

Kenton County Historical Society

P. O. Box 441
Covington, Kentucky 41015

R E V I E W

March 1990

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR MEMBERS, FRIENDS, GUESTS, AND THE PUBLIC.

TUESDAY EVENING
April 3, 1990
7:30 PM

Kenton County Public Library
Fifth and Scott Street
Covington.

Elizabeth Chavez, Programs Committee Chairperson announces that on April 3rd MR. CHUCK EILERMAN, SECRETARY OF THE 150th BIRTHDAY COMMITTEE, will discuss plans and events for the County's Sesquicentennial celebration.

A graduate of Thomas More, with an MBA from the Harvard Business School, Mr. Eilerman has been involved in various community business and cultural activities. A commercial property specialist with West Shell, Mr. Eilerman has in the past displayed interest in recognition of historic sites and the writing of a county history.

There will be a short business meeting before Mr. Eilerman's talk. The program is free and open to the public.

Ludlow Bromley Historical Society

Citizens in Ludlow and Bromley have been having organizational meetings with the purpose of establishing another county historical society for people with certain interests in those cities as well as families past and present from those two river (and railroad) towns. Last year Ludlow celebrated 125 years. Thanks to some recent efforts led by John Burns who found out Bromley's official birth date, the Ludlow-Bromley Historical Society intends to celebrate Bromley's 100th birthday which will occur on May 23rd. Membership in the society is of course open to families and persons who may have moved out but are aware that their roots are in these old neighborhoods. Membership is \$5.00 per person. Ludlow-Bromley Historical Society. P. O. Box 16168. Ludlow, Ky 41016.

Campbell County Historical and Genealogical Society

Although Campbell County has had various historical societies, interested parties recently held an organizational meeting in order to renew efforts. They plan to meet the second Thursday of each month at the Cold Springs Library at 7:30 PM. Dues is \$5.00 per person. The Campbell County Historical and Genealogical Society, % the Campbell County Library, Fourth and Monmouth Streets, Newport, Ky 41071. Already mention was made of Campbell's 200th birthday in 1995. Of course, much of Kenton County's history is found in the courthouse in Alexandria and elsewhere east of the Licking river.

Reports in the Western Globe depicted sentiments against and sentiments for the establishment of Kenton County out of Campbell, and Independence as the County Seat.

Wednesday
January 22, 1840

At a large and highly respectable meeting of the citizens of Covington, held at the Methodist Church, on Monday evening, January 20, for the purpose of adopting suitable resolutions expressive of the views of the people of this vicinity upon the subject of the passage of an act at the present session of the General Assembly of Kentucky, dividing the county of Campbell; whereupon the following proceedings were had:

The meeting was organized by calling James M. Clarkson to the Chair, and appointing B. W. Foley Secretary.

On motion of M. M. Benton, a committee of seven were appointed to draw up suitable resolutions to be adopted by the meeting, which committee consisted of M. M. Benton, W. W. Southgate, Jefferson Phelps, John B. Casey, P. S. Bush, John S. Finley and James G. Arnold, and on motion, H. J. Groesbeck was added to the committee.

The committee retired for a short period and on their return reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, first. That in the opinion of this meeting, old and settled relations and the long established order of things in a community should not be disturbed or changed unless the convenience and interest of the body of that community demand and require it, and then not without due consideration and mutual deliberation.

Resolved further. That this meeting has learned with no little surprise and regret, that within the last few days an act has been passed by our Legislature, now in session, which by its provisions not only divide and separate us from those

with whom we have long been associated as, fellow citizens of the old and respectable county of Campbell, but erect us into a new and independent community upon terms unusual, if not disadvantageous and unjust to our rights as citizens.

Resolved further. As the deliberate opinion of this meeting, that the question of division or not should be left to the free expression of the people of the county at the next August election, and if a majority are in favor of the division as proposed, we will submit as in duty bound to the will of the majority.

Resolved further. That in the opinion of this meeting, the question of the division, as proposed and established by said act, has not been fully and fairly canvassed by the people of this county, and this meeting believes that when the question shall be presented with all its advantages as claimed by its friends, and disadvantages as believed to exist by its opponents, a majority will be found opposed to the division as proposed by the Bill which has passed the Legislature.

Resolved further. That this meeting recognize the correctness of the principle, that it is the right of the majority to decide upon and control all matters effecting the rights or interests of the community composed by said majority, and upon this principle, recommend and request that our Representatives in the Legislature will use their best efforts, so to modify and change the Law dividing the old county of Campbell and erecting a new county on the lower side of Licking, (if the same shall not be repealed or suspended) as to leave the location of the Court House, &c. to be determined by the will of the majority of the people of the proposed new county.

On motion of B. W. Foley, the following additional resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That Jefferson Phelps, W. W. Southgate, Moses V. Grant, and James M. Clarkson, be appointed as delegates to repair immediately to Frankfort for the purpose of using their best efforts to carry into effect the object of the foregoing resolutions.

On motion, it was Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the chairman and countersigned by the Secretary, and that a copy be forthwith forwarded to our representatives in the Legislature, and a copy also furnished to the Editor of the Western Globe for publication.

