

KENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

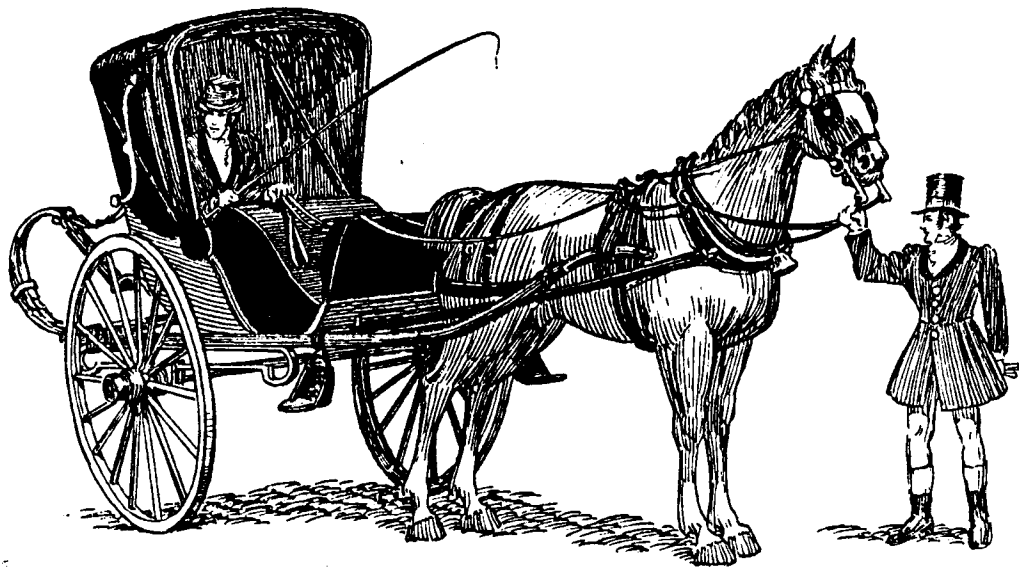
Quarterly Review

March, 1982

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Mr. Paul Tenkotte	Vice-Pres.
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Memberships available at \$5.00 per annum. Contact the treasurer at 1385 Vidot Ct. Lakeside Park, Ky. 41011



Gentleman's cabriolet, about 1830

Reminiscences

Ebenezer Smith Thomas was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on June 19th, 1775. Trained as a printer, he moved in 1795 to Charleston, S.C. where he set himself up as a printer and bookstore owner. In 1810 he purchased the Charleston City Gazette. His friends included such men as John Randolph, John Hancock and Washington Irving. After suffering some financial problems he went to Cincinnati in 1827 and set up the Daily Commercial Advertiser and in 1835 the Daily Evening Post.

In 1838 he was one of the developers of the South Western Railroad which was proposed to connect his old home in Charleston and his new one in Cincinnati. In 1840 he published a two volume Reminiscences of his life and times from which this excerpt on Northern Kentucky is taken. Thomas died in August, 1844.

(The following excerpt written by Richard Yeudon Jr., editor of the Charleston Courier was published by E.S. Thomas in his Reminiscences pp. 92-102.)

On the 31st ult., the second day after the barbecue, our southern party left Lexington in the stage for Cincinnati, distant about eighty-two miles, at one o'clock in the morning. It was with regret that we were compelled to travel twelve miles in the night time, to Georgetown, a thriving place with some 3000 inhabitants, as we were told that in the intervening space we passed over one of the finest and most highly cultivated parts of Kentucky. Beyond Georgetown, our route lay for a considerable distance over a succession of steep and rocky elevations,

called the Eagle Hills, forming one of the worst stage roads I ever encountered. On the way, an old and deserted church was pointed out to us, having the reputation of being haunted, the door, which was ajar when we passed, being said to assume that position of its own accord, in despite of all efforts to keep it shut. Further on we came to a haunted dell, said to be perambulated by the headless form of a murdered traveller. Superstition, you perceive, has its abiding places, even in the western wilds. At Williamstown, civilities were tendered us by

the citizens and lawyers of the village, (it being court time,) and refreshments were voluntarily handed us, by the landlord of the inn, where the stage stopped for a change of horses, for which he refused compensation. When we arrived at the fine farm and residence of Mr. A. W. Gaines, the stage contractor, about twenty miles from Cincinnati, we were invited to partake of a handsome dinner, most hospitably and unexpectedly prepared for us, by that very courteous and pleasant gentleman.

