president of the KCHS

Covington city commissioners voted at their regular meeting Thursday, authorized the borrowing of \$100,000 for operating costs for the last half of 1949. The money is to be borrowed from the First National Bank and Trust Company, Covington, at no more than 2 percent interest. George S. Lyon, city manager, said the borrowing was necessary at this time because anticipated revenue had fallen short in the first half of the year.

The first shovel of dirt was tossed for the highly anticipated Booth Hospital expansion project. Founded in the old Shinkle Mansion, the hospital has been in operation since 1916. Henderson Hightower, chairman of the advisory board since 1938, says the hospital is one of the most complete and modern medical facilities in the state.

Forecasters are predicting much milder weather with occasional rain for the next few days, ending two weeks of record high temperatures. To date, four local deaths have been attributed to the temperatures.

An 1876 hand-written “History of West Covington” by Town Clerk, Joseph Ryan, was one of the treasures found in the cornerstone of West Covington’s second Schoolhouse and Town Hall. The cornerstone was recently opened by the present owner of the property, Mike Haggard. Mike has entrusted these documents to the Kenton County Historical Society.

Along with the written history were several other important documents including: an 1870 Charter of the Town of West Covington, an 1873 copy of the constitution & by-laws of the Forest Hills Building & Loan, the business card for the architect, George P. Humphries and a signed 1876 Opera House playbill by the builders, John W. Willchamp.

When West Covington was incorporated in 1858, it only included the area know as Economy. The Forest Hills subdivision was added to the boundaries in 1869.

Also included was a list of the officers of Company G, 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment that was formed in September 1860 to help protect the town from the rebel forces from the South.

These important historical documents are now in the hands of the Local History Department at the Kenton County Public Library in Covington. The documents will be scanned and preserved for future generations to enjoy. In the near future, anyone will be able to access them on the Library website. A typed text will also be available on the Botany Hills website at:

[www.botanyhills.org](http://www.botanyhills.org) .

### Endnotes for the St. Augustine article:

1. Atlas of Boone, Kenton and Campbell Counties, 1883
2. *History of the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, 1853-1953*, Rev. Paul E. Ryan
3. *Ibid*
4. *Kentucky State Journal*, October 13, 1885, page 1
5. *The Ticket*, December 16, 1875, page 1
6. *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, November 26, 1876
7. *St. Augustine Church and School*, KCPL Community History Archives, 2008
8. *History of the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, 1853-1953*, Rev. Paul E. Ryan
9. *Ibid*
10. *Ibid*
11. *Ibid*
12. *St. Augustine Church and School*, KCPL Community History Archives, 2008
13. *History of the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, 1853-1953*, Rev. Paul E. Ryan
14. *St. Augustine Church and School*, KCPL Community History Archives, 2008
15. *History of the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, 1853-1953*, Rev. Paul E. Ryan
16. *St. Augustine Church and School*, KCPL Community History Archives, 2008
17. *History of the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, 1853-1953*, Rev. Paul E. Ryan
18. *St. Augustine Church and School*, KCPL Community History Archives, 2008
19. *St. Augustine Church website*, 2008
20. *St. Augustine Church website*, 2008
21. *St. Augustine Church and School*, KCPL Community History Archives, 2008

## Then and Now



Left: St. Patrick's Church and School, Covington. View is looking southwest at the corner of Fourth and Philadelphia.  
Right: Photograph of that same view today showing Super America service station.

## Mystery Photo

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



### **ANSWER:**

Images of the three reliefs above doorways at the Covington post office.

Kenton County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 641  
Covington, Kentucky 41012-0641  
Web: [www.kentonlibrary.org](http://www.kentonlibrary.org)  
Email: [nkyheritage.kchs@juno.com](mailto:nkyheritage.kchs@juno.com)

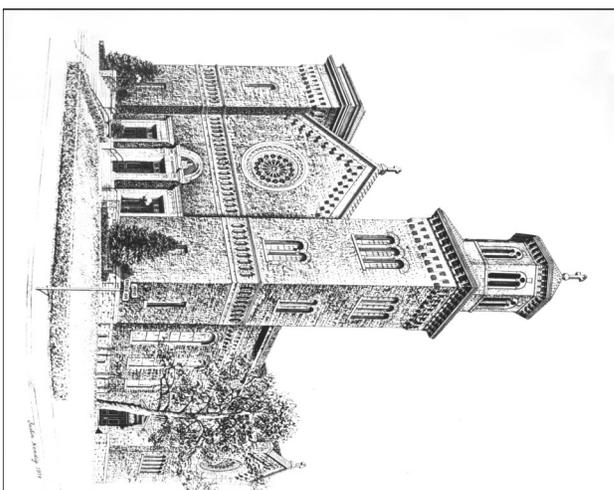
NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Covington, KY  
41011  
PERMIT NO. 297



Dedicated to preserving our heritage as the "Gateway to the South"

# KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September / October 2008



## Feature Story:

St. Augustine Church, Covington

## Other Stories Inside:

"Reach for the Stars"  
Seven Coaches / Administrators

West Covington Schoolhouse Cornerstone