On motion, the meeting then adjourned sine die,
James M. Clarkson, Chair
B. W. Foley, Sec'y.

Wednesday
March 4, 1840

We understand that Messrs. Wallace, Swope, Brooks, and Ruddle, the Commissioners appointed by the Legislature to locate the seats of justice of the counties of Campbell and Kenton, will meet at Alexandria on the 25th of March for the purpose of fixing the location for Campbell, and after that they will immediately locate the county seat of Kenton. Three of the Commissioners will thence proceed to locate, by the most direct route, the State road from the Three Forks of Grassy Creek, to the city of Covington.

PUBLIC MEETING

At a meeting held by the citizens of the vicinity, on the 14th Inst. at the store of Maj. E. Williams, pursuant

to public notice, for the purpose of taking into consideration the location of the seat of Justice for the county of Kenton, Capt. Robert Perry was called to the chair, and Dr. J. S. Downard appointed Secretary.

On motion of Maj. E. Williams, it was ordered that a committee be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the matter above referred to, Robt. Carlisle, Waller S. Herndon, Lewis Collins, and Dr. J. S. Downard were appointed that committee.

The committee having retired for a short time reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, we have learned with much surprise and regret, that a bill has lately passed the Senate of Kentucky, amending the law dividing the county of Campbell, and that by unfair means, a certain dissatisfied portion of the county are endeavoring to deprive a majority of the legal voters of this county to their rights and privileges in relation to the location of the seat of justice, we have deemed it proper, although at this late hour, to remonstrate against the said amendment, and if the said bill shall pass the House of Representatives, it will be in the face of a majority of the free and independent voters of this county. Be it therefore,

Resolved, That it is with much regret we have learned, that the citizens of Covington and the lower end of the county, oppose that part of the law dividing the county of Campbell, and forming the county of Kenton, which provides for a central location of the seat of justice, notwithstanding the law was passed at the instance of a large majority of the people of the county.

Resolved, as the deliberate opinion of this meeting, that a large majority of the

legal voters of Kenton county are in favor of the law forming said county as it passed the Legislature, and desire no alteration whatever.

Resolved, That had we have been apprised of the course pursued by the citizens of the lower end of the county in obtaining a remonstrance to the above named Law, that we firmly believe we could have obtained the signature of two thirds of the legal voters of the county against the amendment of the Senate, as we have obtained the signatures of six hundred and thirty three in one single day, notwithstanding the bad roads and inclemency of the weather.

On motion of A. Hanzford, it was ordered that Capt. David McNair be appointed to proceed to Frankfort, forthwith, with the remonstrance, together with the proceedings of this meeting.

On motion it was ordered that a copy of the proceedings of the meeting be forwarded for publication in the Western Globe.

ROBERT PERRY, Chm'n
J. S. Downard, Secretary

Wednesday
March 18, 1840

AN ACT

To establish the county of Kenton, and for other purposes:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That from and after the twentieth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty, all that part of the county of Campbell situate on the west side of Licking river, shall be, and is hereby created into one distinct county, to be known and called by the name of Kenton, in honor of Simon Kenton; and that the seat of Justice thereof shall be, and the same is hereby established at the most eligible point, as near the center of said county as the faces of the ground will admit in

the opinion of the Commissioners hereafter appointed; and that the county seat of Campbell county be, and the same is hereby established at the most eligible point, as near the centre of said county as the face of the country will admit, in the opinion of said commissioners.

Sec. 2. That the Circuit and County Courts of Campbell shall have jurisdiction, in law and equity, in all cases instituted in said Courts before this Act takes effect, and it shall be lawful for the Sheriff, Constables, and all other collecting officers in the county of Campbell, to collect all monies, execute all process as the law directs, which may be in their hands at the time this Act takes effect, and account for the same according to law.

Sec. 3. That the county of Kenton shall be entitled to eleven Justices of the Peace, who, after being commissioned, shall on the first Monday in May next, meet at the house of Elijah Williams, at Bagby precinct (sic), in said county, and after the necessary oaths of office, and qualifying their Sheriff, they shall proceed to appoint a clerk, in whose permanent appointment a majority of all the Justices in commission shall concur; but if such majority cannot be had, it shall be the duty of said court to appoint one, pro tempore, until a majority of said Court shall concur in said appointment; and the said County Court shall appoint a commissioner or commissioners of tax, for the year one thousand eight hundred and forty, who shall be governed by the laws which may in force on that subject.

Sec. 4. That the County Courts of Campbell and Kenton respectively, may purchase and receive donations and conveyances of any lot or lots of ground, at the places designated by the commissioners appointed by this act to locate the county seats for the same, for the erection of the necessary public buildings thereon, and the said county courts respectively. A majority of all the members concurring shall proceed as soon as practicable

to fix their county levy, and to raise by taxation a sum sufficient to defray the expenses of erecting the public buildings aforesaid.

Sec. 5. That the county of Kenton shall be allowed seven Constables, to be appointed by the county court, a majority of all the Justices present, who shall at the same time lay off said county into districts, as the law now requires in other counties in Commonwealth.

