

# KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## QUARTERLY REVIEW

FALL 1984

Mayor Rhinock  
by Dorothy Wieck

Joseph L. Rhinock, Jr. was born January 4, 1863 at Owenton, Owen Co., Ky, to Joseph Rhinock, an immigrant from Meisenheim, who married Eliza A. Short at Stanford, Ky, November 13, 1848. The family moved to Covington in 1870 where Joseph Jr. attended the local Public School and went to the First Christian Church.

The records show that he was appointed Inspector-Gauger of Oil for Cincinnati by the Chamber of Commerce, and that he also worked for Standard Oil in 1880 as an inspector.

In 1883 Joseph married Emma McKain, and they had five children: Robert R., Frank P., Alma J., Hazel M., and Laura. A letter written by Truesdell for the Christopher Gist Society stated that Laura died in New York City very young.

In 1893 while a member of the Council of Covington, he successfully ran and became Mayor of Covington. With the desire for cleaner water in mind, he and other men of influence moved the water intake from the foot of Main Street, Covington to a location above Dayton, Ky. Mayor Rhinock also influenced Cincinnati Officials to relocate their intake to the present location of the Cincinnati Water Works inlet at California, Ohio.

In 1899 Rhinock went into partnership with George B. Cox in the Relief Oil Company, on which deeds were filed July 12, 1899. Cox became manager; Rhinock was a silent partner.

In 1904 Rhinock was elected to U.S. Congress and served for three terms from 1905 to 1911. On May 18, 1908 he made a speech 24 pages long about the Night Riders' burning of Tobacco Warehouses and pleading for help for Kentucky Farmers.



In 1904 he became a member of the board of the Schubert Theater chain and was involved with several race tracks. He was in the Loew organization and with George B. Cox had interest in the Cox Theater in Cincinnati. He was involved with the Schubert Chain, a national organization, for 22 years until his death September 20, 1926 at his estate, "Bonnie Crest", in New Rochelle, New York.

In 1913 he lived at 210 Riverside Drive in New York City where Hazel Merit Rhinock, having divorced a Mr. Richmond in 1911, married a Mr. William H. Williams.

In 1907 the Sheriff of Kenton County charged him with failure to pay on \$195,000.00 and sold three of Rhinock's homes. Rhinock sued the Sheriff and won. However, the homes were still sold in 1913 and in 1914. In a Sheriff's suit initiated by the State Auditor, the desire was to increase the assessment on Rhinock's stock. Eventually eleven house and five vacant lots were sold.

Because he publicly opposed the Night Riders and at times Big Businesses like Standard Oil, he held popularity with the voters which may partly explain his temporarily success against the Sheriff.

He ordered a mausoleum built in Highland Cemetery for the family and was returned to Covington in October, 1926, along with a daughter's body, for internment.

PROGRAMS

The Kenton County Historical Society will sponsor programs at its General Membership Meetings three times in the Fall of 1984 and three times in the Spring of 1985. A very short discussion of business usually precedes these programs which are scheduled for 7:30 PM the first Tuesday of the month at the Public Meeting Room, second floor, Kenton County Public Library, 5th and Scott Sts. Covington, Ky.

FALL, 1984 Schedule

September 4 - Elissa Plattner on "THE WISDOM WAGON: the founding of Thomas More College."

October 2 - Paul Tenkotte on "CONTINENT BUILDERS: THE ERLANGER FAMILY AND EUROPEAN FINANCE BANKING."

November 6 - Dorothy Spence on James Harrod.

SPRING, 1984 Schedule

March 5 - Susan Kissle--"Women and the Arts in the Northern Ky Area, 1850-1930."

April 2 - Damien Hils on Bishop Mulloy

May 7 - Joe Gastright on the History of St. Benedicts (Covington)

On the other first Tuesdays and on the third Tuesdays of each month meetings of a more informal nature are held at 8:00 pm at Mick Noll's Covington Haus, 6th and Washington, Covington. Notification will be given when there is any change in the above schedule. All meetings are open to all members, and to the Public. Participation by all is more than welcome.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Our Genealogist Dorothy Wieck has been researching the following families and persons:

- The Beeler family
- The Dufour family
- Winsor Z. McCay
- The McClure family
- Henry Mitchem
- The Rhinock family
- The Schwierjohann family

Our sympathy goes to Walter Langsam, Jr., over the death of his mother, Mrs. Julia Langsam. Mrs. Langsam was active in community affairs and one of her last projects was the lighting of the Roebling Suspension Bridge. Memorials may be sent to this fund:

The Covington-Cincinnati Suspension Bridge, Inc.  
1071 Celestial Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202



The Confederate Veteran magazine, 1893-1932 is now in the Kentucky Collection of the Kenton Co. Library.

MEMBERSHIP LISTING: AN APPEAL FOR MEMBERSHIP

September 4 begins our new year with the annual election of officers. But these people need your support. Therefore, anyone who is a current member as of December 31 will be listed, along with the officers, in the Winter issue of our Quarterly, due out in February. By paying dues, which are tax deductible, you are contributing to our purpose, which is collecting and preserving the record of local history. And anyone who takes a membership for two years will receive either Westside Walking Tour by John Boh and Howard Boehmker, or From Gentlemen Farmers to City Folk by Joseph Gastright.

Name: Mr. Mrs. Ms.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership: \$5.00 per year. Student: \$2.00 per year