

Dec 90

The Kenton County Historical Society

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

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

Kenton County Public
Library
Fifth and Scott streets
Covington, Ky 41011

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R E V I E W

December 1990

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND PROGRAM

On Wednesday evening, January 9, Mr. Ted Harris will speak on Isaac Black, lawyer, political, civil rights, and education activist. In 1869 Black became involved with Jacob Price, William Blackburn, and others in establishing a school system for blacks in Covington. And Black himself became a lawyer through study and practice in the office of John G. Carlisle and John W. Stevenson. There will be a short business meeting before the program. The meeting and program is free and open to the public. Members and friends are reminded to attend.

Wednesday evening

January 9

7:00 PM

Kenton County Public Library

Fifth and Scott streets

Covington, Ky

THE KENTUCKY BICENTENNIAL ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

The Kenton County Historical Society is looking for names of veterans of any of America's wars who might be willing to be interviewed regarding their wartime experiences.

This oral history project is one of the very first activities authorized in conjunction with the approach of the Kentucky Bicentennial celebration in 1992.

If you are a veteran, or if you know a veteran willing to be interviewed, please submit name, address, telephone number, and time of military involvement. President, Kenton County Historical Society, P. O. Box 641, Covington, Ky 41012.

THE GREAT COVINGTON COAL COMPANY

In the summer of 1891 all northern Kentucky became excited at what was believed to be the discovery of a rich deposit of coal on Pond Creek, across the Licking from the tiny community of Visalia. A company was hurriedly organized for the purpose of working the field and transporting its product to Covington and other markets.

The excitement continued for several weeks when one of the city's older residents recalled that in the summer of 1838 a group of Covington youths were on a hunting expedition in the region of Pond Creek when they found that they had established their camp atop this same thick fuel deposit. The young hunters were just as excited about their discovery as the later generation would be. Accordingly, they took a sample of the coal to a mining expert who pronounced it to be equal to the very best of Pittsburgh coal.

The young men rushed to obtain an option on the land where the coal was found and proceeded to form a company for the purpose of working their newly-discovered coal deposit and bringing it down the Licking to Covington. Then, as with the later generation of discoverers, their bubble was broken by an older resident who was familiar with how the coal deposits came to exist.

According to the long-time resident it was during the summer of 1780 that a number of traders conceived the idea of supplying the interior settlements of Kentucky with coal by bringing large barge-loads of the fuel down the Ohio River and then transporting

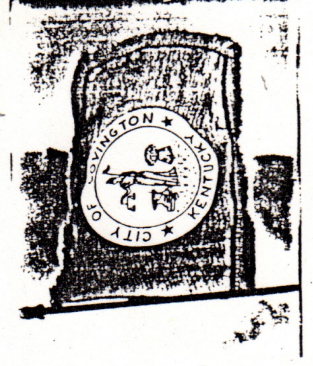
it overland by pack mules to Lexington. The traders decided to establish a base camp along the banks of the Licking at Pond Creek, a point which represented the end of a day's journey for the pack mules. There, it was said, they would stock-pile the coal and then trans-ship it to the central part of the state as it was needed.

Hostile Indians who freely roamed this part of Kentucky were said to have other ideas on the matter though. They were not the least bit sympathetic to the ambitions of the prospective coal merchants, and forced them to flee to the safety of Lexington. The large fuel supplies were, of course, abandoned to the Indian controlled northern reaches of the state.

Over the years a layer of soil came to cover the large store of coal, and helped to deceive the "discoverers" of 1838 and 1891 into believing that they had uncovered one of America's richest and most accessible veins of coal.

Do any vestiges of this aborted enterprise continue to exist? I don't know, but it has been suggested that maybe some of our friends in the Visalia-Pond Creek neighborhood can supply us with an answer to this mystery. (John Burns, Director)

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NEWS

Board of Directors: John Boh, Jim Kiger, June Hazlett, Dorothy Wieck, John Burns, Carol Whitehead, Ted Harris.

Prices of Publications:

Collected Papers of KCHS (3 vols.) \$30.00
Gentlemen Farmers to City Folks \$5.00 including mailing.
Westside Walking Tour \$5.00 including mailing.

Census indices--

1810, 20, 30 \$20.00 including mailing.
1840 \$15.00 including mailing.
1850 \$25.00 including mailing.
1860 \$15.00 including mailing.
1870 \$25.00 including mailing.
1880 (2 vols.) \$25.00 per volume including mailing.

Highway Markers: John Burns has resigned from the Historic Sites committee due to ill health. Any inquiries about installation of a highway marker can be made to the Kenton County Historical Society. Requests for historic highway markers must be in writing and fully documented with references. All requests must be reviewed by the local county chairman.

Christmas Dinner: About 21 people attended our annual Christmas get-together. All members of the Board of Directors attended except John Burns. Ken Reis and Post columnist Jim Reis attended representing the Campbell County Historical and Genealogical Society. We all discussed such topics as membership, participation, genealogy, programs, historic sites markers, the Kentucky Bicentennial as common concerns. We thank those who attended and wish everyone a Happy New Year. Meeting times: we are planning to hold some of our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday with the hope of alleviating schedule conflicts for as many of our members as possible. Please feel free to comment on time, place and agenda regarding our monthly meetings.

Membership: please remember to renew (if you have not already) at \$5.00 per person.

BEHRINGER-CRAWFORD MUSEUM

Contact the Museum in Devou Park, Covington for membership, participation, activities, programs.