Sec. 6. That the County Courts of Kenton county shall be held on the third Monday in each month, and the Circuit Court for said county shall be held on the first Monday in April, July and October, and continue six judicial days if the business of the court shall require it, and the same shall be a part of the second judicial district.

Sec. 7. That the clerk of the County and Circuit Courts of Campbell county shall, on or before the fifteenth day of May next, remove all the books, papers and effects, appertaining to the said offices, to such house as the county Court may direct, at or near the place designated by the commissioners appointed by this act to locate the county seat, and the said County Court shall, at their April term, 1840, provide offices for the same, and a house for the temporary sittings of the Courts, until permanent buildings are erected for which purpose, may be necessary, the County Courts of the counties of Campbell and Kenton may appoint such commissioners and agents as they may deem proper.

Sec. 8. That the road law and its amendments of the county of Campbell, shall be the road law of the county of Kenton; and, instead of the three road commissioners now allowed to the now county of Campbell, the counties of Campbell and Kenton shall each be entitled to one road commissioner, whose compensation shall be one dollar and fifty cents per day; provided the compensation of said commissioners shall not exceed seventy-five

dollars in any one year.

Sec. 9. That David Brooks, of Bracken county, Charles Ruddle, of Grant county, Samuel F. Swope, of Pendleton county, and John Wallace, of Boone county, and three of whom may act be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners to select, designate and locate the county seats of the counties of Campbell and Kenton, and the said commissioners shall be allowed, and paid five dollars per day each, in going to, returning from, and while engaged in locating the county seats, one half chargeable to each county.

JOHN L. HELM, Speaker of
the House of Representatives
SAML. HANSON, Speaker
of the Senate

Approved, January 19th,
1840

C. A. Wickliffe,
By the Lieut. and acting
Governor
Jas. M. Bullock, Sec' of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of Secretary of State,
Frankfort, Feb. 21, 1840

I, James M. Bullock, Secretary of State, of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby certify that the annexed and foregoing act of assembly has been carefully compared and examined with the enrolled bill on file in my office, and is a true and correct copy of the same. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of my said office to be affixed at Frankfort, on the 21st day of February, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and forty, and in the 48th year of the Commonwealth.

J. M. BULLOCK, Sec of State

KENTON COUNTY

An Act.

Sec. I Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That from and after the thirtieth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and forty, all that part of the county of Campbell situated on the west side of Licking river, shall be, and is hereby created into one distinct county, to be known by the name of Kenton, in honor of Simon Kenton; and that the seat of Justice thereof shall be, and the same is hereby established at the most eligible point, as near the center of said county....

Independence courthouse

May 4, 1840: William A. Pendleton, who had been appointed County Clerk recorded the first entry in Deed Book number 1. 2., at Independence. February 15, 1841: Deed Book 1, 2, Independence. John McCollum conveyed five acres of land to the Justices of the county court of Kenton for a site for the public square and courthouse... 1841: The Kenton County Courthouse was built and the Banklick Turnpike was extended to Independence.

Parallel courthouses set up some twenty years later

February 18, 1860: By an act of the General Assembly of Kentucky an office for the recording of deeds and mortgages at Covington was established. The first record in Deed Book 1 was made February 17, 1860. It was recorded by W. J. Perrin, Deputy Clerk for S. J. Perrin, Clerk. At Newport a similar arrangement was made by the General Assembly in 1863. The first record in Deed Book 1, at Newport was made April 24, 1863.

Kenton County's first Sheriff

Leonard Stephens (1791-1873) represented Campbell County in the lower house of the General Assembly 1823, '24, '25, '26 and Boone and Campbell Counties in the Senate from 1829 to 1833. A Senior Justice of the Peace of Campbell County in 1840 and 1841, he also became Kenton County's first High Sheriff. Having lived in what is now Kenton County from 1807 "until a few years before his death," he died in Boone County on March 8, 1873 at the age of 82. --above all taken from Beginning at the Point by Allen Webb Smith.

Justices of the Peace and the first Judge

At the time the County was formed the following were appointed Justices of the Peace: James G. Arnold, Joseph Winston, Thomas G. Tupman, Sims Kletter, James G. Dedman, John Byland, Robert Carlisle, Dallan S. Hern-don, William M. Resper, Jr., D. L. Fisk, James Kelly, James S. Downard, John Calvin, William M. Coleman, and James Ellis. But in 1851 S. C. Perrin, Sr. became the first elected county Judge. --last item taken from the Kenton County Centennial Booklet (1940)

President Roosevelt's Visit to the Latonia Race Track

Recent mention gave the year as 1936. This time was taken from Chester Geaslen's Strolling Along Memory Lane, vol. III, p. 62. However, The Kentucky Post reported the visit in 1938.

Happy Birthday, Kenton County

April 30, 1990

3-90



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

Kenton County Birthday, April 30, 1990 (150th)
Covington Birthday, February 8, 1990 (175th)
Bromley Birthday, May 23, 1990 (100th)

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