Not long after we left the house of Mr. Gaines, the stage-driver, by driving furiously and carelessly down a hill, and the striking of one of the wheels of the stage against an obstacle in the road, got thrown from his seat, and the horses took off with us in an uncontrolled gallop for about half a mile. At one moment we were in imminent danger of an upset, from a pile of rails, lying in the road; but the horses made a slight deviation, just barely in time to pass in safety. One of our companions (Col. Mills,) and two other passengers, who were outside with the driver, leaped from their seats, the first named with a slight bruise on the knee, the others without injury. The rest of us kept our seats steadily within the stage, and our perilous career was ultimately arrested without further injury, by the turning of one of our leading horses, in a spirit of companionship, by the side of a nag, hitched to a fence, near a set of block steps by the way side, and the stopping of the other by a negro boy, who rushed to our aid from the adjacent house. The most serious injury sustained from this accident, was a severe sprain of the driver's ankle, a merited punishment for his rashness and folly.

Having repaired the slight damage to our harness, we proceeded on our journey, and, from Florence, rolled swiftly over a fine Mackadamized road, and through a wild and romantic country, as it seemed by moonlight, some ten or fifteen miles, to Covington, on the Kentucky side of the Ohio. A ferry boat then took us immediately across the river, the broad surface of which was illuminated with the silver light of the moon, and between nine and ten o'clock P. M. we were safely disposed of in the Broadway Hotel, an extensive and well conducted establishment in Cincinnati.

We performed our journey in company with, and under the auspices of Gen. James Taylor, a director of the great Railroad, and one of the wealthiest citizens of Kentucky, who resides at Newport, another Kentucky town, immediately opposite to Cincinnati. To this excellent and kind hearted gentleman, we were indebted for every species of attention and hospitality. He did every thing in his power to render our journey pleasant and comfortable, and never left us until he saw us lodged in our hotel, when he recrossed the river, to pass the night

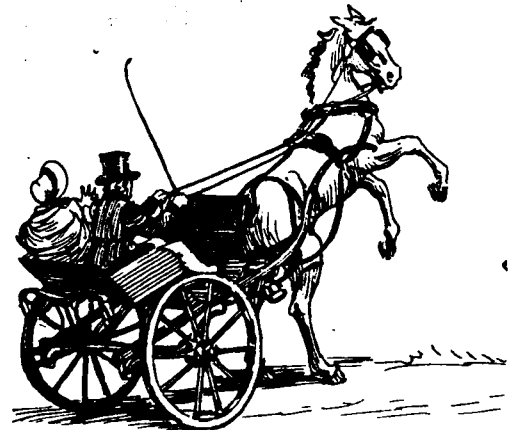
at his residence in Newport.

Although in his seventieth year, he is yet a jovial companion, full of animation, anecdote and song. Born a Virginian, he was an early settler in the West, and has lived to see the wilderness he first inhabited, teem with population and industry, and rejoice and blossom as the rose. His life has been one of much interest and adventure. During the war with Great Britain, he served honorably as an officer in the American army; and he often relates, with patriotic and soldierly indignation, the unfortunate chance which placed him among those gallant fellows, who, against their earnest remonstrances and entreaties, were surrendered to the British, in an early stage of the war, by the cowardly Hull.

General Taylor is also one of the most active and zealous friends of the great Railroad. In addition to his subscription, and the troublesome duties of the directorship, he has offered the company a free passage through his lands, and other valuable privileges, should the road ever find its desired *terminus* in the queen city of the West.

The morning after our arrival in Cincinnati was spent partly in receiving the complimentary visits and cordial welcome of the citizens, among whom was General Harrison, the distinguished hero of Tippecanoe and the Thames, and the Ohio candidate for the presidency, who was temporarily staying at our hotel. We then proceeded, under the auspices of Gen. Taylor, who had provided several carriages for the occasion, to ride about the city, and see as much as we could of it, in the short period we had to spare. The fine private residences and public buildings, and the general appearance of bustle, industry, and prosperity, filled us with admiration as we passed through the spacious streets of the beautiful and queenly city. In the course of the morning we visited Mr. Bonsall, where refreshments were hospitably offered, and the party took a view of the city from the cupola of his handsome mansion.

(continued in next issue)



Library

The Library Committee has received a number of fine donations since the last published report. They are as follows:

Dr. Joseph Gastright donated: Reminiscences of the Last Sixty-Five Years by E.S. Thomas, 1840 (contains several early descriptions of this area); a Covington and Cincinnati Bridge Company stock certificate belonging to Robert Wallace; Ollie James Memorial Addresses, 1920; Latonia Jockey Club Meeting Program, 1914 and Latonia Championship Stakes, 1919; Early Settlers in Campbell County, Kentucky (Lindsey family); as well as numerous histories and actual records of local Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias organizations and Roll of Officers in the Virginia Line... Who have Received Land... In Kentucky.

Mrs. Ellsworth Austin, via Mrs. T.F. Bier donated a bible of Wm. Ranshaw and the True American's Text Book, 1855.

Susan Logan donated a picture of the Greer estate.

The late Allen Webb Smith donated a folio of materials on early Covington; a folio on Linden Grove Cemetery; sketches of the Beard and Kennedy homes; and a paper entitled The Dan Carter Beard Home: a History.

John Burns donated a paper on Daniel Henry Holmes and Holmes' Castle; materials on the Covington Historic In-Service Day, April 18, 1981; and The History of Education in Covington by H.H. Mills.

Don Baker donated a copy of Linden Grove deeds; a Kentucky Division L.A.W. Road Book, 1898; and Bradstreets' Book of Commercial Ratings, Kentucky, July, 1907.

Ralph Murray donated materials on the Latonia Race Track, including a paper entitled Go Well: Symbol of Second Effort and two photographs of GO Well, one framed.

Leslie A. Lassetter donated Covington's Schule, The Temple of Israel, a paper on Covington's former synagogue.

Judith Hayes donated a History of St. Cecelia Parish, 1880-1980.

Jim Kiger donated a copy of a History of the Fort Mitchell Fire Department, 1928-1980.

Oakley Farris donated a Map of Greater Covington Centennial Week, 1914.

Marjorie Meanwell donated a copy of a Covington Female Seminary diploma, 1854.

David L. Ringo donated numerous issues of the Register of the "Kentucky Historical Society" and the "Filson Club Quarterly".

Judy Hurley donated Carter gravesite photographs and information.

Don Lubbers donated a postcard of "Covington's Oldest House".

Copies of St. Boniface, a house of the Church, 1872-1980 were donated both by Jim Kiger and Bernadette Allgeyer.

programs

The society has some excellent upcoming programs in 1982. Here are just a few of them:

March 2 - Dr Alvin Poweleit will present a program on the history of physicians and medicine in Northern Kentucky.

April 6 - Mr. Greg Harper, curator of the Behringer-Crawford Museum will discuss the museum's recent Civil War excavations in the area.

May 4 - Mr. Jim Kiger will present a program on the history of the German Evangelical Churches in Covington and surrounding areas.

TREASURER'S REPORT

(Dec. 1, 1981 - Dec. 31, 1981)

Bank Balance as of Nov. 31, 1981 - \$909.69
Income for December

- a) Memberships - \$73.50
- b) Booksale - \$49.50
- c) Genealogy - \$5.00

Reasearch
TOTAL \$128.00

Total Disbursements for Dec., 1981 - \$62.90

TOTAL BALANCE as of Jan.1, 1981 - \$974.79

join

now

in memoriam

notice

On October 18, 1981, the Kenton County Historical Society lost a dear friend and colleague with the passing of Allen Webb Smith. Mr. Smith died at St. Elizabeth Hospital, North after a short illness. He was 76 Years old.

Mr. Smith's love and dedication to the preservation and documentation of Northern Kentucky history was extraordinary and resulted in his publication: Beginning at 'the Point': a Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, the town of Covington in Particular, 1751-1834.

To his widow, Mrs. Marion F. Smith, the Kenton County Historical Society extends heartfelt sympathy. His was a unique and loving personality and his contributions were significant to the preservation of this area's history. We are saddened by his departure and we will miss him.

The long awaited publication on small Kenton County cemeteries is now available. Those of you who have already ordered the book will be receiving their copy very shortly. The books are in limited supply. So please place your orders now. The cost for society members is \$15 postpaid, all others \$17. Make your checks payable to:

Kenton County Historical Society
c/o Mr. Mike Averdick
502 Scott Street
Covington, Kentucky 41011

Please hurry!!! The price of the cemetery book will be increased to \$22 on July 1, 1982.



MEMBERSHIP and DUES STATEMENT

The time has come once again for most members to renew their memberships in the society. Please use this form if you have not already sent in your dues. Any new members joining for a two year period (\$10) will receive a free copy of one of the following:

- Beginning at the Point: a Documented History of Northern Kentucky and Environs, the Town of Covington, Kentucky in Particular, 1751-1834 by Allen Webb Smith
- Westside Covington, a Walking Tour by John H. Boh and Howard W. Boehmker
- Gentlemen Farmers to City Folks: a Study of Wallace Woods, Covington, Kentucky by Dr. Joseph F. Gastright

NAME: Miss, Mrs., Mr., or Ms. _____
 STREET ADDRESS: _____
 CITY or TOWN: _____
 STATE: _____
 PHONE: _____ AREA CODE () NUMBER COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP:

INDIVIDUAL.....	\$5.00	_____	(Please Check One)
STUDENT.....	\$2.00	_____	
CONTRIBUTING.....	\$10.00	_____	
BUSINESS, INSTITUTIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL.....	\$15.00	_____	
SUSTAINING.....	\$50.00	_____	
LIFETIME.....	\$100.00	_____	

REMEMBER ALL MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE !!!!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Kenton County Historical Society
c/o Mr. Andrew Herold
1385 Vidot Ct.
Lakeside Park, Ky. 41011